

National Racquetball®

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Hogan's Back

Marty shows fine form defeating Inoue in Phoenix

Sacramento State
Another Intercollegiate Title

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Camps**
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Off The Wall

by Joe Massarelli



So, What Happened?

Word spread fast around the clubs and at the courthouses. Phones rang off the hook at AARA headquarters and in our offices. Shortly after the announcement had been made that Ektelon cancelled its popular and prestigious Ektelon Nationals, Diversified Products stunned everyone with a similar message.

Why did the sport's two largest equipment suppliers opt to cancel what appeared to be very successful and highly visible national tournaments? While speculation ran the gamut from "they're going out of business" to "it's because racquetball is in real trouble," the realities of each decision evade even the most interested observer.

So, we took it upon ourselves to discuss the matter with the powers that be at each corporation. What we found out is not only very enlightening, but also very encouraging. Our first telephone call led us to Mark Wentura, Ektelon's senior product manager and vice chairman of the Racquetball Manufacturers Association (RMA).

"We know that some of the amateur players feel like we're abandoning amateur competitive play because the Nationals was a pro/am tournament. Actually, the opposite is true," Wentura goes on to explain.

"We feel that the pro tour is in place now and successfully under way. Thus, we're directing our efforts and dollars at the grass roots level — which is in fact the amateur competitive players and those youngsters aspiring to play competitively.

"There are a lot of grass roots and amateur tournaments around the country in need of support. We believe that our redirected efforts and monies will reach a much broader base. In other words, it will allow those who could not participate in either the Ektelon or DP Nationals to be able to play in some of the more publicized and prestigious local tournaments," he continued.

When the question got around to

future considerations, Mark closed on a positive note.

"You know, this does not mean that we'll cancel next year's Ektelon Nationals. We're already discussing plans for next year, so it's not like the Ektelon Nationals will never be held again.

"Let me just reiterate that almost 500 amateurs competed last year and we turned many others away. Now, those who couldn't play in the Ektelon Nationals will have the chance to do so locally."

DP's Lanier Johnson has recently assumed the responsibility of orchestrating that firm's racquetball program. He was not as specific as Wentura about why DP decided to cancel its Nationals, but he had these words of assurance.

"We are totally committed to racquetball and I can assure your readers that DP is not abandoning the sport or any of those who have become our loyal customers over the years. We believe that racquetball will grow and, at some point, even become the popular spectator sport that all of us are wishing for — though we still see some logistics problems that must be worked out."

But, not everyone agrees that the withdrawal by both suppliers should be viewed in a positive light. Eighth ranked pro Gregg Peck had some strong opinions about the Nationals cancellations.

"I'm very disappointed. That's what each of us looked forward to at the end of the year. The Ektelons and DPs were like Wimbledon for tennis. A win at either or both Nationals could change your year — even your whole career! If neither Ektelon nor DP will support the pros, where will we be? The players just don't know what's going on," he lamented.

And another pro, who desired to remain anonymous, expressed a different viewpoint.

"Your magazine is always harping on the fact that what racquetball needs is more visibility to make it

more credible. Well, Ektelon got national exposure through its ESPN contract. Now if that's not good visibility, then I don't know what is. So, here we are closing the season and neither major sponsor is giving us the visibility we need. I frankly think that DP waited to see what Ektelon was doing with its Nationals, then DP cancelled too.

Repercussions even reached the club levels. Cathy Pickard, racquetball director at the Kauai Athletic Club in Hawaii said this about the Ektelon decision, "I'm very disappointed and surprised at Ektelon. They feel they put enough money into the game by sponsoring the players they have now, but how can you promote the sport when you don't give the unsponsored players a chance to compete..."

The full text of Cathy's letter can be found in Letters to the Editor in this issue starting on page 23.

We here at *National Racquetball* must admit that we have mixed emotions at this point. The dual cancellations have to make you flinch a bit about the general well being of racquetball as viewed through the eyes of the suppliers. On the other hand, their decisions seem well grounded and logical. If their motive is to move more promotional dollars into more places around the country, especially at the grass roots level, then the cancellations make sense.

If, on the other hand, increased local and regional promotional activity doesn't result in more player participation, more visibility and more public awareness, then the disappearance of the Nationals could be catastrophic to the sport.

And, we can sympathize with the pros too. If the Ektelon and DP Nationals carried as much visibility and prestige as Gregg Peck believes, it's very possible that their image and credibility can be damaged — both inside and outside the sport. ○

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Phoenix:

Hogan Is Back In Fine Form

Marty Hogan takes to the air in the finals against Egan Inoue.

One thing is certain about the 1986-87 professional racquetball tour, it is unpredictable. The first five events of the season produced five different winners and the insurgence of numerous young players poses the threat of a first-round upset at any time.

The Tempe pro stop at the beautiful Arizona Athletic Club provided a new stage for one of racquetball's rising stars. This time it was Egan Inoue. Although Marty Hogan played his best racquetball of the year, he realized the importance of the event in his acceptance speech when he stated, "Although I won this match, the tournament belongs to Egan Inoue."

Round of 32

One could sense Egan's weekend destiny as he easily defeated #5 seed, Gregg Peck in the round of 32's. Everyone knows Egan possesses the most devastating serve in racquetball, but seldom has he been able to develop the consistency needed to pressure his opponent throughout an entire match. Egan solved this problem in Phoenix and effectively mixed bullet like drive serves with deceptively angled jam serves which Gregg found impossible to return. Gregg's total point score of 11 points in three games indicated the devastating power

Egan possessed.

The return of another young talent, Corey Brysman, has shaken the desire of the top seeds to draw a qualifier in the round of 32's. After retiring for a season, Corey must again qualify to play in the main draw. The year's absence has developed a new desire and maturity in him, which has translated into some of his best racquetball ever, as observed in



Egan Inoue lunges for return.

his first round defeat of #12 seed Aaron Katz.

Round of 16

The string of upsets continued as #15 seed Dan Obremski erased Bret Harnett's bid for three straight tournament victories. Dan's tremendous conditioning and retrieving ability forced Bret into executing near perfect shots. Bret's go-for-broke style of play leaves little room for error, especially when playing someone of Dan's physical abilities. Obremski defeated Bret in three straight games.

Number 13 seed Gerry Price surprised #4 seed Ed Andrews in another round of 16 upset. Although Ed played his usual consistent game, Gerry's backhand pinches and cross court passes kept Ed off balance. The three wall glass court played to Price's advantage as he edged by Andrews 11-4 in the tiebreaker. Egan Inoue continued his march toward the finals by defeating another Peck — Dave.

Egan's serve once again proved the difference as he blasted Dave in three games. Although once in the rallies Peck seemed to hold his own, the opportunities to rally with Egan were few and far between.

In other 16 match ups, Steven Lerner finally broke his

string of tiebreaker losses and defeated struggling Mike Ray 11-6. Mike Yellen came from behind in the first two games and finally defeated Canadian Roger Harripersad in three games. Cliff Swain simply overpowered veteran Jerry Hilecher, while Ruben Gonzalez outlasted the much improved Corey Brysman 11-8 in the fifth. Marty Hogan defeated home town protege Andy Gross in three games.

Quarter finals

In the quarter finals Marty continued his string of three game victories by defeating Ruben Gonzalez 3, 5, and 3. Ruben was noticeably affected by a pulled hamstring he received in a pick-up softball game with his son only a week earlier. Ruben's fantastic condition (especially for his age of 35) had carried him through the earlier matches, but Marty's overpowering style proved too much for Gonzalez.

Gerry Price surprised everyone by easily defeating Cliff Swain 3, 3, and 6. This was Cliff's most devastating defeat of the season which unfortunately came at the hands of his best friend and touring roommate. It was one of those matches where Gerry could do no wrong and Cliff struggled with every shot. Gerry's history of shoulder problems has caused opponents to play his right, more inconsistent side. In the match with Cliff, Gerry exhibited a tremendous consistency from both sides, capitalizing on almost every set-up.

Mike Yellen played another see-saw battle with fellow Ektelon teammate Steve Lerner, and for the third time this season defeated Steve in the tiebreaker. Lerner continues to give Mike some of his best matches but has always failed to win that final tie-breaking game.

The final quarter final match featured two of professional rac-

quetball's best conditioned athletes. Egan Inoue's power and stamina was pitted against Dan Obremski's quickness and outstanding retrieving ability. Although Egan won in four, once Danny adjusted to Inoue's "faster than light" serves, the final three games were all close, 9, 8 and 8.

Semifinals

The semifinal match-up of Egan Inoue and Mike Yellen was



Hogan and Inoue with towel boy. Marty gave his racquet to the boy after Game 1.

one of the most interesting of the season. Mike, who is Ektelon's million dollar player is a highly respected veteran of four straight national titles trying for an unprecedented fifth.

Inoue, who was recently crowned "United States Olympic Racquetball Amateur Athlete of the Year" continues to represent amateur racquetball on the AARA United States racquetball team.

Both players are represented by sport's agent, Dr. Fred Lewernz of Michigan who was instrumental in developing racquetball's first million dollar contract which was between Mike Yellen and Ektelon.

The big question was, could the experience and controlled game style of the National Champion defuse the power arsenal of Inoue?

On this day and in the con-

finer of one of the tour's best three-walled courts, Inoue's power was too much. Yellen described the game as mouse racquetball or "playing by smell rather than sight". Often only capturing the blur of the ball as it passed by, Yellen was unable to penetrate any offense.

The story of the match is best summed up in Egan's final shots of games one, three and four. Games one and two ended with ace crack serves to Mike's backhand side and the final game with Egan hitting a wide angle pass which cracked off the back wall. Egan had rocketed his way into his first finals of the year.

In the other semifinal, Marty Hogan completely controlled Gerry Price.

Although Gerry won the first game, the pace and power of Hogan took its toll. Gerry looked visibly exhausted at the end of game one and never recovered.

Without question, this was Hogan's best showing so far this season. Not only was he moving extremely well, but

he was serving and hitting with consistent power. Marty's inability to sustain any intensity had resulted in erratic play throughout the season but in Phoenix, the old Hogan was back.

The Finals

The finals spotlighted two of racquetball's most powerful players. Could Egan Inoue continue his first serve consistency or would he fold under the pressure of his first finals? Would Marty continue to play with the intensity he exhibited in early rounds or would Egan's power force him into a more defensive style of game?

As expected Marty was ready for the challenge. These are the times Hogan reaches back and finds that something extra all great champions possess. Egan

(continued on page 38)

Instructional Tips from Fran and Jim

Open the Shower Door to Prevent Unforced Errors

Are you your own worst enemy in a racquetball match? Do you find yourself hitting the floor more often than hitting the front wall? If you do you are in the majority because the floor beats most people. By that, of course, we are talking about the skip ball syndrome. To avoid these costly errors you should try to keep your racquet on the ball as long as possible. Many inexperienced players hit across the ball instead of through the ball.



To avoid this, visualize sliding open a shower door. If you are hitting a forehand, you'd slide the door with your palm (figure 1). If you are hitting a backhand you'd slide the door with the back of your hand (figure 2). Remember if you come across the ball rather than through the ball, you would rip the door off the hinges.

Use the shower door method and you will be your opponent's opponent rather than your opponent's partner.

**Instructional Tips provided
by Fran Davis and Jim Winterton**

What's The Call

by Michael Arnolt



Receiving Positions in Mixed Doubles

I recently saw a mixed doubles team switch receiving positions prior to the serve several times during a game. Is that legal? Just as the man and woman alternate serves, isn't the service alternated to the left and right sides of the court to ensure that everyone is part of the game? What are the rules governing service and return in mixed doubles?

Karen Efferding, Dubuque, IA

The official rules of doubles are the same for all types of play — age groups, skill levels and mixed doubles. There is nothing which prevents receivers from alternating positions prior to the serve, Karen. (The change should be made prior to the beginning of service motion so the change is not viewed as a distraction that should result in an unsportsmanlike conduct call.) The serving team is not required to serve to a specific side and the server is not required to serve to his counterpart.

In the interest of competition between non-open players, there are some states which have adopted specific rules governing mixed doubles play. The state which I am most familiar with, Indiana, has the following rule: "In all skills divisions of mixed doubles, except Open, men may not serve drive or hard-Z serves to the female opponent. Violation is a non-appealable fault serve. The rule does not affect the use of the soft-Z, lob and half-lob serves."

A Question of Control

The referee in one of my recent tournament matches rattled me so with his attempt to over control the game that it affected me. Even my attempt to regain my composure during a timeout was thwarted when he forbid me to leave the court. When I challenged him on the existence of such a rule, he said players assume they may leave the court but technically the referee's permission is required. Is this a rule? Incidentally, my request to replace the ref was not honored because my opponent didn't agree to the change and the tournament director was inexperienced and didn't know he had the power to make the change or had the prerogative to observe the match. Just what can a player do legally without running afoul of the ref.

Lisa Schwartz, Neward, DE

Every player may require the referee to show the applicable rule Sec. 3, 1.H., page 10. There is not an AARA rule, or any intent in the rules, which prevents a player from leaving the court. If my memory is correct, the former USRA required a player to ask permission to leave the court.

When you have an adamant referee and an inexperienced tournament director my advice is to seek a state board member or respected player at the site to intercede on your behalf. Lisa, take the time to address the issue in writing to your state board.

The Bounce Is Part Of The Serve

A couple of situations have

(continued on page 44)

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Canadian Report

by Sigmund Brouwer



Alarm Bells Are Ringing

Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, is a nice place to live. On clear days a low blue line of mountains edge the western horizon. The land around the small city is gentle and rolling, alternating between pasture, fields of grain and wooded groves. Red Deer is only big enough for two racquetball clubs.

Because of its size and location, nobody there would call it a trendsetting place. Prairie conservatism makes the opposite true. Things new in Red Deer are usually part of firmly established trends elsewhere.

So what happened there on a winter Saturday morning should at least clang racquetball's alarm bell.

A group of squash and racquetball players had met on Court Five at one of the clubs, called Courts North. Instead of gym gear, they wore old shirts and pants. Instead of squash or racquetball racquets, they had hammers and saws.

They enjoyed their work, much like a barn raising, so that by afternoon they were finished. A wall as high as they could reach stretched across the floor of one of the racquetball courts.

Court Five was no longer a racquetball court. It was a squash court. The wall was made for permanence.

Add an innocuous ruling by the Canadian Squash Racquets Association to the clanging alarm bell. Racquetball courts converted into "international" squash courts are sanctioned for tournament play.

Racquetball courts, as we know, are 40 ft. long and 20 ft. wide. Squash courts, for the soft-ball international game, are only 32 feet long and are 21 feet wide.

When the gang at Courts North walked onto the court and nailed in a short wall only eight feet ahead of the racquetball back wall, they had an instant 32 feet by 20 feet squash court. Close enough to specifications for sanctioned play.

Knowing that a club in Red Deer, Alberta converted a court makes it no surprise that Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and too many places in between have all done the same thing.

Optimists will argue that club owners over-built in racquetball's boom time, that conversions are simply a way of taking out the excess.

And yes, according to the Canadian Racquetball Association's spokesman, "Racquetball players by far and away outnumber squash players."

But big or small, the switch is still on in Canada.

The lovable and humble Charlie Garfinkel might be a notable exception in America, but few Canadians go from squash to racquetball. Instead, the "simpler" racquetball appears to be a feeder into squash.

And if that is true, the clanging on our bell should be a din.

Racquetball is seen as a rough and tumble sport with no finesse. Hit the ball hard and hit it low to win. We know better than

that.

Let it be on the record in this column that an "open" racquetball player with little practice can compete successfully against any "B" squash player, while the opposite is not as true. Top level racquetball demands great skills.

Unfortunately, not everyone reaches top level racquetball. Here in Canada, it seems the lower level players stay at "C" level for a few years and quit or move on from boredom or frustration.

Squash, which is picking up momentum in this country, has been an attractive destination.

Squash has more different types of shots to use. It is part of human nature that learning a dozen shots badly is more fun than the devotion it takes to learn one shot well. Like golf, squash's variations and complexity keep players in the sport longer.

Squash also places less emphasis on "hitting with power". Without a doubt, power helps in squash. But playing competent squash does not require power. Playing competent racquetball, with the faster ball, does.

For a 40-year-old man or woman (the ones much more financially able to contribute to their sport), it is encouraging to know that competing well does not require 100 percent devotion to ripping the ball. Forty-year-old bodies can't sustain the abuse like 20-year-old bodies.

One solution, mentioned before in this column, would be to

(continued on page 44)

Association Roundup



Jim Hiser

What's Happening?

With the recent cancellation of the Ektelon and DP Nationals there is great concern about the future of professional racquetball, even racquetball in general. The appearance seems devastating but the reality is not as bleak.

It is no secret that both DP and Ektelon are going through a program revaluation process. Ektelon is determined that a grass roots development is a wise investment. The professional tour in their words "seemed established" and from a business viewpoint an investment in the amateur game would be profitable. At DP an entire reorganization of personnel has taken place. Unfortunately, it took place only two months prior to the Nationals date and the powers-that-be decided they could not organize such a large event in time.

The question remains. "Did the Ektelon cancellation give DP a reason to go ahead and cancel their event?" No one will ever really know the reason, but I think not. I believe the DP's would have been cancelled, regardless of the Ektelon decision.

Instead of badgering the it's and why's of the decisions a deeper evaluation of the reasons should be investigated.

Obviously professional racquetball is not well established. Sure, there was a tour the past two seasons, and the club owners who promoted the events did a tremendous job. Without these dedicated racquetball enthusiasts there would not be professional racquetball. This scares me. The future of professional racquetball should not depend on club owners or independent promoters.

What is needed is a large corporate sponsor to assist the local organizing committees. There are a number of proposals pending to attract such individuals, but so far no takers.

So what is the solution? Step in Marty Hogan. Marty possesses the respect, business connections and charismatic personality to attract national sponsors. And he intends to do this with a Super Tour proposal for next season. Marty's plan is to elevate professional racquetball to a new level, gaining the respect many of us believe it deserves. I believe Marty is sincere, but hopefully he won't make the mistake of the early 80's and alienate segments of racquetball as the Catalina tour did when it attempted to grow beyond racquetball's boundaries.

What is required is a unified effort including every segment of racquetball society. To abolish the present, and develop a new infrastructure will undoubtedly cause confusion.

If all of racquetball's entities, the RMA, all other manufacturers, club owners, Marty Hogan, publishers, IMPRO and the WPR and the amateur organization **would for once work together** I believe many of racquetball's problems could be solved. If you look at other successful sports, their strength lies in their unity. It's time to forget previous experiences and develop beyond the personalities of individuals, companies and organizations. If we don't, the mistakes will only be repeated and the pattern of a "new" tour will resurface about every five or ten years. ○

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Sacramento State Wraps Up The 1987 Intercollegiate Title

by John Foust

It was the kind of weekend you would expect in Colorado, cold, snowy and a good time to be indoors playing racquetball. Over 400 collegiate players from across the U.S. converged on the International Athletic Club in downtown Denver to sort out who would lay claim to the top men and women's open titles and the coveted '87 Intercollegiate Team Championship. When the smoke cleared it was the kids from California who were holding their heads high, and with good reason.

Backed against the wall, the Sacramento State team had to win four out of their last five matches, while any one victory by Memphis State would have put them with an insurmountable lead. Well, the Leonard/Hagler fight had nothing on this event as Sacramento State did just what they had to do edging out a very disappointed MSU team to take the title 237-236.

The Sacramento State team got their first boost when Robin Levine posted a 13-15, 15-6, 11-2 win over MSU's Janet Burke in the women's #2 singles. The momentum for Sacramento State

was starting to build but the odds were still on MSU's side since they were favored in three out of the four remaining matches.

With this in mind the men's #1 doubles match pitting Hart Johnson and Todd Stead, of the University of Minnesota, against the top seeded MSU team of Andy Roberts and Rick Komistek was taking on a much greater importance. Both teams had played well throughout the tournament but it was Roberts and Komistek who appeared to have the upper hand, having held their opponents to a total of 28 points, including two 15-0 games. But rising to the occasion the Johnson/Stead duo played their best match of the tournament and shocked the Roberts/Komistek team 11-15, 15-5, 11-7. Now the pressure was really starting to build.

Meanwhile Robin Levine, fresh from her singles win, had teamed with fellow Sacramento State player Kelly Pulis in the women's #2 doubles and was preparing to do battle with the number one MSU team of Toni Bevelock and Kim Cooling. Coming from the third seeded position Levine and Pulis destroyed Bevelock and Cooling 15-6, 15-10 to take their team one step closer to destiny.

The women's #2 doubles match had top ranked Trina Rasmussen and Lisa Anthony of Sacramento State taking on Janet Burke and Mischea McCorry of MSU. The Sacramento State team proved to be a little too tough and overpowered Burke and McCorry 15-6, 15-2. The plot thickens.

So it all came down to the men's #2 doubles final featuring, who else, Jim Jeffers and Scott Reid, of MSU against Shawn Fitzpatrick and Matt Arney of Sacramento State. Both teams had shown themselves to be the class of the draw by taking every match in two games and allowing



Andy Roberts takes aim in the #1 singles final with Doug Ganim.

no team to register double digits.

It was a battle from the state with the underdogs Arney and Fitzpatrick taking the first game 15-11. Not to be outdone Jeffers and Reid changed strategy and raced back to capture game two 15-8. Going into the tiebreaker both teams knew the outcome of their match would determine the overall team championship.

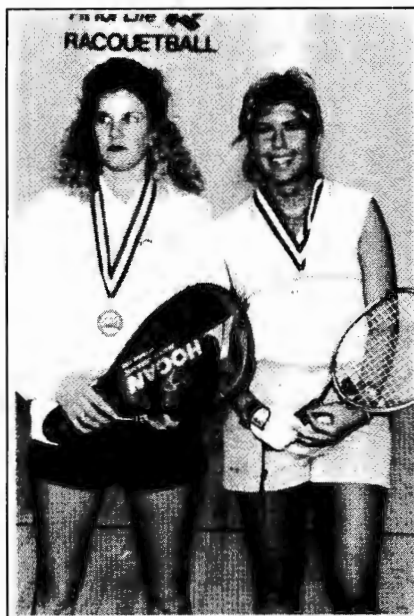
Although MSU was unable to regain the crown they held for so long there was still a measure of accomplishment as senior Toni Bevelock overcame three years of frustration to capture her first



Robin Levine and Kathy Pullis discuss strategy for the women's #1 doubles match.

women's #1 Intercollegiate title with a fine performance against Trina Rasmussen. After losing the first game 15-12 it was all Bevelock, who went on to take the second game 15-6 and 11-6 in the tiebreaker.

In the men's #1 singles MSU's Andy Roberts claimed his third National Intercollegiate title in the past four years by playing well to beat a very determined Doug Ganim of Ohio State 15-9,



Women's #1 singles winner Toni Bevelock, left and Trina Rasmussen (second).

15-10.

By winning their respective matches both Andy and Toni requalify for the United States National Team.

In other action Dave Simo-nette of MSU chalked up a hard fought 15-9, 15-10 match over Steve Moody of Sacramento State to take home the men's #2 singles award. Todd Stead from the University of Minnesota beat out Herb Thornby of Montana State 15-13, 15-11 for the third place slot.

Shawn Fitzpatrick of Sacramento State turned on the after-burners to beat out MSU's Jim Heffers two straight 15-8, 15-11 in the men's #3 singles. While Central Michigan's Mark Heckman posted a narrow 15-13, 15-13 victory over David Leon of MSU.

Rick Komistek, of MSU, put together two outstanding games in the men's #4 singles to beat up Sacramento State's Matt Arney 15-4, 15-12. West Texas State gathered in a third place award as Steve Savac edged out Greg Bedenis of Ferris State College 15-12, 15-13.

Women's #3 singles had Lisa Anthony of Sacramento State coming from the second seeded

(continued on page 37)

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SPECIAL SECTION

**RACQUETBALL
CAMP**

**A Great Way to Spend
the Summer**

Racquetball Camps and Aesop's Other Tortoise

by Sigmund Brouwer

Some time back, a nice and thoughtful fellow named Aesop had to choose between tortoises to make a point for his listeners. He decided to go with the one who ran cross country races. That tortoise, of course, became famous for his victory over an overconfident hare.

Aesop's other tortoise played racquetball. His regular opponent was another hare who not only won regularly, but laughed and chortled ingratically after each match point.

This hare, though, didn't make his fatal mistake by waiting too long for a comeback — no, he actually concentrated as hard as the tortoise for every point. He doomed himself, instead, by spending his summer after the racquetball "season" without once picking up a racquet.

The tortoise practiced all summer and went to a racquetball camp. He used the time to boost his own ability a level or two when most of his opponents were relaxing. When September arrived, and the rest, including the hare, began sharpening for tournaments, the tortoise surprised them all by beating the hare.

Aesop stuck with the cross country runner because he liked the drama of a shorter race and sadly missed a chance to immortalize the benefits of racquetball camps. There are many such benefits, with instruction as the most obvious.

With the high quality of instruction, at most racquetball camps, they are perfect places to fix bad habits and jolt your game from a stagnant plateau.

But unlike the instruction at the home club, there are no distractions. At a week-long clinic, all you think about is racquetball. There are no work or home tasks between lessons to dilute the concentration you give to learning racquetball.

Not only that, but the instructors, too, can concentrate only on teaching, and with continuous lessons, have a chance to immediately start from where they finished on the previous lesson or drill.

As Steve Strandemo points out, "30 lessons in a week do a lot more good than 30 lessons

Another big plus is the time of racquetball camps. As the tortoise knew, most people play racquetball seasonally and make summer their "off time". The "B" players in May, start at "B" in September and improve from there. By improving during the summer, it gives you a tremendous head start on your oppo-

Aesop's other tortoise played racquetball. His regular opponent was another hare who not only won regularly, but laughed and chortled ingratically after each match point.

over a year". It is instruction immediately reinforced and sustained that dramatically increases racquetball skill.

The instruction is further reinforced by the discipline that comes easily in racquetball camp situations. Between prodding instructors and grinning camp mates, you will work hard, even when you don't quite feel like it. Unlike practicing at home clubs, there are no good excuses for leaving the racquetball court to spend 15 minutes at the water fountain.

Most camps use videotape, which makes the instruction even better. Video does two things: First, it stops all miscommunication between teacher and student. The best teacher and the most receptive student still face problems if what the student thinks he hears is different from what the teacher explains. In stark black and white or glaring color, video shows exactly what is there to be seen.

And, second, because video doesn't lie, it prevents ego problems from hampering good learning. Big-headed players aren't given the chance to disregard "exaggerated problems by stupid instructors". And overbearing instructors can only point out the faults that do exist. Video takes the emotion out of analysis, and that makes camps even more effective.

nents.

Racquetball camps also rejuvenate your enthusiasm for the game. The great thing about watching matches at professional tournaments is the feeling you have for about a week afterward, the feeling of joy and determination that lifts your game. Racquetball camps do the same thing, except the feeling lasts longer.

And aside from all the benefits to your racquetball game, camps bring you into a fun situation with like-minded people from all parts of the country. It's a good way to make new friends, and then, of course, you have the ideal excuse for traveling to tournaments.

Perhaps the biggest problem with a summer racquetball camp comes in choosing one. (A schedule of some of the camps and clinics to be held this summer accompanies this article.) You should take some time to see how they, or any other camps, fit your needs.

It doesn't take Aesop's wisdom to make the right choice, just awareness of a few simple considerations. (See "Questions About Camps," page 17.) Besides, if you did ask Aesop, he'd probably want to tell you about the mouse who not only removed a thorn from the lion's paw, but with a sly grin offered a good supply of cat-gut for restringing racquets. ○

Questions About Camps

by Sigmund Brouwer

Racquetball camps, like used cars, can be a great deal — or a great deal of grief. The best way to make one a great deal is by knowing what makes for a good product. The following points provide a guideline for the questions you should ask about any camp.

QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION

What are the qualifications of the instructors?

There is the saying that, "Those who can't do, teach," and Woody Allen added in Annie Hall, "Those who can't teach, teach gym." What it means for racquetball camps is to not make assumptions on instructors by the level of their playing ability.

World champions may not be good at communicating their hard earned skills. But then again, just because they play well, it doesn't mean they can't teach well, too.

"Unknown" players may be fantastic instructors. Quite often, those who never make the cover of *National Racquetball* are much better at analysis than playing, because they've spent so much time trying to learn the game for themselves. But then again, they might be self-important know-nothings who Woody Allen would relegate to "teaching gym."

Just know that playing ability has nothing to do with teaching ability.

The best way to check instruction quality is through references. The camps with good instructors are happy to provide them. And

it's an easy hint if they are reluctant to give lists of previous "campers".

Does the camp teach anything besides racquetball?

Some camps offer fitness and nutrition training. Some stick to racquetball. Decide for yourself what you want and need to know to help your game and find a camp that fits those requirements. But you'll never know unless you ask.

What is the best student to teacher ratio?

Unfortunately, there is no set answer for this. A low number of students per teacher may mean more personal instruction. But when a low ratio means a low

(continued on the next page)

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Questions About Camps

number of students, it isn't a benefit.

Among 11 people at a camp, there may be three "C's", three "B's", three "A's", an Open and a Novice. Since playing against a variety of styles and people is great for practicing all the new techniques, the low number hampers improvement somewhat. More players means more players at your level and the variety that makes for dramatic improvement.

As well, golf and tennis student/teacher ratio comparisons are not meaningful numbers

What kind of history does the camp have?

It might be a terrific camp in its first year, or it might be a thrown-together thing to make money. Chances are if the camp has been an annual event for some years, it is because it has been a good value.

If it's a first year event, things like friendliness when you ask questions, and how organized it seems are a good indication of how well the camp will serve you.

If it has a long history, still ask for references.

ACTIVITIES

What else does the camp offer besides racquetball?

Worry about the answer according to your taste. Some people like extra activities like horseback riding or local sight-seeing trips. If you don't, and it's part of the camp, remember you'll be paying for it anyway.

The other consideration is one that Steve Strandemo points out: "Players need quiet time to themselves to absorb what they are being taught." If you are serious about your game, you'll probably want a camp that has more racquetball "meat and potatoes" to it than frills. But if you want a vacation to mix with racquetball, the frill way might be best. Again, you won't know what lies ahead unless you ask.

Can we take children?

See if the club facilities include babysitting, or if the camp organizes functions to keep children happy while the parents are learning.

What else does the location have to offer?

Naturally, you will have to determine how easy it is to reach the camp, depending upon the way you prefer to travel. But go one step further and find out what else the location has to offer. After all, if it is out of your home area, you will be a tourist. Check travel guides, or inquire while you book, to discover other things you might want to do while there.

In essence, plan for the camp like a mini-vacation. The better planned you are, the more you will enjoy it.

And for the people who can't understand why you would want to spend vacation time working on a 20 ft. by 40 ft. court? It's like love or ice cream: If you have to explain it to them, they would not understand it anyway. ○

Naturally, you will have to determine how easy it is to reach the camp, depending upon the way you prefer to travel. But go one step further and find out what else the location has to offer. After all, if it is out of your home area, you will be a tourist.

to use when looking at racquetball camps. Tennis courts take up a lot more space and need more manpower. Golf is an actual stroke by stroke analysis and needs more manpower. Racquetball courts are close together, and an instructor only needs to take a few steps to watch another game.

Just the ratio alone won't help your decision. With organized, good instructors, 10 students to one teacher is a great ratio. With poor instructors or few students, four students to one teacher isn't terrific.

Again, go by references and reputation.

Does the camp have video instruction?

Most camps do, and use it as a valuable tool in instruction. Check it out, and if video isn't available, ask why not. No video doesn't necessarily mean "no good". If the price is much lower or the instructor is terrific without video, the camp can still be a good value.

COST OF CAMP

What does the price include?

Obviously the first question is how much? But a price that seems steep at first may include room and board and entertainment so that all you have to do is bring your gear. And what seems like a great price may only cover the cost of courts and instruction.

Check to see who is responsible for the cost of accommodations, meals, entertainment, transportation, and any other expenses you can think of.

What policies apply to booking fees?

You should inquire early to check the booking deadline and what percentage of the total cost is required for booking. Then ask about refund policies. What happens if you have to cancel a month before the camp? A week before the camp? A day before the camp? Is the refund total? Partial?

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The 10-hour clinic is then followed by a 3-hour

written test, practical test and hitting/set up test. From this, instructors are certified as a (TA)-Teaching Assistant, (TI)-Teaching Instructor or (TP)-Teaching Professional.

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If you would like to receive more information about PARI send your name, address, telephone number, club affiliation and club phone number to: Connie Peterson Martin, AARA-PARI, 339 S.W. Towle, Gresham, OR 97080, or call the AARA National Headquarters and ask for Cheryl. (303) 635-5396. ○

Letters to the Editor

If you would like to write a letter to the Editor, please send your comments to:
Letters to the Editor, National Racquetball, P.O. Drawer 6126, Clearwater, FL 33518-6126.

Griffith Fund Donation

I would like to make you and your readers aware of an act of generosity from IMPRO and the RMA Tour last weekend in Portland at the MCI Pro-Am. During a semifinal match between Bret Harnett and Marty Hogan I was paged to the court as director of the Oregon Racquetball Association. When I arrived Gregg Peck presented the ORA with a donation of \$250 to the Mike Griffith Scholarship Fund.

The Griffith Fund was set up by the ORA in memory of Mike who grew up in Oregon and was killed in a car accident just as he was beginning to make his mark on the pro tour. The Griffith Fund is being used to promote junior racquetball throughout the northwest, and in conjunction with the ORA a Mike Griffith Award will be given each year to the top junior player in Oregon.

The Oregon Racquetball Association and all of us who knew Mike would like to thank the pro players for their caring and involvement.

Hank Marcus
ORA Director ○

Disappointed

I'm not a pro, but someday dream to be. I don't have a tour to play in and can only afford to travel to the mainland once a year to compete, and I would love to see the sport of racquetball take off and get the respect it deserves.

I read *National Racquetball* every month and always hear about promoting the sport and getting racquetball recognized, etc. Well, what better way than to cancel one of the top tournaments in the country the Ektelon Nationals?

I'm very disappointed and surprised at Ektelon. They feel they are putting enough money into the game by sponsoring the players they have now, but how can you promote a sport when you don't give the unsponsored players a chance to compete. I buy their racquets, I use their balls, I wear their clothes, I also realize how expensive and hectic it is to run a tournament, especially at the Nationals level. But if one of the major racquetball companies can't or won't sponsor a tournament, where does that leave the sport?

I hope the racquetball companies realize that the amateur players support them as well as the pros. They deserve a chance to compete and if the sport still exists, they will be the pros of the future.

Cathy Pickard, RB Director
Lihue, HI ○

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The Overhead Z-Serve

by Lou Fabian

According to a popular commercial, if you do one thing well, success will come your way. When I began working at the University of Pittsburgh, I had been playing racquetball for two years. At Pitt, I met fellow racquetball player, Herb Meyers, who beat me four days a week, 48 weeks a year, for three years. With little more than a unique service game and the power of concentration to make it work, Herb Meyers became 1976 Eastern Regional Doubles Champion.

The champion's unique service game was the overhead Z-serve, a serve derived from the overhead tennis serve. Today it is used primarily in racquetball doubles! These serves can be a great asset to your singles game.

I gradually began to use the overhead Z service game for my singles matches, and pleasantly discovered that many players were unable to handle it. This has resulted in numerous victories for me during the last decade.

Marc Auerbach, 1982, suggests that soft Z-serve is probably the second most frequently used serve, following the drive serve. This serve enters the back court after touching the side wall, and crosses the court diagonally, making perception, timing, and setting up for a straight shot difficult for

your opponent. The receiver will have few, if any, offensive opportunities when your game is on.

Before you add the overhead Z into your game plan, understand why this serve works! Try to direct the action with your serve to accomplish your goals! Understand that the overhead Z, (particularly the soft and medium speed Z's) will not often result in an ace. The primary purpose of this serve is to: a) get yourself a setup, b) limit your opponents' offensive return of serve.

Advantages of the Overhead Z-Serve

- Keeps opponent deep in the backhand corner longer.
- It is easy to keep this serve off the back wall.
- It will help you neutralize your opponent's power.
- The overhead Z-serve offers more variety than other service games.
- You gain a variety of serving angles, and you can alter both height and speed.
- You can force your opponent to play the ball on the way up or down.
- The overhead Z-serve keeps your opponent from settling into a comfortable groove.
- The overhead Z is excellent for a change-of-pace.
- Exploit the receiver's natural weaknesses, such as backhand shots above the waist by using the overhead Z.
- The overhead Z forces the opponent to play your game!
- Difficult crossing angles make the ball hard to set up against.

Disadvantages of the Overhead Z-Serve

- This service game is not as effective against a well-controlled defensive game. You will not generate as many setups, and you should switch to the drive serve from time-to-time.
- Your service game will be easily telegraphed because of your court position and the overhand form.

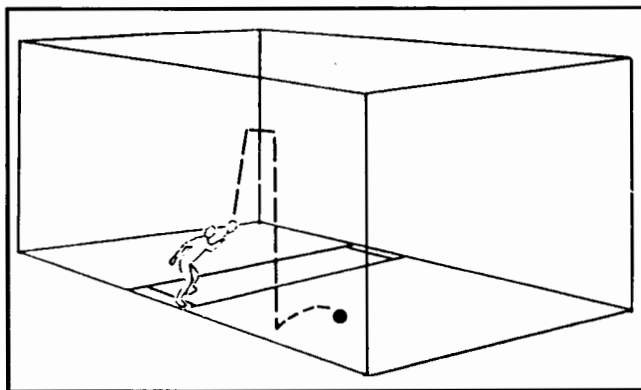


Diagram 1. Path of the overhead Z-lob serve.

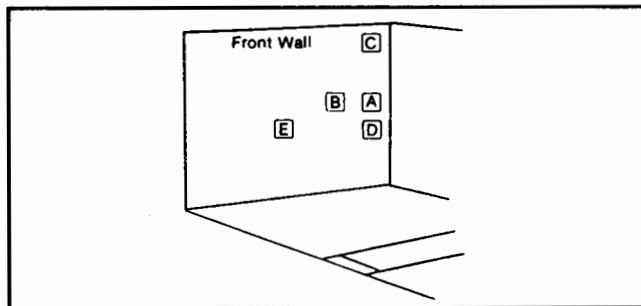


Diagram 2a. Overhead Z-lob serve target; 2b. Wide angle overhead Z-lob serve target; 2c. Higher-tighter overhead Z-lob serve target; 2d. Hard drive overhead Z-serve target; 2e. Hard overhead drive serve target straight into opposite corner.

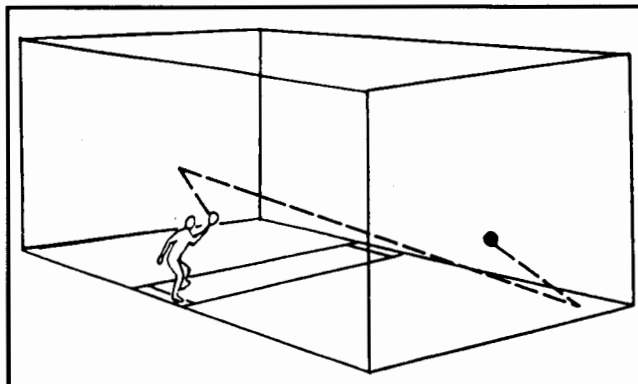


Diagram 3. Path of hard overhead drive serve.

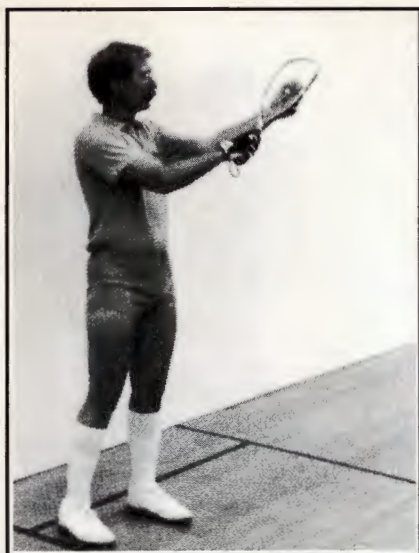


Photo 1. Face right front-side wall, racquet and ball shoulder height.

Types Of Overhead Z-Serves Include:

- Overhead Z-lob serve.
- Medium speed overhead Z serve.
- Hard drive overhead Z-serve.

Beginners Should Use The Overhead Z-Lob Serve

The overhead Z-lob serve closely resembles the Z-lob serve. A lot of practice is required to perfect the necessary form and accuracy. The ball should hit a target on the front wall 16 ft. high and 1 ft. away from the side wall crack. The ball should bounce in the 5 ft. zone and carry high into the backhand corner (39 ft.) without touching the walls (see diagrams 1 and 2a).

(continued on the next page)

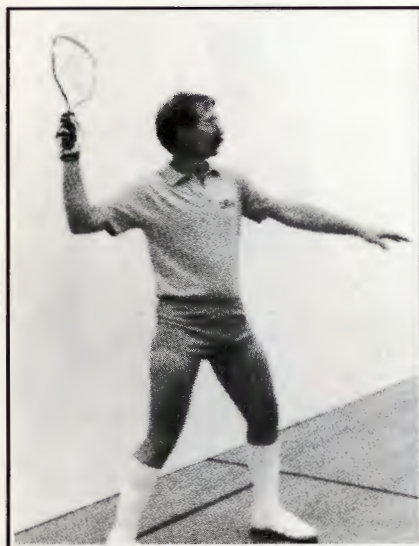
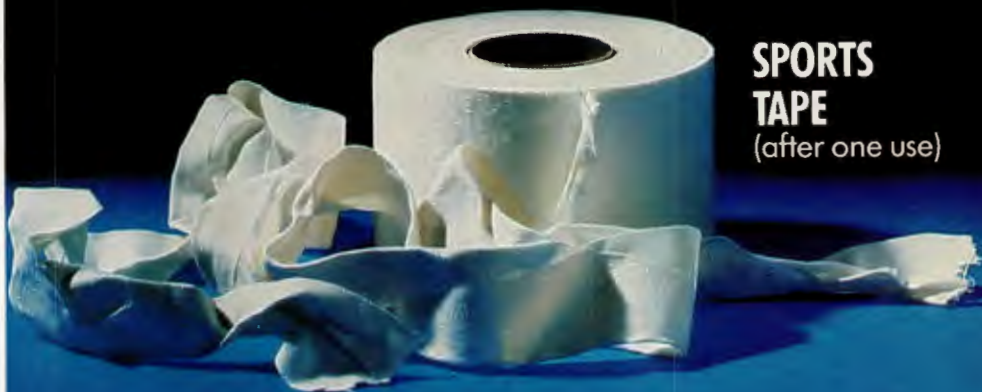


Photo 2. Position and form.

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Photo 3. Tap the ball lightly.

Assume that your opponent is right-handed, and that you are serving to the backhand corner. The position and form recommended is shown in photos 1 to 5 and described as follows:

- Stand in the front left corner of the service box facing the right front side wall (see photo 1).
- If the forehand grip is awkward, use a flat or frying pan grip on the racquet.
- Hold the racquet at shoulder height in front of your eyes.
- Bounce the ball directly in front of the racquet so that it bounces at least 2 ft. above your head and hit it on the way up at a point 2 ft. above your head (see photo 2).
- If the bounce is bad, catch the ball and try it again.



Photo 4. Follow through high to front wall target.

- Follow-up on the ball with the head of the racquet.
- When the ball is lined up with your eye, the racquet, and the target, step toward the target and tap the ball lightly toward the front wall (see photos 3 and 4). If you experience difficulty, simplify the drill by catching the ball with your right hand at the contact point, then throw the ball with an over-arm motion to the front wall target.
- After serving the ball, pause momentarily to allow the ball to pass the short line. If you move towards center court before the ball crosses the short line you will commit a fault! Relax slightly (see photo 5).
- Follow the ball after it passes the short line and move quickly into the center court position (approximately 27').
- Read the opponent for a high or low return and react accordingly.

Additional Overhead Z-Lob Serves

- Practice serving a wide angle overhead Z-serve, 16 ft. high and 4 ft. away from the side wall corner (see diagram 2b).
- Next try a higher, tighter serve, 18 ft. by 1 ft. (see diagram 2c).
- Slice the face of the ball 16 ft. high and 1 ft. wide. The ball should drop down and back after hitting the backhand side wall (see diagram 2a).
- Practice all serves from the opposite side of the court.

These serves are an excellent weapon against an opponent who expects your lob serve. The only zone from which the receiver can successfully return the serve is small and shoulder high. The receiver has three options within this small zone:

- Cut the ball off (midair or shot hop) and go down-the-line or crosscourt.
- Hit a ceiling shot before or after the ball strikes the side wall.
- Attempt a kill or pass shot after the ball drops from the side wall.

The overhead Z-lob serve is very good strategy against a power player, because he/she must return the ball with a high backhand swing. The opponent can play your serve out or midair, or deep in the backhand corner off the side wall. The shooter must be



Photo 5. Drop back to center court and relax.

made to play the midair serve! The defensive player should be forced to play the ball after it hits the side wall.

Consistent winners from these shots are challenging for even a professional player. The receiver who returns every serve at high speed may lose points to the soft, overhead Z. Watch your opponent in case he/she decides to shot-hop, or cut the ball off in midair. If you are in center court position and the return is poor, you should be able to end the rally by the third shot.

Intermediate Players Add Power to Control

The medium power overhead Z-serve is the best serve to use

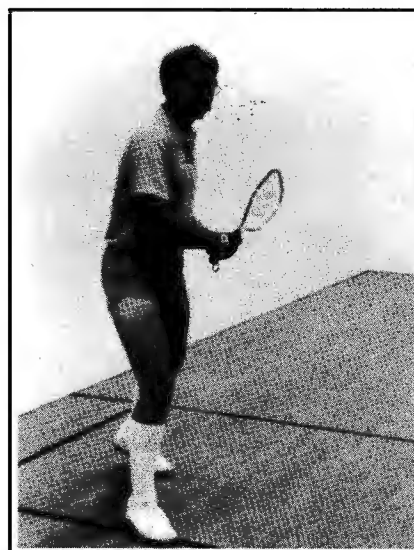


Photo 6. Shoot the ball straight to front wall.

against a new opponent; from it you gain valuable information on your opponent's style of play. How does he/she attack the ball and play it out of midair defensively to the ceiling or offensively with a kill shot?

Secondly, how well does he/she execute the return? Does the return give you a setup, place you in a defensive posture, or effect a side out? Third, how does your opponent let the ball carry off the side wall? Does he/she attempt to play the return: If so, you've got him!

The grip and stance for the overhead Z-serve, which uses a

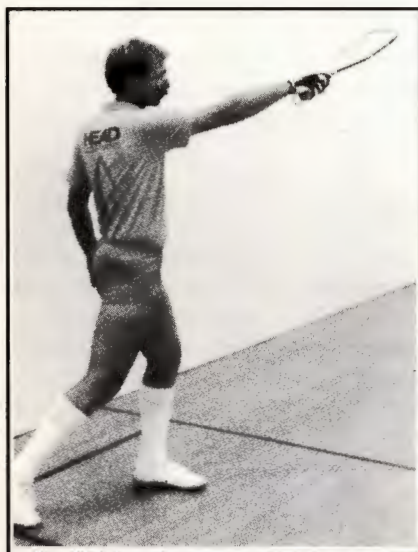


Photo 7. Poise yourself for a low return.

full and firm arm swing, are the same as for the overhead Z-lob. The medium overhead Z should be bounced 8 ft. to 10 ft. high. Coming down, at 7 ft., hit the ball with full arm extension into the target. Then take one step forward, break your wrist, follow through with your arm swing. Don't hit the ball at an upward to downward angle. *Hit it straight!* (photo 6). The ball should hit the front wall 1 ft. away from the side wall and 7 ft. high. The ball should bounce within the 5 ft. zone past the short line and carom into center court, deep toward the back wall. Because this serve travels faster into back court, the drop after the serve should be faster. Poise yourself for a low return, and keep your racquet low (see photo 7).

(continued on page 42)

Q. and A. on Jock Straps

Q. What can happen if I don't wear a Jock Strap?

A. You can rupture or tear your groin muscles, causing rapid swelling, intense pain and, in some instances, irreversible damage.

Q. Don't my gym shorts and briefs provide the support I need?

A. No. Products such as gym shorts and briefs do not provide upward support and lifting action to the groin area. This is critically important for protection when exercising.

Q. Who has to wear a Jock?

A. All men involved in any type of exercise or sport are exposed to strain and tension in the groin that can result from sudden and strenuous physical activity. It is especially important for the young and athletic to wear a jock and develop the right habits, before something happens.

Q. Has there been any improvement in the design of Jocks?

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Off Court Fitness

by Jean Sauser



One Person's Opinion

For the last 10 years, I've watched racquetball companies, health club owners, racquetball organizations and racquetball publications wonder out loud why the sport of racquetball is not growing while fitness continues to boom.

Some have said that its failure to get the pro tour on the major television network sports shows is the reason. Others say that once racquetball becomes an Olympic sport, things will improve. Then there are those who say a portable glass court would bring another boom for the game.

What's the real reason? It's none of the above. There are lots of sports already on the major television networks which don't have huge audiences. Things like arm wrestling, race car driving, and cliff diving fill our living rooms via the tube. Somehow, very few people take up these activities after watching them with great interest on their favorite sports show.

As for the Olympics, Greco Roman wrestling is a big item, but how many people do it in their spare time? I must admit that after watching Team Handball on ABC during its coverage of the 1984 Olympics, I felt no desire to get my friends together and try it.

Three wall glass courts are being taken out of clubs because people don't want to watch each other play racquetball, they want to play it themselves, and most of those people are men. You see,

the real reason racquetball's growth is at a standstill is women — lack of women.

Let's go back to the mid '60s, when racquetball was beginning to catch on in the handball courts and, coincidentally, as a chunky teenager in need of a good calorie burning activity, I took up the sport. In those days, there was a rule at the facility where I played that helps explain why racquetball, even though it was invented around 1950, really didn't go anywhere until the late '60s. The rule? No women allowed on the handball courts.

I found out years later that I wasn't the only woman who had to break rules to play the sport I loved. This behavior was going on nationwide, in most athletic facilities which had racquetball (then called handball) courts.

Enter women's liberation and a lot of nice guys sneaking their wives and girlfriends into racquetball because they felt it was a better workout for them than tennis.

I was personally one of a group of women and men that petitioned my athletic facility on the grounds of sex discrimination to open up the courts to women. Given the times, the facility had no choice but to do it.

This was happening all over the country, and by 1968 a funny thing happened. Racquetball began to boom. The numbers doubled every year and the percentage of women playing the game by the mid '70s was up to 40 percent. Racquetball became the

fastest growing sport in America. *National Racquetball* took notice of why and developed a women's section.

Then, around 1978, along came aerobics. Jane Fonda. Great clothes. A new look. A nice break from the competitive stress of racquetball. A way to burn fat even more effectively. Results: Sadly, women left the racquetball courts in the same record numbers in which they had once filled them. The sport has not been the same since.

What can be done about this? Truthfully? Not much. But, I do have a suggestion for industry leaders, club owners, and everyone, male and female alike, who would like to see racquetball flourish once again.

First, do your best in your own spheres of influence to get women back into racquetball. From there, and equally important, market our sport directly to women to get more women and then do whatever it takes to keep them involved. This is something I feel we failed to do the first time around for a variety of reasons which are too detailed and after-the-fact to go into here. Instead of dwelling on missed opportunities in the past, let's get women back into the future of our sport.

By the way, if you still don't believe women hold the key to racquetball's growth, consider the latest statistics on our sport. Less than 15 percent of all racquetball players today are women. I rest my case. ○

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

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The Nautilus Staff Exercise and Conditioning shoe is available at a suggested retail price of \$55-\$60 for Low and High Top models. For more information, contact: Nautilus Footwear, 33 Villa Rd., #A210, Greenville, SC 29615, or phone: (800) 528-6643.



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Safe Racquetball

The Good Ole Boys of Delray Beach

by Lou Kaplan

When you get "into the years," as they say, as most of us good ole boys are here in Delray Beach, FL, and as you continue to play the game of racquetball, there are certain precautions that should be taken, for safety's sake.

First, no matter what, it must be recognized that there is never such a thing as a player quitting the game. Even if you have to crawl to the court, your back bent over, you know that as soon as you arrive, your back will straighten out miraculously.

The game is in your blood — blood which sometimes pulses through your veins, in the heat of battle. Sure, you get a pulled muscle, a sprain, or hit by a racquet. Sure, you get whacked by balls traveling from 0-90 mph. (The 90 mph is by our resident big hitter, Carl Reingold, who is definitely not in my Schlepper Grade 1 class.) Sure, you run into the wall or trip on a blade of grass. But what of it? You're playing racquetball!

Some of the walking wounded can be seen in the photos. Carl has a pinched nerve, bad back, and a horseshoe-type brand on his thigh from a wildly swung racquet. Lou's Ace bandage supports his recovered torn gastrocnemius (some word!) calf muscle, which he got right after he received a brand new dimple in his chin. And so on.

But quit? Never! Don't forget, we've been playing for 50 years or more. First, on the handball courts of Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Coney Island. And now on racquetball courts in our condos here in Florida. Playing the game, no matter how you play it, is much better than getting your exercise by turning on the TV or standing in line for an early-bird meal or pushing the cart in the supermarket.

Okay then, here are some rules and suggestions to play the game by, in a safe and sound way . . .

The first rule applies exclusively to places like Las Verdes, where the pool is right next to the courts. This pool happens to be unlike most condo pools in that it frequently has young beauties sunning themselves and swimming in the bikiniest of bikinis. You know the kind, where the cut out sides come up to the armpits.

after your serve. Come back when it's safe.

— Third, don't make the mistake of thinking you're still the kid you were when you played handball at P.S. #40 or in Orchard Beach. Don't run after shots you could have made 40 years ago. Those were the days — kiddo.

— Fourth, don't get too close to



Some of the "Good Ole Boys," left to right, Sol Miller, Al Kurtz, Harry Frantz, Al Sadoff, Sonny Levine and hard-hitting Carl Reingold.

— First and foremost — pay attention . . . not to the young bikinis, dummy. Pay attention to the game before you get whacked. Don't stop in the middle of a hot volley to look at a sunbather lying on her stomach untying the top part of her swimsuit. Shame on you. What would your wife say? What would your grandchildren say? Forget it. What was, was! Of course, it would be okay if all four players stopped at the same time to admire the scenery.

— Next rule. When serving to a heavy hitter, like Carl, who might return the ball right into your back, run for the hills immediately

the guy you're playing when he's swinging, especially if he's a wild swinger, of which there are plenty. And rather than get hit or hit someone, call a lot of blocks, or as they say in India, "hindus."

— And lastly, if a point in time is reached where most of the guys are incapacitated, you don't have to quit playing. What you do is play without racquets and balls. Until everyone has recovered.

Seriously, everyone should use eyeguards. Everyone should warm up properly and be sure to stay out of the way of wild swingers and hard ball hitters. Just play it cool, be careful and enjoy a great game. ○

How to Win Close Matches

by Charlie Garfinkel

Have you ever noticed that certain players have an amazing percentage of wins in matches that end by the scores of 15-13, 15-13 or closer. On the occasions that they are involved in tiebreakers, their winning percentage is still extremely high.

Some people may say these players are just lucky. However, players who continually win these types of matches all have one thing in common. They know how to conserve their energy and play their hardest at the crucial points of the match.

In addition, they have the consistency and ability to make winning shots when the match is on the line.

The following hints will help you when you're involved in a close match.

- **Know what you can and can't do** — First, you should specifically concentrate on the shots that have consistently worked well for you in the past.

For instance, if your drive serve to the left side is your most consistent serve, use it on your first serve. Of course, an occasional drive serve to the right is recommended to keep your opponent honest.

On your second serve, if your high lob serve to either side is effective, then use them.

I still remember a match in the Eastern Regionals, in which one of the top seeds was involved in a close tiebreaker. Known for his deadly high lob serves, the top seed suddenly switched to hard Z's on his second serves.

In addition to losing points quickly when his Z-serves fell short, he also double faulted twice. He lost a close tiebreaker to a person he should have defeated.

When I asked him why he had switched to a different serve, he replied, "I thought I could surprise my opponent by using some serves I hadn't used previously during the match."

That was the problem. Even though his opponent hadn't seen those serves throughout the

Players who continually win . . . know how to conserve their energy and play their hardest at the crucial points of the match.

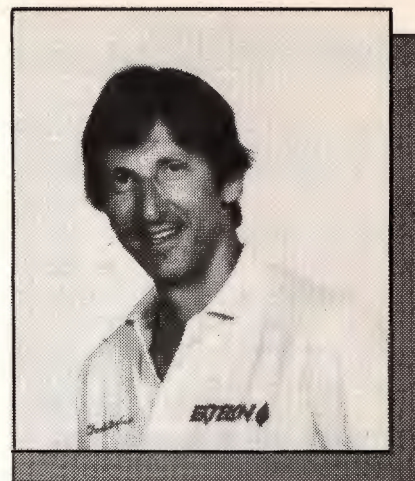
match, the server hadn't practiced hard Z-serves either. Therefore, his timing and accuracy were way off.

REMEMBER: Use the serves which have proved to be the most reliable for you in practice and in tournaments, especially in close matches.

When you are returning serve or are involved in a rally, stay with the returns or shots that work best for you. Suddenly trying overhands, reverse overhands, or 30-foot drop shots when you have hardly used them will only ensure your losing a close match even faster.

In a close match you'd be wise to keep the ball in play by either going to the ceiling or continually passing your opponent, until an opportunity presents itself to hit one of your favorite shots. Then concentrate extremely hard, as you hit one of your patented kill or pinch shots.

A match which clearly illustrates this point is one in which



Davey Bledsoe defeated Marty Hogan, 21-20, 21-19, to win the National Professional Men's Singles Championships in the late 1970s. (Games were to 21 points then.)

The match, which ranks with the greatest upsets in the annals of racquetball, was highlighted by Bledsoe's incredibly accurate forehand kill pinch shots.

Uncannily, he rolled out shot after shot, including a crucial 39 footer near the end of the match.

When the match was over, Bledsoe was asked how he had enough confidence to try a 39 foot forehand pinch kill shot so many times, especially late in the match.

He replied, "I feel that you should have confidence to hit your best shots at any time in a match, whether the score is 1-0, or 20-19." Enough said.

- **Use your timeouts wisely** — How many times has the following situation occurred. You've won the first game easily 15-10. But in the second game, you quickly fall behind 7-2.

Instead of panicking, take a timeout. During those 30 seconds, think about all of the things you did to win the first game 15-10. When you return to the court, try to implement the shots and strategies that won the first game for you.

Even though you try to utilize the shots and strategies that won the first game for you, you find that you've only made a slight dent in your opponent's lead. He is now leading 11-7.

Take a second timeout. Try to think of the serves and shots your opponent has been using that have caused you so much

difficulty. Then think of the shots that you've been missing in your attempts to regain the lead.

When play continues, you may be able to close the gap to 14-12, in favor of your opponent.

Take a third timeout. Think about the serves and shots that have helped you close the gap. When play resumes, use those same serves and shots and you may win the match.

If you happen to lose the third game, carefully think of what worked best for you during the first two games.

Use those serves and shots in the tiebreaker. Take all your timeouts, if needed.

You'll find that you'll be winning a larger number of close matches than ever before.

Note: Timeouts should not only be used when you're behind. On occasion, the player who is leading would be wise to take a timeout, if his opponent has run a string of points. This will slow the opponent down and take away a lot of his momentum.

• Keep your mind on the match

— When you're involved in a close match, concentrate on every point as hard as you can. Often, when you lose a point, or fall behind in a close match, you may start thinking about how you're hitting the ball. Or, you may start thinking about your swing, footwork, court position, grip, or even the follow-through.

My personal feeling is that you're making a big mistake.

Concentrating on one single positive point, such as watching the ball or getting your racquet back earlier, is far more helpful.

When you try to concentrate on two or more things during a match, your concentration will waver badly. This will cause you to miss many easy shots that you usually make.

• Let your emotions guide you

— How do you feel in a close match? Are you as relaxed as you were when the match started? Or, do you find that you're a bundle of nerves?

If you're able to play within yourself you'll find that you'll be winning most of your close

matches. Players who get rattled by their own missed shots or referee's calls usually lose.

Some players get really pumped up when they make one or two great shots in a row in a close match. This gets their adrenaline flowing and makes them tough to defeat.

Other people use their own mistakes to their advantage. If they've missed one or two easy shots, they bear down and reduce the number of mistakes.

• Learn how to pace yourself

— All of us have played a match in which we were losing a game 14-10 or 14-11. We regain the serve, make three great serves and tie the score 14-14. It appears that the momentum has definitely shifted back to us.

However, as soon as we tie the game up, our opponent regains the serve. He quickly serves and wins the point to make the score 15-14.

Or, I'm sure that you can remember a match in which you lost the first game 15-8, or 15-9. You then win the second game 15-10.

In the tiebreaker you were down 8-2. But, you then played some great racquetball to tie the match 8-8. However, at 8-8 the momentum switched again. Your opponent regained the serve and quickly scored three points to win 11-8.

What happened in both situations?

When you rally from behind you're using a great amount of physical and mental energy. When you do tie up the match, you often suffer a temporary let down. Subconsciously, you are thrilled to have tied up the match, especially when it appeared at one time that you'd surely lose.

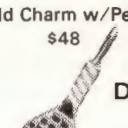
Instead of letting down, you must push yourself even harder. Once your opponent sees and feels your determination and aggressiveness, you'll be a tough opponent to defeat in a close match.

• Have enough equipment on hand

— One of the leading men's professional players was involved in a close five game match last

(continued on page 44)

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Passing Shots

by Norm Blum



Racquetball is Booming

Who says the racquetball boom is over? Not H.W. Huston, president of Fibresin Industries, a racquetball court manufacturer. He said business was up 50 percent in 1986. And, 1987 is looking even better. Military bases, universities and health clubs are adding courts.

POTPOURRI — Is nothing sacred? Now energy drinks like Squincher are being offered in dietetic form . . . Quick tip for club owners whose clubs have humidity problems. A half dozen portable dehumidifiers will help get rid of the condensation . . . One reason clubs are installing new locker facilities is because players have a tendency not to trash the locker when things look good . . . I've said all along the key to racquetball's growth is having decision makers who play the sport. One example came at a southern university. The blueprints for the fitness facility came in. "What, no racquetball courts? We'll see about that," exclaimed the prez . . . Is there a more painful injury than a back injury? Even bending for balls waist high is painful . . . Insiders report a new video racquetball tape will be on the market this fall.

HOOP SCOOP — World champ Mike Yellen earned some money for one of his favorite charities at halftime of a recent Detroit Pistons basketball game. He made three free throws in 24 seconds which netted \$150 for the Michigan Jewish Sports Hall of Fame . . . Attention snack bar managers, you have to try the

Donvier Shake Maker. The company's advertisement, "Makes 70 calories taste like 700", is accurate.

IN DEMAND — Caryn McKinney has learned the difference between being ranked No. 2, her current ranking, and elsewhere in the top 10. "It's an unbelievable difference," McKinney said. She said it's much easier to book clinics and exhibitions than before . . . Speaking of McKinney, she has to be the first top-ranked player in any sport to organize a successful tournament. She recently ran the Pizza Hut & AT&T pro stop in Atlanta. It took its toll, however. While she won't use it as an excuse, her concentration suffered and she lost in the semifinals to Marci Drexler. Lynn Adams, who came back from a sprained ankle, won the tourney . . . With any luck, women's racquetball might have a permanent sponsor. Honda, which sells more of its scooters to females, is impressed with racquetball's demographics and might use the same concept Virginia Slims has been successful with in tennis.

COMPUTER STRATEGY — A computer can improve your reflexes. There's a new athletic training device that integrates a striking target pad with a single-chip computer and provides you with a method to monitor and speed-up reaction. It's called ReflexMaster. It's supposed to improve your eye-hand coordination and increase concentration . . . If

(continued on page 44)



Sacramento State players rejoice in the announcement of the team winner.

Sacramento State

(continued from page 13)

position to oust number one ranked Kim Cooling of MSU 15-4, 15-3. Montana State had good representation in Annie Blaz as she blasted Tracy Alderman of Penn State 15-1, 15-3 for third place.

Kelly Pulis showed why she was seeded number one in the women's #4 singles as she breezed by MSU's Mischea McCorry 15-8, 15-7 for another Sacramento State triumph. Ferris State, by far the most enthusiastic team in the tournament, had a lock on third with teammates Judy Erickson and Sharon Lintemuth squaring off in competition with Lintemuth coming out on top 15-9, 15-8.

The '87 National Intercollegiate Championship was a huge success with a lot of credit going to the players who participated. They were for the most part very understanding when the matches ran behind schedule and showed the enthusiasm you'd expect from a college event. The American Collegiate Racquetball Association board should be congratulated for organizing this great tournament and promoting such a fine group of players. On a local level

Dan Taurillo of the IAC, with the help of the AARA, put together a fun three days that everyone could enjoy.

A special note of thanks to Penn representative Larry Daub who helped out above and beyond the call of duty and ensured the tournament stayed well stocked with balls. And, of course,

thanks to Diversified Products for the support they've shown not only at this tournament but throughout the years. ○

Overall Team Points

Sacramento State University	237
Memphis State University	236
Ferris State College	79
Montana State	70
University of Texas	70

Men's Standings

Memphis State University	128
Sacramento State University	117
University of Texas	59
University of Minnesota	56

Women's Standings

Sacramento State University	120
Memphis State University	108
Ferris State College	51
Wichita State University	42



Kim Coding, NSU, and Coach Larry Lyles.

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Phoenix

(continued from page 5)

didn't fold under the pressure, nor did he play badly, he just played great! Marty retrieved Egan's photon serves and pressured him with outstanding accuracy at every opportunity. This was his day and he was not to be denied.

The match statistics clearly indicate Marty's dominance. Marty only won four of his points on Egan's errors, the other 89% of the game was won on class winners. Hogan played an almost perfect fourth game winning his first five points on kills, the sixth on an ace, seven through nine on kills, the tenth on a perfect pass and the match winner on another kill.

In capturing his second tournament title of the season he significantly closed the gap between himself and first place seed, Bret Harnett. It looks as if the national title will again be determined at the seasons last event.

Hogan's class as a professional athlete once again surfaced during the award ceremony. Not

only did he give all the credit to Egan for an outstanding tournament, he also positively influenced another junior racquetball player by giving the weekend towel boy his tournament winning racquet.

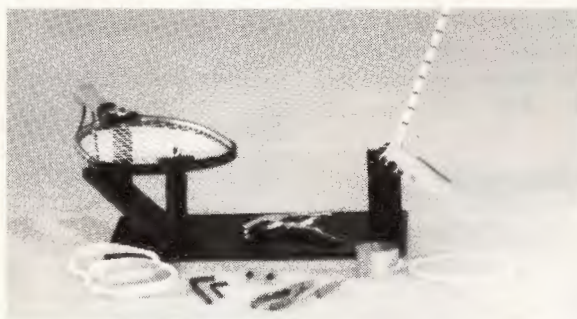
The Arizona Athletic Club is one of the nation's most outstanding facilities. Besides almost perfect weather, the friendliness and efficiency of the host facility makes the Tempe Tourney one of the tours most favorite events.

This year's event was sponsored by Head Racquet Sports and John Delaney of City Federal Mortgage. Debbie Nohstadt of Head is one of the tours most ardent supporters. City Federal Mortgage is a new tour sponsor but one which intends to become more involved in the year ahead. Jerry Boyer and Jack Nolan directed the event.

Tournament Notes

Marty Hogan unveiled his new proposal for next season's professional tour; Todd O'Neil coming from behind 10-2 in the tiebreaker to defeat Nolan Glantz in the qualifying; Was Egan Inoue's high caliber of play a result of the appearance of his girlfriend for the first time this season?; Guy Humphry learning about the realities of professional racquetball — a \$25 fine; Dan Obremski staying around after the tournament to lose another match along with dinner; Jack Nolan surviving the weekend only to lose in the finals of the Open.

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Todd O'Neil - Vermont
Jeff Evans - Oregon

Quarter Finals

Inoue d. Obremski
Yellen d. Lerner
Price d. Swain
Hogan d. Gonzalez

Semifinals

Inoue d. Yellen
Hogan d. Price

Finals

Hogan d. Inoue ○

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Schedule of Events

1987 RMA SCHEDULE

June 10-14
Head A'me Nationals
Minneapolis, MN

June 24-28
City Federal Nationals
Seattle, WA

1987 WPRA SCHEDULE

May 7-10
\$12,000
Westerville Athletic Club
Westerville, Ohio
Denny Vincent
(614) 882-7331

May 28-31
WPRA National
Championships
RiverBend Athletic Club
Fort Worth, Texas
Mary Pat Sklenka
(817) 284-3353

1987 AARA SCHEDULE

May 7-9
Adult Region 14 Champs
Garden Racquetball &
Athletic Club
2000 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940
Ed Martin

May 7-10
Invitational
Denver Sporting Club
5151 DTC Parkway
Englewood, CO 80111
Don Kriete (303) 779-0700

May 9-10
Junior Region 8
Championships
North Hills Athletic Club
N-85-W 15960 Appleton Av.
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Alvin Barasch
(312) 763-7300

May 13-17
Mountain Madness
Evergreen Athletic Club
2932 Highway #74
Evergreen, CO 80439
Cheryl Haller/Kip Lyle
(303) 674-6902

May 13-17

Spring Classic Pepsi Cup
Aurora Athletic Club
2953 South Peoria
Aurora, CO 80014
John Foust (303) 750-3210

May 14-17
Signature Finals #6
4 North Dubois Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120
Dave Negrete
(312) 882-4636

May 15-17
Junior Region 7 Champs
Racquetball & Health Clubs
of Houston
5890 Point West Drive
Houston, TX 77036
Chuck Albores
(713) 988-5528

May 15-17
River Festival Tournament
The Club Olympiad
2120 North Woodlawn
Wichita, KS 67208
Bob Piper (316) 686-4000

May 15-17
Severence AC Tournament
Severence AC
Cleveland Heights, OH
(216) 291-5550

May 15-17
Super Seven Finale
Backwall Racquetball Club
2 Ajax Drive
Madison Heights, MI 48071
Jim Hiser

May 15-17
Third RB Spring Thing
Omega 40
P.O. Box 1141
Ormond Beach, FL 32074
Scott Nelson
(904) 672-4044

May 21-25
National Singles
Houston YMCA
1600 Louisiana Avenue
Houston, TX 77002

June 2-6
Ridge Athletic Club
Tournament
4304 North Foothill
Provo, UT 84604
Joel Tuai Leva
(801) 224-6969

June 19-21
Tacoma Open

Pac West
5227 South Puget Sound
Tacoma, WA 98409
Sid Williams (206) 473-2266

June 20-24
National Juniors
Columbus, OH

June 26-28
White River Park
State Games
4 Sites TBA
White River, IN
Mike Arnolt (317) 776-0222

July 10-12
White River Park
State Games
Finals - Greenbriar
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Indianapolis, IN 46260
Mike Arnolt (317) 776-0222

July 14-17
Steel Days — Tri-City
551 East State Street
American Fork, UT 84403
Ron Peck (801) 756-5224

July 17-21
Pioneer Days
Deseret Gym
161 North Main
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
Marty Frustaci
(801) 359-3911

July 31-August 2
Washington State Doubles
Pac West
5227 South Puget Sound
Tacoma, WA 98409
Sid Williams (206) 473-2266

August 21-23
Florida State Doubles
Sarasota Bath & Racq. Club
2170 Robinhood
Sarasota, FL 33577
Judi Schmidt
(813) 921-6675

August 21-23
Masters & Golden Masters
Invitational National Doubles
Edison RB & Health Club
511 Old Post Road & US 1
Edison, NJ 08812
Pete Talbot (201) 287-4444

August 21-23
National Masters
Invitational Doubles
Greenbrook, NJ 08112
Pete Talbot (201) 287-4444

September 17-20
Adult Region 15 Doubles
Pac West
5227 South Puget Sound
Tacoma, WA 98409
Sid Williams (206) 473-2266

September 17-19
Pan American Games
Tourney — Point AC
Colo. Springs, CO 80903

September 24-26
North American 40+
Tournament
Albuquerque, NM

October 2-4
Holiday Open
Pac West
5227 South Puget Sound
Tacoma, WA 98409
Sid Williams
(206) 473-2266

October 22-24
National Doubles
Arizona Athletic Club
Tempe, AZ

FOR RMA INFORMATION

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Commissioner
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FOR WPRA INFORMATION

Contact:
Caryn McKinney
(404) 636-7575

FOR AARA INFORMATION

Contact:
Luke St. Onge
(303) 635-5396

Rankings

The sources for these national rankings are as follows: Men's - Official RMA Pro Racquetball Tour rankings; Women's - Official WPR A Tour rankings; Amateur - Official national rankings.

RMA Official Rankings April 4, 1987

1	B. Harnett	444
2	M. Hogan	442
3	M. Yellen	401
4	E. Andrews	318
5	C. Swain	263
6	R. Gonzalez	250
7	S. Lerner	237
8	G. Peck	234
9	G. Price	179
10	E. Inoue	168
11	M. Ray	172
12	J. Hilecher	155
13	D. Obremski	151
14	A. Katz	145
15	R. Harripersad	143
16	D. Peck	141
17	A. Gross	96
18	L. Gilliam	100
19	J. Newman	100
20	D. Gross	96
21	C. Brysman	72
22	D. Green	74
23	J. Egberman	73
24	J. Cascio	71
25	B. Sell	70

WPR A Official Rankings March 15, 1987

1	L. Adams	190.00
2T	M. Drexler	150.00
2T	C. McKinney	150.00
4	M. O'Brien	78.00
5	V. Panzeri	65.00
6	T. Gilreath	58.75
7	K. Kuhfeld	52.50
8T	C. Evon	48.00
8T	M. Lynch	48.00
10	L. Alvarado	42.50
11T	F. Davis	41.25
11T	D. Fischl	41.25
13	Jackie Paraiso	36.25
14	M. Mook	33.75
15T	C. Nichols	31.25
15T	S. Robson	31.25
17	T. Bevelock	28.75
18	J. Marriott	25.00
19	J. Harding	23.75
20	B. Stoll	22.50
21	M. MacDonald	18.75
22T	A. Katz	18.00
22T	R. Whitmire	18.00
24	M. Dee	17.50
25	T. Rasmussen	15.00

AARA National Rankings Men's Open April 20, 1987

1	A. Roberts, TN	1670
2	D. Ganim, OH	1125
3	T. Hansen, FL	1000
4	C. Vantrease, IL	930
5	J. Cline, NJ	855
6	D. Kelly, CO	825
7	D. Aceto, MA	820
8	M. Lowe, CA	815
9	T. Montalbano, NY	770
10	D. Negrete, IL	750
11	J. Sumner, UT	740
12	C. Nicholas, FL	705
13	A. Katz, TX	700
14	S. Moskwa, IL	690
15	M. Morrison, FL	630
16T	R. Gonzalez, NY	610
16T	D. Obremski, PA	610
18	V. Ganley, FL	605
19	S. Moody, CA	575
20	F. Calabrese, FL	565

AARA National Rankings Women's Open April 20, 1987

1	T. Rasmussen, CA	1495
2	M. Mook, CA	1420
3	C. Baxter, PA	1185
4	M. Dee, NH	1165
5	C. Avon, IL	1040
6	E. Mardas, OH	1015
7	C. Fried, CA	795
8	C. Doyle, NY	765
9	T. Latham, TX	715
10	K. Despain, UT	635
11	L. Diamond, FL	625
12T	L. Basch, FL	610
12T	S. Robson, IL	610
14	L. Hjelm, CA	600
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The Overhead Z-Serve

(continued from page 27)

Advanced Players Add Deception/Versatility

The hard drive overhead Z-serve is excellent for overcoming the disadvantage of telegraphing the serve. This serve is smacked the same way as the medium overhead Z (7 ft. high) except give it more power! The ball should leave the racquet face at a slight downward angle toward the front wall target, 5 ft. to 6 ft. high and 1 ft. away from the side wall (see diagram 2d.)

The ball should shoot down past the short line, bouncing against the side wall and continuing upwards toward the back wall; thus keeping opponent deep in the back court, and throwing their timing off! Remember to drop quickly back into center court. Assess the opponent, react quickly, and take the offensive shot!

Serving Strategy

Think of the overhead Z-service game and imagine that you are a baseball pitcher. You have a six-serve repertoire to both sides of the court. How many major league pitchers can boast six pitches? The following strategy discusses when and why to use each type of serve.

The medium power overhead Z-serve will keep the opponent in the back court. This serve is very difficult to effectively cut off in midair because it is fast! Bounce the ball 7 ft. to 8 ft. high in the service box, then shoot it straight to the front wall target.

Do not hit the ball upward at an angle, or strike it too hard. The aim is to draw the receiver in so he/she has to play the ball out of midair. When the receiver has run in, give him/her a hard driving overhead Z-serve. Catch the opponent running in and jam the return at any time.

Next, give the receiver a high overhead Z-lob serve. Catch the opponent waiting on the serve this time, which will force a to return from deep court. Next, try your forehand side and repeat the same three-serve series. The opponent should be dizzy by now.

Remember, vary the height, spin, angle, and power on each and every serve. Use the overhead serving technique with the hard overhead drive straight into the opposite corner for even more variety (see diagrams 2e and 3). Watch your opponent from the corner of your eye prior to serving. The receiver may move to the left side wall too soon! Then you will have the receiver in your pocket. Here is a serving strategy list: Medium power overhead Z; hard overhead Z; soft overhead Z; hard overhead Z; hard overhead drive; medium overhead Z; wide angle overhead Z-lob; slice overhead Z-lob; hard overhead Z; extra-high overhead Z-lob

Remember that in these situations you are in the center court and you control the match. *Think offense!* Do not give up your edge with a defensive third shot. If the opponent attempts to kill the ball you should have an easy time re-kill the shot. Around-the-wall balls should be cut off in midair. You can shoot them into the corners or down-the-line. Pass shots should be pinched into the front court.

Teachers Should Look for These Common Errors

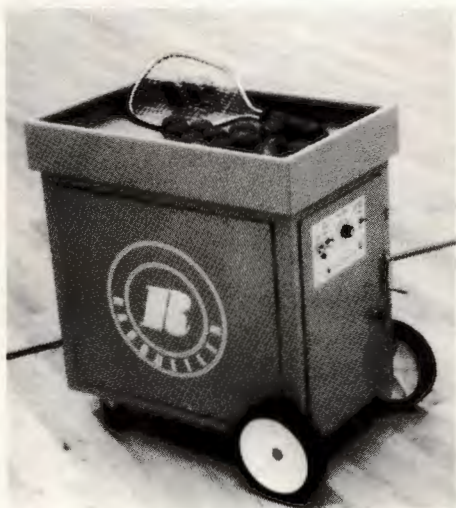
The most common error for many players is striking the side wall first, thereby losing the serve. All teachers should check their students' grip, body position relative to the corner, and their step into the shot. Their ball should not hit the front wall too far to the left, or too hard! If it does, it will then strike the right side wall too far back and travel into the center of the back court. The receiver will have a back wall setup in that case.

Some students may have difficulty stroking the ball correctly. First, have them stand 30 ft. from the front wall and practice throwing the ball straight to the front wall with an overarm motion. Second, position them in the service box as if they were going to serve and have them throw the ball with the same arm motion at the overhead Z targets.

Another error is remaining too close to the side wall after the serve. This gives the receiver most of the court for the return. Always move quickly to the deep center court position (27 ft.) to remain in command. This position will prevent you from being hit with the return, and increase your chances for a rekill.

Remember that I learned this service game from a regional champion, Herb Meyers. I practiced until I just could not get any better. We met as opponents a year later; my strategy was simple, use the overhead Z-service game and win! I lost. I asked Herb what I'd done wrong. "Nothing," he replied, "you've just received a lesson on how to neutralize the overhead Z-service game." ○

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Passing Shots

(continued from page 34)

you are interested in instructional — racquetball training centers are limited to six students per session . . . Lynn Adams has signed a new 5-year contract with Ektelon.

HEADS UP — The Memphis State racquetball team will have a new look this year. They are now sponsored by Head Racquet Sports . . . Beginning in September a new ball will be placed on the market. Head, which test marketed the Air Express last year, is ready to make its push in the industry. The company experimented with selling three balls in a can, but the concept wasn't well received . . . We'll miss Greg Eveland, who has left Diversified Products. Greg had the foresight to realize the needs of the sport down the road . . . Things I like: Playing with a new can of balls, well-lit courts and front desk personnel who know you by your first name. Things I dislike: Warm Gatorade, players who cuss at referees and small trophies. ○

Close Matches

(continued from page 37)

year. At 4-4 in the 11-point tiebreaker, two of the strings on his racquet broke. Quickly turning to his gym bag, he pulled out another racquet, identical in weight and size to the first one.

The pro looked at his second racquet incredulously — this racquet also had a broken string.

Even though he borrowed a similar racquet from a friend, it was strung tighter and had a smaller grip than he was used to.

Although he played respectably in the tiebreaker, it was evident that his timing and shot-making were slightly off. He lost 11-6 to an opponent he was heavily favored to defeat.

The moral of the story is a simple one: Always have enough equipment ready, in case of an emergency.

You should have at least two racquets, (three, if at all possible), two pairs of sneakers (especially if you wear size 15 as I do), two pairs of protective eyewear, a gym bag, a warmup suit and a

plentiful supply of shirts, shorts, socks, and shoelaces.

REMEMBER: You can never have enough equipment. Especially, if you're playing in a tournament. ○

What's The Call

(continued from page 7)

stumped me during the tournaments I have directed this season. If a player uses 11 minutes during an injury timeout, is he entitled to take another four minutes of injury timeouts? And, if the entire 15 minutes is used does the player still have his three regular timeouts?

Teri Gatarz, South Plainfield, NJ

Yes, to both of your questions about the injury timeout. A player may take the 15 minutes of injury timeout anytime over the period of that match. While Rule 13.B., page 17 says "An injured player shall not be allowed more than a total of 15 minutes of rest during the match" the intent of the rule is not to take away a player's right to the regular 30-second timeouts.

Your ruling on the serve was correct. The situation is cause for a smile. Rules expert Phil Simborg from the Chicago area likes to test referees of his matches with the very example you gave. The intent of the rule (see Sec. 3, 2.B. and 2.C., page 10) is that the ball must be bounced within the service zone because it is part of the serve. The rule: "The serve is started from any place within the service zone — the ball is dropped or thrown to the floor while standing within the confines of the service zone . . ."

Thanks for pointing out the need for some rewording, Teri.

Bad Positioning Can Negate Hinder

Please clarify the call of screen or hinder for me on a particular situation. Some of my weekday opponents play directly behind or just to the side of me while I am shooting an offensive shot from the 30-32 foot area on the court. When I pinch the ball or pass down the line they call screen or

hinder. Are they entitled to see the ball travel to and hit the front wall? Must I hit the cross-court shot to allow them that view?

Dan Guillotte, Kansas City, MO

No, Dan. You do not have to shoot cross court. As the defensive player I want to have a clear view of the ball and I am entitled to have a clear path to the ball. But it is my responsibility to take a proper court position that allows me that view and a path to the ball. The hinder call is correct when you, despite my lousy positioning, hit such a horrible shot that it would be easily retrievable from any position on the court.

Referee's Tip

Stay as uninvolved as possible in a match. Acknowledge a player's right to question any call, ask for ruling or even a change in referee so long as it is done in a sportsmanlike manner. Referees, like players, have bad games. Break the lead on your pencil and take a 15-second timeout to replace the pencil and regain your composure or, ask the tournament director to observe the match. The match is not yours to win or lose. It belongs to the players. ○

Canadian Report

(continued from page 4)

slow the ball down in our sport. That would take away the emphasis on power. Antique shots like "lobs" and "drops" would be added to a player's arsenal. Strategy would become exciting in longer rallies.

Obviously, millions of people are not converting to squash from racquetball, despite the above observations.

But on the other hand, more people here in Canada convert to squash from racquetball than the opposite.

That should be enough reason for concerned players and industry representatives on both sides of the border to give serious thought to the reasons, and maybe add new options to long term plans.

After all, that's why alarm bells ring, loud or soft. ○

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