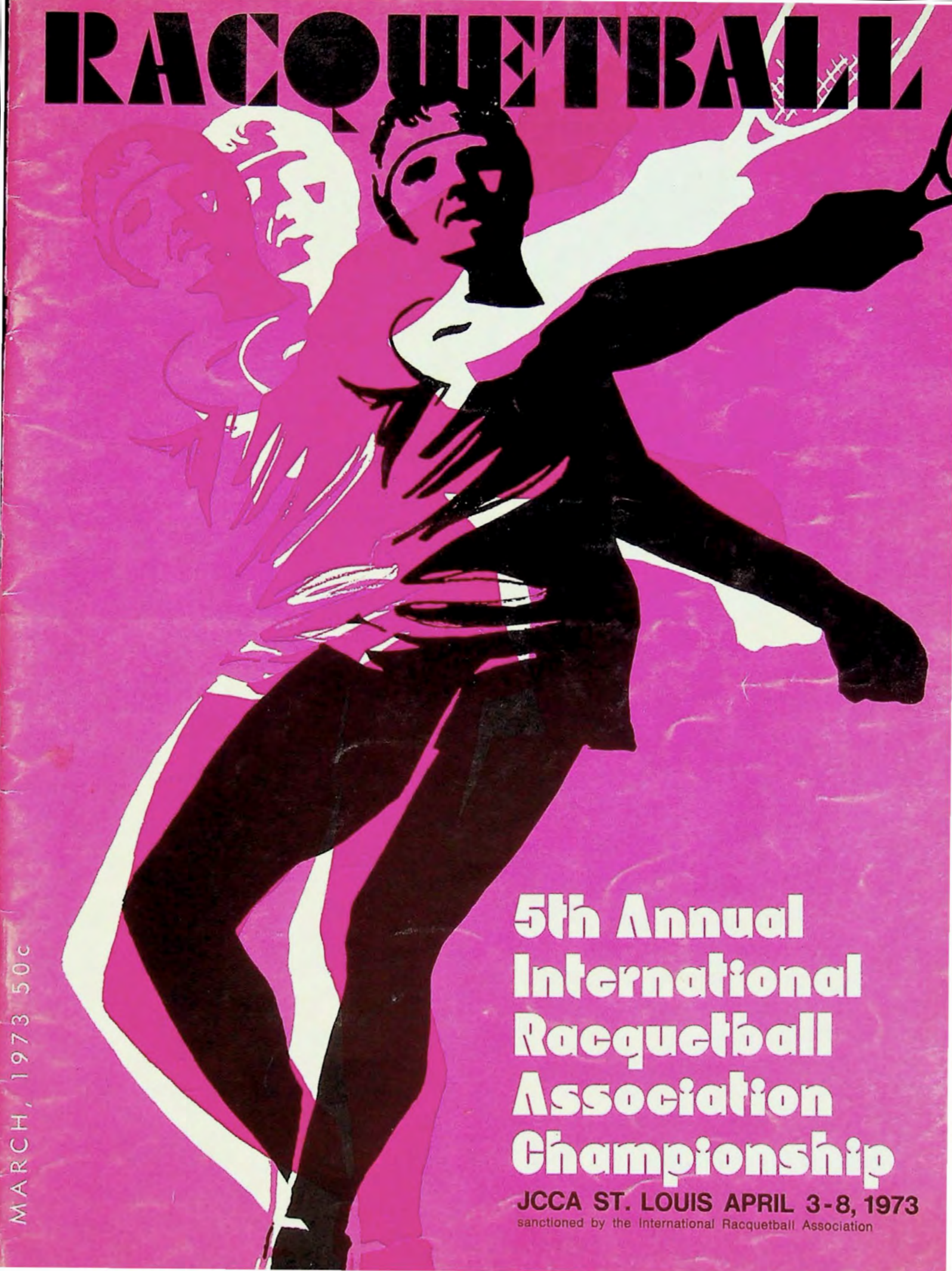


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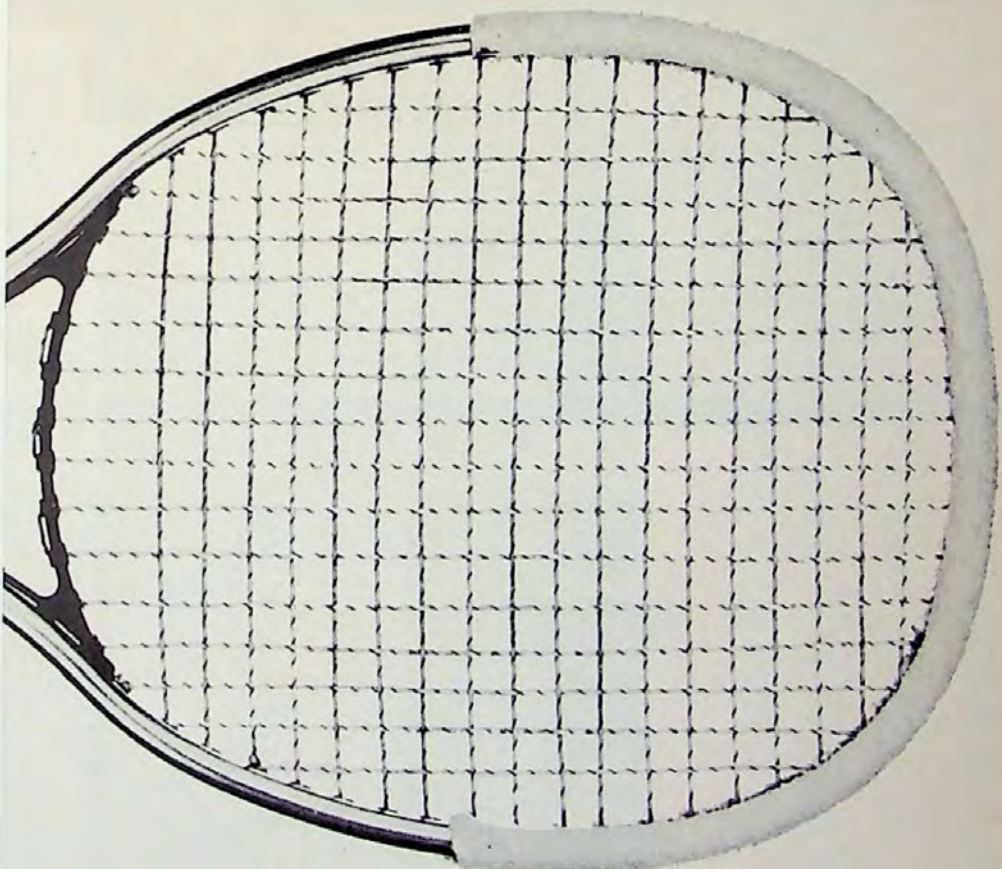
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ON THE COVER

It's the fifth grand show! The I.R.A. International Championships and it promises to be the best and biggest ever. Our sincere gratitude to the St. Louis J.C.C.A. for what we are sure will be an outstanding job. And good luck to all competitors. Artwork by Lou Meyers.

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From the editor . . .

If anyone had their doubts as to the growth and future of racquetball he need only have been at the recent National Sporting Goods Show in Houston, Texas, February 4-8. There in both the Astrodome and Astrohall racquetball and racquetball products were magnificently on display.

Thirty-two different companies, some manufacturers, some distributors were displaying racquetball wares from racquets and balls to gloves and strings. And be sure that this great interest is met with pride and enthusiasm here at International Racquetball headquarters, especially since the increase is more than five-fold the number of companies involved a year ago.

But, too, beware. Many of the new companies are novices. Many of the new products are shiny and pretty but may lack quality. Many of these people need help and orientation about the game. The I.R.A. has contacted all of them to alert them to rules, specifications and nomenclature.

It was funny, yet sad that over 50 per cent of all those companies in Houston still called the strung racquet game "paddleball" or "paddle racquets." They advertised "paddleball paddles" that were strung. It is through these people that the final, silly battle over the name of this game will finally be won, and it is with these same people that we are working.

New this issue are two additional columns: *The Rules Say...*, a question and answer column by Dr. Bud Muehleisen, I.R.A.'s National Rules Chairman and *The Commissioner's Court*, a general interest column by Ken Porco, I.R.A.'s National Commissioner.

The *Commissioner's Court* will take the place of *Racquetball Room*, previously written by the editor. *The Rules Say...* appears on page 28, and *The Commissioner's Court* on page 24.

Charlie Brumfield continues his excellent series on basic fundamentals of the game on page 33. And we certainly hope Charlie's instructions can help your game as much as it makes for interesting reading.

* * *

There is an ugly scene in paddleball these days and it has nothing to do with players, associations or tournaments. It has to do with the Pennsylvania Rubber Company, a subsidiary of General Tire & Rubber Co. and manufacturer of the official paddleball the Pennsylvania 100.

Pennsylvania has stopped producing paddleballs. Actually, the Pennsy 100 was nothing more than a tennis ball center, make that a reject tennis ball center. Well, Pennsylvania maintains they are even selling the rejects in the red-hot tennis market and therefore, cannot afford to make or sell any more paddleballs.

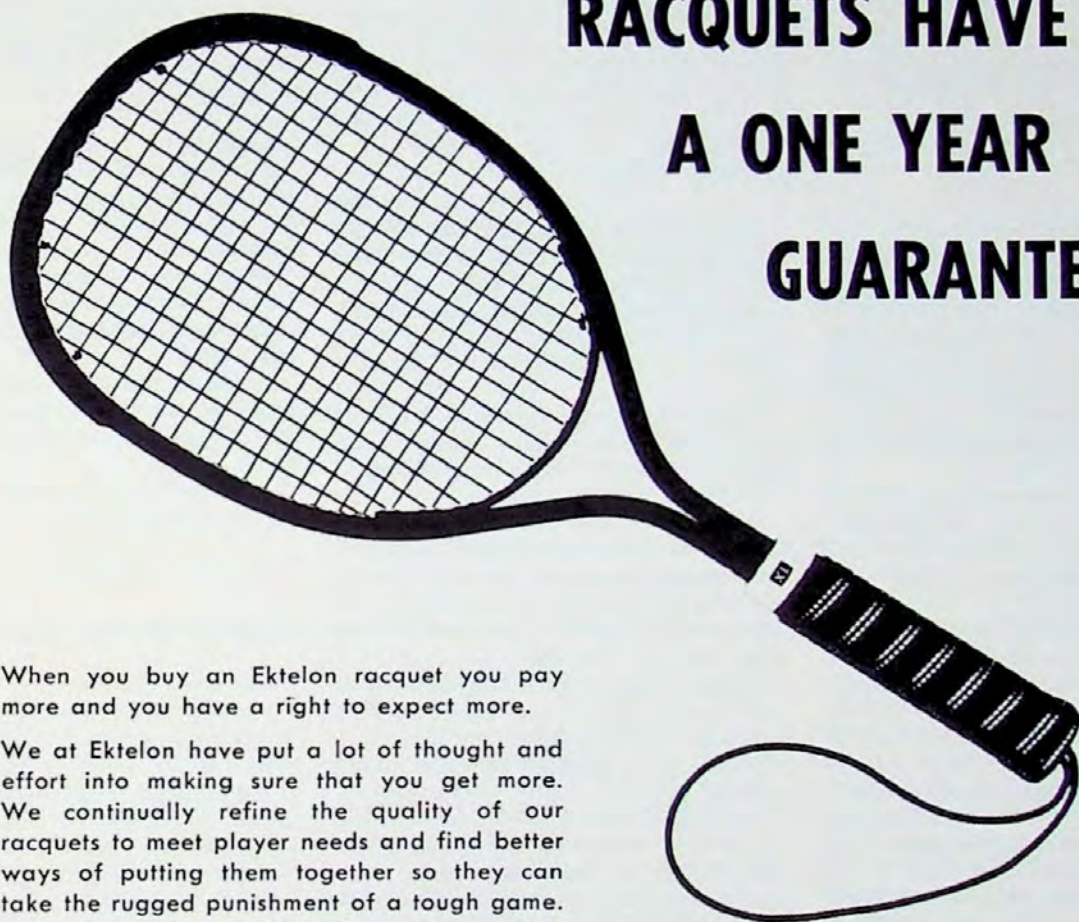
Countless letters and phone calls, and even a meeting in Houston has failed to come up with satisfactory results. The N.P.A. is currently working with other major manufacturers of rubber balls to see if a ball that meets the specifications and requirements of paddleball can be made available and soon.

The soon is emphasized because the balls that are left are rapidly expiring. And we all know, you can't play the game without a ball.

Charles S. Leve

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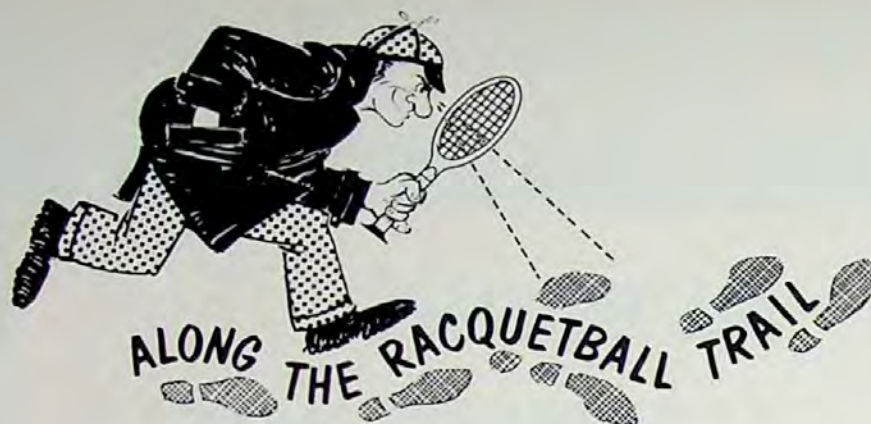
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Both Ways?

George Rudysz, of New Britain, Connecticut set everyone straight over the question, "Can a Doubles Player win in Singles Competition?". George, half of the International Doubles Championship team, turned back Internationally ranked Charles Garfinkel of Buffalo, New York to win the 1st Annual Open racquetball Tournament conducted at the Niagara Falls, NY YMCA.

It took Rudysz three games to win the match, 21-18, 15-21 and 21-14. Both men played excellent ball, mixing their ceiling shots, Z-balls and passes. They also rolled out quite a few.

To reach the finals George had to stop Rob Abrams, of Cincinnati, Ohio, 21-13, 21-17, while Charlie halted Tom Kutas, also from Cincinnati, 21-13, 21-17. In the quarters Garfinkel defeated Sonny Hill of Buffalo 21-12, 21-5; Kutas downed Mike Luciw, the other half of the International Racquetball Doubles Champs, 21-10, 21-13; Abrams out-lasted Paul Smaldone of Buffalo, 21-14, 13-21, 21-17; and Rudysz stopped a very strong Chuck Wurzer also from Buffalo, 21-9, 21-12.

There was an even 32 draw for the singles tournament. Everyone felt that it was a very strong bracket with some very good ball players not getting even to the quarters. Sorry about that Gordon Kelly (Michigan), Ivan Velan and John Spitz (both of Montreal), Joe Jackman (New Castle, Pa.), Joe Tarantino, Roger Ohnsorg and Don King (Niagara Falls) but someone has to lose. Losers of the first round played a consolation round on Saturday afternoon so that everyone had a chance to play at least two matches. Next year I'll have more cold available.

I would like to close by saying "Thank You" to each and everyone who participated or helped in any way to make the tournament as good as it was and hope to see every body again next year. Again THANK YOU!

PAUL TRAVER

Akron, Ohio

Don Nelson, Cuyahoga Falls YMCA Branch Executive, successfully defended his 1972 Summit County Racquetball Singles Championship, by defeating Dr. Aris Franklin, of the Akron YMCA Athletic Club, 21-9, 21-17 for the 1973 title.

Earlier in the year Nelson won the Cuyahoga Falls YMCA Racquetball Singles Title by defeating Dr. Herb Hurd 9-21, 21-16, 21-14.

Racquetball play is on the increase in the Akron area. Indications of this is the entry in the 1973 Summit County Racquetball Singles Championships where entries more than doubled from 12 in 1972, to 25 in 1973.

Another indication is the increase of court usage, and larger entries in local house tournaments in the two Akron Y branches, Cuyahoga Falls and Akron Central.

The Cuyahoga Falls Y started a B Racquetball league for new players (one year or less of experience) and the response was so great that entries had to be cut-off.

The Cuyahoga Falls Branch has increased its adult membership by one-fourth the past year, and the Y Advisory Committee and Staff attributes much of its growth to Racquetball.

Members are now discussing building an additional court to meet the demands of its players.

Hegg In Fargo

Mark Hegg captured the open singles crown in the fourth annual Fargo-Moorhead Y open racquetball tournament. Hegg repeated last year's performance in defeating John Rude, his doubles partner, in the finals 21-16, 18-21, 21-13.

Hegg and Rude, both from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, were repeat champions when they snatched the open doubles crown from Jim Bryan and Larry Nielson

from St. Paul, Minnesota, 21-12, 21-14.

Two Fargo-Moorhead entries, Hilding Hagen and Larry McCloud, defeated Bill Graves and Dick Kerber, for the Masters doubles title 21-19, 21-17. Graves-Kerber had also competed in open doubles.

In the women's division, Ginney Tennant and Sue Swenberg from St. Cloud, Minnesota, captured the doubles in three very close matches by defeating Beverly May and Nancy Smylie from Edina, Minnesota, 21-18, 19-21, 21-15.

There were consolation rounds in all events with Fargo's Dorwin Marquardt coming out on top in men's open singles consolation 21-13, 17-21, 21-12, against fellow Fargoan Obed Oas. In men's consolation doubles, Alex Cooley and Tom Gonser from Grand Forks, North Dakota, defeated Marquardt and Denis Olson, 6-21, 21-20, 21-14.

Consolation masters doubles was taken by Fargoan Earl Lee and Walt Hatcher, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, when they defeated Fargoans Dick Sisler and Bill Prentice.

In the women's consolation division, Ginney Tennant won the singles crown over Kathy Holloque, Fargo, 17-21, 21-12, 21-20.

Linda Moses and Kathy Conlin in an all-Fargo doubles consolation final defeated Desi Rudrud and Kathy Holloque, 21-19, 21-15.

A total of 98 participants competed in the three-day event.

Captain Whips Colonel

In October, individuals from many company units at Fort Riley, Kansas moved to the courts to begin elimination in the championship racquetball tournaments. Three hundred eight individuals participated in both the singles and doubles tournaments.

Field problems by the 1st Infantry Division held the tournament back a week then the action resumed.

Competition heightened when the top thirty-two players in both singles and doubles from four different areas converged in the All Post Tournament held on the four courts at Custer Hill Gym #2 and Gym #3.

Advancing into the semi-finals were Colonel Richard McCormack, Silver Lake, Nebr., Specialist Dennis Ervin, Huntington, W. Va., Sergeant Sam Gentry, Lubbock, Tex., and Captain Jed Cantley, Washington, D.C. McCormack won over Ervin 21-11, 21-15, and Cantley took the 1st two matches from Sam Gentry 21-17, 21-15. Cantley then won the championship singles match 21-12, 21-5 over McCormack. Ervin won the 3rd place spot over Gentry.

In doubles action, Captain John Czibik, Scranton, Pa., teamed up with Lt.

Tim Corbet, St. Louis, Mo, and won over First Sergeant Makulisa Peapealalo, Pago-Pago, Samoa, and Sergeant Pablo Arjona, Harlington, Texas, 21-13, 21-11 to advance to the finals. In the other bracket, Steve Hitchcock, Cookeville, Tenn, and Richard James, Ft. Dodge, Ia, won over Major Ron Sperber, Colville, Wash, and Captain John Hitchcock, San Francisco, Cal. In the finals, Hitchcock and James won 21-15, 20-21, and 21-9 over Czibik and Corbet. Sperber and Hitchcock won the consolation match over Peapealalo and Arjona.

THOMAS E. HLAVACEK

Birmingham, 8-3

The Birmingham Racquetball Association went to Montgomery, Alabama, on January 20th, and played the Montgomery racquetballers in an intracity challenge match. There were 11 matches and each match was worth one point. Birmingham won 8-3.

Both the Birmingham and the Montgomery players had been playing all week long to figure out the lineups as to who would play No. 1, No. 2, and so on through No. 11. The matches were as follows:

1. John Ed Reeves (M) defeated Andy Smith (B) 21-18; 21-5
2. Jim Jordan (B) defeated Jerry Karina (M) 21-6; 21-8
3. Barry Cox (B) defeated Gordon Persons (M) 16-21; 21-14; 21-14
4. Jerry O'Neal (B) defeated Bob Gatewood (M) 15-21; 21-15; 21-10
5. Bernie Bildman (B) defeated Wayne Shows (M) 21-13; 21-5
6. Jack Whites (B) defeated Jim Massey (M) 21-10; 11-21; 21-12
7. Bill Hotze (B) defeated Bobby Norment (M) 16-21; 21-16; 21-15
8. Bill Manning (B) defeated George Johnson (M) 21-17; 21-12
9. Don Hall (M) defeated Larry French (B) 21-16; 12-21; 21-11
10. John Powell (M) defeated Helwig Von-Zeiring (B) 21-15; 21-15
11. Ben Dowdy (B) defeated Bert Martin (M) 21-8; 21-1

The matches were held in Montgomery at the Central YMCA and it is another effort by the racquetballers in Alabama to bring more interest and activities to

the growing sport of racquetball.

Birmingham is also planning other matches against Atlanta, Memphis, and Nashville.

Paterson, NJ Open

The Paterson Y.M.C.A. will be the site of the third annual Paterson Open four-wall racquetball tournament May 4-6, 1973.

As in the past classes will be open singles, open doubles, and masters singles. Players may enter two events as long as one class is doubles. Participants must show their current (1973) I.R.A. membership card for verification of membership. Players not already members may sign up at the tournament hospitality room when signing in. The entry fee is \$8.00 per player per event. The entry fee must accompany the entry application.

Trophies will be awarded to the first three places in each event.

Since the first Paterson open the caliber and overall quality of play has been enhanced by attracting national ranked players. Steve Keeley the 1972 Paterson Open champion is expected back to defend his title. The 1972 Internationals open doubles championship team of Mike Luciw and George Rudysz of New Britain, Connecticut will be out to capture the open doubles event. Strong entries are expected to represent most areas of the country.

In true Paterson racquetball tradition the committee has arranged for a gourmet dinner for Saturday evening. Those who attended last years affair will witness to the hospitality of the event. There is no charge for players with a nominal charge for other guests.

Provisions are being made for a hospitality room where players can refresh with sandwiches and beverages throughout the days. Summer t-shirts are also provided to each player.

This years event will be chaired by Fred Rizzo assisted by committee members Ferdie Elia, Russ Harborne and Bob Nichols.

Checks should be made payable to Fred Rizzo and mailed with entries to his attention at:

275 Goffle Road
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

For further information call (201) 427-4489. Early lodging reservations are suggested. Housing information is available on request.



The Washington Racquetball Association presents the first annual Daffy Open Racquetball Tournament May 23-26 in Tacoma, Washington.

The tourney will feature seven classes of play including open singles, B singles, C singles, Novice singles, Masters singles, open doubles, and women singles. The entry deadline is May 10, 1973.

The W.R.A. is pleased to announce that the Daffy Open is sanctioned by the International Racquetball Association and all I.R.A. rules and regulations will apply. All contestants must hold current 1973 I.R.A. or C.R.A. (Canadian) membership cards.

The entry fee is \$12.00 for the first event and \$6.00 for the second event. All checks or money orders should be made payable to the Washington Racquetball Association and mailed to Sid Williams, 1120 S. 7th, Tacoma, WA 98405.

Williams, who will serve as tournament chairman, has announced that trophies will be presented to the first three places in each event and consolation champs. There will be a hospitality room, souvenir t-shirts, and Saturday night banquet. Room accommodations are available at a reduced rate and those interested should contact Sid Williams at area code 206-272-1029.

The tournament will be played at the combined facilities of Pacific Lutheran University and McChord Air Force Base, totaling six courts. The tournament committee reserves the right to screen all entries for class of play entered and to upgrade any player to another skill level.

Williams noted that he hopes top players from all over the U.S. and Canada would be on hand for the Daffy Open. He is expecting at least 100 entries with the bulk coming from Vancouver, Portland, Tacoma, and California.

Entry forms for Paterson, Daffy on page 43.

RON RUBENSTEIN

An interesting racquetball interview with the I.R.A.'s number two ranked player; His thoughts, his goals and why he feels he can defeat Charlie Brumfield.

Ron Rubenstein is the current number two ranked player in the International Racquetball Association. His problem, along with the other top players is to figure out a way to stop Charlie Brumfield and win that number one spot for himself.

Rubenstein's rise within the sport has been predictable and consistent with his achievements in other athletic endeavors. A natural athlete since he can remember ("I guess I've got good coordination") Ron starred at Senn High School in Chicago in basketball and tennis. He accepted a full basketball scholarship at the University of Louisville where he played varsity b-ball for three years and varsity tennis for two. Upon completion of his eligibility he signed with the Harlem Globetrotters and toured the country against the Trotters, playing for the college All-Stars.

At age 33 Ron and his lovely wife Ellen have two children, both of whom are rapidly becoming tournament veterans by age 5.

Rubenstein was classified long ago as a "shooter" in racquetball but has since refined his game, inserting more patience and thought, while still maintaining his kill ability, including his famous pinch shots, both forehand and backhand.

Rubenstein's racquetball tournament career started at the first I.R.A. Internationals in St. Louis in 1969. Using a wooden framed racquet and playing in his first tournament outside of Chicago, he lost in the third round to Ken Porco, who went on to take third place. A year later, again in St. Louis, he went one round further, losing to then defending champ Dr. Bud Muehleisen in the quarter-finals 21-16, 21-13.

Then came Salt Lake City in 1971 and again he lost in the quarters this time to Porco by the frustrating scores of 21-20, 8-21, 21-12. In the year between Salt Lake City and Memphis, Rubenstein tuned his game, went out to more tournaments to make up for lack of competition at home, and finished second to Brumfield.

Since Memphis he has won numerous tournaments, and he is current Illinois A singles and doubles champ. He has lost to Brumfield four times in the past year, starting with the 21-11, 21-9 shel-

lacking in last year's finals. Other setbacks occurred in the Norfolk Open in May, a Chicago exhibition in October, and the Canadian Nationals in November. In that one Ruby had Brumfield down one game and served at 20-20 in the second. But that game and the match got away from the Chicagoan.

Rubenstein stands alone atop the heap of players in the Chicago and Illinois area, a fact that he knows hurts his game. Therefore, he must use tournaments as his method of practice, being one of those players who gradually improves his game with each round.

Ron feels that the Invitational tournaments (top 16's) put him at a disadvantage because each round is very tough, right from the beginning. That is one reason, he feels, that he lost in the first round of the 1972 National Invitational Singles in Minneapolis last December to Charlie Garfinkel. Another reason, he says, "is that Garfinkel was unbelievable with his backhand."

RACQUETBALL: When did you start playing racquetball?

RUBENSTEIN: I started about four and one-half years ago, shortly before the first International tournament in St. Louis. I had been playing a lot of basketball at the Evanston, Illinois Y.M.C.A. and one day Sam Carl, a basketball buddy of mine asked me if I wanted to play. I had seen

Sam play racquetball occasionally at the Y, and he said he enjoyed the game. One day we walked into the court and I started playing.

RACQUETBALL: What was your previous racquet experience?

RUBENSTEIN: I played tennis at the University of Louisville for two years and had played tennis in high school for four years. Actually, though, I think my handball experience. I had played handball about two dozen times, helped just as much as tennis. Handball gave me the court knowledge and idea of how the ball reacted; tennis gave me the backhand.

RACQUETBALL: Why and when, did you play handball?

RUBENSTEIN: My father was, still is a handball player, and he is the one who got me playing handball with him. We'd play at Flamingo Park in Miami Beach on his vacations. But I never played handball here in Illinois, just on vacations with him.

RACQUETBALL: When you started playing racquetball, were you aware of the upcoming International tournament?

RUBENSTEIN: I didn't even know there was any competition at that time. I thought Sam Carl was the only player in the country. I really did.

RACQUETBALL: With no knowledge of tournament competition, and one player other than yourself at home, why did you continue to play?

RUBENSTEIN: Just to see what it was all about. I was reaching an end to my career in basketball and was looking for some other form of exercise. I used to play a lot of tennis, but tennis became boring. I felt that it had become a complete service game, that there was no real workout in it unless you got to be a top player in the state or country.

RACQUETBALL: You spoke of your career in basketball. What was your professional basketball experience?

RUBENSTEIN: I toured around the country with the Harlem Globetrotters as part of the College All-Star team. I signed with the Globetrotters because I felt the experience would help me in my attempts to make a real pro basketball team. But it hindered me. The travelling, fooling around on the court, and game after game after game, dulled my interest. When I played out my eligibility and signed with



RUBENSTEIN

the Trotters. I still had a few months before graduating. When I got back to school I found that the N.C.A.A. had revoked my scholarship for the last month or two of my senior year. But I did get my B.S. in Sociology.

RACQUETBALL: How often were you playing with Carl at this time?

RUBENSTEIN: Just the one time, temporarily. Then some of the other fellas got involved in it and we started playing. Guys like Howie Carl, Paul Franks, Alan

up you just had to make the best of it.

RACQUETBALL: How long did it take you to become very good?

RUBENSTEIN: When I first started there were half a dozen players who would beat me. By the time of the first Internationals, Sam Carl and I were about equal, and by the time of the second one I knew I could beat Sam or anyone else around.

RACQUETBALL: How did you manage to improve your game so much, with just the same old guys to play and no tournaments to travel to?

"When I started playing I wasn't aware of any national competition. I thought Sam Carl was the only player in the country."

Dennenberg and my brother Burton. We were all kind of tired of basketball and were looking for something else.

RACQUETBALL: When did you first find out about other players in other cities?

RUBENSTEIN: Through Sam Carl. He went to Milwaukee in what was supposedly the first national tournament, where they used the old Pennsylvania Pinkie and Bill Schultz won. It was 1968. Sam came back and told me there were some terrific players, that they played the game on a national level, and that there was going to be an International tournament. So that's when we first really started playing.

RACQUETBALL: What were your reactions, then, to the first St. Louis Internationals?

RUBENSTEIN: That was the tournament I entered and played with a wooden framed racquet and lost to Porco. I remember I almost won one game (he lost 21-20, 21-2). I had known Porco from playing football at Louisville.

RACQUETBALL: Was the second St. Louis tourney any better?

RUBENSTEIN: That was the year I lost to Muehleisen. He was the number one seed and all-everything and I remember the match was fairly close (he lost 21-16, 21-13). I asked a fellow down there how to play Muehleisen and he said, "gornish helfin" in Jewish, which means "nothing will help." Bud was using an aluminum racquet and I was still using a wood frame. I was encouraged enough by my showing to feel that I could beat him or at least be an equal to any of the top players if I worked. So that was when I really got into the game.

RACQUETBALL: Up to that point, then, you were really just playing for exercise?

RUBENSTEIN: I'm still playing it for exercise. But after that tournament I really worked on my game. I started playing almost every day during the week excluding Saturday and Sunday when I work. I looked forward to playing in tournaments, but there weren't very many tournaments around, so whatever came

RUBENSTEIN: I really don't know. It was just the same old guys for competition and I don't practice that much by myself. Most of my practice was just getting out on the court with someone, anyone, and hitting the ball around.

I can do that in any sport. There's no sport I can't do that in, football, baseball, in almost any other sport. I can do it in ping pong, or anything there is. If I practice for eight or nine months in a sport I can be as good or better than almost anybody in it. I've got good coordination, I guess. I don't know what the explanation is. I've done it in marbles, in broad jumping, high jumping, almost any sport there is.

RACQUETBALL: You've competed in marbles?

RUBENSTEIN: Marbles, sure. In grade school, the playgrounds used to have tournaments in marbles, ping pong, track and I used to enter the marble tournaments.

RACQUETBALL: Well, how did you do?

RUBENSTEIN: I guess, I don't recall. I remember some guys used to come with

would get any good competition is when I went to a tournament on a national level. My biggest experience would be the preliminary rounds and then I would hope that I would make the finals and by that time, have my game in top shape. And things have worked out pretty well, with the exception of the National Invitational Singles, which was my first invitational. I got beat by Garfinkel in the first round, because I didn't prepare myself. And I really couldn't because there were no easy opening rounds.

RACQUETBALL: You mentioned a while ago that you really went to work on your game after the second St. Louis tournament. That means Salt Lake City must have been a great disappointment to you.

RUBENSTEIN: Yes, Salt Lake City was a big disappointment. I lost to Porco for the second time, and I felt I was the better player. I had just beaten him in Louisville and I thought I would beat him in Salt Lake. I had him 20-12 the first game and lost it 21-20. The second game I beat him with ease and the third game I got 12. After that loss I was the most tired I have ever been during or after any tournament. When I left that night I had to take a wheelchair from the terminal to the gate at the airport. I couldn't walk. The flight went to Palm Springs, where I recuperated.

RACQUETBALL: Did you learn anything from this experience?

RUBENSTEIN: Yea, get the match over in two games. Forget the third game. And never play Porco the second match of a day. He was as tired as I was, in fact I know he was. But his physical attributes aren't the same as mine, he's stronger than I am.

RACQUETBALL: Having ridden with the rise of racquetball, how do you view its future?

RUBENSTEIN: I think racquetball will

"If I practice for eight or nine months in a sport, I can be as good or better than almost anybody in it."

big boulders and use them. I think I've got a trophy for marbles at home. In fact a medal, too, for marbles.

RACQUETBALL: This is going to make great reading, — a trophy and medal for marbles. Do you remember how old you were?

RUBENSTEIN: About 10. It wasn't my first tournament trophy, though. I got some for baseball before that.

RACQUETBALL: Somewhere along the line in your racquetball career, you must have realized that your game, if not hurt, certainly could not benefit from the lack of competition at home. What did you do to remedy this situation?

RUBENSTEIN: Well, the only way I

continue just as it is, more as a hobby rather than any professionalism. I don't feel there's any way they can get into professional racquetball. And I'm treating it just as hobby right now. I mean, after these tournaments, you can really be beat. Oh sure, everyone likes to make money, but on a weekend, well for instance my brother, who just competed in the Illinois B tournament. He can't move. He had to take Monday after the tournament off work, and at the end of weekend he got a trophy for it. The whole weekend was null and void as far as his social or economic life is concerned, it was just a lost weekend for him. He can't

even function at work. I just don't feel it can be professionalized. And I think the other players should treat it as just a hobby.

RACQUETBALL: On the subject of racquets, you originally used a wooden framed then lost to Muehleisen, who used an Ektelon. You then switched to an Ektelon, lost to Brumfield who used a Leach, whereupon you switched to Leach. Have you been happy with all the changes.

RUBENSTEIN: I think both moves have been excellent. The wood seemed like a lumberjack in my hand compared to the Ektelon, which was a lot easier to handle. As for the second switch, it wasn't a matter of losing, but it seems that California is the innovator of new things in the game. In Memphis nobody had seen a Z-ball before. I didn't know what it was. It seems that every time I play someone from California they have an equipment change or a new part of their game. The reason I switched to a Leach racquet is I felt it was lighter and that I would be getting more tired using the aluminum as I get older. And with tournaments getting longer, I felt I needed something lighter, especially with the dependency on ceiling and Z-ball shots. You don't need quite the strength as with aluminum. I don't get as tired now and my arm never bothers me.

RACQUETBALL: To change the subject slightly, — the great many new courts

being built certainly has helped the game progress. Yet, there are no court clubs, as such, in Chicago. Why haven't you gone into a court club endeavor?

RUBENSTEIN: Well, there are a number of reasons. First, I've got enough personally that I don't need the headaches and problems that would go with starting a court club. Like getting investors and things like that. If I did need a job, or if I sold my equity, I would be very much

home, you'll only be as good as the guys at home.

RACQUETBALL: With another year under your belt, do you think you can defeat Brumfield and take it all?

RUBENSTEIN: I've said this 10 times already: Every time I play Brumfield it's gotten closer and closer. I got as close as you can get, serving match point, in Vancouver the last time I played him, so naturally I feel I'm going to get him

"I don't think anybody else has enough experience to beat Brumfield . . . I think I'm the only one who can beat him."

interested.

RACQUETBALL: Leading up to this year's Internationals, you improved your game and your stock among the top players between Salt Lake City and Memphis. What happened in that year?

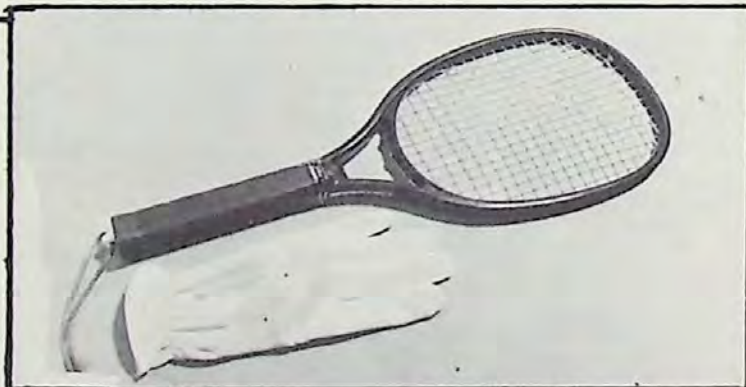
RUBENSTEIN: Well, that was the year I got out of the state and engaged in more competition on a national level. And I got my experience. I feel experience is almost as important as your talent. That year I achieved a combination of the two, which was enough to take me to the finals of the Internationals. It's like any sport. If you go out and meet the national competition, you can achieve what the top national players achieve. If you stay at

one of these days.

RACQUETBALL: If for one reason or another, you do not get to him, do you think anybody else has the game to defeat Brumfield?

RUBENSTEIN: I don't think anybody has enough experience to beat him. From what I've seen in the past he just handles most of the guys as easily as he wants. I thought Serot would be the most logical but after seeing what Charlie did to Serot in Minneapolis, I don't feel Steve has enough experience to beat him. It seems that when Charlie wants to put out against Serot he can beat him by any scores he wants to. I think I'm the only one who can beat him.

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LAWRENCE K. ROOS
SUPERVISOR

April 3, 1973

Dear Raquet Ball Players,

As chief executive of Missouri's largest County, one of my most pleasant duties is to welcome those who visit our community.

St. Louis County is honored to be chosen as the site for the fifth annual Raquet Ball Association championships. We are happy that you have the excellent facilities of the Jewish Community Center Association at your disposal for this important event.

I understand that you have come to our County from all over the United States and Canada. We hope that while you are here, you will find time to visit some of the fine shops, restaurants and theatres which abound in the St. Louis area.

On behalf of one million St. Louis County citizens, I wish you a pleasant stay and good luck in your championship matches.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lawrence K. Roos", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Lawrence K. Roos
Supervisor, St. Louis County

LKR/jk

Brumfield Seeking Second Title On Eve

The challenge facing Charlie Brumfield at this point in his yet blooming racquetball career is immense. He is the defending I.R.A. open singles champion, the highest honor any player can attain in the game, the one spot that all players strive to achieve. Since gaining the title Brumfield went nearly a full year without losing a tournament match. His challenge is this: to retain the title. The question: Can he do it?

These things are against him: 1) the field will be much stronger this year than last, with players such as Keeley, Zeitman, Porco, Serot and Garfinkel playing in the open singles when a year ago they did not for one reason or another; 2) He is the champ. No man has ever won two I.R.A. titles, much less two in a row. Brumfield will be shooting for an accomplishment never before achieved in racquetball. And as champ, all the nation's top players have been tuning their games for a year in an attempt to peak the week of April 3-8 with one thought in mind, — dethrone Brumfield and crown thyself; 3) The anticipated huge entry means more rounds, more play and longer days. Brumfield's current style, control and "tour" lend themselves to tiring opponents. But remember, he too must stay on the court much longer, and it could be crucial; 4) Although sporting an image similar to handball's ex-champ Paul Haber there is a big difference. Racquetballers still believe that Brumfield can be beaten, where handballers knew that Haber could not, unless he beat himself. Translated it reads: *"He hasn't won enough to be so cocky."*

If not Brumfield, then, who?

Let's start at the top with Chicago's Ron Rubenstein, the number two seed and man who came within one point of defeating Brumfield in the Canadian Nationals. The years are soon going to creep up on the almost 34-year-old Rubenstein, and although in excellent shape, he knows that all the conditioning in the world cannot stop those changes that approach with year 40. Therefore, Rubenstein has worked especially hard this year for that crack at the title, knowing full well that each year it will become increasingly difficult. Can he do it? I don't think so. Ruby's game is still too much shooting and if tired, he tends to leave his shots up. If Ron's game is tuned and his body in top shape he has a chance, otherwise it will be a rough tournament for the Chicago shooter.

The Challengers:

SCHMIDTKE

Third-seed is Bill Schmidtke, the 1971 International champ and recently moved to Minneapolis. That move will help Bill's game, but he, like Rubenstein still lacks the top notch competition to keep his game sharp. He will have to gradually improve with each round in St. Louis, building his game to a peak. If heart and desire counted on the scoreboard, Schmidtke would have my vote. He has tasted the sweetness and he remembers it well. He'll spill his guts for a point and then he'll try a little harder. But he won't win the tournament.

LAWRENCE

One of the saddest racquetball stories of the year is the demise of Paul Lawrence, the number four seed. Unless Paul has been working awfully hard (and secretly) he will be in for a tough time of it this year. Although Lawrence has as much knowledge and understanding about the game and the percentages as anybody, none of it will do him any good if he can't put his shots where he wants them to go. Paul must not only sharpen his game, but his physical condition as well, and this writer does not believe he will have done it by April 3.

Well, we've taken the top three seeds other than Brumfield and have not come up with a challenger. There are others we can eliminate, like former (1970) champ Craig Finger, who like Lawrence has seemingly lost interest in pursuing tournament titles, and Bud Muehleisen who has moved on to masters. Of last year's quarter-finalists Roderick, Austin and Anzalone do not rate strong consideration. Roderick and Anzalone are getting up near 40 and they know it. Myron, for all his spunk and competitiveness has had a recent series of pulled muscles, adding to the belief that the long tourney drag will be too much. Ditto for Anzalone, who on one day can be the most exciting racquetball player alive. But this tournament will run six days and little Mike will not be playing on the sixth. Jim Austin, just doesn't have the time or competition to tune his game high enough to capture the top spot. Jim has the ability, but work pressures and small home courts make it an impossible feat.

HILECHER

Of last year's top eight only Jerry Hilecher, the 19-year-old University of Missouri freshman remains. Hilecher has a chance, but not good. His problem is two-fold and both complement each other. First, he is inconsistent. On a given day he can shoot the eyes out of the ball. Ten minutes later it's "Skip-City, U.S.A." Add to that the lack of

RUBENSTEIN

of I.R.A. International Championships

practice on U.M.'s weird courts and it leads to less consistency than ever. But that in itself makes Jerry a worry for anybody he might play. As Schmidtke, who has been forced to three games by Hilecher in the past two Internationals, says, "When Hilecher gets hot, you've just got to wait him out and hope it stops." This year it will stop, in a year or two, maybe not.

The search goes on. Local hero Steve Serot, the 17-year-old lefty and second place finisher to Brumfield in three or four tournaments this year has Hilecher's shots with more consistency and better conditioning. But he won't win. For one, this is his first open singles endeavor. The pressure will be great. Secondly, and more importantly, I think Steve will attempt to go both ways, singles and doubles. If he does, write him off. If he plays singles only, he has a chance, only if somebody else beats Brumfield first, prior to the finals. Because Steve cannot beat Charlie, and he knows it.

Can Ken Porco do it? Although just touching 35-years-old Kenny's body belies his age. He competed only in open doubles a year ago, and was criticized for it. Knowing Ken and how much he would like that title, he didn't compete in the open for a very good reason, — injury. Rather than not play at all, he came, played doubles without excuse, and performed admirably well (fourth with Bill Evans). Ken was impressive in Minneapolis (National Invitational Singles) with victories over Lawrence and Muchleisen before bowing to Serot. And there-in lies Porco's problem: there are too many young shooters coming along. And he can shoot, but not with them.

Obviously, the list is starting to thin out. There are three more players who deserve mention, and I have saved them for last for a very good reason. If anybody is to defeat Brumfield it will be one of these three: Charlie Garfinkel, Steve Keeley, or Mike Zeitman.

Garfinkel, to me, is an unknown quality. Despite his shocking upset of Brumfield in Salt Lake City in 1971, most of the players did not consider his game quite as tough as most of the others. And a severe shoulder separation a year ago did not help his stock either. But the Gar's amazing upset of Rubenstein in Minneapolis and his credible showing against Serot, when obviously fatigued, left a sound impression on all of the top

The Challengers:

SEROT

PORCO

GARFINKEL

KEELEY

ZEITMAN

player's minds. Garfinkel will be tough. Just how tough is another matter. If you were to ask him, Charlie would be more than happy to tell you that he has the game, the confidence, the conditioning and the brains to win it all. That he does. But I honestly don't think it will be good enough. As for his Brumfield-killer reputation, it could happen, if they were to meet in an early round. I give the Gar a better shot against Brumfield than against others he will meet earlier. Just a matter of styles.

Steve Keeley is an enigma. He has perhaps more raw talent than any other player on the racquetball circuit. Yet, do you remember his last racquetball tournament win? Either Paterson in 1972 or San Diego in 1971. Who can remember so far ago, with so many more new and challenging tournaments around. The point hardly needs explanation: Steve, you've got the game, go out and tune it up. It's about time you stop depending on that natural ability and put some time and sweat into your racquetball game. If Steve has been doing that, if he has put his heart and mind into winning the title, if he wants it bad enough, he could beat Brumfield.

Mike Zeitman. Won the 1972 Southern Divisional in top form. Former I.R.A. open doubles champ. Figured to be a key man in the '72 Internationals. Then a car accident and a broken back. He learned of the Memphis results while in traction in a Louisville hospital. The quick, almost miraculous recovery. Three and one-half months later, taking Brumfield to 21-19 in Norfolk. Playing tough. Knocking off Schmidtke, then Keeley in Minneapolis, before bowing to Brumfield in the semi's. He has been impressive, he has the desire, a driving desire and, oddly, marriage seems to have helped his game. But can Mike go all the way? No, not unless he can relax on the court. One mistake can cost Mike two or three. In the Internationals even one is too many.

Other good players deserve mention. Guys like Bill Dunn and Bill Thurman from Chabot College, and Roger Souders, Dave Charlson, and Charlie Drake from San Diego. Kenny Wong, St. Louis, and others I may have missed.

But as the smoke clears, where will Charlie Brumfield be? He'll have to go three games at least once, maybe twice. It won't be as easy as last year. The prediction: Brumfield will win in 1973.

But don't bet on it.

Message From . . .

Harris Frank, President, Jewish Community Centers Association

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We believe heartily in the great benefits participants derive from this sport and in the stimulus to good sportsmanship, physical fitness, wholesome competitiveness and camaraderie.

On behalf of the 15,000 members of the Jewish Community Centers Association, we bid you welcome and hope that every participant enjoys his stay in St. Louis and his participation in this tournament.

We are delighted to be your hosts!

Harris Frank



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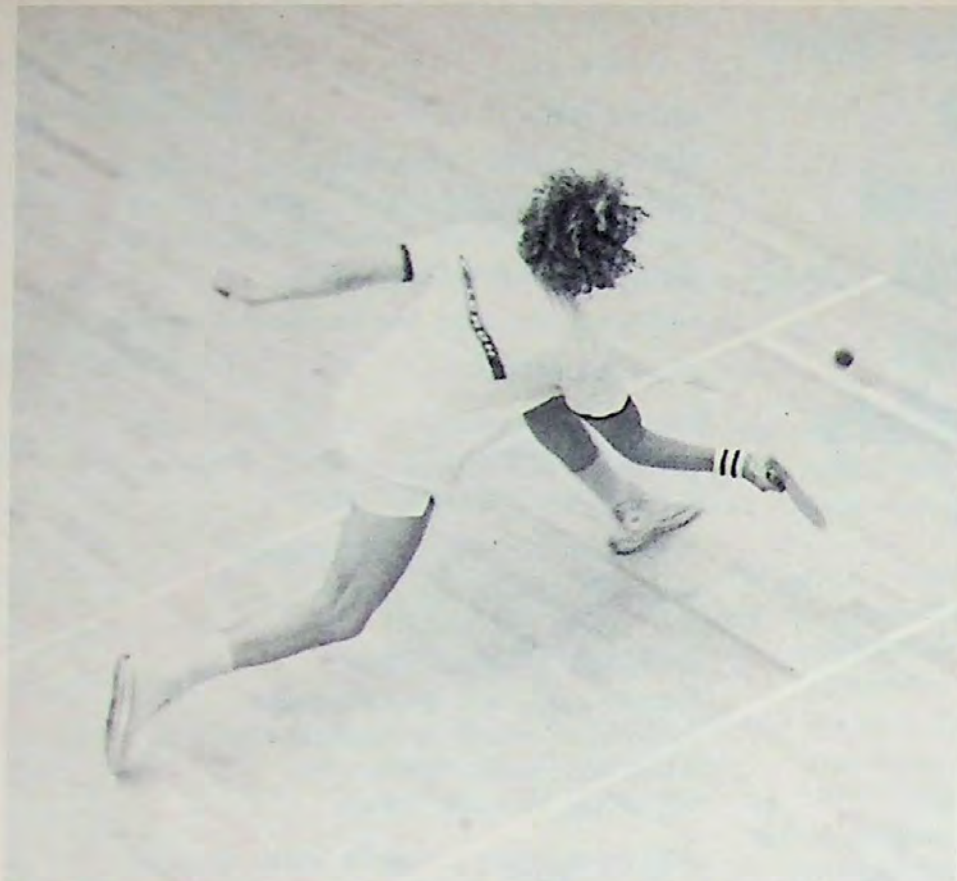
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(Left) Steve Keeley goes for his deadly forehand kill in the final match. Note the perfect paddleball form of the champion.

(Below, left) "Whaddya mean, hinder?!" bellows Bernie McNamara in the open doubles battle for third place. This was a common scene throughout the tourney, at least when the Mac's were on the court. Partner Bob (l.) captured the Masters singles title. Rod Grambeau, Jr. (r.) and Dan McLaughlin look on.

(Below) Time out in open doubles final, as Dan Alder (2nd from bottom) adjust his glasses, which were broken when Dan was struck in the face by the ball. But he and partner Evans Wright (bottom) still managed to capture the championship. Keeley (top) and Tom Connin rest up.



The Champ Returns

Steve Keeley, the transplanted Michigander, now out of San Diego, ended a year's sabbatical from National Paddleball tournaments in the biggest way possible last month, winning the twelfth annual N.P.A. open singles title.

Keeley won the same title two years ago, but was unable to compete in the 1972 Nationals due to school commitments. In his place Dan McLaughlin captured the title and it was McLaughlin who Keeley defeated in the finals in a battle of former champions.

The tournament, held at the Eau Claire, Wisconsin Y.M.C.A. crowned new champs in every bracket except open doubles where Dan Alder and Evans Wright the Michigan State University duo, again grabbed the title.

Of special significance to the Alder-Wright triumph was they thwarted Keeley's attempt to pull a paddleball "double play". It was Keeley and partner Tom Connin whom Alder-Wright defeated in a 21-18, 21-12 match.

Bob McNamara, the paddleball veteran and former open doubles titleholder, resumed his N.P.A. career after a year's absence by capturing the Masters singles crown over Aubrey Olson, Eau Claire, 21-12, 21-6. Mac and Olson were competing for an abdicated throne, as defending champ Andy Kozar did not attend the tournament.

Olson came back to hit the top spot by taking the Masters doubles championship with Diz Kronenberg, defeating two time and defending champs Rod Grambeau Sr. and Steve Galetti. Scores were 21-12, 21-18.

The Keeley-McLaughlin final was an exciting and well played match featuring great ball control and pin point shooting. The two players have a history of competitiveness dating at least back to the 1971 Nationals where Keeley beat McLaughlin and went on to the title. That same tournament found Dan capturing the consolation championship.

After McLaughlin's 1972 triumph, Steve came back and topped Dan in the Midwest Regional just four weeks prior to the Eau Claire tournament.

Both games were out of the same mold. Close, yet with Keeley in control.

"I tried to keep him off balance," said Steve. "I didn't want him to be able to set up, especially for his backhand pinch shots."

By keeping McLaughlin on the move, Keeley neutralized such kills and also

Steve Keeley did not defend his N.P.A. title in 1971, standing idly by as Dan McLaughlin took top honors. Steve came back this year.

Dan's highly effective lob.

"It's tough to hit any shot effectively if you're retrieving," said Keeley.

Yet McLaughlin was very much in both games. In the first he held a 13-10 advantage going into the eleventh inning, only to have Keeley tally seven points in that frame and bolt to a 17-13 lead. Mac did come back to 16-18, but failed to score on the last three times he had the service, as Steve methodically counted to 21.

The second game was even early until Keeley broke into an 11-6 lead after 14 innings, but McLaughlin came back to 13-14 and appeared to have the momentum to pull the second game out.

But Keeley regained control in the 20th inning stringing together five kills and a pass for six points and a 20-13 advantage. And although Dan tallied four times in the 21st, Steve managed a forehand kill for game and match.

In the semi-finals Keeley defeated Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis, the former racquetball International champ, competing in his first paddleball nationals. Steve's overall control was too much for Bill 21-9, 21-14. Schmidtke had played years of paddleball prior to his racquetball, but never had the opportunity to enter the nationals, so the paddle was not that unfamiliar for him.

"I felt I was getting better every round," said Schmidtke. "But I didn't get better enough to beat Keeley."

In the other semi McLaughlin topped Ray Bayer, Saginaw, Michigan 21-10, 21-5 after Bayer won a tough three game

quarter-final decision from Knoxville's Davey Bledsoe 16-21, 21-15, 21-13.

Schmidtke then took third place 18-21, 21-15, 21-12 over Bayer. Jim Santino, first round loser to Bledsoe, captured the consolation honors, defeating Omaha's Charlie Berry (formerly of Flint, Michigan) 21-5, 21-7.

The open doubles bracket had, as usual, some of the most exciting matches in the tournament. Alder and Wright put together their usual combination of physical and mental skills to take the title, but not without a few battles.

The final match against Keeley and Connin, a smooth but erratic lefty, was in doubt much of the way. In fact Steve and Tom had a 14-8 lead in the first game only to let it get away. Alder-Wright tallied five times in the fourth inning to close to within one 13-14, and then grabbed the lead with five more points in the fifth for an 18-16 lead. Keeley-Connin came back to tie at 18-all, but a Connin error, Wright V-pass and final Alder kill in the front left corner sealed the first game victory.

Alder-Wright started hot the second game and never cooled off. They ran five points on their first serve, increased the lead to 7-2 and 12-6 and then tallied seven points in the seventh frame for a commanding 19-9 margin. Then it was a matter of simply running out the necessary two points, which they did in the next two innings.

Ironically, the two best matches of the doubles tourney, at least for the spectators, involved the eventual third place team, Bob and Bernie McNamara. The Mac's, a legend in N.P.A. history were making a real go at the open doubles title, in their usual aggressive style of paddleball. Their semi-final match against Alder-Wright was a study in contrasting styles and excellent paddleball, won by

OPEN SINGLES FINAL

GAME 1

Keeley	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	1	1	7	1	0	0	2	1	—	21
McLaughlin	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	4	2	0	3	0	0	0	x	—	16

Kills-Keeley 23, McLaughlin 18; Passes-Keeley 7, McLaughlin 5; Errors-Keeley 7, McLaughlin 6; Aces-McLaughlin 1; Hinders-6; Time-outs-Keeley 2.

GAME 2

McLaughlin	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	2	1	4	—	17	
Keeley	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	6	1	—	21

Kills-Keeley 27, McLaughlin 15; Passes-Keeley 7, McLaughlin 9; Errors-Keeley 11, McLaughlin 8; Aces-None; Hinders-4; Time-outs-Keeley 2, McLaughlin 2.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN



CITATION BY THE LEGISLATURE

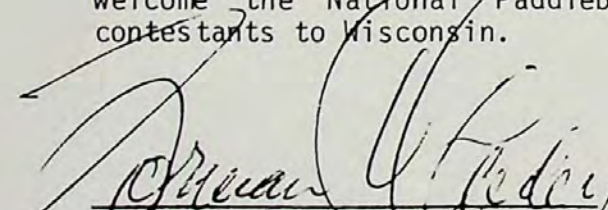
KNOW YOU BY THESE PRESENTS:

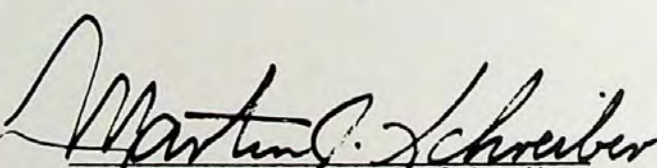
WHEREAS, the Y.M.C.A. in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is host for the Twelfth Annual National Championships of the National Paddleball Association on February 1-4, 1973; and

WHEREAS, the rapid growth of the sport in recent years, both in this state and nationally, is indicative of the value of paddleball as an excellent competitive sport playable by people of all ages; and

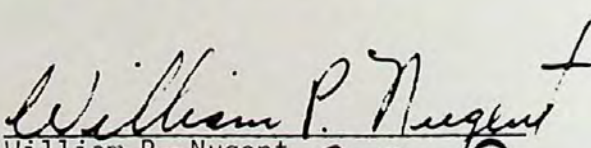
WHEREAS, the people of Wisconsin are honored and privileged to be able to serve as hosts for the tournament; now, therefore,

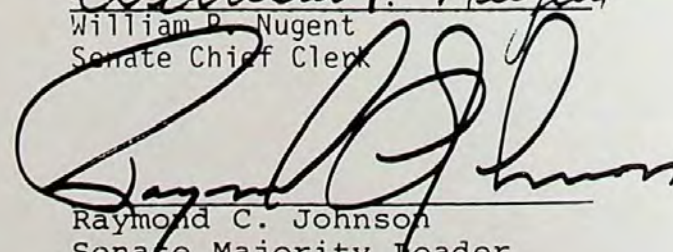
The Members of the Wisconsin Legislature, on the motion of Senator Johnson and Representative Looby, under Joint Rule 26, welcome the National Paddleball Association and all of the contestants to Wisconsin.


Norman C. Anderson
Speaker of the Assembly


Lt. Governor Martin J. Schreiber
President of the Senate

January 24, 1973
Date


William P. Nugent
Senate Chief Clerk


Raymond C. Johnson
Senate Majority Leader

OPEN DOUBLES FINAL

GAME 1

Keeley-Connin	3	3	4	4	2	2	—	18
Alder-Wright	1	4	3	5	5	3	—	21

Kills-Alder 9, Wright 3 (12); Keeley 6, Connin 10 (16); Passes-Alder 5, Wright 1 (6), Keeley 4, Connin 1 (5); Errors-Alder 5, Wright 2 (7), Keeley 2, Connin 12 (14); Aces-None; Hinders-18. Time-outs-Keeley-Connin 1, Alder-Wright 1 (equipment).

GAME 2

Alder-Wright	5	2	0	1	1	3	7	1	1	—	21
Keeley-Connin	1	1	2	2	0	3	2	1	x	—	12

Kills-Alder 9, Wright 4 (13), Keeley 4, Connin 6 (10); Passes-Alder 4, Wright 4 (8); Keeley 3, Connin 4 (7); Errors-Alder 7, Wright 3 (10), Keeley 4, Connin 12 (16); Aces-None; Hinders 12; Time-outs-Keeley-Connin 2.

(top) Steve Galletti, who with Rod Grambeau, Sr. captured 2nd spot in Masters doubles, races to retrieve a shot from the back wall. Galletti was voted the 1973 Sportsmanship trophy as well.

(Bottom) The paddleball action was beamed on television locally throughout the weekend, giving residents and fans an opportunity to see the action.

Alder-Wright 21-17, 18-21, 21-11.

Both teams used the mental game to their own advantage. Alder-Wright relying on slow deliberate, time-consuming tactics aimed at unnerving and making the Macs over-anxious; the MacNamara's using the tight style of play and badgering of the referee. But the end result is always who gets to 21 first and it was Alder-Wright's shooting game that overcame the MacNamara's pass and power.

The other open doubles semi-final was captured by Keeley-Connin over McLaughlin-Rod Grambeau, Jr. in a relatively routine 21-13, 21-14 match. Connin played probably his best paddleball of the tourney in this match playing McLaughlin even on the left side and setting up Keeley's kills.

Bob and Bernie McNamara then took third place 21-18, 14-21, 21-10. Open doubles consolation was won by Jon Wensel and Duke Severson, Eau Claire, over Schmidtke and Paul Nelson 21-11, 21-13.

An expected battle royale never really materialized in the Masters singles bracket with Bob McNamara taking the honors 21-12, 21-6 over Aubrey Olson, Eau Claire's finest.

It was too much over-all power and control for Mac, who kept Olson on the move in deep court in the manner that has marked McNamara's game for the past dozen years.

Olson topped Flint's Tom Ballantyne in the semi's 21-4, 21-5 while Mac defeated Nelson, the last of the switch hitters and the first N.P.A. champ, 21-3, 21-6.

Nelson then won third 21-11, 14-21, 21-7 over Ballantyne while Harold Branster, Flint, won the consolation honors over Ed Linta 21-13, 21-17.

Masters doubles showed the usual fine play, with the finals being probably the upset match of the tourney. Olson and Kronenberg put their power games together and took advantage of Grambeau-Galletti errors to capture the crown 21-12, 21-18.

Grambeau-Galletti just didn't seem to have the smooth, oiled team-work this time around that marked their 1971 and





(Above) Aubrey Olson, who won the Masters doubles with Diz Kronenberg and took second in Masters singles.

(Left) Paddleballers received plenty of hospitality in Eau Claire, starting with informative bulletin board.

1972 Masters doubles titles. On the other hand, Olson's shooting and control fit beautifully into Kronenberg's power style as the Eau Clairians constantly forced Grambeau-Galletti into deep court retrieves.

Lou Giampetroni and Erv Saultman, Flint, captured third place with a 21-14, 11-21, 21-7 victory over Gene Beguhn and Bob Smith. Eau Claire, Bob Knutson and Tom Shea won the consolation Masters doubles honors over Rollie Veitch and John Gharrity, Eau Claire, 21-12, 21-13.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT:

... The Eau Claire Y.M.C.A., certainly rolled out the red-carpet for the N.P.A. at this tournament and at the top of the Y's list is Ed Koch, the executive director who did a marvelous job in making sure things ran smoothly and that the player's needs were taken care of ... Also doing much more than their share were Rollie Veitch, Bob Knutson, Bill Pire, John Schaff, Diz Kronenberg and Tom Lang of the host town ... Kronenberg now is the only person to have competed in all 12 N.P.A. championships dating back to 1962 ... Players were hosted at a nice buffet banquet at the Y one evening ... Most of the guys made it

to The Left Guard one night, and the younger ones to Water Street ... Eau Claire houses a campus of the University of Wisconsin ... N.P.A. National Commissioner Dale Riker and President Bob Kendler were on hand to take in matches and make their annual presentations ... Sorely missed were two old standbys.

Jim Phillips and John Bauman ... Total entries reach 82 for all brackets ... Players voiced their increasing concern about unavailability of paddleballs, some even forced to revert back to the pinkies used years ago. Kendler promised to go to work on this and has spent much time since the tournament on this project ... Closed circuit television was installed for the last two rounds and the pick-up broadcast locally. Various players and host committeemen took their turns narrating the play-by-play with Rod Grambeau Sr. doing the best and most professional job, and the Keeley-Oram-Connin-Alder team doing the funniest.

Tourney Banquet Invocation: Certainly Worth Repeating

Dear Lord:

... Help us to forget what we have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for us;

... To ignore what the world owes us, and to think what we owe the world;

... To put our rights in the background and our duties in the middle distance, and our chances to do a little more than our duty in the foreground;

... To see that our fellow men are just as real as we are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy;

... To own that probably the only good reason for our existence is not what we are going to get out of life, but what we are going to give to life;

... To close our book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around us for a place where we can sow a few seeds of happiness —

... Amen.

TOM LANG
Eau Claire, Wisc. YMCA



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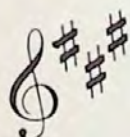
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The Commissioner's Court

There are literally hundreds of new and potentially new members of the International Racquetball Association who have many questions regarding the origin of the Association, its present function and its future plans. I would like to share with you my concept of the phases of growth of the I.R.A. since I was a small part of a group of individuals back in 1968 who let it be known that "their" game was steadily growing in popularity and that they were seeking an identity for racquetball (then known as paddleball and paddle rackets) that would unite the thousands of players throughout the country into one solid organization.

Unknowingly, many racquet players mistakenly called their game paddleball, myself included. It took a gathering of players from several parts of the country to share what knowledge they had acquired about rules, equipment, tournaments and so forth. It also made that group realize that help was needed by either an individual or organization with the know-how in establishing and maintaining the goals we had set forth.

The group was organized by Larry Lederman of the Milwaukee J.C.C. Larry urged the men to choose a leader. The logical choice was Bob Kendler and the U.S.H.A. The reasons were simple: (1) our sports are closely related in the use of common playing facilities and rules. (2) The U.S.H.A. had been successful as a growing organization and was willing to furnish us with the much needed experience of initial planning.

That first meeting with Bob Kendler and a handful of paddleball, paddle racket, and racquetball players proved to be the beginning of what we know as the International Racquetball Association. There were many differences and some players had to give in when they did not want to. But the realization of the game's growth potential made the differences disappear and after a time, everything began to fall in place.

Tournaments became more frequent. The country was divided into areas for regional play and eventually the first International Tournament was held in St. Louis in 1969. The equipment evolution had already begun by then. The old heavy strung racquet gave way to the steel racquet which brought us to our present aluminum and plastic racquets. The blue Sobek ball was the official ball until the Seamless 558 was introduced. After an unsatisfying and inconsistent beginning the Seamless ball began to show signs of consistency in performance

and in most cases a reasonable life span. Better all around equipment and accessories are now available keeping the varied tastes of the players well satisfied.

While all these events were happening, still more changes and additions began to take place. Women and children were playing as often as they were permitted and it was no surprise at all that in 1970 the first national women's tournament was held. The children or better known as junior players have been neglected up to now, but it is hoped that an International junior tournament will be held within a year.

Exposure for racquetball in the form of the printed word began to appear in handball's bible, *Ace*, and later *Handball* magazine. It soon became apparent that the enormous popularity of racquetball needed more than just bits and pieces of information flowing to its members. Most players knew that it was just a matter of time before racquetball would require its own communication vehicle. Thanks to the hard work of Chuck Leve and the foresight of Bob Kendler, we now have our own

magazine which I believe to be the single most important step forward we have taken since our beginning.

From an administrative standpoint, the I.R.A. board of directors, executive committee and other officers are trying to meet as often as possible to discuss and review policy, rules, etc. The hope is to make the general meeting, held annually at the national tournament site, as meaningful as possible to the many members who are in attendance. I can only promise that if a problem is to be heard, there will always be someone connected with the I.R.A. who will listen and try to offer some assistance. The group of I.R.A. officers is dedicated to making racquetball a sport to be proud of and one that all types of players, serious or otherwise can enjoy.

Looking at the future of racquetball I can only say that things look extremely bright. More players of all ages and both sexes, more courts being planned every day, more tournaments at all ability levels, newer and better equipment and the distinct possibility of television exposure in a few years.

The most sincere vote of confidence given to racquetball lately that I have heard came in the dressing room during a recent tournament. Several top ranked players agreed that they wished that they could be younger so they might grow with the I.R.A. I'm proud to be a part of this great game and more so I'm privileged to have met so many fine people.



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Kendler Delivers Hard-Hitting Speech

This is only the second time I have talked to the players at a National Paddleball Tournament and, I must say, it is certainly a pleasure. Only one thing could make it a greater pleasure — and that would be a greater number of entries. Nevertheless, you paddleball players, being a breed all your own, radiate a certain charm not to be found at any other tournament. So let us just say that although your number is low, your caliber is high! Thank you for inviting me!

I have driven through Eau Claire countless times in the past 40 years on my way to Minneapolis where I courted my Swedish bride. Always being in a hurry, I never really got well acquainted with the wonderful people here in God's country. That's the feeling I had as my plane dropped altitude for a landing, and I saw a breathtaking view from my window. I'm pretty much convinced this IS God's country — and what more can I say because I, too, was born and raised in Wisconsin.

This reference to God gives me a good chance to tell you that it's time we do some soul-searching. It's time we ask ourselves about the real potential of Paddleball, and whether we can work together to promote the game more successfully. We must decide if we want Paddleball in the major league, or if we'll be content to let it remain in the minor league.

Those of you who heard my talk at Knoxville last year know that we have arrived at the crossroad of decision. We are faced with the grave challenge of standing up to the competition of racquetball — or being assimilated by it. A year ago I left this convention filled with high hopes for the future of Paddleball, many of which were based on some sturdy promises from you. Unfortunately, little progress has been made. We had about 100 members last year — we have about the same number this year.

We can't expect success and perfection without some obstacles to overcome. And "greener pastures" are not always what they appear to be. Perhaps some of you have heard about the couple who sat in an elegant restaurant having their dinner, and they noticed a beautifully dressed middle-aged lady sitting nearby. The couple was absolutely fascinated with the lady's huge, dazzling diamond brooch pinned to her dress. Finally the wife got up and walking over to the lady said, "Pardon me, I don't wish to intrude, but I couldn't help noticing your BEAUTIFUL diamond brooch. I've never seen anything like it — it must be worth a FORTUNE!"

"Yes," the lady replied, "it's the Klopman diamond."

"Oh? That name isn't familiar to me."

The lady went on to explain, "It's like the Hope diamond. It comes with a curse."

The wife's eyes widened. "With a curse? What kind?"

The lady frowned and said, "Mr. Klopman!" Now don't get the idea that Racquetball is the curse of Paddleball. It might well be an inspiration.

I realize the members here looked to us for considerable help in promoting Paddleball. By the same token, we looked to the members for equal support. Very few took advantage of the opportunities we offered, and you can see the result in your Nationals today. A number of the big names are gone — some of the best areas have dissolved. There are many players like Brumfield and Muehleisen who no longer play Paddleball. Enthusiastic groups in San Diego, Fargo, and Iowa have almost completely disappeared from the paddleball scene.

Let's try to analyze WHY. Is it something we failed to do? Is it more strenuous than racquetball — more dangerous? Those who have switched from paddleball to racquetball

prefer the strung racquet game with the lively ball. They tell us it lends itself toward more handball-type shots — ceiling, around the walls, "Z".

There are several other factors to take into consideration. We must realize that racquetball has taken the nation by storm. It's a family participation game, like tennis. The nationwide explosion of Court Clubs was made possible by the enormous demand from racquetball players who make up 75% of their membership. Owners of such clubs PUSH racquetball, and practically ignore any participation in paddleball. They are even wary of the possible damage that solid wood paddles might do to the walls. Racquetball also has the advantage of heavy promotion by racquet manufacturers, colorful new equipment, a unification of rules, and a national acceptance by six or seven splinter groups. One of the greatest assets to racquetball is the fact that the girls love it — wives, sweethearts, mothers and their teen-age daughters — and all this competitive "togetherness" is a very attractive advantage for racquetball.

It may come as a surprise to you that *handball* is experiencing some pretty stiff competition from racquetball too! It is not making anywhere near the progress that racquetball is making. You know why? We are not coaching the kids like we used to do. Maybe *you* aren't either! We are not working in the elementary and high schools as hard as we should; and although our college tournaments are very successful, we must get to the kids sooner! That's what *YOU* should be doing. Seminars, clinics, exhibitions, and invitations, all should become a BIG part of your promotion, and I doubt if you've sponsored even one!

We must have the will power to succeed — and, that reminds me of an amusing story about my wife. One morning at breakfast Evie was giving me a big pep talk about my weight and calories, and she ended up saying, "*Bob, you should be ashamed of yourself — what you need is some will power! Look at our neighbor, Dale Riker. He used to smoke five packs of cigarettes a day and drove his family to distraction with his hacking cough and the tobacco smell in the house. He gave it up. And your friend, Bill Schmidtke, what a drunken bum he used to be. The police had to bring him home a couple of times when they found him in the gutter. He gave it up. But look at you — a good father, earn a nice living, but you can't give up a few pancakes and syrup for breakfast. You have NO WILL POWER!*"

That made me pretty mad, so I said, "*OK, I'll show you who has willpower! You sleep in our bedroom, and I'll sleep in the guest room — and we'll SEE who has willpower!*"

Six months went by in this fashion, and one evening Evie knocked softly on the guest room door. I answered, and she said sweetly, "*Just thought I'd tell you — Dale Riker started smoking again!*"

So, you see, we can accomplish anything we want — if we have the will power. A good example of what can happen took place about 50 years ago. The original game of handball was entirely different than it is today. For one thing, it was played with a hard ball, exactly like today's baseball — but smaller in size. It was played in courts that were twice the size of today's courts, and the front wall was usually constructed of slate.

There was no slap, no fist, no overhand. Everything was stroke — AFTER the bounce, and never before. That's because you could break your hand *flying* a ball. You could also break your heart running for it!

Along came the softball. Believe it or not, today's game is officially known as the softball game and not the hardball game. If you think *today's* ball is hard, you should try one

at Paddleball National Championships

of those old hardballs! Although hardball had been played for a thousand years, it was doomed the day the softball appeared on the scene, and the court was reduced to humane proportions.

Perhaps we will have to offset the doom of Paddleball with some innovations of our own. Did you know that there are a lot of paddleball players who will use only a handball? I tried it once and had a GREAT game! You might pull a lot of handball players into your orbit with this idea. And I think you'd attract the two splinter groups in New York who play outdoor one wall and three-wall with a handball. Outdoor play would be a great stimulant, and could be promoted in recreational and park programs where young boys would be initiated into the game at an early age.

Let's face it! Where is Paddleball going? Right now you're a small exclusive group who enjoy getting together to do your "own thing" once a year and renew acquaintances. You've been competing against each other for about 10 years, as much for social reasons as any other. And that's fine. But if there is going to be progress, expansion, and growing popularity, we must make a great deal more effort than we have in the past. Paddleball is too good a game to vegetate.

As I mentioned before, I came away from the convention dinner last year with the highest expectations. Numerous innovations were suggested, and I agreed to considerable financial support. A number of good ideas depended on your assistance and enthusiasm. Let's review a few of these plans and see how they developed.

First, we promised to promote regional tournaments. It was no problem arranging mid-east and south-east regionals because they were centered in two paddleball hotbeds — Michigan and Knoxville. But attempts to organize tourneys in other areas have failed or met with apathy because so many former paddleballers have switched to racquetball.

We talked about adding women's events. After long debate, the host tournament committee felt that there would be few, if any, entries.

There was a suggestion to recruit one-wallers into the Association. The New York group has expressed some interest; — however, they retain their desire to continue to allow switching of hands during play and using a handball, not a paddleball. Agreement and unification of rules could help greatly in this area. However, some have joined as subscribers to the magazine, so we have a good point of contact.

Royalties were to be #1 on our agenda. The paddle royalties from Marcraft amounted to \$472 in 1972, rising slightly each quarter. We have attempted to make an agreement with Seamless on a ball royalty, but the Seamless paddleball is still about six months away. As of now, we must still depend on the Pennsylvania 100, the ball that is no longer in production.

It was suggested that the sooner we start intercollegiate championships, the better. We have looked into this possibility, but have also looked at our checkbook. This will be the first year of Intercollegiates in racquetball, and if it is successful, we will go ahead and try it on paddleball. My personal opinion is that it would become a match between the Universities of Michigan, Tennessee and Michigan State.

Regarding weekend invitationals, we have not been able to secure hosts for such tournaments, except in the Michigan area. We want to broaden the scope of Paddleball, not run a repeat of the 1972 Michigan State tourney. Both Junior Championships and Golden Masters will have to wait until we have enough entries to support each bracket.

We agreed to pay for regional winners and trophies, and

this has been done. Payments are being made here at this tournament upon receipt of invoices. I also told Chuck Leve he could spend \$5,000 to promote this year's tournament. He has spent \$2,000 of it on payment of air travel, trophies for divisionals, and space in the magazine. The other \$3,000 still sits in the account of the I.R.A.

You were all informed that we would appreciate any stories of interest for our magazine, that we would print your ads free and we had a need for instructional articles plus tournament schedules and results. It was a big disappointment that there was little or no response to these requests.

So we are faced with these alternatives: 1) merge into the I.R.A. and play both games at the same time; 2) you can take over the Association yourself or; 3) you can gamble another year with us.

Many of you think Paddleball will die for lack of balls. I think I can solve this, so let's dismiss that fear.

Let's renew our resolutions this year, and band together for our common cause. Let's all make an effort to "give a little", — ideas, encouragement, recruiting new players, offering exhibitions in your local schools, sending us news of your progress, being innovative. You know, the world is full of two kinds of people: the givers and the takers. The takers EAT well — but the givers SLEEP well. That's my advice for tonight — goodnight, and SLEEP WELL!



"After you're through painting Leonardo, how about a little game?"

The Rules Say . . .

This article is the first of a standing column by Dr. Bud Muehleisen, the National Rules Chairman of the International Racquetball Association. It is intended to be a question and answer column pertaining to official rules and interpretation, including game situations. Players of all calibers are invited to write their questions to Dr. Bud Muehleisen, c/o RACQUETBALL Magazine, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076. For this first column the editorial staff of RACQUETBALL has posed some questions for Dr. Bud.

Is it legal to serve to anybody on the court in doubles, or must you alternate serves to each of your opponents?

"It is not necessary for the server to alternate serves to his opponents." (Rule 4.2(a)).

I suggest, however, that in practice you do alternate serves. This gives everybody an equal chance to participate in practicing their return of serve and gives all four an equal chance to play. It also gives the server a chance to practice his serves to both sides of the court.

Is it an automatic hinder if the ball goes through a player's legs?

"A ball passing between the legs of a player on the side which just returned the ball, (is a dead ball hinder) IF there is no fair chance to see or return the ball. (Rule 4.10(a)(5)).

Thus, the ball going through one's legs is NOT an automatic hinder, but a judgment call by the referee. If a player is far out of position and his opponent hits a winning shot that he can never reach, yet it goes through the shooter's legs, this would not constitute a hinder. In any situation where there is doubt, however, a hinder should be called.

If one player is injured in a doubles match, can his partner continue the match playing against the other two?

There is nothing in the rules which specifically states that because one partner of a doubles team is injured that the match will be stopped or forfeited. Therefore, it is allowable for one partner to continue playing against the other team as long as the injured partner remains on the court and is able to assume his normal stance in the service zone, and is able to take his normal turn in serving. While the ball is in play he may take up any position he wishes as long as he does not hinder one of his opponents.

The 10 second rule, — does it apply just to the server, or must the server wait 10 seconds if the receiver wishes to take that much time to prepare himself?

"Deliberate delay exceeding 10 seconds by server or receiver shall result in an out or point against the offender." (Rule 4.12(a)).

Both the server and receiver have 10 seconds to get "ready" before the ball is put in play. However, note that that is one 10 second span, not 10 seconds consecutively (20 seconds).

Must I wear the thong around my wrist? Can I wrap the thong between my palm and the racquet handle? What is the penalty for an insecurely wrapped thong?

"The racquet must include a thong that must be securely wrapped on the player's wrist." (Rule 2.4(c)).

This is a rule which was made to bring safety into the game. Therefore, the words "securely wrapped" should be emphasized. "On the player's wrist" should be interpreted to be just that, not on the palm or anything else. The rules do not specifically call for a penalty for violation of the above, but if one player was illegally holding the racquet and was caught, that particular rally would most

likely have to be re-played.

If a ball is tossed into play during a tournament, and as a player, I feel it is not live enough, can I legally call for the referee to inspect the ball and ask for a different one?

"... During a game the referee may, at his discretion, or at the request of both players or teams, select another ball. . . ." (Rule 2.3).

Yes, a player may ask for the referee to inspect a ball. The referee will then exercise his judgment as to whether or not that ball will remain in play. If both players agree to another ball, the ball will then be changed.

If a particular match is in between the second and third games and one player (or team) has not arrived on the court within the 10 minute allowable time span, what should the referee do? Is the match automatically forfeited?

In such a situation if an opponent has not yet arrived for the third game and the 10 minutes is up, the match is not automatically forfeited. The referee has the power to forfeit the match if the delay is deliberate. It has been the policy of the I.R.A. that referees in this situation send down a warning to the offending players. After this time the referee shall call: "play ball," and the third game shall begin. If it is the server(s) who is not on the court, he shall be allowed 10 seconds after which the referee shall call side out and the other player/team shall go in to serve. Of course, each unreturned serve will result in a point.

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Out-Of-Staters Strike It Rich; Sweep First Oregon Open

The gold rush was on in Portland, Oregon, during then First Oregon Open, and the modern day 49'ers came from Vancouver, B.C., Washington State and Newport Beach, California, to mine a rich harvest and disappear. The top spots in all four classifications were captured by out-of-state competition, with Bill Fearing of the Balboa Bay Club taking the open singles trophy back to his Newport Beach club.

Fearing defeated local favorite and co-host Multnomah Athletic Club champion, Will Sanders in a three-game finale, 21-9, 17-21, 21-15. Their match was without a doubt the most exciting match local people have had the opportunity to enjoy since racquetball began its popularity here a couple of years ago. Game one belonged to Fearing almost from the start as he displayed a variety of shots unfamiliar to many in the gallery and, it appeared, Sanders. Fearing held his dominance in to the second game and at one point led by 11 points at 15-4. Then Sanders hit his stride, caught Fearing in two good innings, and soon thereafter took a break to a standing ovation after his 21-17 win.

Fearing, in the third game, took a good lead again. Sanders gained some momentum mid-way through the final game but couldn't sustain it against Fearing's regained control.

Winner of the consolation round in the open singles bracket was Pete Lubisich of co-host club, Jewish Community Center. Lubisich fell victim to winner Bill Fearing his opening match and dominated the consolation bracket winning easily in the finals over M.A.C.'s Phil Brown.

This tournament was the first staged of its kind in Oregon. Tournament chairman, Sandy Weinstein, utilized facilities of the Multnomah Athletic Club and Jewish Community Center, a total of seven courts, to stage the four-day event February 8 to 11. Included among the 90 entrants were 25 from outside Oregon, coming from Vancouver, B.C., Canada, Aberdeen, Bellingham, Selah, Yakima, Seattle and Olympia in Washington, Boise, Idaho, and Newport Beach, California.

Winners in all divisions were:

OPEN: 1st, *Bill Fearing*, Balboa Bay Club, Newport Beach, California; 2nd, *Will Sanders*, Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland Oregon; consolation, *Pete Lubisich*, Jewish Community Center, Portland, Oregon.

CLASS B: 1st, *Bill Condratow*, Vancouver, B.C.; 2nd, *Carl Gobel*, J.C.C., Portland; consolation, *Kerry Gilbert*,



M.A.C., Portland.

CLASS C: 1st, *Dave Cody*, Olympia, Washington; 2nd, *Gary Etlinger*, J.C.C., Portland; consolation, *Ralph Miller*, J.C.C., Portland.

MASTERS: 1st, *Dewey Huston*, Bellingham, Wash.; 2nd *Lee Pulos*, Vancouver, B.C.; consolation, *Ed Lohr*, J.C.C., Portland.

Terrific Tevi Smith from Vancouver, B.C. graciously handled some very tough refereeing jobs much to the delight of the local committee, including the difficult and hard fought finals between Fearing and Sanders. Smith will be long remembered and thanked for his hard work.

Oregon's goal . . . mine a little harder and lock that gold up at home next year.

(Above) Bill Fearing (l.) follows through an overhand shot in the open singles final against Will Sanders. Fearing, from Newport Beach, California won the match.

(Below) Sandy Weinstein (2nd from left), the tournament chairman and I.R.A. District Commissioner presents the awards to Fearing (l.) and Sanders, while Spencer Snow looks on.



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*Canadian Nationals will be July 19-21.
Watch this space in upcoming issues of
RACQUETBALL for total information.*

Cataraqui

The Cataraqui Handball and Athletic Club had a very successful tournament February 9-11. The turnout was poor from our members because of the little time they had to learn the game. The longest membership is six months, and the club has only been open six months. We had 12 players from Toronto, three from Montreal, and three from our club in the tournament.

Montreal's Ivan Velan (# 3 player in Canada) took first place in the singles with only one close match. The scores were 21-19, 16-21, 21-18 in the semi-finals against 18-yr.-old Manuel Gregorio, an outstanding player. Velan then played Joe Carderelli in the finals and won 21-7 and 21-11.

The doubles was a very exciting game. The semi-finals were played by Joe Carderelli and John Kondur of Toronto and Ivan Velan and John Spencer of Montreal. There was a good 2½ hours of playing, with John Kondur and John Spencer doing most of the work.

In the finals it was Velan-Spencer vs. Gregorio-Henderson with Henderson and Gregorio taking it in three. It was a very exciting match. The scores were — 21-17, 15-21, 21-18.

Guy Leeder and Harvey Valiquette teamed for doubles and lost the first round, then they went on to win the consolation trophy.

We had the banquet on Saturday night at approximately 8 p.m. (cold plate). Then at 10 p.m. began playing and played until 1:15 a.m. We began playing again early Sunday morning and continued until Sunday afternoon.

CHUCK LEPITRE

Bud Leach: Dynamic Man Leads Dynamic Company

Racquetball has undergone almost revolutionary changes over the past few years, with today's game almost indistinguishable from the game played in 1968 when the International Racquetball Association was incorporated. And, undoubtedly, one of the pioneers in the revolution of racquetball, and more specifically, racquetball racquets, has been Bud Leach, president of Leach Industries.

That Leach should excel in racquet manufacturing is certainly no accident. For openers, Bud Leach himself is an active athlete, well versed in the ways of "jocks" and knowledgeable about sport in general. He is five time National Water Skiing Champion, has played professional hockey, and has held titles in table tennis, rowing, kite flying and scuba diving.

But that alone would not make the Leach racquets good, or guarantee that they would sell. Leach first became involved in racquetball in 1970, when he tried to develop an injection molded tennis racquet. His early success with this product has led to the development of the Leach racquetball racquets that have taken off in popularity in our sport today.

In less than two years, since the 1971 Internationals, Bud Leach has moved from a virtual unknown in the racquetball

community to become the largest manufacturer of racquetball racquets today.

Another reason for the Leach success has been his keen foresight in using player's expertise to aid in the development of top line racquets. He has worked closely with International Champion Charlie Brumfield, and another top player, Charlie Drake, to develop these racquets.

Leach Industries does not specialize in racquetball racquets. In fact, the racquetball products division of Leach is only a small portion of the total output of that San Diego, California company. Leach has long been involved in the production of water ski equipment, including a composite tapered water ski. He has also developed the carbon graphite golf shaft, currently being used by over 40 touring professional golfers. Other sporting goods ventures take Leach into the worlds of archery, hockey and squash.

But probably the single most important step taken by Bud Leach since his rise to prominence in racquetball has been to enable players to attend all major tournaments. Bud Leach has footed the bill for such top starts as Brumfield, Ron Rubenstein, Mike Zeitman, Steve Keeley, Craig Finger, Drake and Jan Campbell. These players have made it to tourna-

ments, from the top I.R.A. Invitationals to various local opens, often due to the generosity of Bud Leach and Leach Industries. And in a sport where there is no prize money, where rules state that no award can be worth more than \$25.00, and where all the players are amateurs, it is truly a godsend to have somebody around to spur the competition by allowing players to make it to tournaments.

Bud Leach is 47-years-old. He and his lovely wife live in the Point Loma section of San Diego, and keep a vigorously active life that includes kite flying, skiing (both snow and water), and of course, racquetball.

Leach's business interests take him to such distant places as Australia, Hong Kong and Japan as he seeks out every possible market. Bud Leach believes, as do many of us, that racquetball is currently in its fetal stage, and that at some point in its rainbow colored future, will rival tennis and golf in general popularity.

Bud Leach and Leach Industries are doers. Their business is lined with aggressive and creative characteristics. Being tops is not good enough. It is being tops and staying there that intrigues the Leach family, and you can be sure they'll stay there.

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Brumfield Survives Cowboy Open Test

The 2nd Annual Cowboy Open went off as a huge success. There were 113 entries competing in five singles and two doubles classes and still managing to finish in time on Sunday to watch the Super Bowl.

A number of top players flew in for the tournament and their presence added greatly to the caliber of play. Charlie Brumfield, IRA's defending champion from San Diego; Steve Serot, runner-up in the recent IRA National Invitational from St. Louis; and Bill Thurman and Bill Dunn, highly ranked California players from Chabot College bolstered the men's divisions. Equally as impressive on the women's side were Jan Pasternak, IRA's two-time defending champion from Houston; Jan Campbell, third place IRA winner from San Diego; hometown favorite Lyn McKie, 4th in last year's Internationals; and highly regarded Chris Ackerman from St. Louis, a quarter-finalist in the past IRA championships.

As expected, Brumfield waltzed through the A singles beating Serot in the finals 21-10, 21-5. It appeared that Charlie was content to give his "tour of the court" the first game of every match and then got down to business in the second. Bill Dunn's seven points in his semi-final match was the top second game effort against Charlie.

Meanwhile Serot was not having an easy time of it in the lower bracket. Luther Bernstein, Dallas, battled him tough in the quarters 21-18, 21-17 and then Thurman made things close in the semis 21-12, 21-20. Thurman took third place over Dunn as the flu bug forced Dunn to forfeit. Tournament Director, Tom McKie came back from a disappointing opening loss to Tom Farris of Dallas to capture the consolation title over Wallace Hardy of Lawton 21-15, 21-17.

The A doubles final found all four singles semi-finalists back in action and was the most exciting match of the tournament. Serot and Brumfield teamed together in what looked like an unbeatable combination, but the Chabot College pair of Dunn-Thurman didn't play as such. After splitting the first two games 17-21, 21-20, Dunn-Thurman roared to a 15-3 in the decisive game. Here Charlie began controlling the game and soon it was 15-15 and Serot-Brumfield went on to win 21-19. The pick-up team of McKie-Bernstein whipped Farris-Walter King of Dallas 21-14, 21-11 to take third place honors.

With only five entries in the women's singles and the rare opportunity for so many highly ranked players to get together a round robin was held so that they could play each other. Jan Pasternak and Jan Campbell emerged unbeaten to the final match between each other as they both out-classed the field. In a tough two-game match, Jan Pasternak won the title 21-19, 21-16. Chris Ackerman took third place. Both Jan's also entered the men's B singles and gave the fellows fits before getting beat in the second round.

Masters singles was won by Allen Russell, Stillwater, who defeated V. Z. Lawton, Oklahoma City 21-8, 18-21, 21-2 in the finals. Ed Grula, Stillwater, finished third beating Jerry Crockett, Stillwater, 21-9, 21-6. Consolation was won by Lorne Dexter over John Rutherford, both Tulsa, 21-5, 21-17.

In a very tough B bracket, Jim Benien, Stillwater, finished atop besting Larry Curtis, Stillwater, in the finals 21-10, 21-16. Benien won two 21-20 third games to get to the finals. Don Groves, Dallas, captured third over Bob Oldham, Stillwater, 13-21, 21-9, 21-18. Consolation winner was Doug Aichele over John Jobe, both Stillwater, 14-21, 21-12, 21-17.

Oldham came back to team with Rick Botchelet, Stillwater to nab the B doubles crown 21-16, 21-12 over Groves and Vir-

gil Thurman of Dallas. Mike Carr-Ron Reed, Stillwater, defeated Russell-Pete Block of Stillwater 21-5, 21-4 for third.

In a novice singles tournament geared to encouraging the inexperienced player to get into tournament action, Joe Pullam, Little Rock, Arkansas, copped honors over Brad Walker of Dallas 21-5, 21-11. Tim Tripp beat John Barnett, both Stillwater, for third, and Tony Hobbs stopped Gene Mason, both Stillwater, for consolation honors.

Play was held on the twelve courts at Oklahoma State's Colvin Physical Education Center and special thanks go to the staff there for their hours of help. Assistant Intramural Director, Kent Bunker again served as floor manager and along with Rick Lee, executed that important duty admirably. Nearly all matches went off when scheduled which was a tremendous tribute to their work.

We were disappointed that local favorite, Myron Roderick, sustained an incapacitating muscle pull during the week before the tourney and was unable to compete, but he'll be back at it soon.

We're already thinking about next year's Cowboy Open — same weekend, mark it on your calendar to start off the new year.

THOMAS D. McKIE
Tournament Director

I.R.A. Tournament Schedule

MARCH, 1973

- 2-3-4 IRA Central Divisional, Milwaukee HBRC, Bob Keenan
- IRA Eastern Divisional, Penn St. Univ., Sweeney
- IRA Western Divisional, Chabot College, Hayward, CA, Bill Dunn
- IRA Southwestern Divisional, Tulsa Family YMCA, Gary Merryman
- 3-----10 (HANDBALL NATIONALS)
- 9-10-11 Wisconsin State Singles, Woodson Y, Wausau, physical director
- 10-11 JWB Midwest Regional, Cincinnati JCC, Rod McKinley
- 16-17-18 IRA Southern Divisional, Clearwater, FL YMCA, Tom Stidham
- Kings Court Invitational, Minneapolis, Wendell Ottum
- 23-24-25 Chicago Open, U. of Ill. Chicago Circle, Jim DiVito
- Eastern Canadian Divisional, NW-YMCA, Montreal, Ivan Velan

APRIL, 1973

- 3-----8 IRA International Championships, St. Louis JCCA, Bruce Hendin
- 13-14-15 New York State Open Doubles, Downtown YMCA, Buffalo, Chuck Wurzer
- 18-20 IRA Intercollegiates, U. of Illinois, Don Webb
- 26-29 Wisconsin Singles (closed) Milwaukee HBRC, Keenan

MAY, 1973

- 3-6 Wisconsin Doubles (closed) Milwaukee HBRC, Keenan
- 4-5-6 Paterson Open, Paterson, NJ YMCA, Fred Rizzo
- 26-27-28 Norfolk Invitational, Norfolk, VA JCC, Bob Taylor

The Brumfield Way

BY CHARLES BRUMFIELD

Return of Serve:

Last issue we talked from the standpoint of the guy in the service box. What if you're not so lucky to be serving? What's your best bet to keep from losing too many points and get the serve back so you can score some points of your own?

To understand the concept of the serve return, we'll have to review some racquetball theory. At the moment you return the serve, you are in the worst possible strategic position you can be in, during the course of a rally. Unless your opponent has dubbed the serve completely, you will be striking your return from either the deep left or the deep right corner; completely out of center court position. If the server/opponent is doing his job, you are about to receive his best attempt to keep you out of the coveted center court and elicit a weak return. If you do misplay your serve return, your opponent can either kill the ball immediately or send you on a punishing "tour" of the facility with well placed passing shots.

Racquetball is a game where you must constantly struggle to regain and retain the center court. And if you intend to win any games, you had better start immediately with the return of service. There are five possible serve returns. Analyze them along with me so you can get some idea of what you should be trying to do with your return. From then on it is a simple yet tedious matter of learning to execute. But, like I say, it doesn't help you too much if you know HOW to hit if you don't know what to hit, so try to get

interested in the theory of the thing.

Kill Shot:

The kill shot is the flashiest and most demoralizing of the game's possible serve returns. Everyone loves to hit those flat out rollers that trickle out of the crotch to the adulations of the gallery. The kill shot is to racquetball, what the grand slam homer is to baseball and the 80-yard touchdown is to football. But to try to kill the ball on serve return is dumb. Let me repeat that — DUMB, DUMB, DUMB!!!

All the cold and calculating center court theory is working against you. If you hit the ball in the dirt, you have in essence awarded your opponent a free point that he didn't have to sweat one drop to earn. If you leave the ball up you might just as well walk over a couple of feet and get ready to return serve again because any player with any kind of experience will make you eat that ball. So why try it? How many balls are you going to hit for absolute winners off your opponent's best shot, his serve? I can't hit very many percentage-wise and if you can, send me your name and I'll bet on you in the next International tournament.

To my way of thinking, the only reason EVER to shoot the serve return is to keep your opponent off-balance. You want to prevent him from backing out so far that he can effortlessly cover whatever shot you throw at him. For that reason, I will go for a winner every eight shots or so, just to keep him honest. If I kill the ball, great, if not at least I've got him worrying. But don't get me wrong. This isn't a mechanical type deal where every eighth shot my opponent can sprint for the front court because he knows I'm going to shoot the ball. Of course I mix up my pattern. Sometimes I even shoot two or three balls in a row. The only thing I try to avoid is fighting the percentages and beating myself with costly mental errors. The execution of the kill shot depends on the shot attempted and will be taken up in a later article. For now just remember to use it sparingly.

Drive Shot:

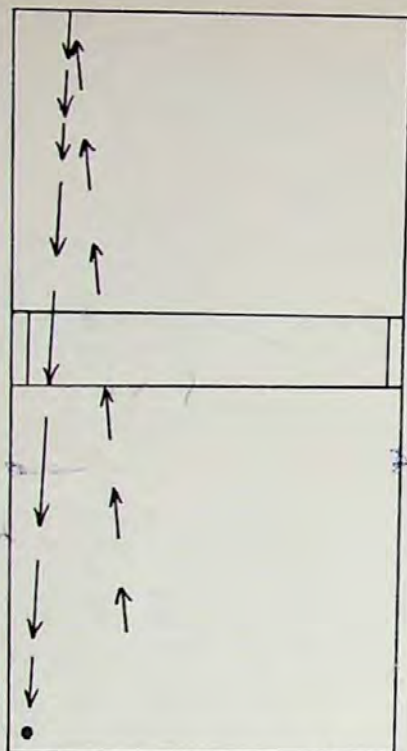
This is a medium flat shot you want to hit about four feet up on the front wall, struck with enough force to generate the speed necessary to pass your opponent on either side. There are two variations to the drive shot return of serve.

First, down the line. Simple geometry will tell you that an up and down the line drive will pass your opponent in the shortest distance and therefore in the shortest time. The problem with this variation is difficulty of execution. If the down the line drive catches the side wall at any point prior to when it passes the opponent it probably will pop out for an easy set up. Also, the down the line drive, not being designed to hit the side wall, will often rebound off the back wall for a set up. The advantage of the down the line drive is that if it remains close to the side wall, it is difficult for your opponent to hit squarely. Also, if two right handed players are competing against each other, a down the line drive will go to your opponent's backhand, which is normally weaker.

The second variation on the drive serve is the cross court



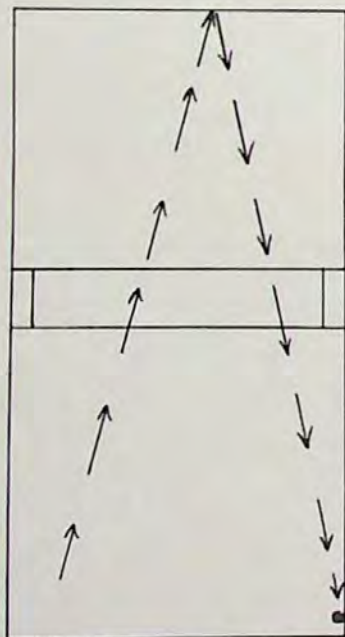
KILL RETURN



**DOWN-THE-LINE
DRIVE**

drive and is designed to bisect the angle of the court, hitting the exact middle of the front wall and passing your opponent on his forehand side, if you are both right handed. The danger with this shot is that it is directed at your opponent's forehand, and if it is not hit properly, it gives him opportunity to "cut the ball off" in front court and shoot it into the right front corner quickly before you can get up to cover.

The advantage of the cross court is that it can be hit with much less accuracy than the down the line and still be effective.



**CROSS COURT
DRIVE**

Lob:

This is a shot designed to float softly over your opponent's head and force him to vacate center court while retreating to the back court to return the ball. The lob may be hit either up and down the line or cross court. However, this shot is much more effective in paddleball than racquetball, where the livelier ball almost always flies off the back wall for a set up. You only want to try such a shot when there's little else you can do to get the ball to the back court, because it will force your opponent to hit his next shot from deep court and give you time to recover to a center court covering position.

Ceiling Ball:

The ceiling ball is the safest shot in racquetball. It has done more to transform the game into one of patience and poise than any other shot. The ball when properly struck with a free flowing arm and shoulder movement, will contact the ceiling first between one and five feet from the front wall. If struck with sufficient force, the ball will then come off the front wall, strike the floor and carry deep into back court, often just reaching the back wall. This shot is almost impossible to cut off effectively, forcing your opponent to return the ball from deep back court taking the ball shoulder high with no real offensive shot.

The ceiling ball may be hit either cross court or down the line. The down the line ceiling ball is usually the most effective. You should practice the shot until you can make the ball "hug" the side wall as it travels toward back court. If the ball stays close to the side wall it will make it very difficult for your opponent to control his return. However, if the shot touches the side wall it may pop out toward the center court for a forehand set up.

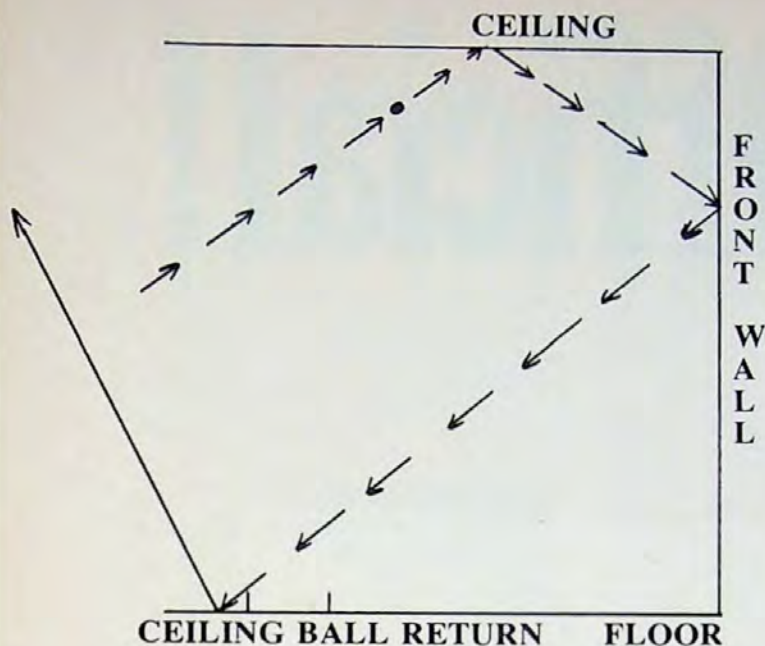
The cross court ceiling ball is a safer shot and easier to execute. You should strike the cross court ceiling ball so that it hits the ceiling very close to the front wall and at about the center of the court. The consequent rebound angle will carry the ball into the back corner of the court. The common error when hitting the cross court ceiling ball is to hit the ceiling too far toward the opposite side wall. The angle will then be too extreme and the ceiling ball will not carry very deep before it strikes the opposite side wall and sets up.

All ceiling balls hit from the back court should be aimed so as to hit the ceiling first. However, there are certain rare circumstances when you'll want to go the ceiling from front court. Anytime you are in the front portion of the court, you should aim to hit the front wall first and then the ceiling, adjusting the angle to have the ball float down into back court.

Around the Wall Ball:

This shot is also intended to move your opponent out of center court position and keep him at bay deep in back court. It adds a new dimension if your opponent is to illicit an effective return. That is, "angle" is the special promise of the around-the-wall ball. If properly hit it moves in crazy angles around the court and finally dies at the back wall. Although, there are two variations in the around-the-wall ball, I will only discuss one in this article, the other being primarily a doubles shot and generally ineffective in singles play.

The around-the-wall ball known as the *Z-ball* is an effective defensive shot in singles play if executed in the proper manner and at the proper time. It is designed to strike the front wall first, high in the corner, with sufficient angle and force to then strike the side wall and travel diagonally cross court, without hitting the floor, and finally rebounding off the opposite side wall and moving parallel to the back wall. As you learn to control this shot, it is possible to place the ball within two or three feet of the back wall moving parallel



to it. This proves to be a most difficult ball to return and is most effective as a serve return to move your opponent out of center court. But this same return is undoubtedly the most difficult to master.

Because, the shot is so hard to execute, it is essential that it only be attempted when the right ball presents itself. If you attempt the "Z" serve return off of a low drive serve, or a ball moving right along the wall, you are more apt to botch the shot than if you try the more conventional drive, lob, or ceiling return. So with the "Z" return, more than any other, it is necessary to let the type of serve dictate the type of return. It is most effective if used on a Garfinkel or serve that ends up a little short at three quarters court.

Summary:

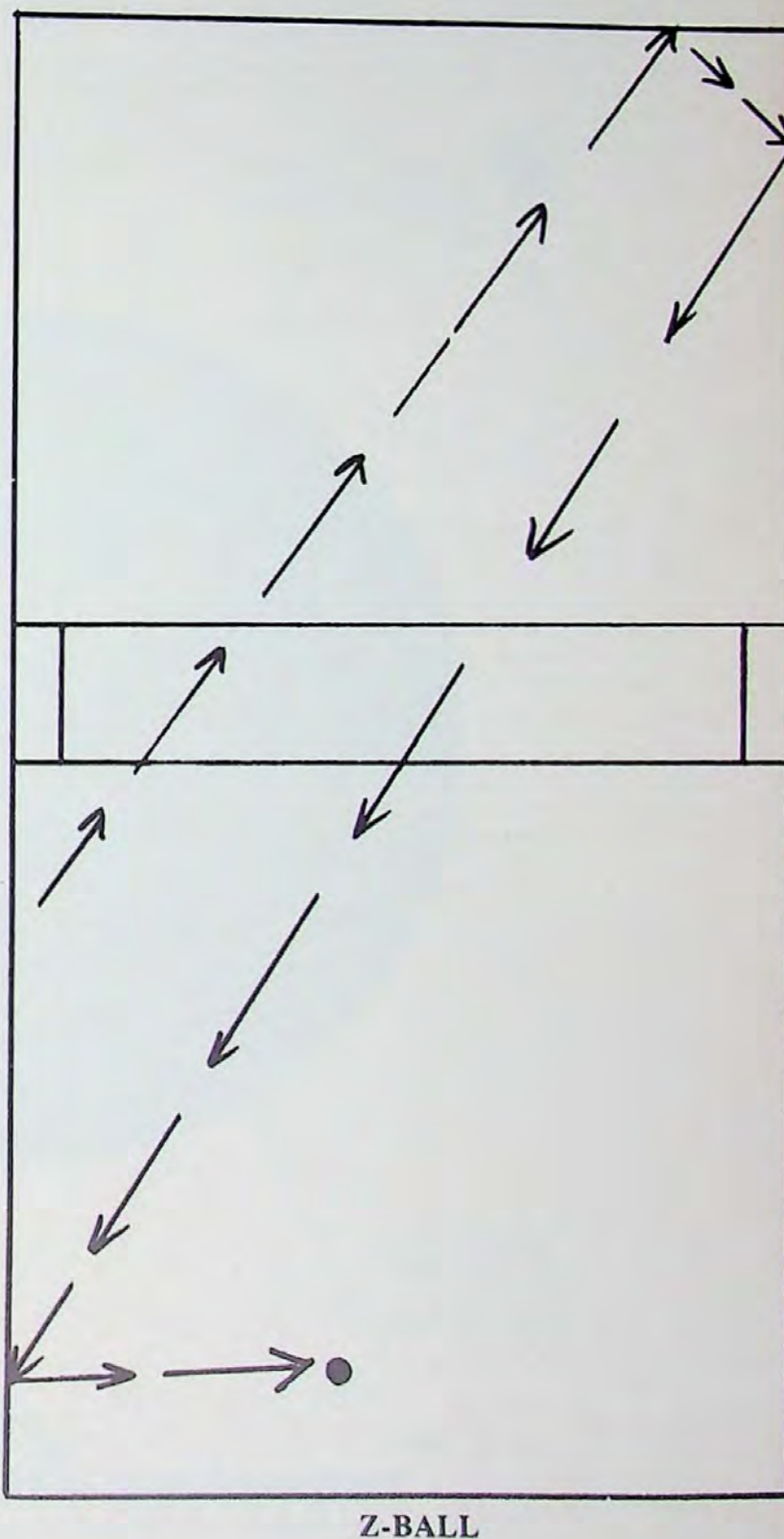
In the last two articles I have talked a great deal about the all important center court position and the importance of remaining alert when putting the ball in play. I have also put forth in some detail the proper grip for hitting both the forehand and backhand. The implementation of these basic fundamentals into your game style is crucial if you want to improve your performance on the court. It never ceases to amaze me how many tournament players even in today's competition still give only token attention to such basic principles of good play. Make the center court position as familiar as your home and your return to this position habitual. Practice your grip on everything from a pencil to the steering wheel of your car. Finally, THINK about your game, your strengths and weaknesses and how to maximize the former and minimize the latter.

In discussing the serve I hope I've emphasized strongly enough the need to make this your best shot — it's by far the most important. Take advantage of your opponent, it's your chance to do so. Let me mention further, the need to give your opponent a variety of serves early in the game helps you identify his weak areas and reformulate an already established game plan.

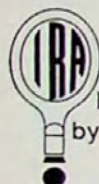
Finally, when returning the serve remember you are on the defensive and your opponent has every advantage. Careless errors at this point in the game are costly and hard to recover. A well thought out serve return which allows

you to recover the center court position is many times more valuable than a flashy quick "kill", which you leave up for a soft plum. Vary your returns as you would the serve, this helps identify weak areas in your opponents game and makes you a lot less predictable and, therefore, harder to control.

In the next article, attention will be given to problems of game strategy and the implementation of fundamental shots. Future articles will discuss defensive play, volley control, pacing for tournaments and my game strategy against such players as Steve Keeley, Ron Rubenstein, Bill Schmidke and the "Dr."



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No Surprises In Illinois State Tourneys

The Illinois Racquetball Association held its annual state singles and state doubles tournaments in a four week span January and February and the results will surprise no one. Ron Rubenstein, defending state titleholder and number two ranked player Internationally captured the A singles crown and also the open doubles championship with Chicago's Al Levine.

The doubles tourney was held January 19-21 at the Evanston Y.M.C.A., site of the first state tournament ever, back in 1971. There were brackets of play in open and masters with 38 teams entering.

Rubenstein vacated the number one seed position in doubles when he changed partners, picking up Levine when co-1972 champ Jerry Padula declined to enter. Thus the next in-tact team, Fred Blaess and Tim Plum, the 1971 Illinois champs, were awarded the first seed. Blaess-Plum however, did not make the finals, losing to a young University of Illinois team of John Travaglio and Bill Williamson in the semi-finals 21-7, 21-17.

In the lower bracket Rubenstein and Levine almost lost their semi match to another young team, Bill Barnes and Steve Nycum from Lake Forest College. In that one the first two games were split 21-13, 12-21, and the Lake Foresters held a 20-15 lead in the third game. But Ruby took control, managed to get the serve and he and Levine tally six consecutive points for the victory.

The crowded gallery on Sunday hoped for another exciting match, but it was not to be. Rubenstein-Levine just overwhelmed Travaglio-Williamson 21-2, 21-9 for the state title. Sunday's best match was the third place play-off, i.e., loser is in Rubenstein's bracket next year, and it was taken by Plum-Blaess 18-21, 21-5, 21-14.

Over in the Masters bracket an unusual draw made strange things happen. Defending champ Jim DiVito entered with a different partner this year, Ray Ruscitti, changing from Wally Rivera. The move cost him his top seed and the tournament committee moved that team to fourth. Thus last year's runners-up, Howie Hoogesteger and Nick Wasylik, Lake Forest, received the top spot, with downstaters Phil Dziuk and Frank Hinds, second and another Lake Forest duo Al Hanke and Bob Troyer third.

Hoogie-Wasylik were upset in the first round, losing to Buddy Perelman and Jerry Frazes 21-15, 21-13, but the other three teams reached the semi's. There DiVito-Ruscitti topped Perelman-Frazes 21-15 in game one and game two was awarded on a forfeit when Frazes pulled a calf muscle and couldn't continue.

Hanke-Troyer bested Dziuk-Hinds 21-9, 21-20 for their crack at the title.

The finals was great action. The experience and court savvy of DiVito on the left was a treat to see battling the lefty-righty duo from Lake Forest. In a well-played match it was Hanke-Troyer on top 21-20, 21-14.

Third place went to Dziuk-Hinds on default, while consolation titles were taken by Don Webb-Ron Johnson, Champaign in the open and by Bob Ward and Don Schmidt in the masters.

The state singles, played February 23-25 at the Northwest Suburban Y.M.C.A. attracted 110 entries in four classes of play: A, B, masters and women's. Needless to say the B bracket drew the most, 54 entries, with the other three carrying about equal loads.

Rubenstein's victory, although expected was not accomplished with the usual total dominance he has shown in past state tourneys. The pugnacious Plum, who was runner-up, showed great spunk and aggressive racquetball to nearly force the finals to three games.

Game one went to Ruby 21-5, in demoralizing fashion, as Plum honestly played very well. But Ruby's shots were hot and Tim, for all his diving and effort just never could get into the game. But game two was a different story. Whether Ron let up slightly, or Tim just played better is a matter of conjecture. What we do know is that tremendous retrieving on defense and a strong passing game on offense led Plum to 8-4, 14-7 and 16-10 leads. Finally, the Rubenstein comeback came, with the final score being 21-18. Plum had three serves at 18 and could not dent the scoreboard on any of those chances.

Only Rubenstein made it to the finals with ease. He knocked off tourney director Art Michaely in the quarters 21-6, 21-10 and then eased by Travaglio 21-3, 21-7. Plum, however, was having difficulties, going three games before beating Shelly Clar, Northbrook, with the third game 21-19. Then he topped Nycum, an upset winner over Blaess in the quarters, in another three game in the semi's.

The B's were something to behold. Six rounds were demanded in three days time, and from players used to hitting

three or four times a week at the most. And as is often true with B players, none of the top seeds made it to the semi-finals with top-ranked Dan Little and Tom Stich, the numbers one and two losing in the quarters.

The finals? It was a match between Rich Kraft, N. W. Suburban Y and Burton Rubenstein, Ron's younger brother. As you may have guessed by now, had Rubenstein won the B's it would have been this story's lead. Not that he didn't give it an effort. But Kraft came out on top 21-19, 13-21, 21-16. To reach the finals Kraft defeated Champaign's Larry Putterman, while Rubenstein was topping Hampton's Tom Duke. All four players will advance to the A bracket next year, as per Illinois Racquetball Association rules.

In the Masters it was Sam Carl, defending champ, retaining his title by defeating Dziuk 21-12, 21-18. Carl was hampered slightly by a sore leg, but it didn't seem to affect his shots too much. Don Schmidt captured third place over Larry Kell.

The top four seeds made it to the semi-finals in the women's singles with the top two, Peggy Pruitt and Mary Slaughter, both from Champaign, advancing to the championship match. Peggy defeated Fran Deuster in her semi-final, while Mary eliminated Shirley Lind in the bottom bracket.

Most observers expected a Pruitt victory, similar to her win over Slaughter in the recent Illini Open. But this was Slaughter's day on the court and she did it well running up a convincing 21-5, 21-16 triumph for the 1973 state women's title. Third place was won by Lind.

A banquet was held after the days' action with about 50 persons attending. It was highlighted by Blaess' toastmastering and speeches by I.R.A. prez Bob Kendler and former Chicago Bear center and captain Mike Pyle, himself a pretty good racquetballer. Also, a short film of the second Haber-Muehleisen hands vs. racquet match was shown and narrated by Chuck Leve, I.R.A. executive secretary.

Our thanks to many, many people for making 1973's tournaments the best ever in Illinois. Lee Duda, Dottie, Don Watts, Art, Fred, Chuck, and the rest of you guys and gals, — thanks a million.

PLEASE! PLEASE!

Notify IRA in advance when you change your address. Second class material is not forwarded. Be sure to get every issue of RACQUETBALL. IRA—4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076.

You Still Can't Play the Game Without a Thesaurus

To have a complete racquetball repertoire, one must be able to speak the language, but maybe not fluently. Appendix I

By STEVE KEELEY

The past two issues of **Racquetball** presented an alphabetical listing of racquetball terms, without which one might have difficulty communicating with his fellow players. What follows are additional words and phrases which I had either forgotten or have picked up at recent tournaments. Therefore term this "Appendix I." Readers are urged to continue updating the list by sending contributions to the I.R.A. Letters section of this magazine.

BODY SURF. Only a rookie body surfs unless the situation is crucial. The term originated on the west coast and applies when a player dives for an elusive ball. In the process he slides along the hardwood court floor, his perspiration serving as a lubricant to overcome the friction between body and floor. This tactic is definitely not recommended for most female players.

DUMP SHOT. This is a shot somewhat analogous to the dink in tennis or the change-up in baseball. A shot taken from in front of the service line generally, the dump is executed by softly tapping the ball (not fully stroking it) into a corner for a rolloff. Dr. Bud Muehleisen ("The Mule") of San Diego originated this shot early in racquetball history, and now many players imitate it. Thus the phrase, "The mule takes a dump in the corner" also arose in the Southern California area.

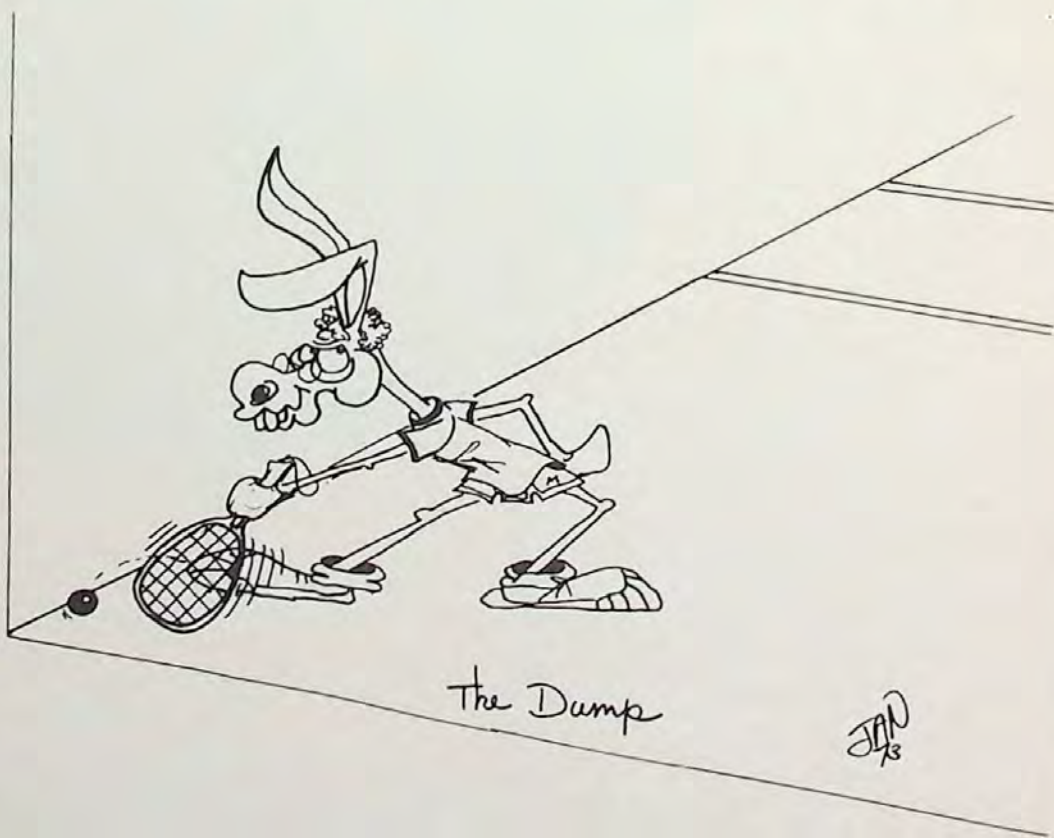
IN THE TANK. A person who is in the tank is in a hapless, hopeless situation; that is, he is sunk. A player who "goes in the tank" is one who either chokes or gives up. For example, I was once winning a paddleball game 15-2 and ended up going into the tank and losing. The phrase "send for the snorkle equipment" is an elegant euphemism for going into the tank.

PHOTON. Taken from its scientific definition, the photon is simply an

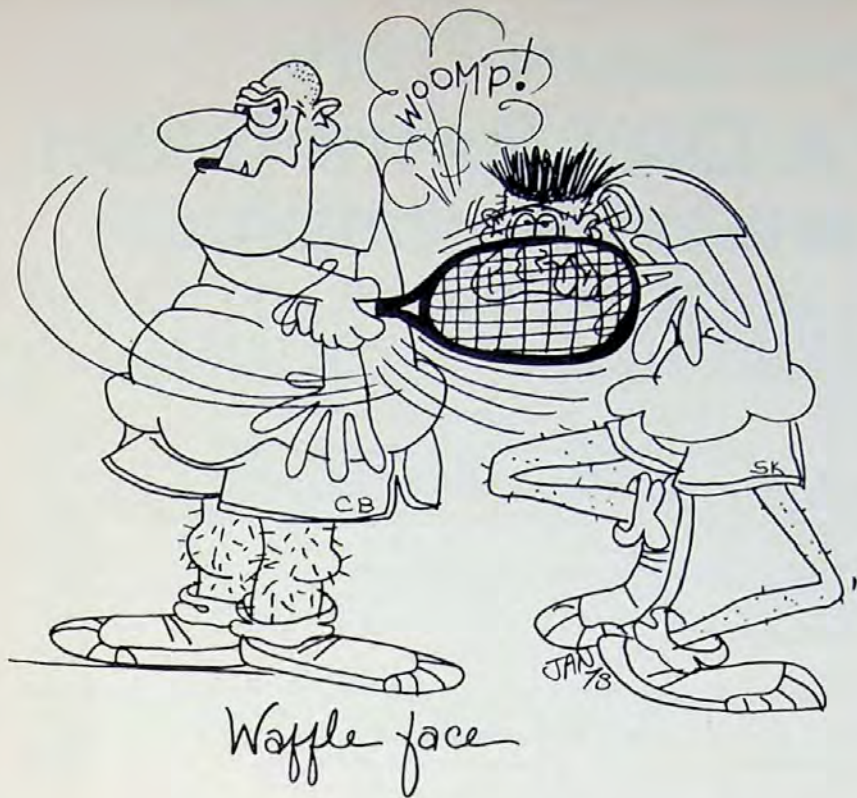
enced veteran. Synonyms: vapor ball, powder ball.

OPTION PLAY. This term I am borrowing from an article by Joe Zelson in **RACQUETBALL** (January, 1973). "This is a shot where you're crowded by your opponent, but you have enough room to swing and hit the ball. As you hit you make an instant evaluation of whether the shot will be pretty good; if so, you let it be played; if not, you cry out 'Hinder'. It is important that you do not wait more than a second or two after you've hit the ball so that you don't give your opponent the impression that you're waiting to see what the ball does. Successful use of the 'option play' requires that you make a quick evaluation and call your hinder early. Once again, it's frequently helpful to use the air of humility and innocence previously talked about . . ."

POWDER BALL. Practically synonymous with the photon, this too is a very powerfully struck shot. For example, the term may be used as such: "he powdered the plum ball for a routine roll-off." One soundly smashed ball I witnessed in a pick up game most adequately illustrates the powder ball. In this instance the player took the ball out of the air at three-quarter court. The ball jetted off his racquet, split at the seam into exact halves in mid air above the service zone, and each hemisphere of the former racquetball floated toward the



The Dump



front wall and went for near rollofs in opposite corners. I made the sign of the cross and quickly left the court.

PSYCH FACTOR. This term is fairly self explanatory, although there are many methods of employing the psych. Anything which unnerves, annoys, intimidates, throws off the concentration or in any other way upsets one's opponent is included under this term. Examples are numerous: it may mean hitting the first shot photon past the left ear lobe, as alluded to earlier; complaining about the court lighting or dead floors or walls is useful. One may remark to his opponent during the heat of the match, "Your backhand stroke certainly is odd; I don't see how you even hit the ball." Jerry Hilecher of St. Louis, who physically may look like he crawled out of a can of spaghetti but nevertheless finished in the top eight last year, very effectively applies the psych by giving his opponent the choke sign in crucial situations. The psych factor — every player is susceptible to it although none will admit it.

SKIP BALL. This is what the referee calls when he feels your attempted kill shot skipped along the floor prior to hitting the front wall. If it was a close call and the ball really did skip, you can lose your confidence; if it really did not skip, you lose your cool at the referee. Synonyms: Dirt ball, oil well ball, ground ball.

UNDERDOG SHOT. I've been working on this one for months. It is a shot

developed by Buffalo's Charlie Garfinkel for use against San Diego's Brumfield. Says Gar: "It comes off the back wall growling and bites Brumfield's back side. I win by infection."

WAFFLE FACE. This applies to the appearance of the anterior portion of one's cranium after being struck in the face with the strung surface of the opponent's racquet. Also, you may give a player a leg waffle by striking him on the thigh with your racquet.

Illustrations by Jan Campbell.



Paddleball Regions . . .

The first two N.P.A. sanctioned paddleball regional tournaments were held prior to the N.P.A. National Championships this year, one in the Midwest and the other in the South.

The University of Tennessee, host of the 1972 N.P.A. Nationals, held the 1973 Southern Regional January 12-14 and was won by U.T. student Davey Bledsoe. Bledsoe topped tournament chairman Jack Rice 21-10, 21-11 for the title. Jack and Davey then teamed up to capture the doubles crown over Art Rust and Mark Thomas 21-7, 21-7.

Women were invited to compete in the paddleball regional, a first for paddleball in this area, and the gals took to the tourney competition fiercely. Suzy Terhune won the women's open, beating Christie Clark 21-6, 21-2 for the title.

Third place women's singles went to Barbara Brooks, while Roy Groth took the men's third place honors.

Women's doubles was won by Brooks and Kathy Hiland over Gale Strouse and Sherry Garner 21-11, 21-7. Terhune and Cindy Smith took third place.

* * *

Meanwhile the Intramural Department at Michigan State University hosted the Midwest Regional at the M.S.U. courts and the finals there were a prelude to the N.P.A. finals with Steve Keeley topping Dan McLaughlin, 21-13, 21-14. Jim Santino, reigning M.S.U. singles champs captured third place over Ray Bayer, in a double elimination losers bracket.

In open doubles Keeley and Tom Connin completed the Keeley sweep with a 21-14, 21-13 victory over George Skaff and David Jeffes, Flint. Skaff and Jeffes had upset the tournament's number one seeded team, Gail Mikles and Herb Olson in the semi-finals 21-20, 14-21, 21-14.

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1. Complete the Enrollment Certificate.
2. Indicate the plan you want.
3. Mail the Enrollment Certificate and your check to our Insurance Administrator:

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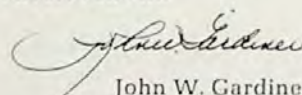
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50-59	56.65	42.75
60-64	77.85	58.65
65 and over (\$20 per day plan)	\$63.00	

Semi-annual premiums include a \$1.00 processing fee and are applicable at insured's age when insurance becomes effective and at attained age on renewal.

LIMITED CHARTER ENROLLMENT PERIOD

1973 IRA NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATES

DATE: April 18-20, 1973

SITE: University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL

ELIGIBILITY: See accompanying Official IRA Intercollegiate Rules.
Must also be current 1973 member of IRA
—can sign up now or at tournament site.

ENTRY FEE: \$5 per player. Player can participate in one event only.

HOUSING AND FOOD: Information to be published in March issue of Racquetball Magazine.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: April 1, 1973

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamless 558.

TROPHIES: First three places in each event. First two places, team. First place consolation.

Send entries to: Don Webb, Illini Racquetball Club,
295 Natural Resources Bldg., Univ. of
Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Please enter me in the () A singles () B singles () Doubles

Name _____ College _____
Please print

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Partner's Name _____
Please print

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

We are competing on the four-man team ().

We are not competing on the team ().

Official IRA Intercollegiate Rules

RULE I — MATRICULATION

No one shall participate in any intercollegiate racquetball contest unless he is a bona fide matriculated student at an accredited university or college (not business college, trade school, etc.) and is regularly enrolled and doing full work as defined by the regulations of the institution at which he is enrolled.

RULE II — PARTICIPATION

1. Participation in intercollegiate racquetball shall be limited to four varsity years over a period of five consecutive college years counting from the date of matriculation.

2. In the event of a student's regular attendance being interrupted by military service in any of the armed forces, his period of eligibility shall be five years exclusive of his period of military service, except for the years in which, during his military service, he may have represented an educational institution.

3. Freshmen are eligible for varsity competition in racquetball.

4. Transfer students or graduates from a junior college may continue their racquetball competition without complying with the one-year residence rule. Total years of competition shall not exceed four years.

RULE III — NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

1. Eligibility of participants shall be verified prior to the tournament by letter from the Office of the Dean of Admissions or Registrar to the tournament director, with the school seal affixed.

2. Teams shall consist of four players from the same institution; teams cannot be comprised of players from the same system (ex., State of California University System). Members of a doubles entry must be from the same institution.

3. Scoring shall be as follows:

A Singles — two points each match win; except championship round, three points.

B Singles — one point each match win; except championship round, two points.

Doubles — two points each match win; except championship round, three points.

Seeded players who receive a bye shall be awarded points for the bye providing they win their first match.

Points for second, third, and fourth place shall be determined by the tournament committee at the tournament site.

No End In Sight For Boom In Court Clubs

Racquetball/handball court clubs continue to pop up around the nation bringing more courts and more racquetball players to areas throughout the country. Two of the most recent developments are featured on this page to give readers the answer to the most obvious question: Are court clubs feasible? The answer is a resounding YES.

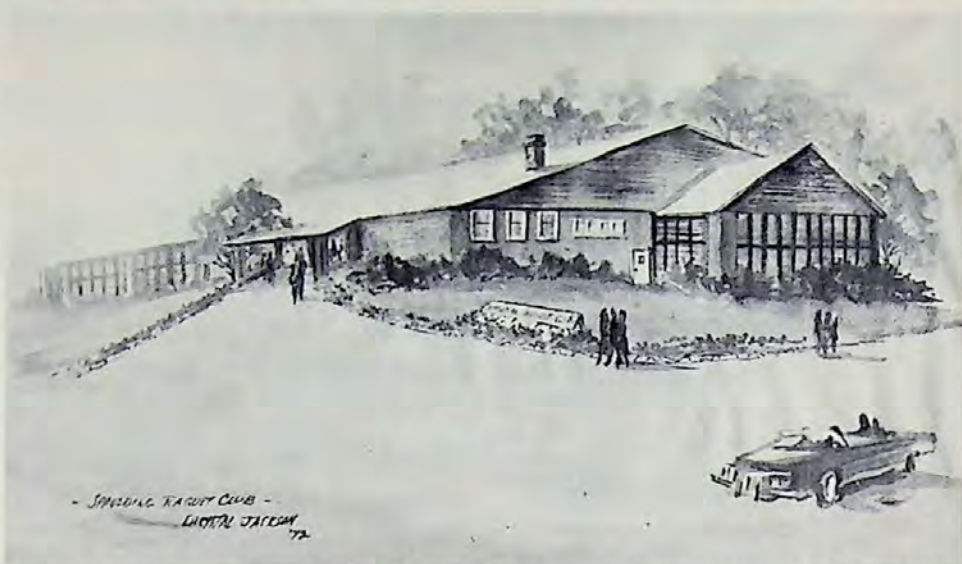
THE SPAULDING RACQUETBALL CLUB is soon to open in Manchester, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. As the name of the club denotes, the backers are primarily racquetball players, although the club welcomes any handballers wishing to become members and use the facility.

The club is located at 200 Enchanted Parkway, Manchester and will feature eight courts, men's and women's locker rooms, sauna, lobby and several courts with glass walls for increased spectator viewing.

Memberships in the SPAULDING RACQUETBALL CLUB are only \$35.00 per year for individuals and \$50.00 per year for families. Court time is rented on the basis of \$5.00 per hour. Members can enjoy other privileges such as weekly reserved court times and other advance reservations.

THE JEFFERSON COURT CLUB, 3325 Danny Park, Metairie, Louisiana, is the first of 10 planned Deep South court clubs featuring racquetball, handball, paddleball and squash.

"The purpose of each club," writes



An artist's version of the soon to be opened Spaulding Racquetball Club, in Manchester, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. The club is scheduled to open in late April or early May.

Michael Allen Williams, Chairman of the Board of Jefferson Court Club, Inc., "is to provide for its membership a multi-court, air conditioned facility for the play of these sports."

Several of the court clubs are planned for Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, the Greater New Orleans area, and each club will have a minimum of six courts. A multi-purpose pro shop will sell and rent equipment, refreshments, offer instruction and take court reservations.

Court Clubs will be the main topic of

conversation March 23-25 as the I.R.A., N.P.A., and U.S.H.A. host the first annual National Court Clubs Association seminar and meeting at the Chicago O'Hare Marriott Hotel.

All major court club personnel from around the nation have been invited with guest speakers covering all subjects regarding the court clubs from construction to financing.

Further details on the results of this meeting will appear in the May issue of RACQUETBALL.



Ground breaking in New Orleans

Divisional Results . . .

Just under the wire come the March 2-4 Divisional results, four of the five I.R.A. preliminary tournaments. All of them had high numbers of entries, extremely exciting racquetball, and some surprising winners.

In the Central Division, with play held at the Milwaukee Handball-Racquetball Club in suburban Wauwatosa, it was Ron Rubenstein, sharpening up his game by defeating Bill Schmidtke in the finals. The match was a battle of the current numbers two and three ranked players, with number two Rubenstein winning the three game match 21-15, 20-21, 21-18.

Doubles in the Central Divisional was taken by the surprising strong team of Galen Johnson and Joe Wirkus, who defeated Ron Strom and Steve Strandemo. Johnson-Wirkus hail from Green Bay and Reedsville, Wisconsin, while Strom-Strandemo play out of St. Cloud, Minne-

sota.

In the East George Rudysz had a big weekend, first copping the singles title over Charlie Garfinkel and then teaming with fellow New Britainite Mike Luciw to capture the doubles. It was Rudysz 21-13, 21-19 over Gar, and Rudysz-Luciw, the defending I.R.A. champs, then defeated the Cincinnati team of Tom Kutas and Rob Abrams in two straight games for the doubles crown.

Just trickles of reports from the West, where Steve Keeley captured the title, in a three game win over Bill Thurman. Reports are that the third game was a 21-19 nail-biter. Keeley-Drake captured doubles.

Only score from the Southwest is Steve Serot over Jerry Hilecher in the finals.

Total coverage of all the Divisionals in the May issue of RACQUETBALL.

OFFICIAL ENTRY

3rd PATERSON YMCA OPEN RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT, MAY 4-6

Please enter me in: OPEN SINGLES () OPEN DOUBLES () MASTER SINGLES ()

NAME _____ PARTNER _____
(Please Print) (Please Print)

ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

IRA CARD NO _____ CLUB/Y _____ IRA CARD NO _____ CLUB/Y _____

Make Checks Payable To: Fred Rizzo
275 Goffle Rd Hawthorne N.J. 07506

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the International Racquetball Association, the Paterson Branch YMCA, or their respective agents, representatives, successors, or assigns for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

Signature _____ Ph. No. _____
Partner's Signature _____ Ph. No. _____

HOUSING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

OFFICIAL ENTRY

1ST DAFFY OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, MAY 23-26

Please enter me in:

OPEN SINGLES (); B SINGLES (); C SINGLES (); OPEN DOUBLES (); WOMEN'S SINGLES (); MASTER'S SINGLES (); NOVICE SINGLES (). CONSOLATION PLAY IN ALL EVENTS.

NAME _____ PARTNER _____

ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

IRA # _____ CRA # _____ IRA # _____ CRA # _____

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or assignees, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Washington Racquetball Association and its officers; any athletic facility used for this tournament; or any contributor or donor to this event for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in this tournament, or any of the events related therein.

Signature _____ Ph. No. _____
Partner's Signature _____ Ph. No. _____

Tournament draw sheets will be mailed to each entrant one week prior to the tournament along with related maps and general information.

HOUSING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Chabot Gets The Donut; But It's Good News!

The Chabot Racquetball Club dominated the San Jose Doughnut Doubles Tourney held February 9 and 10. Forty doubles teams saw action in the five divisions sponsored by the San Jose YMCA.

In open doubles a packed gallery enjoyed an all-Chabot final as Bill Dunn and Bill Thurman won over Len Stream and Mark Wayne 21-19, 21-11. Dunn and Thurman opened up an early 17-7 lead that soon shrank to 18-13 and disappeared completely 18-19. A time out, a rollout by Thurman to regain the serve, and three more points gave Bill and Bill the first game.

The second game was never in doubt as Thurman killed well from deep court and Dunn controlled the front court with accurate drop shots. It marked the second straight tournament these two fine doubles teams have clashed in the finals. Dunn and Thurman also triumphed in that meeting taking the Christmas Classic title in San Diego 21-15, 21-19.

Mark Susson and Ron Starkman from Newport Beach captured third place over San Francisco's Louis Concha and Al Rossi 21-14, 21-15. A young and upcoming team from Chabot College, Bill Suvoy and Steve Ludwig won consolation over another Chabot team, Dennis Houghtelling and Dwayne Childress, 21-8, 21-13.

Challenger's doubles, 25 years and under, was won by Susson and Chico

Aguir over a promising new team from Los Angeles, Manny Velasquez and Rich Cormier, 21-12, 21-14. The San Jose tournament marked the first time Susson and Aguir have played together. Another outstanding young team, Chabot's Bob Fierro and Dick Lorenz, had to work hard to defeat Bill Rice and John Wolfe, also from Chabot, 21-17, 21-19, in order to win third. Houghtelling and "Lefty" Tony Krauss won consolation over Childress and Dorit Stern, 21-13, 18-21, 21-8.

The master's doubles title, 35 and over, was won by Don Green from Chabot and Marysville's Charlie Schumacher. They defeated Concha and Lee Griffin in a hard fought match 21-14, 21-15. Mike Bugel and Bill Dabney from San Francisco held on to win third by defeating Jerry Avila and Jerry Northwood 14-21, 21-19, 21-17 in a two-hour marathon. Fred Lemoin and Jim Keenan took consolation over Kurt Anslinger and Dr. Harsany 21-19, 21-16.

Golden Master's, 50 and over, and women's doubles were both round robin affairs due to insufficient entries with the team scoring the highest total points being declared the winner. George Brown and George Holland from San Diego won the Golden Master's by just two points over the second place team of Green and Bugel. The women's title went to Chabot's Dorit Stern and Sherrie Redmond with another Chabot team,

Mary Simon and Judy Friend, placing second.

The tournament was well run with Curt Blanding and Marv Snowbarger deserving most the credit. They promise that it will be an annual affair, so mark it down on the calendar.

Wisconsin Y.M.C.A.

La Crosse's Dave Lien and Wausau's Jerry Hoff captured the Wisconsin YMCA doubles racquetball championship knocking off Bill and Bob Schultz of Madison over the February 18th weekend.

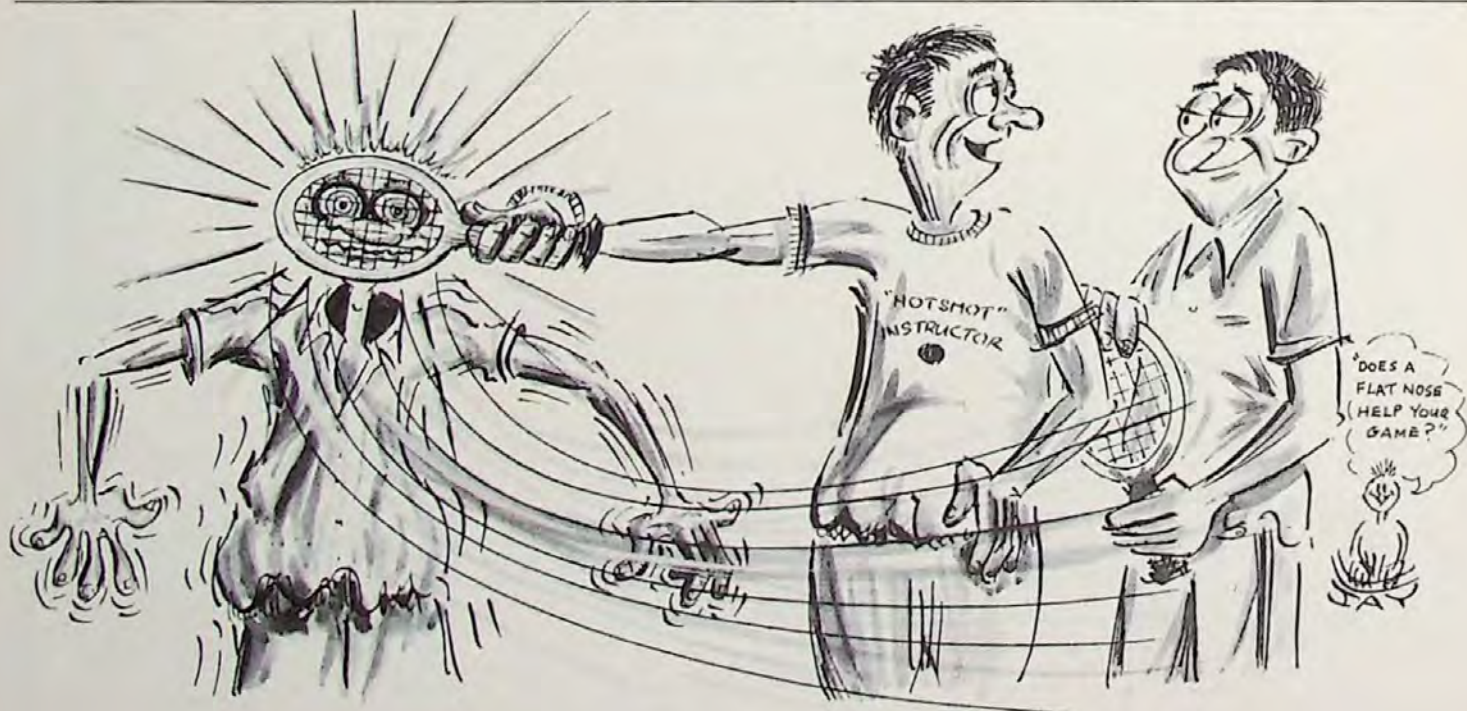
Lien and Hoff defeated the Madison team, which was also second last year, by winning the final two games after dropping the first. After losing 21-15, Lien-Hoff won 21-19, 21-18.

The Schultz duo got into the finals by beating La Crosse's Bob Schultz and Nook Blank 21-16, 21-2 while Lien-Hoff reached their way to the finals with 21-8, 21-16 victories over Don Zimmerman and Jerry Schultz of Wausau.

Blank and Schultz took third place with 21-10, 21-14 victories over Zimmerman and Schultz.

La Crosse's Dave Baptie and Ralph Scheck took the consolation crown with a 21-17, 12-21, 21-15 decision over Denny Hintz and Gary Fehrman of Port Edwards.

Baptie-Scheck had beaten La Crosse's Don Petrucelli-Sam Ruffolo 21-20, 21-7 to reach the finals. Hintz-Fehrman turned back La Crosse's Gene Fladen-Bill O'Leary 21-5, 21-9 in the semifinals.



"...and a quick backhand is all-important"

Strandemo's Rising Star Stopped By Old Pro Schmidtke in Winona

Well the racquets were swinging in this little town once again, so I thought I might relay the results to *Racquetball* in hopes of making the centerfold!

The tournament is officially called The Second Annual Linahan Invitational and Open Racquetball Tournament sponsored by the Holiday Inn of Winona. It was held at the Winona YMCA on December 1-2-3, the traditional dates for this annual tournament. The three day tourney attracted 94 singles entries in the Invitational Mens Singles, Open Mens Singles, Women Singles, Masters Singles, and 24 doubles teams in the Mens Open Doubles. This accounted for 168 matches during the three day tournament.

Bill Schmidtke, formerly of Port Edwards, Wisconsin, now managing an exclusive court club in the Twin Cities, successfully defended his title by defeating Steve Strandemo of St. Cloud 21-9 and 21-13 in Sunday's finals.

Strandemo, who finished third in last year's inaugural tournament, staged a determined comeback to reach the championship match. The Kenyon native was defeated by Mark Hegg of Sioux Falls, South Dakota 21-6 in his first semi-final game but fought back to win the next two tilts 21-7 and 21-20. This match with Hegg was labeled the most exciting display of racquetball held throughout the whole tourney. Schmidtke whipped John Rude of Sioux Falls in his semi-final match. In the consolation finals, for those losers in the opening 16 matches, Bob McNamara of Minneapolis defeated Galen Johnson of Appleton, Wisconsin 21-11 and 21-20.

Paul Nelson of Waunakee, Wisconsin, took the measure of Phil Dziuk of Champaign, Illinois, 21-15 and 21-7 to win the masters singles title. Winona's Bill Colclough was the consolation champion in the masters bracket by virtue of a 21-6, 21-10 win over Dave Baptie of LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

In a separate 32 man Open Singles bracket, John Travaglio of Champaign, Illinois, emerged as the champion after topping Obid Oas of Moorhead, Min-

nesota, by identical 21-15 scores in the finals. Dorwin Marquardt of Fargo, North Dakota, held off Mike Kulas of Winona 21-5 and 21-19 for the consolation honors.

After beating the defending Mid-American champion Marilyn Schwartz of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, in the semis, Peggy Pruitt of Champaign went on to win the Womens Open singles title with 21-10 and 21-18 wins over last years second place finisher from Minneapolis, Barb Tennesen. Bonnie Blackwell of Winona knocked off Joan Santleman of Rochester 21-3 and 21-2 in the consolation finals.

Steve Strandemo and his partner Ron Strom from St. Cloud, Minnesota, outlasted John Rude and Mark Hegg 21-11 and 21-20 for the doubles Title. Dr. Chuck Schafer of Winona and Galen Johnson combined to win the doubles consolation bracket.

Special thanks goes to all those who helped make this Second Annual tournament the best ever. The members of the Winona Racquetball Association are to be congratulated on their splendid organization throughout the 38 hours on the court — for fun was had by all the entries from eight states.

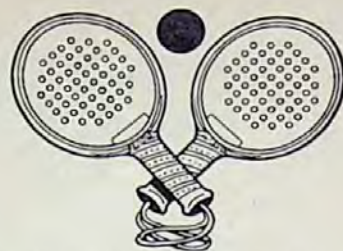
BOB FERRIS



(Above right) Tourney chairman Bob Ferris (l.) presents Steve Strandemo with his first place doubles trophy. Others pictured are (l. to r.) Ron Strom, Strandemo's doubles partner, John Rude and Mark Hegg, runners-up, and Tom Dobbins, Y physical director.

(Right) Ferris and Dobbins present Strandemo and Schmidtke with their awards.

The Paddleball Picture



Over the years many articles have been written about handball, and more recently much has been written about racquetball. Seldom has anything been written about paddleball.

What I have to say about this sport was gained from my own experiences over the past 23 years. These ideas and conclusions are not necessarily my own, but they have helped me to some degree of success. They may or may not help you, but for what they are worth, I would like to pass them on to you.

Properly fitted clothing is very important. It should be loose enough to allow freedom of movement but not so loose that a ball could hit it unnecessarily. A pair of well fitting shoes is probably the most important single item that a person wears. I like them snug but not tight. Clean, well cushioned socks are also important to prevent blisters and foot soreness.

Like everything else that one learns to do well, good paddleball depends on *good* practice more than any other factor. Practice does not make perfect. It only means that the way you are practicing becomes a part of the technique you use when playing in competition. It goes without saying then that imperfect practice makes for imperfect results, and half-hearted efforts turn into "half-baked" results. Practice tends to make perfect only if the practice is perfect.

In practice, I like to follow the old adage of "Give until it hurts, then give a little more." I will practice until it hurts, then practice a little more. Game situations get you into the position where you have to give that "little bit" extra. If you have not done it in practice, you may not be able to respond in a competitive game situation.

Intense concentration is important. Securing and sustaining that concentration is difficult to do. During practice I like to play games, competing with or against myself, so I do not become bored. I will see how many shots I can kill off the back wall into the right-hand corner. If I kill three in a row, then I will try to better that number. Next I will try to kill in the left-hand corner, etc. Hitting the soft lob is an important part of my game, so I will try these shots next. I will alternate these shots to better simulate game conditions.

The ability to sustain effort and concentration can be built by regular and conscientious practice. The minute you lose interest in one type of shot in practice, change to something else. In this

way you can gradually build the ability to sustain the effort and concentration needed to play well against stiff competition. Do not forget that only *good* practice brings good results.

Washing all the oil out of my hands before a game is absolutely essential. More slippage is caused from perspiration mixed with the oil in the hands than perhaps any other factor. I also reverse the tape on the handle (adhesive side up) to give me a better grip. Most players could not do this because they adjust grips for the backhand. I would not recommend this unless your hands are conditioned for it. You may end up with blisters.

Everyone has his own warm-up exercises. I like to jog just enough to get the circulation going. At my age, I need every bit of energy I can muster in the court, so I never overdo the exercising outside the court.

It takes long, diligent practice to attain a smooth swing that incorporates the fundamentals needed to achieve maximum power. It is important that you swing hard, but it is absolutely essential that you do not overswing. *Always* swing under control. *Do not sacrifice accuracy for power.* Do not make the mistake of becoming so obsessed with power that you rely solely on it to win. You will never over-power the good players. The power shot is only one of a mixture of the basics needed to win against good competition.

In hitting the hard shot, keep the wrist very loose and snap it into the ball as you swing. Shift the weight from the back foot to the front foot so you are hitting against your left side. The same principle applies here for the golfer hitting for distance, or the baseball pitcher stepping and throwing against his forward leg. This gives you that little bit extra.

On the power serve, practice bouncing the ball and hitting for accuracy as well

as power. Without accuracy the power serve is useless. About seven out of ten mistakes stem from a poor toss, so practice this often. Keep the ball away from the body and well out in front to achieve maximum power. To obtain this maximum impact without losing control of the ball, you must be able to place your body in a position that permits you to uncoil as you hit the ball and still maintain balance and position on the follow through. If you are a beginner, eliminate some of the body motion at first, then as you progress, you can increase the body movement.

I like to kill any shot that gives me the percentages, so I frequently find an opponent cheating on me and playing close to the front wall. Hitting the power shot about "belly-button" high is very effective against this type of player, but be sure it is low enough to keep the ball from coming off the back wall and allowing your opponent to get the easy kill.

Use the power shot judiciously, trying to hit it in spots where it will do the most good. A change of pace sometimes helps. Any power shot is of little value unless you have a fairly good idea where the ball is going. Control of the shot is gained mainly through practice. For me, a lighter than average paddle works the best.

In conclusion, I would like to say that paddleball is a game for everyone, because it is an individual game; each player adjusting his tempo to that which will give him and his opponent the greatest personal enjoyment. It is a game that is easy to learn and one that beginners enjoy immediately. This fun usually is short-lived however, because the real, long lasting fun comes with increasing skill. Progressive development of fundamental skills will offer you many hours of pleasure. Where can you find a better place to take out all the frustrations of modern living than in the paddleball courts repeatedly smashing that little round rubber ball?



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Austin Captures Fifth Straight Texas Open

The fifth annual Texas State Open Racquetball Tournament was held at the Houston Downtown Y.M.C.A. on December 1-3. Play was held in open singles, open doubles, Masters singles and consolation singles. Players represented all areas of the state of Texas in the tourney.

Pre-tournament favorites came through in open singles and masters singles, but it was a different story in the open doubles finals.

Jim Austin, Houston, four time and defending state champ, successfully gained his fifth consecutive title in the open singles bracket. He defeated a field of 36 players including Richard Walker, Dallas in the finals 21-6, 21-6. Bill Sellars, Dallas, won third place by defeating Dino Solomon, Houston.

Consolation singles was captured by Bill Hearn, Houston, over Duane Hendricks, Houston, 21-16, 21-14. Ralph Holliday, Houston, took third place.

The Masters singles went pretty much as expected with Milton Karp of the Houston J.C.C. and seeded second defeating B. J. Knott, Dallas in the finals 21-19, 21-4. Knott had upset top-seeded E. L. Terry, Dallas in the semis 21-17, 21-20. Terry took third place.

Eleven teams entered the open doubles, highlighted by Bob Hill and Richard Speer of the Houston J.C.C., the defending champs and number one seeded tandem. Austin and Dewey Strickland, Houston, were expected to be a tough



STRICKLAND (L.) AND AUSTIN

team and were, defeating Terry and Karp in the second round 21-15, 12-21, 21-5. In the semi-finals they topped second seeded Sellars and Walker 21-15, 12-21, 21-9.

Hill and Speer reached the finals easily but there the fun ended. Austin-Strickland took a commanding 16-6 lead

in game one, only to have to struggle to hold on to a 21-19 victory. Game two started similarly, with Austin-Strickland jumping to a 14-5 advantage, but this time there was no comeback and the final score was 21-8. Sellars-Walker captured third place over Dino and David Solomon.

Brumfield, Myron-Bud Cop Phoenix Honors

Charlie Brumfield won the first annual Phoenix Open Racquetball tournament reports Associate Physical Director Keith Talley of the Phoenix Downtown Y.M.C.A. Brumfield won by default over Myron Roderick, who could not play due to a pulled groin muscle.

Bud Muehleisen and Roderick did manage to win the open doubles, defeating Brumfield and Jan Campbell in the finals.

Brumfield reached the finals by topping Mark Deutsch, of Arizona State Univer-

sity, in a tough semi-final match 21-13, 21-20. Deutsch is the Arizona State paddleball champ and switch to racquetball just two weeks prior to the tournament.

In the other semi-final match Roderick downed Len Stream, Hayward, California 21-4, 21-5.

The B Singles was won by Dick Kunze, San Diego, who defeated Ken Creese 21-15, 21-10 in the finals.

In a ladies exhibition, Jan Campbell defeated Jan Pasternak.

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We Stand Corrected

Dear Chuck,

The latest issue of *Racquetball* was even better than the first. It had nothing to do with the fact that my name was mentioned seven times.

Seriously, I have been fortunate enough to play in both National Tennis and Squash Championships, and I have never seen better coverage or photography than *Racquetball*. You and your staff are to be commended.

However, there are a few mistakes in the magazine.

1. In the Nittany Lion Open I did not eat a minimum of 12 cookies before each match. It was only 11.

2. Tom Sweeney said I definitely was not the most beautiful person in the tourney. Well, I didn't mind finishing second behind Tom.

3. Also, Ron Rubenstein did beat me badly in Cleveland in 1971. BUT — the scores were 21-14, 21-5, not 21-5, 21-3 as stated in January *Racquetball*.

4. It was also stated that in my match against Steve Serot in the National Invitational that I was too tired to even talk. Someone said that "he's never too tired to talk." Not true!! On January 2, 1957 I arrived home at 5 in the morning. I was too tired to talk. P.S. (I did manage two whispers)

5. It was also stated that Brumfield and Muehleisen had never lost a doubles match. NOT TRUE!! In the first IRA doubles they lost to Mike Anzalone and Angelo Veechio of Cleveland.

In closing, I am only happy and thrilled that I was involved in this great game. I think the Association, Bob Kendler, Chuck Leve, and everyone else are doing a great job. By the way Chuck, can you send me \$400.00 for the IRS?

THE GAR
Buffalo, NY

No More Massages

Dear Mr. Kendler:

I appreciated the first copy of your magazine. I thought you might like a few thoughts.

As a player, I would like to see more discussion on technique, conditioning and strategy and less on the ego massaging of some of the country's top players. There are many racquetball enthusiasts who enjoy the game but don't have the time, or in some cases the ability, for the series of tournaments. I would think that you might like to broaden the appeal of your magazine.

As far as I could see, there was little discussion of techniques in the first issue, I hope to see this changed in your subsequent issues.

GARY W. GREEN

Price Too High?

Dear Chuck:

In looking at the upcoming divisionals, I seriously question whether we are moving in the right direction.

The way I see it, the divisionals should serve two functions: first, to qualify players for the Internationals; and second, to encourage racquetball tournament play in that section of the country by providing a tournament close to most players. We're trying to interest people in our game and encourage them to get involved.

I fail to see how raising the entry fee to \$12 (\$24 if playing both singles and doubles) does this. We're encouraging only the wealthy and/or very dedicated. We have a number of young (20-25 year olds) developing players who have limited financial means. While they realize they will only improve through increased competition, the thought of paying \$12-24 only on the entry fee emits the response; forget it. With only open competition they know they don't have a prayer of playing very long.

I doubt that the idea of flashy trophies or a big banquet appeals to them significantly. They're interested in playing racquetball. If lowering the entry fee means cutting down on the above, fine. Let's encourage our players rather than cut them off.

THOMAS D. McKIE
Stillwater, OK

Sonny Who?

Dear Chuck,

Just received the Inaugural Issue of "Racquetball"; I beg to differ with Sonny Marcus regarding his ranking in the State of Florida.

True, he may be number 3 through 10, but he never made it to the finals in the State Tournament, held in Clearwater, October 13th. through 15th.

Steve Walker of Clearwater played Hugh Durham from Tallahassee, with Steve being number one.

May I suggest Mr. Marcus come out of retirement.

BRIGITTE HO
Clearwater, FL

Agreed!

Dear Mr. Leve:

As a neophyte to racquetball, I find your new publication most interesting especially the instructional series by Charlie Brumfield. However, would you not agree with me that the series would be even better if Mr. Brumfield would have illustrations with the series? A picture of the proper grip would have been most valuable. We really didn't need a picture of Mr. Brumfield on that page since his picture can be found in nine other places in the January issue.

May I make another suggestion which your readers might appreciate. I have looked everywhere for books on racquetball, but to no avail. Perhaps your magazine could print a list of books available and where to buy them. The Association may even wish to sell them to its members as a matter of convenience . . . not to mention profit.

STANLEY W. PUGH, O. D.
Tacoma, WA

Peanut Butter Shot?

Dear Mr. Leve,

We are playing racquetball at Berea College with great vigor. Led by master player Mr. Wilson Evans (father to Bill Evans) we have bi-monthly tournaments arranged for staff, alumni, students, and friends, either doubles and/or singles.

One phrase gaining popularity around Berea's courts is the "peanut butter" shot — or rather one that has a bit of "skippy" to it.

With various staff members such as Leigh Jones, Elvin Combs, and Wilson Evans promoting the sport on Berea's two courts we find our facility and equipment being strained by abundant use.

RACQUETBALL is being read here in Berea, Kentucky by many. Please keep up the fine work.

ROBERT PEARSON, Chairman
Health and Physical Education

Look Him Up

Dear Chuck:

I just wanted to express, through RACQUETBALL magazine, my thanks to Mr. Dick First of Miami, Florida. On a recent short vacation there, my old friend Sonny Marcus took me to Dick's office, where Dick had installed a racquetball court, sauna and locker area. There were a bevy of players around and I got in some nice workouts.

I was not alone among the welcome guests, as I understand Bob Yellin from New Britain, Connecticut also found his way to Dick's court. Dick keeps gym shoes, shorts, shirts and other equipment of all sizes for any out of towners who happen by.

So, once again, to Sonny and Dick, thanks.

SAM CARL
Chicago, IL

European Racquetball

Dear Chuck,

I just wanted to drop you a few lines as to the racquetball happenings here in Germany. As you probably know our Air Force Sports Program is quite large, especially in overseas areas such as Europe and the Far East. Here in Europe we have three Sports Conferences with approximately 10 Bases representing each conference. Each conference has a yearly program consisting of about 20 varsity sports; that is, teams representing each Base or Installation. The sports range from football to wrestling and many other sports, such as soccer, that are not offered in many places in the United States.

This year our conference Director, Mr. Buz Bennett, added Racquetball to the Continental Sports Conference program. The interest in racquetball has been unbelievable over the past few years. On our small Base alone we have two indoor four wall courts and almost 150 players on base. I understand that it is equally popular on the other bases throughout Europe.

We had eight bases enter the racquetball pilot program. Each team consists of four to eight of their installations top players. Each match consists of four singles and two doubles matches, with the best two out of three games played per match. The winner is determined by the team winning the most matches. If both teams are tied in number of matches

won then the determining factor is the number of games won. If both teams are also tied in number of games won then the total number of points scored by each team will determine the winner. The competition has been tough and results outstanding.

Thanks for all you and your fine magazine have done in creating interest and expanding the sport of racquetball.

We are hosting at our base (Hahn AB, Germany) the 1973 Continental Sports Conference and United States Air Force in Europe Championships 26 April - 5 May 73. Has there been any rule changes for 1973? If so would it be asking too much to send them to us or any other information that might be helpful.

JOHN C. PRIVETT
TSGT. USAF
Athletic Director
Hahn AB, Germany

Chabot Show

Dear Mr. Leve:

Four racquetball enthusiasts drove a hundred miles to the Monterey Peninsula to give a two hour demonstration on the fine points and the fundamentals of the game to our men's club.

We have just begun playing racquetball and now our local sportshops are sold out of racquets and balls.

It was great to watch good athletes perform well and enjoy what they were doing.

Forty-seven of us had the pleasure of their company and their instruction.

I asked them what I could do for them in return for their drive and efforts. Their answer was: "write to Charley Leve".

To: Keith Calkins, Bill Dunn, Len Stream, and Bill Thurman: it was a fantastic experience and we can not thank them enough.

It seems that my thanks should also go to you.

Thank you.

THOMAS C. WHITE III
Monterey, CA

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Handball

By MORT LEVE

Bill Peoples carried the University of Montana team to the USHA National Intercollegiate championships, piling up the decisive points in winning the A singles over Jeff Barnes, University of Texas, 13-21, 21-10, 21-18. Texas, team winner in eight of the last ten nationals, finished second to Montana, 20-17. Lake Forest College wound up third with 14 points. It was a big win for the youngsters from the Big Sky country and their coach, Jud Heathcote. The championships were held at the 11-court (includes the all-plexiglass spectator court) University of Tennessee facility in Knoxville.

The Knoxville Handball Association is making a firm bid for the 1974 USHA open nationals with play to be held at the university.

In connection with those '74 open nationals we plan a change in format of our intercollegiates. We would have two "Super" divisionals — West and East, preceded by strategically sited regionals, and then have the winners of the divisionals, and perhaps the runnersup, come into Knoxville to play it off the last two days of the big show. This would give the collegiates a chance to win a trip to the finale and also see the semis and finals of the nationals. University of Colorado would be an ideal locale for the West super as they have just opened their marvelous sports complex that includes ten courts, with two side by side courts with one side wall each of glass and back wall of glass. Three other courts have back wall glass and it is no doubt the finest battery of gallery courts to be found anywhere.

Memphis State University will host the East super at another of the nation's best facilities. Lige Turman is the man in motion for us there.

With 104 official entries at Knoxville we hit a new high. There were 12 teams entered (team consists of A singles, B singles and a doubles), and 35 individual schools. Previous high was 89. Dr. Ben Plotnicki was host chairman, ably assisted by his son, John, who came in from his graduate studies at Colorado State U. to serve as floor manager.

Response has been very good for the March 23-25 National Court Clubs Association seminar-meeting at the Chicago Marriott. Fee is \$25 for Court Club owner-managers which gives them official membership in the Association and one representative fee to the confab, and \$10 for individuals. If this magazine reaches interested parties prior to the weekend dates late-hour reservations can be made by calling: Mort Leve, Area Code 312, 673 4000.

Sorry to report that our good friend and "Coach of the Generation" Bob Davidson suffered another stroke in Miami Beach and is now on the slow mend. Bob, our national junior chairman, expects to bounce back as he did several years ago.

With three successive trips to Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Austin, I'm sure to wind up with a "Y'all . . . pardner".

The second USHA National Invitational Masters, (over 40) Golden Masters, (over 50) AND — SUPER Golden Masters, (over 60!) singles was even more successfully hosted at the Chattanooga Y by Ed Ellett, Coyel Ricketts, Joe Timberlake & Co.

Tom Schoendorf, the amiable and most talented "youngster" from Milwaukee, came through in the over-40 bracket, beating Atlanta's Joe Salome, Phil Elbert, Chicago, vacated the crown as he was unable to defend because of a healing arm problem.

Julie Rothman, Far Rockaway, N.Y., with the youthful whip arm, beat his open Masters doubles partner, Billy Gluck, in the over-50. This was another vacated throne as Bill Feivou, Los Angeles, was not present.

And, in our new "baby", that ageless and talented George Brotemarkle won the over-60 that had a very encouraging 14 entrants. George beat Joe Ardito of the national office staff. The two had split games and at the start of the third game Joe pulled a shoulder muscle and had to default.

Alex Guerry of Chattanooga, one of the leaders of national amateur tennis, and himself both a handball and racquetball buff, has been a pioneer of tennis' age bracketing that spirals up to age 75, and he prodded us to include the over-60. It was more or less an experimental competition and it was 100% successful. And, don't let anyone tell you that the weekend schedule is too tough for these veterans. They thrive on it.

And, let us "make one thing perfectly clear" . . . ALL these great ol' guys played off their third place matches — with vim, vigor and all-out effort.

In the planning stages . . . call from Carl Porter, Tucson sports editor . . . eight court club, 10 courts planned for Auburn University . . . five more courts being added to the three at the Aurora YMCA (has the full glass side and back walled court that was the site of the 1958 "world series of handball" finals).

Flash! Flash! Flash! Straight from the now-in-progress U.S.H.A. Nationals at press time. The 1974 edition of Handball's finest tournament, will be at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, March 9-16, 1974.

The Tennessee organization did a bang-up job with the Inter-collegiates and also showed they can handle a Nationals with the 1972 National Paddleball Championships hosted at UT and very successfully.

The University has 11 courts including a spectacular exhibition/championship court with glass from floor to ceiling on three walls. Seating at the glass court is over 600, making for a truly exciting feature.

Latest results from Texas and the current Nationals: Quarter-final round: Singer over defending champ Fred Lewis; Muck over Graybill; August over Russo; and Paul Haber, attempting an unexpected comeback bid, over Pfeifer. Semi's results: Muck over Haber, August over Singer. Get all the info in the April issue of HANDBALL.



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Another Angel Joins the Team. . .

"Angel" may not be just the right word, but I can't think of anything more appropriate to call a man who volunteers to sponsor a worthwhile cause. In show business, being an angel implies glory and money. In the racquetball business, it implies philanthropy and support. Bud Leach just became racquetball's angel.

Unless you were around when we started and the going was rough, you will never know why we revere our angels. In handball, we started with that wonderful president of Spalding, Ed Parker, who made it possible for handball to survive. Then along came Don Strong, vice-president of Seamless, who was another priceless benefactor. John Fabry, president of Saranac Gloves, added his name to the list of illustrious men who give and give and give—even if there is some conflict with their business yield. They are a peculiar breed of men who live by the philosophy that it is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich.

Bud Leach just gave up a substantial part of his income to help us make racquetball a bigger, better game. He very well could have taken a selfish course and ignored the fact that a major portion of our income is derived from the sale of endorsed products, and racquets are a major product. Now you will understand when we begin urging you to buy Leach racquets—not only because Bud has given us an outstanding racquet, but also because he is plowing back into the sport some of his harvest.

Please forgive me, Bud, for telling the players what I think of you. To start with, you are tremendously dynamic. You are tough, exacting, and very creative. I think you will be wonderful for us because you already have been wonderful for the players. When I look at the record and see the large number of players you send to tournaments, how you made one improvement after another in your equipment, I feel you will be a blessing to all of us. I hope you'll continue to come up with more ideas, new products, and broader markets, and you are just the guy who can! We'll try to keep up with you, and I am confident racquetball will be immeasurably benefitted.

Frankly, I think this is the beginning of a meaningful relationship. With your inventive genius, there are

many areas we can explore together for the mutual interest of all racquetball players. Who knows? With your dedication, we might plant racquetball in every land, and finally in the Olympics.

Players everywhere should know that you have now made it possible for us to hold finer tournaments, conduct important seminars, print more instructional articles and send players to championships who couldn't make it otherwise. Isn't it good to know that God has blessed someone else through us? That the best way to do good to ourselves is to do it to others? That the right way to gather is to scatter?

You know all this or you wouldn't have joined our team. Leach Industries deserves every bit of the players' business. In handball we say, "*The United States Handball Association is supported by your purchase of Ace products.*" To this we now add, "*The International Racquetball Association is supported by your purchase of Leach products.*" Thank you sincerely, Bud, we needed you. We hope you need us. I pray our players will realize how important you are to us, and never buy a racquet that is not sponsored by our Association and manufactured by you.

We ought to tell the players how carefully we test the racquets we sponsor. They should know that we are not only interested in income, we are more interested in improving the play. That's why we came to you, Bud. You knew more about racquetball players and racquetball play than any other manufacturer. I suppose that's because you were smart enough to surround yourself with players like Charlie Brumfield, Steve Keeley, Mike Zeitman, and Jan Campbell. That was the smartest thing you ever did. If you want to know about racquetball, talk to racquetball players. The hell with the geniuses! Just listen to the men in the trenches. And that's what you did.

May I leave you with one thought, Bud? You are going to be a great man, if you aren't already. You are going to have the loyalty of every player in racquetball. Not because you're so intelligent, not because you're so good-looking, or because you have a lot of moxie—it's because you extended your hand in giving, and thus it is that your hand is *out, open*, and prepared to receive. Bless you, Bud!

BOB KENDLER

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