

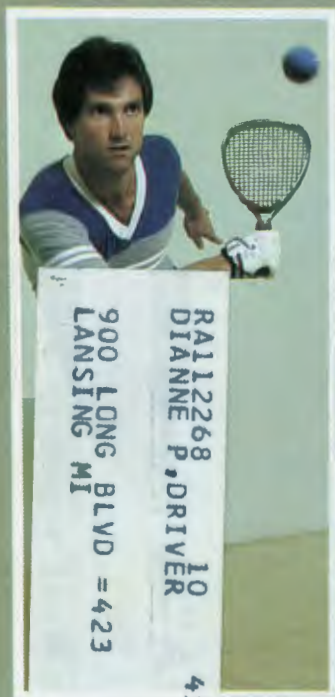
FREE BALLS OFFER INSIDE!

National Racquetball®

Vol. 12 No. 9 September, 1983

\$2.00

DON THOMAS: RACQUETBALL'S COVER BOY



SERIOUS INJURY
CLOUDS DAVE
PECK'S FUTURE

2ND ANNUAL
RACQUET GUIDE

5 WAYS
TO IMPROVE
YOUR SERVES

WILL STARKS
STOP THE ALIEN
INVADERS?
FIND OUT
IN PART II



**Smash me.
Crush me.
Splat me.
Kill me.**



**I'll stay
forever
true blue.**

**The Wilson TruBlue.
Our liveliest,
longest-lasting racquetball ever.**

Wilson[®] TruBlue

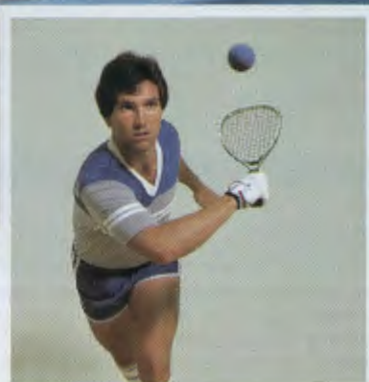
*"What's your
Racquet.
Don Thomas?"*



PURE WOOL®

The sewn-in Woolmark label is your assurance of quality-tested fabrics made of the world's best... Pure Wool.

Don Thomas—United States
Racquetball Professional



On the court it's Racquetball. At the club it's Racquet™ pure wool suits and sportcoats—contemporary natural shoulder clothing.

National Racquetball®

Vol. 12 No. 9 September, 1983

Contents

Editorial

From the Editor 4

Letters 6

EXTRA! 8

Features

Don Thomas: Racquetball's Cover Boy 10

Serious Leg Injury Clouds Peck's Future by Bill Adeo 12

National Racquetball's Annual Racquet Guide 24

What You Told Us About Your Racquets 28

Instructional

Middle Court Play: Where The Game Is Won Or Lost (Part II)
by Lou Fabian 15

5 Ways To Improve Your Serve by Steve Mondry 18

Improving Shots You Should Never Take by Kathy Williams 21

New Products 31

Fiction

Once Upon A Planet (Part II) by Steve Galliford 32

Travel

Hyatt Hotels Handle Your Racquetball Needs by Victor Block 36

Tournament Results 38

On the cover . . .

Don Thomas, racquetball's only bonafide model, talks about his position with Hart, Schaffner & Marx, as well as his other interests like restauranteering, exercise equipment, family, and oh yes, racquetball, where he's been top eight for over five years. Story on page 10.

— photos courtesy of Hart, Schaffner & Marx

Next issue . . .

If it's October it must be time for shoes — and *National Racquetball's* annual Shoe Guide. We'll have more info on what is or isn't happening on the pro scene, a few interesting personality profiles, and lots of instruction, travel and tournament results.

National Racquetball

is published monthly by
Publication Management, Inc.
1800 Pickwick Ave.
Glenview, Illinois 60025
(312) 724-7856
National Racquetball • (ISSN 0161-7966)

Publisher

• Hugh Morgan •

Associate Publisher/Editor

• Chuck Leve •

Associate Editor

• Lise Goerth •

Design Director

• Milt Presler •

Contributing Editors

• Bill Adeo • Victor Block •

• Lou Fabian • Steve Galliford •

• Helen Herber • Steve Mondry •

• Kathy Williams •

Circulation Manager

• Judi Bayer •

Photographic Consultant

• Arthur Shay •

Advertising information requests should be addressed to Advertising Manager, *National Racquetball Magazine*, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, Illinois 60025. Or call (312) 724-7856. Copy subject to approval of publisher.

All editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor, *National Racquetball Magazine*, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, Illinois 60025.

Manuscripts must be typewritten and double-spaced.

Color and black-and-white photographs are welcome.

Please enclose a self-addressed envelope for return of manuscripts and photos.

Subscriptions are \$16 for one (1) year. Rates are for U.S., possessions and military. Canadian subscriptions are \$20 per year. All subscriptions payable in U.S. funds.

Foreign subscriptions are \$20 per year plus postage.

Second class postage paid at Glenview, Illinois and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster send form 3579 to

National Racquetball

1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, Illinois 60025.

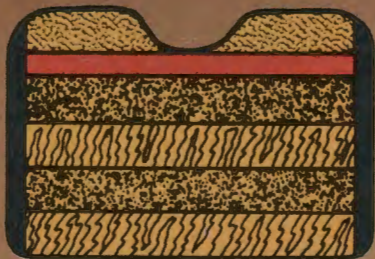
(Please allow 6 to 8 weeks between the time subscription form is mailed and receipt of first issue.)

National Racquetball © 1983.

All rights reserved.

Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

The Answer.



The Graphite 260, cross section:
A unique lamination of
maple, ash, bamboo
and graphite.



Racquet
weight 245 grams.

If you've been looking for a racquet that will complement your game, look no further ... The new Graphite 260 from DP Leach is the answer to your needs.

The Graphite 260 features an ingenious combination of maple, ash, bamboo and graphite laminates, resulting in a light yet powerful racquet. This handsomely designed racquet is shipped with an attractive cover that matches the brilliant three-color racquet frame. In addition to all of these outstanding features, the Graphite 260 also has a contour-molded bumper guard for added racquet protection.

The Graphite 260. The answer you've been looking for.

DP[®] LEACH
Fit for Life 

SPORTS AMERICA

CALL TOLL FREE

1-800-327-6460

★ Ektelon ★

CBK	139.99
250C	79.99
Citori	57.99
Magnum II	51.99
Marathon Graphite	41.99
Interceptor	35.99
CR200	31.99
Blue Lite	29.99

★ Leach ★

Hogan Graphite USA	99.99
Hogan Steel	62.99
Hogan Graphite 8000	62.99
Hogan Graphite 240	41.99

★ Wilson ★

Composite Plus	69.99
EPIC / PWS	39.99
Graphite Boss	29.99

★ Voit ★

Pacer	79.99
Impact I	36.99
Impact II	43.99
Impact M	32.99
Impact L	34.99

★ Head ★

Graphite Express	69.99
Head Professional	45.99
Head Master	37.99
Head Standard	29.99

★ Bags ★

Ektelon Classic Court Bag	21.99
Ektelon All Court Bag	21.99
Ektelon Tournament Bag	19.99
Ektelon Rollout Bag	15.99
Head Racquet Sport Bag	21.99

★ Gloves ★

Saranac R-200	9.99
Champion Tigergrip	9.99
Ektelon Marathon	11.99
Ektelon Cabretta	9.99
Ektelon Synthetic	7.99

★ Accessories ★

Ektelon Eye Sentry	24.99
Ektelon Interceptor	21.99
Ektelon Court Specs	6.99
Foster Grant Eye Guard	12.99
Gexco Racquetball Saver	7.99
Tournagrip (Enough for 3 racquets)	3.50
Shoe Goo	2.99

★ Shoes ★

Nike Allcourt	19.99
Nike Bruin	29.99
Asahi Leather	29.99
Asahi Canvas	19.99
K-Swiss	29.99
Adidas Grand Prix	34.99
Adidas R. Laver	33.99
Adidas S. Smith	33.99

ALL EQUIPMENT IS FIRST QUALITY
All racquets come w/covers, as supplied from mfg.
Add \$2.50 for shipping & hdlg. in the 48 states.
FL residents add 5%. Prices subject to change.
APO-FPO - \$2.50 extra

SPORTS AMERICA

P.O. Box 26148, Tamarac, FL 33320

WE SHIP WORLDWIDE TELEX NO. 44 1120

CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-327-6460

IN FLA. 1-800-432-0212



Write or call for free catalog

From The Editor . . .

A New Season

I can hardly believe I'm entering my fourteenth racquetball season! All I can remember is that when I started in this business I had no gray hair. A few years later they called it prematurely gray. Now, my wife suggests hair coloring to darken it. How time flies.

Yes, the new season is upon us. Welcome 1983-84! It's about time!

There's a breath of optimism in the air, I don't know if it's touched you yet, but it's definitely there. The manufacturers are gearing up for a bigger and better year, with new models, improvements and exciting plans.

The club owners are gearing up for a record year, coming on the heels of the least disastrous summer in recent memory. With the likelihood that diversification in clubs has spared many much of the pain of summertime, the owners too look forward to the new season.

Promotionally, the trend continues toward the "grass roots" (I'm still searching for one — those buggers intertwine like mad throughout my would-be garden) which bodes well for Luke St. Onge and his AARA. Amateurs, for a change, are "in."

We here at *National Racquetball* are pleased to usher in the new season with our first, major experiment with newsstand sales. So, if you're reading this while your grocery bill is rung up, or if you picked us up en route to another publication — welcome. We're the world of racquetball.

I guess everybody is looking forward to the new season except the pros. I apologize. I should be more specific. I guess everybody is looking forward to the new season except the *men* pros. The women seem to be hanging in there with their 12-15, \$10,000 events.

Of course, the men have that much laying around too, but they're not satisfied. "What? You expect *me* to play in your lousy little tournament for \$2,500 first place money? Are you kidding? I get twice that just to *show* up in some places!



Ah well, life in the pros is interesting, if not exciting. Dethroned Marty Hogan is going into the racquet business; injured Dave Peck is struggling to recover; and champion Mike Yellen is looking for someplace to defend his top rank.

The elusive "umbrella sponsor" that the women gave up on two years ago still eludes the men, who can't understand why so many companies either take a pass on racquetball or send their money to the grass roots.

"There isn't a grass root alive who can roll out a reverse pinch from 37 feet," said one pro to me recently. "Why do people spend their money on those losers?" And I think he was serious.

So it seems we've turned back the racquetball clock a few years — back to an era where the game's the thing, where people played and promoted racquetball because it was fun, fitness and first rate exercise in a short period of time.

So racquetball will continue to grow as a participant sport; an amateur sport. An enjoyable, competitive, calorie-burning sport for men and women, old and young. Racquetball will turn to the very attributes that made it popular in the first place.

And you know what? Worse things have happened. ●

Chuck Lane

OMEGA HARNESSES THE POWER OF TITANIUM.

Introducing the only Titanium racquetball racquet on earth. The strength of steel with half the weight.

Titanium is found in the sun. In meteorites. In the earth's crust. Even in the human body itself. It is prized by man because it has the strength of steel with only half the weight.

This rare power has been exploited primarily in the design of the most sophisticated aircraft and missiles. Until now.

Now, Omega has harnessed one of the great powers of the universe into one awesome racquetball racquet. Lightweight. Strong. Flexible.

This forceful instrument is strung like no other racquet on earth. Mad Raq™ is a power and finesse computer-designed stringing system so unique it has been patented.

Lightweight power in the Titanium frame. Total ball control and shock absorption in the Mad Raq stringing. A combination with license to kill, only from Omega.

True power players will want this racquet. It is designed to break lesser spirits on the court. From Omega racquetball professionals. First to introduce the throatless racquet. First with a woman's racquet. First to extend the one-piece frame to the buttcap. First and exclusively with Mad Raq stringing. And now first and exclusively with Titanium.

ΩMEGA

Omega Sports, 9200 Cody
Overland Park, KS 66212



HOLABIRD SPORTS DISCOUNTERS *Beats Them All!*

• LOWEST PRICES • FACTORY WARRANTIES
• 48-HR. SHIPPING OR MONEY BACK

AMF HEAD RACQUETS

STANDARD	\$31.00
MASTER	36.95
PRO	44.95
GRAPHITE EXPRESS	67.95

AMF VOIT RACQUETS

IMPACT L OR IMPACT M	33.95
IMPACT I OR IMPACT II	39.95
PACER	59.00

EKTELON RACQUETS

250G	77.95
CBK	139.00
BLUE LITE	29.95
MARATHON GRAPHITE	42.95
MAGNUM II	50.98
CITORI	57.95
INTERCEPTOR	34.95
CR200	31.95
GRC 3000 (NEW)	105.95
ST 245 (NEW)	71.50

LEACH RACQUETS

HOGAN STEEL	60.95
HOGAN USA 100% GRAPHITE	89.95
GRAPHITE 8000	62.95
GRAPHITE BANDIDO	24.95

WILSON RACQUETS

STING GRAPHITE	39.95
TEMPEST PLUS	24.95
NEW EPIC PWS	38.95
GRAPHITE BOSS	29.95

RACQUETBALL SHOES

FOOT JOY TUFFS M/L	22.95
FOOT JOY TUFFS NEW ¾ High M/L	28.95
FOOT JOYHI-TOPS M	25.95
FOOT JOY POWER STRAPS M	33.00
ADIDAS GRAND PRIX M	32.95
ADIDAS STAN SMITH M	33.95
ADIDAS ATP FUTURA M	42.95
NIKE CHALLENGE COURT M/L	29.95
NIKE AL COURT CANVAS M/L	17.50
NIKE COURT FORCE M	21.95

BALLS/ACCESSORIES

PENN ULTRA BLUE BALLS	6 CANS 13.95
SEAMCO 600 BLUE BALLS	6 CANS 10.00
WILSON TRU BLUE BALLS	6 CANS 11.00
VOIT ROLLOUT BLEU BALLS	6 CANS 14.95
EKTELON BLUE BALLS (NEW)	6 CANS 14.95
EKTELON TOURNAMENT BAG	21.95
EKTELON CLASSIC COURT BAG	23.95
EKTELON INTERCEPTOR GLASSES	19.95
AMF VOIT BAG, REG.	35.95
RAINBOW EYEGUARDS, REG.	8.95
EKTELON, FOOT JOY, CHAMPION GLOVES	ALL LOW PRICED

HOLABIRD SPORTS DISCOUNTERS

6400 BECKLEY ST. BALTO. MD. 21224

301-633-8200 OR 633-3333 MON.—FRI. 9 AM-5 PM

**ONLY AT HOLABIRD — ONE LOW \$2.75
SHIPPING CHARGE FOR ANY QUANTITY**

Mail or phone—ship anywhere. Pay by money order, Visa, MasterCard—include charge * & expiration date. Small additional shipping charge outside continental USA & APO's. NO service charge for credit cards. MD. residents add 5% sales tax.

Quotes for other racquets/catalog available

Letters



Prison Racquetball

Dear Editor:

I am currently incarcerated in a minimum security prison in Arizona. During my incarceration I have become highly interested in racquetball.

Our gym has a very poor selection of racquetball equipment. As a matter of fact, there is no selection. We have only two racquets, both of which are in very poor shape, and a few very dead balls.

I am writing you in the hopes that you would know of someone willing to donate a good racquet, glove, and some balls to me personally. I'm not asking for a large donation to the entire gym, but only a small personal one.

Being incarcerated as I am, I have neither the funds nor access to purchase this equipment. I would be more than happy to pay for any equipment donated to me after my release in about nine months. I have a job waiting for me.

If you could put me in touch with someone willing to do this I would be forever grateful. Thank you for your time and listening to my request.

Michael W. Neuman, Sr.
Fort Grant, AZ

We sent your request to the various manufacturers, Michael, and are happy to print the following letter.—Editor

Nice Gesture!

Dear Mr. Neuman:

The editors at *National Racquetball* magazine were kind enough to forward your recent letter requesting donation of racquetball equipment. I am enclosing herewith a Nova I racquet and a couple of cans of racquetballs.

Please enjoy the enclosed. We wish you the best.

Robert J. Larsen

AMF Voit, Inc.
Santa Ana, CA

Well, Nobody's Perfect

Dear Editor:

Your *July* issue was superb! Especially noteworthy was the cover story about Jack Zukerman and how his Genesis can make you fit.

As his wife, I especially enjoyed reading about all his many accomplishments and about the excitement of his new company. The pictures were poetry in action. If they are available, I would love to get a copy of the large, smiling one of Jack playing with the ball in the air.

However, there are several critical demographic errors in the article. We enjoyed the mention of our two sons, except that we have *three* sons (you left out the law student to go along with the lawyer and doctor). Our daughter, Marti, was a teacher and is a psychotherapist as well as being "active in the Genesis project." Incidentally, my name is Roz... (not Ronnie).

For the benefit of our generations yet unborn, as well as for our many friends nationwide, both Jack and I felt it necessary to not only thank you for the beautiful article, but to set the record straight as to our family countdown.

Rosaline L. Zukerman
Beverly Hills, CA

Is the egg on my face showing?—Editor

Travel And Play

Dear Editor:

I am not usually motivated to write magazines, but I just had to tell you—being an avid racquetball player and always feeling frustrated at the inability to play when traveling—I found the article by Victor Block (*August* issue) to be very helpful in making courts accessible in situations where I thought such was not an option.

I followed his advice and found club managers willing, even if reluctant, to let me play at an out-of-town club. It has added a whole new dimension to my road trips. Thanks a lot!

Fyllis Hockman
Omaha, NE

We're glad it worked for you, Fyllis!—Editor

Counting Shots

Dear Editor:

I recently witnessed a racquetball championship match between Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen. I and other spectators marvelled at the power and accuracy of the low shots. However, we applauded and shouted when extended rallies ended. It's the rallies that make it a spectator sport, not the roll outs.

Who can see a skip shot or roll out from the stands? The players and the referee even have difficulty, let alone those of us in row 6 section 17.

I watched four games in the above match. I gave up on the tie-breaker. The match was boring. During the four games they had about five extended rallies. They played a game to 11 points and it took 30-45 minutes to complete it—most of the times was taken by the towel boys wiping up the floor, or arguments on calls.

In contrast, I watched the open finals prior to the above match. The players had approximately seven extended rallies in *each game*. The spectators shook the rafters and applauded the players. Shouldn't this tell you something?

To me, it means that the game format must be changed so that questionable pinch shots and roll outs are eliminated. This means that a 10 inch high by 20 foot long tell tale board should be installed at the base of the front wall.

The game will change to the degree that there will be more rallies, more skill in placement and passing shots and emphasis on stamina.

As a result of more and longer rallies, I suggest that the match should be two games of 15 points, scoring both ways. A tie-breaker, if necessary, should be to 11, winning by two points.

I believe you will have a renewed interest not only by the players but by the spectators, as well. After all, who doesn't get excited about an action-packed rally?

Thad M. Konicki
Atlanta, GA



CBK
137.50

250G
75.95

Orders Only: TOLL FREE
NATIONAL 1-800-824-7888
ALASKA & (Operator 558)
HAWAII 1-800-824-7919
CALIFORNIA (213) 255-7186

Guaranteed by Manufacturer • Quick Shipping
48 Hour Shipping • Money-Back Guarantee
Personal Service from R/B Specialists

EKTELON	Challenge Court! .28.50
Citori	Nike All Court m/w .19.95
Magnum 2	Nike Wimbledon .29.95
Marathon Graphite .41.50	K-Swiss Leather . .29.95
Interceptor	Asahi Leather . . .30.50
HEAD	Asahi Canvas m/w .19.95
Graphite Express .64.95	Footjoy write
Professional	EKTELON EYE WEAR
Master	Court Goggles . .15.50
WARM UPS	Interceptor Eyewr .21.50
Ektelon M's Royal .37.95	Eye Sentry24.55
Addidas Superstar .76.95	EKTELON GLOVES
EKTELON/HEAD BAGS	All Pro Cabretta . .8.95
Court Classic	BALLS/STRING
Tournament	Penn (Ultra-Blue)
Racquetballer	3 cans6.99
Head Racquetball . .20.50	Ashway R/B 16 ga .8.95
SHOES	Ashway
New Nike	Superkill 16 ga . .7.95

WRITE FOR FREE FASHION CATALOG

MAIL ORDERS: 2.50 SHIPPING
CA RESIDENTS ADD 6.5%

RAY
4691 Eagle Rock Blvd., Dept. R4
Los Angeles, CA 90041

HIGHTOWER'S
C.O.D.
ADD \$3.00 **RACQUETBALL**

IMPROVE YOUR GRASP OF THE GAME.

Pamper your hand with the softest sheepskin leather. Experience the comfort of seams you'll never feel. This is the glove that fits like skin. And grips like steel. The only glove worthy of the first name in racquetballs. The all-new racquetball glove from Penn. Ask for it wherever Penn racquetballs are sold.



Penn Athletic Products Company

EXTRA!

Hogan, DP/Leach Part Company; Marty To Start Own Racquet Line

After a year of often intense negotiations, Marty Hogan, racquetball's all time leading money winner and five time national champ, and Diversified Products, manufacturer of the Leach Racquetball Racquets, were unable to reach agreement on a renewing of Hogan's contract.

Thus ends the relationship between Hogan and Leach, one that dates back to Hogan's entry into the world of racquetball at the age of 15. Now 25 and reputed to be racquetball's only millionaire, Hogan will

go his own way, reportedly into the development of his own line of racquets.

"I feel a tremendous responsibility to racquetball and to those many people who became interested in the sport as a direct result of my success and involvement," said Hogan. "By becoming personally active in the creation of equipment that will improve a player's game at any level, I have a chance to put something back into racquetball, which has been very good to me."

Hogan will begin putting something back under the

label of Pro Kennex, a world leader in racquet technology, particularly in graphite and graphite-composite materials in the production of tennis, squash and badminton racquets.

While Hogan goes about the business of developing the "Hogan Racquetball" division of Pro Kennex, Diversified Products will be going about the business of promoting racquetball, turning its attention even more toward supporting amateur events at the grass roots level.

"We're looking at support-

ing more amateur racquetball events, more professional tournaments and sponsoring additional players," explained Jimmy Thompson, Vice President — Sales and Marketing at DP. "Certainly we are disappointed that Marty will no longer be associated with the Leach Line of Racquetball, but we wish him well."

"DP's commitment to promoting consumer interest in racquetball remains firm and we feel that our direction is extremely positive and for the betterment of the sport and DP."

Western Floods Peril, But Miss RB Clubs

Racquetball club owners, it turns out, are both smart and lucky.

With the heavy late spring flooding in the Western states, especially in Utah, *National Racquetball* checked out the flood ravaged areas to see if and how the courts survived. Frankly, we anticipated an article full of warped stories — pun intended — of ruined floorboards and frustrated racquetball freaks who had to go without their favorite sport for weeks. Things like that

Good story, right? Well, yes, except that we couldn't find any courts that were anywhere near water, let alone flooded or damaged. Not one. It seems that most of the courts in the high flood risk areas are built on hills.

"You've got to be stupid to build a court any place where it could flood," said Bob Peterson, owner of The Courthouse in Boise, Idaho, a city that had substantial flooding. "Since most of the racquetball courts have been built in

the last 10 years, owners have a lot of information from scientists, engineers, and developers about where flooding can occur. With all the money invested in wood, one flood could ruin an owner."

In Salt Lake City, the Deseret Gymnasium was only a block away from the man-made river that was used to control flooding in early June. However, the courts were never in any danger—Deseret Gym is on a hill.

"From the way they showed the flooding on national TV, you'd think the whole state of Utah was going under," said Leon Heats, manager of the Deseret Gym, "it just wasn't that bad. I haven't heard about any racquetball courts in the area that were hurt by the floods. We sit on a hill, so we didn't have any problems. The only problem would be if someone had a court in his basement."

Maybe we should check that out?

Racquetball in Ecuador

Bolivar Rivera, of Quito, Ecuador, recently visited the Chicago offices of *National Racquetball*, bringing with him some interesting news, namely, the opening last year of Ecuador's first racquetball club.

At 10,000 feet above sea level, the Quito Racquetball Club may be the world's highest.

"We'd like American players to be aware that racquetball is expanding to all parts of the globe," said Rivera, a member of the club, and financial director for a European pharmaceutical company based in Quito.

Owner/manager, American born Al Walker, asked Rivera, who is currently vacationing in the U.S., to spread the word, and contact such U.S. organizations as the AARA, IRSA and *National Racquetball*.

"Racquetball spread to Ecuador because of Al, who is an American businessman living in Quito," Rivera said. "He built two courts near his house about two years ago and since it gained in popularity so fast, he decided to build a club."

Financed by local banks and private income, Walker built a club boasting six courts, 2 whirlpools, a gym, and a massage room (massages available for \$2/hour!).

The membership has grown to 400 in the past year, but that's not surprising, it's the only club in Ecuador!

So the next time you find yourself in Quito, Ecuador, do not fear, there's a club nearby!

TOURNA GRIP

SUPER ABSORBENT NON SLIP GRIP TAPE



FOR: TENNIS, SQUASH, RACQUETBALL
ONE ROLL ENOUGH FOR THREE RACQUETS

LOOK for the **GENUINE TOURNA GRIP...**

The most popular grip in the world.

Preferred by most professional players.

NOT to be confused with **IMITATIONS!**

TRY THIS OUTSTANDING WINNER!

CONSOLIDATED SERVICE GROUP, INC.

P.O. Box 48412, Atlanta, Ga. 30362

(404) 455-8587

SPORTS-MASTERTM RACQUETBALL COURTS

— THE QUALITY STANDARD OF THE INDUSTRY —

- Seamless FIBERGLAS*-Armored Panel Walls
- Maintenance-Free World-Class Playability
- Beautiful Clear Maple POLYGUARDTM Floors
- International Installation Capability
- 20 Years Of Outstanding Court Designs

AMERICAN SPORTS COURTS, INC.

222 LANCASTER AVENUE, DEVON, PA 19333 • (215) 687-6356

*TRADEMARK OF
OWENS-CORNING, INC.

Don Thomas: Racquetball's Cover Boy



Thomas models a classic all-wool navy flannel blazer from the Racquet "Country Courtside" collection featuring shetlands, country looks and novelities from all over the world. The Racquet line is from M. Wile & Co., a subsidiary of Hart Schaffner & Marx.

The "real" Don Thomas, as known to the racquetball world.



Photo by Arthur Shay

The lady on the other end of the phone said she was from Hart, Schaffner & Marx, the Hart, Schaffner & Marx, one of the world's largest and most prestigious clothing manufacturers. She wanted to know if Don Thomas would be interested in doing some modeling for them.

Hart was introducing a new line of Racquet clothing and desired a model from each of the various racquet sports. They chose Thomas, obviously, because of his good looks, athletic build and clean-cut image to represent racquetball. According to Thomas, his decision to accept the Hart offer was an easy one.

"I said send me out a contract," said Thomas, 26, and a top eight pro racquetballer since 1977. "She did, and it was more than fair. I signed for one year and recently re-signed for two more."

So Don Thomas the 5'11", 180 lb. Mesa, Arizona native, high school jock-of-all-trades, and racquetball pro, instantaneously became a model. Previous experience: none. The world of photo sessions, fashion shows, props, make up, and lighting became his world.

"It's work, hard work," he said. "Anybody who thinks you just go in there and have your picture taken is wrong. Sometimes I changed clothes 30 or 40 times a day. And waiting. It seems like I was always waiting."

Thomas' cohorts in the Racquet line include Gene Mayer (tennis) Chris Kinard (badminton), Mike Desaulniers (squash), John Lloyd (tennis) and Roscoe Tanner (tennis). None had previous modeling experience.

The modeling job has added even more traveling to his racquetball life, which means plenty of time on the road. But places like L.A. and New York are exciting as is the modeling world.

"The opening show was great," said Thomas. "We were all dressed up sizzly. All the racquet sports guys were there and a live band was playing. The lights went out and we did our thing. It was fun!"

"The spotlight hits you and you walk up on stage, walk to here, do this, spin, walk to here, have a certain

'look,' walk over here, spin again — it's all rehearsed. We knew exactly what to do at all times."

Photo sessions aren't quite as much fun for Don, although he totally understands why they take so long. Between setting up the props, getting the proper lighting, doing the make up, obtaining the desired "look," and changing clothes so many times, well, it makes for long days.

"It's nothing to have a 10 or 11 hour day," he said. "I did a lot of hanging around during some of my photo sessions. But these people are professionals and I'm paid to do it their way. Don't get me wrong — I like it a lot."

And there are fringe benefits. Like the time in New York when one of the men attending the show invited Don to review his collection of clothes. He then gave Don three flight bags and told him to fill them up with anything he liked.

"It was unbelievable," said Don. "I filled 'em up with suits, slacks, shirts, belts, everything."

While occurrences like that don't come to Don on a regular basis, he does have a credit line at some of the west coast's most elegant clothing stores. And the credit is extended to his wife Eileen, as well.

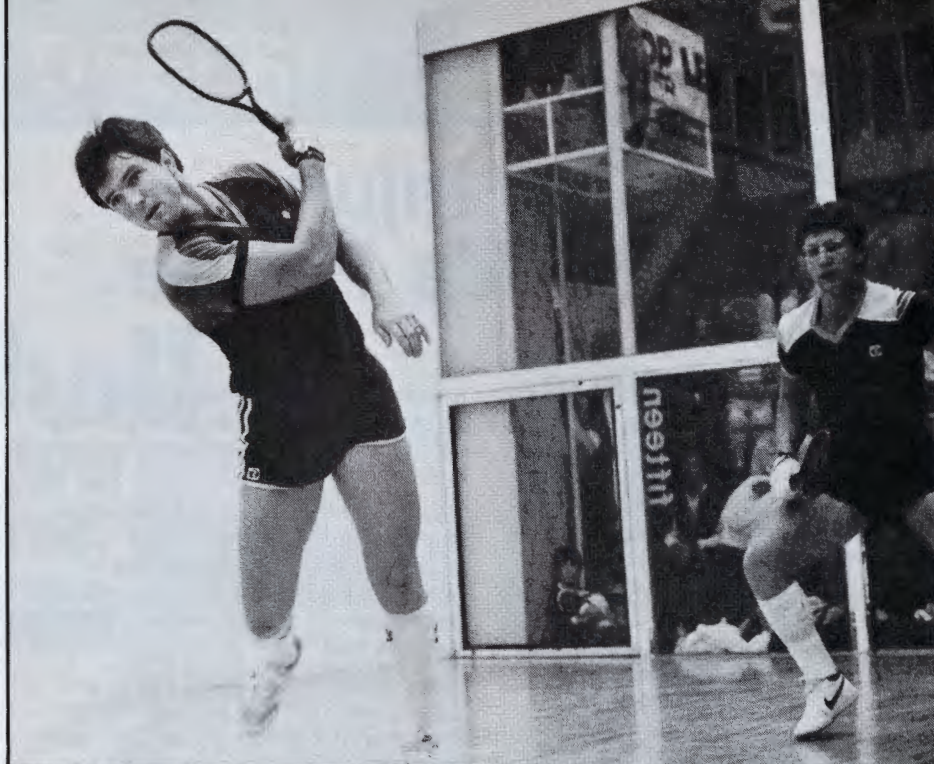
"She thinks it's great," said Don. "But there's no way we could ever use up the credit line. Not in 10 years."

Racquetball is still Thomas' primary motivation. Considering his game still "solid," Don has maintained a top eight position for six years, moving up to five, down to seven and generally becoming a consistent quarter-finalist. It wasn't always that way.

After starring at Mesa (suburban Phoenix) High in football, basketball, baseball and golf, Thomas took up racquetball while attending Mesa Community College. Finding a level of natural ability at the game, Don decided to take it seriously, winning the Arizona State Championship in 1976 and joining the pro tour in 1977.

"I became obsessed with racquetball," he said. "I'd work out all day. Then I got frustrated because despite all my hard work, I still wasn't winning on the tour."

Thomas blasting a forehand against Marty Hogan in the quarter-finals of the DP/Catalina Series Championships.



— Photo by Arthur Shay

Rather than quit, Thomas decided to give racquetball one more shot, in a big way. He left his job (at his dad's industrial contracting business), packed his van, and headed for San Diego — along with scores of other would be Charlie Brumfields and Marty Hogans.

It wasn't long before Thomas was leading the life of a racquetball hanger-on, complete with living in his van in the parking lot of various clubs, scrounging a meal here and there, existing on about \$20 a week. He was 20 years old.

"I worked out harder than I had in Mesa," he said. "I'd start at 6 a.m. and keep at it until midnight. Every day. Nine months later I broke through."

That breakthrough was a trip to a pro tournament finals. After stopping a qualifier, Don eliminated Davey Bledsoe (1977 National Champ), Dave Peck, and Mike Yellen before being stopped by Craig McCoy in the finals. Still he took home \$1,000 for second place.

"I thought it was great," he said. "I never had so much money."

Thus, from an unranked position, he climbed into the top 8 within an 18 month period and he's been there ever since. Along the way he's added Eileen, plus two-year old Danielle and six-month-old Matthew. And another business or two.

One is the restaurant business, a tough one to be sure. Don owns a snack shop at one of the Family Fitness Center clubs in the San Diego area. It features sandwiches ("you'll never get a better one"), juices ("they're all fresh squeezed"), and salads among other items. And business is booming.

"The club had a room, about a thousand square feet, that had a TV and one chair in it," Don said. "So I talked to some people, got an architect to design a little snack area and made a proposal to the owners. After their okay, we took it to the bank and here we are!"

"It's kind of nice. We've got backgammon, video games, a towel service and pro shop to go along with the food. It really doesn't take very much

of my time. I check the books once a week and I've got some great people working there. It's going so well, we're looking at other sites."

One of the catalysts to the restaurant project was Thomas' agent, advisor and close friend, Charlie Drake. The same Charlie Drake who manages Marty Hogan and who has taken a great deal of criticism over the years based on his racquetball activities. Thomas, however, paints quite a different picture of Drake.

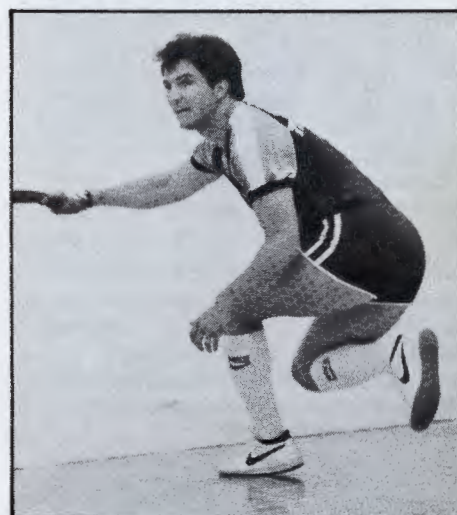
"I know I'm prejudiced," says Don, "but I've seen a side of Charlie Drake that few people ever see. He's helped me in more ways than I could ever say. Let me put it this way, he's the Godfather to my children. I never would have achieved nearly what I have if it wasn't for Charlie."

Another thing that Thomas has is an invention. He developed an exercise aid that has wooden handles and flaps for extra weight. It's used primarily for sit ups and isolating specific muscle groups. He sold the concept to Diversified Products (his racquetball sponsor) and the product went on the market in April.

"DP's projections are unreal, said Thomas. "Heck, I thought it was just a gimmick."

But you can talk to Don Thomas about racquetball; you can talk to him about his exercise inventions; you can talk to him about being a model; and you can talk all you want about his restaurant. None of those subjects lights him up like the subject of his family.

Thomas displays the intensity that marks his game and his life.



— Photo by Arthur Shay

"I've known Eileen since my Mesa days," he said. "We dated on and off all that time. She hung in there, let me do my thing. I mean she waited for me forever. And she's one of those girls who didn't have to wait for anybody."

"We were up and down for a while; you know, on and off. She'd visit while I was in San Diego, then go back to Phoenix. After a while we figured out that we were destined to be together. So we got married."

In November of 1981 Danielle was born in April of 1983 Matthew entered the world.

"We had kids right away and it's worked out real well," said Thomas. "I'm really a lucky guy." ●

Serious Leg Injury Clouds Peck's Future

by Bill Adee

By the middle of the third game, Dave Peck knew the pain in his leg was not from just a charleyhorse. At least he'd never had a charleyhorse that hurt like this one. It didn't seem possible that an almost casual, slight collision with Mike Yellen in the semi's of the DP Leach Nationals could be causing him so much discomfort.

Today those Peck legs, his trademarks, those two tree trunks attached to his waist, the source of his awesome power — have been replaced by one average looking gam and one grotesquely sliced appendage where the other leg used to be.

"Everybody's been kidding me that if I didn't have ham hogs for legs, I could have avoided the injury," Peck said.

"Now I have a feeling that I'm going to be able to wear regular pants for a while. I've never been able to because my legs have always been so big. But because of the atrophy and not being able to work out, I'm almost skinny—almost."

Peck can joke about it now. He is not only a changed racquetball player, he is a changed man—not just in looks, but also in attitude. Potentially career-ending injuries tend to have that kind of dramatic effect on a person, and Peck is no exception.

"You have a lot of time to think when you're on your back in the hospital, and can't get out," said the 25-year-old Texan. *"I was asking myself, 'Am I ever going to play racquetball again?' I know the answer to that now, but I didn't then."*

The answer now is, of course, 'yes', at least for the time being. The answer on the night of June 18, 1983 was a 'maybe, with a lot of work and a little luck'. Peck could have lost his right leg in the freak racquetball accident that day—he did not. Instead, that fateful Saturday could mark the positive turning point in his career—that remains to be seen.

"I'm going to come back. I'm going to be stronger and faster and better. And I'm going to enjoy playing racquetball more than ever because I faced an injury that could have kept me from playing racquetball for the rest of my life," Dave said.

The pressure that comes with being the defending national champion was making the sport unenjoyable for Peck this year.

"I just wasn't enjoying racquetball as much because I wanted to win so badly. But because the competition between Mike (Yellen), Marty (Hogan) and myself was so great, I couldn't always win," he said.

Peck, ranked third behind Yellen and Hogan, was trying to salvage the season with a victory in the DP Leach Nationals in Atlanta. Two weeks and two operations after the fact, Peck remembers his June 18th semi-final match with Yellen as if it had just concluded. He always will.

"Mike was leading 7-5 in the first game," Peck recalls. *"I hit a shot, Mike tried to follow the ball, and I tried to get around him. While all my weight was on my right leg pushing off, his knee went straight into my quadricap about four inches above the knee. It smarted, to say the least. I thought it was a charleyhorse, so I called a time out and tried to rub it out, but nothing helped."*

Yellen won the first game, and took a 4-0 lead in the second game when Peck's leg cramped so badly that he took another time out.

"I went back to the locker room, massaged it, iced it down, and it felt a little better. I came back and scored the next six points, but I still lost the game 11-10," he said. *"It got stiffer and stiffer between points and during time outs. And Mike's no dummy. He took his time and let me cool off. By the third game, I could barely move."*

Yellen went on to beat Hogan in the finals the next day to clinch the number one, season ending rank. Peck went back to his hotel room that night—with the help of his brother Gregg—and put ice on his leg.

"I just kept thinking, 'It'll be alright, it'll be alright' but the pain was so great that I knew something was wrong. I was sitting in my hotel room with ice on my leg and with the air-conditioning on, and I was still sweating. That was another indication to me that something was wrong," he said.

Dave Peck



Indeed, something was wrong. Peck's injury was no mere charleyhorse—he had a rare condition called compartment syndrome. Simply stated, the blow to Peck's leg caused the capillaries to burst, filling small compartments under the muscle with blood. The blood in the compartments put pressure on the capillaries, and caused even more of them to burst. This cycle continues unless the leg is cut open, the bleeding stopped, and the pressure relieved.

However Peck did not know about compartment syndrome when he was sitting in his hotel room with ice on his leg. And he wouldn't have known about it in time to save his leg and career, had it not been for the help of Cal James, president of Diversified Products.

"I owe Cal James my leg," Peck says now. *"I was going to take a pain pill that night and try to get some sleep. But what happens with compartment syndrome is that the increased pressure cuts off the blood circulation to the lower extremities. So there was a*



Peck battles with Yellen in circumstances similar to those at the time of the injury.

good chance that if I had slept all night, the next day my toes would have been purple, and I might have had to have my foot or part of my leg cut off. That's why I'm so fortunate that Mr. James helped me."

James found two specialists to look at Peck's leg. They immediately recognized the condition even though only nine cases of compartment syndrome have been registered in the country, according to Peck. When the pressure inside Peck's right leg increased to four times what the normal pressure should be, surgery became necessary.

"I've never had surgery before. I've always been very healthy," said Peck, who nevertheless kept his sense of humor. "I told the doctor right before surgery, 'I just signed a five-year contract with Ektelon, so you really need to take care of me. I want to tell you one other thing. You've probably had athletes before who tried to be real tough and macho. Well, I'm a wimp. So tell the nurses that whenever possible, I want a pain shot.'"

The surgery was successful, although it has left Peck with a large scar. In order to relieve the pressure in his leg, the doctors had to leave a 10-by-4 inch opening in his leg for three weeks after the first operation.

"Have you ever seen a 10-by-4 inch steak? That's what my leg looks like—raw steak," Peck said. "I've worked in surgery for six years as a scrub tech, and seen some of the grossest things that any human can see, but when I saw the wound for the first time in the hospital, I thought I was going to pass out."

In a second operation, two days after the first one, some of the tissue was sewn up. Peck left the Atlanta hospital for his home in El Paso with his leg still split open, however, he was scheduled to have it completely closed on July 7.

"They wanted to do a skin graft in Atlanta, but I would have had to stay on my back for 10 more days there. I was just so sick of the whole thing, I wanted to get home," he said.

Peck expects to be back in tournament-playing form this month planned to spend most of August rehabilitating his leg at Nautilus head quarters in Deland, FL.

"The only fear that I have is that the compartment syndrome can reoccur if you don't give it enough time to heal. I'm just so aggressive about working out that I'm going to have to be careful not to push myself too hard, too soon," he said.

Although Peck was anxious to get his rehabilitation started, his time in the hospital was not wasted. He got time to reflect on his career—past, present and future.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself to win this year. I wanted to shut up everyone who was saying that Peck was No. 1 last year because he was lucky. Not only did I want to win, I wanted to beat everyone as convincingly as possible. That was one of the reasons I had a good season, but it was also the reason why I couldn't seem to win in the finals. I kept thinking, 'I gotta win, I gotta win, I gotta win' instead of thinking about the basics or execution.

"When you're a professional racquetball player, and you have an injury that could result in your losing your foot and never competing again, it's a scary feeling. You think to yourself, 'I'm so lucky that I can play this sport for a living! It makes you appreciate being able to walk, and being alive and healthy.'"

Peck received all the inspiration he needed for his comeback from, ironically enough, a visit by his top two competitors, Yellen and Hogan.

"You never know how many good people there are in this world until something like this happens," he said. "Mike and Marty, my No. 1 and 2 competitors stayed in Atlanta an extra day just to see that I was okay.

"That really psyched me up. Another thing I thought was great was that here I'm with Ektelon, and its the president of DP Leach, a major competitor, who comes in and has me fixed. It really makes you feel good."

Peck has set several goals for himself. One goal is to spend more time teaching racquetball.

"I didn't want to teach before because I thought it interfered with my career, but now I've set some goals. I'm going to improve the standard of play for the junior players in El Paso. We already have the best junior team in the country, but when I get done with my teaching, I'm going to get as many kids to where they know what they're doing, that the team will be dynamite," he said.

Another goal is, of course, to be No. 1 again. "The first thing is to get this leg back in shape, but I have no doubt that I can be No. 1 again. Right now I just feel like telling everybody that I'm so lucky that it's not even funny," he said.

Peck looks at the whole experience as a test.

"Every once in awhile, you get these tests in your career. This is one of those tests. I've always been good at taking tests, and I plan on passing this one easily." ●

The Secret Is Out!

Just Ask Rich Drake . . .

“Now I know the secret road to success and it's paved with Silver! For three years I looked at tanning equipment to add to my Nautilus Fitness and Racquet Center in Alton, Illinois. After personally testing all the other European tanning beds, I chose Silver Solarium for three reasons: **1. tannability, 2. superior marketing and, 3. great profits!** In the first seven weeks after doing a court conversion with Silver tanning beds I grossed \$20,000! If you're interested in that kind of success . . . just call me. (618) 466-9115.”



6 Months Free!

Take delivery now and for six full months the profits are all yours. Check it out:

- ✓ **NO Money Down**
- ✓ **NO Payments for 6 Months**

- ✓ **3 Year Warranty**
- ✓ **8.6% Financing**



silver solarium

**Call or write us today
and find out how you
can get 6 months free
on your court conver-
sion kit!**

Yes, I want 6 months free!

Company _____ Contact _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

The Silver Group, Inc. • 2 Kansas Street • San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 552-9916 or toll free outside California (800) 828-2882

Middle Court Play: Where The Game Is Won Or Lost (Part II)

by Lou Fabian

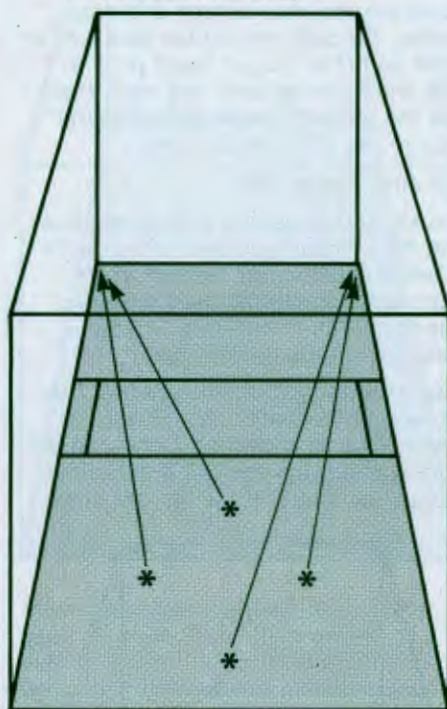
Last month we got into specific drills to improve your mid-court game. This month we'll take a look at more drills to enhance your ability in this vitally important phase of racquetball.

Drop Corner & Crosscorner Kill Drills

These drills become progressively more difficult. Every player should master each skill before advancing. All of the drills should be practiced from area 3 with an open stance while facing the front wall (See *Diagram 1*.)

Beginners should drop the ball, allow one bounce, then shoot into the corner. Repeat the drill with the forehand to the forehand corner; then the forehand to the backhand corner. The backhand

Diagram 2. Drop Corner & Crosscorner Kill Drills



should be similarly practiced. The drills must be practiced from all four positions in area 3 (See *Diagram 2*.)

Intermediate players perform the drills without a bounce. Concentrate on form. Permit the ball to drop low enough for the kill shot.

Advanced players complete the drills by rallying the ball from a front wall setup. Practice all shot combinations while continuously killing and re-killing the ball.

Teaching pros should emphasize the open stance form. Pay close attention to hip and shoulder rotation through the shot. A common mistake is to use just an arm swing to hit the ball. Another mistake is a flat or horizontal arm swing. The ball stays up and is retrieved easily. The arm swing should be down toward the bottom board.

Front Side Wall Setup Drill

The first six months of racquetball involves learning the angles of the game. This drill will accelerate the process.

Beginners should face the front wall, and hit a setup off the front side wall. Allow the ball one bounce. Turn your body sideways with your racquet back. Adjust your position to hit a down-the-line shot.

Intermediate players should repeat the procedure with more emphasis on killing the ball in the corners. *Advanced players* should practice killing the ball crosscorner.

Teaching pros be aware that beginners have more difficulty setting-up the ball, then executing the actual shot. So

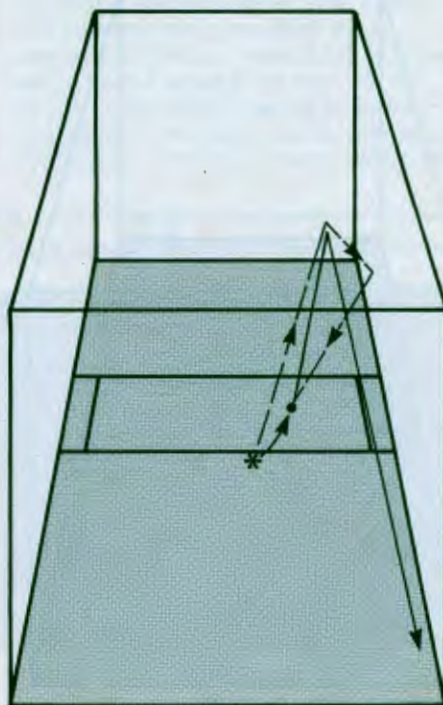
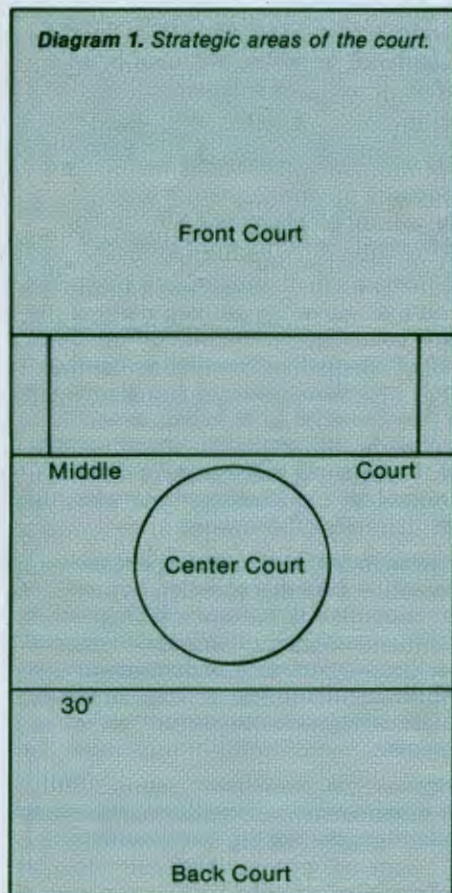


Diagram 3. Front Side Wall Setup Drill



setup the ball for them. Common mistakes include reaching in front of the body to play the ball and not having the racquet back soon enough into the ready position. Setups at the contact point are also a problem. The proper setup will enable the student to swing correctly, hit the ball, and move forward through the contact point.

Volley Or Fly Drills

The ability to play shots from midair is often the difference between the *advanced player* and the *champion*. Volley shot practice, therefore, from center court is essential for the advanced player.

Hit a hard shot four feet high into the front wall. Play the return out of midair;

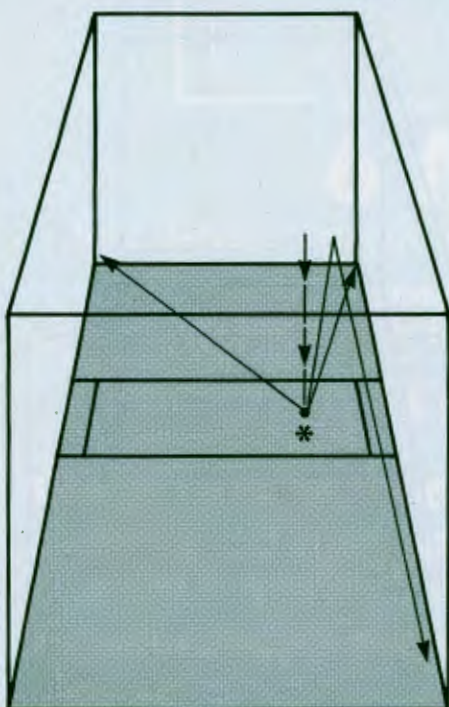


Diagram 4. Volley Or Fly Drills

down-the-line, near corner, and cross-corner. The ball may hit the side wall or front wall first. Do not reach for the ball. Hold your ground, and wait. Practice the fencer's lunge and crossover step to see which works best.

Kill And Close Drill

The kill and close drill is a game situation drill. Picture yourself in the return of serve position. Hit the ball to the front wall from a stationary position. Run toward the front wall. The ball should rebound to center court.

Now hit a second front wall shot. This represents the server playing your return of serve. Continue running to the front wall playing the ball a third time. It does not matter if the ball bounces

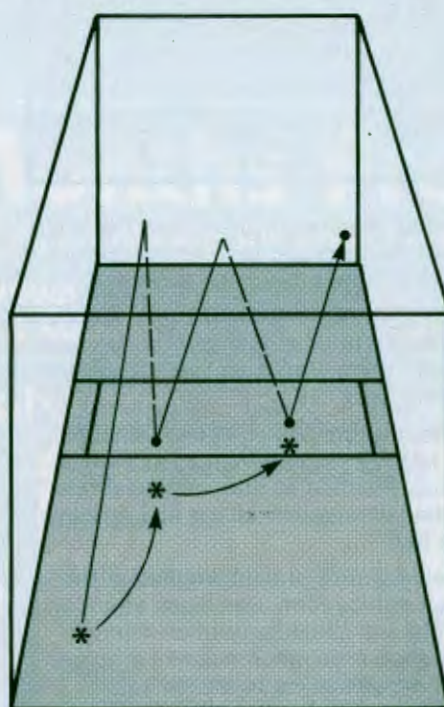


Diagram 5. Kill And Close Drill

more than once. Shoot the third shot into a corner. Don't stop running. You must continue to run through the third shot which represents a rekill of your opponent's kill attempt.

Do not underestimate the importance of this drill. Repeated practice will teach you to play the ball on the run. The drill is also a great conditioner. You will win the match if you remove your opponent's kill attempt.

Back Wall To Front Wall Volley Kill

The back to front wall volley kill is another game situation drill. The situation occurs when the opponent cannot get the racquet behind the ball for a normal return, i.e., tough Z-serve or the opponent gets passed and in desperation keeps the ball in play by hitting it off the back wall.

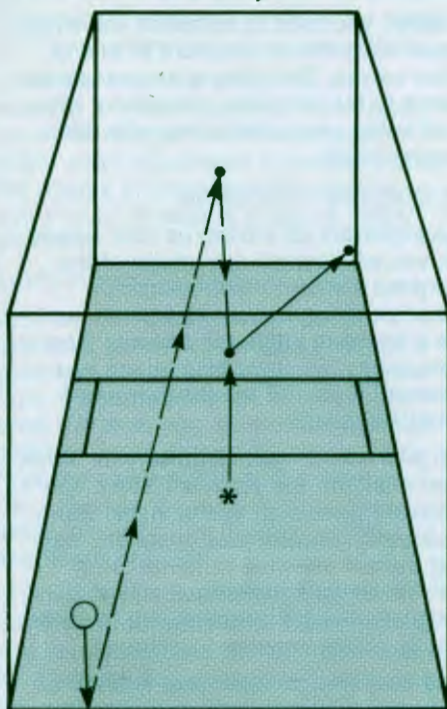
Beginner and intermediate players have a tendency to let the ball bounce off the front wall into the back court. Unfortunately, this allows your opponent time to recover to center court position. The *advanced player* does not give the opponent an opportunity to recover. The advanced player will kill the ball from midair into the front corners.

Beginners should practice this drill with a partner. Have the partner stand in the back court and hit the ball off the back wall. Then position yourself in center court and watch the ball. Move forward to play the shot from midair as it comes off the front wall. The advantage for the beginner will come from watching the ball and learning the angles the ball can take off the walls.

Intermediate players should execute the drill in a similar manner, but will not watch the ball. They will listen for the sound coming off the back wall and pick it up overhead. Concentrate on letting the ball drop low off the front wall before hitting a kill shot into the corners.

Advanced players should use this drill for practice and a conditioner. Have the balls hit faster off the back wall. Use

Diagram 6. Back Wall To Front Wall Volley Kill



two helpers to hit balls one after another, alternating sides. This drill will keep the advanced player scrambling in and out of center court.

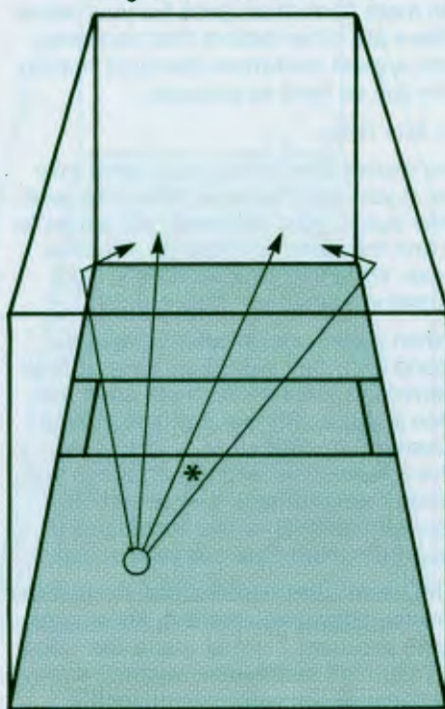
Blind Reaction Drill

The blind reaction drill will comprehensively include the benefits of the previous mid court drills. The drill enables practice of mid court game situations, improvement of reflexes, and excellent conditioning. The player will also learn proper footwork.

Beginners should position themselves in center court. Face the front wall with the racquet low in front of your body. The retriever remains poised while the partner stands behind hitting the ball to the front wall. The partner should hit the ball so the retriever can reach the ball and return it to the corner for a winner.

Intermediate players can increase the drill difficulty with greater speed, repetition, and distance to cover the shot.

Diagram 7. Blind Reaction Drill



Advanced players should start in the back court and run forward while the partner shoots the ball off the front wall. Then retrieve and rekill the ball while on the run.

Teaching pros should emphasize the proper footwork needed to retrieve the ball laterally; the crossover step or fencer's lunge. Common mistakes include improper arm swing and wrist snap, soft shot attempts or, conversely, overpowering the ball, and not knowing what to do with the ball.

Middle Court Shot Strategy

Drill practice in mid court is useless without a method. Table I, below, outlines the proper shot given your positions and that of your opponent. *Beginners* should master shot #1 on the chart before trying shot #2. *Intermediates* should master the first two shots before attempting shot #3. *Advanced players* can use all three shots. Diagrams of the shots are in the March 1982 issue of *National Racquetball*. ●

TABLE I

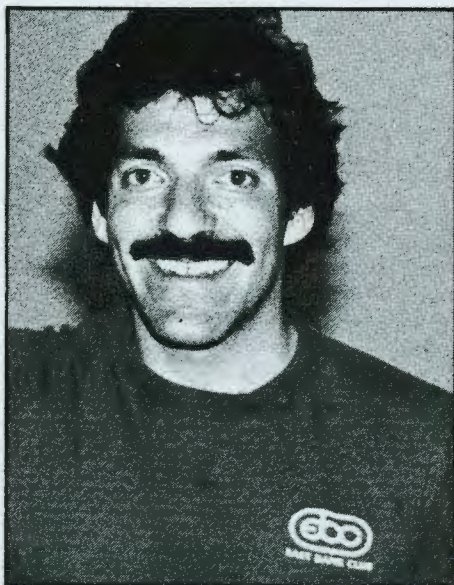
Your Opponent's Position

Your Position When Hitting The Ball	Front Court		Center Court
	Front Court	1 Down-The-Line Pass 2 Cross-Court Pass 3 Z-Ball	1 Kill Down-The Line 2 Pinch Shot 3 Reverse Pinch Shot
Center Court	Center Court	1 Down-The-Line Pass 2 Cross-Court Pass 3 Ceiling Ball	1 Corner Kill Shot 2 Reverse Kill Shot 3 Wide-Angle Pass

Steve Mondry's Racquetball Clinic

5 Ways To Improve Your Serve

by Steve Mondry



Close your eyes and think of the service zone of a racquetball court. Visualize those two, parallel red lines and contemplate the wonderful domination you might hold over the game if only all situations were as one-sided as your serve.

At no other time in racquetball are you so totally in control. There are no freak bounces, spins, wet spots or skips to contend with. You know exactly where your opponent is and you can attack any part of his game—forehand, backhand, high zone or low zone.

Yes, the serve is where it's at in racquetball and therefore, improving your serves is one of the surest (and speediest) ways toward improving the end result of your matches, i.e., winning more. There is no reason why any player, with practice, cannot develop a strong service arsenal.

Many players get discouraged while working on their serves, especially if they run into a real power blaster who just out-hits you. It makes you feel like a punch-and-judy hitter alongside a home run slugger. Unfortunately, most of us are not sluggers, and remember that the big sluggers also strike out the most.

Power in and of itself is not the only component to a well executed serve. In fact, too much power, or the average player's undirected attempts at it, can do more harm than good for your serve. There are other factors that can help you a great deal more than just ripping the ball as hard as you can.

1) Mix It Up

No matter how strong your serve may be, if you use the same serve over and over again, your opponent will adjust to it and the serve will lose its effectiveness. What you need is variety. Your question should be "how much?"

When I work with students I recommend that they eventually have at their command three serves from each service position. Former national champ Charlie Brumfield used to call these three serves the "Mondry Option," and while I was flattered that Brumfield thought so much of my technique, it was little more than common sense.

The basic three serves I use (and teach) are the drive down-the-line, cross court drive and hard Z. What made the "Mondry Option" so effective was my ability to consistently catch my opponent leaning to one side in anticipation of the drive down-the-line, thus setting up my cross court drive. (Remember that I am left handed, so my drive down-the-line goes to a right hander's backhand and my cross court to his forehand.)

Just as your opponent can get used to the same type of serve, he can also adjust to the speed (tempo) of the serve. If you are consistently hitting your serves at the same speed, you're giving your opponent a big advantage. You will be much more effective if you change speeds as well as direction. If you have three speeds of each of your three serves you have basically nine different serves at your calling at any time. No opponent can anticipate nine serves!

In addition to mixing up the speed of your serves, it is important to mix up the areas to which you hit your serves (*Diagram 1*). If you always hit a serve that lands in the backhand corner, it won't matter much what serve you hit,

for your opponent will be ready. You'll bounce the ball, he'll run to the back left corner, you'll hit it to him and he'll put you out.

Rather, you have to establish the entire court as potential recipient of one of your serves. That means an occasional serve to his forehand, occasional lobs, and some short area along with deep court serves.

2) Disguise Your Serve

As important as mixing up your serves is, you will lose all advantage of the surprise element if you telegraph what's coming to your opponent. Just as a baseball pitcher is doomed if he telegraphs his curve ball, so are you doomed if you let the receiver know what's coming.

So just how do you disguise your serve, and maintain the surprise? Since your ultimate goal is an ace or weak return, you want to catch your opponent leaning toward one side or the other. If you've got him guessing it will go a long way toward enabling you to score points without having to rally.

The best way to mask your intentions is to use the same service motion for all serves—right until the last moment.

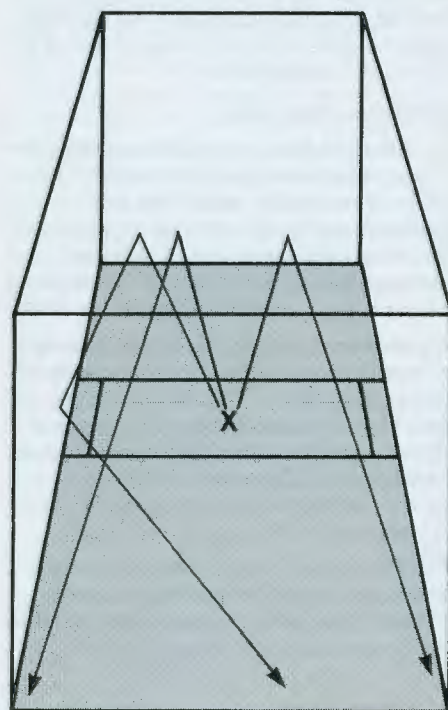


Diagram 1. Mix it up. Serving from the same position to different areas on the court.

For example, when you hit a cross court drive, stand, bounce the ball, and set up in the same place and manner as you would for a down-the-line serve. The only difference comes at the point of impact when you adjust your wrist.

The wrist snap will direct the ball, sending it either down-the-line or cross court. Remember that it takes just a slight wrist adjustment to radically alter the course of the ball. With practice you should be able to disguise nearly any serve.

3) Hit From Different Areas

Just as your opponent can adjust to overused serves, or serves at the same speed, so too can he adjust to serves from the same position in the service zone. Whether you hit a down-the-line, cross court, or Z serve if you hit them from the same position, the receiver can adjust to the angle the ball will travel, allowing him to see it better and anticipate its path.

In other words, even if the receiver is leaning left for your drive down-the-line, and you "fool" him with a Z to his right if he has already seen that Z serve from that position enough times, he'll have the ability to recover and get to your serve.

Thus I recommend that you serve from different areas within the service zone (*Diagrams 2a, 2b, 2c*). Let your opponent see a variety of serves, from a variety of positions, at a variety of speeds. Never let him get comfortable.

In addition, if all he sees is one motion from one spot, he'll soon begin to identify flaws or hints in your delivery that will tell him what serve is coming.

At least two or three different service zone locations should be used to give your serving arsenal proper variety. And, you should have a purpose to each position—variety for variety's sake is not nearly as effective as variety with a purpose.

For example, if your opponent is handling your hard drive serve to the backhand, you might not want to give it up the drive, even though it's not producing for you. In such a case, move to one of your alternate spots in the service zone to give him the hard drive

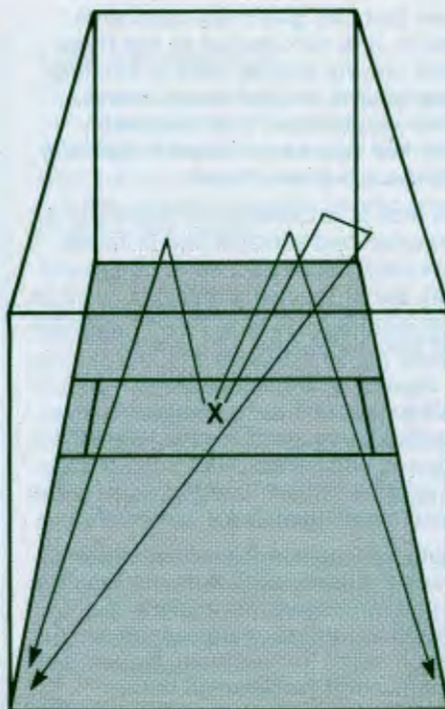


Diagram 2a. Hit from different areas (center).

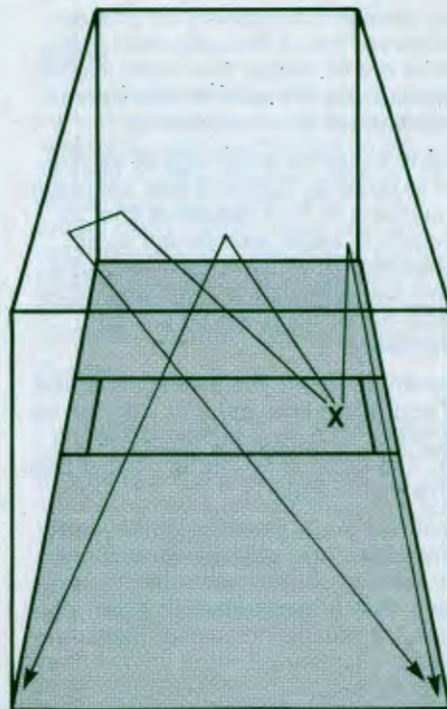


Diagram 2c. Hit from different areas (right side).

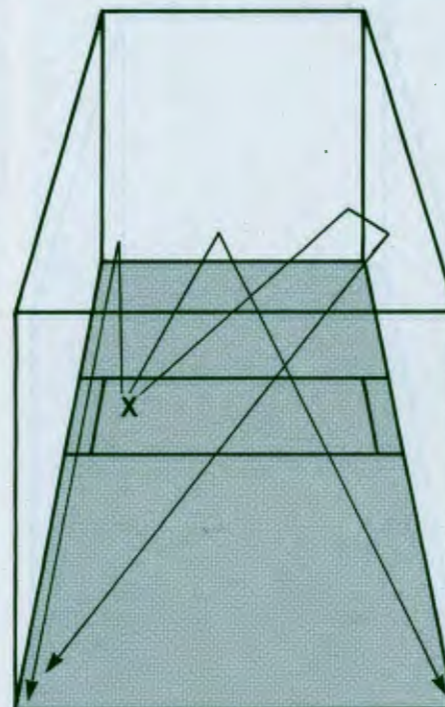


Diagram 2b. Hit from different areas (left side).

with a different look. If he still handles it with no problem, you might want to change.

The idea is to get the receiver concentrating on all the wrong things (for him): where the ball is coming from, how hard you're going to hit it, and which serve it might be. If you accomplish this, you'll be way ahead. On the other hand, if you're repetitive and unimaginative with your serves your opponent will be concentrating on killing the ball, driving it past you on the backhand side, or otherwise regaining the serve for himself.

4) Get Your First Serve In

I don't think there are many players I couldn't beat if they were only allowed one serve. Not that I'm so great a player, rather, that's how important it is to get your first serve in, both strategically and psychologically.

The receiver, if he knows what he's doing, is thinking defensively on your

first serve and offensively on your second serve. This is because most first serves are hit harder than most second serves, giving the receiver less time to react and set up on first serves.

This is a distinct advantage of serving, not to be taken lightly. If your opponent is planning to hit a defensive shot to return your serve, then he will do so, unless you hit an absolutely atrocious serve that gives him enough time to re-adjust his thinking, set up and hit offensively.

Therefore, even if you take some speed off your first serve, *get it in*. You will be far better off with a slightly slower hit first serve that is in, than a blasted first serve that is short.

What this really means is that control truly comes first with the serve. Once you learn to control where the serve is going, then you can learn to hit it harder, gradually increasing the pace without sacrificing control until you've got it down.

I like to get my students to aim for a 70% first serves in success ratio. If you can do 70% you'll be well on your way toward victory.

5) Develop A Good Second Serve

What does the pitcher do on the days he can't get his fastball over the plate? He must adjust and go to the curve ball or slider. If he hasn't been working on that particular pitch, if it isn't there when he needs it, then he won't be long in the league.

So it is with second serves, you must have a definite arsenal to be used from second serve situations. After all, even if you achieve the 70% milestone, that still leaves 30% of your serves as "seconds."

I've seen many players, perhaps thousands, who hit their first serve as hard as they can and when that inevitably comes up short, they hit an easy, almost apologetic second serve. *Don't be satisfied to merely put the ball in play on your second serve!*

Virtually every top player in racquetball has developed an effective second

serve that can give most opponents trouble. It is not unusual to see these same players scoring aces or eliciting weak returns on their second serve, which can be used interchangeably with their first serve—there's that little difference between them.

The trick is to develop confidence in a strong second serve (or two or three). Obviously, nobody wants to double fault, but at the same time, you want to take advantage of your serving position and play aggressive racquetball.

To develop your second serves you'll have to practice them. I enjoy playing practice games with friends where I'll only use one serve. This forces me to hit aggressively (or lose the value of the serve) but cautiously (or "double fault").

Another technique for second serves is to use the same serve that you would on your first serve, but make a slight adjustment to make the second serve version safer. For example, instead of hitting your drive serve so that it bounces just barely past the short line in ace territory, hit your drive so that it

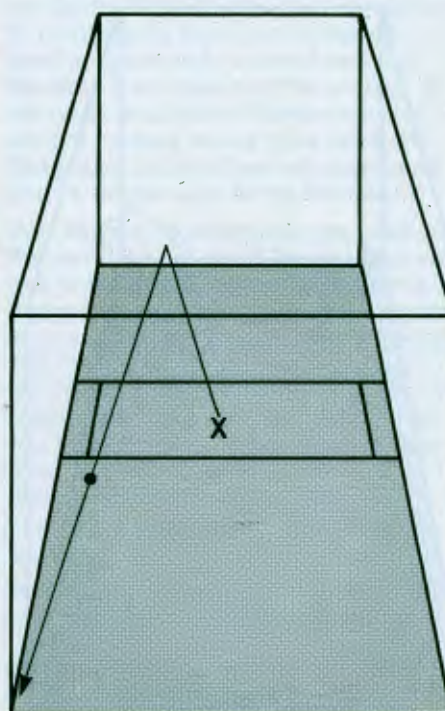


Diagram 3. The drive serve for an ace.

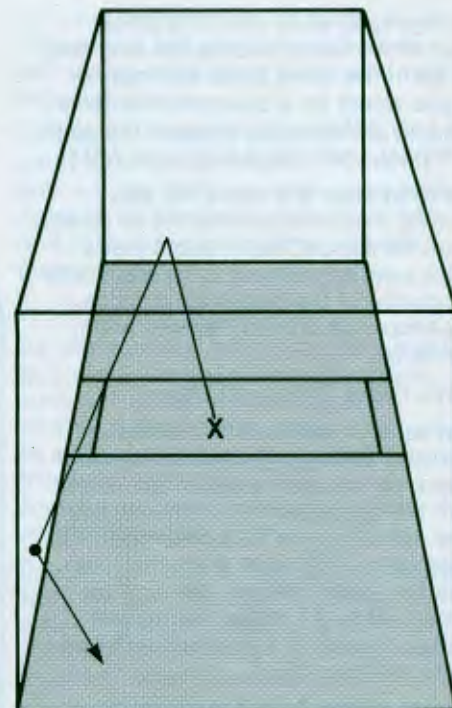


Diagram 4. The drive serve, second serve.

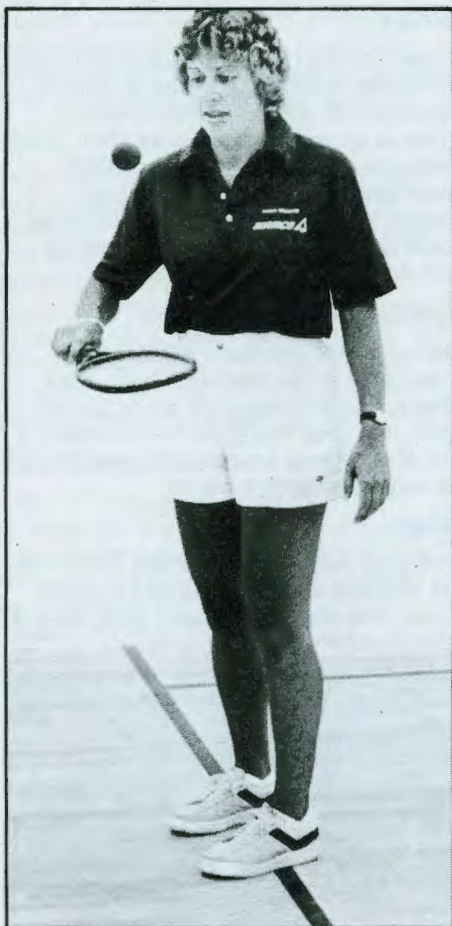
catches the side wall about three-quarters deep (Diagrams 3 & 4). Perhaps you will be sacrificing an ace, but you'll still have a shot at a weak return due to the pace.

Nothing gets better without practice. Fortunately, polishing your serve requires no partner, just determination on your part. Define a "good" serve for yourself and hit alone until you hit 20 "good" serves. And don't forget the key elements: disguise, mix it up and change speeds. ●

Steve Mondry is head racquetball pro at the East Bank Club, Chicago, a top touring pro for six years and author of numerous instructional articles on racquetball, conditioning and weight training.

Improving Shots You Should Never Take

by Kathy Williams



Any racquetball instructor worth his or her salt will tell you over and over, *"don't waste your time practicing shots or situations that will never come up in a game. Concentrate on those shots that will earn you points."*

That's all well and good, and I even subscribe to that theory, in general. However, there are times when it pays to put a few minutes into practicing the more difficult, lower percentage shots. If for no other reason, it's fun and breaks the monotony of serious practice.

Here then, are some drills for the more difficult shots you probably should never take.

Low Percentage

The lowest percentage shot in racquetball is the *overhead backhand pinch*. Although this shot has a very low success ratio, I have on many occasions in just the correct situation, scored points during a pro match.

Start

Hit a few ceiling balls to your backhand and when the ball bounces a little lower and shallower to the corner, hit a soft downward shot to the opposite forehand corner. The ball should hit the side wall first, about one foot or lower on the wall, and pinch into the front wall (*Figure 1*). This is a finesse shot that does not require high velocity.

Remember to disguise this shot as a ceiling ball return until the last moment. About twice a week during practice sessions alone I would hit 40 to 50 of these shots.

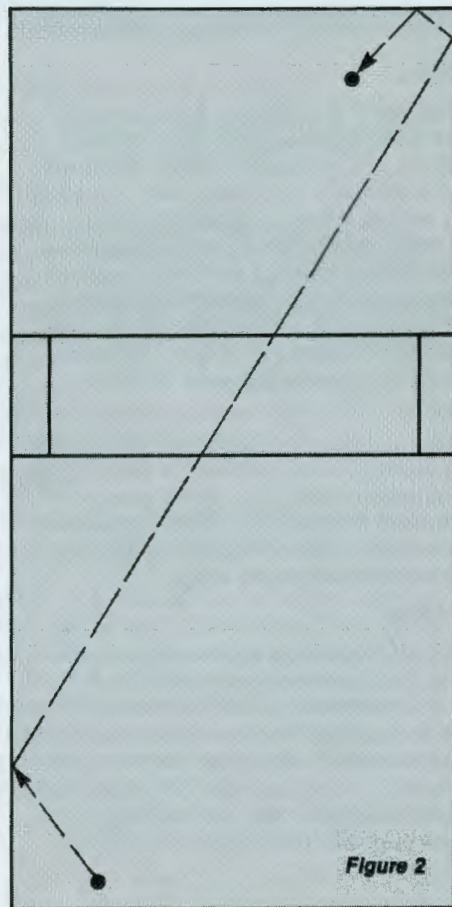


Notes

The best time to use this shot is during a long backhand ceiling ball rally when your opponent begins to get a little tired or lazy and fails to return to center court after each shot. I have turned many losing games into winning games with a few timely executions of this shot. No single shot in racquetball is more ego building or ego shattering than the overhead pinch.

Splat

The following shot is for the player who is so advanced they have nothing else to practice. The shot is called the *splat* from deep court and as the name suggests, the ball hits the side wall in deep court and rebounds to the opposite front corner. I have never hit a successful "intended" splat shot in a pro match.



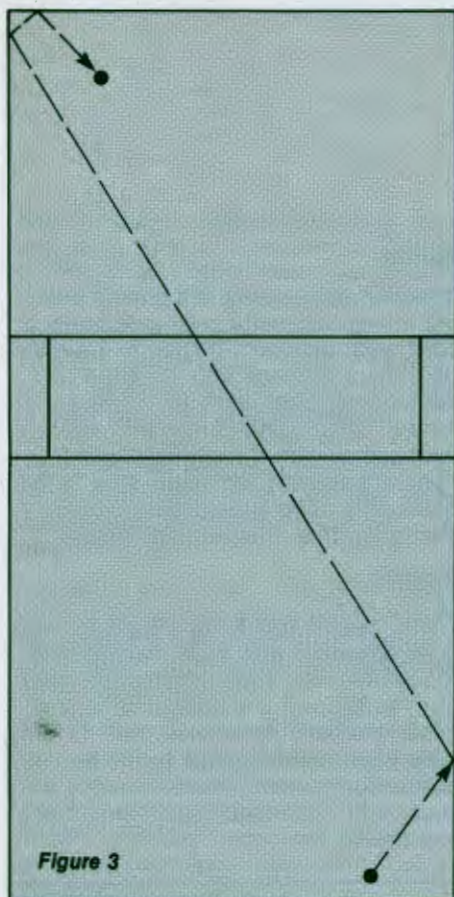


Figure 3

Start

Figures 2 & 3 represent the forehand and backhand splat shot from deep court. I have known players who practice this shot and have seen it used in a match. When racquetball was young, I often experimented with outrageous shots that had not yet been invented. I perfected a splat shot that was quite effective with a slow ball. When prize money entered the picture, the splat shot quickly disappeared from my game.

To practice, stand in deep court hitting a ceiling ball and splat the ball into the immediate side wall. You'll have to hit the ball hard. It's a fun shot to experiment with, but don't waste your time trying to perfect the shot.

Notes

Martha Byrd was the best splat ball player I have ever seen. Martha had never beaten me until a pro stop in Philadelphia. The courts were exceptionally slow with glass walls on both sides. I could hear the ball hit her racquet but never saw the ball until it hit the opposite front corner for a point.

Martha went on to win her first and only pro tournament with this shot. To this very day I continue to wonder if those splat shots were planned or accidental.

Overhead Drive

The *overhead pass* or *drive* is best used to get your opponent out of a ceiling ball rally and for use in doubles play. Use this shot to make your game more offensive and to keep added pressure on your opponent.

Start

When you practice this shot start with a soft ceiling ball into deep court. Either drive the ball down the wall or cross court (Figure 4). You want to hit it low enough so that the rebound does not leave a set up off the back wall.

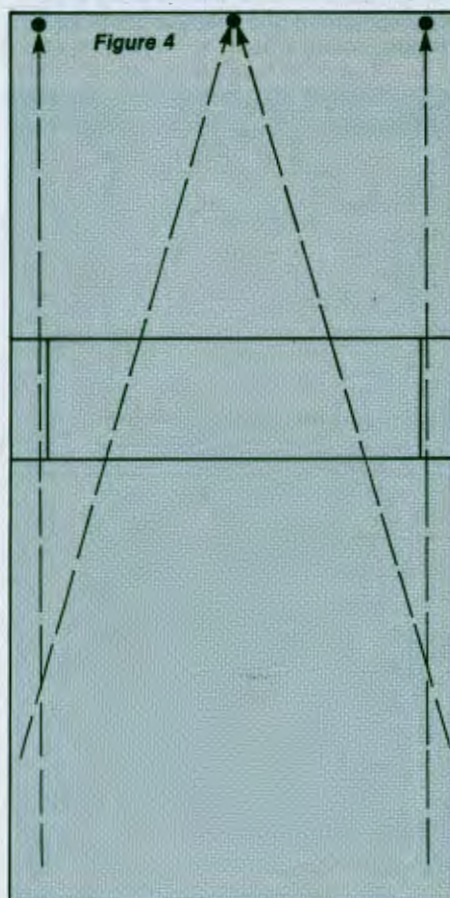


Figure 4

Notes

I use this shot to get my opponent out of center court or as a way to jam my opponent to force a difficult return. This is an excellent doubles shot because it many times will confuse your opponents as to who should return the shot. When you practice be sure to keep the shot from coming off the back wall.

Steding Overhead

Although the *overhead kill* is a very risky shot in racquetball, I have seen Peggy Steding demolish an opponent with this shot. Because the overhead is hit with a great amount of speed, there is very little room for error.

Start

The best way to practice this shot is to hit yourself a soft ceiling ball to deep court. You should aim your shot toward

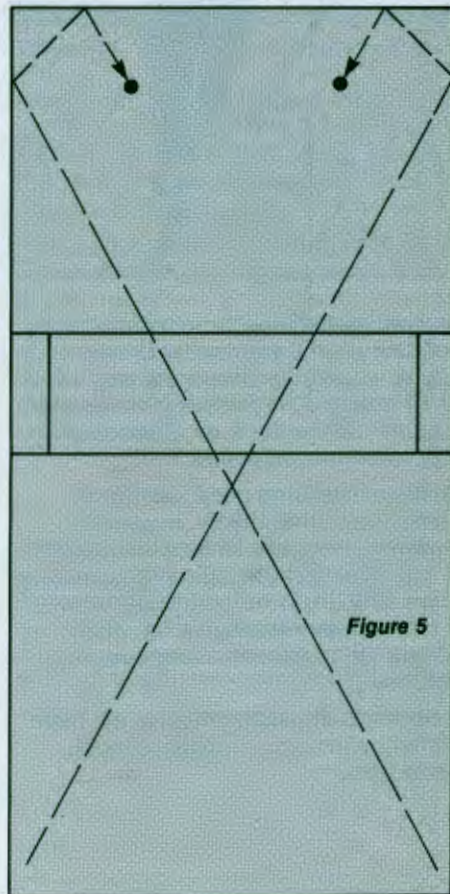


Figure 5

Kathy Williams has been a racquetball teacher and professional player for 10 years. She has completed The Book of Successful Racquetball Drills from which this article is excerpted.

the side wall first so that it pinches in to the front wall (Figure 5). If you leave the shot up a little too high it will result in an absolute plum for your opponent.

Notes

If you intend to use this shot you must be prepared to spend a great deal of time practicing it. I have only used this shot when my opponent was out of position. If you miss it (usually a "humongus" skip) makes you feel rather foolish. Charlie Brumfield had the best overhead kill for many years but with the advent of faster balls the overhead pass has taken its place.

One Step Return

This drill is called the one step drill because you are allowed only one step to get to the ball on a serve return. This drill is fun for both the server and the serve returner and helps in that explosive first step toward the ball.

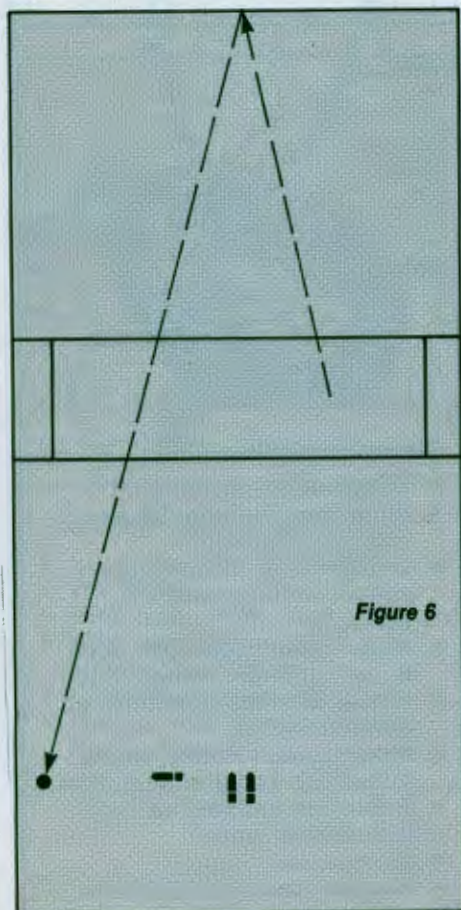


Figure 6

Start

Play an 11 point game with the serve returner only allowed one step (Figure 6) to get to the ball before he or she returns the shot. If you take more than one step to get to the serve it's a point for your opponent. After the serve return play out the point to completion.

Notes

You'll be surprised how much territory you can cover with just one step. I like this drill because it makes me react quickly to the serve and makes me extend myself more on my first step. It's also a good drill for the server who is aware that a good corner serve will usually score a point in this game. Students love this game are always amazed at the court coverage possible with just one step.

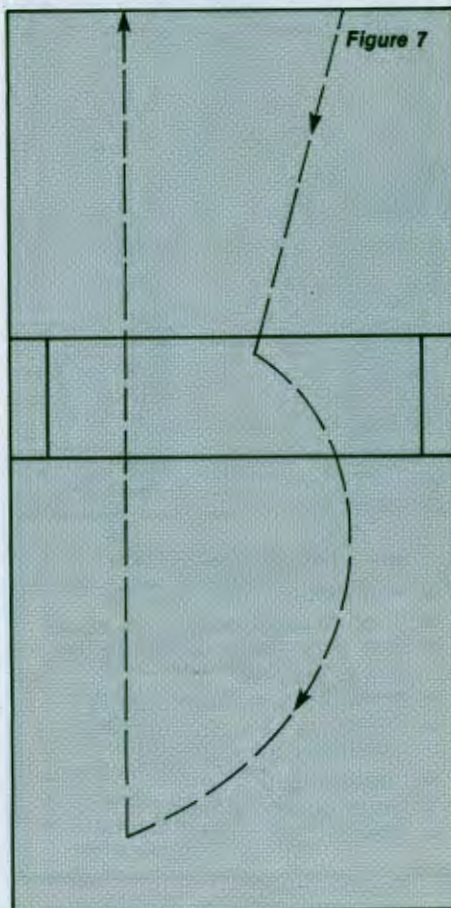


Figure 7

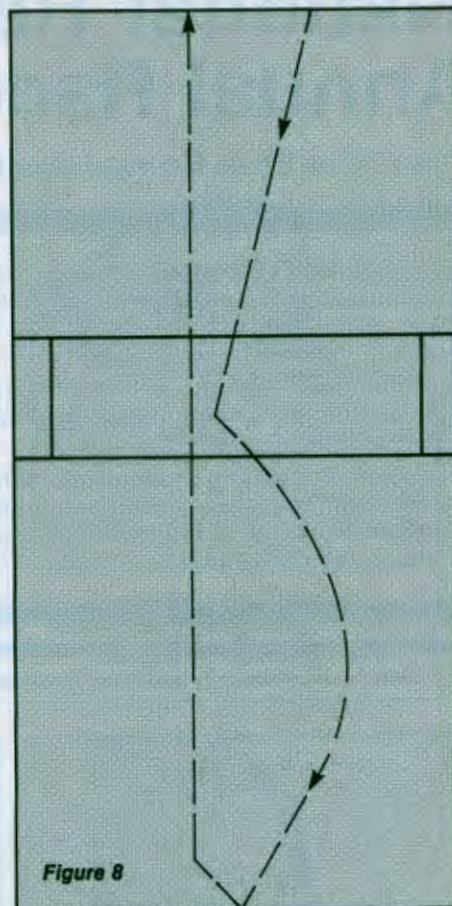


Figure 8

Opportunity Knocks

This is another ceiling ball drill that will improve your deep court kill shots.

Start

Start a ceiling ball rally and attempt a kill shot whenever the ball falls a little short or rebounds off the back wall (Figures 7 & 8). This drill can be done with one or two people. Hit ceiling balls all over the court and when the opportunity arises, go for the kill. Practice for about 10 minutes with both the forehand and backhand.

Notes

This drill is similar to the game situations you will encounter during a match. Most kill shot opportunities in a game are the result of a missed ceiling ball. Those softly rebounding ceiling balls off the back wall are some of the most difficult shots in racquetball. Knowing the limits of your ability on these shots and having confidence in your ability to kill the ball will improve your game. ●

National Racquetball's Annual Racquet Guide

Your One-Stop Comparison Shopping List

Your local club's pro shop probably carries some of them. Your local sporting goods store carries some. And through the mail you can purchase still others. But only in *National Racquetball* can you see them all — and compare.

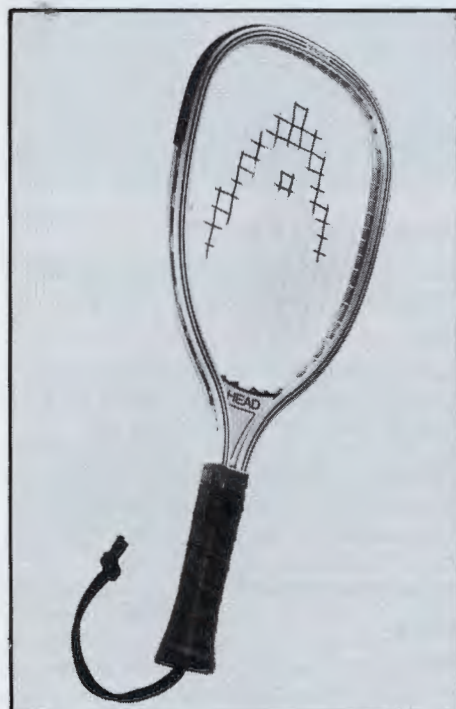
As we do each year, the editors of *National Racquetball* categorize the various racquets on the market by price. For this much money, here's what you'll get.

Our sincere thanks to the many manufacturers who unselfishly provided samples, photos, descriptions and prices of their products. For more information on any of the racquets described, contact the appropriate manufacturer listed at the conclusion of this article.



Alpha 1000 by Omega

- Suggested retail price: \$60.00
- Alpha 1000 tubular aluminum construction
- MAD-RAQ stringing for power and strength
- Head cover included
- Raised leather grip
- Grips: 3 $\frac{7}{8}$ " and 4"



Master by AMF Head

- Suggested retail: \$55.00
- 250 grams
- Head light balance for quick wrist snap
- Lightweight and durable aluminum construction
- Quadriform head shape
- Unique hourglass handle for more secure grip



Impact One by AMF Voit

- Suggested retail: \$55.00
- I-beam construction
- Tear drop head designed for power players
- Polyurethane foam handle
- Exclusive stringing pattern (16 mains/20 crosses)
- Leather grip
- Head cover included
- Weighs 265 grams



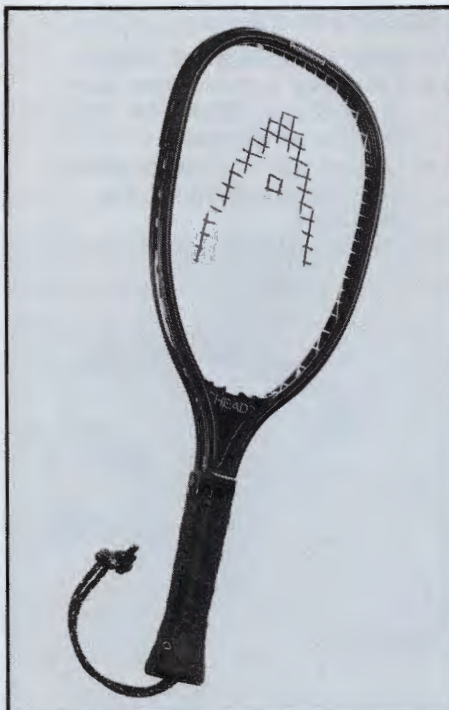
Phoenix by Wilson

- Suggested retail: \$60.00
- Aluminum, rectangular extrusion construction
- Designed for power and speed with flexibility for control
- Flared head shape with open throat for larger sweet spot
- Radiant stringing pattern for greater control
- Multi-filament strings, strung-in bumper and grommet strip
- Foam-filled handle and high-tack leather grip
- Weighs 240 grams
- Handle sizes: SX 3 $\frac{7}{8}$; S 4 $\frac{1}{8}$



Impact II by AMF Voit

- Suggested retail: \$60.00
- I-beam construction; stitched on bumper
- Special stringing pattern (12 main/16 crosses)
- Patented nylon, floating throat and polyurethane, foam handle
- Leather grip, head cover included
- Weighs 255 grams



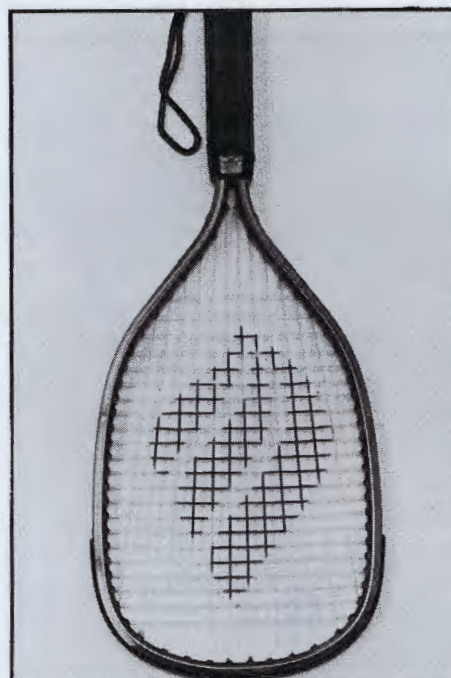
Professional by AMF Head

- Suggested retail: \$65.00
- 260 grams
- Even balance for more power
- Aerospace grade Aluminum I beam construction
- Quadriform head shape
- Unique hourglass handle for more secure grip



Sting Graphite by Wilson

- Suggested retail: \$72.00
- Injection blend of graphite and fiberglass in nylon matrix
- Designed for exceptional power without sacrificing control
- Quadrangular head shape for larger sweet spot
- Radiant string pattern for more uniform ball response
- Multi-filament strings, strung-in bumper and vinyl head cover
- Weighs 240 grams
- Handle sizes: XS 3 $\frac{3}{8}$; S 4



Magnum 2 by Ektelon

- Suggested retail: \$72.50
- Wishbone frame for enlarged sweet spot
- Sunburst string pattern for increased power
- Weighs 245 grams
- High-strength extrusion for increased durability
- Sewn-on vinyl bumper/grommet strip reduces vibration
- Sand-colored vinyl protective cover



Graphite Gold by DP Leach

- Suggested retail: \$73.20
- Weighs 240 grams
- Fiberglass-wrapped graphite construction
- Diamond head shape with quadriform upper head and modified tear-drop bottom
- Tournament strings; contour molded bumper
- Firm flex for intermediate/advanced players
- Smooth leather 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ grip



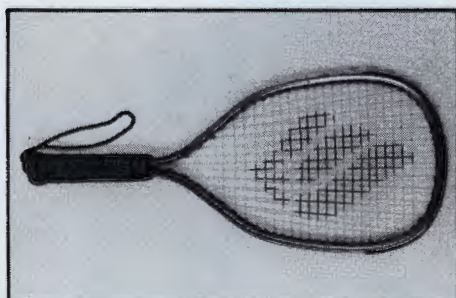
Graphite 260 by DP Leach

- Suggested retail: \$76.40
- DP's newest graphite — light, powerful, super stiff
- Combination of maple, ash, bamboo and graphite laminates
- Contour-molded bumper guard
- Smooth leather grip in 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
- Weighs 245 grams
- Tournament strings; cover included



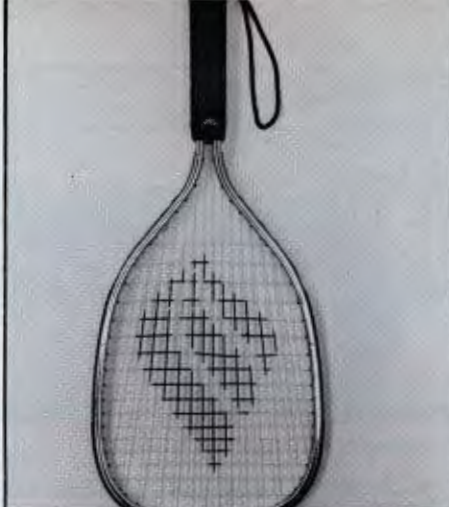
Pacer by AMF Voit

- Suggested retail: \$80.00
- All fiberglass construction
- 250 grams and well balanced for control
- Quadraform head shape for control and flexibility
- Patented stitched-on bumper guard
- One string per hole for uniform tension
- Leather grip



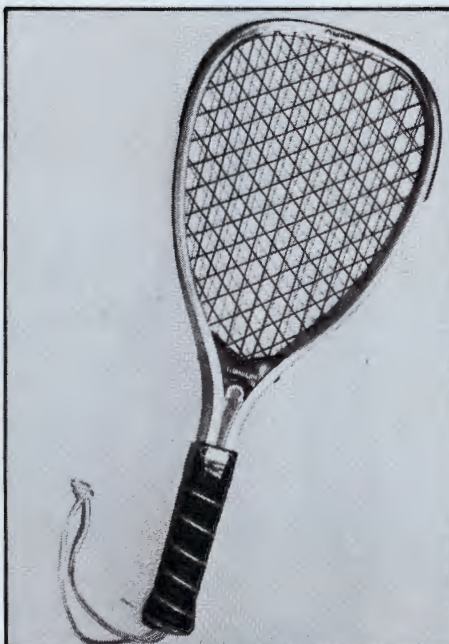
Citori by Ektelon

- Suggested retail: \$85.00
- Aluminum alloy 7178-TG construction
- Resistant to distortion and twisting at impact
- Weighs 240 grams; leather grip
- Multifilament braided string
- 90-day string warranty and two-year racquet warranty
- Handle sizes: SS (3-11/16"), XS (3-15/16"), S (4 1/8")



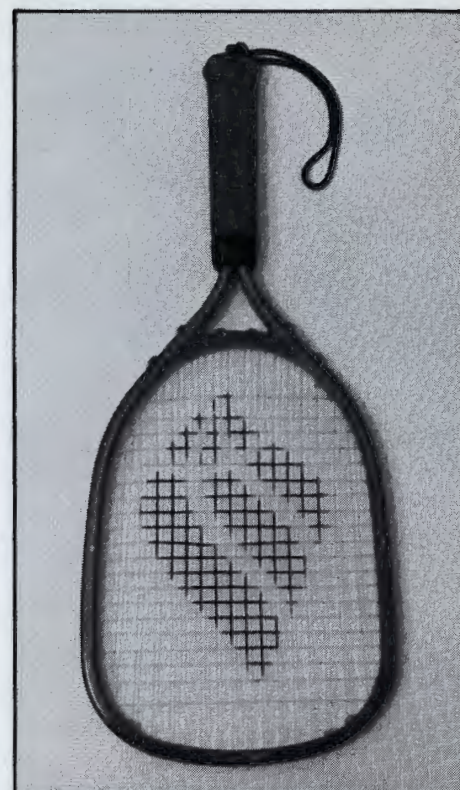
ST 245 by Ektelon

- Suggested retail: \$100.00
- High strength True Temper steel alloy construction withstands impact
- Wishbone frame and sunburst stringing pattern for control
- Thin frame profile with controlled stiffness increases power
- Sand colored cover included
- Weighs 245 grams



Titanium by Omega

- Suggested retail price: \$100.00
- Titanium construction
- Exclusive MAD-RAQ stringing
- Ball shock dispersed in six directions not four
- Raised leather grips
- Integrated sewn-in grommet strip and bumper
- Grips: 3 3/8" and 4"



Bluelite by Ektelon

- Suggested retail: \$100.00
- Fiberglass construction for greater control and flexibility
- Weighs 250 grams
- Unique alloy of nylon resins, plus "chopped fibers" for durability
- Special handle construction



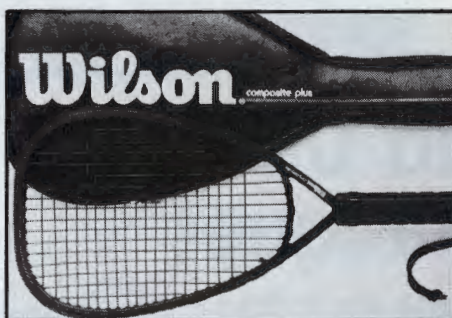
Graphite 8000 by DP Leach

- Suggested retail: \$102.60
- 80% graphite construction
- New core design eliminates air pockets
- Modified teardrop head shape
- Molded bumper guard; cover included
- Weighs 250 grams
- Smooth leather grip in 3 3/8" and 4"



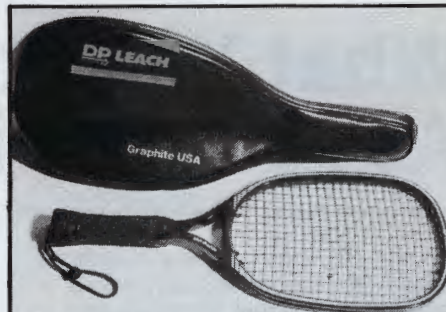
Graphite Express by AMF Head

- Suggested retail: \$105.00
- 245 grams
- Hand placed continuous fiber graphite and fiberglass laminations
- Hollow, unique torsion tube construction
- Head light balance for quick wrist snap
- Quadriform head shape
- Unique hourglass handle for more secure grip



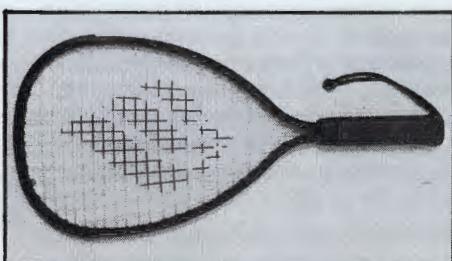
Composite Plus by Wilson

- Suggested retail: \$120.00
- Hand-wrapped layers of graphite and fiberglass assure playability
- Arched throat provides wide base of support to reduce torque
- Strung-in bumper guard and grommet strips for added string protection
- Foam-filled handle to reduce vibration
- High quality grip and full length cover included
- Weighs 245 grams
- Handle sizes: XS 3 $\frac{3}{8}$; S 4 $\frac{1}{8}$



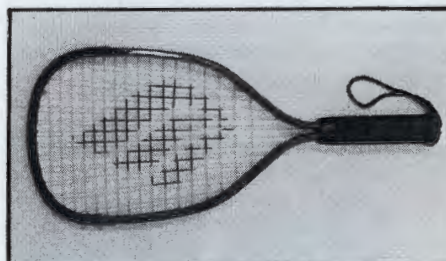
Graphite USA by DP Leach

- Suggested retail: \$152.00
- New core design eliminates air pockets
- New graphite, spiral strings
- Weighs 250 grams
- 100% graphite for extra firm flex
- For intermediate/advanced players
- Raised leather grip in 3 $\frac{3}{8}$, 3 $\frac{7}{8}$, and 4



GRC 3000 by Ektelon

- Suggested retail: \$150.00
- Teardrop head shape and wishbone frame for larger sweet spot
- Hand-laid composite construction for control
- Stiff graphite core snaps at impact for power
- Sunburst string pattern
- Comes with black brushed vinyl sueded protective cover with logo
- Weighs 245 grams



Graphite CBK by Ektelon

- Suggested retail: \$200.00
- Graphite frame increases power while reducing swing effort and fatigue.
- Kevlar core for vibration damping and flex control
- Boron fibers provide maximum strength
- Wishbone frame creates bigger hitting area
- Available in two weights 245 and 230 grams
- Protective cover of brushed vinyl suede with Graphite CBK logo

Composite 250G by Ektelon

- Suggested retail: \$115.00
- Hand-laid lamination
- Graphite fiber core for power
- Continuous-oriented fiberglass construction
- New grommeted bumper
- Brushed tan vinyl suede protective cover with 250G logo
- Weighs 250 grams

For further information on any of the racquets included in this guide feel free to contact the appropriate manufacturer:

AMF Head, Inc., P.O. Box C-5227, Princeton, NJ 08540

AMF Volt, Inc., 3801 South Harobr Blvd., Santa Anna, CA 92704

DP Leach, 309 Williamson Ave., Opelika, AL 36802

Ektelon, 8929 Aero Dr., San Diego, CA 92123

Omega, 9200 Cody, P.O. Box 14926, Overland Park, KS 66214

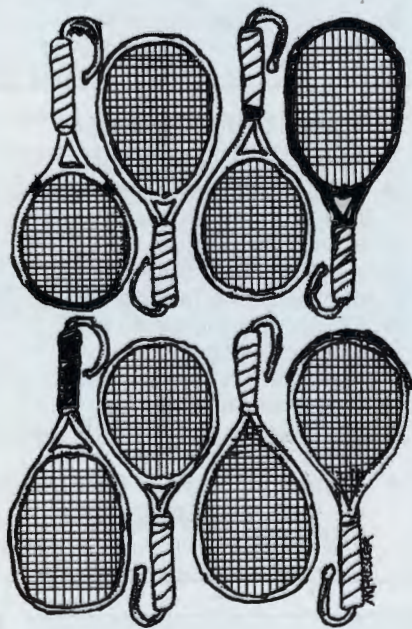
Wilson Sporting Goods, 2233 West St., River Grove, IL 60171 ●

What You Told Us About Your Racquet

Not only did large numbers of committed players respond to the *National Racquetball Racquet Survey* (June issue), they responded with an unusual and gratifying amount of enthusiasm and interest.

Many of the survey forms came back with comments all around the margins—a sort of spilling-over of ideas and observations on racquets and the way they're marketed, and on our surveys, letting us know that they're useful to you out there in racquetball land.

In fact, a lot of readers feel that the whole survey process puts them in touch with equipment alternatives and helps them make informed selections—and they took the trouble to let us know that. Our thanks to all of you for sharing your insights and experience.



Who Responded

The forms we got back represented the backbone of racquetball—the frequent players who have enough court experience to call themselves advanced or at least intermediate. Just under 80% reported that they play three or more times a week. Of the others, most play twice a week (17%), while just a handful play once a week—and we even heard from one player who only manages once a month.

The largest group in terms of playing level were the advanced players with 45%, followed by intermediates at 34%. Next we heard from a substantial cluster of open level—14%—with smaller numbers of beginners (4.4%) and pros (2.6%).

It's particularly heartwarming to hear from players who are just getting into racquetball or who can only just squeeze an infrequent game in. We know the three-time-a-week diehards are involved and committed, but we like to think other players have a chance to be heard also and to feel that they matter in the sport.

Predictably enough—given the median age of racquetballers generally—our respondents fell mainly into the 25-34 and 35-44 age categories, with 44% in the former and 27% in the latter. The rest were divided more or less evenly at either end, with 11.5% aged 18-24, 14% aged 45-54, and a sprinkling of players in the under-18 and 55-65 groups.

Those we heard from were predominantly male—76%—but the women players were not badly represented with almost a quarter of the responses coming from them.

The respondents were geographically far-flung, coming from 34 states, plus Hawaii and Saudi Arabia. (Yes, Virginia, they play racquetball there—particularly in American compounds.)

The Rax Facts

Now we get to the part where you can't generalize about racquetball players—where they show themselves a hardy breed of individuals. The racquet owning and buying habits you told us about indicate that every player has his own needs and goes about meeting them in a different way.

While most of you own two or three racquets, for example, a hefty proportion still get along with just one and, at the other extreme, a lot of players reported having four or more. The figures break down like this: 16% own one; 33%, two; 30%, three; and 21%, four or more.

New purchases over the last 12 months fell almost evenly among the “none,” “one” and “two” slots, with 30%, 37% and 24%. At the high end—three or more—only 9% reported. Presumably players who play exceptionally hard and frequently wear racquets out by weakening and eventually breaking the frame. But we can also surmise that

'I Love My Racquet—Almost Always'

Most of the comments identified the racquet by brand and model, and most were enthusiastically positive. We believe you—you really do love your racquets!

Since more of the racquets reported on were made by Ektelon than any other manufacturer, Ektelon models came in also for more comments. The CBK led the field, with 23% of overall comments. Among the thoughts readers shared:

“Due to its construction, the CBK provides a power game. It takes time to adjust to the lightness and correct the

tendency to ‘overswing’ thereby sacrificing control.”—M. Watson, Englewood, OH.

“I wish my game were as good as my racquet—Ektelon CBK.”—J. Hamburger, West Bloomfield, MI.

“I use the CBK even though it's ‘better’ than I am. It helps me make backhand shots I couldn't make with my other racquet.”—S. Lebit, Seaford, NY.

Not all the comments were unequivocally positive. Even CBK addicts have a few complaints.

“I feel the CBK is the best racquet on the market... my only qualm is that

since some people get along without buying any new racquets in the course of a year, many of the players who indulge in one or more purchases do so to experience the stimulus of new equipment and to try a racquet with somewhat different qualities than they're used to.

One reason perhaps for the moderate purchasing habits reported is that these players take care of their equipment and get their racquets restrung. In the past 12 months, 69% report having had it done, which would in many instances make buying a new racquet unnecessary.

New racquets, when they are bought, come from pro shops (40%), sporting goods stores (29%), mail order houses (20%), discount stores (9%) and YMCAs or JCCs (2%). A small number of players indicated that they're sponsored by one or another manufacturer, and an even smaller number said they bought their racquet from a friend.

In any event, there are lots and lots of racquets out there, made out of lots of materials—although those we heard about were more often graphite than anything else. Graphite came in with a whopping 60% of the field, way ahead of aluminum, even, which had a substantial 29%. Fiberglass accounted for 7%, and other materials—steel, wood, composite—took up the other 4%.

Again, while there are lots of brands, we got reports mainly on a few, with a heavy concentration—55%—on Ektelon. Next in line came AMF Head with 17%, DP Leach with 11%, Wilson with 6%, AMF Voit with 5%, and the remaining 5% or so includes Omega and a variety of other brands—Dunlop, EST, Olympian, Aerolite and Star-master. Although Ektelon garnered such a large portion of the market (as you'd expect from a company that's so heavily involved in racquetball), readers displayed some strong loyalty to their favorite brands in the comments they made. (See sidebar.)

Why You Chose What

When it came to price, a surprising 60% of players reported paying between \$61 and \$151-plus for their last racquet purchase, with 34% in the \$61-100 range, 26% in the \$101-150, and 8% over \$151. The low-mid price range, \$41-60, came in with 17%, and a smaller number—11%—are still playing with racquets that cost between \$21 and \$40. And there are a few real bargain racquets out there—4% managed to pay less than \$20! But the mid-range racquet these days costs over \$60 and understandably players expect a lot for that kind of money.

One thing our readers would very much like is to be able to test a racquet before buying. Of first place votes for what would most influence their next purchase decision, 56% went to "Playing test," with "feel" a close follower at 39%. Other considerations hardly figured at all as primary factors.

The second most important factors were also voted "playing test" and "feel" more than any others, although here the proportion shifted and "feel" got more votes with 47% than playing test with 28%. Other factors began to make a showing in second place—price, for instance, got 11% and "local instructor's advice" 9%. Price was rated third priority by 40%. Other third-priority votes went to appearance and local instructor's advice, with 17% each. Playing test and "feel" were rated third by only 8.5% each.

As to the qualities players value in the racquets they currently play with, the votes are all over the ballpark. The elusive elements of power, control, weight and balance were heavily represented in all three places. *Power* took 23% of the "what you like most" first-priority votes. *Balance* followed closely with 22%, then *control* with 20%, *weight* with 18%, and the other 15% divided among *sweet spot* (9%) and *grip* (6%). A single player cast his first-priority vote in the "other" slot and specified what he like best as the total lack of vibration that he got with a 100%-graphite racquet.

they are prone to head or handle breakage."—B. Hollingsworth, Dover, PA.

Overwhelmingly, users of CBKs felt that their racquet was the best—as did users of 250Gs and all the other brands and models. The 250G people had these comments:

"The 250G is the finest all around racquet..."—J. Kohler, Colorado Springs, CO.

"The 250G is the most widely used racquet in this part of the state. Its performance definitely outweighs the cost. It should be tried by all serious players."—B. Dunstan, Lewiston, NY.

"I have been real happy with my 250G. I just wish that racquets were a little less expensive."—N. Siegel, Williamsville, NY.

We also got comments praising the Ektelon Magnum II and Citori, as well as one player's criticism of the Jennifer Harding model as too small—for that player.

AMF Head models drew similar fervent praise from their adherents. Some of the pronouncements:

"Head Graphite Express—excellent."—R.T. Pike, Mission Viejo, CA.

"I love it. The Head Graphite combines

power with control and has a large sweet spot."—L. Pitts, Roslyn, PA.

We also got a revealing plea about Head and graphite:

"I wish Head would come out with a good graphite racquet."—B. Stanley, Davison, MI. (You can see what readers mean when they complain about lack of information and availability of racquets—this reader had obviously never come across the Graphite Express.)

Other AMF Head models that got recommendations were the Professional and the Master. The Pro in particular got kudos for an all-around playing racquet, combining performance

The same four qualities were rated second most important *and* third most important, though the proportions alter. *Grip* was rated second by 12%, and third by 13%. *Appearance* was not important to more than a handful, but *sweet spot* was second for 10% and third for 8%. *Power, control, weight and balance* were rated second by 18%, 14%, 17%, and 25%, respectively. The same qualities were rated third by 17%, 18%, 21%, and 21%.

What all of this seems to indicate is that the debate over power vs. control is as close a race as ever. The players who place the highest premium on power appear to rate control a close second, and vice versa. Very few players think of themselves as exclusively power hitters, and very few think that finesse is everything. It's the combination of the two that makes a top-notch racquetballer.

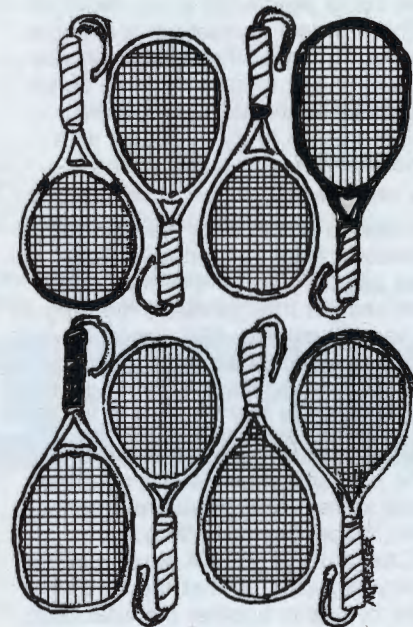
What you reported disliking most about your racquet is also all over the ball park. The largest percentage of responses to this question, however, expressed no complaint, with 26%. Many of these happy readers wrote enthusiastic remarks about their racquets, indicating strong positive feelings—"I love my racquet" was not an uncommon remark!

On the other hand, 21% of respondents are unhappy with their *grip*. They don't specify exactly what's wrong with it, but one reader (who had no complaints) wished that a grip could be developed that made gloves unnecessary. *Control* was rated unsatisfactory by 12%, and another 9% found the *sweet spot* not to their liking.

But apart from *grip*, significant numbers occurred only in the *other* category — and boy, are racquetball players an idiosyncratic and individualistic lot! Among the 20% who described some negative facet of their racquet the same complaint was rarely repeated.

A few things *did* show up more than once. *String breakage* was pronounced most irritating by 5%. General *lack of durability*—frame wear or breakage, chipping and bending—was cited by 8%. *Lack of availability*, information and manufacturers' support was cited in relation to some of the less high-profile brands. And *bumper guards* come in for some criticism—for not being sewn in, for falling off, and conversely for entailing a restringing job when they wear out. Presumably, the ideal bumper guard is securely sewn in place, but independently of the strings.

In the sidebar we have included a selection of the comments you wrote. A



majority of respondents took the opportunity to comment, and we thank all who did. We're only sorry there isn't space to include all the points that were raised and all the interesting features noted about this or that racquet. We've tried to include all the main topics that the comments hit on—and we hope if other readers have ideas to add that they'll write us. ●

and durability. One player complained about his Head graphite disintegrating at the handle, but did not identify the model (and we hope he has worked the problem out with Head. When you do have a problem with your racquet, let the manufacturer know. They're usually delighted to set things straight and make sure you have a decent product for your money.)

DP Leach also have their loyal adherents. One player said of the upper-bracket graphite Hogan "No vibration—the whole racquet is a sweet spot." Other comments included:

"I sure wish they would sell more DP

Leaches in the Omaha, NE, area."—K. Gregory, Papillion, NE.

"I use a Leach Competitor. The grip was hand-shaved for size and I now feel the racquet is custom made."—B. Deltrick, Peoria, IL.

Some bracing words of encouragement were offered to Wilson. A reader wrote: "Wake up Wilson—your Composite Plus is a winner! Act like it!"—E. McGhee, Chicago, IL.

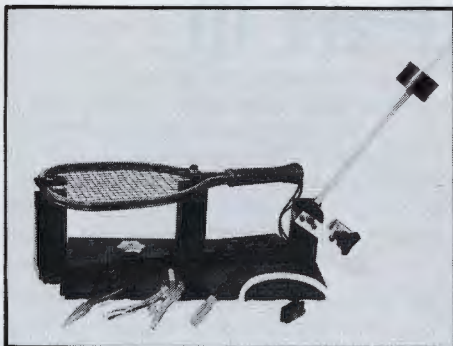
The Composite Plus was also praised for balance, and lamented by one reader as difficult to find. Like the other brands that readers wrote about, it was called the "best racquet on the market"

or "the best racquet I've ever played with" and has improved countless games beyond measure.

The truly fun thing about your comments is that your racquets are so important to you, so central to your game—and consequently to your life—that everyone really got excited telling us what mattered.

The available racquets seem to be doing a good job of meeting player's needs—a few improvements to the grips, a little more information, a little wider availability of all the selections, and players would be entirely happy. ●

New Products



Racquet Stringer

This well designed stringing machine can be purchased either as a portable (as shown) unit or can be permanently mounted. Each machine is individually calibrated and uses a drop weight counterbalance tensioning system which never requires any further adjustments or calibration. The racquetball racquet tension range is from 16-54 lbs. Construction materials are anodized 6061 aluminum and zinc plated steel and feature a simple, easy to use clamp for the string.

Each machine comes with everything needed to get started. Also included with each machine is some practice string and complete instructions for stringing racquets and the use of the machine.

Information on establishing your club or yourself and purchasing the stringing machine and supplies may be obtained by writing: RCP (Racquet Custom Products), P.O. Box 5091, Rockford, IL 61125 (815) 398-9615.



New Pullover Machine

Universal Gym Equipment introduces its new Pullover machine to develop the chest, triceps and latissimus muscle groups.

It features a lifting arm that can be adjusted 80 degrees to expand the exerciser's range of motion and to accommodate different arm lengths. The Pullover's force curve emulates the natural force curve of the body parts involved.

The back support is slanted at a 45 degree angle and is padded and contoured to place the user in the optimum position for the exercise. The machine is upholstered in washable Naugahyde, and requires a space of 43" x 79" x 70" high.

Write for Universal's new Free Weight catalog and Physical Conditioning Equipment catalog: Universal Gym Equipment, Inc. 930 27th Ave., S.W., Cedar Rapids, IA 52406, 800-553-7901.

CLASSIFIED ADS

TO BUY OR SELL

Your club ... nationwide
Write or call
Mark Hegg

HEGG COMPANIES, INC.
3712 S. Western Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

CLUB FOR SALE

Northern Colorado, 5 courts, Super Wall construction. Full line of Nautilus; wallyball for 2 courts. Locker rooms, separate saunas and whirlpools. Lounge. Expansion possibilities. Financing available. Write Box HG, c/o National Racquetball, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.

Upcoming Seminars

**August 26-27—Steamboat Springs, Colorado
Weekend Management/Programming/Planning Seminar**

**September 16—Chicago, (Charlie II Club & Hotel,
Suburban Palatine) in conjunction with International
Racquet Sports Association First Annual National
Fitness Center Symposium**

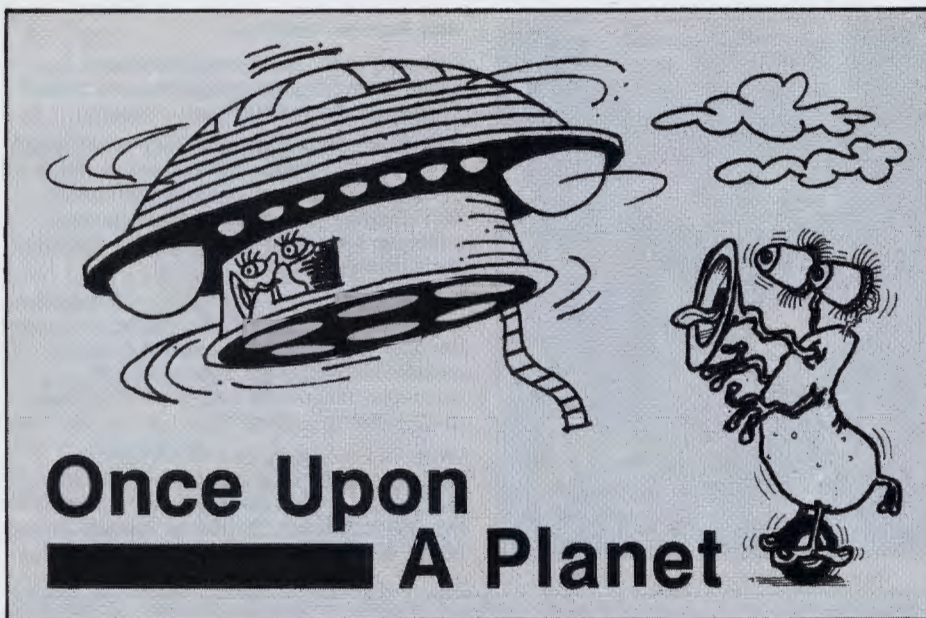
Call collect for reservations/further details.
Included in the seminar book, "Bible of the Industry"

- Getting the Court Club package together
- Trends in the industry
- Elements of owning and operating a club
- Architectural step by step development — outline from site selection and building design to handicap requirements with synopsis
- Dues structuring
- Guidelines to the Feasibility/proforma report
- Sample proformas
- Small population markets
- The pro shop
- Exercise programming/equipment
- Key questions from previous seminars
- Court Club philosophy
- Product sources
- Pre-opening sales campaigns

- ☐ New seminar report booklet—\$15.
- ☐ 60-minute tape cassette—"Feasibility of Court Clubs"—\$10
- ☐ 9—or 11—court preliminary drawing—\$10 each.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Further Information: August 7 - September 7—Mort Leve,
Steamboat Springs, CO (303) 879-1035.
After September 7—Court Club Enterprises, 8303 East Rd.,
Scottsdale, AZ 85251. (602) 991-0253.



(Part II)

by Steve Galliford

The Secretary General was next, followed by the gang of world leaders.

"Mr. Starks!" boomed the head of the United Nations. "Do you realize what you are doing?"

Someone handed Starks a glass of water. "I'm playing a friendly game of racquetball," he said. He sipped at the water.

"Friendly?!" The diplomat was enraged. "Where is your damn smile? And who the hell said you were supposed to win?"

A graying U.S. general rushed into the court. His face was wrinkled with worry. He handed a slip of paper to the U.S. President, who cursed, then passed it to the Secretary General. The old Frenchman glanced at the paper, then squeezed his little eyes into thin slits.

"Mon Dieu," he said. "Oh my God!" The Secretary General widened his eyes and addressed the politicians: "Radar installations all over the globe have picked up masses of UFO's. Hundreds of them." He glared at Starks. "I do not think you are supposed to win."

Starks braced himself against a wall. "Maybe they've just come to watch. Maybe they—"

"I doubt it," said the U.S. General, with an air of authority. "These vessels are much bigger than the one that landed. Probably war ships." The old General cleared his throat. "They are tapping our communication satellites, so we know they are watching the match. But I seriously doubt they are here just to watch."

The Secretary General turned to Starks. "Mr. Starks, you must not win the next game, do you hear? You must not win!"

The little translator entered, clapping his hands slowly. "All ready for the decisive game? Good."

Stark's opponent bounded into the court, bounced itself gracefully off the ceiling, then descended lightly to the floor, like an ugly but talented ballerina. The creature then veered its flat purple face towards Starks and let loose a hideous squeal.

The translator shook his little black box briefly, poking at the buttons with tiny fingers. "He wants to start the game immediately," he said.

"I'm ready," said Starks.

The politicians filed out of the court, as did the translator. The Secretary General remained for a moment. "You know what this game means," he whispered to Starks. "And for God's sake—smile!" He slammed the door behind him.

The television men returned to their cameras and a nervous world braced itself for the third and final game.

As the two players rallied for serve, Starks felt his confidence mounting. He was becoming accustomed to playing under the effects of anti-gravity and was sure that he could beat the alien in this final game. But he also knew that he could not afford to win, that the entire world was counting on him to lose, something he would find difficult to do.

The exciting, dramatic and surprising conclusion to Starks monumental racquetball battle with a being from another world.

Winning was in his blood. Since he was a wee toddler he had been conditioned to win, to be the best. And now, in front of literally billions of onlookers, he was supposed to lose?

The alien won the rally and, as he readied himself for the serve, Starks figured that if he could not afford to win the game at least he would give the little creature a good fight. The silver ball flew off the wall at an awkward angle, floating diagonally up to meet the ceiling. Starks jumped and hit it back to the wall where it bounced back, out of the alien's reach.

But as the ball drifted by the little creature's back, the alien passed its racquet between its legs, grabbed it again with its snake-like tail, and smacked the ball back to the wall. Out of total surprise Starks missed the return and lost the point. He frowned at the alien who replied with an ear-piercing wheeze. Starks then looked up at the gallery.

"He can't do that!" he screamed. The Secretary General nodded his head and pointed to his mouth which was turned up at the corners in a forced smile.

Starks tore his eyes from the diplomat and waited for the serve. He was breathing hard now and could feel his adrenaline pumping, spreading like wildfire through sagebrush. He could hear his own heart—pounding, pounding incessantly. He was blinded with rage; the whole world was watching him be humiliated, laughed at, and what was he supposed to do? Smile.

The more he thought about it the more infuriated he became—the more his preconditioned ego impelled him to try for the victory. Some inexorable force within his subconscious was telling him that he must try to win, that he *needed* to win. Maybe the UFO's *had* come to watch the game and had no hostile intentions after all. Maybe there was nothing to worry about . . .

The ball made a beeline for his feet. He stooped, flicked it back to the wall, and grinned as the alien dove and missed the return. He stood at the serving line and waited for the creature to pick itself up. The alien was obviously upset at having lost the serve and made a threatening motion to Starks with its racquet, then filled the court with a terrible screech.

Starks held out a restraining hand. "Take it easy," he said. "Let's just play the game."

The alien made another aggressive motion, then got into position for the serve.

Starks sent the ball into the corner. The alien flung itself laterally and smacked it high off the wall, making for a difficult return. Starks heaved his body up, missed the ball, and flew face first into the corner. Blood trickled in slow-motion from his nose; a sharp pain rifled through his head. He felt his nose—it was broken.

Again a high-pitched scream filled the court. It seemed the alien enjoyed the sight of human blood. Starks pressed his fingers against his nose to stop the bleeding, but only briefly as the ball floated off the wall at his feet. He managed to scoop it up and win the point. His hatred for the alien was climaxing now; he was obsessed with winning the game.

The battle ground slowly on, Starks no longer aware of his diplomatic role or the screaming politicians in the gallery. All that existed were himself and his vile opponent in this wickedly tense game of racquetball. He was totally oblivious to everything outside the court and that one game. It was a hot, bloody battle—and he wanted to *win*.

As the match entered its third hour Starks needed only two more points to win, and despite his weightlessness and exhaustion was playing very well. His alien counterpart was leaping and stretching with all its strength, but seemed to be tiring. Its squeals of displeasure were frequent now, as it sensed its almost certain defeat.

A heavy hammering sound came from the gallery; Starks looked up to see the

Secretary General and the rest of the political leaders waving frantically and screaming at him through the glass, telling him to stop and think what he was doing. Their faces were wild with terror, their pleas desperate. But Starks only half-heard them in his fatigue, and could think only of the game now, and the two points that lay between himself and victory.

The alien was squealing again and threatening him with its racquet, but the furious attempts at intimidation fell on deaf ears. Starks' entire being was geared towards the next serve. He glanced at the ball in his hand, then slashed it at the wall and fell back into position. The alien tapped it lightly just off the floor, the ball floating directly at Starks. He smacked it into the corner and won the point.

One more point and the game was his. The alien was screeching constantly now, like a wild wounded animal at the hunt's end.

Starks could feel a biting pain in his nose, throbbing through his head and down his neck. He shook his head, trying to shake off the pain, but to no avail. His nose was on fire and bleeding again. He fingered the strings on his racquet—they were strong and tight and ready for one final serve. One more point. He stared at the ball in his hand, then dried his brow of sweat and wiped the blood from his nose and lips.

He was faintly aware of desperate screams from the gallery; even the television cameramen were yelling at him, begging him not to win, urging him to think of the consequences. But they were distant screams to Starks, like feeble cries in a bad dream; he paid them no notice. One more point . . .

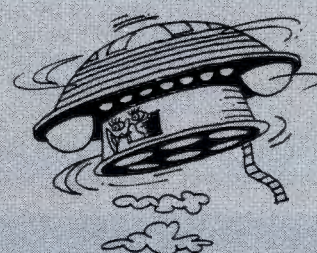
He took a deep breath and smashed the ball with all his remaining strength. It sailed to the wall, made contact, then drifted high over the alien's head. The creature soared skyward with a thrust of its tail and was just able to send the ball back to the wall. Starks could taste the blood from his broken nose now as he dove out and returned it, trying for the lower left corner. The ball struck a point just off the floor, then ricocheted past the alien's head, giving the creature no chance on the return. The game was over.

Starks sank to his knees and cupped his head in sweaty hands. A deadly silence hung over the court. Silence from the gallery, silence from the cameramen, silence from the alien. The entire world was silent and waiting.

Time seemed to stand still, then the little alien squealed and hissed and hurled its racquet at Starks. As he looked up the racquet caught Starks above his right eye, cutting him badly. He was momentarily stunned from the blow, then became crazed with rage. Blood poured from his nose and brow as he grabbed at his racquet with a trembling hand. Jumping to his feet he bounded over to the alien and pushed the creature to the floor, and towered above it, racquet in hand and ready to strike.

Human screams filled the air; the gallery was ablaze with excitement as the terrified statesmen scrambled for the door, howling at Starks to stop, imploring him not to touch the creature, reminding him of the alien vessels that encircled the planet.

He stared down at the little being. The



The gallery was ablaze with excitement as the terrified statesmen scrambled for the door, howling at Starks to stop . . .

alien wheezed and hissed and Starks felt himself wanting to beat the repulsive midget to a pulp. He stood for a moment, breathing hard, blood dripping from his chin, racquet poised for a deadly blow. Then, slowly, very slowly, his blinding wrath began to subside. He closed his eyes, trying to clear his head of the pain and fatigue, trying to organize his weary thoughts. Suddenly, it all came back to him. The alien vessels. The world leaders. His diplomatic role . . .

The translator entered the court, shaking and tapping on his little black box. The politicians were on his heels.

"What happens now?" said Starks.

The translator said nothing, just continued to shake his black box and stare at the other alien on the floor. He then placed the box in the palm of one little hand and smacked it solidly with the other.

At the exact second of impact Starks

watched the alien he had just beaten jump to its feet and bound twice around the room. The translator then punched some buttons on his box and the other creature immediately floated to the ceiling, pirouetted three times, and returned to the floor.

Starks looked up at the translator. "I played against a robot?" he said.

"That's right," said the translator. "Best model I've made yet." He pushed some more buttons on the box and the robot stood on its head at the serving line: "It plays well, but I can't get the damn thing to win." He handed Starks a tiny blue pill. "This will eliminate the effects of the antigravity pill. You will sleep for a while and wake up feeling fine."

Starks popped the pill in his mouth and immediately felt extremely dizzy and tired. His eyelids became very heavy.

The translator continued to fiddle with his box and follow the android around the court. He did not seem to be upset or bitter towards Starks for having won the match; he simply seemed to be disappointed in his robot's performance.

Starks rubbed a hand across the back of his neck. He was confused and crav-

ing sleep. "And the vessels surrounding the earth?"

"Prospective clients, mostly," said the translator. "Corporations, game companies, et cetera."

The Secretary General cleared his throat. He tried to hide his confusion with a smile. "I don't understand," he said.

The translator veered his flat face towards the men. "You see, gentlemen," he began, "racquetball is rapidly becoming the most popular game in the universe." He made a skyward motion with a tiny arm. "There is a definite need for the perfect practice partner." He looked again at the robot. "But if it never wins I'll never be able to market it."

Starks, almost asleep now, felt angry and cheated. He had been used as a test animal, a guinea pig, by this arrogant little creature from another world. A few final drops of adrenaline flowed through his veins. "Why don't you experiment on your own damn race?"

"Too dangerous," said the alien calmly. "The robot is not yet ready. It has this nasty habit of throwing its racquet at

its opponents." He shook his black box and the robot jumped to its feet, let fly one final long-winded wheeze, then left the court. The alien turned and followed it through the door, then stopped and faced Starks. "I'll have to work on its temper." A sarcastic smile seemed to form on his face. "And I am sorry about your nose." He closed the door softly behind him.

The diplomats mumbled among themselves until someone entered the court and announced that the alien ships had all left, disappeared at the speed of light. The men smiled and rejoiced, then filed out of the court.

An elderly doctor was left, wiping the blood from Starks' face, and grinning from ear to ear. "Did you hear, Mr. Starks?" the old man cried. "They're gone! Did you hear?!"

Starks, lying flat on his back in a corner of the court, closed his eyes. "I heard," he said. Moments later he was fast asleep.

And the third planet from the sun breathed a long-winded sigh of relief. ●

Finally a glove that won't curl up and die after 5 games.

Impossible, you say!
It's true.

While your glove is hard, curled and tough as beef jerky, our glove, the Buckskin Glove, is soft, pliable and ready to go. It's just as tight and tacky as the day you bought it.

Our glove is machine washable. Its full-fingered polyurethane suede is amazingly thin and refreshingly slip-proof.

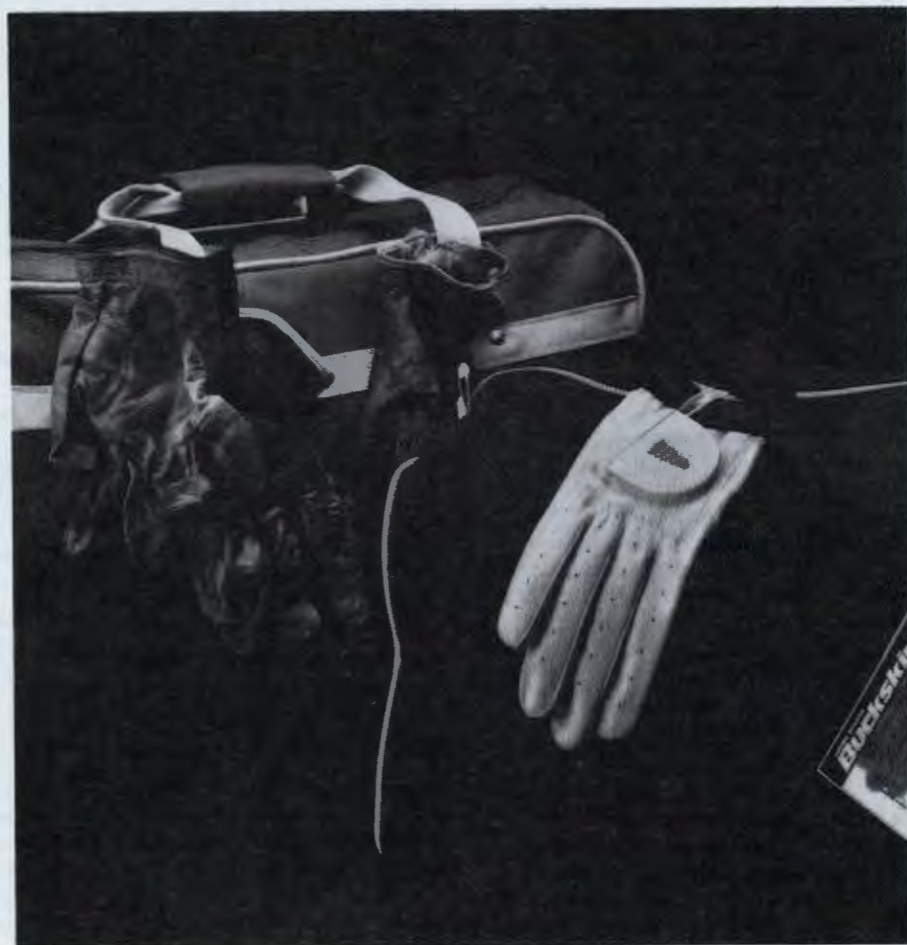
The velcro closure is well-placed for rapid adjustments during the heat of the game.

What's more, the Buckskin Glove retains all these characteristics. Wash after wash, game after game. Even when it's wet with sweat.

Available in more sizes than any other glove you can find, the Buckskin is surprisingly affordable at \$9.95. Pick one up at your sports club or shop or call Viking Sports at 800-535-3300.

Buckskin Glove

San Jose, California



The Junior, The Thief, And Racquetwall

by Thomas R. Steinbach

"Snap, snap."

My junior friend, Jeff, could almost hear the camera which would record for history his young, handsome, beaming smile as he was pronounced the winner. In his mind's eye he might have even seen himself in the shower with fresh, cool water running off his face and shoulders, cascading down his lean and tired body.

We in the audience were sure he had the championship match *"in the bag."* He was ahead 10-3 in the tie-breaker. He seemed to have no doubts about his victory. As I watched I wondered if he might have pictured himself in the new pair of sneakers which went with the huge first place trophy.

However, his opponent's perfectly executed pinch to the front right hand corner put a snag in everyone's projected outcome for this final game. Still, we all thought that the snag would be a short one.

We were wrong.

Jeff's attempt to kill the next serve skipped three feet short of the front wall... and the tenor of the game changed dramatically. He came storming toward the back wall and struck the clear plate-glass unmercifully with his racquet! During the next eight rallies his rival picked up three more points and the wall received five more vicious cracks from Jeff's racquet.

And that was not all.

As Jeff vainly tried to get the elusive eleventh point, we heard him yell, *"Come On!"* The next time it was more violent, *"COME ON!!!"* In between these shouts we had to endure other screams, and I started hoping that the match would end quickly; it was no longer any fun to watch.

When the score reached 10-8 Jeff shrieked with a deafening, *"COME!! ONNNNNN!!!"* I was embarrassed for his parents as his racquet abused the backwall for at least the tenth time. In fact, Jeff's only solid hits were now being made to the plate-glass after the conclusion of each volley.

At this point there wasn't any question in my mind who would be the proud wearer of those brand new Bata shoes at the next junior's tournament. Jeff's emotional bursts had stolen his

momentum. As a result his opponent was no longer being forced to skip off-balanced killshots. The more hysterical Jeff became, the more controlled his foe appeared.

"Hit the BALLLLLLLLLL!!!"

This time his scream was so high it sounded like a girl's. When he charged back after the yell I was afraid that his swing was going to put away the glass backwall. During this indulgence I kept hoping that my normally fine-tuned, powerful, and highly accurate friend would pull his game together again.

But it never happened.

What did happen was extremely unfortunate.

At 10-9 the referee made a bad call. Jeff blew up at the decision and paced like a caged lion. *"Time out!"* echoed through the court as he opened the door with a loud crack and rushed down the hallway. I'm afraid that for the next year or two he will blame the referee for his defeat.

But that would be a real "cop out."

The truth of the matter is that my *par excellence* junior friend was not in the court during the final eight points. He had disappeared. In his place had come a thief. The thief was the excessive emotional part of his being which had stolen his ability to control his concentration.

Don't misunderstand, it still looked like Jeff in those gym clothes. But the thief's style of play hardly resembled the precise, powerful, strategic style that my friend usually displayed. Gone from the court was the young man who had drilled endlessly to perfect every adjustment that was needed to make him championship material. Gone also was the solid, determined, accurate shot-maker who had so often been the pride of his parents.

The thief had come.

The 10-3 score became 10-11.

The same day my own son, Lee, was also in the finals of his age division. Having returned to the club I was informed that his match had started 15 minutes early and that he was behind 2-10.

I was even more disappointed when I looked down into the court.

"Come On!" I heard him cry as he sharply hit the backwall with his racquet. I quickly recognized that this was not my boy who on the previous day had calmly played and solidly defeated his opponent. He looked like my kid, but he was acting and sounding like the thief.

After the next volley, when Lee looked up at the gallery, he saw no friendly expression as I motioned for him to take a time-out. Quietly, and yet very sternly, I spoke to him as I leaned out over the wall: *"Lee, you are going to need all your concentration to put what you have practiced into actual court play."*

"Please, for our sake as viewers and for your sake as a competitor, don't let your emotions steal even 10 per cent of what you are going to need to beat Joel." I paused a few seconds, still not smiling. *"If you strike the wall again, I will demand that you forfeit this match."*

I said nothing else.

I knew that if I could get Lee to take back the control of his game from the thief, victory was still very much in sight. He knew it too. We had talked about that before. I was so glad that I had gotten there to see his initial outburst because no player can play the part of the emotional showoff just for a moment. Once anyone gives in to that kind of public parading around, the thief will selfishly remain on the court for the rest of the game.

Lee became victorious over his emotions. And the remainder of the game was a joy to watch. He began retrieving everything, even those passing shots which appeared to be out of his reach. He expertly mixed his picturesque pinch shots with the hard down-the-wall smashes. I especially enjoyed watching his slow, thoughtful, poised manner in the server's box. I could see the muscles flexing as his mind was computing which serve he would need to keep his game rolling.

I was proud.

The next time-out was very productive as I was able to spend the 30 seconds giving good, positive, strategic advice. Lee came back strongly in that first game even though he finally lost it 18-21. However, it was because of that determined comeback that he was able to win the second game 21-17.

Then we knew the championship was academic.

Lee had the momentum. He wasn't falling prey to his emotions again. So we all knew he had the tie-breaker.

And the new pair of shoes. ●

Hyatt Hotels Handle Your Racquetball Needs

by Victor Block

You're planning a business or vacation trip to another city and you'd like to get in a bit of racquetball. Maybe the client with whom you will be meeting is a nut for the sport, and who knows—more than one contract and business deal have been finalized after a few games of racquetball. Or perhaps your spouse recently took up the game, and has begged you to make sure that your next holiday includes access to courts where the two of you can play.

The challenge is to find a hotel or motel that offers racquetball, or is located near a club where you will be able to get court time—and perhaps pick up a game. While only a relative handful of in-city places of accommodation have their own racquetball facilities, many are located *near* courts or clubs. And with racquetball's growing popularity, an increasing number of hotels and motels include the availability of nearby racquetball among the amenities and attractions they offer to guests.

A case in point is Hyatt Hotels. In an effort to appeal to the athletically inclined traveler, that chain has produced a booklet, in cooperation with *Sports Illustrated*, that lists and briefly describes access to both spectator and participant sports at each Hyatt Hotel.

Since it was published last year, the specific information—such as guest fees, prices for court time, special arrangements for hotel guests with specific racquet clubs and the like—should be checked. Still, the booklet provides a rundown of information about racquetball and other sports at and near each Hyatt Hotel.

The next time you're planning a trip, you might wish to call Hyatt's toll-free telephone number—(800) 228-9000—to ask if the chain has a hotel in your destination city and, if so, whether racquetball is available nearby. If you can obtain a copy of the *Hyatt Spirit of Sports* booklet, that will provide a checklist—but be sure to call and update the information.

The same approach may be used for other hotel and motel chains as well. Future travel columns in *National Racquetball* will describe the courts

located in and near other major hotels and motels throughout the United States. That information, plus the toll-free telephone number for the lodging chains, is intended to help readers plan their travel to include easy access to racquetball facilities.

Below is a sampling of racquetball courts available to guests of Hyatt Hotels. To check and update specific information about costs and other factors, which changes periodically, call the Hyatt toll-free number.

California. *Hyatt at Los Angeles Airport*, five minutes from the Los Angeles International Airport. The hotel has a well-equipped men's health club with four racquetball/handball courts, and a nearby women's health facility. The in-hotel club has a workout room with weight machines, treadmills and barbells, sauna and steam. There's a jogging course, and running clothes are available on loan from the concierge.

Hyatt Anaheim. This resort hotel is located across from Disneyland. The Anaheim Racquetball Club, six miles away, has 11 courts.

Hyatt Union Square, San Francisco. Hotel guests receive a membership at the private Telegraph Hill Racquetball Club, which has 14 courts.

Hyatt Regency San Francisco, located midtown in Embarcadero Center. Arrangements may be made through the concierge to play at the Telegraph Hill Racquetball Club.

Hyatt Palo Alto, in the suburbs near Stanford University. A dozen courts are available, at low rates, at 21st Point Racquetball and Handball, about a five-minute taxi ride from the hotel.

Georgia. *Hyatt Regency Atlanta*, in the downtown Peachtree Center complex. Courts may be rented at bargain rates at the nearby YMCA.

Hyatt Regency Savannah, in the heart of the Historic District. Ten racquetball courts are available at reasonable rates at Racquet South.

The Hyatt Hotel at the Los Angeles International Airport sports a full-sized exercise/weight room...



Illinois. *Hyatt Regency Chicago*, a block off the lakefront. Hotel guests may use the 18 racquetball courts at the Downtown Court Club, two blocks away, by paying the guest fee plus rental charges.

Hyatt Regency Woodfield, located in suburban Schaumburg convenient to O'Hare International Airport. Directly across from the hotel is the Woodfield Racquet Club, which has eight racquetball courts.

Maryland. *Hyatt Regency Baltimore*. This new hotel, overlooking the city's colorful Inner Harbor, has arrangements for guests to use the eight racquetball courts and other facilities of the Downtown Racquet Club.



—Photos courtesy Hyatt Hotels

... and, of course, the swimming pool for that post racquetball dip.

Minnesota. *Hyatt Regency Minneapolis.* At check-in, hotel guests receive a pass for use of the Greenway Athletic Club which has a dozen racquetball/handball courts.

Nevada. *Hyatt Lake Tahoe.* A lakefront resort hotel and casino with private beach. Shuttles are available for guests who wish to use the 10 racquetball courts a mile from the hotel.

Texas. *Hyatt Regency Houston,* in the heart of the business district. The Downtown YMCA has 15 racquetball/handball courts that are available for rental at reasonable rates.

Readers are encouraged to send your racquetball travel questions to Victor Block, c/o National Racquetball, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.

This brief listing provides an introduction to the racquetball facilities available to guests of the Hyatt Hotel chain. If you are planning a weekday business trip but can stay on for pleasure, you might wish to check into the Hyatt Hotel's special weekend packages. Like similar special plans offered by a number of leading hotel and motel chains, they include extra features at reduced rates. You may obtain information on these plans, and current details about racquetball facilities at and near Hyatt Hotels, by calling (800) 228-9000. ●

Victor Block is a free-lance travel writer for newspapers, newsletters and magazines; a state editor for Fodor's Guidebooks, and a member of the Society of American Travel Writers. When not on the go researching travel articles, he lives in Washington, DC.

sports health

by William Southmayd, M.D.
and Marshall Hoffman

• The Complete Book of Athletic Injuries •

- "The most complete reference book on sports injuries available..."
- "For every weekend, amateur and professional athlete, trainer and doctor."

459 pages
Detailed diagrams
Comparative charts
Special section on children's injuries

Enclose a check or money order for \$14.95 per copy, plus \$1.50 for postage and handling payable to: Putnam Publishing (sorry, no COD's accepted).

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

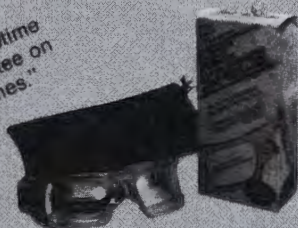
Send all orders to:
Special Sales Department
The Putnam Publishing Company
200 Madison Ave. - 11th Floor
New York, NY 10016

unique
sports
products

your racket specs source

"Anyone who plays racquetball without eyeguards is nuts".....
... "To put it another way, there is more energy in a racketball travelling at high speed than there is in a bullet"...Quote from Dr. Michael Easterbrook, Eye Surgeon and Consultant to U.S.A. & Canadian Racquetball Associations.

"Full lifetime
guarantee on
frames."



REC SPECS®

Comes with non prescription, shatterproof lenses. Your optometrist can fit specs with prescription lenses. Ultimate in eye safety. Sizes: Large, Small for Juniors.

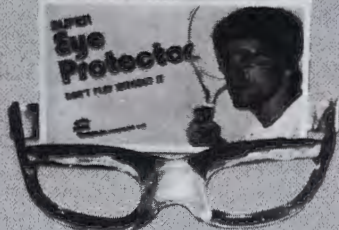
Retail \$19.95



EYEGLASSES PROTECTOR™

Fits right over eyeglasses, indestructible... very light... protects nose and temple. One size fits all.

Retail \$16.50



EYE PROTECTOR

Made of indestructible plastic. One size fits all. Comes with nose pad. A super value!

Retail \$3.98

unique
sports
products

404-451-2800

5687 New Peachtree Rd.
Atlanta, Ga. 30341

Tournament Results

New Jersey

The Northeast Regional Championships
Racquetball 23 & Spa
April 8-10, 1983
Sponsors: Lite Beer from Miller, US Air,
Penn, DP Leach, Pripps

Men's Open: Montalbano d. Vacaro

Men's A: Corso d. DeLuca

Women's Open: Burden d. Kriss

Women's A: Levine d. Petrocy

Women's B: Ozolins d. Donofrio

Women's C: Farmer d. Jacobs

Women's CC: Parabbschi d. Stoll

Women's Novice: Giardina d. Wyckoff

Women's B/C Doubles: Meredith/Martin d. Jacobs/Donofrio

Men's 25+: Teape d. Mak

Men's 30+: McCarthy d. McDermott

Men's 35+: LaSala d. Berwick

Men's 40+: Garfinkel d. Kohout

Men's 45+: Frankel d. Rizzo

Men's 55+: Pruzansky d. Bennett

Men's B: Young d. Feldman

Men's C: Sullivan d. Tice

Men's CC: Cervati d. Walsh

Men's Novice: Elvin d. Langille

Men's Open Doubles: Montalbano/Di Giacomo d.
Allgood/Searles

Men's 30+ Doubles: Vanore/Berwick d. Prucha/Clarke

Men's B Doubles: Ochwat/Frangione d. Aug/Arizmendi

Men's C Doubles: Patin/Alberella d. Miranda/Pariser

North Dakota

1983 Budweiser Light Pro-Am Racquetball
Tournament
TAC Racquetball Courts
Grand Folks, ND, April 15-17, 1983
Director: Darryl Tostenson

Men's A

Quarter-finals: Skadeland d. Hahn; Hylden d. Guderyan;
Ibach d. Brown; Kirkwood d. Wyman

Semi-finals: Skadeland d. Hylden; Kirkwood d. Ibach

Finals: Skadeland d. Kirkwood

Women's Open

Quarter-finals: Kauss d. Zitzow; Ellerington d. Wilden;
Skadeland d. Bloch; Rudesill d. Hutchinson

Semi-finals: Kauss d. Ellerington; Skadeland d. Rudesill

Finals: Kauss d. Skadeland

Men's B

Semi-finals: Weissner d. Drohomerski; Armstrong d. Rubin

Finals: Armstrong d. Weissner

New Jersey

4th Annual Paul Masson Mixed Doubles
Fanwood Racquetball Club & Fitness Center
Fanwood, NY, April 15-17, 1983
Sponsor: Paul Masson
Director: Mark Jenkinson

Doubles A: Calderon/Petrocy d. Foster/Jenkinson

Novice Doubles: Rifendler/Gutman d. Wyckoff/Ritchey

Doubles C: Christiansen/Truckeniller d. Bernstein/Smith

Doubles B: Petrocy/Martinez d. Monchik/Monchik

Minnesota

1983 Minnesota State Racquetball Singles
Championships
Burnsville Racquet Club
Burnsville, MN, April 29 - May 1, 1983

Men's Open: 1st—Ferris; 2nd—Bakken; 3rd—Ikier;
4th—Kauss

Men's A: 1st—Lyleo; 2nd—Wayne; 3rd—Crowson;
4th—Flodin

Men's B: 1st—Aune; 2nd—Overkamp; 3rd—Kopplin;
4th—Lowell

Men's C: 1st—Holsington; 2nd—Emster; 3rd—Feely;
4th—Zallek

Children's 30+: 1st—Page; 2nd—Lavoi; 3rd—Hauger;
4th—Kellar

Men's 35+: 1st—Gorman; 2nd—Hylden; 3rd—Pederson;
4th—Chastain

Men's Senior B 35+: 1st—Salcedo; 2nd—Grandholm;
3rd—Cybyske; 4th—Cashman

Men's 40+: 1st—Schmidtke; 2nd—Staerdalen; 3rd—Rlents;
4th—Dittrich

Men's 45+: 1st—Carpenter; 2nd—Hayenga; 3rd—Riggs;
4th—Banfield

Master 50+: 1st—Stillman; 2nd—McNamara; 3rd—Goldet-
sky; 4th—Nordling

Men's Novice: 1st—Peterson; 2nd—Kraft; 3rd—Casy;
4th—Thelsen

Women's Open: 1st—Tennessen; 2nd—Kauss; 3rd—Ben-
nett; 4th—Byoum

Women's A: 1st—Huben; 2nd—Stellema; 3rd—Erger;
4th—Omodt

Women's B: 1st—Anderson; 2nd—Swanson; 3rd—Trettel;
4th—Grimaluskus

Women's C: 1st—Harity; 2nd—Gobligh; 3rd—Lura;
4th—Sallsbury

Women's Novice: 1st—Lund; 2nd—Leiffield; 3rd—Lingren;
4th—Genin

Women's 30+: 1st—Hannes; 2nd—Chastain;
3rd—Mahoney; 4th—Hedden

Women's Senior B 35+: 1st—Phillips; 2nd—Scholough;
3rd—Schroeder; 4th—Wenborg

Boys 18 & Under: 1st—Olmstead; 2nd—Schepman

Boys 16 & Under: 1st—Stead; 2nd—Purdy; 3rd—Henderson;
4th—Zins

Boys 14 & Under: 1st—Sibell; 2nd—Erickson; 3rd—Arm-
strong; 4th—Walstad

Boys 12 & Under: 1st—Locker; 2nd—Beugan;
3rd—Daugard; 4th—Eiken

Boys 10 & Under: 1st—Locker; 2nd—Beugen

Florida

Junior Regionals - Region 4
Quadrangle Racquetball Club
Coral Springs, FL, April 29 - May 1, 1983
Sponsors: AARA, Penn, DP Leach
Directors: Fred White, Debbie Grenawalt

Boys 18 & Under

Quarter-finals: Barrett d. Sganga 15-5, 15-3; Campbell d. Han-
nan 15-3, 15-1; Miragliotta d. Schneider 15-1, 15-9; Winter d.
Koran 15-12, 15-9

Semi-finals: Barrett d. Campbell 15-7, 10-15, 15-13; Winter d.
Miragliotta 15-13, 9-15, 15-13

Finals: Barrett d. Winter 15-10, 15-8

Boys 16 & Under

Quarter-finals: Nichols d. Sanchez 15-3, 15-7; Edwards d. Fitz-
gerald 15-7, 15-3; Binnix d. Blanchard 15-5, 15-8; Walden d.
Pivniczka 15-13, 15-10

Semi-finals: Nichols d. Edwards 15-7, 15-8; Walden d. Binnix
15-8, 15-14

Finals: Nichols d. Walden 15-12, 15-4

Boys 14 & Under

Quarter-finals: Lorello d. Sobel 15-8, 15-7; Sturken d. Welch
15-14, 1-15, 15-5; Gonzales d. Rand 15-4, 15-5; Blaess d. Bittar
15-0, 15-1

Semi-finals: Lorello d. Sturken 15-9, 15-5; Gonzales d. Blaess 15-4, 15-8

Finals: Lorello d. Gonzales 15-9, 15-5

Boys 12 & Under

Quarter-finals: Altman d. Craig; Berlin d. McNeil; Miragliotta d. Greenberg; Walden d. Tomabene

Semi-finals: Altman d. Berlin; Walden d. Miragliotta

Finals: Altman d. Walden

Boys 10 & Under

Quarter-finals: Xynedis d. Scanlan 15-0, 15-0; Czyz d. Tobin 15-11, 15-3; Grelecky d. Harman 15-6, 15-7; Brown d. Bedell 15-0, 15-0

Semi-finals: Xynedis d. Czyz 15-7, 15-2; Grelecky d. Brown 15-11, 15-11

Finals: Xynedis d. Grelecky 15-5, 15-3

Boys 8 & Under: Xynedis d. Czyz

Girls 16 & Under

Semi-finals: Kuchenreuther d. Afford 15-9, 15-9; Ginsberg d. Atherley 15-1, 15-8

Finals: Ginsberg d. Kuchenreuther 15-9, 15-3

Girls 10 & Under (Round Robin): 1st—Simonette, 2nd—DeSorme

Boys 18 & Under Doubles

Semi-finals: Barrett/Miragliotta d. Winter/Sganga 15-3, 15-4; Nichols/Schneider d. St. Lawrence/Walden 15-7, 15-10

Finals: Barrett/Miragliotta d. Nichols/Schneider 15-4, 3-15, 15-10

Boys 14 & Under Doubles

Semi-finals: Gonzalez/Lorello d. Blaess/Walden 15-2, 15-8; Hameroff/Rand d. Craig/Harmon 15-11, 14-15, 15-9

Finals: Gonzalez/Lorello d. Hameroff/Rand 15-7, 15-2

California

3rd Annual McDonald's - Rock 92 - Racquetball Classic
North County Racquetball Centre
Excondido, CA, May 5-8, 1983

Men's A

Semi-finals: Smith d. Vega; Green d. Stallings

Finals: Smith d. Green

Men's B

Semi-finals: Henne d. Winings; Pell d. Gunderson

Finals: Henne d. Pell

Men's Advanced Novice

Semi-finals: Ovande-Arreola d. Vega; Wendt d. Borges

Finals: Ovande-Arreola d. Wendt

Men's Novice

Semi-finals: Perkinson d. Donaldson; Vossoughti d. Ackerman

Finals: Perkinson d. Vossoughti

Women's C

Semi-finals: Embry d. Wilson; Henderson d. Bowles

Finals: Henderson d. Embry

Women's Novice (Round Robin): 1st—Bowles; 2nd—Young

Women's Beginning Novice (Round Robin): 1st—Nesbet; 2nd—Gunderson

New Hampshire

Coco-Cola May Open
Laconia Racquetball Club
Laconia, NH, May 6-8, 1983

Men's Open: Swain d. Vierra

Men's A: Nathenson d. Gillooly

Men's Novice: Brown d. Canning

Women's Open: Dee d. Hardek

Women's A: Burke d. O'Neil

Men's B: Ely d. Bloom

Men's C: Scordiani d. Saffo

Women's B: Bryce d. Magnus

*Isn't It time to bring your Club into the "Computer Age"?
It's now an affordable and practical decision!*



CLUB • PAC . . . Club Management Systems by Circle Computer

We know you want a computer system that will let you concentrate on business—not computers. A system that is easy to operate and one that is designed for your needs today—and tomorrow, specifically for athletic club owners. CLUB-PAC streamlines your operations and reduces your costs by using the latest in modern microcomputers, easily adaptable software, and flexible operating systems.

OPERATIONAL BENEFITS

- Computerized Court Scheduling
- Court Utilization Analysis
- Membership Analysis & Reports
- Easy Training, Setup & Operation By Your Personnel

SALES/MARKETING BENEFITS

- Marketing Programs & Summaries
- Targeted Membership Mailing Labels
- Customized Letters
- Prospective & Former Membership Files

CASH MANAGEMENT BENEFITS

- Elimination of Outside Data Service Bureau
- Improvement of Cash Flow
- Cost Efficiency/Labor Productivity
- Provisions for Electronic Funds Transfer

ACCOUNTING BENEFITS

- Membership Billing
- Inventory & Sales Analysis Package (optional)
- General Ledger/Accounting Package (optional)

CLUB-PAC provides a user friendly, full feature software system that provides easy installation, operation and training of your personnel. This system is custom fitted to your club's current needs yet is fully expandable as you grow. Dollar for dollar CLUB-PAC delivers the features you want at far lower cost.

For a CLUB-PAC brochure & further information contact us today!

Circle Computer Services, Inc.



920 Remington Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60195

(312) 884-2424



Racquetball's ONLY National Newspaper

Featuring:

- National and local news
- Association Newsletters
- Most complete tournament schedule
- Humor, puzzles, cartoons, satire
- Instruction, rules, health tips
- And much, much MORE

Subscribe To

RACQUETBALL TODAY®

12 Monthly Issues For Only \$10.00*
(Save \$2.00 off newsstand price)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail with check or money order to:

Racquetball Today
P.O. Box D
Posen, Illinois 60469

*Canada - \$14.00 Foreign - \$20.00

PLEASE ALLOW 4 - 6 WEEKS FOR HANDLING

Women's C: Burton d. Plourde
Juniors (14 Under): Dalaney d. Guggan
Juniors (16 & Under): Swain d. O'Neil
Men's Seniors: Luclew d. Pattison
Open Mixed Doubles: Brown/Bloom d. Lyman/Meade
B Mixed Doubles: Kamel/Pace d. Morse/Stannard

Men's C: Faircloth d. Lloyd
Men's Novice: Ashmore d. Bybee
Men's Veterans: Pifer d. Sledge
Women's Open: Dugan d. Patt
Women's B: Fuquay d. Farrell
Women's C: Peyton d. Dowdy
Women's Novice: Norder d. Adkins
Mixed Doubles: Skelenka/Nieves d. Warnick/Aronwitz

Texas

American Airlines Hawaiian Holidays
 Tournament
 Amfac Hotel & Resort
 Ft. Worth, TX, May 6-8, 1983
 Sponsors: American Airlines, Amfac Hotel & Resort
Men's Open: Meyers d. Kaihalanen
Men's B: Riley d. Snyder

California

Continental Racquetball Hawaiian Pro-Am
 Continental Racquetball
 Oakland, CA, May 6-8, 1983
 Sponsors: Hilton, Coors Light, LTS Leisure Travel Service
 Director: Bruce Hand

Men's Pro
Semi-finals: Price d. Meadows 21-4, 21-8; Oliver d. Hildebrand 21-14, 5-21, 11-1
Finals: Price d. Oliver 21-20, 21-19

Men's A
Semi-finals: Vis d. Rodrigues; Eilers d. Sorenson
Finals: Eilers d. Vis

Women's Pro
Semi-finals: Pesagno d. Cucich 21-1, 21-11; Myer d. Nagel 21-17, 21-12
Finals: Pesagno d. Myer 21-9, 21-20

Women's A
Semi-finals: Dexter d. Shields; Hauke d. Ring
Finals: Hauke d. Dexter
Pro Doubles: Price/Oliver d. Hilderbrand/Scott 15-8, 12-15, 11-7

Men's 30+
Semi-finals: Robles d. Cordova 15-3, 15-8; Gonzales d. Aven 15-12, 8-15, 11-3
Finals: Robles d. Gonzales 17-15, 15-5

Men's 35+
Semi-finals: DeLucca d. Fania; Cunningham d. Frenna
Finals: DeLucca d. Cunningham

Men's B
Semi-finals: Seto d. Cantrell 18-14, 15-7; Mayamoto d. Maxwell 15-8, 15-2
Finals: Seto d. Mayamoto 15-8, 15-10

Men's C
Semi-finals: Burk d. Loo 15-13, 12-15, 11-7; Furtado d. Olson 12-15, 15-12, 11-6
Finals: Burk d. Furtado 15-3, 15-11

Men's D
Semi-finals: Larson d. Pardee 15-12, 15-12; Warren d. Mathias 12-15, 15-11, 11-7
Finals: Warren d. Larson 15-13, 15-13

Women's B
Semi-finals: Hull d. Franzman 15-13, 19-17
Finals: Hull d. Johnigan 15-9, 17-15

Women's C
Semi-finals: Macor d. Carstensen 15-8, 15-1; Silberman d. Larson 15-11, 15-4
Finals: Silberman d. Macor 10-15, 15-13, 11-7

Women's D
Semi-finals: Iskata d. Stafford 12-15, 15-4, 11-6; Lee d. Klein 15-10, 15-2
Finals: Lee d. Iskata 15-11, 15-5

Men's A Doubles
Semi-finals: Orr/Renland d. Axuma/Rose 15-9, 15-4; Sorensen/Marino d. Gonzales/Tench 15-13, 15-10
Finals: Sorensen/Marino d. Orr/Penland 15-13, 15-10

Men's B Doubles
Semi-finals: Seto/Miyamo d. Robinson/Deglumes 11-5, 15-5, 11-10; Cunningham/Hazeltine d. Frenna/Frenna 15-11, 15-5
Finals: Seto/Miyamo d. Cunningham/Hazeltine 15-8, 14-18, 11-4

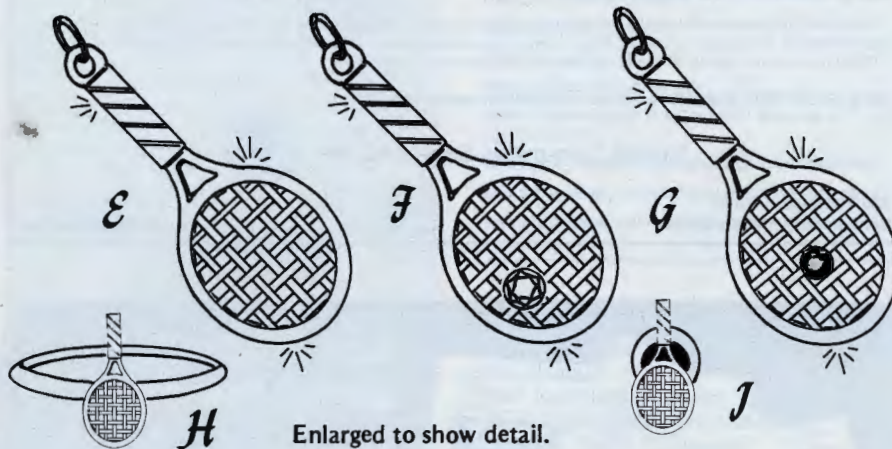
Women's B Doubles: Filgate/Johnigan d. Ward/Field 15-12, 11-15, 11-6

Women's C Doubles: Parson/Cucich d. King/Lopes 15-6, 15-13

Mixed A Doubles
Semi-finals: Nagel/Thomas d. Hull/Seto 15-6, 15-11; Dexter/Rodriguez d. Robinson/Ward 6-15, 16-11, 11-7
Finals: Nagel/Thomas d. Dexter/Rodriguez 15-5, 10-5, 11-7

Mixed B Doubles
Semi-finals: Dawkins/Gallagher d. Larson/Coffey 15-1, 15-2
Finals: Funes/Brown d. Pearl/Silverstein 15-10, 15-8
Finals: Funes/Brown d. Gallagher/Dawkins, forfeit

14 KT Gold Racquetball Jewelry



Enlarged to show detail.

E	14 KT Gold Racquetball Racquet Charm. Available in White Gold. \$48
F	14 KT Gold Racquetball Racquet Charm with 5 pt. Diamond or Emerald. \$79.95
G	14 KT Gold Racquetball Racquet Charm with 14KT Gold Ball in Center. \$69.95
H	Ladies' Ring with 14 KT Gold Racquetball Racquet. \$72.00 Include pinky size
I	Men's Tie Tack with 14 KT Gold Racquetball Racquet. \$46.50

WE ACCEPT VISA OR MASTERCARD

Prices subject to change (based on \$500 gold.)

We can set the stone of your choice. Prices upon request.

FRJ Designs, P.O. Box 11657
 Jacksonville, FL 32239
 (904) 721-3660.

EXPERIENCE A NEW YOU.



Mix gin clear water with bone white beaches, stir in an enthusiastic crew and lively shipmates, top it off with star bright nights filled with steel drum rhythms and bake under a Caribbean sun for seven delicious days.

The results are a New You who has experienced more living in one week than you thought possible in a lifetime!

Your share in the Windjammer adventure can be as little as \$425. Call us Toll Free at 1-800-327-2600 or mail off our coupon and we'll send you the rest of our recipe.



Cap'n Mike, Windjammer 'Barefoot' Cruises, Ltd.,
P.O. Box 120, Miami Beach, Florida 33119.

Name

Address

City

State/Zip Dept. 2430



Windjammer
'Barefoot' Cruises LTD

P.O. Box 120, Miami Beach, Fla. 33119



Playing with an erratic racquetball is like shooting pool during an earthquake. Either way, you're holding yourself back. And guessing a lot.

Since 1979, there's been a lot less guessing. That's the year the Penn® Ultra-blue first appeared. The year players discovered consistent performance—from their ball, and from their own game.

Since then, Penn has quickly become America's number one racquetball—going from nowhere to everywhere at courts and in major tournaments around the country. Virtually overnight.

It wasn't done with inflated claims or false promises. It was earned. With liveliness, durability, and Penn's now-famous consistency. With quality that made Penn the performance standard.

So invest in a can. You might discover you're a better player than you think.

NO OTHER BALL CAN TELL YOU HOW GOOD YOU ARE.

