JEBALINEVEN

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Asian Magic: 1986 Far East Tour

Being a member of the U.S. National Racquetball Team is a very enviable and prestigious position. As a member of the team, players get to see the world, make new friends and become part of racquetball history while representing the United States and the sport of racquetball. Such was the case for the select sixteen who had the distinct privilege of traveling to the Far East on the first ever United States racquetball goodwill tour.

When this team left Seattle to embark on the fourteen day tour many did not know what was in store, little did they know that upon returning home they may have been a force in moving racquetball 10 years closer to Olympic Competition.

Ed Martin, coach of the United States Racquetball Team, and Japanese coach Michikane "Ken" Ishiguro began talking about a goodwill tour back in 1984 at the World Championships held in Sacramento. Both set the wheels in motion in their respective countries to turn this dream into a reality. The two coaches continued to correspond by mail until they met again at the '85 World Games in London. Martin, together with AARA executive director Luke St. Onge, sat down with Ken and turned the dream into reality.

Also present at the world games was Dr. Kim, the president of World Games and a member of the 1988 Korean Olympic Organizing Committee. Dr. Kim, viewing racquetball as a world class sport and learning of the goodwill tour to Japan, extended aninvitation to the U.S. and Japanese coaches to bring representatives from each team for a formal exhibition for the Korean Olympic Committee. As significant as these developments became, the best was yet to come

On December 4, 1985 the International Olympic Committee officially recognized racquetball as an Olympic sport. What does this mean? According to Luke St. Onge, "In the global politics of amateur sport, racquetball is now able to stand beside sports like basketball, track and field and swimming as a fully sanctioned Olympic sport."

No longer is racquetball just a great way to get exercise, it is now vying for the status of a medal sport in the Olympics. "By traveling to Asia so close to the Asian Games (Japan '86) and the 1988 Olympics in Korea, our goodwill tour will be read about in over 162 countries," says St. Onge.

"The timing couldn't have been more perfect" says Coach Martin, referring to the exhibition for the Korean Olympic Committee as they ready themselves for the Olympic games to be held there.

"This was the best trip we have ever been on," says Martin. "In terms of blend of skill and personality this has been the best team I've ever coached." The audiences and people in the cities of Japan seemed to agree. "Everywhere we went the people were so friendly and hospitable," according to



Members of the U.S. National Racquetball team's goodwill tour of Japan, (coach Ed Martin

team captain Cindy Baxter, "they took us into their homes and treated us like family."

The first stop on the four-city tour of Japan was Tokyo where, for five days, the U.S. team gave clinics and instruction at seven club locations teaching four to five hours a day.

"Teaching in Japan was a lot different from teaching in the U.S.," comments team member Ed Andrews "We would drill the players for two straight hours and then take a one hour dinner break and go back for two hours of shot instruction. But instead of coming off the court for their break, they would play straight through dinner into the second half of the clinic."

"The Japanese are extremely hard working and disciplined at their approach to racquetball," observes Coach Martin, "not to mention their intelligence and quickness".

"The Japanese players have very good strokes and know all the right shots," says Martin, it's just a matter of learning when to hit each shot. The Japanese are very eager to learn and pick up on instruction very quickly," he concluded.

The teaching in Tokyo culminated on Saturday with ceremonies and exhibitions in the Tokyo suburb of Yokohama. Held at Basamichi racquet club, it was quite an impressive and touching ceremony.

were an all day affair lasting into the early evening. It was the high point of the trip for me," said Cindy Baxter. "It was so touching to watch the raising of the flag, a feeling inside of what it must be like for our Olympic athletes." That's how it will feel when racquetball becomes a participant sport in the Olympics."

After leaving Tokyo the team traveled in groups of five players to Osaka, Kobe and Njoya where it held similar instructional clinics. While in these cities each group was treated to numerous sight seeing and shopping tours in addition to handling their daily clinics. Once again the people of each city opened their homes to the U.S. players for homestays.

Three days into the final week Coach Ed Martin, Luke St. Onge, Cindy Baxter (number one women's team player) and Andy Roberts (number one men's team player) boarded a plane bound for Korea. Upon arrival at the airport in Seoul, the group was welcomed by Sue Graham, the Korean delegate for International Amateur Racquetball Federation and a representative from the Olympic organizing

Sue Graham and her husband Gen. Todd Graham stationed in Korea with the U.S. Army, held a very nice reception at their home in honor of the United States Amateur team. Among the sixty people in attendance were the U.S. ambassador to Korea and the Olympic organizing committee, along with many U.S. military personnel and racquetball enthusiasts.

"I've never seen so many generals," remarked team player Andy Roberts who himself is a military history buff.

The following day the group jour-(continued on page 8)

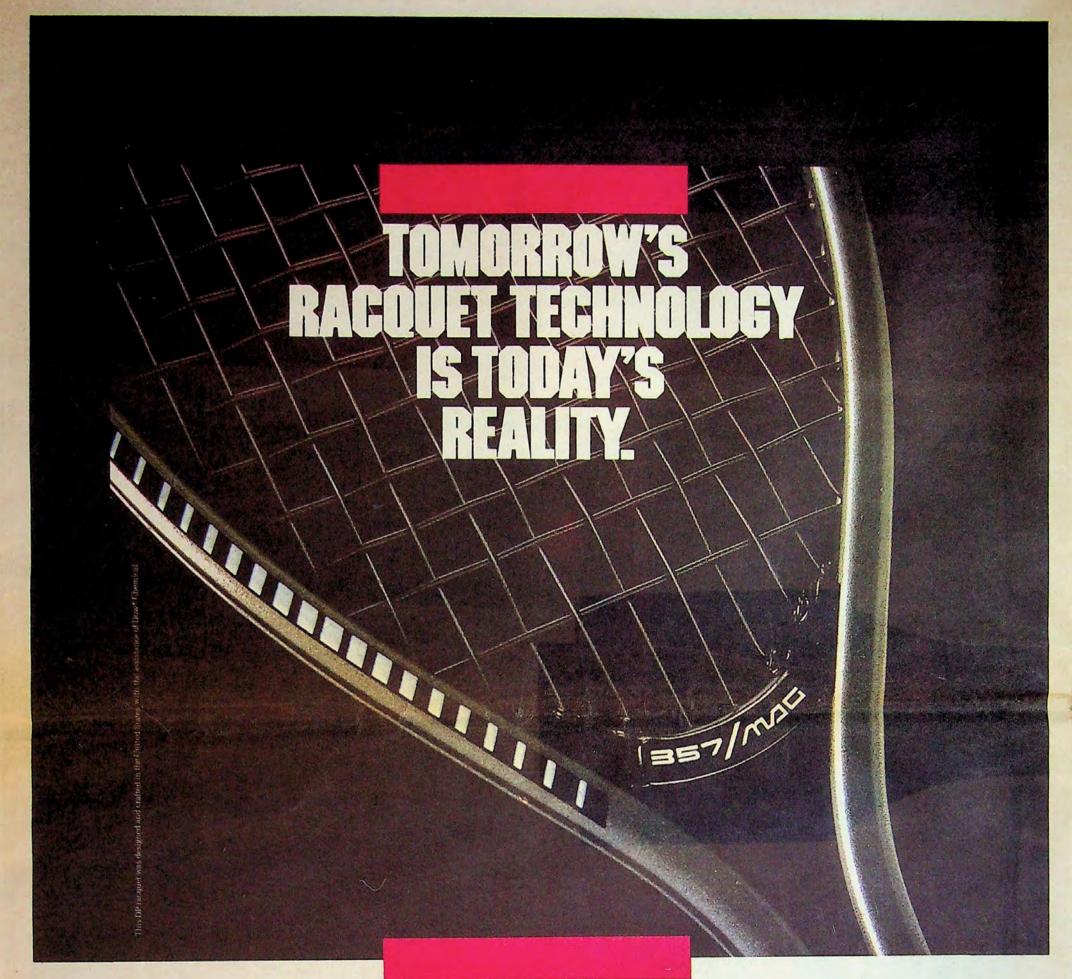
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American Professional Racquetball Organization:

An Association Dedicated to Developing and Improving Professional Racquetball Instructors.

Whether you are just considering taking lessons, or if you are already taking some, here is some advice that will help you get the most out of your time and effort spent with a teaching pro. Teaching pros can pick up some ideas too on how to be more effective and efficient in their teaching.

Choosing an Instructor

One of the surest ways of determining a pro's level of ability is to check for a American Professional Racquetball Organization (APRO) certification. APRO is an organization dedicated to developing and improving professional racquetball instructors.

An instructor may be classified as a certified teacher, instructor or professional (this last classification being the highest level awarded). The certification is based on how well an individual scores on a very rigorous written, hitting and teaching exam that tests the person in both on court and off court aspects.

If none of the pros in your area are APRO certified then you must do some investigating. Begin by getting recommendations from others who have already taken lessons. How well have they fared? Are they progressing in their knowledge and ability to apply that knowledge?

Since you do not want to rely solely on the recommendations of other players, go to one or more local pros with a few of the following questions to help you determine who you want to work with you.

First, is the pro willing to watch you play another player of similar ability in order to accurately determine your true level of play? This is important so that the pro may see your true game, away from the sometimes false environment of the lesson situation. By not doing this, the pro would subject you both to lower expected results by having to evaluate your game in the somewhat tense climate of the first lesson. Doing this is also crucial for helping the pro fulfill your next request.

Essential to your progress are goals and objectives that are related to where you are and where you want to be as a player. You should be sure that your pro is willing to work with you to develop these goals. This goal setting should occur before you enter the court for the first lesson, and should be a result of your pro's observations of your play and your knowledge of what you want your game to become.

Out of this goal setting, and out of week to week progress, your pro should develop lesson plans. Can your pro walk on the court and tell you exactly what will be covered during the lesson, and why? Can your pro also tell you beforehand what drills you will need to practice to learn the lesson goals as well as how to practice them?

Lastly, the pro must tell you that he (or she) will teach you in a way that will enable you to diagnose your own problems and mistakes. There should be no fear on the pro's part of losing you as a student if he does this, since the role of a truly objective and knowledgeable observer is one that is very hard for any player to fulfill. That a pro can and will do this is important also in that it gives you the tools that allow you to continue to improve outside the lesson environment.

Before the Lesson

Having chosen a pro to work with, it is now time to set your goals and objectives. These must be based on a realistic and honest evaluation of your current level of play. The important thing is to listen to your pro and keep your ego quiet!

If you think that a reverse overhead backhand pinch kill is what you need to work on, but your pro says you need to work on how to make a court reservation properly, then so be it. You go back to the fundamentals! For your goals to be obtainable they must be based on a realistic appraisal of where you are as a player, now.

In setting these goals you must be as specific as possible. Some suggested goals include the following:

 A certain place finish in an upcoming league or tournament.

 An increased point spread against a person that you currently play "even".

— A decreased point spread against a person who currently beats you like a drum!

 In a given situation, that you hit more of shot X and less of shot Y.

Your pro will have other ideas based on your playing style and is likely able to be more objective, so listen carefully.

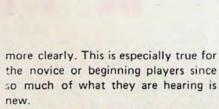
During the Lesson

Always arrive early. This gives you the chance to go through a good stretching and warmup routine, which will save you valuable lesson time once you are on the court, time you can use to get mentally ready for the lesson.

My students constantly hear me tell them to watch the ball at all times when they are on the court, so they love this next bit of advice since it allows them to violate that command! When your pro is demonstrating something related to stroke mechanics or court positioning, DO NOT watch the ball. Watch the instructor!

This may seem simple but you'd be surprised at how often you will find yourself not doing this. Watching form and stroke demonstrations carefully will enable you to form a more complete and clear mental image of the skills you are trying to develop, something that is very important.

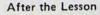
Ask. Anything. Ask your pro to repeat something that was unclear. Ask your pro to go back to an earlier point and run through a demo again. Ask your pro to go slower, or even to listen to you as you try to repeat to him in your own words what he just said! You should never hesitate to ask since it only helps you learn and helps the pro learn how to communicate



Another mental aspect of taking lessons lies in the area of making value judgments about yourself and your game. By this I am refering to the often heard negative comments like, "That was so stupid!", and "You idiot! Why don't you quit skipping so many shots?!" Whenever you do this as a student or as a player, you are only serving to inhibit the learning process by breaking down your confidence and ability to concentrate.

Instead, you should be as objective as possible. Ask yourself, (and your pro) "Why did the ball do that, and what can I do to correct it?" or, "What would have been a better shot to use in that situation?" By doing so you are developing better analytic skills, and the ability to use those skills when you are in a tough situation in a crucial game.

The only feelings that should come prominently into play during your lessons are physical ones. Whenever you hit a shot that "feels" particularly good, or one that your pro indicates that you hit with good form, stop and concentrate on the physical sensations that accompanied the hit. Then mentally ask your body to duplicate those sensations on the next shot. This is simply a form of mental imagery and should be done both during lessons and practice.



Now is when you really go to work on those goals and objectives that you put together earlier. The amount of time and effort you put in on practice is just as important, if not more so, than the time you have on the court during the lesson. You need the knowledge that your pro can give you, but you cannot put that knowledge to

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work without sufficient time practicing

When you practice you are trying to take your knowledge of correct mechanics, shot selection, etc., and turn-it into natural habits. All these things must come naturally during a game since there is not enough time between hits to think about how to execute the next shot. Developing these habits means just three things. Practice. Practice. Practice.

When you practice you must first know what to practice and how to practice it. This information should come from your pro at the end of each lesson. Drills that will help you develop a particular stroke or shot that was covered in the lesson, should be given to you along with advice on how to practice them. You should also follow the guidelines that your pro gives you on how long to make your practice sessions and how many sessions you should put in before you have your next lesson.

Armed with these directives, set times and days that you will get on the court with one objective in mind, to

RACQUETBALL IN REVIEW

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Luke St. Onge Executive Director practice. No cheating is allowed. If someone asks you to play you must say no. This means that you will have to substitute the enjoyment of playing for the satisfaction of knowing that you will play better and enjoy your playing more, later on, if you practice now. And as you practice from day to day, take satisfaction in small improvements and realize that significant improvement takes time and continued effort.

With all these things going for you I guarantee that you will be playing better and enjoying racquetball more than ever, no matter what level you are at now. So here's to you, good lessons, and good practice. The keys to good racquetball!

About the author: Wayne Barrow is an Ektelon Staff Player, a member of the Yamaha/Asahi Pro Staff, an APRO Certified Professional, and actually expects us to believe that he enjoys taping his ankles and practicing.

Earthquake Lives Up to Its Name

The 1986 California Earthquake Open complete with earthquake (4.8 on the Ricter scale) hosted over 340 entrants in 22 divisions with 500 matches in four short days. The \$8,000 in prize money and gifts attracted some of the top amateur players in the United states and Canada.

This year's tournament saw number one seed, Roger Harripersad from Canada, meet up with the number one amateur player in the U.S., Ed Andrews. Andrews disposed of Harripesad in two games, 15-4 and 15-12. On the way to the showdown Harripersad beat the likes of Matt Arney, Jim Doyle, Steve Moody, and Dan Factor who had earlier upset the number three seed Mike Lowe.

On the other end of the bracket, Andrews was eliminating Gonzolo Chayrez, Bill Hall, Mike Gustaveson, and number five seed Brian Hawkes but the upset special belonged to Monterey's own Michael Bronfeld, who took out the number four seed Bill Sell in the round of 16 by scores of 15-12, 11-15 and 11-4 before 100 howling fans.

Bronfeld again was a factor as he and partner, Matt Rudich, knocked off number one seed and former National Doubles Champion, Steve Trent and Stan Wright, 15-12, 15-1 in the Mens Open Doubles. This opened the door for Sell and Brian Hawkes to edge out Jim Doyle and Dan Factor in the doubles finals, 15-8 and 15-12.

Womens Open Singles was not without excitment as number one seed Marci Drexler was downed by Trina Rasmussen 16-4 and 15-7 in the quarters. This put number two seed, Crystal Fried in the drivers seat as she shut down Rasmussen 15-8 and 15-13 in the finals to take home \$600 in first place prize money.

The biggest record to fall at the 1986 Earthquake was beer consumption. Besting the old record in 1981 of 21 kegs of beer, this year's group consumed 69,000 plus ounces of Coors to knock off 23 kegs of beer in four days. Now that is an Earthquake!

Orlando Hosts AARA/Penn Intercollegiate Championships

by Linda Mojer

The weekend of January 17 - 19 was a busy one in Central Florida as college racquetball teams gathered to compete in the 1986 AARA/Penn Intercollegiate Team Championships. Held at the Orlando Tennis and Racquet Club, and coinciding with Steve Strandemo's Racquetball Camp, the tournament drew five major state universities to the annual event. Representatives from all types of 'majors' were listed in the draws and a college spirit prevailed throughout the weekend.

The men's open event was conspicuously filled with talent from both Tallahassee's Florida State University and Gainesville's University of Florida as the two rival schools prepared to face off in a 'non-turfed' arena. A full team was also included from St. Leo College (near Tampa) and local Valencia Community College. Women were in attendance from the University of Florida, VCC and Rollins College, while doubles competition drew teams from all of the schools.

John Ross, a freshman business major at FSU, was an early favorite in the men's open and made good headway from the round of sixteen into the finals. After winning the first game however, he succumbed to a case of the flu he had been battling, and to his talented doubles partner Jeff Bowman.

Bowman, a junior accounting major, seized the opportunity for the win without hesitation and later regrouped with his partner to win the doubles title for FSU.

On a winning streak, FSU also captured the third place win, with Charlie Crawford defeating Mark Volterre from St. Leo in their semi-final playoff. For team points, FSU and UF were close into the quarter finals, when the well-practiced FSU team took the lead and never relinquished it.

A consolation runner-up bracket

was filled with enthusiastic athletes from the participant schools, with St. Leo's Eric Wynne edging out FSU's John Robinson in that final. Another FSU player, Bob Magann, captured third place over VCC's Shan Price.

The women's competition was no less exciting — although considerably smaller in numbers. Nonetheless, determined UF teammates Angie Browning and Lori Basch gained substantial points for their alma mater by taking home first and second place wins respectively. Another strong local women's player, Linda Diamond, took third place for Valencia Community College.

Lori Basch, another favorite in her final year of competition at the intercollegiate level, was unexpectedly upset by her own teammate, whose unerring service aces surprised the veteran competitor. Lori, a senior computer science major at the University of Florida, has been a driving force in the success of Florida intercollegiate competition since the first tournament four years ago.

Another intercollegiate veteran, Linda Mojer of Rollins College organized and ran the event with the expert assistance of OTRC club manager, Julie Pinnell.

The participants themselves kept the tournament running smoothly as courtside players gladly volunteered to referee each match. The group itself was a diverse one, with interests as varied as sports management and electrical engineering, finance and fine arts. They spent the available time getting to know each other in typical collegiate fashion. Short on number, but long on talent, the 1986 Florida Intercollegiate Team Championship was a winner! It's bound to remain a one-of-a-kind experience in racquetball and good sportsmanship!

Teen Team Starts Second Season

National Teenage Team Racquetball, a Little League Baseball type summertime program, enters its second season with an optimistic outlook.

There will be two brackets of competition offered this year; retaining the 14 years of age and under program and adding one for the 12 and under group.

The format covers teams for boys and girls of four players each, in skill categories ranging from one to four.

In the first season the Scottsdale, AZ Clubhouse all-star team, made up of two boys and two girls, won the invitational world series playoffs at Steamboat Springs, CO, defeating an all-boy team from Hextun, CO.

NTTR was introduced as a "grass roots" youth program to reach the mass teenage market, and not just a frosting-on-the-cake national tournament for top level youngsters seeking individual laurels. There are four players to a team, a minimum of three teams to a league.

Full details on organization and registration can be obtained from NTTR, 7603 E. Bonnie Rose Ave., Scottsdale, AZ 85253, (602) 945-0143.

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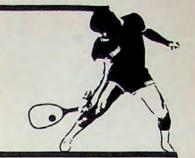


AARA/ARHS NATIONAL RANKINGS

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The Overhead Kill Shot

by Steve Strandemo



THE OVERHEAD

Even if you have an excellent ceiling shot, the overhead drive, used judiciously, can enable you to play a more versatile, aggressive game.

First of all, the overhead should be viewed primarily as a combination shot to set yourself up for a better scoring opportunity, not as an all-ornothing winner (which is a rarity even in the progame). An overhead passing shot, low and away from your opponent, can force him to hit while on the move or stretched out, thus increasing your chances of getting a weak return.

Second, a controlled overhead gives you flexibility against an opponent's ceiling balls and highlob "Z" serves that are only slightly mis-hit. You can step up and take the ball down low, instead of automatically going up to the ceiling because you fear the efficiency of your overhead.

Third, you can initiate a low-zone type rally even against the seemingly perfect ceiling ball or lob "Z" type serve. If you have little patience for ceiling-ball rallies — and perhaps a weak ceiling shot — the overhead can force your opponent to play a faster-paced game more to your liking.

Having taken this stand for the overhead's potential virtues, I must stress its definite drawback. You're hitting down at such an angle that it takes great accuracy to make the ball bounce twice before the back wall. Moreover, when you're deep

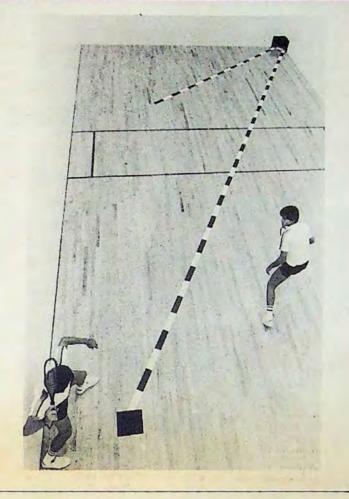
and you leave the overhead up off the back wall, your opponent can easily move over and be offensive with his shot as you scramble for a coverage position.

THE OVERHEAD KILL

Trying to deliberately end the rally with an overhead kill is such a risky, sometimes foolhardy ploy that you should attempt it only infrequently, for example, when you have a high bouncing setup well short of the back wall, and especially if your opponent is caught deep. If he knows you have some skill with this shot and that you're not afraid to gamble at an opportune time, then he can't afford to always lag deep when you set up for an overhead. Give him something to think about, but remember, this is still a low-percentage shot, and very seldom can you beat opponents of equal ability with low-percentage shots.

I also find that a player's overhead efficiency tends to go down as he gets closer to game point. He may feel comfortable going for the kill at 5-all, but his execution seems to suffer when the pressure's on at 18-all.

In going for the overhead kill, try to pinch the ball tightly into either corner and hope that it bounces twice before your opponent can get up to



U.S. Team Receives Support from Ektelon

Under a new AARA program offering manufacturers the opportunity to contribute directly to the U.S. National Racquetball Team, the association has announced that Ektelon is the first racquetball manufacturer to commit to the program.

"We are most pleased to have Ektelon involved. We are excited that Ektelon has chosen to be a sponsor of the U.S. Racquetball Team," said Luke St. Onge, executive director of the AARA.

Members of the U.S. National Team who are sponsored by Ektelon will wear Ektelon's logo on the U.S. Team uniform.

DP Official Racquet Sponsor for 1986

D.P. (Diversified Products) will be the official racquet sponsor of every major AARA event during 1986. "D.P. has increased its commitment to the development of the amateur game at a time when it needs it most," said Luke St. Onge, executive director of the AARA. "It's gratifying to have a prestigious company such as D.P. recognize the future of racquetball and make a long term promotional commitment to it," St. Onge continued.

D.P. will be the official racquet sponsor of the AARA Adult and Junior Regionals, U.S. National Singles, Intercollegiates, Juniors, and Doubles, along with continued emphasis on state and junior programs.

IRSA Presents Louis Zahn Award

Arthur Michaely, president of the Illinois State Racquetball Association, has announced the recipients of the Louis Zahn Memorial Governor's Cup Award for 1986.

The award, which is made annually to the outstanding racquetball person in Illinois, was presented to Diane Gabrisko of Frankfort, and Geoff Peters of Evanston, at the close of the recent Illinois State Singles Championships.

Both Gabrisko and Peters are longtime contributors to the promotion of racquetball both in Illinois and nationwide. Gabrisko, the former editor of the national racquetball newsletter Racquetball Today is the current treasurer of the ISRA and the director of the State Singles Championships.

An avid player, she is a high school math teacher at Andrews High School where she coaches softball and the math team in addition to her classroom duties.

Michaely, in presenting the award, commended Gabrisko's longtime, self-less devotion to giving players quality tournaments.

Peters, a consultant by profession, has been an ISRA Board member for three years and he is currently the vice president of the ISRA. His regular duties include player rankings and seedings, the ISRA tournament calendar and the ISRA sanctioning program. He will also be the director of the Regional Championships April 17-20 and the coordinator for the National Juniors Championships scheduled for June 28 — July 2 at the Charlie Club Fun and Fitness Center in Palatine, IL.

Geoff is currently a nominee for the AARA National Board of Directors — an honor well deserved!

For further information on the Illinois State Racquetball Association, please contact Bill Roberts (312) 392-8473.

Montreal Site of World Championships

The third World Championships will be held in Montreal, Canada from August 3 through 10 at the Sani-Sport Club in Brossard, near Montreal.

The Sani-Sport Club is a multifaceted sports facility with 12 racquetball, squash and tennis courts, sauna, Nautilus and a restaurant with 175 seats. Sani-Sport has two more facilities, at Saint-Bruno with nine and at Boucherville with six courts about 10 minutes drive by car. These clubs can be used for practice as well.

The following countries we have indicated will participate; Australia,

Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, West Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, U.S.A. and Venezuela. More news will follow soon.

For more information contact: Sani-Sport, 7777 boul. Marie-Victorin, Brossard, Quebec J4W1BB, Canada or phone: (514) 465-7220.

Hiser Named Commissioner for RMA Pro Tour

The RMA Board of Directors reacted in record time to replace Drew Stoddard with Jim Hiser as their new Pro Racquetball Commissioner. Stoddard recently resigned the position to return to academic pursuits.

"We are fortunate to have such a capable replacement to carry on the task of running RMA's 1986 Pro Racquetball Tour," said RMA's Chairman Greg Eveland. Hiser's experience as a pro player, tournament director, director of AARA and head referee at the 1984 World Games in Sacramento and the 1985 World Master Games in Toronto was instrumental in his being selected as the number one candidate for the commissioner position.

Hiser is married, has a Ph.D. from Michigan State University, and was a university professor at Eastern Michigan University.

Asian Magic (continued from page 1)

neyed to Kolon Sportex, a 99,000 sq. ft. athletic facility designated as an official training site for the upcoming Olympics. Once there, they were escorted to a press conference to publicize their arrival in Korea and the significance of racquetball being recognized as an Olympic sport.

After the press conference Andy and Cindy played exhibitions with the Japanese and Korean players while Luke and Ed gave interviews to the newspapers, television and radio stations.

After concluding the exhibitions,

the groups attended a luncheon celebrating this historic event. After the luncheon, Luke St. Onge presented Dr. Kim with Andy's racquet which was inducted into the Korean Museum of Sports to commemorate the journey. The two-day trip concluded with a tour of the 1988 Olympic facilities that afternoon.

"Although the trip to Korea lasted only two days, the significance of our presence here will be everlasting," says St. Onge. We have made tremendous advancements for our sport here in Asia and world-wide as well."

Reunited with the rest of the team in Kobe, the group journeyed back to Tokyo for a final farewell to the many friends everyone had made. "Of all the places I have traveled for racquetball, I have never experienced bonds of friendship as I have here in Japan," said St. Onge.

"It makes me sad to leave, everyone has been so wonderful," added Dot Fischl.

What did this trip mean to Mona Mook of Sacramento? "It was such a wonderful experience, now I have to stay at the top of my game so I make the team next year."

On the flight home I asked Coach Martin what he thought of the tour? His reply was just a single word that perfectly described the trip.

"Magic!"



New Directions

By Luke St. Onge, Exec. Director

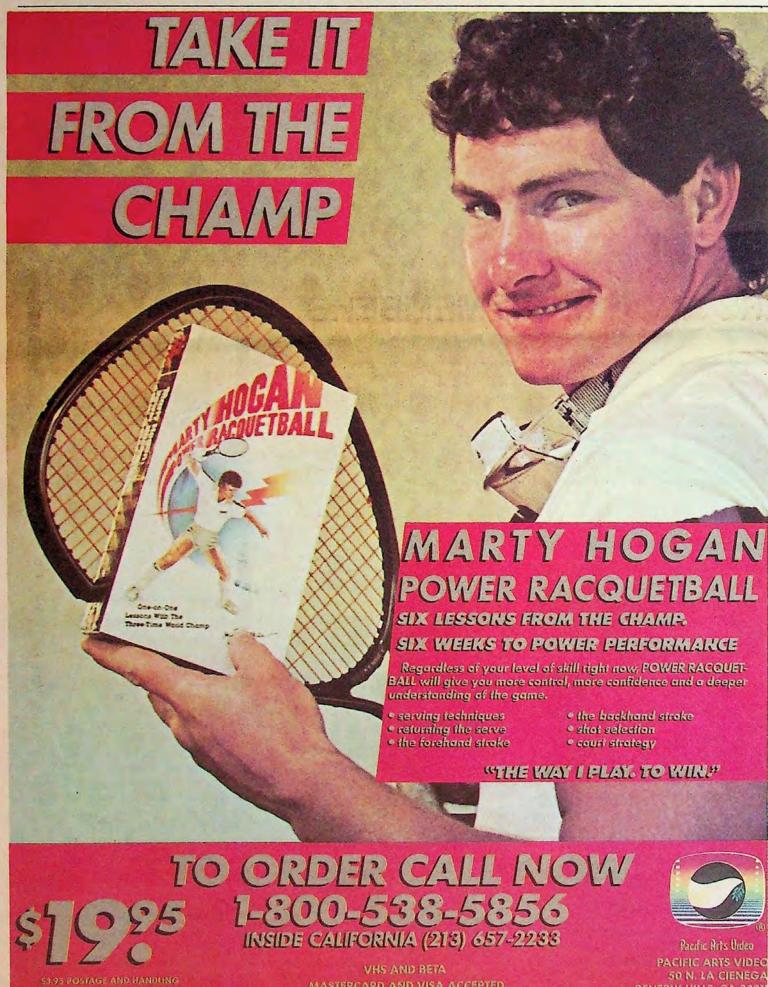
You have heard me many times in the past refer to racquetball coming of age. Well, we have entered a new era once again. For the first time in our sports history, our National Anthem, The Star Spangled Banner, was played and the American flag was raised over our athletes at an International competition on foreign soil.

What an experience for the 17 of us who were there. What a sense of pride and feeling of accomplishment. All of us have been pioneers, you in the grassroots, the elite player representing you to the World, and those dedicated volunteers who have made this all happen. Hopefully, each of you will have the feeling of pride that we experienced at that historic moment. You are a part of it and have earned it. Thanks.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the International Racquet Sports Association Convention in Nashville. For the first time in four years, we had a booth in which Paul Henrickson and I had the pleasure of meeting and discussing racquetball with dozens of court club owners. Two major things stood out and became a recurring theme during the two days. There was an intense interest in the AARA and what we are doing. Second was the resurgance of racquetball across the country. Let's concentrate on this welcomed resurgance since many of these columns have dealt with the AARA and its promotion of racquetball.

The resurgance phenomenon was echoed throughout the weekend by court club owners and managers who have begun to concentrate on expanded programs for our sport. Play is up, attrition is down, and the numbers of players in the clubs are expanding. Many players who dropped out during the recession are returning to the fitness club with a new zeal and loyalty to our sport. We still have those among us who are the prophets of doom and who blame racquetball for all of their economic woes, but this is human nature. At least now we understand the situation much better and we can concentrate on the positive side of the business and slowly and patiently turn the negative influences into the posi-

It's an honor and a privilege to be part of a dynamic sport, with dynamic people and a dynamic future.



1986 Diet Coke -**Briargate Singles** A Hugh Success

by Khris Myers

The 1986 Diet Coke - Briargate Singles Racquetball Tournament held at Lynmar Racquet & Health Club, Colorado Springs, CO was as usual, a tremendous success, especially when you consider the fact that the 120+ players who competed helped to raise \$500 to help support the U.S. National Racquetball Team.

This is the second year Diet Coke and the Briargate Development Corporation have sponsored the tournament to help raise money for the U.S. Team so they can continue to travel across the U.S. and the World promoting racquetball through tournaments and exhibitions. At the time of the tournament, the U.S. Team was on tour of four major cities in Japan.

Thanks to Diet Coke, Briargate, the Pikes Peak Racquetball Association, the volunteer tournament staff, and especially the players - without them it would have been impossible to raise any money at all.





Above: John Venezia (left) from Briargate and Khris Myers (right) tournament director, present Mike Benedict, President of the Pikes Peak Racquetball Association with a \$500.00 check for the U.S. National Racquetball Team.

April/May 1986

Troy Brennan (left) lost in the finals of the Mens A division against Jon Wuerffel (right).

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Jim Hiser, Davison Racquetball Club, G-2140 Fairway Dr., Davison, MI, 48423, 313-767-3434, 313-365-9602.

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region 13 Commissioner and Montana State Director - Lee Tickell, 909 Hollins Avenue, Helena, MT, 59601, 406-443-4559. WYOMING - Nick Mandis, 306 East 18th #26, Cheyenne, WY, 82001, 307-777-7064(O), 307-778-4129(H).

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Region 15 Commisioner - Sid Williams, 5227 South Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, 98409, 206-473-2266. WASHINGTON - Sandy Rogers, 1003 Tule Lake Road South, Tacoma, WA, 98444, 206-535-0754, OREGON -Jim Davidson, 860 Hoyt S.E., Salem, OR, 97302, 503-399-8063. IDAHO - Jim Jenkins, 798 Falls, Twin Falls, ID, 83301, 208-734-7538(O), 208-733-6960(H). ALASKA -Robin Rodriguez, P.O. Box 16518, Marcus Road, Eagle River, AK, 99577, 907-694-2654, 907-272-0581. ALSO FOR ALASKA - Dennis Kaufman, 150 Eagle Street, Fairbanks, AK, 99701, 907-456-1914.

National High School Commissioner - J. L. Barysh, 31 Sandi Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY, 12603. National Wheelchair Commissioner - Jim Leatherman, 21 South Kresson St., Baltimore, MD, 21224, 301-732-1881. Intercollegiate Commissioner - Cathie Fredrickson, 12539 Terry Avenue, Wayland, MI, 49348, 616-792-9543(H), 616-942-5190(O). Junior Council Commissioner - Scott Winters, RB World & Aerobic Health Center, 10115 Talbert Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA, 92708. Ntional Commissioner for the Disabled -Sam DeCrispino, 727 East Lake Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21212, 301-435-5168. Commissioner for Americans in Europe - Hal Leffler, Siegener Strasse 48, 6230 Frankfurt 80, West Germany, Military Commissioner -Stephen D. Ducoff, P.O. Box 281, Randolf AFB, TX 78148, 512-652-3471.

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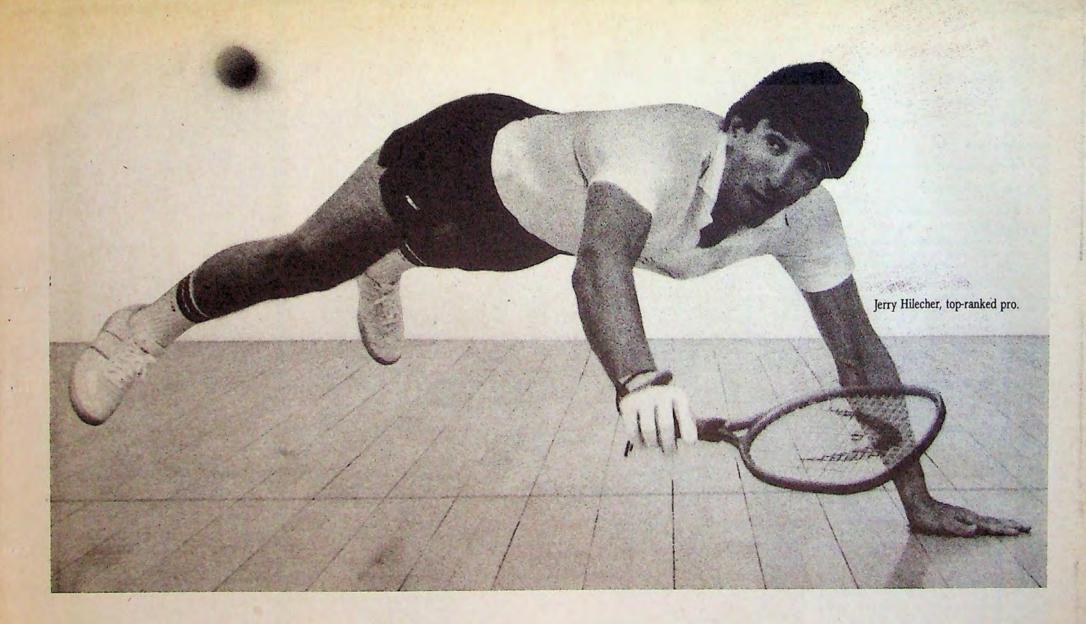
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Junior Regionals, Region 8 Geoff Peters 500 Sheridan Evanston, IL 60202

California Cooler Open Quail Lakes Athletic Club 2303 West March Lane Stockton, CA 95207 209-951-3795

May 2-4 Junior Regionals, Region 2 Al Seitelman 142 Landing Avenue Smithtown, NY 11787 Al Seitelman

May 2-4 One Last Shot Alpine Racquet Club 1040 Four Mile Road Grand Rapids, MI 49504 Viola Grover 616-784-3900

May 2-4 Tulip Tournament The Athletic Club 150 Eagle Street Fairbanks, AK 99701 Dennis Kaufman 907-456-1914

Fountain of Youth 4330 South 300 West Salt Lake City, UT 84107 Vince Brown 262-7487

Junior Regionals, Region 4 825 Courtland Street Orlando, FL 32804 Julie Pinnell 305-644-5411

May 9-11 Mountain Music Festival Sporthaven Health Club 6854 Pentz Road Paradise, CA 95969 Frank Vasquez 916-872-2232

May 9-11 Ohio Super Seven 65 East 16th Avenue Suite F Columbus, OH 43201 Doug Ganim

Crackshooter Open Rocky Mountain Health Club 1880 Westland Road Chevenne, WY Dave Rodriguez

May 16-18 Sierra Slam Incline Court House 880 Northwood Blvd. Incline Village, NV 89450 702-831-4212

May 16-18 Super Seven Finale Coliseum Racquet Club 8715 S. Telegraph Taylor, MI 48180 Jim Hiser 313-653-9602

May 23-25 La Cancha 1850 Soscol Avenue Napa, CA 94558 702-252-8033

May 23-25 Lakeland YMCA 3620 Cleveland Hgts. Blvd. Lakeland, FL 33803 Grace Page 813-644-3528

May 23-25 Racquetball Players Assoc. P.O. Box 324 River Road Bryans Road, MD 20616 Robin Duble

May 29-June 1 John Ventimiglia Invitational Lynmar Racquet & Health Club 2660 Vickers Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80918 Khris Myers 303-598-7075

May 30-June 2 Spring Fling Doubles Classic Sacramento HB & RB Club 725 14th Street Sacramento, CA 95014 Terry Lockett 916-441-2977

Gold Country Open Old Auburn Court House 11558 F Avenue Auburn, CA 95603 Helen May 916-885-1964

June 13-15 Park Point Open The Parkpoint Club 1200 North Dutton Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Les Wieite 707-578-1640

Colorado Juniors Fun Day Lynmar Racquet & Health Club 2660 Vickers Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80918 Khris Myers

June 20-22 Summer Splat Modesto Courtroom 2012 McHenry Avenue Modesto, CA 95350 209-577-1060

June 27-29 Hotel El Rancho 1029 West Capital Avenue Sacramento, CA 95691 916-371-6731

July 11-13 Redwood Empire Open Rancho Arroyo Racquet Club 85 Corona Road Petaluma, CA 94952 Chris Oakes 707-795-5461

July 18-20 Racquetball Players Assoc. P.O. Box 324 River Road Bryans Road, MD 20616 Robin Duble

August 8-10 Tahoe Blue Classic South Tahoe Fitness Center 2565 S. Lake Tahoe Blvd. South Lake Tahoe, CA 95702 Ron Gardener 916-544-6222

August 15-17 Altamont Chevron Summer Blowout Tracy Racquet Club 101 South Tracy Blvd. Tracy, CA 95376 Chuck Ellis 209-836-2504

August 22-24 Masters-Gold, Masters Doubles Supreme Court 1901 Pennington Rochester, MN Les Dittrich 507-257-3353

September 19-21 Racquetball Players Assoc. P.O. Box 324 River Road Bryans Road, MD 20616 Robin Duble

October 15-19 Racquetball Spectacular The Sports Club 3333 South Wadsworth Lakewood, CO 80227 Jay Nelson 303-989-8100

October 23-26 U.S. National Doubles Racquet Power 3390 Kori Road Mandarin, FL 32217 Luke St. Onge 303-635-5396

AARA State Ranking Report

State Ranking

- California Florida
- New York
- Massachusetts Illinois
- Pennsylvania
- Colorado
- Michigan
- Texas
- New Jersey
- Ohio North Carolina
- Indiana
- Minnesota
- New Hampshire
- Georgia
- New Mexico
- Washington
- Alaska 19
- Utah 20 Arizona
- Maine
- Montana
- Tennessee
- Virginia
- Oklahoma
- Connecticut Kansas
- Rhode Island
- Alabama
- Wyoming
- Vermont
- Arkansas
- South Carolina
- Wisconsin
- Delaware
- Maryland
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Idaho
- Missouri
- West Virginia Nevada
- Mississippi
- 45 Louisiana
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Nebraska 48
- Hawaii 49
- District of Columbia
- North Dakota 51
- American Samoa 52
- 53
- North Mariana Islands
- Puerto Rico
- Trust Territory
- 57 Virgin Islands



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