

National Racquetball®

Vol. 7 No. 1
January, 1979
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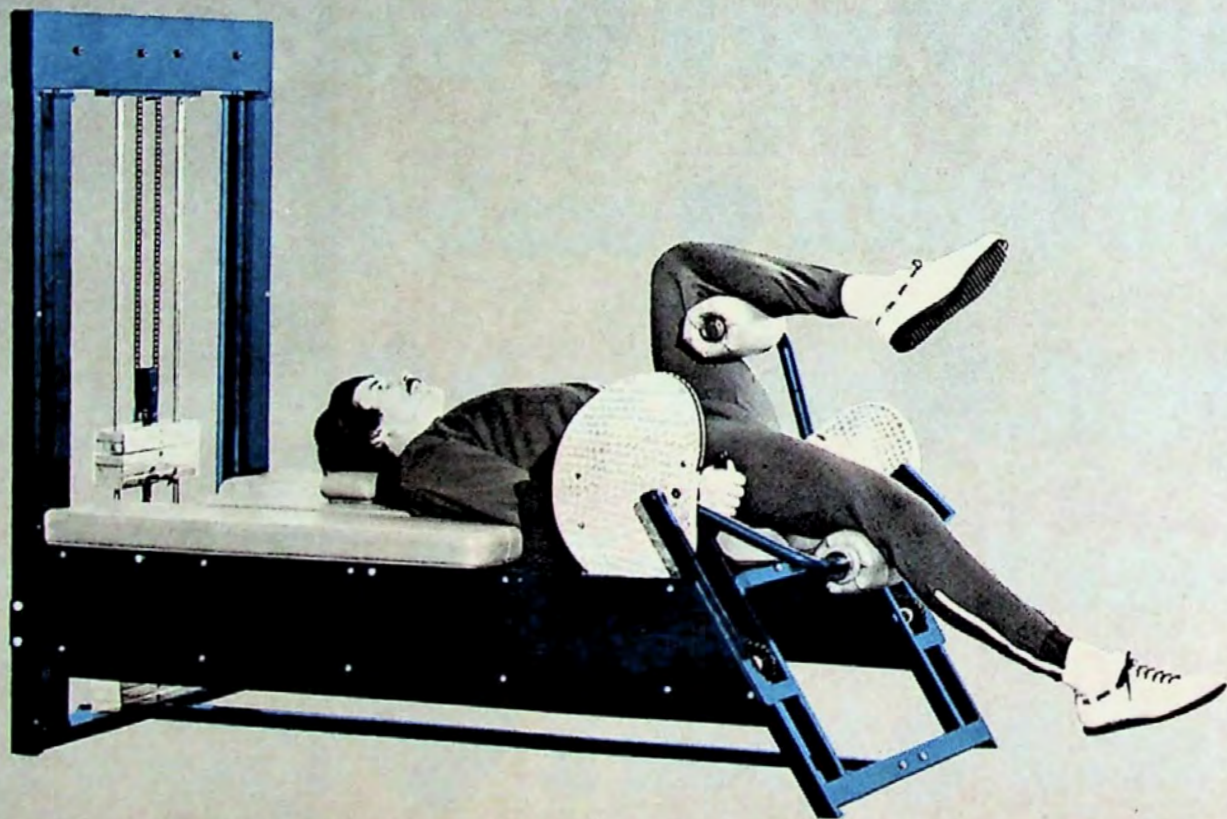
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On the cover . . .

TV's Debra Clinger puts her mind into the game that gets the stamp of the studio out of her system. See Nick Longhurst's story on the "American Girl" on page 18.

—Photo by Peter Borsari

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From Bob Kendler

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Now three more distinguished firms become members of our product family, and it is with further pride that we recommend to you Kunnan of Taiwan, Coors Brewery of Denver and Catalina Sportswear of California.

We'd like you to remember these names, especially when you are shopping. We'd like them to know we are a loyal, grateful association, worthy of the investment they have made in racquetball.

Virtually everyone involved in our sport is making money. But how many are there who will plow some of it back into the game? Very, very few, indeed. That's all the more reason why you should go out of your way to patronize our sponsors . . . as they have patronized you.

Racquetball could never have made its great progress without the enormous monetary and technical contributions made by our sponsors. They are a very necessary part of our sport and without them some of our finest programs would be impossible. The entire cost of the National Juniors, the professional tour, prize money, amateur support and much more is due solely to the generosity of our sponsors and their belief in the future of racquetball. Let's make them glad they gave simply by remembering them when we shop.

Whether you realize it or not, some of the finest racquets in the world are made by Kunnan Industries. As a major supplier for Leach they have the most expensive racquets for the

professional and the wide range of prices for the amateurs.

Regardless of the cost, however, Kunnan products are outstanding and have earned the firm a worldwide reputation for quality. Their expertise has enabled Leach Industries to become the largest racquetball racquet supplier in the world. Many innovations in racquet design and production come from the collective genius of these two firms, and these improvements have revolutionized the sport.

The January Tournament of Champions in Coral Gables, FL, which is co-sponsored by Leach, is in Kunnan's honor.

For years we hesitated to accept beer or wine advertising or sponsorship. In the meantime local and state tournaments throughout the nation were underwritten successfully by breweries and wineries. Suddenly many leading universities have opened pubs on campus. And at virtually every major event on the racquetball schedule the hospitality area serves beer with other refreshments, giving the participant his or her choice of beverage.

All of this convinced us to search out a beer sponsor of whom we could be proud. And we found one in Coors. This is the leading beer in the west, and the Coors family is one of the great families of America. Their contributions in every field of endeavor, whether civic, industrial or scientific, have earned them the solid support of more than just beer drinkers.

The February tour stop in Denver will be in Coors' honor.

Those with their eyes on fashion will love our third new sponsor — Catalina — with a wonderful collection of sports apparel for men and women, especially



designed for racquetball. Catalina was the first apparel firm to develop a unique line of racquetball clothing and I personally had the privilege of a private showing of that first line.

Exquisite fabrics, typical Catalina quality and common sense function team up in these splendid styles planned exclusively for the player. Catalina, of course, is world famous for its California styling with color that is the envy of all designers. At a time when both men and women are sprucing up on the court Catalina is introducing a line well within the means of every player.

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One final bouquet. Colgate came aboard last year and was happy to renew this year. As you know, they added \$75,000 in Bonus Pool money to an already substantial sum of prize money. You should remember Colgate when you shop. They offer you many products that are in daily use in every home. It will be a wonderful way to say "Thank You." ●

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Galatians Chap. 6, Vs. 9

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Expanding the National Juniors

One of the luxuries of being in a young and still maturing sport is that you can allow yourself a little trial and error to ensure the best possible programs eventually work their way to the top. This is the case with the National Juniors Championships.

We changed the format of the National Juniors last season when it became apparent that our previous, allow-anybody-to-play-and-pay-for-everyone-and-everything would have created a situation that was too expensive and too cumbersome to implement.

However our remedy may have gone too far in the other direction, that being our most recently concluded (1978) National Junior Championships, in which we invited the 10 Regional winners in each division, plus six at-large berths in each age category, making a round of 16 in each division.

The problem with this format proved to be that too many players were denied a chance to participate. We strongly believe that the National Juniors must be a program that encourages participation.

We have evaluated the National Juniors program and have decided to compromise the two previous programs into a series of events that will allow as many participants as possible, yet still reward the most outstanding players, in order to make the National Championships the best tournament of the year; in both competition and opportunity.

Let me add that our sponsors for the program, Seamco Sporting Goods and Leach Industries, share with us these desires to provide racquetball's youngsters with the greatest opportunity to expand their skills, and their continued sponsorship of this program makes it all possible.

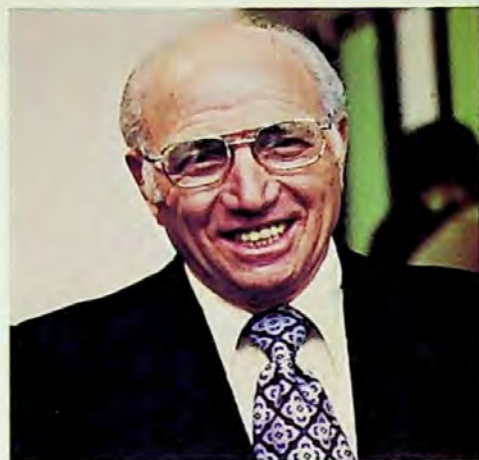
To begin this program we have extracted all juniors play out of the 10 USRA Regional Championships. The reason for this is that the kids were being pushed into the back courts with the worst referees and the least attention during the "adult" regionals.

To replace the old format we will have 10 Junior Regional tournaments during the season — all separate, juniors-only events for the same general regions that correspond to the adult tourney. Thus the promotion, publicity and attention will be exactly where it should be — on the juniors.

These Junior Regionals will be held in July, 1979, in order that all junior players be out of school and have at least the month of June to sharpen up their game for the Regionals.

The winners of the five age categories in each of these 10 Junior Regionals will again receive full air fare to the National Junior Championships. If winners are unable to attend, runner-ups will receive the award.

The National Junior Championships will be in mid-August of 1979, allowing the players another six weeks or so to improve their game between the Regionals and the Nationals. The site will be in San Diego.



The tournament will not be closed, however. Any player will be eligible to participate in the Nationals. The only difference in concept is that these "at-large" participants will not be paid travel allowances.

The National Juniors has had a history of moving to different geographical areas. Our first year in Orlando, FL, was a huge success, followed by Evergreen Park, IL, and the recent King of Prussia, PA. Now it is time to bring the event to the west coast.

As for hotel accommodations the tournament will be run exactly like any other national event. A tournament headquarters hotel will be designated and the USRA will negotiate the best possible rate for the players.

There will not be USRA chaperoning for the event. If 300 players show up, it would be impossible to chaperone them all anyhow. Any parent who wants his child chaperoned should either attend the event or send a group from a particular city or club with an adult chaperone.

There will be normal hospitality as at all major tournaments, as well as the "fun" trips for which the National Juniors has been famous.

Finding the best possible format for the National Juniors program has been no easy task. We want to encourage and allow any player to attend and participate, yet we want to offer the best conditions and competition as well.

Exact dates and site selections for the Nationals, Regionals and all hotels will be announced in upcoming issues of *National Racquetball*. ●



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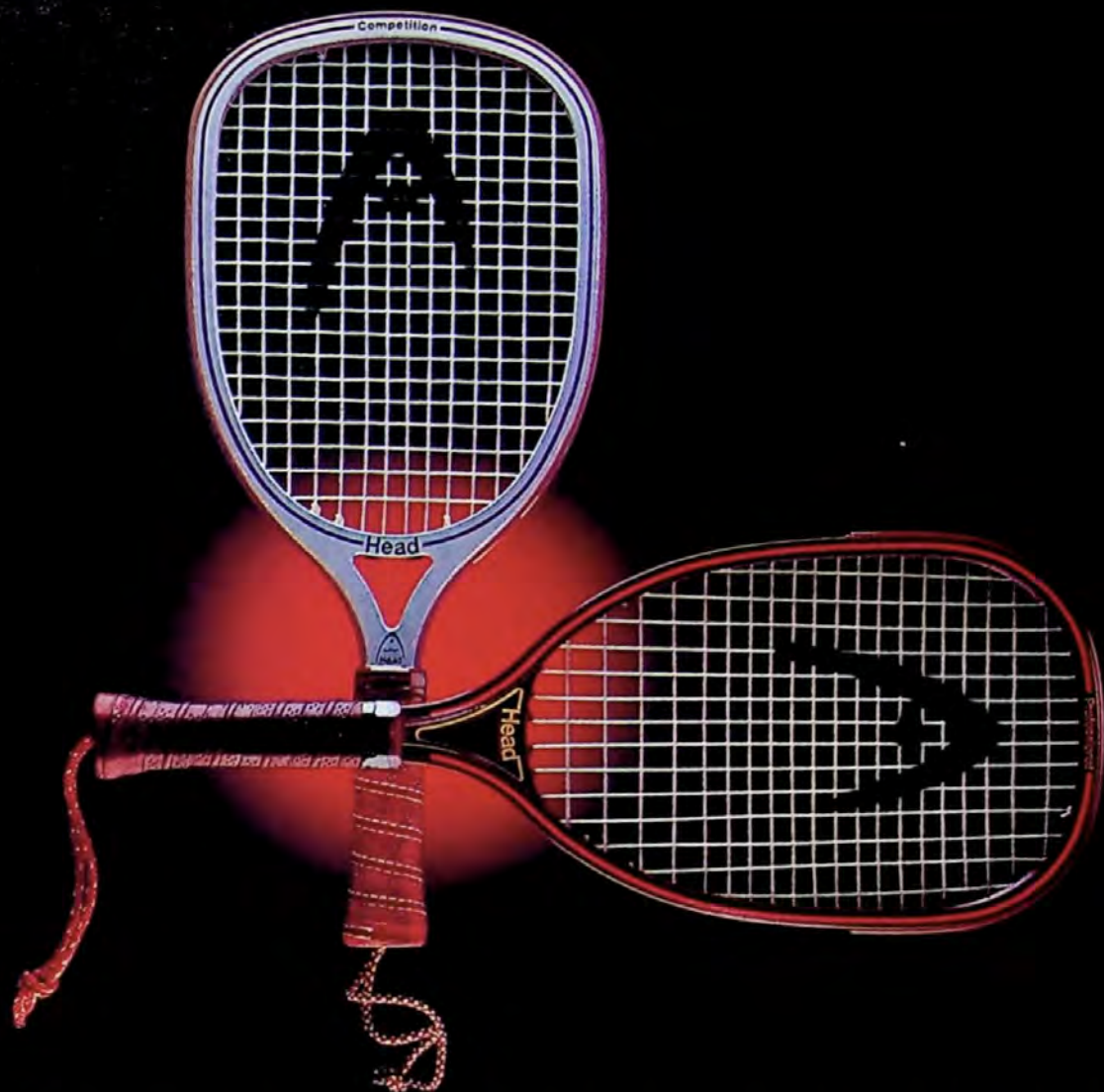
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From Wimbledon to...

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"American Girl"

Men's Racquetball Equal

by Nick Longhurst

Debra Clinger and Lewis Wolff.



Racquetball plays a big part in the life of top television actress Debra Clinger, the beautiful auburn haired star of the new '78 season CBS show *American Girls*.

Debra, who plays the role of a television investigative reporter, grew up in show business. (As a preteenager she was one of the singing Clinger sisters.) But even *she* finds it hard to cope with the demanding production schedule of a television series.

"Most people think it's glamorous, and it is, a little bit," she says, "but what they don't see are the long, long hours which go into the making of the short segments which appear on television."



"What they don't realize is that I start work at 6:30 in the morning, and shooting can go on until 10 or 11 at night."

According to Debra one of the biggest problems is being able to relax and get the stamp of the studio out of her system.

As she took time out from her racquetball game at the Supreme Court in VanNuys, CA — a club which is co-owned by another show business personality, Wayne Rogers, and her racquetball partner Lewis Wolff — she explained "Some of the roles I have been playing have been very trying emotionally. And without any way to relax the day's shooting stays with me. That's no good, just like most of the time I can't just go home and watch TV . . . that makes it worse."

So she plays racquetball.

As much as she possibly can.

"I was always athletic, growing up as a child in Salt Lake City. Not in an organized sports sense but I came from a family which always seemed to be doing something outdoors."

"Then just in the last couple of years I got really active in sports, especially skiing and water skiing."

She smiled. "The reason for that was a very active boyfriend who just excelled at those things. I have a strong will to win, so I was determined not to be left behind. It took some hard work, but I became very good at them."



Erasing the Inherent Advantage

But what Debra was looking for was something that wouldn't give an inherent advantage to the man.

"I had always hoped that there would be some sport where a woman could get a good competitive game from a man and not feel at a tremendous disadvantage."

One day a friend invited her to play racquetball.

"What ball?" was her reply.

"He explained to me what it was, and I went along and played. I have to say I had the greatest time of my life. It was the first and last time I played with that friend until about three weeks ago."

"I played him again then and I beat him. I was so happy because it really makes me feel good when I can play with a guy and win, or at least have a score that instead of being one or two points to 21 is only one or two points away from 21. I'm sure that there are many women that feel the same way."

"Racquetball is a very sexually democratic sport. I always hoped I would find something where a woman could get a good competitive game from a man and just not feel at a tremendous disadvantage."

Debra, like many other players in high pressure job situations, finds that an hour's worth of racquetball is essential therapy at the end of a busy working day.

An Actor's Stress

"Contrary to what people think acting involves a lot of different stress related factors. Lots of waiting around, lots of personalities who sometimes get to an actor and then the difficult psychological adaptation to another role."

"For instance to properly play an eight-year-old mentally disturbed child - as I did in a recent segment of the series - you have to subject your mind to a great deal of stress."

"So after a hard day of that, hitting a little racquetball around a court is very, very relaxing therapy."

"Often I say to myself," she laughs, "this one's for the director" 'this ones for so-and-so.' What I do know is I sleep better at night after a game of racquetball."

Debra, who has been around in television for several years, tries hard to stay in shape.

"Playing racquetball made me realize that I needed extra workouts to be able to enjoy the game better so I now jog one or two miles a day and on weekends I roller skate. My health has improved and I just feel so much better." ●

Strandemo's Stretches

15 Minutes to Ward Off Muscle Pulls

by Steve Strandemo

You probably don't do any stretching exercises. You're in too big a hurry to get onto the court and start playing.

But let me tell you this: Since I started doing some stretching — just a few minutes a day — in a year and a half I've never had a muscle pull.

And I'll guarantee you that the once-a-week player could double his racquetball pleasure if he took just 15 minutes to flex those desk bound muscles before playing.

Racquetball is a game of mobility, quickness, reflexes. And that means being loose from the very first serve.

Forget the theory that *"I'll warm up while we play."* You'll be losing 10-0 before you know what hit you.

Personally racquetball is my life. I have to prepare my body the best I can. But so far I don't need a cup of Geritol, as some have said about my play. One of the important things that allows me to keep playing at the professional level is stretching.

And that's what will keep you from being sore the day after you play. It will keep you from getting hurt and missing your evening match. It will make you a better player if you can stretch and reach more balls.

Let me repeat that: A few stretching exercises will allow you to reach more balls and that will help you win more matches.

A year, maybe a year and a half ago, I had pulled a muscle or two, and I'd had some cramps. So a friend put me onto some really good routines, and I've felt much more flexibility ever since.



Photo 1



Photo 2

A Wall to Lean on

The first exercise is the easiest — you can do it anywhere. Just lean against the wall (Photo 1). Stretch the calf. You'll actually feel the tightness leaving. Put a little pressure behind the knee. One leg, then the other. Spend maybe 60 seconds, maybe two minutes. That's all it takes.

You can do this at your locker, in the shower, in the hall outside the court.

Second is a knee-to-chest stretch (Photo 2). Lie on the floor, bring one knee up toward your chest, then grab the leg with your hands and pull. Keep a constant pressure and you'll be able to get that knee closer and closer to your chest as the blood begins to flow and the muscles loosen. Half a minute or a minute should do one leg, then repeat the drill with the other.

The third exercise is from the same on-the-floor position. Point your foot toward the ceiling to stretch the hamstring (Photo 3). Extend the leg and put a little pressure on the back of the thigh. It won't take long, but it'll do a lot of good.

Next assume a sitting position on the floor, with your legs pointed out at 45 degree angles (Photos 4 and 5). You're going to touch your nose to your knees. At least you're going to try. When I first started, it took 30 days before I could touch my knee.

Bend from the waist, pull with your arms, try real hard to get the tip of your nose all the way to your kneecap. You probably won't get close, but don't be frustrated. If you've done the first three exercises properly, that will help.

Some of the experts say you should bounce your upper body a little, with the nose getting closer and closer to the knee on each bounce. I suggest you use a constant, 3-4 second stretch.

Photo 6 may not be the most flattering picture ever taken of me, but it's a good exercise. Just lie back and lift your legs back over your head. Try to touch the floor above your head with your toes. Feel your lower back begin to loosen. When you rip a powerful backhand, you'll be glad you did this exercise.

Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6





Photo 7



Photo 8

The Twist

The last one is to rotate your hips and back, sort of a trunk twister. Just twist and turn in every direction. (Photos 7 and 8)

And that's it. The whole procedure shouldn't take more than 10 or 15 minutes.

In doing these drills remember: You're looking for what I call "checkpoints." In exercise number 1, for example, when you feel that the tightness has gone out of your calf, you've reached your checkpoint. There's no need to continue the exercise. You've got the green light, so go on to number 2.

When you reach the checkpoint of comfort there, go right into number 3. And so on. Once the tightness is gone, get onto the court.

Hit the ball a few times. Do a little "windmill" waving of your arms, stretch your arms across your chest. Stroke the ball a few more times.

Just groove that down-the-line shot, hit some kills. Anything to give your arm and shoulder a little warmup, so your game is an hour of fun — not an hour of destruction.

Think back. When was the last time you really used your arm to throw a ball, or anything? College? High School?

You can't expect to simply rush onto the court for one crash, destruction hour and not have some pain. I know you've only got that court reserved for one hour, but use just a few minutes to warm up.

From Knee to Arm

And remember this, too! Shoulder pain may develop because the lower body isn't stretched. Failure to bend your knees and torque your hips into your swing puts excessive strain on the shoulder and arm. So the basic six exercises illustrated here will actually help your shoulder and arm, too.

OK, your opponent asks, "Ready to play?" What do you say? If you've reached all your checkpoints, if all your muscles are giving you the green light, you're ready. Go. But if you get a yellow light at one of the checkpoints, take another minute on that specific exercise.

I'm 30 years old. There's no way I can compete against someone 19 or 20 if my body's not stretched out before the first serve. If I'm loose, the age of my opponent is much less significant.

If I know I'm ready, I have the confidence to really crank from Point 1. I don't have to baby myself while the other guy builds up a big lead. I can unload on a backhand with the first shot.

What does it all mean to you? You'll be loose and free to bend your knees like you're supposed to, and that means more kills, better passing shots, more power.

You can really torque your hips and back into the swing.

You'll surprise yourself by getting to balls that you once thought were out of reach.

If that sounds appealing, try this:

Get to the court club 15 minutes early. Stretch on the floor of the locker room, in the shower, in the jacuzzi, in the hallway, or right on the court. Remember your checkpoints. Go right down the six exercises pictured here.

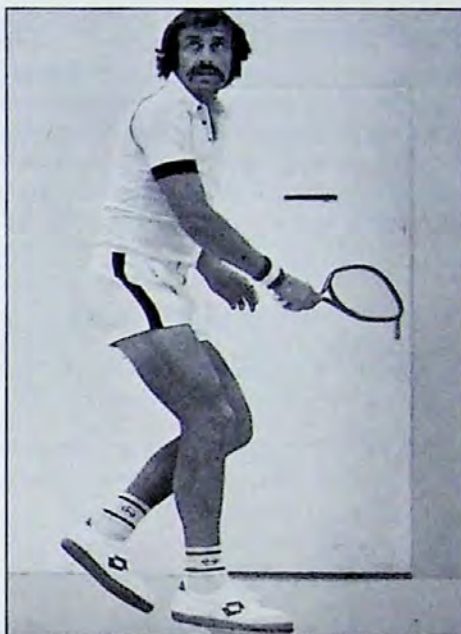
When you finish, it'll be time to knock on the door and step onto the court. Loosen your arm a bit, then WIN! ●

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The Business of Winning

Letting the Odds Help You Win

by Richard J. Carpenter

Practicing Probability Racquetball comes naturally to successful business men and women who must train themselves to act today on what their experience tells them will most likely happen tomorrow. This is another story by Management Consultant Richard J. Carpenter, a Spokane, WA, player and teacher, who gives *National Racquetball* readers some new ways to look at their racquetball games as he applies principles from the business world to winning racquetball.

Most racquetball players have heard of Percentage Racquetball, which is easier to understand if you call it "Probability Racquetball."

If you practice "Probability Racquetball," you will probably increase the odds that you will win the match.

The dictionary definition of "probability" is "the chance that a given event will occur." If that given event is your desire to win your racquetball games, then Probability Racquetball should be part of your training program. It is just as crucial to your playing ability as is the ability to hit a ceiling ball into the back left-hand corner of the court!

You have to *condition* your mind to use Probability Racquetball the same way you condition your legs to be able to go after that not quite perfect pinch shot into the front corner. You have to automatically *apply* Probability Racquetball to the game situation just as automatically as you change your grip for a forehand or backhand shot. In summary you have to TRAIN yourself in the skills and techniques of Probability Racquetball; you have to condition your mind and body to react in terms of Probability Racquetball; you must apply Probability Racquetball to the situations that occur during your matches.

Let's look at the situations of a racquetball match. The chart shows you *all* of the possible situations you can be in during the course of a

FRONT	A	B	BACK
	SERVE	RECEIVE	
	C	D	

racquetball match. They are mutually exclusive. That is you can only be in one of these situations at any specific moment during the match and your opponent can never be in the same situation as you are during any particular moment of the match. The situations form two dichotomies. The first is Serving or Receiving; the second is Front Court position or Back Court position. Look at where the four possible situations are identified.

- (1) Situation A — You are Serving and in front court position
- (2) Situation B — You are Serving and in back court position
- (3) Situation C — You are Receiving and in front court position
- (4) Situation D — You are Receiving and in back court position

From Best to Worst

In Probability Racquetball these four situations are rated from the best to the worst. For example Situation A where you are serving and have control of the front court is the best position to be in to score points and win the match. Situation D, on the other hand, where you are receiving and in the back court is the worst possible situation to be in to score points and thereby win the match. Your return of serve is the only tool you have to change the situation on the court. If his serve is good enough that you can't kill it or pass him with a winner so that you change the server-receiver relationship, then the *very least* you need from your return of serve is to switch the front court-back court relationship. This then increases your probability of winning the point. As you move from position D to C and he moves from position A to B, the relationship on the court becomes more equal. However the server always has the advantage because the only thing he can lose is a side out while the receiver loses points, and point accumulation is the name of the game. This then is first of the axioms of Probability Racquetball: "Gamble Only When Serving — All You Lose Is a Side Out." The corollary of this is "Don't Gamble When Receiving the Serve or Anytime the Opponent Is in Front of You"

Let's analyze each of the four situations starting with the worst, D, and finishing up with the best, A, to better understand how and why Probability Racquetball applies in each one.

What to Do from Position D

Position D has you at your maximum disadvantage and at the moment of serve, it's even worse, because your opponent is at the position of maximum advantage! Therefore your primary concern has to be to return his serve in a way that changes that relationship. The very best you can do is to roll out a backhand kill shot and simply reverse the relationship. However that is easier said than done. The worst you can do is drive his serve into the floor and be right back where you were only one more point from defeat. Probability Racquetball tells you in its second axiom: "*Think: Am I in an offensive situation or a defensive situation? Hit accordingly.*" Since in Position D you are in the most defensive of defensive positions, the axiom tells you to hit a ceiling shot to at least regain the center court position and move up to Position C where the probabilities start to shift more in your favor. Other shots you might hit from Position D would be drive shots across court or down the wall both of which, if hit well, will move you into the center court position and change your on-court relationship from D to C.

Your Best Bet in Position C

From Position C you have evened up the court relationship as much as you can. You still cannot score points but you are in a more advantageous position to score side outs from which you move into Position A, where you want to be. Remember, also, when you move up from Position D to Position C your opponent has moved down from Position A to Position B. That indicates that, for the next shot at least, the momentum has swung to your side of the court — you are moving in the right direction and he is moving in the wrong direction! Remember, also, that if you are playing Probability Racquetball there's a better than even chance that your opponent is not playing the percentages. Therefore, your expectation should be that he is going to violate Axiom 2 and attempt to hit an offensive shot from the back court defensive position, so you be ready for that. If he does hit one and it goes into the floor, you've achieved what you wanted to achieve — Position A. But, suppose he hits that shot, which you're expecting and by some miracle it reaches the front wall (not killed).

Great! You're poised right there ready to dink it into the corner for a side-out and Position A. And, if you want to rub salt into his wounds, pray that he tries to retrieve your dink shot by running full blast from the deep back court to the deep fore court. Not only have you won side out, but he's expended a lot of energy in that fruitless effort which you will be able to capitalize on later in the match. This brings me to axiom three of Probability Racquetball, "*Hit the ball to where your opponent isn't.*" If you can consistently hit to where your opponent has to expend energy everytime he needs to hit the ball, who's going to win the fatigue battle? You are! And he who wins the fatigue battle will in all probability win the match.

Playing from Position A

Now that you've regained Position A, how are you going to keep it? Remember you have switched roles and your opponent is now scheming to achieve what you just did. The *tool* you have that enables you to maintain the advantages of Position A is your serve. I stated earlier that the server has the added advantage of holding the ball in his hand and the "*right*" to hit it where and when he wants to. So, in effect, you have some element of surprise to aid you in your battle. When you hit it is sometime after the referee states the score and sometime before 10 seconds elapses. Therefore axiom four of Probability Racquetball says, "*Use your 10 seconds to control the tempo of the game.*" You may hit in on the first second, "*1000 to one*," or the eight second, "*1000 to eight*," or anytime you choose within that 10 second limit of freedom. You control the match by varying the time when you serve.

The other element of surprise that the serve gives you is *where* you serve the ball. Now where can refer to four different places:

- (1) Where you strike the ball in relation to the floor.
- (2) Where you direct the ball against the front wall.
- (3) Where you cause the ball to cross the service line.
- (4) Where you serve from in the service box.

If you know your probability theory that gives you *at the very minimum* 256 different combinations of serve with which to surprise your opponent. If you are 100 percent effective in using your serve, you need never learn how to play from Position B. Since nothing works 100 percent of the time, let's take a look at your reactions and the relationships that exist in Position B.

The Position B Approach

Finding yourself in Position B means that you have lost temporary control of center court position but you still are the only person on the court who can score points. Axiom 1, "*Gamble only when serving*," is still in your favor and depending on the score you may want to risk a gambling type shot either to regain center court position or score a point. However Axiom 2 might be the wisest probability to follow. If his shot is so good that you are in a completely defensive situation, hit a defensive ceiling shot to get him out of center court position.

Axiom 3 also will enable you to recover from the temporary status of Position B and back to Position A and that is to hit any shot where the opponent isn't. If he's smart, he'll be in center court position just behind the service line. Therefore hit the ball where he has to move out of that position. What happens? He moves out of center court position and you move in and "*abracadabra*" you're back into Position A.

In summing up if you follow the axioms of Probability Racquetball and remain aware of the four court positions, you will win more matches than you'll lose. Remember there's a great difference between *you* losing a match and your opponent winning that match. You can bet on it! ●

Axioms of Probability Racquetball

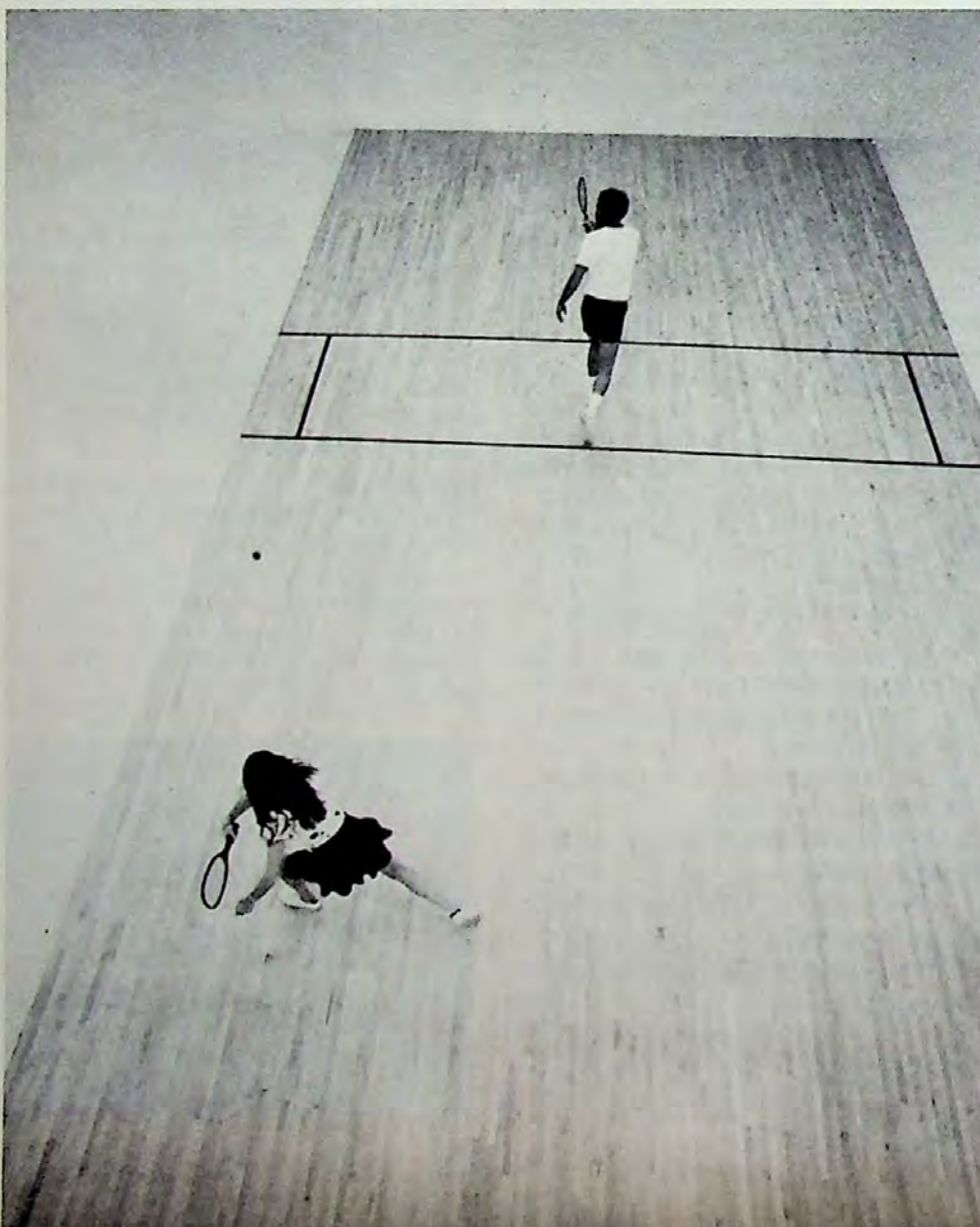
1. Gamble only when serving.
2. Hit according to whether you're in an offensive or defensive position.
3. Hit the ball where the opponent isn't.
4. Use your 10 seconds to control the tempo.

APRO Teaches . . . Lessons for Two Beginners

Reprinted from *Contemporary Racquetball* with permission of Contemporary Books, Inc., Chicago. Copyright © 1978 by Chuck Sheftel and Arthur Shay.

Chuck Sheftel, teaching pro who co-authored *Contemporary Racquetball* with Photographer Arthur Shay, is president of the American Professional Racquetball Organization. Members of APRO, which certifies racquetball instructors around the country, have been writing stories for *National Racquetball* on teaching techniques. In coming issues "APRO Teaches" will be devoted to Chuck Sheftel's and Arthur Shay's book describing how two beginners can help each other learn racquetball.

Each lesson takes an hour to complete, and can be repeated for slower students or those who play only once a week. Players can set their own pace.



First Lesson

1. Discussion of basic rules of play (5 minutes)
2. Basics of the grip: forehand and backhand (10 minutes).
3. Drills
 - a. Side wall drill (5 minutes)
 - b. Partner feeds to hitter on forehand side (15 minutes)
 - c. Partner feeds to hitter on backhand side (15 minutes)
4. Play (7 minutes)
5. Wrapup (3 minutes)

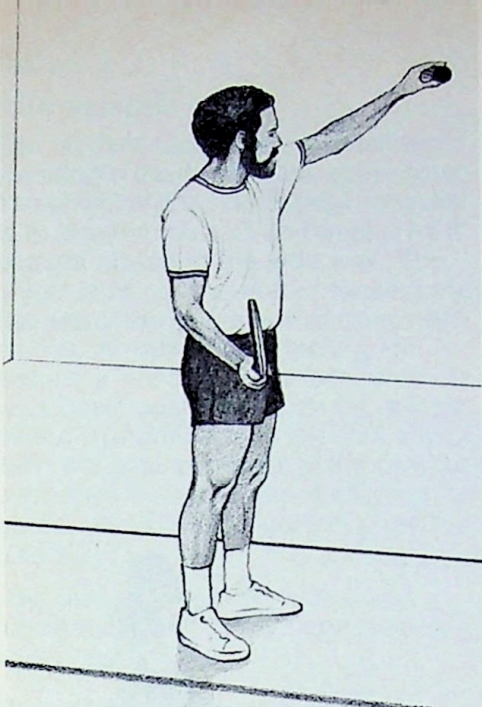
Discussion of basic rules of play

A good, shorthand summary of racquetball rules has been written by pro Jean Sausser. This is Sausser's summary, from her book *Inside Racquetball for Women*.

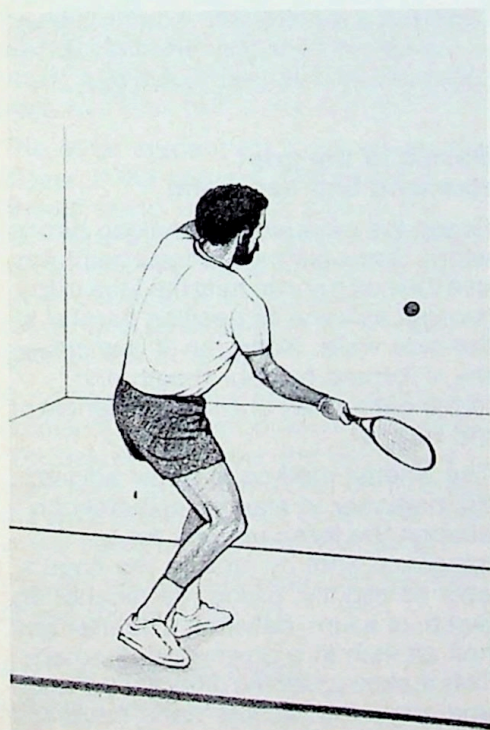
1. A racquetball game is played to 21 points. You have to be only one point ahead to win the game. Winning two out of three games gives you the match. The tie-breaking game may be 11 points.
2. Only the server can make points.
3. If the receiver wins a volley, the receiver wins the serve.
4. The object of racquetball is to win volleys and thereby make points.

Serving

1. The server must stand in the service zone, bounce the ball, and hit to the *front wall first*. After hitting the front wall the ball may or may not hit one side wall and then bounce past the short line into deep court.
2. You get two attempts to serve the ball correctly. The following serves are faults, any two of which in succession result in a side out (loss of serve).
 - a. Short serve: The ball fails to clear the short line. (Touching the line is a short serve.)
 - b. Long serve: The ball goes to the back wall on the fly.

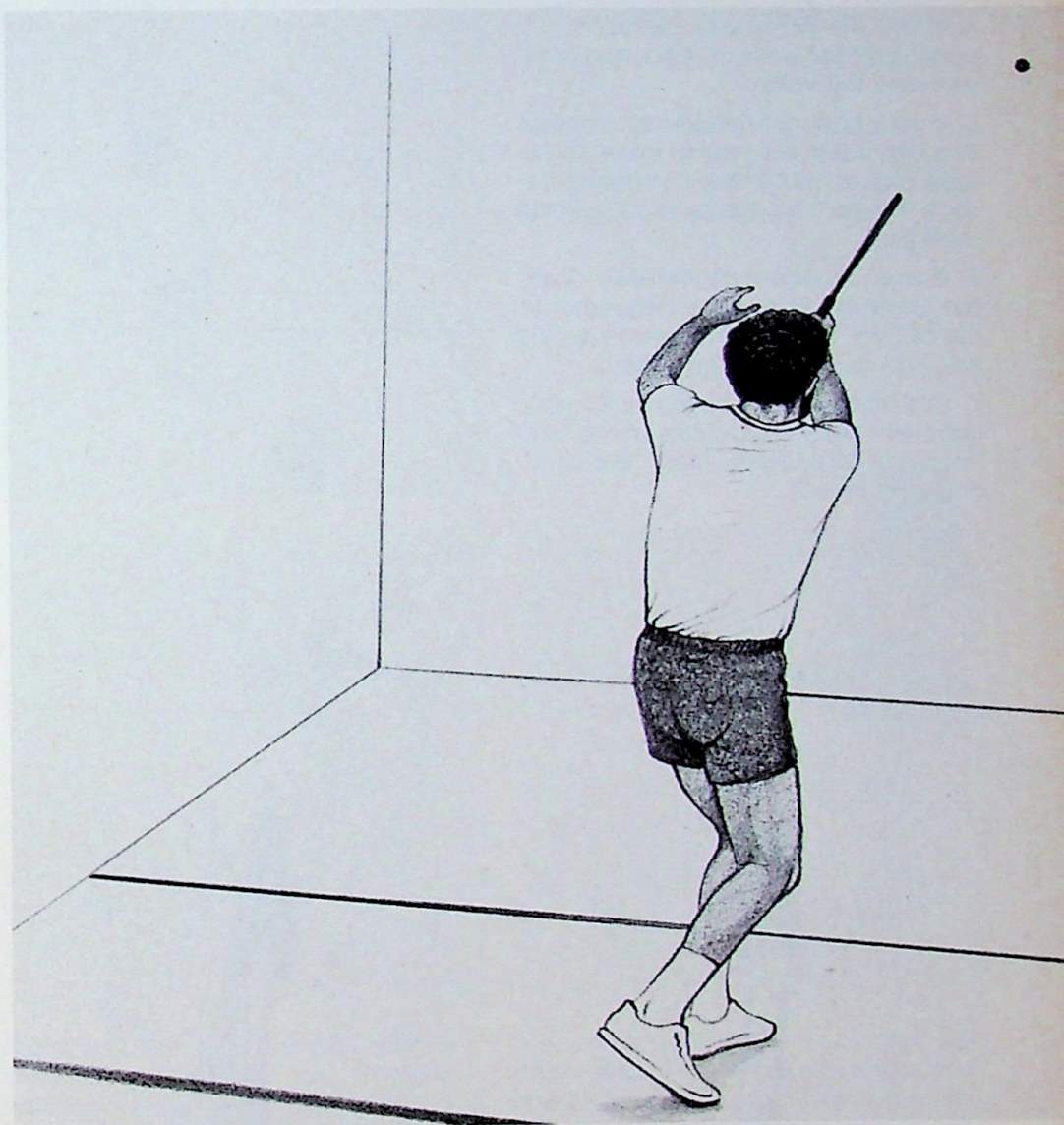


To practice lob serve ball is dropped from high, with racquet held low.



Racquet moves under ball to lob it high to wall.

- c. Three wall serve: The ball hits two side walls before bouncing in deep court.
- d. Ceiling serve: The ball hits the ceiling on the way to deep court.
- 3. You will lose your serve on your first attempt if:
 - a. You fail to hit the front wall first.
 - b. The ball hits you on a bounce or a fly as it comes off a wall.



Lob serve is made, high on wall, usually aimed to opponent's backhand, deep in court.

Receiving

1. The receiver stands in deep court, midway between the forehand and the backhand side walls.
2. The receiver may hit the ball on a bounce or fly. The ball must then return to the front wall without touching the floor. Any combination of walls the ball hits on its way to the front wall is legal as long as the front wall is included in every volley.

Volleying

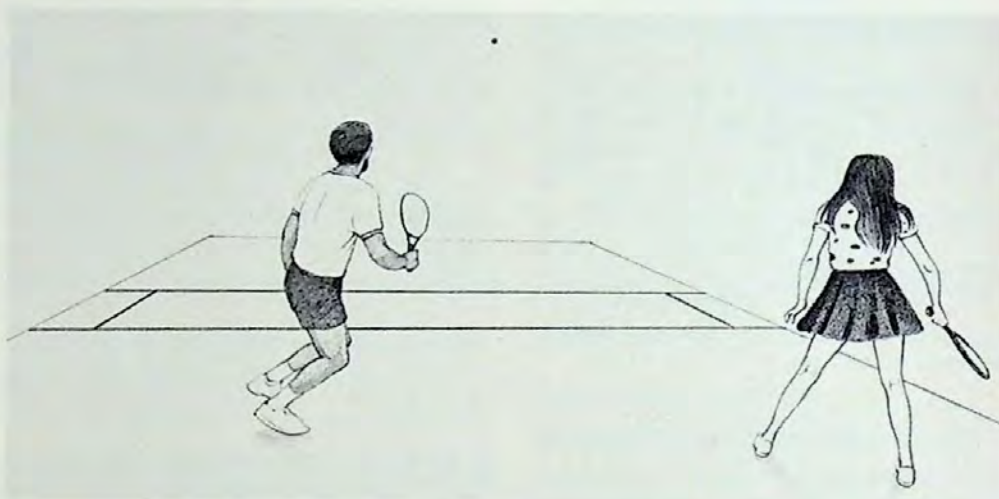
1. Once the ball bounces on the floor twice it is out of play.
2. If the ball touches your opponent on the way back to the front wall, a "hinder" (for "hindrance") is called and the point is replayed.
3. If your opponent is hit by a ball coming off the walls on a bounce or fly, he or she loses the volley.

4. If you are hit by your own shot coming off the walls on a bounce or fly, you lose the volley.

5. If your opponent makes an attempt to move out of the way to allow you a clear shot at the ball but is unable to do so, a "*hinder*" is called and the point is replayed.

6. If your opponent deliberately does not move to allow you a clear shot at the ball, an "*avoidable hinder*" is called and she or he loses the volley.

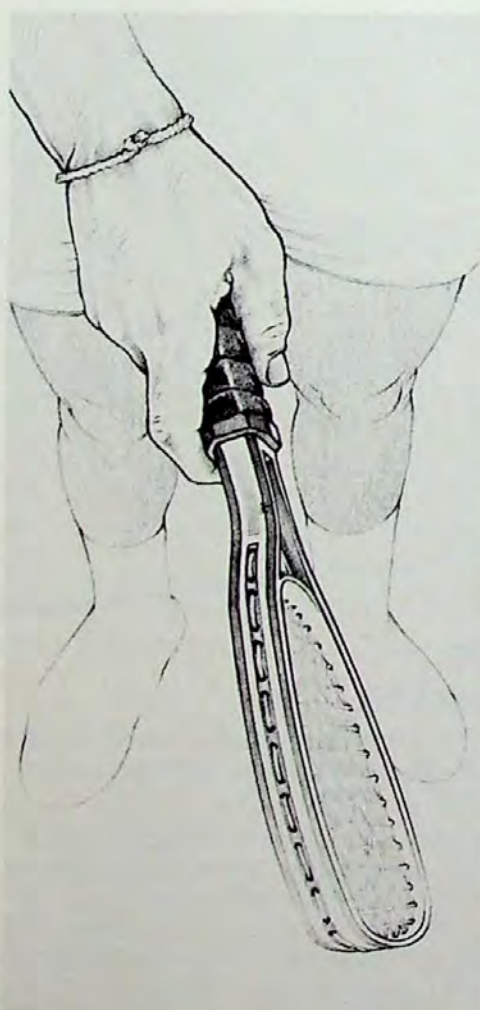
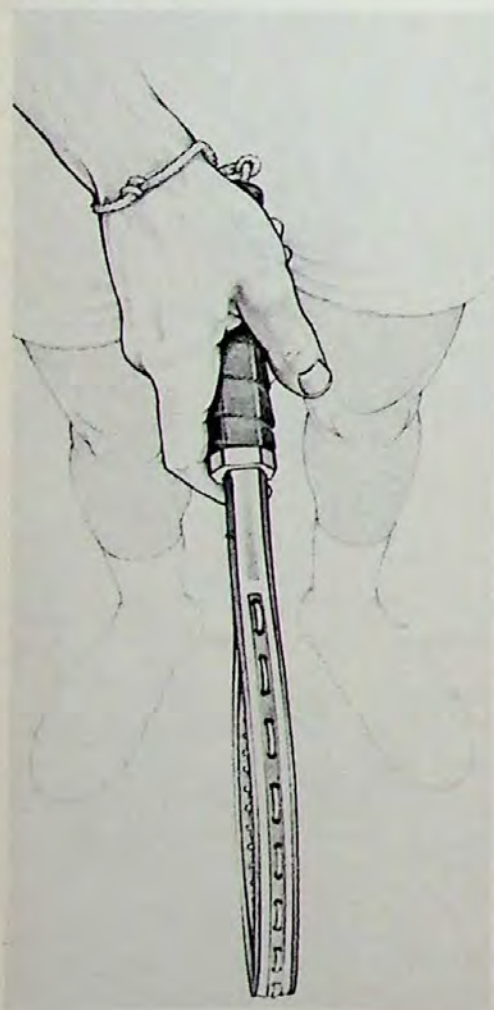
7. A "*screen ball*" is called when your opponent blocks your view of the ball. The point is replayed. Most "*screens*" occur on serves.



Basics of the grip: forehand and backhand

Grasp the racquet as if shaking hands with it. Some beginners find it helpful to use their off hand to help the face of the racquet assume its position parallel to the side walls. Keep the V in mind — the V formed by your thumb and forefinger as they encircle the handle of the racquet.

The Sheftel method strongly advises the beginner to start immediately on altering the forehand grip for a backhand shot by moving the fingers ever so slightly, giving the racquet an eighth of a turn, between a quarter and half an inch in a downward direction. This makes up for the different distance and angle the racquet hand traverses when hitting a backhand shot. At the moment of impact with the ball, of course, both strokes call for the racquet face to be straight up and down to assure a smooth powerful stroke that accurately sends the ball to the front wall.



Forehand Grip Backhand Grip

Drills

Side wall drill

The student faces the side wall while standing in the dead center of the court. The object of this simple beginning drill is to bounce the ball and *gently* hit it straight ahead to the side wall. The object is to get the feel of tapping the ball and of the power locked up in those strings. A rudimentary feeling for accuracy — making the ball return to your basic position — can be gained during this drill. It may feel like child's play, but getting the feel of the racquet on the ball is a basic step in learning the game, so don't take this drill lightly. It's also fun.

This drill should finish with a few backhand "pats" to the same side wall, again, just for feel.

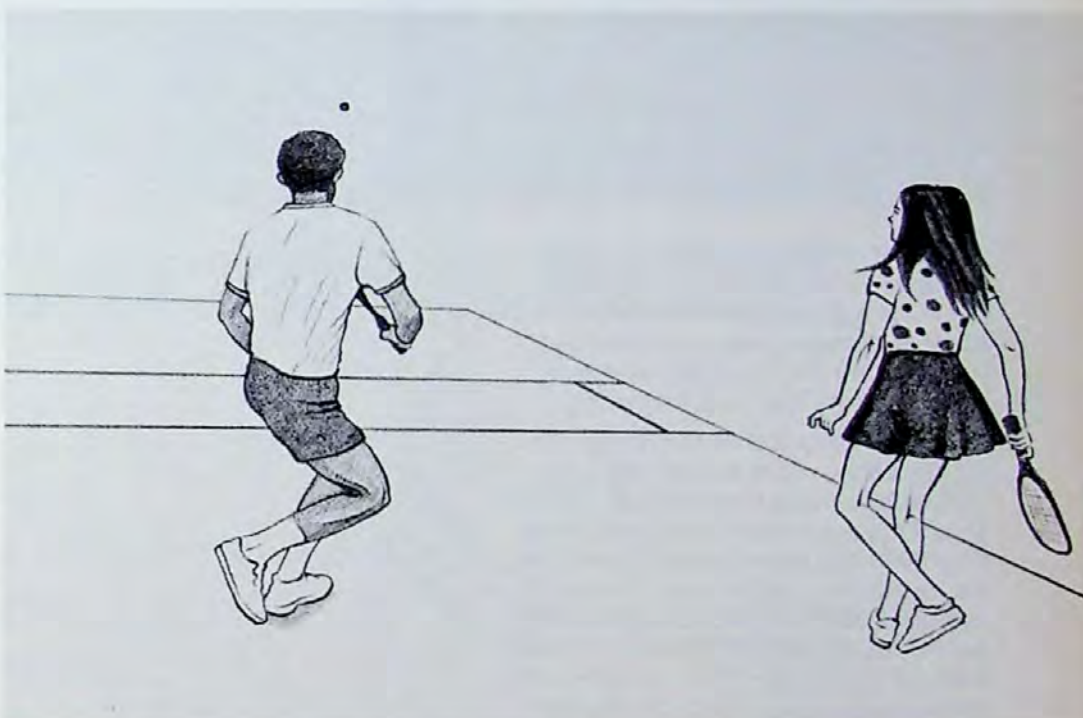
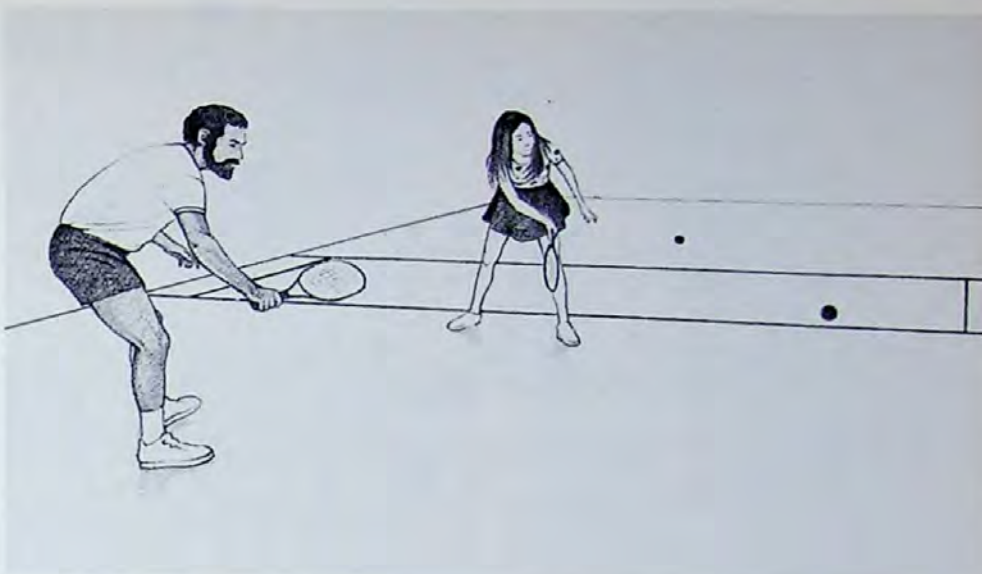
Partner feeds to hitter on forehand side

Alternating during this time period one student should now take up a position well back in the center of the deep court, about four feet in from the rear wall.

The other student (or more advanced player, if the players are unequal) should stand in the left side of the serving area and attempt to hit the ball to the wall and have it carom to the other player's forehand side. This player should attempt to hit the ball back to the front wall.

A partner without sufficient control to do this at this stage could use his or her racquet arm to *throw* the ball at the front wall, remembering to try to snap the wrist at the moment of release (this is the basic racquetball wrist snap).

Players should alternate until the first fifteen minutes are up.



Partner feeds to hitter on backhand side

Same as the previous drills, alternating for fifteen minutes. Both players should begin to get a sense of the game by the end of these exercises, to the extent that they may break out into a healthy rash of volleying lasting three or four shots.

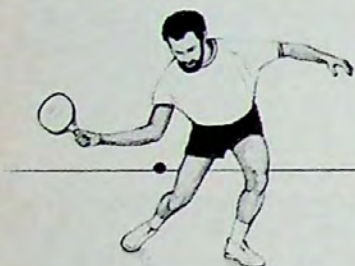
If a better player of sympathetic nature appears on the balcony, if your court has a balcony as many do, you might

prevail on him or her or your friendly local pro to hit balls to your forehand and backhand in random sequence, so you get used to loping across the court to take your shots and do not become mired in one area.

The keys to racquetball are mobility and power. After you achieve mobility, your body will gradually provide more and more power. Running to meet the ball and hitting it smoothly is the basic achievement that must be accomplished by the new player.

If for any reason you find yourself on the court all alone at this stage, use the time to "feed" yourself. Try to hit the ball off the front wall to your forehand. Do this for a few minutes until you feel that you have a certain amount of control and can predict where the ball will land as it comes back from the wall. Don't make this exercise too easy if you seem good at it. Run a few steps to meet the ball — to the right if you're right handed and practicing your forehand, and to the left to practice your backhand. (The 15 percent of us who are left handed know how to reverse all these directions or should practice in front of a mirror until they can make the basics fit.)

Serves should be alternated in practice. Here server serves to forehand of partner. This drill can be expanded to include "touch and go." Receiver must touch wall with racquet, then get back to the shot.



The point is that pros spend a great deal of time — up to five or six hours a day — practicing specific shots and aspects of their game and use their solo time on the court for repetitive drills on shots they are perfecting.

In your few minutes of solo time, don't hit aimlessly. Have a goal: left side, right side, running to get the ball, hitting it back to your weaker or stronger hand. Brumfield has been known to practice his backhand "pinch" shot — a shot that goes down the left wall, hits the left wall a couple of feet from the corner, then caroms off the front — some 500 times at a session! 10 or 20 shouldn't be too much for you.

Play

OK, play racquetball, even if you feel like a turkey at it! Start with a good legal serve, trying not to hit yourself with the ball coming off the wall, and return your opponent's return, if it's legal!

Wrapup

A short self-coaching session: take a few minutes to recap the drills you've done and the shots you feel you need work on. ●



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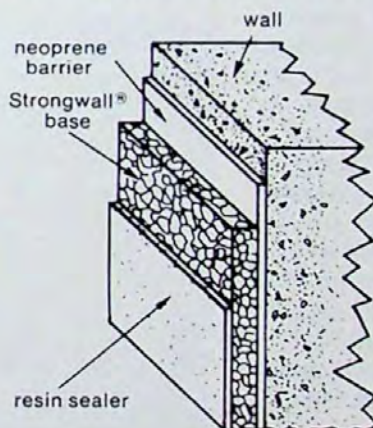


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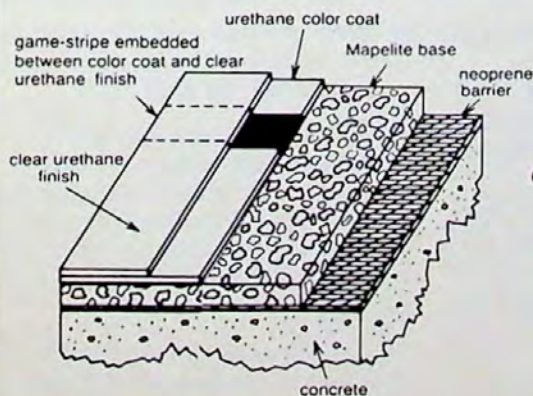
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No Bounce — A Lead Up Game For Racquetball

by Lou Fabian

Fundamentally the game of racquetball is simple to learn. The initial success factor for any novice when compared to tennis and handball is greater. There are no out of bounds. The ball can hit any wall in any manner as long as the ball eventually reaches the front wall. There are no court obstacles to overcome such as a net or tall table. Almost anything goes in racquetball.

However, from a teaching standpoint, racquetball's simplicity generates a lack of stroke discipline which inhibits the novice from having to swing correctly. There is nothing more disheartening to a teacher than watching what the student does to the forehand and backhand strokes while learning to play.

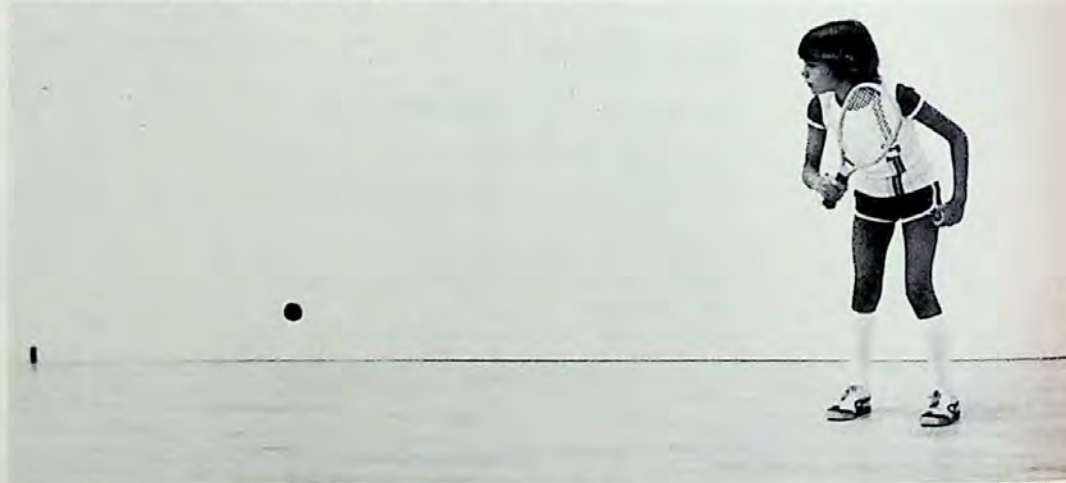
Many drills and skills taught a novice are in the stationary position. However when students begin to play, both they and the ball are moving. The ball moves fast and travels in different angular directions, and the novice usually swings in any manner possible just to hit the ball. Thus when play begins, form is drastically altered. Unlike bowling which starts from a stationary position or tennis which has a longer time lag between shots, racquetball's faster nature and variety of direction dictate a helter skelter swing for many individuals.

While teaching several hundred novice students the game of racquetball, at the University of Pittsburgh and at Off the Wall in Bethel Park, PA, I have developed a modification in the rules to alleviate the helter skelter swing. The student is instructed to wait until the ball is in the correct hitting position relative to a proper swing, even if she or he can't hit the ball on one bounce. The ball remains in play until there is no bounce remaining. The ball must still hit the front wall before the floor to remain in play.

Nine-year-old Shelly Lamont demonstrates No Bounce with her backhand.



Shelly waits in a set up position for the ball to come to her.

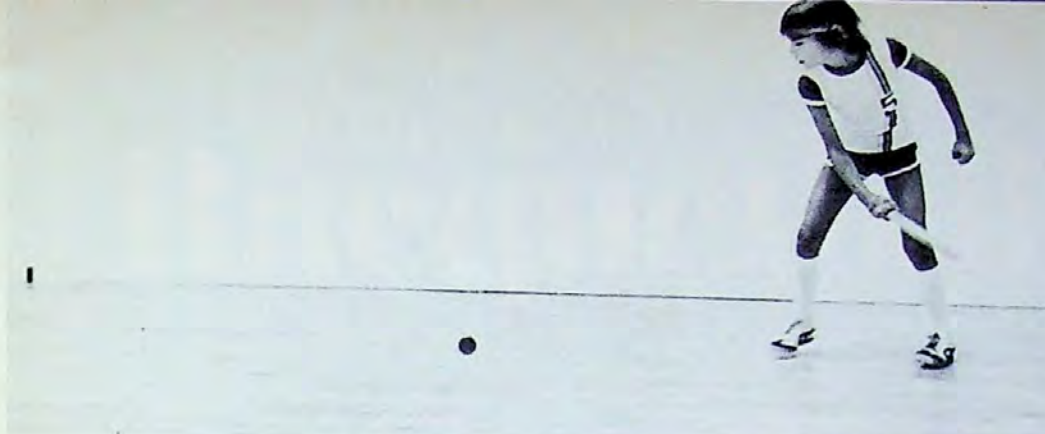


There are several advantages to this modified game. First No Bounce provides positive reinforcement because eventually the student strokes the ball correctly. Second it teaches the student to wait; a very common mistake for beginners is to hurry their shot. Third it keeps the ball in play and makes the rally longer, so the result is more continuous exercise. Fourth the student has greater success in contacting the ball, minimizing boredom and eliminating frustration. Fifth most novice students learn early

to keep the ball low. Keeping the ball low is essential for the development of a successful kill shot.

These advantages are easily understood for adults. However they provide even greater benefits when teaching children. Children, because of their size, have greater difficulty than adults at retrieving the ball on one bounce.

No Bounce may be further modified for children to produce better teaching results and fun. For children allow the ball to skip as long as it hits the front



Shelly begins her backhand stroke and body movement toward the ball.



Shelly keeps her eye on the ball while making contact.



Shelly follows through with her stroke while her body moves forward.

wall in the air. Initially children may benefit more from continuous activity than accuracy. Simply requiring the ball to hit the front wall in any manner is purpose enough.

A typical rally of No Bounce appears as follows. The serve, originating from a stationary position, is easily mastered by all levels of play and need not be altered. A lob serve for novices can initiate the rally. The receiver makes a decision for a forehand or backhand

return of serve and begins to adjust his or her body position. The ball may be too high, too near an opponent, near a corner or angling off a side wall. The receiver waits until the ball is in a good safe hitting position with regard to his or her own body position. A good swing and more accurate shot usually ensures reinforcing what has been taught. Since participation and reaction time for the novice are limited, No Bounce allows sufficient time to retrieve the ball and set up for a proper

swing. The duration of rally is greatly lengthened thus requiring greater endurance and emphasis on lower shooting.

Generally the novice should play No Bounce during the initial four to six week course in lessons. Children should play No Bounce until they are physically able to cover the court. A delightful combination is for a parent to play one bounce while the son or daughter plays No Bounce. ●

— Robert Gower photos



Eight-year-old Shannon Erb learns No Bounce from Lou Fabian.

USRA Coordinator Terry Fancher adds another use for No Bounce. "When a highly skilled player faces a less skilled partner, allow two bounces for the less skilled player to every one bounce for the better player."

What's the Call?

Ask an Expert . . .

by Dan Bertolucci

Dan Bertolucci, associate coordinator of the USRA and frequent referee at the NRC pro stops, answers your questions about rules in this *National Racquetball* feature.



Feet firm within the service zone contrast with the step beyond the service line that results in a call of foot fault.

Can I stand outside the service zone to begin my serve as long as I'm in the service zone when I finish?

The answer to this question is quite simply — NO. Both feet must be in the service zone and the ball must be bounced within the service zone to begin the serve. In no way can any part of either foot extend beyond either line of the service zone, either starting or finishing your service. Stepping on the line (but not beyond it) is permitted. The server must remain in the service zone until the ball passes the short line. Violations will result in a foot fault.

If I bounce the ball as if I were getting ready to serve, and I stop my swing and catch the ball, does that count as my first service attempt?

NO because you didn't swing through. This rule interpretation is covered in the USRA/NRC rules on "out serves."

You lose your serve on "any attempt to strike the ball on the first bounce that results either in a total miss or in touching any part of the server's body other than his racquet." The crucial part of this rule is that you have to swing all the way through and miss before you lose your serve.

An example of this rule occurred last year at the pro stop at Courthouse I in Marietta, GA. There was a situation where Hogan decided to fake out his opponent, Davey Bledsoe. By doing so Hogan ended up faking *himself* out, because — to Marty's surprise — a swing and a miss on the serve resulted in a side out call. ●

Send your questions about rules to Dan Bertolucci, National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL.

Women In Racquetball

Carol Brusslan



Playing with A Baby On the Way

America's birthrate is falling, but racquetball players are doing their part to keep the country populated.

With the average age of a woman racquetball player hitting 28 — right at the height of the child bearing years — it's becoming as common to see a pregnant woman in a racquetball court as in an obstetrician's waiting room.

Some pregnant women feel so comfortable on the courts they don't bother to tell their doctors they're playing. That's a mistake because obstetricians we talked to agreed that women *should* play, that racquetball is an excellent conditioner — and that some precautions are in order.

"If you're playing racquetball, go ahead and continue," says Dr. Homer Winslow, partner in a Family Practice Clinic in Oregon City, OR, and a racquetball player himself.

"But during the last three months play less vigorously and watch for danger signs like cramping."

"I recommend active exercise to get the blood circulating, to tone up the muscles and to keep the joints limber," says Dr. James W. Ellis, of Memphis, whose patient, Kathie Davis, is pictured in this "Women in Racquetball" section.

"The things to guard against," Dr. Davis says, "are jarring motions or sudden bending that would cause forceful compression."

"Be alert to oxygen deprivation that could be harmful to the baby," advises Chicago Obstetrician Dr. Allen Charles. "Don't play until out-of-breath and to the point of exhaustion."

Nature seems to let pregnant women know when they've had enough.

"I'd stop when I'd feel gawky or heavy — or when I felt a strain," Kathie Davis says.

"It was easy to tell when I had to stop," reports Alice Norris, of Oregon City. "About eight weeks before my baby was born I was playing a game and I just couldn't move for the ball. That was the day I quit."

Alice's racquetball pregnancy was different from her pregnancies five and nine years ago.

"I wasn't as tired this time — and I didn't have as many muscle pulls. I think my muscle tone helped me have my easiest delivery — 20 minutes in all. And my figure was

Revolutionary Backhand Cure

Expectant mother gets unexpected bonus . . . 36

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back in shape — instantly. I gained 20 pounds and lost it all six weeks after the baby was born. With the second I gained 30 and it took two years before I looked the way I wanted to."

Josephine Meisinger, of Aurora, IL, kept her weight down to 27 pounds during a recent pregnancy and "I left the hospital with only five pounds left to lose. Seven and 10 years ago I gained 35 to 40 pounds and only lost half of that in the hospital."

Josephine has been one of seven pregnant women ranging in age from 24 to 33 who played together during the past year at the Y. Within six weeks after their deliveries they were back on the courts.

Josephine helped smooth the way for those speedy returns. As women's director of the Aurora Y she saw to it that the nursery had accommodations for newborn babies.

Revolutionary Backhand Cure

by Victor I. Spear, M.D.

I love coaching. It is so gratifying to watch a clumsy embryonic oaf blossom into a star under my skillful guiding hand. But I almost gave it up once.

All because of Shirley.

Shirley was a coach's dream. She had everything. She had the attitude, the desire and the competitive spirit. She had the speed, the strength and the stamina. She had the smarts and the moxie.

Shirley was the ideal pupil — up at 5 a.m. — six raw eggs down the hatch — jog seven miles til 6 — then to the jumprope and universal gym til 7 — and finally out onto the court and practice, practice, practice til noon or exhaustion, whichever came first — every day without fail — including Sundays, holidays and Mother's Day. What more could a coach ask for?

But Shirley had a flaw.

A bad flaw.

When Shirley hit a backhand stroke her body would always be locked rigidly in a face front position. No pivot. And we all know that you may get away with it on a forehand, but you just can't hit a decent backhand shot if you're facing the front wall. I tried everything — straps, Ace bandages. Intricate pulley systems hung from the balcony, electronic homing devices operated from passing cars through a receiver in her racquet grip — everything that *Mission Impossible* had to offer. But nothing worked. I couldn't get Shirley to pivot.

Shirley's flaw became an obsession with me. It haunted me night and day, eating, sleeping, driving in the car — even while performing delicate, life saving skin surgery. Night after night I would wake up in a cold sweat, screaming hysterically: "Pivot, Shirley, pivot."

But Shirley wouldn't pivot.

Depression

I asked Brumfield, Keeley and Strandemo for advice. They were baffled. I made a pilgrimage to Tibet, and even the Grand Llama had nothing to say. There was simply no cure for the face front backhand disease. Every time I saw her repeat the error I would sink back into acute depression. I'd cringe at the mere thought of it, and the only relief I could find was to lie down, assume the fetal position and turn the electric blanket up to nine.

I begged, I pleaded, I whined, I cried, I demonstrated, I threatened to maim her. But Shirley wouldn't pivot.

Then a miracle happened.

As I walked past the court one day, I glanced through the glass back wall and was stunned by a very strange sight — for there was Shirley in all her splendour, stroking a perfect backhand shot from a FULL PIVOT position. The initial shock was almost too much to bear. I fought off the acute apoplexy, and rallied valiantly to regain my senses. In a state of utter disbelief I dared to look again and saw backhand after backhand being stroked beautifully from a full pivot position. I began to swell with pride at this my greatest coaching triumph, started to feel real smug. But the feeling was shortlived.

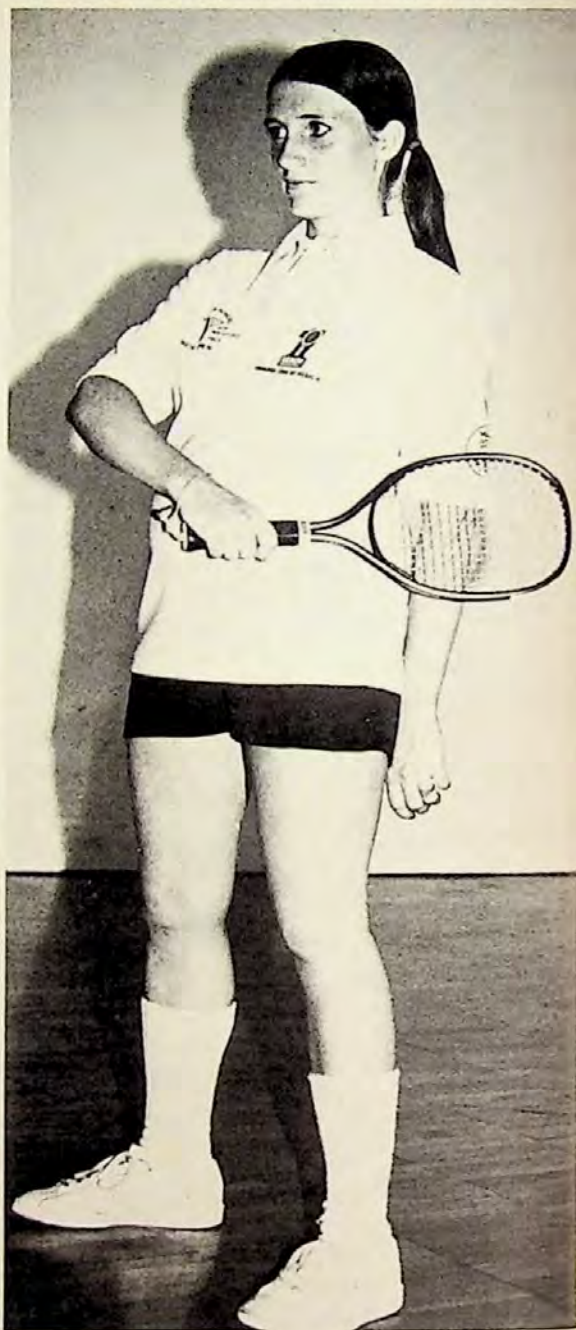
For then came the second shock.

There was something different about Shirley's body that I hadn't noticed at first. She had this bulbous protuberance of her lower abdomen which, in the 19th Century, would have condemned her to nine months of social quarantine.

Shirley was, indeed, pregnant.

For days and weeks after I would sneak a peek to confirm or deny my observation, but there could no longer be any doubt. The quality of Shirley's backhand grew as Shirley grew. Shirley could not reach across her body to hit a face front backhand shot. There was something in the

Shirley tries her belly front backhand for the last time.



way. She simply HAD to pivot. What I had failed miserably to accomplish by intent had been achieved out of necessity. And what bugs me is that her husband claims half the credit for the cure. He admits that I was the one who suffered her to pivot, but boasts that he was the one who rendered it impossible for her to do otherwise.

And abandons it for her new belly back stroke — after the cure.



Serendipity

Admittedly the cure was not discovered as a result of the scientific method or deductive reasoning. But if serendipity was good enough to find penicillin and America, it ought to be acceptable for racquetball. After all how many important things were actually discovered on purpose? Think of Archimedes in the tub with his rubber ducky Eureka, Ben Franklin out flying his silly kite during a storm, Einstein playing scrabble and stumbling over $E = mc^2$.

Well, add this one to the list.

I fear that I may be accused of being a radical for advocating drastic means to solve trivial problems. Well so be it. Show me a better way to make someone pivot.

Where do we go from here? I'm not willing to drop my small pearl, ride off into the sunset and just leave it at that. I want to build it into a monument. I see a piece of immortality here. I think the implications are far reaching and unlimited. The blueprints are nearly complete for the construction of Spear's Summer Camp for women in need of the Revolutionary Backhand Cure. Although I've had many males volunteer to be instructors, I remain the only active principal at this time — for as long as I can last. I understand Adrienne Barbeau, Farrah Fawcett and Miss World are having backhand problems. I surely hope so.

You say you're having trouble with your backhand? You're probably not taking enough pivot in your backstroke. You say you've tried everything? Just get pregnant. The rest will take care of itself.

Incidentally I haven't yet come up with a solution for the guys with backhand woes, but to tell the truth — I don't much care.

Having Babies Is Part of Their Racquetball Routine

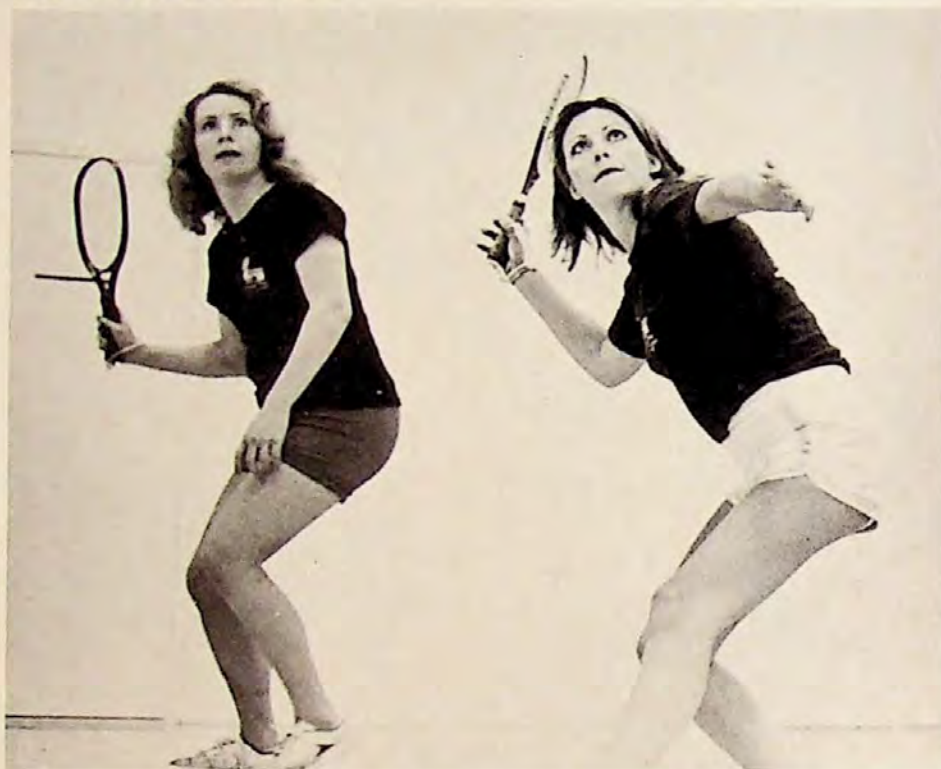
Price Nathurst thrived on his mother's attentions during the USRA Tennessee tournament last summer.

So did his mother, Linda, who nursed three-month-old Price between games in a match that won her the Class C championship against a 19-year-old member of the Memphis State Racquetball team.

Pregnancies and babies fit right in with racquetball for Linda, who's 29, and her Nashville backyard neighbor, Kathie Davis, 36, who introduced Linda to the game shortly after the Supreme Courts opened two years ago in their hometown. (Kathie won the Ms. class at the state tournament.)

Linda, an interior designer, and Kathie, head of the Nashville Republican Women's Club, play three or four times a week at the Supreme Courts where they often join their husbands — Ed Davis and Ray Nathurst — for a game of doubles.

Kathie Davis, left, and Linda Nathurst swapped sugar over the back fence before they became racquetball competitors.



Kathie Davis took a three week and three day rest from racquetball when she gave birth to 15-month-old Erin, held here by Dorinda, 12. Others in the back row, left to right, are Colleen, eight; Kathie; Patrick, seven, and Brian, 10. Shawn, 13, left, and Mike, 11, are in front.



Linda holds Price, five months, while Kelly, 11, holds the trophy and Niesa, two, grins.

Sisters Switch

Now They're Athletes

by Margot A. Larsen

My sister was the one who initiated me into the world of racquetball. It was two or three bites into my bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich when she mentioned that she and a friend had a court reserved for 7 o'clock and would I like to come along.

I consented, figuring three years of matrimony had probably dulled her reflexes and the competition couldn't be too fierce.

Actually there is nothing fierce about my sister at all. In fact she still fits into a girl's size 12 dress. Petite, definitely petite.

I am not petite. While there was a time when my sister did give me hand-me-downs, in junior high the process reversed itself and I began handing up outgrown clothing. So I had a sneaky suspicion in a test of physical prowess I had the upper hand.

When the three of us entered the court and the door closed behind us, I wasn't so sure. As any player knows, the surroundings take some getting used to. The heavy door clanks shut, and you can't help but think it will never reopen. Once it's shut, it looks exactly like the rest of the room — white.

My sister and her friend said they would volley for a while and I should try to catch on. The first thing I learned about racquetball is that it is a fast game. Any stationary object is open target for assault by the ball. Consequently I spent most of my time darting around, trying to avoid its line of fire.

Racketball

As I scampered from wall to wall, I came to my second conclusion. Racquetball is not racketball at all. It is racketball and I mean racket. The sound of that ball whacking against the walls more nearly resembles gunfire from close range than the innocent patter of a ball bouncing.

A weapon was presented to me.

"Shake hands with this racquet," my sister said. I did. *"That's the grip,"* she said, then added, *"The basic idea is to hit the front wall. There's really nothing to it. Just keep your eye on the ball."*

Sure thing. Sounded easy. Just hit the front wall. She tossed the ball to me and I swung. Close, but no good. I missed and grinned sheepishly. She threw another to me. This time I hit the ball squarely and it smacked against the front wall. I inhaled and turned to smile victoriously at my sister. As I did so, the ball came back and zapped me in the ear.

"Keep your eye on the ball," my sister said.

She demonstrated how to hit the ball and be able to keep returning shots. I also returned the first ball that came to me. It hit the front wall eventually — via the ceiling, left wall, right wall, left wall and floor. When the ball came back, she returned it with a gracious lob. It bounced my way and I missed it again.

It was then that I decided I'd be damned if I was going to let that little ball get the best of me. I COULD play racquetball. Hadn't I once been awarded a large bead in Campfire Girls for my athletic ability in the three-legged race? I was NOT uncoordinated. I was NOT stupid. And I was most definitely NOT a 98 pound weakling. Yet my butterfly of a sister, who had spent every physical education class hiding in the girls' locker room was returning every shot.

A New Mood

I challenged her to a game. Her friend seemed to sense the new mood and quietly withdrew to the upstairs spectator's box. My sister gave me first serve and I took my place between the lines.

Mustering up all my muscle, I slammed a serve into the front wall. It whistled by on its return and crashed into the back wall. *"Long,"* she said feigning disgust, but I

caught the trace of fear in her voice. *"It's got to hit behind the line."*

Another serve. This one was good but she hit it back and I couldn't return it. She moved triumphantly into the serving position and I felt an uncanny desire to stick my tongue out at the back of her head.

Her serve hit the floor and bounced right into the back corner. I could see no way in the world to return it. There was no room for a clear shot.

She had found my weakness and deliberately served the next one into the same corner. This time I tried to hit the ball after it hit the back wall and as it started back to the front. But I hit it on the edge of the racquet and the ball cascaded dizzily to the ceiling.

Again the serve came sailing back to the corner. This time I pounded the sum total of my portly physique into the ball and I hit it directly into the back wall. It flew to the front wall and bounced right to my sister, hitting her in the chin, just below her opened mouth that was gaping in bewilderment. I strutted to the serving line.

Three broken fingernails and a sweaty T-shirt later I had tied her 13-13 when the knock came from the place on the wall where the door had been. *"Time's up,"* a voice called.

I looked at my sister and she looked at me. We started to laugh and one of us said something about a rematch.

Then my sister led me to the shower and whirlpool. Lying in the warm, bubbly massage I realized how good it felt to slam that ball around for an hour.

What I've learned about racquetball since that first game is that the harder, louder and faster I play, the better I feel. It's hard to describe adequately, but there used to be a rock group around called "Blood, Sweat and Tears." I bet they've played racquetball.

Who's Playing Racquetball?

Searching for Believable Models

Sharon Lee is a young woman with an abundance of talent — 150 different talents, to be exact. You see, Sharon is the president of Talent Plus, a professional talent agency in St. Louis. And Sharon says she "even has a little talent" on the racquetball courts. "I try to play at least once or twice a week at a Spaulding Racquetball Club."

How did Sharon get involved in racquetball? "Well, my job is extremely hectic — telephones ringing, auditions, photo sessions — the tension can really build up. I needed something that would let out all that tension. Then I saw an ad about the Spaulding Racquetball Clubs' free trial offer — you get an hour of free court time, so I decided to try it. After that one hour, I was hooked."

Sharon rates herself a novice player but "an enthusiastic one."

"I try to slip away during a lunch hour once or twice a week. That hour of racquetball refreshes me — makes me ready to face ringing telephones again."

Sharon, age 27, began Talent Plus one and a half years ago. Being a former professional model and director of a modeling school Sharon had the experience necessary to create a highly successful talent agency.

Talent Plus today represents 150 people and provides models for all areas of the advertising media, including television, radio, industrial films, slide presentations, motion pictures, photography and promotional services.

The success of Talent Plus lies in Sharon's concept of a good model. She explains "We search for the believable — for those who are naturals in front of the camera. It's not just a good looker who makes money. You have to be able to project the feel of what the client is selling. We have babies to grandpas on file to provide our clients with the perfect type." This constant search for the believable is one reason Sharon's day is so hectic.

The main reason Sharon can slip away as often as she does, in spite of her busy schedule, is the convenience of the Spaulding Racquetball Clubs' six locations in the St. Louis area and a reciprocal membership program. "That's what I like best. I live near one club but work near another. So wherever my appointments take me in the city, there's a Spaulding Club nearby."



So while Sharon specializes in talent all day long, she keeps working to improve her racquetball talent whenever she gets a chance. "I enjoy my job. It keeps me on the go, meeting new people, doing new things. And I enjoy racquetball because it allows me to free my mind of business and just relax."



Racquetball gives talent agency head, Sharon Lee, a break between talking to clients and auditioning new talent.



If you know a woman who plays racquetball and whose job or hobby would make her a good subject for this series, send her name, address and phone number to Carol Brusslan, National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

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Give Cows Credit For Marci's Power

by Nick Longhurst



Want to hit the ball hard . . . , harder than any of the top female racquetball professionals?

Well if you take the advice of hard hitting Marci Greer — the young newcomer who in just three years has blasted her way to the front of the 1978 speed serve competition — you'll find yourself a cow.

Don't laugh. Racquetball players, like any sports fanatics, have been known to do sillier things in the search for a bit of extra power, more snap or just the extra psychological edge which might make the difference between losing and winning.

Yes. In the ranks of our top players there are talismans galore and I know one club player who never takes to the court without a glove on each hand and a tennis type sunshade complete with peak on his head.

. . . But a cow.

According to Marci, the slim 23-year-old Ektelon pro who beat out Shannon Wright, Jennifer Harding and Peggy Steding in the radar gun stakes, the cow is all important.

Admittedly not so much now on the pro tour, but years ago when she had to milk the herd belonging to her father, farmer David Greer.

The cow milking chore is just what one would expect from any self respecting country girl born and raised in Wichita, KS.

Lifting That Bale

And while Marci's city cousins were working out with weights for extra strength, Marci's workout came naturally, hefting 80 pound hay bales around the place.

"Thinking back, all the things I had to do then were just what I need in my game today. Especially strong shoulders, arms and wrists. That's where the cow milking came in handy — it's hard on the wrists until you get used to it."

Just to prove she hadn't lost the knack Marci treated *National Racquetball* to an impromptu milk producing ceremony on a dairy farm just a few miles from her new home in San Diego.

Decked out in farm girl overalls Marci tugged and squeezed much to the delight of the assembled staff of the Hollandia Dairy in San Marcos, CA.

Out came the milk . . . and the applause. Only the black and white cow whose milk carrying equipment was essential for the demonstration seemed unimpressed. That old sense of *deja vu* I suppose.

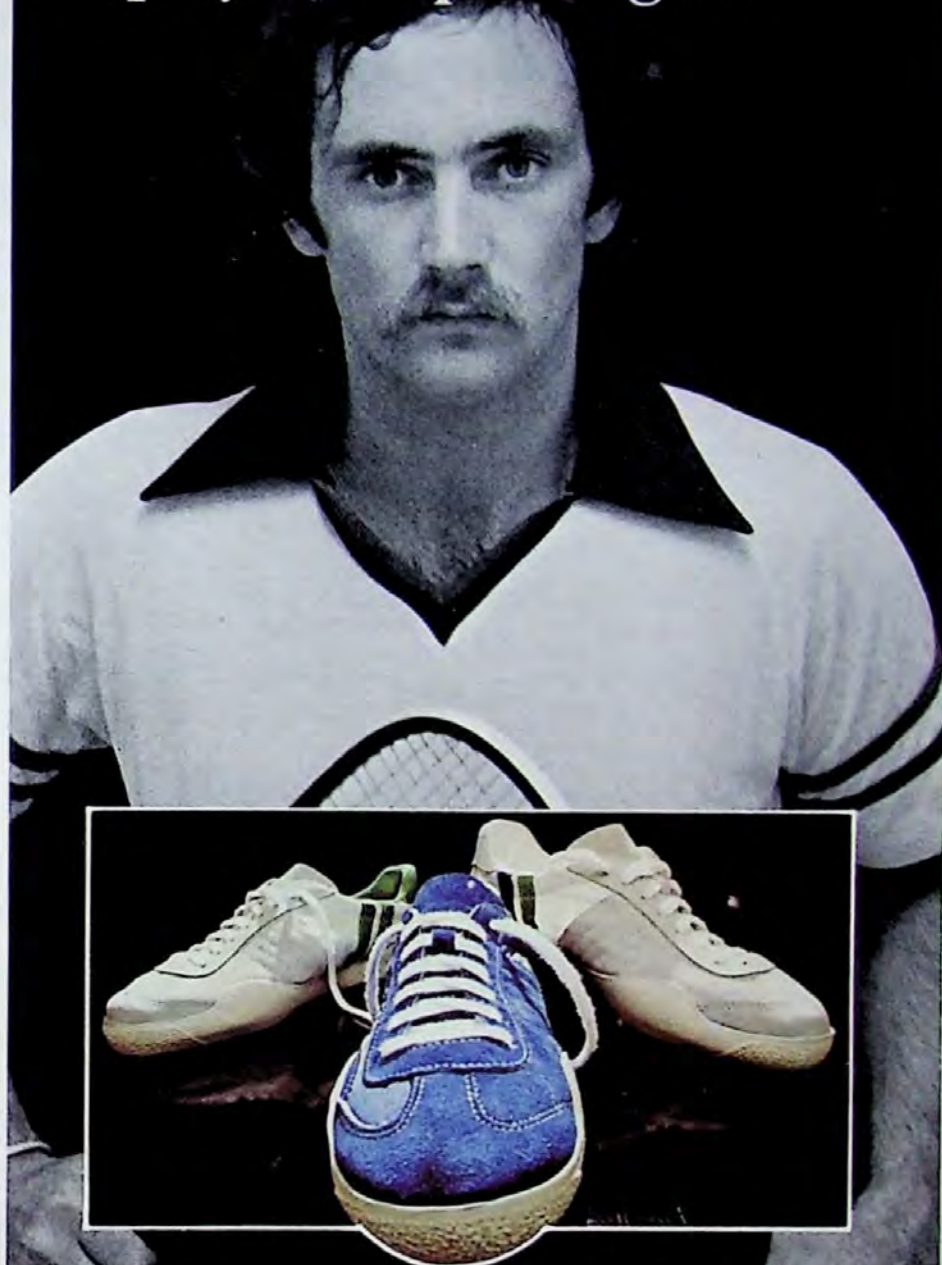
That's how I get so much snap into my shots," explained Marci, whose serve was timed at 106 miles per hour.

Now she swings a professionally designed racquet, but when she was growing up, her favorite weapon was a sawn off two-tine pitchfork strung with twine which she used with a rubber ball in a barn.

That led to tennis in high school and she soon distinguished herself — *"I always lost."* It wasn't until she went to a teachers' college at Emporia, KS that she found racquetball.

Six new courts were built on the campus — no air conditioning nor fancy extras, but the essentials. And soon she was playing every spare moment she could get.

**"I play Racquetball to Win!"
"I play in Copenhagens!"**



She explains "It seemed that as bad as I was at tennis, I was good at racquetball. Even though that first summer, the courts were like hot boxes.

"I was crazy about the game."

She was still 19 when she played in her first tournament in 1975. That was a statewide Kansas tournament held in Wichita.

"I played as well as I knew how, and I ended up losing in the semis. That gave me the boost I needed to enter the Sunflower tournament in Topeka, KS that same year.

Playing Goldie Hogan

"I got to the final and played a woman called Goldie Hogan. I won 21-19, 21-19. I was so naive, I didn't even know who she was."

Since then she has built up an impressive list of credentials.

She won the USRA midwest regionals in 1976-77 and reached the quarters of the National amateurs two years running. In her first year as a pro she lost in the round of 16's at the Detroit Nationals to Jennifer Harding.

It was an exhibition match in Kansas which opened the doorway to a professional career. She was Steve Strandemo's partner, and at the end of the game he was sufficiently impressed to help get her a job playing racquetball.

Marci's game is constantly improving as she goes after the top seeded women players. Part of the improvement is due to her new coach, Carl Loveday, who works with Charlie Brumfield.

"I'm learning a new forehand which will allow me to hit the ball even harder," explains Marci. "But having all that wrist is really the major factor." •



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It's the Same in Skiing and Racquetball

"The link between skiing and racquetball is that in both sports there's a satisfying flow attached to motion," says Peter Hawks, owner of the Burlington (VT) Court Club, a lifetime skier and a racquetball player for the last eight years.

Hawks, who's 40, majored in economics *"and skiing"* at Dartmouth College, where he was captain of the school's freshman ski team. He began to play racquetball when he moved to Colorado to manage a ski accessory and boot company, and he was so impressed with the sport and its bright business future he bought New England's oldest racquetball club (built in 1974) and moved back to his home state.

Last year — his first with the club — working six days a week from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. as *"janitor and chief bottlewasher"* left him time for only three ski excursions. But that didn't stop him from putting the two sports together for other people. Ski buses to Madonna Mountain, 40 miles away, used his racquetball club as a pickup point and *"five or six skiers usually stayed on to play when they got back to our parking lot,"* Hawks says.

"Then on three Sundays we held events that involved climbing up 10,000 vertical feet. Besides that we got as many as 40 racquetball players

showing up five mornings a week at 5:45 for our ski conditioning classes."

Hawks thinks racquetball itself is a good ski conditioner. "It keeps your legs in condition between ski seasons — and it's great for agility. Just responding naturally to the motion of the ball gives a racquetball player the agility he or she needs to move against the mountain."

"Then there's the anticipation you learn from racquetball — you learn to be in the right spot, to be in command. You need that when you ski."

As for the flow — Hawks believes "80 percent of the people who play racquetball experience it. There's none of that in running and in tennis only about five percent of the players get to that stage — you have to be a very proficient tennis player to feel that flowing movement."

But the most pleasing aspect of racquetball, to Hawks, is what it's done to his weight.

"I eat like a horse, but this is the first time I'm back to my college weight. I was motorcycling, running up mountains, playing tennis, ski diving, skiing and jogging — and I weighed between 195 and 200. I started playing racquetball and within four months I was down to 175. I've been there ever since."

Peter Hawks:

"Skiing and racquetball make one dynamite day."



Courts, Slopes Meet in this Colorado Town

Like most of the 600 or so racquetball players at the Storm Meadows Athletic Club — Tuck Clagett is a skier.

"These two sports keep us alive in the winter," says 29-year-old Clagett, who's been skiing for 16 years, 10 years longer than he's been playing racquetball.

Clagett and about half a dozen skiing friends compete against each other at Storm Meadows in Steamboat Springs, CO. All that skiing is good for the members' games — *"the quality of play is improving — it's getting easier to find a good A match,"* says Clagett, who makes it a point to stay in a place where there's racquetball when he travels around the state as part owner of a chain of ski shops.

Racquetball — in turn — makes for better skiers, Clagett says. Though he calls himself a *"recreational skier,"* Clagett tackles the most challenging runs when he's out on the mountain three or four times a week.

"On our kind of difficult terrain we need agility and anticipation — running after a fast racquetball gives us both."



Thinking ahead gets Tuck Clagett through the Colorado powder.

Skiing with Your Racquet

When the lift operators turn off the T-bars, chairs and gondolas, one group of skiers thinks about more than hot buttered rum and cheese fondue. These are the racquetball players who trade ski boots for sneakers as the sun sets on the slopes.

"One dynamite day," in the opinion of Peter Hawks, who's pictured in this feature, is "skiing, a sauna, racquetball and dinner."

Here is *National Racquetball's* annual guide to racquetball facilities that are within an hour's drive of ski areas and that allow out-of-town visitors to play on available courts.



Colorado

The Aspen Club
1450 Crystal Lake Rd.
Aspen 81611
303-925-8900

It's members only here, but you can buy a one week membership or a three month winter membership.

Aspen Athletic Club
720 E. Hyman
Aspen 81611
303-925-2531
Colorado Court Sports
12120 Ralston Road
Arvada 80004
303-422-8001

One hour from Loveland basin and an hour and a half from Arapahoe Basin the club says you can get to Breckenridge, Dillon, Copper Mountain and Keystone in 60 to 90 minutes through the Eisenhower Tunnel depending on "how you drive and how the weather is."

Stapleton Plaza Hotel and Athletic Center
333 Quebec
Denver 80207
303-321-3500

Hotel guests, including those in the Athletic Center's Shape-up-for-the-Slopes program, can reserve court time when they make room reservations. Walk-on courts often are available to the public. Denver is an hour from the Loveland ski area and is the gateway to Colorado's major ski areas.

Hot Springs Athletic Club
401 N. River Road
Glenwood Springs 81601
303-722-4700

This club, 30 minutes from Snowmass and 45 from Aspen, offers a one day package for \$7.50 that gives you the use of all facilities including racquetball courts, jogging track, sauna, steamroom, whirlpool, weight machines and exercise room.

Montbello Sporting House
4780 Oakland St.
Denver 80239
303-373-4550

Guests at the nearby Hilton Hotel and Stouffer's Inn can reserve courts through their hotels. The public is welcome when courts are available.

Storm Meadows Athletic Club
P.O. Box AAA
Steamboat Springs 80477
303-879-1036

Vail Athletic Club
352 E. Meadow Drive
Vail 81657
303-476-1304

Guests at the Vail Athletic Club Hotel can use courts at an hourly rate.

Idaho

The Club House
First and Fourth Streets
Ketchum 83340
208-726-8847

Minutes from the Sun Valley ski complex this club is very busy, but you can buy court time whenever it's available.

Michigan

Little Traverse Racquetball Club
P.O. Box 170
Petosky 49770
616-347-5450

Little Traverse, 15 minutes from Boyne and Nub's Nob, will take guest players in groups only. They ask that you write them for advance arrangements.

New Hampshire

Hampshire Hills Racquet and Health Club
Emerson Rd.
Milford 03055
603-673-7123

Hampshire Hills is a half hour away from Pat's Peak and Crotched Mt.

Utah

Deseret Gymnasium
First North and Main
Salt Lake City 84104
801-328-2071

The Towne House Athletic Club
158 S. 3rd East
Salt Lake City 84111
801-328-8633

Salt Lake City is 30 minutes from Alta and Snowbird and 45 minutes from Park City.

Vermont

The Court Club
70 Farrell Rd.
South Burlington 05401
802-862-6428

The Court Club is 45 minutes from Stowe, Smuggler's Notch, Glen Ellen, Sugarbush and Mad River Glen.

Wyoming

Jackson Hole Racquetball Club
P.O. Box 2214
Jackson 83001
307-733-3990

Canada

Mirabel Racquet Club
Point Claire, Quebec
514-697-5610

Mirabel is 40 minutes from the Laurentians.

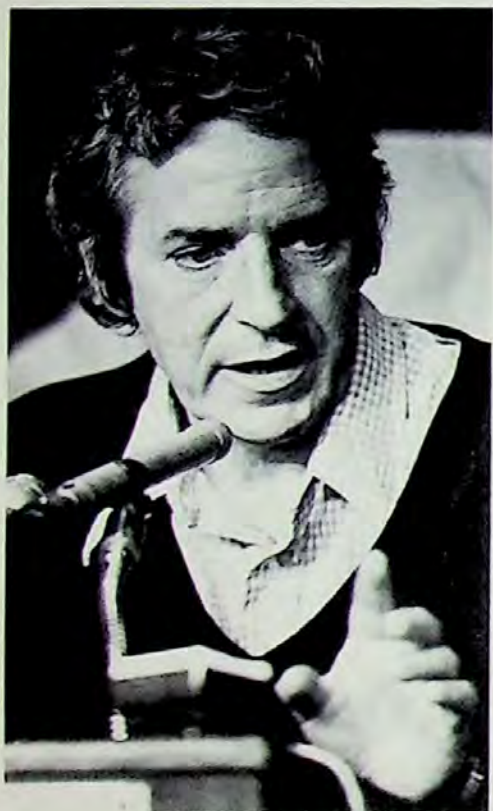
Coming next issue: National Racquetball's guide to racquetball facilities for sun and sea vacationers.

and around the court in a game against John Trtanj.

Racquetball's a Release When The Yo-Yo Syndrome Strikes

Chicago Bears' Jim Finks A Regular Player

by Judith Neisser



Jim Finks, Vice President, General Manager, and without a doubt, Chief Operating Officer of the Chicago Bears, sits behind his desk in a large, posh, sun-filled office in a glass and steel skyscraper located in the heart of the Chicago Loop. The epitome of the athlete turned executive he is trim, gracious, articulate, disarming and totally in command.

Since 1958 this ruggedly handsome 52-year-old man with the intense gray-blue gaze has been a guiding force in professional football. Prior to joining the Bears in September of 1974 Finks served for seven years as general manager of the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League and for 10 years as general manager of the Minnesota Vikings.

Before joining the upper echelons of football management Finks worked for one and a half years as a backfield coach under Terry Brennan at Notre Dame University and played professional football for seven years with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Although a superstar-manager Finks, according to *Sports Illustrated* in 1974, as a player "is best remembered as the quarterback the Steelers kept when it cut Johnny Unitas." He left the Steelers in 1955 because he "was a little disenchanted with playing," and it was obvious to him that his future lay elsewhere in the sport.

And it has. As commander of the Vikings organization Finks guided his team from Never Never Land to two Superbowls and the 1969 NFL championship, and during his four years with the Bears he was responsible in great part for maneuvering the team from last place to the 1977 playoffs and the number two spot in their division. However even Finks is not impervious to the football yo-yo syndrome, indicated by the Bears' less than favorable 1978 record.

Yet win or lose he has gained the respect of the sports community. A Chicago sportswriter has described Finks as "tough but fair," a man "with good common sense and a willingness to work." And Papa Bear George Halas has dubbed him "the most dynamic manager in the league."

But Finks is not just a hard driving executive. A neighbor in Winnetka, IL, characterizes him as "a warm family man (he has four sons and has been married to his wife, Maxine, for 27 years) who is totally unpretentious and loves to have a good time."

Natural Gravitation

It has become increasingly evident that football people naturally gravitate to racquetball. And Jim Finks is the living proof that football and racquetball are as compatible as pretzels and beer. As in football Finks is a competent player but not a star. And as part owner of the Courthouse racquetball club in Minneapolis, MN, he is again intimately involved in the management end of a sport he plays.

Finks started playing racquetball in 1967 after he had been with the Vikings for about three years. He was introduced to the game by two Vikings associates — Head Coach Bud Grant and Director of Player Personnel Jerry Reichow. His debut on the court was literally a bang-up experience.

In those early days of racquetball the players used heavy wooden racquets with steel edges. During Finks' first game his doubles partner zealously reached over Finks' head for the ball and accidentally clobbered him with his sharp edged wooden racquet. "It actually drove me to my knees," winces Finks, "and gave me a gash on the top of my head which required seven stitches. Thank God for today's lighter weight racquets."

But a little pain did not stop the ex-quarterback. Finks was hooked on racquetball and has continued to play the game for over 10 years. He likes the sport because "it is very competitive and excellent for conditioning." He claims "Football people are in it, especially during the winter months, because it gives them a chance to go get a good sweat in a very short period of time. In one hour you have had a hell of a workout."

Chicago Bears General Manager Jim Finks plays a weekly game with former Notre Dame football coach, Terry Brennan.



The Bears are presently building a new training facility in Lake Forest, IL, and included in the plans is a racquetball court. "We wanted to provide our people with a place to work out year round," explains Finks. Many of the players — including Doug Plank, Gary Fencik, Bob Thomas and Bob Avellini — and all of the coaches play the game. And Finks is convinced that "when the Bears have their new facility, over 90 per cent of all personnel will be playing."

Good for the Big Guys

"Racquetball is particularly good for training," says Finks, "specifically for such things as stopping and starting, reacting, going to the ball and getting into position. And it is especially helpful to the big guys, the linemen. It is excellent for their coordination, back and forth movements and footwork.

"It is also great for weight control. It really squelches the appetite, particularly the nervous appetite. After a good game all I ever want for dinner is a bowl of cereal or maybe a sandwich. If a person can play racquetball three days a week, there is no doubt in my mind that he can control his weight."

By his own admission a very intense man ("Everything I do I go all out") Finks finds his best recreation in athletics. "If I start reading, I read until I finish the damn novel even if it means staying up until four o'clock in the morning," he grimaces. "Therefore unless I am on vacation, and my time is really my own, I find my greatest relaxation and enjoyment comes from sport related activities — tennis, golf and racquetball."

He prefers racquetball to a sport like jogging because "jogging takes too much out of (his) legs and ankles.

—Ivan Fuldauer photo

Every injury I have ever had seems to surface when I try to jog," he explains. "Racquetball is a particularly good sport for me because it requires shuffling back and forth instead of hard running."

For Finks, who spends a good deal of time on the football hot seat (He has the final word on salaries, trades, the draft, and the hiring and firing of everybody in the Bears organization except the Halases), racquetball is the supreme vehicle for releasing tension. He smiles *"It brings me down quicker than anything else, even quicker than a double martini."*

Jocks in Business

Jim Finks has been involved in the business end of racquetball for five years. The original Minneapolis Courthouse partnership consisted of two businessmen; Finks and eight other Vikings, including such familiar names as Grant, Bill Brown, Dave Osborn, and Alan Page; Baseball Pitcher Jim Katt and University of Minnesota Athletic director Paul Giel. *"Yes we were all jocks,"* Finks recalls with a smile. The eight court facility has been a highly successful business venture, in fact so successful that the management is presently in the process of adding four more courts.

Since coming to the Chicago area Finks has played racquetball at least once a week at The Court House in suburban Northbrook. He plays with his former Notre Dame boss, Terry Brennan, who is presently working as a stockbroker in Chicago. *"Terry was a squash player,"* explains Finks. *"I introduced him to racquetball, and he now prefers it to squash."* The two men usually play three or four games in an hour. *"We have a hell of a workout,"* says Finks, *"and each time, we always vow to play more often."*

Always the competitor Finks has, on two occasions, played tournament racquetball. While still with the Vikings he started an in-house, one-day tournament which Vikings Assistant Coach Jerry Burns dubbed the JIM FINSK ANNUAL INVITATIONAL. It ran for two years in a row, and all Vikings male employees participated. Yes, you guessed it! Finks won the trophy the first year; Jerry Reichow won it the second.

Does Jim Finks think that racquetball will ever become a major spectator sport? *"Well right now, I would say no. I*

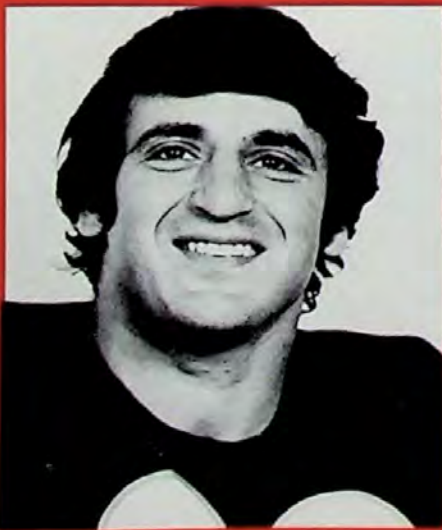
think that racquetball is too fast to become a major spectator sport. But then again I never thought that tennis would emerge with the kind of acceptance it has had. So I wouldn't totally discount the possibility. You know," he muses, *"television does wonderful things with sports nowadays."*

So who knows? Maybe the JIM FINSK ANNUAL INVITATIONAL will be resurrected, become as big as Wimbledon, and we will all be watching it on television in the not too distant future. ●

Racquetball Puts Musso's Knee Back in Action

Chicago Bears running back, Johnny Musso, is using racquetball in his rehabilitation program after knee surgery.

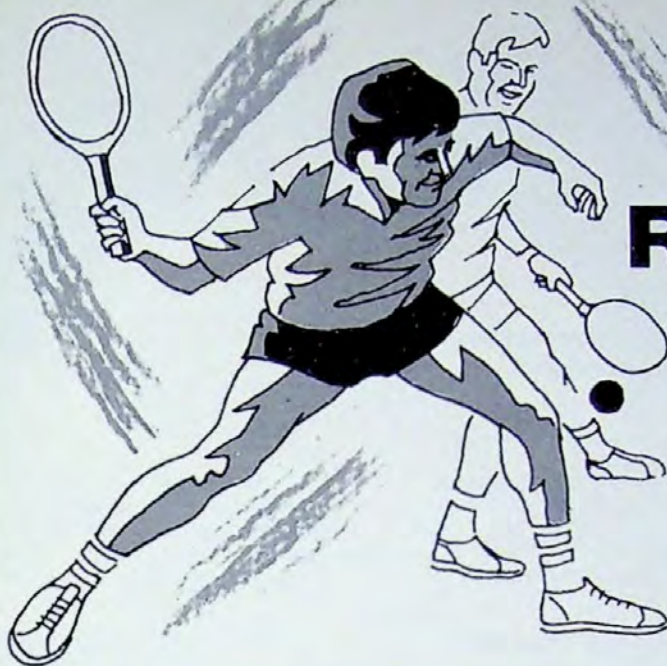
The former University of Alabama star — a player Coach "Bear" Bryant is said to have called *"the finest running back I've ever coached"* — had the knee operation last fall after a series of cartilage



injuries caused his knee *"to start locking on me."*

"Weight training and running are part of my routine," Musso says, *"but racquetball's the way I hope to get my quickness back."*

Musso, who's 28, started playing racquetball in 1969 at the Birmingham Y when he was a University of Alabama student. ●



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The Other Racquet Sports

Racquetball Comes Out a Winner

by Terry Fancher

The Other Racquetball Sports by Dick Squires
Forward by George Plimpton

Racquet sports included: Court Tennis, Hard Racquets, Squash, Badminton, Table Tennis, Paddle Tennis, Platform Tennis, Paddleball, Racquetball, Pickle-Ball

The "other" racquet sports in the title of this book are games other than tennis that are played in the United States. Those games, of course, include racquetball. The author estimates that there are 75 million people — or one-third of our country's population — participating in one of these racquet activities.

Dick Squires is the George Plimpton of all these sports, and follows in the footsteps of Plimpton by playing a renowned champion at his game. But Squires' games are only one phase of this book. Each game description includes rules and tips about how to play the game, brief histories and information on the people who organized these sports and control them now.

In his forward Plimpton asks "Why do so many million Americans spend their time flailing at various sized balls with an assortment of racquets, sticks and bats?" Well known Psychologist Dr. Joyce Brothers answers "What you are really hitting is not a ball but someone you don't like." Plimpton does not dispute this theory and explains that what Brothers really meant was that we are releasing repressed feelings in a variety of pleasant ways.

As the inside cover of the book says "Tennis is no longer the fastest growing racquet sport in America; racquetball is!" For once somebody said it besides the USRA.

It's impossible to read this book from cover to cover, if you are in any way a racquetball fan, and not come away with a sense of pride in our sport and its development. Practically everybody who has ever played the game has in some way contributed to its success, as evidenced in the comparison of racquetball to its sister racquet sports.

Danny Seemiller, U.S. Table Tennis National Champion and co-competitor with Marty Hogan on the televised "Racquet Champions," sums up his frustration over the lack of leadership in his sport. "There are only a handful of professional players today," he says, "because there is really no organization or incentive. The sport's governing association is presently comprised of nine individuals who meet occasionally but don't seem to be able to put together a meaningful promotional and junior development program. The policy making board accomplishes little for the game and does nothing for the professionals. It's damned exasperating."

Joe Sobek, who invented a game called "paddle rackets," is generally acknowledged as the father of racquetball. This photo of Sobek is from Dick Squires' latest book, *The Other Racquet Sports*, recently published by McGraw-Hill. Photo by J. Timothy Shea.

Badminton Problems

This complaint resurfaces when Squires interviews the president of the Metropolitan Badminton Association, Rajiv Chandra, who says "a couple hundred thousand dollars of promotional monies directed into badminton would make all the difference in the world." When asked about the U.S. Badminton Association Chandra replies "Weak, you know, I spent six months after taking office just trying to get the address of the President of the U.S.B.A." He goes on further to say that no one has tried to bring all the regional and local associations together. There are no scheduled meetings at national events to bring the players together and there is no coordination between various parts of the country.

In contrast to the above criticism Squires is enthusiastic in his praise of racquetball and its progress. We're not bad off, to say the least, when compared to the other racquet games. The volatile, brief history of racquetball is described in detail in the racquetball section and credit is given where credit is due, in an unbiased tribute to Bob Kendler, a man the author has never even met but who he refers to as the unabashed "emperor" of racquetball.



Eight years after his split with the I.R.A., which is described as "just barely functioning," Kendler's United States Racquetball Association (USRA) and National Racquetball Club (NRC) are referred to as "the major governing bodies in the amateur and professional development of the game." The sponsors who pioneered the sport, Seamco and Leach, are credited with taking the logical approach of generating profits made from product sales back into the game. Squires reports that these manufacturers are helping to pay for the sport's continued expansion. "It is so simple and consistent that I wonder why the governing bodies of other sports do not attempt to do the same," comments Squires. "Of course, it helps to have manufacturing concerns who have vision and believe in the future of a specific sport!"

Bright Icing

Our regional and amateur affiliated associations for racquetball are described as other keys to the tremendous success of the game. Mention is also made of the financial assistance given back to the states, the juniors' programs and the tournament programs. Everything from the pro tour to Craig Hall and the new *Sports Illustrated* court clubs and club expansion is described. But the enlightening words of the author provide the icing on the cake when he states "Suffice it to say that the future of racquetball looks bright. Some optimists are even predicting by 1985, just 15 years after the Association started counting people, the sport could exceed regular tennis in the number of serious active players."

Dick Squires diligence was the work of a dedicated champion racquet sports player, who spent a good part of his life competing and is now reflecting on this after his retirement, for all of our enjoyment. Anyone who has ever picked up any kind of a racquet and played a racquet game will see a little of himself or herself in this book. My sentiments about our sport are reflected in Squires' closing line of the book's introduction for racquetball: "continued success and sound expansion." ●

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Racquetball

Las Vegas Site Announced for USRA State Chairmen Convention



Terry Fancher

Seamco, Leach, USRA Sponsor Meeting

It's like a dream come true having all of our state leaders meeting together for the first time. It will happen at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, January 12-14.

"There will be a lot of our people glad to be in the warmer climate during January," said Tom Street and Alan Shetzer of the Illinois State Racquetball Association after they learned about the meeting.

The all expense paid trips are made possible by two of our pro tour sponsors and by Bob Kendler. Anyone who has said that the USRA/NRC is only pro player oriented can now stand corrected. The convention was discussed at the JACK IN THE BOX Classic in St. Louis last September and was a direct product of a good idea at the right time by Charlie Drake of Leach, Al Mackie of Seamco, and Bob Kendler, USRA president. Our pro tour sponsors support the amateurs just as much as they do the pros and the two segments compliment each other.

The weekend event will partially overlap the Coors All-Pro Championships, January 14-18, also in Las Vegas. *"Since we had one big event scheduled, we decided that an amateur convention would coincide nicely,"* Kendler explained. *"The amateur associations and their activities are the heart and soul of our national association and I want to pat our representatives on the back and tell them of some new developments in racquetball."*

Our local host will be the Nevada Racquetball Association headed by Dan Seaton, who will be assisting the USRA with some airport shuttle service for our chairmen. Dan was one of the first state associations to affiliate with the USRA, and he manages the Las Vegas Racquetball Club. *"We picked the right city to host this event,"* said Seaton, *"but since I live here, I want the next meeting to be in Hawaii."*

State leaders will be picked up at the airport Friday and after settling into the Desert Inn will begin a day of seminars and workshops on Saturday followed by an evening banquet. Sunday, following a brunch, the Coors event will provide a racquetball spectacle for those who can take a few days off to witness top racquetball and enjoy the glitter and excitement of Las Vegas.

The USRA hopes to make this an annual event for its state affiliates. It is our feeling that further national unity and understanding can be a result of such meetings. Our sponsors can get feedback on their products and introduce their new ones, and the USRA can reward those men and women who have done so much for the players and the sport.

It takes a special type of person to be a state chairman. After almost three years of watching our program grow and broaden in its scope, I must give credit where it is due. Those men and women who make the effort to host good tournaments and maintain organizations for amateur racquetball do not have an easy job. Very few players stop to realize what extensive effort their representatives give to the game, but if they could ever have the experience of this leadership, they would agree on two things — it's difficult and it's worth it!



USRA State Affiliates

Alabama

Jerry O'Neal
Nat'l Homes
Acceptance Corp.
Box 3436A
Birmingham 35205
205-324-3431

Alaska

Dan Dompier
P.O. Box 4-3042
630 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage 99509
907-276-0700

Arizona

Chuck Hallock
Marc's Backwall
P.O. Box 275
Tempe 85281
602-967-0001

Arkansas

James Bixler
1205 Caddo Apt. #9
Arkadelphia 71923
501-246-9864

California

Jerry Monell
2767 Ocean Front Walk
S. Mission Beach 92109
714-275-3344

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John Mooney
3455 David Circle
Colorado Springs 80907
303-597-7775

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Jack Fruin
Lakewood Racquetball
666 Lakewood Rd.
Waterbury 06704
203-423-4951

Delaware

Eric Faddis
75 East Maine St.
Box 174
Newark 19711
302-366-1868

Florida

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The Racquetball
5165 Anderson St.
Orlando 32804
305-645-3999

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Wayne Vincent
3777 Vineyard Ct.
Marietta 30062
404-971-5441

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1527 Wilder #U-2
Honolulu 96822
808-941-3344

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Dirk Burgard
130 N. Placer
Idaho Falls 83401
208-523-0600

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Tom Street,
Alan Shetzer
570 East Higgins Rd.
Elk Grove Village 60007
312-439-3030

Indiana

Len Sporman
Omni 41 Health Club
222 South 41
Schererville 46375
219-865-6969

Iowa

Tom Sweeney
380 Larick Ct.
Marion 52402
319-377-1385

Kansas

Rick Newcomer
11301 W. 88th St.
Overland Park 66214
913-888-9247

Kentucky

David Fleischaker
628 Fincastle Bldg
Louisville 40202
502-585-5369

Louisiana

Larry Bobbitt
117 Doucet Rd.
Lafayette 70503
318-984-7256

Maine

Ken Astor, Kevin York
170 U.S. Rt. 1
Falmouth 04105
207-781-4281

Massachusetts

Jim McConchie
RB International
12 "A" Street
Burlington 01803
617-273-1025

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Dennis Wood
2808 S. Deerfield
Lansing 48910
517-882-8789

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7600 Park Lawn Ave.
Edina 55435
612-835-6515

Mississippi

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213 Windsor
Starkville 39759
601-325-4915

Missouri

Ron York
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Kansas City 60114
816-942-6436

Montana

Russ Miller
Shepherd 59070
406-373-6390

Nebraska/South Dakota

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Chuck Erickson
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Lincoln 68503
402-475-5686

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201-774-4835

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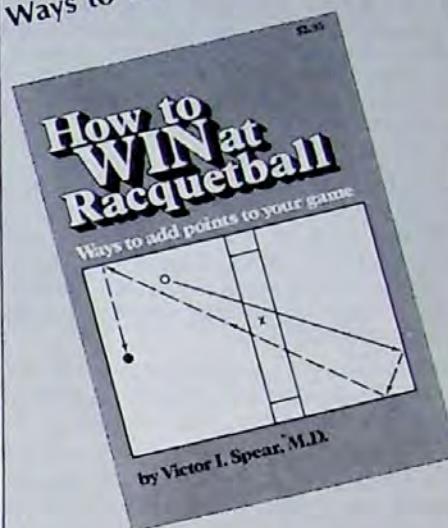
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Manager Says "Educate for Eye Protection"

Dear Terry:

I don't know if you remember me or not. My name is Steve Harris and I was the manager at Wall Street Handball/Racquetball Club in Sacramento, CA when the pro tour stop was at the club. I think about you and Chuck at times and think you guys are doing a great job. I especially enjoy the magazine.

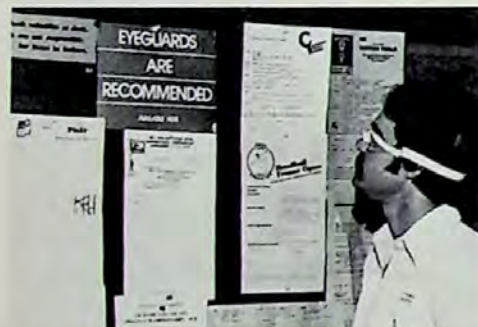
I would like to comment on your article in the October issue of *National Racquetball*, "The Problem of Eye Protection." I personally believe that this topic is a much more severe problem than is commonly recognized — not only from the obvious standpoint of the seriousness of player susceptibility to temporary or permanent eye damage, but also the risk of adverse publicity to our sport in general.

You and I, and others in our positions, must assume the responsibility to educate the players regarding eye protection. We don't want our "healthy" sport to get a black eye.

In your article you pose the question "So what is the answer?" I believe you are correct in saying legislation would infringe upon players who avoid wearing eye protection.

In clubs around the country we should start an educational/promotional program to educate players on eye protection. For example:

At Cross Court, where Steve Harris is general manager, "eye guard recommended" signs on the bulletin board and at court doors remind players to protect their eyes. Harris credits the protectors from preventing a serious injury to his own eyes during a recent match.



1. A statement within the wording of the membership application that eye protection is recommended.
2. "Eye Protection Recommended" signs located on all court doors.
3. Placement of "Eye Protection Recommended" signs in strategic locations within the club.
4. Mandatory eye protection devices for all club personnel.
5. Eye protectors well stocked and visible in pro shops, as well as eye protection information.
6. A statement within the wording of all tournament applications that eye protection is recommended.

I think with these examples you are catching my drift. We have to educate our players. Education is the ANSWER.

Apart from club manager's involvement at the local level your magazine at the national level can also help in education. For example I feel that it would be helpful if all pictures of instructors in action on the court showed them using eye protection. Otherwise, eye protection articles are just so much lip service.

My assistant pro was hit in the eye by a racquetball during play. He was partially blinded for seven days and spent all seven days in the hospital. He eventually regained sight in the eye and everything is fine now. When he got out of the hospital, he asked me to wear eye protectors as a favor to him. To appease him I wore eye protectors. Shortly after I started wearing them I received an extremely well hit ball in the eye. My opponent was returning a pass shot to the back wall. I was between him and the back wall. When it hit me, it picked me up and knocked me back two feet. Moral of the story: Because of eye protectors, I still have sight in both eyes.

If I can be of any help to you in this area or any other area, don't hesitate to call or write. Good luck to you and take care.

Steve Harris
Woodland, CA

Scouting Out Racquetball

Doug Reighley, president of the Upper New York Racquetball Association, was one of the instructors at the State University College of New York at Brockport's June 10 "Sports that Last a Lifetime" field day for the Monroe County Boy Scouts.

Racquetball was so popular among the 20 activities that ranged from swimming to archery that Reighley had to allow 40 Boy Scouts at each 45 minute session that had been scheduled for 25 boys. Over 90 percent of the boys had never played and only two or three had ever had instruction.

Reighley discussed safety, grip, objectives and rules of the game while Bob Haslam, P.E. instructor at Brockport, and Chip Lepori, Brockport director of housing, provided a demonstration of a high skill game. Each boy played for 10 to 15 minutes, received take-home materials from Leach, Ektelon and the USRA and was encouraged to go on with lessons at the local Y, JCC or racquetball clubs.



Upcoming Events

Jan. 12-14

8th Annual Cowboy Open, Oklahoma State University, 119 Colvin Center, Stillwater, OK 74074, Tournament Director: Dorothy Searcy 405-624-7406.

Feb. 9-11

South Carolina State Singles Tournament, The Courthouse, Columbia, C. R. White, USRA State Chairman, RPA Department, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631.



Tournament Results

Reporters, take note: Help make our typesetter happy by sending us your tournament results typed double or triple (preferred) space with one-inch margins all around. Thank you.

Arizona

One of the state's top players — Ken Garrigus — won the Men's Open when the Metro Racquet Club in Phoenix held its first citywide tournament last August. Paul Darnell finished second, Steve Ludick came in third over Paul Bussles and Gerry Corcoran was the consolation winner over Dave Bedays.

Jack Nolan was Juniors 14-17 winner, while Pat McAvin finished second, Scott Tyrrell third and Don Biegler Jr. fourth. Gary Bucklin was top Juniors 13 and under player. Mike and Chris Clawe took second and third.

Illinois & Iowa

Courtside Racquetball Clubs of Moline, IL, and Bettendorf, IA, hosted over 200 amateur racquetball players for the Courtside — Happy Joe's Quad-City Open September 22-24. It was the largest tournament in an adult racquet sport ever held in the Quad-City area.

There were seven divisions of competition for the 40 women and 163 men players from Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and Missouri. The eight courts at both facilities were used Thursday and Friday with the finals being played at South Courtside in Moline on Sunday.

The Women's B division was won by Nancy Snarr from Barb Laughlin 21-20, 21-10, and Kay Chiaravalle defeated Peggy Woods 21-20, 21-16 for third place.

Vicki Berry won the Women's C from Sally Smith 21-8, 21-9, while Benna LeCrone beat Judy Norris 21-4, 21-6.

In the Men's Open division top seeded Dennis McDowell defeated Tony Upkes 21-11, 21-11. Third place was won by Jeff Luedke from Tom Duke.

The Men's A division was won by Bob Schwab from Doug Zickuhr 7-21, 21-12, 11-8. Perry duetsch defeated Dan Williams for third place honors.

Men's B was won by Steve Wilbers over Jerry Caughlin 20-21, 21-16, 11-7. Nick Palen took third place on a forfeit by Don Fleischaker.

Bill Riker won the Men's C by beating Doug Lillie 21-18, 21-5, while Arnie Kump took third place from Larry Divers 21-13, 21-10.

In the Men's Senior division Frank Low defeated Scott Berry in a tough match 19-21, 21-19, 11-4 and Bob Stoy received third place trophy on a forfeit from Shelley Clar.

Consolation Results: Women's B — Annie Smith defeated Sally St. George 19-21, 21-2, 11-6; Women's C: Carol Kapella beat Candy Holt 12-21, 21-7, 11-4; Men's Open: Keith Freeman beat Dan Prina 21-20, 21-10; Men's A: Randy Smook defeated Dan Jordan 21-4, 21-6; Men's B: Sean Moskwa, beat Larry Bouvier; Men's C: Howard Robins defeated John Schellenger 21-12, 21-1; Men's Seniors: Bob Scroggs beat Chuck Taylor 21-16, 21-10.



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Michigan

Finals winners of Sports Illustrated Court Clubs 1978 ladder tournament, described as the richest amateur tournament in racquetball history, were decided recently at SI Court Club-Lemontree in Belleville, MI.

All finalists previously won their local club's ladder. Ten SI clubs took part.

A total of \$75,000 in prizes was awarded. Prizes for Class A winners were home entertainment centers, for Class B winners Harley-Davidson 175 motorcycles, for Class C Sony stereo systems.

Results

Men's A: Winner — Lynn Hahn, Runner-up Renard P. Valenciano

Women's A: Winner Yvonne Hackenberg, Runner-up Fran Manula

Men's B: Winner Kevin McCulley, Runner-up Joe Burkant

Women's B: Winner Sheri Hohenstein, Runner-up Kit Daniher

Men's C: Winner Don Hogan, Runner-up Pete Keelon

Women's C: Winner Connie Weisel, Runner-up, Mary Ann Powell

Connecticut

Ron Mirek won the Men's Open division of the Connecticut Open Sept. 22-24 at Wallingford Club House defeating Dave Maturah in two 21-18, 21-7. Bonnie Stoll captured the Women's Open by defeating Carol Malkrow. Janice Aquavia placed third with a consolation victory over Susan Wilson.

Rosie Bronsard had little trouble in defeating Veronica Tella 21-7, 21-1 for the women's Novice championship.

The Men's Open Doubles pitted four of Connecticut's finest racquetball players in a three game thriller with Bill (Old Man River) Risley teamed with Steve (Serot) Meltsner defeating Tom Waltz and Ed Castillo 15-21, 21-15, 11-4. The same two teams ended up in the finals earlier this summer in Braintree, MA with a victory going to the Meltsner/Risley team.

Archie Rupp defeated Paul Wicha two games straight 21-7, 21-8 to win the Connecticut Open B championship.

Waltz defeated John Sergentanis to capture the Seniors division championship 21-20, 21-12. Waltz, at 45 years young, manages to stay in shape through jogging daily and playing racquetball three or four times weekly.

In the Men's C 44-year-old Herman Aslwanger upset Marco Paoletta, Jr. in a "barn burner" all the way as spectators saw Aslwanger come back from a 6-21 second game defeat to take the tie-breaker 11-10.

Sportsmanship, competitiveness, socialization are just a few adjectives that describe what racquetball is all about.

Racquetball, love it, enjoy it, play it, you'll never regret it.

Club Manager Fred Randall provided hospitality and Gregg London directed the tournament.

—Jim Fruin, Jr.

Georgia

The Georgia USRA State Doubles Tourney, held in September at the Racquetball Centre in Marietta, included five diversions of play.

Women's Open winners were Nancy Fox and Diane Crowe, who defeated Eva Metcalf and Nancy Willard with final scores of 21-1 and 21-10.

Men's Open division was won by number one seeded Joe Icaza and Bobby Siegel, in a finals match against number two seeded Wayne Vincent and Jim Cullen, with scores of 13, 7.

Quarter Open action found Icaza/Siegel defeating Terry Baldwin/Sonny Harmon 7, 7; Doug Wurster/Dave Tver over Jim Lane/Roger Wehrle 14, 19; Vincent/Cullen over Don Curtis/Jim Hilliard 7, 3, and John Parks/Jerry Wickliffe over Dutch Sears/Jeff Bales 15, 16.

Open Semi play found Icaza/Siegel defeating Wurster/Tver 10, 12; and Vincent/Cullen over Parks/Wickliffe 13, 7. Wurster/Tver placed third.

Men's Senior crown was taken by Jim Lane/Roger Wehrle in round robin play. Ron Scallion/Jamie Carr placed second.

Men's B crown was captured by Scott Carroll/Vic Oliver in a finals match against Fred Streck/Al Dunn. Scores were 21-11, 12-21, 11-6.

B Quarter play saw Don Kreglewicz/Frank Jernigan defeat Jake Heaton/Tony Barbaris 9, 7; Price Chenault/Mike Jones defeat Mike O'Brien/Gary Colbert 7, 13; Fred Streck/Al Dunn winning by forfeit.

B Semi play involved Carroll/Oliver over Kreglewicz/Jernigan 18, 18 and Streck/Dunn over Chenault-Jones 19, 16.

Men's Novice division was won by Steve Feinberg/Stam Pollack in a three-game finals match against Larry Schramm/Randall Akin, 15-21, 21-15, 11-7.

Novice Quarter-final scores were Jake Heaton/Gary Heaton over Glen and Marc Mickleboro 9, 16; Feinberg/Pollack over John Reeve/Bill Reinke 16, 5; Schramm/Akin over Bill Conn/Steve Fallaw (forfeit), and Stan Wise/Steve Koehler over Ed Camara/Steve Burand 19, 10.

Novice Semi-final action found Feinberg/Pollack defeating Heaton/Heaton 20, 13 and Schramm/Akin defeating Wise/Koehler 15-21, 21-15, 11-7.

Heaton/Heaton placed third in Men's Novice division.

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Virginia

The USRA Virginia State singles and doubles racquetball championships Sept. 22-24 at Capitol Courts Club attracted a record 182 entries in six divisions.

Many local players fared well and the level of play was excellent.

In Open Singles Ed Remen defeated Clay McCaskey in one semi-finals match and Nadim Qureshi defeated Tom Scordas in the other. This set up the finals with Qureshi, an excellent touch player using many of his squash shots (he is a professional squash player) against Remen, who is quick and has excellent court savvy. The two finalists provided some fine play with Remen, manager of Capitol Courts Club, becoming the state champion with wins of 21-14 and 21-19 over Qureshi.

Third place went to McCaskey as he defeated Scordas 21-7, 21-4.

The Men's Senior division, dominated by Bill King, drew 23 entries. The number one seed, King, defeated Paul Harris 21-7, 21-7. Number two seed, Pat Drennon, had a tough battle with number three seed, Ed Taylor. Drennon, facing match point three times against himself, finally won out 21-14, 7-21 and 11-10. King was once again crowned champion with a 21-6, 21-15 win over Drennon. Taylor took third place with a 7-21, 21-18, 11-5 over Harris.

Ed Remen, USRA Virginia state chairman and the new Virginia Singles champion, takes a shot in the doubles finals with partner Jim Roberson, far left, and opponents Hank Weiss, left, and Bill King, right, ready for the action.



-kip Brundage photo

Fifty-three contestants competed in the Men's B division. None of the seeded players made it to the semi-finals. John Lombardi had to really extend himself in becoming the new state B division champion. In five of his six matches John pulled it out in the third game to win. In the finals Lombardi defeated Bobby Ison 21-20, 8-21, 11-9. Phil Stone took third after losing to Ison 21-6 and 21-14 in the semi-finals.

The Men's C division was the largest with 59 entries. This is the level where experience is gained, and often tournament experience is all that separates the caliber of division play. David Johnson moved through the tournament to meet Paul Hackenberry in the finals. Johnson emerged victorious 21-6, 21-8.

The Women's B division was won by Terri Reese 21-14, 11-21, 11-9 in a hard fought battle over Becky Pickett. Margaret Newbold took third place by defeating Maggie Shannon 21-9, 21-7. Margaret Newbold won over Colleen More 21-7, 21-5 in the Women's C division. Pat Bailey placed third defeating Susan Foreman 21-2, 21-10.

In Open Doubles top seeded Bill King and southpaw Hank Weiss successfully defended their title by defeating the second seeded team of Remen and Roberson. King and Weiss defeated Qureshi and Judd Grosshans in the semi-finals 21-11, 21-12. Remen and Roberson defeated John Meak and Kealoha in a tough fought semi-finals game 21-17, 21-18. In the finals Remen and Roberson put on a charge to tie the first game, 19-19. However they couldn't close it out and King and Weiss went on to win 21-19. Weiss got hot in the second game to take the title for the Radford-Norfolk based team.

Kip Brundage, assistant club manager at Capitol Courts, was tournament director.

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Wisconsin

Bruce Thompson upset Top Seed Ken Frank in an 11-9 tie-breaker in the Men's Open finals of the Dells Open Racquetball Tournament held Oct. 20-22 at the Highlands Racquet Sports Club in Lake Delton. The referees and line judges had to ask the players to allow each other more playing space in the intense match filled with dives and recoveries.

Jeff Plazak, who's 13, started his tournament play during the Dells Open by defeating Club Champion Steve Nicks in the Men's B, and then bowing to Mike Heckel in the second round.

Results

Women's C: 1st — Yodie Fraire, 2nd — Linda Ekert

Women's C Consolation: 1st — Cissi Spaller, 2nd — Jeri Rockwell

Men's C: 1st — Dan Hein, 2nd — Bob Kinney

Men's C Consolation: 1st — Bob Goodman, 2nd — Kristy Hetzel

Men's B: 1st — Al Jorgensen, 2nd — Bob Kinney

Men's B Consolation: 1st — Joe Tasse, 2nd — Linda Frank

Men's Open: 1st — Bruce Thompson, 2nd — Ken Frank

Men's Open Consolation: 1st — Dan Frank, 2nd — Dan Murray

Massachusetts

Racquetball International Court Club of Burlington, was host to the 1978 Mass. USRA State Singles Championships Sept. 30 - Oct. 1. The tournament drew over 150 contestants in 10 divisions, 14 tie-breakers taking place in Sunday matches.

In the Men's Open division, the number two seed, Mike Luciw, upset the almost impregnable Mike McDonough. 1977 State Champion McDonough cruised into the finals without losing a game. After a 21-10 victory in the opening game of the finals over Luciw, it looked as though McDonough would collect another first place trophy. However Luciw turned the tide and flawlessly combined a superb ceiling game with timely passes and drives to beat McDonough in the tie-breaker. The resurging play of Enos Stover in the Men's Open division delighted the crowd as he upset third seeded Tom Callahan in the quarter finals and forced Luciw to a tie-breaker in the semi's.

The Women's Open division went to Cindi Callahan 21-15, 21-16 over Janet Simon in a very tense match. Cindi and Janet exchanged long rallies and excellent shooting throughout the contest. The Women's B division conducted on a round robin basis crowned a new champion — Karen McCarthy via her victories over Barbara Sechrist and Nan McMenemon. In an exciting and evenly matched Women's C division the young and talented Robin Wadsworth captured her first tournament en route to a 19-21, 21-18, 11-3 conquest over Alida Kadry-Hull. Beth Feroah bested Thea Nicolopoulos 21-10, 21-8 for third place.

In Men's Senior action the rabbitlike reflexes of Leo Fonseca guided his victory over Warren Pierce. Third place went to Howie Coleman over Ron St. Marie.

Sam Garafalo once again proved his "mastery" in the Men's Masters division as he coasted to the win via victories over Bob McLean and Dick Martin.

In the Golden Masters division Robert Goldberg was extended into a tie-breaker before edging the tough George Weir for the championship.

The Junior Boys division belonged to Phil Fisher alone, as his superb touch propelled continuous

victories including a 21-8, 21-3 victory over Paul McCaffery in the finals.

The Men's B division was a test of nerves as the tired finalists battled for the championship. Scott Taylor ended up the victor with an 11-8 win in the tie-breaker over Paul Brennan. Mike Meyer edged Mike Lorden for third place.

In Men's C action some good looking players competed in the tournament's largest division, which required a blend of skill and endurance for the winner. Al Manditch combined superb conditioning with a solid level of racquetball consistency to defeat a very tough Bob Kabilian in the finals. Third place went to Mike Stone via his victory over Steve Shift.

Results

Men's Open

Finals: Mike Luciw d. Mike McDonough

Third: John Alfieri d. Enos Stover

Consolation: Dave Parker d. Gerry Cassidy

Men's B

Finals: Scott Taylor d. Paul Brennan

Third: Mike Meyer d. Mike Lorden

Consolation: Lucien Champagne d. Bill Walsh

Men's C

Finals: Al Manditch d. Bob Kabilian

Third: Mike Stone d. Steve Shift

Consolation: Jim Otria d. Paul Fitzpatrick

Women's Open

Finals: Cindi Callahan d. Janet Simon

Women's B

1st — Karen McCarthy, 2nd — Barbara Sechrist, 3rd — Nan McMenemon

Women's C

Finals: Robin Wadsworth d. Alida Kadry-Hull

Third: Beth Feroah d. Thea Nicolopoulos

Consolation: Sheila Laperle d. Donna Benoit

Men's Seniors

Finals: Leo Fonseca d. Warren Pierce

Third: Howie Coleman d. Ron St. Marie

Consolation: Vincent Riccardi d. Tony Rotondo

Men's Masters

1st — Sam Garafalo, 2nd — Dick Martin, 3rd — Robert McLean

Golden Masters

Finals: Robert Goldberg d. George Weir

Junior Boys

Finals: Phil Fisher d. Paul McCaffery

Third: Dwayne Kincus d. Mike Curewitz

Consolation: Barry Wadsworth d. Mike Coleman

Pennsylvania

The Second Annual Delaware Valley Racquetball League Tournament sponsored by Schmidt's of Philadelphia was held at the Fort Washington Racquetball Club June 2-4. The tournament capped the second season of competition for the league which has grown from four clubs in the 1976-77 season to eight clubs during the 1977-78 season. The Fort Washington Racquetball Club led by Russ Montague, won the league championship with the Kirkwood Fitness Club placing second.

The tournament proved to be strong in all classes. The Men's Open contained number one seeded Montague, plus Willie Wang and New Jersey's Doug Clark and Bob Ellis. The top four seeds advanced through the quarter-finals unscathed with the only close call coming to Ellis who had to come from behind in his first game to defeat Rick Brown 21-20; Ellis took the second game handily 21-13. The semi-finals produced some outstanding racquetball and great matches with Montague coming from behind to defeat Clark 20-21, 21-9, 11-9. Wang defeated Ellis in a hard fought match 21-18, 21-18. It was all Montague in the finals as he completely controlled the match, defeating Wang 21-7, 21-10. Ellis defeated Clark for third place.

Results

Men's Open Singles

Quarters: Montague d. Hevenor 21-3, 21-7; Clark d. Becker 21-15, 21-2; Ellis d. Brown 21-20, 21-13; Wang d. Brannan 21-6, 21-11

Semi-Finals: Montague d. Clark 20-21, 21-9, 11-9; Wang d. Ellis 21-18, 21-18

Finals: Montague d. Wang 21-7, 21-10

Third Place: Ellis d. Clark

Consolation: Pruitt d. Johns

Men's Open Doubles: 1st — Clark/Ellis; 2nd — Becker/Davis; 3rd — Montague/Brown; 4th — Johns/Alaquar

Men's B Singles: 1st — Kazubal; 2nd — Mas; 3rd — Church; 4th — Hostetter; Consolation — Shea.

Women's Open Singles: 1st — Kennedy; 2nd — Lantz; 3rd — Lynn; 4th — Perretti; Consolation — Towill.

Women's B Singles: 1st — Adair; 2nd — Brown; 3rd — MacDonald; 4th — Dauthridge; Consolation — Bartsch.

Women's Open Doubles: 1st — Kennedy/Perretti; 2nd — Lynn/Vagnoni; 3rd — Towill/Thompson; 4th — Pasceri/Sjroen; Consolation — Brown/McPhee

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Louisiana

Red Lerille's Health and Racquet Club in Lafayette hosted the second annual Louisiana State Racquetball Championships Sept. 15-17 in which 125 of Louisiana's finest racquetball players competed.

The youth movement in Louisiana racquetball is finally emerging. Andy Hodges, 19, and Mike Almerico, 18, were the finalists in the Men's Open division. Andy defeated Mike in a close match 12-21, 21-17, 11-6. Mark Comeaux, 15, and ranked third in the nation in the 15 and under class, demonstrated tremendous power and control in his game by winning the Boys' 17 and under division. He defeated Mark Lerille, another promising youngster, in the finals 21-15, 16-21, 11-6. Comeaux was defeated in the quarter-final round in the Men's Open, but he showed that he would be one to reckon with in the future.

Jack Jones won the strong Men's B division by defeating Steve Montoya 17-21, 21-15, 11-6. Paul George outlasted a field of 56 entries in the Men's C division by not losing a game on his way to his final victory over Jes Stewart 21-10, 21-9. Ageless Wallace Hardy blitzed the Seniors division by defeating Fred Guillot in the finals 21-1, 21-4. In the Men's Open Doubles David Marschall Doug Moreau defeated Larry Bobbit and Harry Stelly 21-7, 20-21 and 11-7. David and Doug demonstrated tremendous teamwork in their victory.

In the Women's Open defending state champion Renee Hebert was thoroughly tested but she met the challenge by defeating Pat Froeba 16-21, 21-20, 11-10 in the semi-finals and Gail Woods 21-11, 21-19 in the finals. It was almost unanimous that these two matches were the best in the whole tournament. Gail Woods is a little bit of a marvel. She has been playing racquetball for only eight months but she has shown tremendous progress in the development of her game. Donna MacDiarmid won the Women's B by defeating Julie Guidry 21-15, 21-1. Bonnie Bozant defeated Brenda Jacobs 21-18, 21-10 to win the Women's C division.

Tournament Director was Irvin David and Floor Managers Jerry Broussard and Sanford Comeaux.

Larry Bobbitt

Results

Open

Quarter-Finals: J. Dyer d. L. Bobbitt 21-17, 21-8; M. Almerico d. C. Zeairs 21-19, 10-21, 11-6; A. Hodges d. M. Comeaux 21-13, 21-9; B. Holliday d. T. Hannon 13-21, 21-15, 11-6

Semi-Finals: Almerico d. Dyer 21-6, 21-10; Hodges d. Holliday 21-13, 21-13

Finals: Hodges d. Almerico 12-21, 21-17, 11-6

Men's B

Quarter-Finals: H. Stelly d. V. Bess 21-10, 21-5; S. Montoya d. F. Gomila 21-8, 21-17; J. Jones d. A. Masood 21-12, 21-9; J. McGuirt d. B. Clinkenbeard 21-12, 21-19

Semi-Finals: Montoya d. Stelly 21-15, 21-12; Jones d. McGuirt 21-12, 20-21, 11-7

Finals: Jones d. Montoya 17-21, 21-15, 11-6

Men's C

Quarter-Finals: J. Stewart d. C. Moreland 21-19, 20-21, 11-6; S. McNeil d. P. Dettels 21-11, 21-6; P. George d. D. Bozant; C. Pfister d. R. Cunningham 21-15, 21-20

Semi-Finals: Stewart d. McNeil 21-9, 21-19; George d. Pfister 21-3, 21-12

Finals: George d. Stewart 21-10, 21-9

Seniors

Quarter-Finals: C. Croft d. B. Morgan 21-16, 21-13; W. Hardy d. J. Almerico 21-18, 21-6; F. Guillot d. C. Pfister 6-21, 21-13, 11-2; D. Gunther d. G. Ferris 21-20, 21-11

Semi-Finals: Hardy d. Croft 21-8, 21-6; Guillot d. Gunther 20-21, 21-17, 11-3

Finals: Hardy d. Guillot 21-1, 21-4

Open Doubles

Quarter-Finals: Bobbitt/Stelly d. Almerico/Almerico 21-13, 15-21, 11-6; Hodges/Clinkenbeard d. Hero/Schoenfeld 21-13, 17-21, 11-5; Hardy/Dyer d. Soule/Chiquelin 19-21, 21-5, 11-7; Marschall/Moreau d. Bruno/Guillot 21-11, 21-7

Semi-Finals: Bobbitt/Stelly d. Hodges/Clinkenbeard 13-21, 21-11, 11-4; Marschall/Moreau d. Hardy/Dyer 21-7, 21-10

Finals: Marschall/Moreau d. Bobbitt/Stelly 21-7, 20-21, 11-7

Women's Open

Quarter-Finals: R. Hebert d. B. Jacobs 21-3, 21-3; P. Froeba d. B. Roberts 21-16, 21-13; K. Morgan d. K. Almerico 21-1, 21-11; G. Woods d. L. Simoneaux 21-7, 21-1

Semi-Finals: Hebert d. Froeba 16-21, 21-10, 11-10; Woods d. Morgan 21-11, 21-15

Finals: Hebert d. Woods 21-11, 21-19

Women's B

Quarter-Finals: D. MacDiarmid d. C. McAndrew (default); T. Andrew d. T. Girard 21-17, 21-10; J. Guidry d. J. Lutner 21-12, 21-20; M. Ayo d. C. Zeairs 21-17, 9-21, 11-6

Semi-Finals: MacDiarmid d. Andrew 21-14, 21-11; Guidry d. Ayo 21-7, 21-9

Finals: MacDiarmid d. Guidry 21-15, 21-2

Women's C

Quarter-Finals: D. Sherburne d. K. Almerico 21-0, 21-4; B. Bozant d. S. Craig 21-17, 21-4; K. Shorey d. J. Mott 21-18, 21-20; B. Jacobs d. P. Ratliff 21-19, 21-15

Semi-Finals: Bozant d. Sherburne 21-10, 21-13; Jacobs d. Shorey 21-19, 21-15

Finals: Bozant d. Jacobs 21-18, 21-10

Boy's 17 and under

Quarter-Finals: M. Comeaux d. J. Beauscher, L. LaCour d. T. Voorheis, C. LeBlanc d. S. Kisse, M. Lerille d. J. Toronto

Semi-Finals: Comeaux d. LaCour 21-3, 21-1; Lerille d. Le Blanc 13-21, 21-19, 11-7

Finals: Comeaux d. Lerille 21-15, 16-21, 11-6

Consolation Winners: Men's Open — David Marschall, Men's B — Brad Clinkenbeard, Men's C — Gail Woods, Seniors — Bob Morgan, Doubles — Fred Guillot/Paul Bruno, Women's Open — Christina Rojas, Women's B — Trudie Girard, Women's C — Jan Soule, 17 and under — Steve Kisse

New Hampshire

The Granite State Racquetball Association's Second Annual Tri State Tournament was held Oct. 7 and 8 at the Manchester Court Club in Manchester.

Results

Men's Open: 1st — Bruce Christensen, 2nd — Bill LeFrancis, 3rd — Bob Pattison.

Men's B: 1st — Bob Simmons, 2nd — Dick Orfutt, 3rd — Phil Belanger.

Men's C: 1st — Doug Edgerton, 2nd — Ed Curtis, 3rd — Reggie Charon

Men's Novice: 1st — Joel Gelinas, 2nd — James Gray, 3rd — Rick Langlois.

Men's Seniors: 1st — Bob Folsom, 2nd — Jim Simmons, 3rd — Paul Nobert.

Men's Masters: 1st — Bob Folsom, 2nd — Frank Christensen, 3rd — Bill Connolly.

Women's Open: 1st — Ina Ivarson, 2nd — Dot Kidder, 3rd — Gaye Rosenfeld.

Women's B: 1st — Diane Laroche, 2nd — Barbara Lovejoy, 3rd — Ginnie Baeder.

Women's C: 1st — Carole Frizzle, 2nd — Ginnie Baeder, 3rd — Sharon Belanger.

Women's Novice: 1st — Gail McKinney, 2nd — Cindy Desrosiers, 3rd — Krys Wyman.

Women's Senior: 1st — Gaye Rosenfeld, 2nd — Ina Ivarson.

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Ohio

Larry Fox and Dana Cornblath won the state championships in the Men's and Women's Open events out of 185 entries in the first annual USRA State Tournament Sept. 15-17 at the Glove and Racquet Club of Massillon and The Racquetball Emporium in North Canton. Jim Henry served as tournament director at the Glove and Racquet, and Wayne Welsh at the Emporium.

The Men's Open saw Fox defeat Clark Pittman in the finals in two straight 15 and 14. The semi's were two super matches with Fox winning over Dan Clifford in the tie-breaker 11-6. Clifford won the first game 21-19 only to lose the second 21-9 in the other semi-final match. Clark went three games with Mike Stepp, losing the first 21-19, then coming on strong 21-16, 11-9.

Men's Open Doubles saw Fox and Pittman facing each other in the finals. Fox and his partner, Mark Hiudt, won in two games from Pittman and Mike Sipes.

Dana Cornblath continues to win tournaments, and this time had little trouble winning the Women's Open crown without losing a game. The finals saw her win by scores of 8, 7 over Trish Morphew. The only real close game was in Cornblath's first match with Barb Bordner, who scored 19 and 12.

Results

Men's Open Singles: Larry Fox d. Clark Pittman 21-15, 21-14; Semi-Finalists — Mike Stepp, Dan Clifford; Consolation — David Molina.

Women's Open Singles: Dana Cornblath d. Trish Morphew 21-8, 21-7; Semi-Finalists — Bernice Friedberg, Cherry Armstrong; Consolation — Pat Martin.

Men's Open Doubles: Hiudt/Fox d. Sipes/Pittman 21-19, 21-15; Semi-Finalists — Abrams and Clifford, Soble and Stern.

Women's Open Doubles: Friedberg/Gifford d. Brickner/Morphew 21-14, 21-9; Semi-Finalists Wachtel/Robinson, Martin/Leutenberg.

Men's Senior Singles: Jack Soble d. Rod McKinley 21-11, 21-17; Semi-finalists — Ron Akins, Pete Keiser; Consolation — Dennis Boatman.

Men's Senior Doubles: McKinley/Marsh d. Wachtel/Ferrara 21-20, 18-21, 11-10; Semi-Finalists — Boatman/Vantrease, Akins/Taylor.

Men's Master Singles: Jim Herron d. Ken Mitchell 21-11, 18-21, 11-6; Semi-finalists — Ed Witham, Sam Fasline.

Women's B Singles: Connie Connebear d. Linda Shalkhauser 21-16, 21-17; Semi-finalists — Carol Throckmorton, Sue Willhite; Consolation — Chris Fischer.

Women's B Doubles: Connebear/Constantino d. Leon/Fischer 21-18, 21-4; Semi-Finalists — Lavis/Allen, Schivley/Danhausen.

Men's B Singles: Frank Greenfield d. Burt Engel 18-21, 21-11, 11-8; Semi-Finalists — Jim Curry, Rick Reifensahl; Consolation — Tom Worrell.

Men's B Doubles: Simons/Liner d. Stitsinger/Curry 20-21, 21-18, 11-7; Semi-finalists — Bricker/Bobson, Damicone/Rouble.

Juniors — 17 and under: Bill Lindhurst d. Brian Deighan 18-21, 21-20, 11-9; Semi-Finalists — Scott Herron, Jay Golod.

Juniors — 15 and under: Joey Liner d. Rosen Blum 21-11, 21-10; Semi-finalists — Scott Lambert, Adam McKay.

New York

Dan Waingarten settled down in the tie-breaker to defeat the up and coming John Moshides in the finals of the Eastern Hills stop in the Upstate N.Y. Grand Prix Sept. 21-24, which drew over 145 entries to the Racquet Club of Eastern Hills.

Solid play marked the second time that Waingarten has defeated Moshides in the finals of a Grand Prix Event. Dan came off a win over a streaking Joe Tyree to reach the finals while John cruised to an easy victory over a fellow teaching pro, Bud Stange, in the semi-finals.

The thriller of the tournament proved to be the quarter final matchup between Moshides and 14-year-old Mike Levine. After exchanging games 17-21 and 21-17, John took an early lead only to find himself on the wrong end of a 10-9 point tie-breaker. With Mike serving for the match John rolled out a perfect backhand and

proceeded to tie up the score. The next volley was picture perfect with Levine coming out with the winner.

After a near ace was called out on the first serve, John locked up the match with some super backhands. Match point was a crisp roll out on the forehand corner. After this power match watch for these two players in future tournaments.

The finals against Waingarten had a little bit of the edge taken off by Moshides' quarter-final match. But again superb play with very few unforced errors prolonged the battle for over two hours. After a lot of diving and running Moshides squeezed out the first game 21-13. John blew an early lead in the second game as Dan never missed the important points. Waingarten never looked back after the 21-15 second game and powered his way impressively to an 11-6 title in the tie-breaker.

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In the Women's Open Division Donna Meger, the New York State women's champ, lost only eight points in turning back Barb Cornwall to win the title in her first Grand Prix Tournament. This was Barb's third loss in the finals in the last three Grand Prix events.

The Senior's division proved to be a grudge match between Sonny Hill and Herman Neumeier. After losing to Sonny two weeks before in the third Grand Prix stop in Rochester Neumeier had his chance for a victory as he won the opening game handily 21-5. Sonny pulled some tough forehands out of his bag as he swept the next game and the tie-breaker by a score of 21-15 and 11-4.

In the Men's Open doubles Mike Mychaskiw and partner Pete Tuituinnik tried to give Waingarten his first loss of the tournament. They found his momentum a little too strong as Jim Dollinger and Dan prevailed with a 21-15, 21-6 win.

Results

Juniors 12 and under

Round 1 — Sam Battaglia d. Dave Searns 31-5, Tim Doyle d. Jim Meger 31-12; Round 2 — Battaglia d. Doyle 31-7, Searns d. Meger 31-5; Round 3 — Battaglia d. Meger, Doyle d. Searns 31-27; Finals — Battaglia d. Doyle 31-7.

Juniors 18 and under

Semis: Mike Fischer d. Mike Levine (default), John Puerner d. Jeff Engelhardt 21-15, 21-7.
Finals: Puerner d. Fischer 21-11, 21-12.

Women's C

Quarters: Terry Rogers d. Shirley Surdam 21-9, 21-10; Donna Allen d. Debbie Ego 21-5, 21-3; Nancy Cooper d. Trish Murphy 21-7, 21-4; Barb Jankowska d. Lois Ward 21-9, 5-21, 11-10.
Semis: Allen d. Rogers 21-4, 21-3; Cooper d. Jankowska 21-11, 21-10.
Finals: Allen d. Cooper 21-9, 21-1.

Women's Open

Semis: Donna Meger d. Lori Nave 21-3, 21-2; Barbara Cornwall d. Kathy Witzig 21-10, 21-6.
Finals: Meger d. Cornwall 21-3, 21-5.

Women's B

Quarters: Menilee Doyle d. Jan Moppert 21-15, 21-17; Nancy Cooper d. Celeste Angelo 21-14, 21-4; Debbie Derleth d. Barb Jankowska 15-21, 21-4, 11-5; Nancy Smith d. Vicki Vannier 21-9, 21-13.

Semis: Doyle d. Cooper 21-13, 21-14; Smith d. Derleth 21-8, 21-10.

Finals: Doyle d. Smith 21-5, 21-19.

Men's C

Quarters: Sam Cianfarano d. Norm Crook 21-15, 21-5; Bill Rougeux d. Jim Moscato 21-15, 21-5; Charlie Burke d. Dan Ricigliano 21-19, 21-15; Gary Chesman d. Bill O'Brien 21-15, 21-12.

Semis: Cianfarano d. Rougeux 21-5, 21-7; Burke d. Chesman 21-14, 21-14.

Finals: Burke d. Cianfarano 21-5, 21-11.

Men's B

Quarters: Ralph Defazio d. Joe Anello 21-8, 21-13; John Puerner d. Paul Maddaluno 21-15, 19-21, 11-7; Brian Dunstan d. Clint Cornwall 21-12, 21-6; David Calamita d. Donna Meger 21-16, 21-10.

Semis: Defazio d. Puerner 21-13, 21-13; Dunstan d. Calamita 21-16, 21-16.

Finals: Defazio d. Dunstan 20-21, 21-10, 11-6.

Men's Masters

Semis: George Litsky d. George Rupley 21-2, 21-5; Don King d. Hank Pikul 21-0, 21-2.

Finals: King d. Litsky 21-18, 21-9.

Men's Doubles

Quarters: Dollinger-Waingarten d. Litto-Litto 21-1, 21-4; Babkes-Goldberg d. Robb-Roboda 21-6, 21-2; Mychikiw-Tuituinnik d. Trunzo-Dunstan 16-21, 21-18, 11-5; Emes-Strobel d. Rubinstein-Litsky 21-18, 10-21, 11-2.

Semis: Dollinger-Waingarten d. Babkes-Goldberg 21-8, 21-14; Mychikiw-Tuituinnik d. Emes-Strobel 21-16, 18-21, 11-5.

Finals: Dollinger-Waingarten d. Mychikiw-Tuituinnik 21-15, 21-6.

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Herman Neumeier d. Bob Romanowski 21-4, 21-5; Bud Stange d. John Bridge 21-3, 21-1; Sonny Hill d. Carmen Iannaccone 21-9, 21-5; Joel Babkes d. Paul Cannon 21-9, 21-6.

Semis: Neumeier d. Stange (default), Hill d. Babkes 21-19, 21-13.

Finals: Hill d. Neumeier 5-21, 21-15, 11-4.

Men's Open

Quarters: Dan Waingarten d. Brad Strobel 21-12, 21-18; Joe Tyree d. John Allien 21-11, 21-2; Bud Stange d. Mike Mychaskiw 21-10, 6-21, 11-10; John Moshides d. Mike Levine 17-21, 21-17, 11-10.

Semis: Waingarten d. Tyree 21-11, 21-6; Moshides d. Stange 21-8, 21-5.

Finals: Waingarten d. Moshides 13-21, 21-15, 11-6.

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North Carolina

Sportime Racquet Club in Greensboro was host to the Mid South Men's Open Sept. 29 - Oct. 1.

Results

Open Singles: 1st — Clay McCaskey, 2nd — Tony Giordano, Consolation — Harrell Wood d. Dick Giddeti

Senior Singles: 1st — Sonny Harmon, 2nd — Ted Freshwater, Consolation — Lee Chase d. Ben Cone

B singles: 1st — Keith Sellers, 2nd — Myron Wyman, Consolation — Seung Jin Yang d. Dan Curran

C Singles: 1st — Roger Compton, 2nd — Ronald Thompson, Consolation — Scott Coulter d. James Hillwig

Master's Singles: 1st — Richard Lane, 2nd — Myron Wyman, Consolation — Bill Fleischman d. Dan Garfinkle (forfeit)

Open Doubles: 1st — Tony Giordano/Paul Saperstein, 2nd — Steve Agner/Bill Leonard, Consolation — Gary Gorson/Mark Gosselin d. Ben Cone/Dan Curran

Senior Doubles: 1st — Richard Lane/Jack Hogan, 2nd — Norman DeRosssett/Jim Buchholz, Consolation — Mike Moynihan/James Dowdall (forfeit)

Tennessee

Memphis had a fine turnout for the first Annual Tennessee State Tournament August 18-20 at Supreme Courts Sports Center, in spite of curfew problems due to striking police and firemen. The response was great with close to 150 entries and 15 divisions. Tennessee had a showing of some top players as Randy Stafford, Gary Stephens, Carolyn Kessinger and Sarah Green all exhibited outstanding racquetball playing ability.

Two brothers, John and Keith Dunlap, dominated the Men's Open, finding their toughest competition in the semi-finals. Keith demonstrated his expert playing ability against the number one seed, Gary Stephens, going to three games. Keith seemed to be getting in all the shots the first game, winning it 21-16, but a very determined Gary didn't give Keith anything the second game taking the win 21-4. In the tie-breaker Keith had regained his confidence and composure to win the game and match 11-6. Meanwhile John Dunlap had his hands full with a strong strategy player, Randy Stafford. John and Randy's scores tell it all, with Randy taking the first game 21-8, but John made his comeback in the second game 21-15. The third game was neck to neck all the way, with the tension rising and the scores set at 10-10. John won the game and match by an uncomfortable one point.

It was a scene of acute concentration and determination in the finals with brothers John and Keith Dunlap playing for the title. John, usually expected to have the upper hand over Keith, lost

the first game to Keith 21-12. Then there was a turnaround in the second game with John putting the pressure on Keith by winning 21-18, but a cool and controlled Keith wasn't shaken and won the third game 11-6.

Making her way to the Women's Open finals wasn't difficult for the number one seed, Gail Ferguson, winning in the semi-finals over number four seed, Patsy Ingle 21-8, 21-10. Carolyn Kessinger, seeded number two, had little trouble defeating Memphis State student, Sharon Fanning, 21-7, 21-12 resulting in Carolyn and Gail playing in the finals. Both Carolyn and Gail exhibited top form and tremendous skill during their match. It looked as though Gail might take the match, winning the first game 21-18, but Carolyn competently took over the second game 21-17. The third game was certainly in Gail's hands as she had Carolyn down 9-0. That's when Carolyn's drive and perseverance lead her to victory with a 11-9 come back.

—Becky Wallace

Results:

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: G. Stephens d. L. Liles 21-1, 21-13; K. Dunlap d. J. Thoni 21-3, 21-16; J. Dunlap d. J. Cullen 21-19, 21-19; R. Stafford d. B. Gurner 21-11, 21-7

Semi-Finals: K. Dunlap d. Stephens 21-16, 4-21, 11-6; J. Dunlap d. Stafford 8-21, 21-15, 11-10

Finals: K. Dunlap d. J. Dunlap 21-12, 18-21, 11-6;

Third Place: Stafford d. Stephens (forfeit)

Consolation: M. Fleming d. G. Humble 21-11, 21-12

Carolyn Kessinger, right, won the Women's Open in Tennessee by defeating Gail Ferguson.



Women's Open

Semi-Finals: G. Ferguson d. P. Ingle 21-8, 21-10; C. Kessinger d. S. Fanning 21-7, 21-12

Finals: Kessinger d. Ferguson 18-21, 21-17, 11-9

Third Place: Ingle d. Fanning 21-10, 21-16

Consolation: D. Palazolo d. J. Wilson 21-20, 21-8

Men's Open Doubles

Round Robin: 1st — Dunlap/Dunlap, 2nd — Cullen/Liles, 3rd — Gurner/Shaw, 4th — Thoni/Fleming

Women's Open Doubles

Round Robin: 1st — Ferguson/Kessinger, 2nd — Fanning/Palazolo, 3rd — Wellford/Wilson, 4th — Davie/Nathurst

Men's B

Quarter-Finals: K. Blackman d. L. Shaw 17-21, 21-6, 11-7; P. Conners d. S. Sherman 21-14, 17-21, 11-10; B. Soule d. L. Zietman 21-18, 21-11; J. Skinner d. A. Cook 21-11, 21-5

Semi-Finals: Blackman d. Conners 21-14, 17-21, 11-10; Skinner d. Soule 21-16, 21-17

Finals: Blackman d. Skinner 21-19, 21-9

Third Place: Conners d. Soule 21-8, 21-9

Consolation: T. Long d. B. May (forfeit)

Women's B

Round Robin: 1st — N. Wellford, 2nd — P. Caldwell, 3rd — D. Isbell, 4th — B. Barron

Men's B Doubles

Quarter-Finals: Zietman/Blackman d. Shedd/McRae 21-1, 21-3; Finn/Bilksey d. Joiner/Daniel 21-11, 21-6; Singer/Weis d. Hiebak/Cole 21-1, 21-9; Skinners/Conners d. Heros/Barrasso 21-15, 21-7

Semi-Finals: Zietman/Blackman d. Finn/Bilksey 21-18, 21-17; Singer/Weis d. Skinners/Conners 21-16, 21-5

Finals: Zietman/Blackman d. Singer/Weis 21-17, 21-18

Third Place: Skinners/Conners d. Finn/Bilksey 21-2, 21-10

Consolation: Roberts/Smith d. Carter/Meeks 21-4, 21-3

Men's C

Quarter-Finals: B. Massey d. L. Blanton 21-15, 16-21, 11-7; K. Stigall d. E. Steiner 21-12, 21-10; M. Simon d. M. Carillo 21-20, 21-14; B. Hurley d. T. Worthington 21-15, 21-17

Semi-Finals: Massey d. Stigall 21-19, 6-21, 11-7; Hurley d. Simon 21-11, 9-21, 11-10

Finals: Hurley d. Massey 21-12, 21-16

Third Place: Stigall d. Simon 21-15, 21-9

Consolation: S. Accardo d. A. Avgiris 15-21, 21-17, 11-5

Women's C

Quarter-finals: L. Nathurst d. B. Wallace 21-11, 14-21, 11-0; R. Redden d. P. Hall 16-21, 21-14, 11-5; T. Truesdale d. J. Higgins 21-5, 21-5; M. Mobley d. C. Manning 21-10, 21-12

Semi-Finals: Nathurst d. Redden 21-6, 21-3; Mobley d. Truesdale 21-0, 18-21, 11-6

Finals: Nathurst d. Mobley 21-10, 21-15

Third Place: Truesdale d. Redden 21-10, 21-3

Consolation: B. Wallace d. L. LeVene 21-9, 21-8

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Women's Ms

Round Robin: 1st — K. Davie, 2nd — M. Bell, 3rd — J. Green

Men's Senior

Quarter-Finals: G. Tashie d. B. Meaders 21-14, 21-12; J. Reno d. W. Hargrove 21-7, 21-20; G. Blasingame d. T. Harkins 21-14, 21-11; L. St. Onge d. E. Lowrence 19-21, 21-6, 11-3

Semi-Finals: Tashie d. Reno 21-15, 21-13, St. Onge d. Blasingame 21-14, 21-11

Finals: Tashie d. St. Onge 21-12, 11-21, 11-8

Third Place: Blasingame d. Reno 21-15, 21-12

Consolation: B. Schilling d. W. Hargrove (forfeit)

Men's Senior Doubles

Round Robin: 1st — Tanner/Pritchard, 2nd — St. Onge/Weiner, 3rd — Weiser/Singer, 4th — Harkins/Schilling, 5th — Leon/Willford

Men's Masters

Semi-Finals: B. Tanner d. E. Davie 21-2, 21-6, E. Lowrence d. G. Nichopoulos 21-13, 21-11

Finals: Tanner d. Lowrence 21-5, 21-7

Third Place: G. Nichopoulos d. E. Davie 21-6, 21-17

Junior's 13 and under

Round Robin: 1st — S. Gregg, 2nd — T. Skinner, 3rd — A. Roberts

Junior's 15 and under

Round Robin: 1st — K. Blackman, 2nd — J. Bell, 3rd — D. Hale, 4th — B. Frazer

Wisconsin

Madison, WI's Supreme Court was the site for the October "Wambo" (We appreciate Madison Benefit Open) Car X Muffler Shops Racquetball tournament.

A total of 150 players from around Wisconsin and Illinois competed in the three day event that raised \$1,500 for Madison charities.

"The tournament was fun, beneficial to many and we certainly would like to make it an annual event," said Al Bernstein, who owns Madison's two Car X Muffler Shops and is an avid racquetball player.

Results

Men's Open

Finals: Joe Wirkus d. Ken Frank

3rd: Bruce Thompson d. Gary Tate

Consolation: Will Mulvaney d. Steve Peck

Men's B

Finals: Dan Murray d. Dennis Ryan

3rd: Jay Slager d. Bob Kinney

Consolation: Larry Zanon d. Jay Griffin

Men's C

Finals: Frank Meyers d. Nate Ziemer

3rd: Harry Farber d. Dave Brandes

Consolation: Jim Meden d. William Horton

Women's Open

Finals: Pat Hults d. Debbie Corliss

3rd: Dorothy Bergmann d. Janice Lucht

Women's B

Finals: Lana Engen d. Sarah Glover

3rd: Joan Schallern d. Joan Schloemer

Consolation: Brenda Boylan d. Vicki Radke

Women's C

Finals: Jo Stum d. Judy Martin

3rd: Barb Armstrong d. Judy Mulvaney

Consolation: Kathy Schmelzer d. Barb LeFebvre

Junior 14 and Under

Finals: Jeff Plazak d. Brian Cassidy

3rd: Brad Hults d. Tom Bauer

Consolation: Chris Fucci d. Dave Linden

Seniors

Finals: Scott Wallace d. Dave Hults

3rd: Scott Berry d. Bob Keenan

Consolation: Chet Howard d. Carl Zielke

California

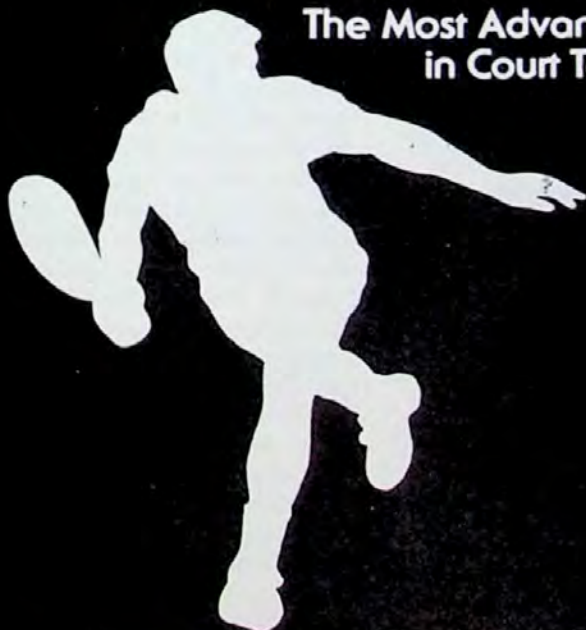


Men's Open winner, Joe Blandino received a first place trophy from Tournament Director Joseph S. Dossen at the First annual Invitational Racquetball Tournament co-sponsored last summer by the Magnolia Park Optimist Club and the Burbank Y.M.C.A. in Pasadena, CA.



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Is Hogan's Skill Stronger Than His Biorhythms?

What Three Pros' Cycles Could Mean to Their Games

by N. K. Butts, Ph.D.

At a recent racquetball tournament a player who unexpectedly lost his final match was overheard saying "Well I guess my chart was right after all."

The chart he was referring to was his Biorhythm Chart which indicated he was experiencing a "Double Critical Day." Biorhythm discussions such as this one have invaded locker rooms from the Super Bowl to racquetball clubs. Throughout the ages athletes have sought methods that could possibly give them an edge over their opponents during athletic competition. These methods have included such things as special diets, drugs and hypnosis. Currently the sport's world is into Biorhythms and how they may affect athletic performances.

Biorhythm Theory is based on the assumption that there are three distinct cycles (physical, emotional and intellectual) which are initiated in each individual at the day of birth. When the fetus is in the mother's womb it exists in a constant, safe environment. At birth the baby is abruptly exposed to an array of environmental changes and must cope with these new elements without support from the mother. The infant must immediately provide its own life support systems and its senses are suddenly exposed to lights, sounds, etc.

Needless to say this is a tremendously traumatic situation. Thus the three cycles are thought to be initiated at this point and will continue in a predetermined pattern throughout the lifetime of the individual.

According to this theory the physical cycle is the shortest and is completed in 23 days. During the first half, or the positive phase, the individual is thought to be more resistant to disease, more coordinated, stronger and with an

overall sense of well-being. In the negative phase, or second half of the cycle, the individual may tire more easily, be more susceptible to disease, be more accident prone and less coordinated.

The emotional cycle, or "sensitivity rhythm," lasts 28 days and affects such areas as creativity, sensitivity, moods and general mental health. The first 14 days of this cycle have a positive influence on these factors while the second half of the cycle has a detrimental effect.

When It's Easy to Learn

The longest cycle, the intellectual, is completed in 33 days and is thought to influence memory, alertness, logic and a person's receptivity to knowledge. Again there is a positive and a negative phase to this cycle.

At birth all three cycles start at a baseline, then enter into the positive phase, cross over the baseline, continue through the negative phase, cross back over the baseline and continue in this cyclic pattern until death. The critical days — the days we must beware of — are those times when one or more of the cycles cross the baseline, thus shifting from the positive phase to the negative or vice versa. Thus a physical critical day occurs every 11½ days, an emotional every 14 days and an intellectual every 16½ days. Approximately 20 percent of the days in an individual's lifetime fall on these "critical days." Even less frequently does an individual experience a "double critical day" and only one in 58 years does the individual incur a "triple critical day."

Since the Biorhythm Theory was suggested in the early 1900's most investigators have directed their interests specifically toward these critical days and their relationships to death, accidents and — more recently — to athletic performances. One

investigator found that 135 of 200 (68 percent) of the deaths reported in one midwestern hospital occurred on a critical day for that individual. Another study reported that 63 percent of sudden death from heart attacks occurred when that individual was experiencing a critical day.

Another area of interest for Biorhythm enthusiasts is the relationship between accidents and critical days. In 1971 a Japanese study indicated that 70 percent of all self caused traffic accidents involved drivers experiencing a critical day.

There seems to be a relationship between Biorhythm cycles and athletic performances, too. Babe Ruth hit 47 of his record 60 homeruns on days when he was at or near a physical or emotional peak. Mark Spitz won his seven gold medals over a 10 day period when both his physical and emotional cycles were in the positive phases.

What, if any, influence do the Biorhythm cycles have on the professional racquetball player? Actually, it would be quite difficult to "scientifically" determine the influence of these cycles on the outcome of professional racquetball tournaments that run over a five day period. One of the major difficulties involved with such an analysis is the procedure of seeding players. This process involves matching a high ranked player against a lower ranked player. Thus skill becomes the dominant factor in the early rounds. This means that if Biorhythm cycles do influence performance, then their influence could be completely overshadowed by the skill factor. This problem is further complicated by the dominant play of Hogan, who lost only one major tournament last year. Is his skill so superior that nothing, including Biorhythms, can negatively affect his performance?



Hogan's Negative

A number of interesting observations were made from reviewing Hogan's cycles during a few of last season's tournaments. When Hogan lost to Brumfield on Jan. 15 of last year, he was in the negative phase of his emotional cycle, while Brumfield was in the positive phase. At the Aurora tournament in April Hogan was forced into two tie-breakers. Again he was experiencing the negative phase of his emotional, physical and intellectual

Pros, Beware: These Are Your Critical Days

	Marty Hogan Born 1/22/58	Craig McCoy Born 2/20/57	Steve Strandemo Born 3/4/48
Critical Physical Days	Jan. 11, 22 Feb. 3, 14, 26 March 9, 21 April 1, 13, 24 May 6, 17, 29 June 9, 21	Jan. 8, 20 Feb. 12, 23 March 7, 18, 30 April 10, 22 May 3, 15, 26 June 7, 18, 30	Jan. 11, 22 Feb. 3, 14, 26 March 9, 21 April 1, 13, 24 May 6, 17, 29 June 9, 21
Critical Intellectual Days	Jan. 8, 24 Feb. 10, 26 March 15, 31 April 17 May 3, 20 June 5, 22	Jan. 2, 18 Feb. 4, 20 March 9, 25 April 11, 27 May 14, 30 June 16	Jan. 10, 27 Feb. 12 March 1, 17 April 3, 19 May 6, 22 June 8, 24
Critical Emotional Days	Jan. 10, 24 Feb. 7, 21 March 7, 21 April 4, 18 May 2, 16, 30 June 13, 27	Jan. 10, 24 Feb. 7, 21 March 7, 21 April 4, 18 May 2, 16, 30 June 13, 27	Jan. 11, 25 Feb. 8, 22 March 8, 22 April 5, 19 May 3, 17, 31 June 14, 28

cycles, while his opponents were in their positive emotional cycles. At the National Finals in June Hogan was experiencing an intellectual critical day, but both his other cycles were in the positive phases. And his opponent, Brumfield, was in the negative phase of both his emotional and physical cycles. The first tournament stop of the 1978-79 season in St. Louis found Hogan being defeated in an early round. This unexpected defeat occurred while Hogan was in his negative emotional and intellectual cycles. Perhaps Hogan's emotions are influencing his play in more ways than one.

After completing the Biorhythm cycles of some of the top ranked professional players and their performances during the 1977-78 pro tour a few broad generalizations can be made.

- When a player was experiencing any critical day during a tournament he had a 70 percent chance of losing that match. The only consistent exception to this was Hogan, who actually won a number of matches on non-emotional critical days.
- Over 75 percent of the winners of all matches were in the positive phase of their emotional cycles but the study revealed no positive correlations between wins and either physical or intellectual cycles. This suggests that the emotional cycle rather than the expected physical cycle might be the most influential on racquetball performance.

Hogan and Craig McCoy, number four player for '77-'78, have common emotional critical days in their cycles. Both Hogan and McCoy are switching into the same phases, e.g. negative to positive and vice versa. Strandemo, who did so well at the first '78-'79 stop, is closely following Hogan's and McCoy's emotional cycles, being just one day behind.

The way the 1978-79 professional tournament schedule is set up the emotional critical day for Hogan, McCoy and Strandemo will occur during the February, May and June tournaments. All three will be switching into the positive phases of their emotional cycles during the majority of the currently scheduled tournaments.

Whether or not these Biorhythmic cycles will have an effect on these players only time will tell, but in the unpredictable world of racquetball — it's another element worth considering.

If your birthday falls on the dates of one of the three pros Nancy Butts charted, you know which days to watch out for. If you were born another day and would like to have the author chart your Biorhythms on the computer, send your name, address, birthdate and a check for \$1.50 made out to Dr. N. K. Butts (covering postage and handling) to Nancy Kay Butts, Ph.D.; Associate Professor Physical Education; University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse; LaCrosse, WI 54601. ●



Motors Back.....

Marty Hogan had something to prove at the Leach Motor City Classic. The flamboyant national champion, a round of 16 loser in the pro tour's first event in September, was going to reestablish himself as the game's foremost player.

Not that his number one ranking was in jeopardy (it wasn't), but the psychological advantage he enjoys over opponents certainly might have been in danger if he was beaten again.

"I guess I just wasn't ready to play at the JACK IN THE BOX Classic," said Hogan. *"I may have taken it too easy over the summer."*

Well Hogan vindicated himself with vengeance at the Leach Classic, the second stop on the Colgate pro tour. In fact he was his good, old dominating self, never losing a game, blasting aces from both sides, and generally convincing onlookers that he could do whatever he wanted whenever he wanted on the court.

In only two games in the entire tournament did Hogan have to sweat. One was the first quarter-final game against Craig McCoy (21-19) and the other the second game of the championship match against a pesky Richard Wagner (21-19).

Against McCoy Hogan ran the first 16 points of game two to ensure victory in the boldest of fashions. And against Wagner it was two straight forehand right corner kills to finish off a match that saw more shooting than the OK Corral.

Claiming *"I've got a plane to catch"* Hogan disdained the ceiling ball in his championship battle with Wagner, now solidly entrenched in the number two spot in the national ranking system.

Playing such an aggressive style forced Wagner to adjust his game plan, but the adjustment took some time.

"You never know what Marty's going to do," said Wagner. *"He came out with both barrels blazing."*

Hogan opened the match with an ace serve on a drive into the left crack and ran his initial lead to 10-1 and 13-2

before Wagner got into it. A notorious slow starter all week Rich kept his composure and mounted a steady comeback toward respectability in this game, eventually closing to within 12-16.

Hogan's entire strategy was offense. He was hitting blistering drive serves, forcing weak returns and going for bottom board at every opportunity. To begin the comeback Wagner began changing the pace, mixing lobs with his own drive serves and trying to make Hogan play.

But once to 12-16 Wagner missed a golden opportunity to close the gap even further when he skipped in a forehand set up from center court. Hogan immediately added a point, but Wagner still hung onto life, only to have lady luck deal him a blow two rallies later.

Having apparently won a furious rally to regain serve at 12-17 Wagner lost Hogan's appeal of the serve, which was ruled short, giving Hogan another serve at 17-12. That next serve was a predictable ace, a drive left, and it took the heart out of Wagner. The end came quickly with the final two points both aces (Hogan had seven in the game).

It's easy to give up when Hogan gets rolling, but Wagner did just the opposite, he got tougher. The second game was point for point with ties at 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12 before Hogan finally hit his stride.

To this point Marty seemed to be forcing his shots, not connecting on the low percentage kill attempts he was making in game one, and Wagner wisely continued to let him shoot.

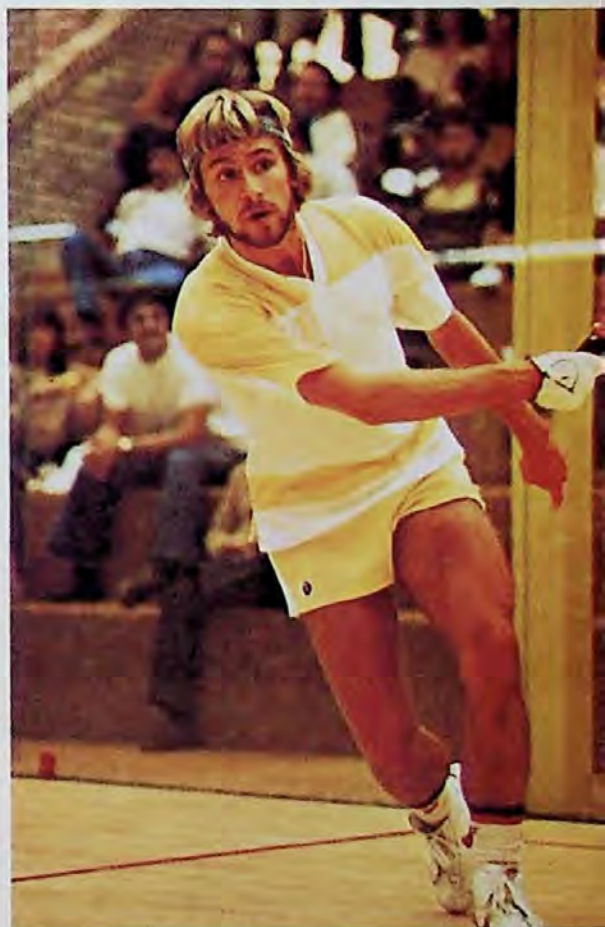
But Hogan regained his touch at 12-12, aided by two key Wagner errors and three winners of his own to grab that 17-12 lead. Rich came back to 15-17 his next time in with a key ace for 15, but stalled himself again with a back wall skipped kill attempt. Hogan added two to make it 19-15 but Wagner, aided by a racquet rim kill, added four to tie at 19 with the serve.

Hogan won the next three rallies, the key being his putting the side out at 19-all, on a backhand pass down the left line. Hogan then hit his final two kills, both forehands, both into the right corner and good for his \$4,500 first place check.

Wagner was at his best in the semi-finals, where he stopped Davey Bledsoe in an unusual match 16-21, 21-4, 11-5. At one point Wagner scored an incredible 25 of 27 points, from 2-2 in the second game to 6-0 in the tie-breaker.

Early in the first game Bledsoe looked as good as he ever has, hitting crisp, sharp serves and kills, shooting perfectly into both corners. His overpowering style earned him a 13-3 lead and Wagner backers were hard to find.

When Rich grabbed two, Bledsoe countered with two of his own to keep the margin.



Wagner follows through with a Z serve. When he gets his drives over the line, his game will improve.

Eventual champ Hogan begins to move to his right for a re-kill attempt as Wagner follows through with his backhand in the finals.

Bledsoe rips a forehand pinch against Wagner in the semi's. Note the shot will travel right side wall, front wall with Wagner still in deep court.



When Rich scored four to make it 9-16, Bledsoe scored four to make it 20-9. And when Rich scored seven more over six innings to make it 16-20, Davey finally hit the game winner, a forehand kill straight into the front wall from the right 21-16.

Wagner's first game comeback was not futile, for he rode the momentum into a devastating second game victory. All the kills that Bledsoe had been hitting turned to skips, while Wagner's game grew increasingly sharp as his confidence grew.

Davey took his first time out at 10-2 but it was useless as Wagner extended his lead to 15-2 and eased on out 21-4.

Four kills followed by two Bledsoe errors made the 6-0 lead for Wagner in the tie-breaker, forcing Davey to another time out. This one did some good, as Bledsoe regrouped and challenged for the match by shooting well to reach 5-7.

At this point the match's key rally occurred, with Bledsoe hitting an apparent winner, only to have Wagner hit a diving forehand rekill into the right corner to regain service.

The rally was so key that Bledsoe never got the serve back. He hit the next rally ender into the dirt for 8-5, followed by a Wagner forehand right corner kill for 9-5. Rich added a beautiful forehand back wall pinch (right to left) for 10-5, setting up match point.

It came quickly as Bledsoe skipped the serve with his backhand, a Z serve to the left 11-5.

An anticipated circus atmosphere never materialized in the other semi-final, pitting hometown favorite Mike Yellen against Hogan. Yellen, who was one point away from a national championship final round berth against Hogan last June, finally had his chance to see what he could do against the champ.

He couldn't do much.

Hogan, perhaps trying to ensure that Yellen not forget who the champ is, was brilliantly overpowering in the first game, taking 10-1, 18-5 and finally an easy 21-9 victory.

So complete was Marty's domination in the game that barely a peep was heard out of the gallery, so stunned were they by the goings on. This was the same group, who in June, raised the noise level to illegal standards while urging Yellen to greater heights.

In game two they did have a little to yell about, but by the time the game came close, it was obvious to all that Hogan was still in command.

Hilecher follows through with a backhand down the line pass as Bledsoe begins to cover in their exciting quarter-final battle.

Again Marty took that big early lead, that intital dominance that destroys confidence in every opponent. A 6-2 lead went to 10-4, then 14-4. At 10-18 Mike began a belated comeback, foregoing his control style and opting to "go for it" as he had done successfully in his quarter-final win over Ben Koltun.

But you can't play another man's game forever, and Hogan tightened his defense and held on 19-14 and the final 21-16, the final two points a pass down the line left and a forehand kill right.

Only one of the quarter-final matches went three games, that being Bledsoe's exciting win over Jerry Hilecher 21-3, 20-21, 11-10.

The match didn't look to be much of anything except a Bledsoe romp during game one as Davey, as he did in the first game of his semi-final battle, was unstoppable. He took the game in only seven innings running up leads of 9-0, 14-0 and 18-3 en route.

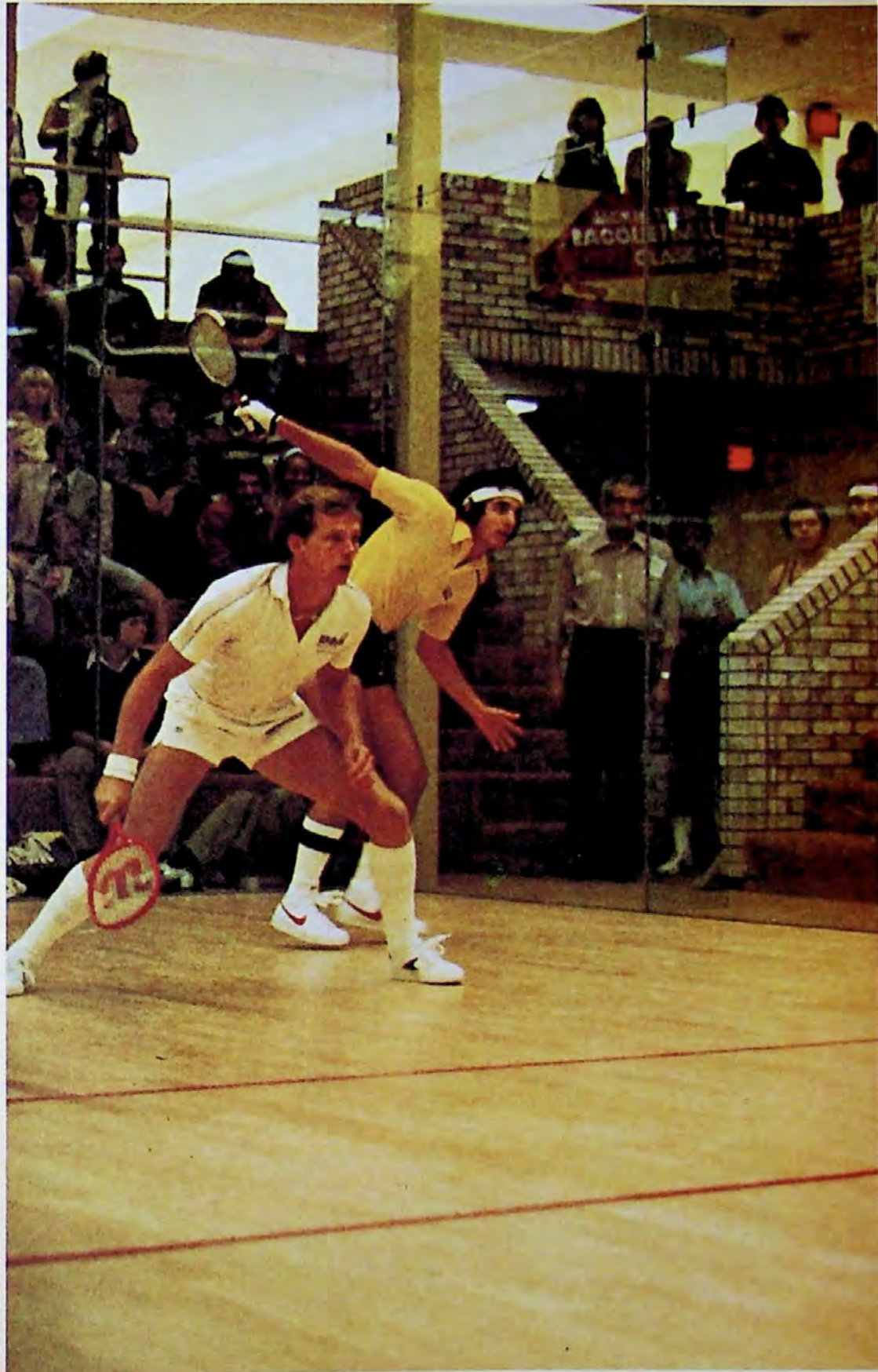
His vaunted forehand kills, which left him last season, certainly rejoined his repertoire in this game, forming the basis of his offensive attack.

But Hilecher, one of the game's most mentally alert players, continued his attempts to stop the Bledsoe barrage, even though Davey continued to roll up points, taking a 12-5 second game lead.

Bledsoe finally stalled and Hilecher began his own offensive series including two key aces, finally tying the game at 17 and taking a 20-17 lead. Bledsoe managed to hold off game point five times while finally tying it again at 20-20 before Hilecher forced the tie-breaker on a forehand kill into the left corner 21-20.

In the tie-breaker Bledsoe was again forced to come from behind, trailing throughout the game 1-4, 5-7 and 6-10. Three times he held off match point, while Hilecher began to wilt, skipping a forehand for Davey's ninth point and skipping a backhand for the 10-10 tie.

After the exchange of serve Bledsoe won the match with a backhand kill cross court 11-10.



A battle of two of the tour's better young players found Yellen (1.) outdueling Koltun, who goes to his knees to retrieve a pass attempt.



If streak playing is what you like, then you would have loved the Yellen-Koltun quarter-final. After taking 8-3 and 11-5 leads in the first game Yellen was able to hold off a determined effort by Koltun, who closed the gap to 13-11 before Yellen moved out again en route to his 21-16 first game win.

But Ben must have learned something in game one, as he bolted out of the gates in the second, taking a huge 15-5 lead on the strength of corner killing from both sides and tough drive serves. Unfortunately for Ben he never scored again.

When Yellen came in to serve at 5-15 he immediately went to work. A forehand pass left, forehand skip of the serve by Koltun, backhand pass down the line left, forehand pass cross court right and an ace on a drive to the left forced a Koltun time out at 10-15.

No help from the delay for Koltun, however, as Yellen continued to streak. A forehand kill cross court was 11, a forehand kill down the left line was 12, an ace at the crack left made 13 and a forehand kill off the back wall was 14-15 before Koltun regained the serve.

No points here as Yellen rolled out the serve with his backhand and when he followed it with a forehand kill to tie at 15, Koltun called another time out to study the situation.

Ben regained the serve on a forehand pinch kill, but gave it right back, and probably the match as well, on an avoidable hinder while serving at 15-15. It was an obvious call as Ben moved into a back wall kill attempt by Yellen.

That was the last time Yellen saw the service zone as Mike nailed the victory with an ace for 16, two passes and two kills for 20, and the last one an ace on a drive serve left 21-15.

Wagner hosted David Fleetwood in the bottom bracket quarter-final and held command throughout the match 21-15, 21-9.



Another rising star, Fleetwood (1.) tries to recover from poor court position in his quarter-final loss to Wagner.

McCoy skips in a backhand kill attempt against Hogan in their quarter-final match before a full gallery.

It was a case of Wagner's kill shots being about four inches lower than Fleetwood's in this match. Rich took a 15-9 first game lead and extended it to 20-12 primarily by shooting better. Fleetwood went the wide angle pinch route for most of his offensive attempts, hitting some but leaving more up, making for an abundance of Wagner backhand setups along the left wall.

It was much of the same in game two as Wagner became even tougher and began to hit his serves. The resulting aces and near aces along with his offensive dominance made for the 21-9 second game and match victory.

It was Fleetwood's first pro tour quarter-final appearance and one that should have given him a good deal of experience. Dave came out of the bracket which found Chicago's Rick Dern upsetting Steve Strandemo, winner of the JACK IN THE BOX Classic, the tour's first stop. Dern was unable to spring the surprise twice, however, and Fleetwood stopped him in the 16's 21-8, 21-14.

The final quarter-final match was the Hogan-McCoy battle, in which Craig gave Marty all he cared to handle in game one only to fall those two aces short.

Craig played an outstanding front court game, with kills and rekills, forcing Marty into more errors than usual. But when it came down to the nuts and bolts at 18-18, it was Hogan who emerged the better player.

Craig tallied once on a forehand pass to take the lead 19-18, but Hogan took back the serve on a forehand fly kill from center court. When Craig skipped a forehand, it tied the score at 19 and gave Marty all the room he needed. Two kills later he had the game 21-19. There's not much you can say when the game's number one player beats the number four ranked pro 21-6 after taking a 16-0 lead. That's what Hogan did to McCoy in the second game, which can be summed up in two words — kill and skip. Hogan's kills and McCoy's skips marked the second game.



Only two of the eight round of 16 matches went to three games and one of those, Koltun's defeat of Minneapolis' Paul Ikier, was an 11-0 affair. In the other Yellen bested a resurgent Steve Mondry, who had posted a major upset in topping Steve Keeley in the 32's (21-10, 21-19). Yellen got a taste of the new Mondry in a well played 20-21, 21-2, 11-6 win.

The only other 16'er that found pressure was Bledsoe's 21-15, 21-17 win over Mike Zeitman, whose game seems on the rise. Zeitman stopped the failing Steve Serot in the 32's 21-19, 18-21, 11-6 to send Serot plunging deeper down the rankings.

Dern's upset of Strandemo was the first day shocker, and Charlie Rish, another good Chicagoan almost did the same to Wagner, losing a bitter battle 19-21, 21-18, 11-1. Rish seemed to have the match won in two games only to let some difficult refereeing calls upset his game.

Some of the up and comers who are still a bit away are nonetheless giving the top boys fits in the early rounds.

Besides Rish and Dern Jeff Bowman nearly topped 14th ranked Steve Chase, only to fall 16-21, 21-14, 11-8. Bowman is reigning national amateur champion.

David Peck, who went three with Strandemo at the JACK IN THE BOX, pushed McCoy to three here at the LEACH, only to fall 21-17, 14-21, 11-0. Larry Meyers, former national juniors champ, upset 15th ranked Jerry Zuckerman 21-18, 21-11 and Lindsay Myers, former Canadian champ, gave a good show against Bledsoe 21-16, 21-19.

Gary Stephens, Memphis, upset 11th ranked Mark Morrow in the 32's 21-19, 21-19 to run against Hogan in his first attempt in the 16's. Gary came up short 21-9, 21-11, but vowed he'd be there again. Then there was Randy Stafford, whose game has been up and down like a buoy the last few years, nearly erasing Yellen in the first round 21-9, 18-21, 11-10. Dennis McDowell continues to play well, this time a tough three game loss to Koltun in the 32's 21-10, 18-21, 11-3.

The competition among the masses continues to improve in quality and quantity, but the distance to the top remains substantial.

The tournament missed the presence of former champ Charlie Brumfield, recovering from a bout with infectious hepatitis, which has kept him on the sidelines.

Two players who didn't show due to injury, Don Thomas and Jay Jones, caused havoc with the draw as two qualifiers (Ikier and Jim Wirkus) went directly into the round of 16 after qualifying. Ikier showed well against Koltun, but Wirkus got bombed by Hilecher 21-10, 21-9.

Pro Results Men

(First round): Hogan d. Campbell 21-9, 21-16; Stephens d. Morrow 21-19, 21-19; Meyers d. Zuckerman 21-18, 21-11; McCoy d. Peck 21-17, 14-21, 11-0; Yellen d. Stafford 21-9, 18-21, 11-10; Mondry d. Keeley 21-10, 21-19; Ikier d. Thomas injury forfeit; Koltun d. McDowell 21-10, 18-21, 11-3; Hilecher d. Schmidke 21-12, 21-7; Wirkus d. Jones, forfeit; Bledsoe d. Myers 21-16, 21-19; Zeitman d. Serot 21-19, 18-21, 11-6; Dern d. Strandemo 14-21, 21-11, 11-5; Fleetwood d. Lynch 21-8, 21-8; Chase d. Bowman 16-21, 21-14, 11-8; Wagner d. Rish 19-21, 21-18, 11-1.

(Second Round): Hogan d. Stephens 21-9, 21-11; McCoy d. Meyers 21-7, 21-9; Yellen d. Mondry 20-21, 21-2, 11-6; Koltun d. Ikier 15-21, 21-13, 11-0; Hilecher d. Wirkus 21-10, 21-9; Bledsoe d. Zeitman 21-15, 21-17; Fleetwood d. Dern 21-8, 21-14; Wagner d. Chase 21-6, 21-14.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. McCoy 21-19, 21-6; Yellen d. Koltun 21-16, 21-15; Bledsoe d. Hilecher 21-3, 20-21, 11-10; Wagner d. Fleetwood 21-15, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Yellen 21-9, 21-16; Wagner d. Bledsoe 16-21, 21-4, 11-5.

(Finals): Hogan d. Wagner 21-12, 21-19.

All photos of LEACH Motor City
Racquetball Classic at Southfield, MI
by Mike Zeitman

Better Sooner...



Hinder! Greer can't get out of the way of Wright as Shannon tries to go for the winner in the women's finals.

...Than Later.....



A year ago Shannon Wright came into the season's first pro tour stop out of shape and without her shots. It took her half the season to get her game together, after which she went on to the national title in dominating style.

This year she again was not ready to start the season, losing the JACK IN THE BOX Classic in the semi-finals to eventual winner of that event, Jennifer Harding. But this time it didn't take her half the season to get her act together.

She got it together at the LEACH Motor City Classic.

Showing the determination, aggressiveness and quickness that put her far above her nearest rivals at the Nationals in June, she rose above an upset filled Women's Pro division to take the \$1,300 first place check.

It was a tournament in which nobody else from the top eight reached the semi-finals, with the championship match finding Marci Greer trying to wrest the title from Shannon. Greer, whose best finish prior to this tournament was the round of 16, played extremely well en route to the finals.

The championship match, like all of Wright's matches, was uneventful only because Shannon played such a superior game. She took the title from Greer 21-12, 21-8; the semi's from Jean Sauser 21-5, 21-7; the quarters from Martha McDonald 21-12, 21-10 and the round of 16 from Judy Thompson 21-6, 21-10.

In game one of the finals Shannon took an expected early 7-1 lead, expected because Marci was not relaxed, jumping at shots and had yet to settle down the butterflies. When she did, she mounted a comeback which got her to within one at 6-7, only to have Wright re-extend the lead to 11-7 and 16-8 with a flurry of points.

A backhand kill, two forehand kills and an ace did most of the work followed by a backhand skip on Greer's part and a back wall Wright kill.

Here Marci's 106 mph backhand is in evidence as she takes a full swing with Wright readying a retrieve.

The best Marci could do after that was 11-16, but Wright's booming kills continued to pave the way toward victory. At 18-11 Marci called a time out to try and figure a last ditch strategy for the game, but two rallies later the only new wrinkle was an avoidable hinder on Marci to further cement the win for Wright, 21-12.

In game two Greer couldn't get out of the blocks as Wright took advantage of some early errors to take a 6-2 advantage which she built to 12-2 with a variety of points including kills, passes and Greer errors.

Marci was unable to mount any offensive comeback attempt in this game as Shannon kept the heat on at every juncture, coasting in 21-8.

Still it was an outstanding tournament for the gutsie Greer, who struggled all last season just to qualify. Her semi-final victory over Sarah Green was a superb match of two equally skilled players.

Showing the forehand power that makes her the game's hardest hitting woman player, Greer was forced to play Green's more deliberate and controlled style. She was unable to do so effectively in the first game as Green broke a 10-10 tie to take a 16-11 lead, which she held going away 21-13.

But Marci got it going in game two, hitting her drive serves well and forcing Sarah to commit errors. When Greer started connecting on her back wall kills, especially from the forehand side, the game took on another look.

Marci built an 11-5 lead and held it to 16-9 and 18-11 until she went out on an ace on a drive to the right 21-11.

Greer kept the pressure on into the tie-breaker taking a 4-1 lead to 10-2.

The key series was at 6-2 when Green hit two straight into the ground and Greer followed with an ace on a Z serve to the left. Moments later Marci added an overhead kill and Sarah went to the strategy time out.

Green came back with two points, but that was all and a backhand down the left line was the winner 11-4.

Surprise semi-finalist Sauser prepares a backhand as Wright moves in to cover.



Sauser was unable to dent the Wright arsenal in the upper bracket semi-final match, which proved to be too much for the former Chicagoan, making her first trip to the semi-finals in a long while.

But Shannon was not about to do anybody any favors on the court as she soon showed Sauser. Keeping Jean effectively out of the play in deep court Shannon had her own way around the room and she expressed it in an overwhelming 21-5 first game win.

The domination was from the go, with aces and weak returns making for a near clinic on power racquetball. Any hopes of a Sauser reversal in game two were dashed immediately as Wright raced to a 9-0 lead, which she built to 17-4 and again coasted in 21-7.

So upset was Jean after the match that she took the next plane home, but any feelings of humiliation were unnecessary. Any time you go up against the world's best on the glass court, you run the risk of being beaten badly, especially in your first attempt.

Sauser had reached the semi's with an impressive 21-17, 21-9 win over Peggy Steding in the quarters. Steding, hampered slightly by a pulled back muscle, was unable to generate the power game for which she has become famous.

Sauser, on the other hand, was playing the best ball of her career, using her daily workout sessions with number two ranked Jennifer Harding to develop the potential she's had for some time.

Alone in defeat is Marriott, whose game was far from some of her brilliant performances last season.



Hitting her backhand pinch kills and putting away forehands off the back wall, Sauser's offensive game was on. Defensively she kept everything to Steding's backhand and the result was a 21-17, 21-9 victory.

The biggest shock of the quarters was not just Green's victory over Marriott, but also the stunning scores of 21-10, 21-6. Marriott, visibly carrying more than just her playing weight, was no match for the aggressive and hustling Green. Janell, although ranked third on the tour, wasn't even a top 16 in this performance.

"It was one of the best matches I've ever played," said Sarah after the win. *"But I've seen her much better."*

The biggest factor was that Green, who over the past few seasons has had a tendency to relax to the point of hibernation on the court, was fired up and played with an obvious desire to win. She served well, ran well and moved particularly well, going to the ball instead of holding back and playing cautiously.

In the bottom quarter Greer met Jan Matthews, another player making her first trip to the quarters in some time. Jan, who has had her ups and downs career wise over the past few years, seems to be on the up slide currently, as witnessed by her first round upset win over number six Karin Walton.

Marriott's nemesis this weekend was Green, here showing the backhand form and concentration necessary to hit the winners.



Greer, fresh from her first round upset win over number two Jennifer Harding, used the power in her game to control most of the match 21-10, 21-13.

Marci was red hot, especially in the first game, as she used her back wall shooting prowess to its greatest advantage — points.

Game two was more of the same, as Matthews was unable to consistently control play. On the strength of good drive serves to both sides, mixed with effective Z serves, Greer took a 12-6 lead and extended it to 18-10 before taking the match 21-13.

The final quarter-final battle was Wright and McDonald, a match in which the scores although similar (21-12, 21-10) were reached by widely different means.

In game one Wright held her usual comfortable early lead, which she held throughout. McDonald was able to get to within 12-16, only to have Shannon run out from there on the crest of kills, forehand and backhand.

Game two found McDonald fighting off the Wright barrage and taking an early lead, only to have Shannon come back from 8-10 to score the final 13 points of the match. Martha helped with more than her share of errors, but primarily it was the Wright offensive game that won the majority of the points for the 21-10 second game win.

The only unusual thing about the round of 16 is that seeds two, five, six and seven all lost. Led by Harding, the winner of the JACK IN THE BOX Classic, the top ranked just got knocked off by a group of hungrier pros.

Never before in pro tour history has the winner of the men's and the women's events gone out in the first round of the next tournament like Strandemo and Harding did from JACK IN THE BOX to LEACH.

Greer's win over Harding was 21-15, 20-21, 11-5 in a match she should have won in two. Harding was not the same bouncy, quick aggressive player who won a month prior — here she looked slow and tired as the match wore on.

Matthews' win over number six Walton was rather routine 21-16, 21-11 as Jan showed the consistency from both forehand and backhand sides to stop Walton, whose star had been on the rise.

Green's besting of Kathy Williams was one of the better played matches of the round as Sarah took the battle 21-19, 21-16, sending Williams back to the drawing boards. Previous reports that Kathy had not made it past the quarters in over a year although untrue, were moot, based on her first round loss.

Sausser and McDonald were both impressive with their respective wins of the round, Sausser 21-12, 21-9 over Rita Hoff and McDonald 21-20, 21-4 over Sue Carow.

Qualifying continues to be a demanding task in the women's game and three who did not qualify included number one amateur seed and former national amateur champ Jan Pasternak losing 21-9, 21-16 to Fran Davis and number two amateur seed Pat Schmidt in a 21-12, 13-21, 11-10 loss to Susie Dugan. Matthews stopped Jean Oeschger in another cliffhanger 21-12, 14-21, 11-10.

Pro Results Women

(First Round): Wright d. Thompson 21-6, 21-10; McDonald d. Carow 21-20, 21-4; Sausser d. Hoff 21-12, 21-9; Steding d. Dugan 21-12, 21-13; Marriott d. Davis 21-12, 21-16; Green d. Williams 21-19, 21-16; Matthews d. Walton 21-16, 21-11; Greer d. Harding 21-15, 20-21, 11-5.

(Quarter-finals): Wright d. McDonald 21-12, 21-10; Sausser d. Steding 21-17, 21-9; Green d. Marriott 21-10, 21-6; Greer d. Matthews 21-10, 21-13.

(Semi-finals): Wright d. Sausser 21-5, 21-7; Greer d. Green 13-21, 21-11, 11-4.

(Finals): Wright d. Greer 21-12, 21-8.

LEACH Classic Thank You's

Southfield Racquettime Center, Southfield, MI, hosted the LEACH Motor City Racquetball Classic which ran from Oct. 25-31. Our thanks go to owners Pat McPharlin, Jack Akey and Dave Josephson for their support of the event and especially for putting together an outstanding tournament management committee.

Tourney director Carol Gray was a rock of Gibraltar in doing all the thankless jobs that tournament directors do. Lori Lucas as floor manager and Barb Tracy were super, along with all the personnel of the Racquettime Center.

And a special thank you to Roger Shockcor, manager of the Racquettime facility, for his enormous help during the week.

In the Men's Amateur divisions Bob Deuster stopped Rick Dern 21-8, 21-16 in the A; Dave Dolinski stopped Jim Cloud in the B 21-3, 21-8; Vince Mack defeated Stephen Schneider 21-9, 21-17 in the C; Paul Reed beat Gerald Ruderman 19-21, 21-11, 11-2 in the Novice; Fred Lewerenz defeated Sam Young in the Seniors 21-9, 21-17; Fred Wiegand stopped Lyn Hahn 21-19, 21-19 in the Masters, and David Matthews beat Manny Nosan 21-18, 21-11 in the Golden Masters.

In Women's Amateur divisions Hope Weisbach defeated Fran Davis 21-20, 21-9 in the A; Lynn Bernadett stopped Jennifer Meyer 21-12, 21-11 in the B; Karen Popiel beat Denise Bozza 11-21, 21-12, 11-5 in the C; and Mary Ann Uznis stopped Martha May 21-10, 21-8 in the Novice.

Colgate Bonus Pool

The Colgate Bonus Pool is a new feature to the 1978-79 professional racquetball tour and is one that by the season's end will be creating as much excitement as the actual tour stops.

As part of its sponsorship of the pro tour, Colgate has initiated the Bonus Pool with a \$75,000 prize money fund, to be distributed at the Grand Finale National Championships in June, 1979.

The fund goes to the top eight men and top five women finishers in Bonus point accumulation during the season prior to the Nationals.

A bonus of \$1,000 is the minimum that a player can receive if he or she qualifies based on performances. The first place prize for men is a whopping \$15,000 and the top woman will receive \$7,000 — the largest single prize in the history of women's racquetball.

Points are awarded at each tournament on the following basis: 50 to the winner; 40 to the runner-up; 20 to each semi-finalist; and 10 to each quarter-finalist. The points are kept in a cumulative total.

So keep your eyes on the Bonus Pool standings. The players sure are!

Colgate Bonus Pool Current Standings

Men	Points
1. Richard Wagner	60
2. Steve Strandemo	50
Marty Hogan	50
Jerry Hilecher	50
5. Davey Bledsoe	40
6. Mike Yellen	30
7. Craig McCoy	20
8. Charlie Brumfield	10
Dennis McDowell	10
David Fleetwood	10
Ben Koltun	10

Women	Points
1. Shannon Wright	70
2. Jennifer Harding	50
Peggy Steding	50
4. Marci Greer	40
5. Sarah Green	30
6. Karin Walton	20
Martha McDonald	20
Jean Sausser	20
Janell Marriott	20
10. Kathy Williams	10
Jan Matthews	10

Letters

Quote of the month:

"National Racquetball is so popular we have to put detection devices on it to keep readers from taking it home."

Joan O'Meara
Highland Park, IL, public library

Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Brumfield

Dear Evie and Bob:

It would take more than this little note to signify my appreciation for all you've done for me and racquetball through the years. It's been a pleasure and an inspiration to watch you through the years, and in my own small way I've tried to graft some of your spirit into my life and work. It didn't surprise me that you were the first to congratulate us on our marriage.

Love and see you soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Brumfield
San Diego, CA

Samantha Thompson Has a Racquet

Dear Evie and Bob:

I received your letter of October 12, along with the special racquet for Samantha. Jim was truly thrilled and is now planning for "their" first game together! We both love it and want to thank you for your genuine thoughtfulness in having it made especially for Samantha.

Mrs. James R. Thompson,
Springfield, IL

Congressional Thanks

Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to acknowledge, with many thanks, receipt of *National Racquetball*. We deeply appreciate your kindness in sending this material to the Library of Congress, and hope you will place us on your regular mailing list.

Nathan R. Einhorn
Washington, D.C.

Mixed Doubles a Mixup

Dear Chuck:

Since mixed doubles is becoming popular, especially on the west coast, it seems that some set rules or guidelines should be made to make the game safer and more consistent. Steve Strandemo's article in your April issue ("*Doubles for Players Who Know What They're Doing*") was a help, but I think we need more.

Couples are encouraged to play in the clubs, which is where they should learn rules before they compete in tournaments. I sincerely hope you at the USRA will consider adding rules for mixed doubles in the rule book.

Linda Siau
Riverside, CA

Mixed doubles rules have been on National Racquetball Editor Chuck Leve's mind, too. See his 22nd Point editorial on page 82. ED.

More to Say About West Virginia University

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Your article, "*Racquetball Arrives on the American Campus*," was a great tribute to the sport of racquetball and its recent popularity on the college campus.

Having just completed a graduate degree in physical education and having taught in that department at West Virginia University for the past three years I find your survey concerning W.V.U. to be somewhat shortsighted at least from my observation. First I believe that the courts were used every hour as written (40) plus more. Consideration must be made to the many intramural tournaments, the state tourney, as well as the racquetball club and open recreation. Under numbers of faculty playing you had no listing. My observations again indicate that all courts at noon hour were reserved for faculty play. Faculty also participated in intramurals and club play. Lastly the class with most players listed only graduate students. Based on the number of racquetball classes offered in the P.E. department, intramural, club, and open play a great number of undergraduate students weren't taken into account.

For more accurate statistics you could contact Dr. Pat Fehl, Dept. General Physical Education, or Dave Taylor, Director of the very fine intramural program, state racquetball director and former state open champion. This all goes to show that racquetball is more popular at this campus than it was given credit for.

John W. Roberts
Belle Harbor, NY

You're right. It was our error not to inform National Racquetball readers that West Virginia University courts are used all 40 hours they're open, and that about 200 faculty members play regularly, as Intramural director Dave Taylor wrote us when he answered our questionnaire. But his answers did list graduate students as the group giving the courts the most use - perhaps they're the players you knew when they were undergraduates. ED.

Racquetball So Big at Brigham Young University, There's No Room for Dad

Dear Carol:

At Brigham Young University in Provo, UT, 35 miles south of Salt Lake City, the 24 courts are full, and there is a two hour period during early morning hours when members of the university staff, including professors, have first call on the court time. That two hours is running to capacity as well.

The court time is so taken that no "civilians" in the community can be accommodated. You must show your BYU student I.D. card when you check in for play . . . in fact both my daughters, Kristin and Kandis, graduated from BYU in December just before we went to Hawaii with The New Oregon Singers. I have been paying for their college for four years there. In June when — on my way to The Nationals in Detroit — I stopped off in Provo to see the girls, we wanted to play a game of racquetball, but because I didn't have a student I.D., and the courts were filled, I couldn't even sign up to wait. An alumni, an annual donating alumni, an alumni paying for the schooling for two daughters — seven years total — and there isn't even one racquetball court for dear old Dad!!



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The courts where Kristin, left, and Kandis Kelly played racquetball were off limits to their father.



That's how much the game has grown, and caught on with the college age group, and I don't mind not getting to play that warmup game. Both my gals are better off for having the use of the courts for quick, but complete physical workouts between classes. It is less time consuming than running, more strenuous than tennis and can fit into a busy college-life schedule.

When there I noticed that probably 40 to 50 percent of the players were the type of young women you would look at to admire. . . . It is as if there is a definite emergence of the intelligent woman athlete who is attractive, athletically graceful and bright. . . . And she is showing up on the racquetball courts!

Bruce Kelly,
Portland, OR

Patients Vote for "Fancher Cup"

Dear Terry:

A brief note of thanks for your interest and efforts in behalf of our Racquetball program here at Patton Hospital. We are in the midst of our largest Intraprogram Singles and Doubles tournament with some mental patients participating. This includes about 70 percent novices who have not had a racquet in their hands until a short time ago.

You would be heartened to see some of the patients who have physical disabilities as well as mental, physically extending themselves to degrees not thought possible by them or us. We have Developmentally Disabled patients who are comparing their "kill" shots with Marty Hogan's. The *National Racquetball* magazines you sent are passed from one to another and read and reread. The Seamco tournament balls you sent were a real prize as they arrived on the second day of play in our tournament.

Now for some news that should please you personally. The various patient Rehabilitation Programs have voted to use a part of their party funds to purchase a trophy to be inscribed "THE FANCHER CUP." This will go the winner of quarterly tournaments. It will be a perpetual award and will be based in our winning programs trophy case.

Your interest and actions were directly responsible for the upsurge in our racquetball program. Again, thank you.

James P. Davis
Patton, CA

Give Most Improved Player a Full Year

Dear Editor:

One of our general goals in racquetball is to eliminate the season concept and promote the game as a year 'round sport. If we want our members to view racquetball in this manner we must set the example. I'm referring to the *National Racquetball* "Most Improved Player of the Year" award. Why should this be awarded based on performance from September, 1978, to June, 1979, thus eliminating the summer months.

Bill Englert Jr.
Pittsburgh, PA

We couldn't agree with you more - racquetball knows no seasons, as evidenced by its enormous popularity in "seasonless" locations like California and Florida. Ending our first most Improved Player for the Year competition in June was just a matter of logistics. The June deadline will give us the opportunity to sort out entries so we can publish a story on the winners in our September issue. National Racquetball operates on a two month lead time, giving us a July 1 deadline for September. The next year (and every year after that) the contest will run from June to June. ED.

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Time To Recognize Mixed Doubles?



This is one of those "I'm not sure, so I'd like your opinion" columns. Several letters have crossed my desk asking why mixed doubles has never been designated as an official game by the USRA. Good question.

Those who have done the asking point out that tennis has long had mixed doubles competition, up to the highest levels, including professionally. The tennis experience, the argument goes, could be easily duplicated in racquetball. Others point out that similar mixed doubles competition occurs in badminton, platform tennis and a variety of other racquet sports.

Besides, the argument continues, mixed doubles is a way of life for many racquetballers, be they husband-wife, boyfriend-girlfriend or four friends. And many racquetball facilities across the land are promoting mixed doubles as an enjoyable means of getting in their court time.

It would seem, therefore, that the time is ripe for mixed doubles.

That being the case the time would also be ripe for legislation on the part of the USRA to provide consistency, standardization and further enjoyment of play in mixed doubles. What I mean is, we've got to set up some rules.

Rule setting is a tricky business. One lesson that I have learned in the evolution of racquetball's rules is that the little people — the average, court time buying, once or twice a week players — must be represented.

That's why I opened this article stating "I'd like your opinion." Who is more qualified to contribute input to our rules on mixed doubles than the players who play the game?

I have in mind some rules that I think should be instituted for mixed doubles play. What I need from you, the reader, are additions, deletions and comments one way or another.

A general guideline would have to be that unless otherwise stated, normal racquetball rules will apply. That would include two serves, scoring only when serving, etc. Mixed doubles would then be treated like any other competition, i.e., it would necessarily follow any changes in the basic rules of the game.

So if we decide to change the rules to allow scoring on any rally (don't hold your breath), mixed doubles would then be scored that way.

What we need, though, are specific rules to cover the normal occurrences of mixed doubles. We need to stop the 230 pound male chauvinist, win-at-all-costs animal from trampling both his female opponent and partner en route to a ball that wasn't his in the first place.

Today's power racquetball style dictates that we protect the beginning female from 130 mile per hour bullets off the racquet of the male server on the opposing team. Nothing could be more intimidating and less fun than somebody blasting a ball at you faster than you can react, especially if you've not been on the court more than a few weeks.

Poaching must be made illegal, for what fun or exercise could there be, when one partner (usually the male) attempts to stick his female partner in the corner and play the whole court — either out of an insane desire to win, or equally ridiculous desire to make a lasting impression with his physical ability? (Usually the lasting impression is the last impression).

Therefore I would like to propose the following rules.

1. That a line be drawn on the court dividing it in two halves drawn from the front wall to the back wall making left and right sides. No player may cross the line to hit a shot if his or her partner is already across the line.
2. That no matter what side of the court the players are in, that male always serve to male and female always serve to female. No player may be forced out of his or her side to return serve. This means that the responsibility of serving to the correct area is that of the server.
3. That all hinders be called exactly as they are in normal doubles play, i.e., the player must move to allow his opponent a clear and unobstructed shot at the ball.

I'm sure there are other rules that could be instituted based on the uniqueness of mixed doubles. Let me hear from you. ●

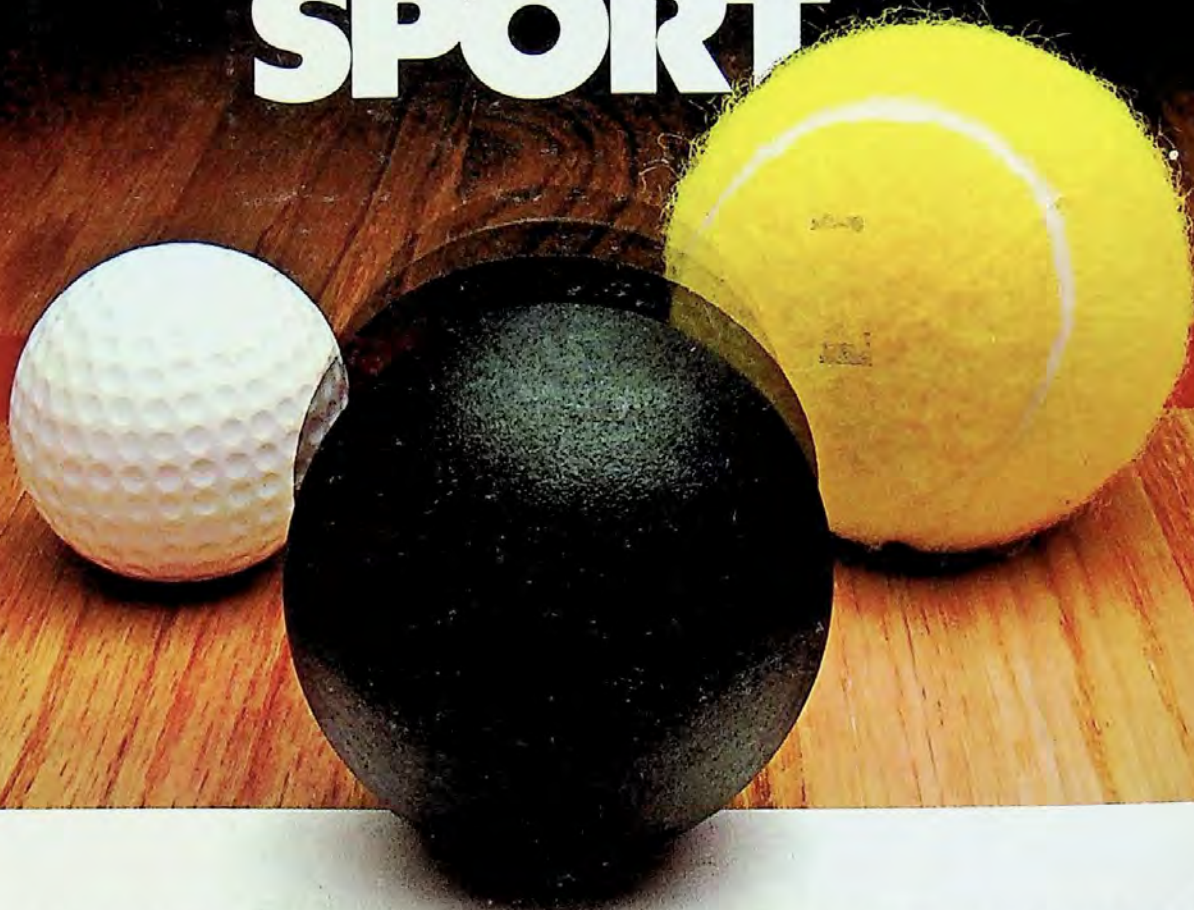


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