

KILLSHOT

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And He's
#1





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If this is so good, why is it giving me a headache?

I, for one, have never heard of a January/February/March issue of a monthly magazine. But, the fact is, without one more combination issue there is no way we were ever going to get to a reasonable schedule. So, the bad news is we are still behind and peddling furiously to keep from dropping back even farther. The good news is--NO!--THE GREAT NEWS IS: Since you have been so patient and understanding (excluding the guy from Michigan who told me I could use my magazine as a --well never mind, that's another story and I still haven't figured out quite how to do it) we are going to do something totally off the wall. (hard to believe, eh?)

For every subscriber, the issues you have received up to now as part of your subscription will be considered FREE! Yeah, I couldn't believe it either, but please hear me out.

Since you have put up with delayed production schedules, lengthy mail waits, and mysteriously non-appearing issues, we want to try to make it up to you. So, all subscriptions will start fresh with the April issue. That means yearly subscriptions, no matter when you bought them, will get 12 issues beginning with the April issue. Two year subscribers will get 24 beginning with April.

I know, it's a little unorthodox, but it is the only way we could figure out how to get back on track and not penalize those who have been so supportive and patient.

We do appreciate our subscribers and hope this will help make up for some of the delays and problems that keep popping up.

Oh yeah, how are we going to pay for this? We haven't exactly figured that part out yet.

Steve Quertermous
Editorial Director

KILLSHOT

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January/February/March 1992

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The official publication of the



life, the universe, and everything

In the beginning, we didn't want to make a lot of claims. We just wanted to show you what we had in mind, then go from there. Now that we've shown you (and you've liked it) we will tell you a little about where we are going. Most of all, the future holds important information, presented with an emphasis on action and personality. Our style is a bit laid back, often out of left field, sometimes quite bizarre. Hang on for the ride!

Instruction:

"If I can learn one practical improvement when I pick up a magazine, then I know it's worth a year's subscription price." - Gerald Lamb, **KILLSHOT** Subscriber

Every issue contains the wisdom of the most well-respected instructional groups.

Steve Strandemo shares years of scrutiny and painstaking analysis in a format that presents the game as a science; no guess work, no grey areas, just how to capitalize on any scenario by really knowing game. Bottom line, you can't get there by guessing. Learn what works, what doesn't and why.

The Dynamic Duo shows you how to find the flaws. Every time you can identify a common error and then go on to correctly resolve it, your game gets better. Noticeably better. In every aspect of the game, these two show not only what's going wrong, but exactly how to fix it. They don't give you trial and error, they give you results.

America's Most wanted share with you for the first time all the little intricacies of the elite game. The reality: with oversize hightech racquets, everyone becomes a potential power player. If you haven't learned to hang with the blasters by

now, you'd better try the techniques these guys use, before it's too late.

Others drop in once in a while too. But no matter who writes the article you like best, you can't just read it and get better. If you do read it, understand it, practice it, then make it a part of your game, every game, you will be better. Much better.

The Pros:

This is the official magazine of the pros for good reason. The playing public deserves to know about the elite players. Before **KILLSHOT**, most players could name only two or three pros. They had no concept of their abilities, and usually saw them only in black and white shaking hands over a trophy. In reality, there are more pro's than ever before turning out a level of play week after week that has never been equaled. Professional racquetball has more

of a direct bearing on recreational play than is the case with most other sports because the game is still so young. The players at the professional level are at the cutting edge. Their innovations at today's pro events are the standard techniques of tomorrow! That's why **KILLSHOT** gives you the information and the pictures from all the stops, and is involved with the new national cable television broadcasts of professional events.

In the 1970's we played cautious, percentage racquetball, until a kid named Marty Hogan taught us that pushing to the limit and going for the throat on every rally held a big payoff. If you were good enough to pull it off, you could turn perceived risks into high percentage situations. In the early 1980's a really gutsy lady named Lynn Adams showed us that you could win a match that you weren't supposed to by turning will power into court power. So far in the 1990's, Pro's with names like Inoue and Doyle have reminded us that a serve should do more than just get the ball into play. Where would the game be without the innovators? You can wait a few years for innovations to come out in a book, or you can learn them now as they develop. That's why the pro game is so vital to the recreational player, and that is why this is the forum for that game.

Just the Pros?

No way man. We are the voice of the pros, but cover all of racquetball. Major events, club trends, international competition, Canadian news, military racquetball, junior events, handicapped tournaments, collegiate programs, and other related topics go into each issue. Now that we have a few subscribers in Japan, South America and Puerto Rico, we will be



Tom Clouser

trying to present news from those areas as well. We will be taking a look at who's playing racquetball among celebrities, other sports figures, and key people in business and industry.

The Right Stuff:

Features such as the holiday shopping guide let you know about all the wonderful toys available today. (In some cases maybe weapons would be the better word.) Articles such as the one this month teach how to maintain today's hightech goodies to get the most from your game.

By Popular Demand:

You have asked about the players and clubs in your neck of the woods and how they stack up with other parts of the country. OK, here goes! Starting with this issue's Home Court section, we'll include real news about real people. While Home Court can never cover everything, it will include a random taste of as much as we can fit in, chosen somewhat randomly, with priority given to people/clubs/areas we haven't covered before. You give us the material and tell us how the feature should develop. Remember, we are more likely to include information accompanied by color photos.(no slides please) Photos submitted become the property of **KILLSHOT**, subject to the usual laws and regulations. Photos will not be returned. Send news to:

KILLSHOT

P.O.Box 8036
Paducah KY 42002-8036

Space simply will not allow us to include everything we receive. If material you submit does not appear in print, please try again so that eventually we can include something from your area.

All in All

We like off the wall quotes from the

players and visible characters. We like humor that leaves you shaking your head wondering if we have no shame. We like crowd shots and cityscapes. We like features with campy titles. We like graphics that are clear and easy to decipher. We like patting someone on the back when he or she does something great. We like being upbeat and positive. We love it when someone buys us lunch. We would really love it if issues would start coming out on the projected release dates.

More importantly, we have learned that you like these things too. You have told us over and over that you like them a lot. That makes us very happy. You see, we've been hoping for quite a while that you would. We wanted to produce a magazine like we would enjoy if we were on the receiving end. Isn't it great when someone comes into your home and says "It's OK to play, it's OK to have heroes, and it's OK to dream"?

The three most important ideas around here these days:

1) Our timing will get better. We are going to do this until we get it right, then keep doing it right for a long long time.

2)Buy products and services advertised in the magazine. These companies have

invested money and planning in something new and positive, not just lipservice.

3) Most importantly: it's OK to play, it's OK to have heroes, and it's OK to dream.

What can we do for you?

Tell us. We read your letters, we often print them, and they collectively help shape the magazine.

What can you do for us?

Spread the word. If your friends don't subscribe, get them to. Ask your club or equipment retailer to sell the magazine. Ask your local library to subscribe.

What can we do together?

Well, have you got a court reserved anytime soon?



All in a day's work. Opposite: Marvin & Steve with Lynn Adams as she "lightens-up" a hectic photo shoot for the Holiday issue. Above right: with Marty Hogan on his ranch in September. Right: A rare shot of Master photog Charlie Palek doing what he does best. Kim and Andy Roberts watch the birdy.

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KILLSHOT

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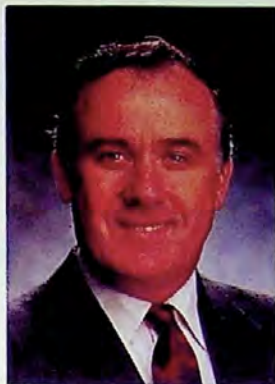
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KILLSHOT is published monthly by Quertermous and Quertermous, Inc. P.O. Box 8036, Paducah, Kentucky 42002-8036. Offices are located at 2320 Broadway, Suite 404 Paducah, Kentucky 42001.

Subscriptions in the U.S. and possessions are \$19.94 for one year, \$39.88 for two years; Canadian subscriptions are \$29.94 for one year; South American subscriptions are \$44.94 for one year; European subscriptions are \$59.94 for one year; Asian subscriptions are \$69.94 for one year. (Foreign subscriptions are due in U.S. funds) Back issues are available for \$4.00 postpaid.

Third-class postage paid at Senatobia, Mississippi. Printed in March 1992 (Volume 2, Number 1).

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Norman, is that you???

Seems like we caused a wee bit o' confusion in the last issue with the photo that accompanied Norm Blum's *30-Something* article. No, that wasn't Normie pictured in the article. It was real live 30-something A-level racquetball player Denver Parman.

Denver met the requirements for the photo, was close by, and is a good sport. It seemed like a winning combination to us.

So, thanks "Big D" for helping us out and thanks to Norm for penning the piece.

Norm's work appears in this issue in the World Juniors story on pages 44-45.



Will the real Norm Blum please stand up? On the left is Norm Blum with his terrific daughter Rachel. On the right is Denver Parman, one of our charter subscribers, who was kind enough to let us shoot him to go with the *30-Something* article that ran in the November/December issue.

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Racquetball

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East

Racquetball East was formed to promote racquetball at the open player level in the eastern region of the United States and Canada. Racquetball East will be associated with the International Racquetball Tour of the Men's Professional Racquetball Association with the purpose of developing players that might wish to compete on the professional level.

For more information and details, call or write: Bob Miano, Commissioner, (508) 851-5141, 11 Morris Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876



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L E T T E R S

CANADIAN QUESTION

Enclosed is my payment for subscription to **KILLSHOT**. I would like to thank you for putting out a magazine that is very informative and enjoyable to read. It is also nice to see that your friendly neighbors up north here are not forgotten. I think we have a good calibre of racquetball here in Canada and it is nice to see that we are getting some recognition in your magazine.

I have just received the combined November/December issue which I am sure will be as well put together as the previous issues. However, I do believe the October issue came out quite late and you did print an apology for the delay and now, we have 2 issues combined into one. I hope a pattern is not being set here and what will this do to subscriptions if we the subscribers are getting one issue every 2 months?

Your comments would be appreciated.

B. Dunbar
Vancouver, BC
Canada

I hope a pattern is not being set here also. You are absolutely right. October was mailed very late. And in order to try to correct the lateness of our schedule we have combined Nov./Dec and Jan/Feb/March. Hopefully we can be back on track by April. Subscribers needn't worry. They will get 12 (or 24) full issues, regardless of the months on the cover. In fact 12 or 24 beginning with the April issue, just to show we are trying.

DISCONTENT

I would like to say that I have enjoyed every issue of your fine magazine. I would like to say that I look forward to its delivery every month. I would like to say all these things and more, but I can't, as I have only received 1 issue of the darn

thing.

I subscribed back in late September to your magazine and received the October issue in early November. I have not received anything since. What gives? In your editorial in the October issue you tell me that things were hard for start up publications, but assured me that "we are not going to run away with" my money. I'm starting to wonder.

By now I should have received the November, December, and January issues. I have not. Please explain the situation to me satisfactorily, or refund my money promptly.

A. Petri, III
Lincoln Park, MI

I was going to say the dog ate my homework but I didn't think you'd go for it. Then I was going to say I dropped the ball because the sun was in my eyes but I didn't think you'd go for that either. So, I guess I really can't come up with a satisfactory explanation. If you want a refund just let us know.

MORE DISCONTENT

On December 9, 1991 I received an October back issue with the enclosed note. I have not seen another magazine since then, not a good sign! Why am I upset about this? I sent in my card in November subscribing to **KILLSHOT**, requesting the subscription to be started from October. It seems that is where it started and finished. For a magazine trying to break new ground, your organization leaves [a] little to be desired. Members at the six local clubs I play at feel the same way after I expressed my situation with your organization. It really is too bad, I enjoy the magazine.

B. Nelson
Hoffman estates, IL

You are right. Inexcusable. We are glad you enjoy the magazine, though.

BACK ISSUES

I received the first issue (November/December 1991) of my subscription today and thoroughly enjoyed the magazine from cover to cover. I

enjoyed it so much that I would like to read the previous three issues to "catch up." If back issues are available, please forward me information on ordering them.

ps: assess the proofreader an "avoidable" for too many typos (smile).

L. Harrell
Houston, TX

What tpoys? For back issues turn to 1 page 36 of this magazine. You will find all the information necessary. Thanks for asking.

Great articles, great photography, great magazine!!! How can I order back issues?

W. Freeman
Cincinnati, OH

Thanks for the kind words. Please see above for back issue information.

AND A LITTLE PRAISE

As former National Rules Commissioner of IRA (AARA), Member of the Board of Directors 1976-79, privy to all RB magazines of that era; *Yours* is the best I've seen. Subscription enclosed.

Leonard Marks
St. Louis, MO

Your input is greatly appreciated. Thanks.

MAIL ORDER BLUES

I'd like to get your magazine but can't because of your policy of accepting mail order advertising. Believe me it hurts the industry. As the industry goes, so does the sport and **KILLSHOT**.

Racquet Master
Iowa City, IA

THANKS FRONTIER!

Credit for the photo of Head Colossus series racquets in last month's Buying Guide should go to Frontier Pro Shop, San Diego, California. The credit line was omitted. The photo was taken from their 1991/92 Sports Equipment Collection Catalog.

RACQUETBALL IN ARUBA?

With bright sunshine, beautiful beaches and clear blue water at their feet, who wants to be indoors on racquetball courts? Twelve real racquetball enthusiasts, that's who! From December 5 through December 12, Fran Davis held the first annual racquetball camp in Aruba at the Cabana Beach Resort and Racquet Club.

Fran along with her assistants, Chuck Gates and Lorraine Schimmenti, prepared a week to remember! Each day was filled with on court training, drills, lectures, video tape analysis, individual instruction and consultation, yet still leaving plenty of time for fun in the sun, snorkeling, sight seeing, and of course the casinos! Thanks to Fran, I'm not only improving on the court, I now know how to play Black Jack!

The on court training involved learning the basics with each of us participating. The lectures were outstanding. Fran and Chuck addressed in further detail all of the basics as well as the importance of mental preparation. They dealt with goal setting and the methods for

achieving these goals. Nutrition was covered as it is an important aspect of any sport.

The video tape analysis not only allowed Fran to critique our games, but we could critique each other, thus enabling us to benefit from other points of view.

No other camp that I've been to has had personal consultations in such detail. Fran and Chuck talked with each of us to help us plan a personal training schedule. They also helped us set short term as well as long term goals and explained how to reach these goals.

Although the twelve campers came from all over the United States and Puerto Rico, our week together brought us very close. We shared a great love for



racquetball and a strong desire to improve our games and our lives. Even off the court we spent time together forging friendships and bonds that will not be easily broken.

In my opinion, Fran Davis is without a doubt the most enthusiastic, knowledgeable and professional instructor in racquetball today!

G. Epp
Columbus, OH

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M a l i a Bailey

Suddenly finding herself at the top of the WPRA rankings, Malia Bailey of Norfolk Virginia (formerly Malia Kamahoahoa of Honolulu) exhibits a delicate blend of shyness and confidence. Almost seeming surprised to be playing so well at recent pro stops, she has finally begun to realize her potential as a professional player.

quiet consistency

Crediting her success to a strong focus on consistency, Malia now begins the task of finding the edge that will allow her to remain in the top two in the world. While more concerned with her own game, she must also look for the achilles heel to assault when an injured number one returns.

By Marvin Quertermous
Photographs by Charlie Palek

Q: How did you get started playing racquetball?

MB: Well, my brother and his friends started playing in Hawaii. We had outside courts there, not in a club, but on a Marine base. He and his friends used to go and play at 10:00 PM and come home around 1:00 AM. I thought that sounded like fun so I started going with them. I had a job on the base when I was in college,

and my boss played racquetball. We would play at lunch or after work with some of the Marines. Marines are known to be basically tough and competitive so the competition was pretty tough. I kept playing and after a couple of years, a friend of mine entered me in a tournament.

Q: How long have you been playing nationally as an open player?

MB: Since 1983. My first AARA tournament was in Buffalo, New York. I lost in the semifinals. I guess that was when I first started at the national level. I continued to play after that. During that first tournament I was a member of the US team as an alternate and that was exciting too! That was encouragement and motivation to keep on playing. But, I just played on the amateur level until about three years ago.

Q: Have you always been involved in other sports - growing up?

MB: Actually, this is pretty much the first

thing I've been involved with. I played some organized sports in high school - softball, basketball, and a little tennis, but nothing really actively. My father died when we were really young so we had to be responsible for ourselves at home. I've been working since I was 15, so I had a part time job during school and didn't have time for a lot of other things. Racquetball really is the first sport I've taken seriously.

Q: What do you do now to train for racquetball?

MB: In the last couple of years I've gotten into weight lifting. There's a guy here that has helped me with training and into a weight routine. I've really enjoyed it. Actually in the first few months that I was doing it, I thought, Oh, I can't wait until I see results. It took about three months to see results. When I saw the results, that kept me going. I also have a cardio-vascular program. I think I need to up it a little. I tend to like to do the weights and actually get on the court and practice and play more than doing the cardio-vascular workout. I know better. In a tough match, that cardio-vascular conditioning can make all the difference. It's just so much easier to concentrate on the things I like doing and can see definite improvement in.

Q: What does your cardio-vascular workout involve?

MB: I do the Stairmaster about 40 minutes a day or ride the bicycle about 40 minutes a day. But, I think that there is more that I should be doing. It seems that I have only so much time between working, trying to workout, and practicing my racquetball. I tend to cut corners and sometimes it shows. When I get tired on the court, I can tell that I haven't been doing my cardio-



vascular workout as much as I should.

Q: Do you do drills on the court everyday?

MB: I do drills about four times a week for a couple of hours. I really enjoy my drill work out. When I first started drilling by myself I didn't enjoy it because there was nobody else there. Now I've made it a game for myself. Now I enjoy working out by myself. My making a game of it makes it much more fun and interesting and something that I even look forward to. I never thought that would happen.

Q: Is that what you would suggest for somebody else that is just starting out and trying to do these drills that are so boring? Make it a game, somehow?

MB: Yes it is. There's nothing worse than trying to do something that you're not finding fun. That's the way it is for me, maybe not for anyone else. If you're not having fun, it's hard to have a purposeful workout. So, you make it fun and make goals for yourself while you're on the court. I think a lot of people confuse making these little goals with making future goals [like] "I want to be #1", or "I want to beat that person" But, there are miniature goals anytime you step on the court, whether it is by yourself or with another player.

Q: Do you do a lot of work on the mental aspects of the game?

MB: That's a big question. I think it's very important to practice your mental game as well as your physical game. I really haven't learned how to do it right-I don't think. I try. I'll visualize certain things that I've been taught. I have read about how to visualize yourself on the court when you're hitting the ball a certain way and recapture that moment when you play. I think that is very important. We all forget that it's something we do need to practice. A lot of people think that it just comes to you. Maybe it comes more easily to others,

but we all need to practice. I don't think I practice it as much as I should.

Q: Right now that's the thrust of a lot of the players' training --trying to master that part of the game. I'd like to go back to what you were saying about 'making it a game' drill work. How do you do that?

MB: I set cans in several different places on the court.

Q: Ball cans?

MB: Right. Racquetball cans. I try to hit those cans with certain shots or serves, or practice the angles. I do try to hit the can, but what I'm looking for is the angle or the general area where the can is located. If it's a good shot, I'll count how many shots I think I could win points, or an ace, or a good serve that would elicit a poor return. I'll make a note that for that particular shot I can hit 15 out of 25 good shots. So I can just work from there and try to make the percentages higher. That is what I do. I get teased a lot for having all those cans on the court. But it really does work.

Q: The WPRA has started doing that - at events, having people come on the court from the crowd and try to hit the cans. I tried to do it and I learned it's a lot harder than you would think. In trying to hit the can, I was aiming for a much smaller target. In practice, I would accept a shot which would hit generally in the area I wanted it to. In a game situation against a player that was a little weaker, maybe that would be good enough, but against a stronger player, I needed the more precise

shot.

MB: That's exactly right! That's how I feel and if you can hit the can, you're going to become more consistent. Another thing - the cans are pretty short. I have been told, (and I tend to argue until I see videos) that I don't bend my knees and I don't really let the ball drop like a conventional racquetball player is supposed to. So, I use the height of the cans as a kind of sight for hitting low shots. When I get back on the court and am playing a match, I guess I still don't let the ball drop or bend my knees, but I'm working on that.

Q: So it's making you go for the low boards more often.

MB: Exactly



Q: I don't think you bent your knees in Atlanta.

MB: I know. One time, Jim Carson told me, "you never bend your knees and you have the shortest stroke on the tour besides Mary Dee." I begged to differ so he showed me. We were looking at pictures and I said, "Oh, here's a picture where I'm bending my knees!" He said, "No, you're jumping in the air!" I guess I don't. I get a little frustrated when I watch myself on tape. I feel like I'm bending my knees and I feel like I'm playing hard, but when I watch the tape of myself, that just doesn't look like the same person I felt like when I was playing.

Q: You mentioned Jim Carson. Have you worked quite a bit with Jim or was that just an observation from him?

MB: Oh no, this was an observation. I don't know if he was teasing me or not. I get lots of comments like that.

Q: Do you have any formal coaches? I know your husband is a pretty accomplished player too.

Do you work out together?

MB: Sometimes Jim (Bailey) and I will drill together. We really don't play together as far as games or keep score because we're both too competitive. It usually ends up in an argument, so we try not to do that. We do drill together and do a serve and service return and play out the point, but we won't keep score. In fact, we're scheduled to play each other at the very end of our local league. If it comes down to whoever wins the league between us then we'll play. If we don't have to play, then we won't. Neil Shapiro has been working with me quite a bit and he's been a real help with my game. I think it's because he does not ask me to change. I know a lot of people will say, "well, you should change this or you should change that", but Neil asks me to improve or work with my style of game and I think it really helps. We've been working together for about a year and a half and I don't feel as though I'd better change my whole game.

Q: Neil is the director for the Intercollegiate program...

MB: Neil Shapiro, yes.

Q: He's in New York, you're in Virginia. How do you find time when you can work together?

MB: Well, I guess a lot of the time we correspond through the mail or by the telephone. It is hard working that way and I know he gets frustrated with

me because he wants me to be a little bit more explicit and detailed as far as my workout is concerned: what shots I'm working on, where I'm having trouble. I guess I'm a little too general. So he'll call and ask me questions. It's difficult and I think it would be a lot easier if he were here

to actually watch me. He was a big help last year in Philadelphia when I got to my first final on the tour. He helps tremendously when he can work with me in person.

Q: With Lynn [Adams] retiring this year, Caryn [McKinney] out for at least the rest of the season, and then Michelle [Gilman] getting hurt, you are suddenly at the top of the WPRA. What do you see for the rest of the year? Are you going to be able to hold on to that #1 spot?

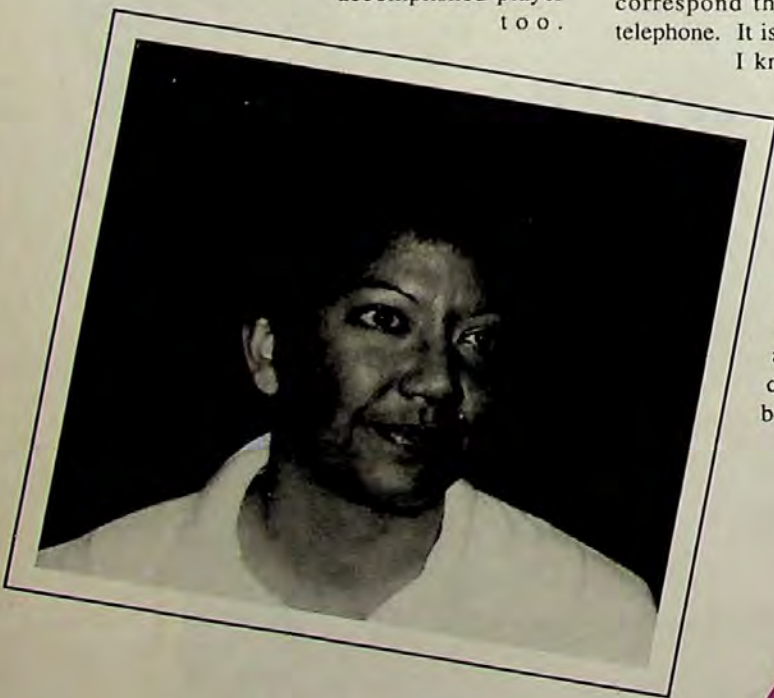
MB: When I went to Atlanta and saw my name listed as #1, I got really scared and nervous. I'm not really good at being in the limelight. When I was playing Toni [Bevelock] in Santa Anna and was on the verge of winning, I was thinking, "Wow, I could win this, then I'd have to make a speech." You know, that started running through my mind. I kept telling myself, "Don't even think about it, if I have to do it, I have to do it! But seeing my name at the top really did make me think about, you know, if I work hard and stay consistent, I could stay up there! I don't want to say that it has never been my goal, but I guess I never thought that goal would be a reality. All of sudden it is and I don't know how to feel about it yet.

Q: You say that with a lot of enthusiasm, as though just maybe it wouldn't be so bad. Do you think you could get used to the attention?

MB: I think I could get used to knowing that I was as good as I could be, but you could keep all the attention. I just want to know that I'm winning in the competition against myself.

Q: You use the word "consistent" pretty often, is that an important idea for you, to stay consistent?

MB: It's very important. I am not playing at the level that I want to be if I am not playing consistently. I have to be able to



maintain at a high level before I can say that I have achieved that level.

Q: You've been moving in that direction for some time now. You had to think that as the wins kept coming you had a shot at the top spot. Especially with success on the national team and a strong showing at the WPRA nationals last year.

MB: Well, I tried not to focus on it, just to focus on improving and being more competitive each match. My immediate goal had to be to excel in the match I was playing.

Q: What is a long term goal for you right now? What do you see for yourself, ideally, coming up?

MB: That's something that I haven't thought much about. It usually hasn't been to be #1. It wasn't NOT to be #1, but I just never thought that it was possible. I think my goal is to be able to compete at the top level and just continue to compete there consistently. To know that I can do it. To play the best that I know how to play. I just want to maintain consistency, not so much to concentrate on winning as far as being #1, but to know that I will win if I play well. I'm trying to concentrate more on playing well and being consistent.

Q: Then the wins just sort of happen?

MB: Exactly.



Interview

KILLSHOT

M a l i a



Vax Splatt!



By Mike Ceresia
Photos by Stan Badz

Kachtik picks the
platter clean in
Jacksonville

To set the stage for the seventh annual St. Vincent's First Coast Classic, we have to start long before the tournament actually began. To say that the prospect of playing a TransCoastal IRT stop in Florida in mid December had the pros excited would be a gross understatement. The warm climate, the "feel" of the Racquetpower club, and knowledge and enthusiasm of the Florida crowd all contributed to the "pump". If the Woodfield Club in Chicago has the legacy and excitement of Comiski Park, and the Multnomah Club in Portland has the size and amenities of the Astro Dome, then Racquetpower has the unmistakable uniqueness of the Boston Garden. Where else would you find the combination of parquet floors and three wall glass?

Round of Thirty-Two

Sad to say, I was on the receiving end of the only upset in the round of thirty two. Falling to national intercollegiate champ Tim Sweeney in a tough four, I can only say that being upset by some one of Sweeney's caliber is the only consoling factor. As everyone on the tour knows, if Sweeney were in a position to commit full-time to the tour, he is definite top 10 material. Should I then feel better about the loss?

Other interesting match-ups included a tough five between Texan Mike Guidry and New Mexico's Louis Vogel; (You'll be seeing plenty more of both names.) as well as a hard-fought comeback by Dave Sable against the hard-hitting Vince Kelley.

Home-state heroes Jason Waggoner and James Lorello also fell this round, leaving only Woody Clouse to represent the sunshine state.

Round of Sixteen

Brian Hawkes came from a 9-0 deficit in his match-up with "technician-supreme" Jack Newman to post an amazing 12-10 victory. Proving to be one tough match this year, Californian Hawkes pressed on for the match in a close straight three. Surprisingly, Hawkes, considered until recently to have one of the weaker backhands actually "out-backhanded" one of the toughest on tour.

Crowd favorite Ruben Gonzalez took Sweeney to a tough five. Sweeney

Drew Kachtik

11-9, 11-3, 9-11, 9-11, 11-7

Brian Hawkes

SEMIS

Kachtik d. Yellen

11-7, 11-6, 2-11, 11-4

Hawkes d. Obremski

11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 11-4

QUARTERS

Yellen d. Roberts

11-4, 11-5, 4-11, 11-5

Kachtik d. Sweeney

11-5, 11-3, 11-7

Obremski d. Doyle

5-11, 6-11, 11-3, 11-6, 11-9

Hawkes d. Ray

11-5, 14-12, 11-5

SIXTEENS

Roberts d. Evans

11-5, 11-5, 10-12, 6-11, 11-5

Yellen d. Hogan

7-11, 11-8, 11-9, 8-11, 11-7

Kachtik d. Guidry

11-1, 11-7, 1-11, 11-5

Sweeney d. Gonzalez

10-12, 11-9, 11-1, 9-11, 11-7

Doyle d. Clouse

11-7, 5-11, 13-11, 11-2

Obremski d. Johnson

11-8, 11-9, 11-2

Hawkes d. Newman

12-10, 12-10, 11-9

Ray d. Sable

11-9, 12-10, 11-6

appeared in control forcing Gonzalez to play "opportunity racquetball" throughout the match. In the fifth, Sweeney proved that he's not just a power player anymore by lob-serving his way to a 11-7 victory.

Predictably, the most interesting match of the round came in from veterans Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen. Just as intense against each other as in past national championships, these two may never call a truce. Neither is willing to give up any ground to new-comers any more than to each other. In fact, pumped up by the solidity and success of the IRT, Hogan started his season amazingly fit and fast. Playing only select stops, Hogan has the uncanny ability to "drop in" bringing with him his super-human drive and focus. (and his way with the crowds). What's gotten into Yellen this season

is anybody's guess since he has once again become one of the most feared opponents on the tour. Entering the court like he owns it, Yellen's ice cold stare is as intense as ever and his play is unmatched. Yellen's drive serve (that's right I said drive serve) and well timed short-hops made the difference here. In the end it was Yellen in five.

In other action this round, Oregon's Jeff Evans gave top seed Andy Roberts a run for his money. Guidry forced fellow Texan Drew Kachtik into a fourth game, but no farther. Clouse and Tim Doyle tried to blast the plaster off the walls before Doyle prevailed in four. Dave Johnson capable of a far better showing seemed

to break for lunch early as Obremski pressed for the win in a quick three. At the bottom of the draw, #2 seed Mike Ray had little trouble in retiring Sable in three straight.

Quarter Finals

In the first of three upsets, Hawkes drilled Ray in three straight. Hawkes, maybe the hungriest player on tour, kept shooting to Ray's right side backhand.

Ray's "seldom-miss" forehand pinches were constantly left up for Hawkes' quick kills. Ending game two; Ray, by now desperate, actually dove head-first for a Hawkes pass.

Amidst gasps of amazement

from the crowd (normally one can only see Ray dive when there is a pool involved) Hawkes captured the rally, the game, and soon the match.

Doyle ripped Obremski with his serve and shoot game to take a two game lead. Obremski responded by capturing the next two with a party mix of straight lobs, three quarter Z's to the backhand and his famous side-front splats. At 9-9 in the breaker, Doyle returned a straight lob to his backhand with a flat reverse pinch rollout. On the next point, Obremski matched the feat with a head-high backhand splat winner which he later admitted he never saw in the tough three-wall glass court. Two long rallies later and Obremski was in the Semi's.

Yellen and Roberts hooked-up for a



Kachtik was in true form as he systematically worked his way through the pack at Jacksonville's Racquetpower.







rematch of their 12-10 tiebreaker final in Riverside California. Roberts just never seemed to look right somehow in this court or in this match. Yellen played

the pinches to perfection as Roberts skipped a ton of balls for the loss in four.

The last quarter pitted Kachtik against Sweeney. Sweeney's only consistent shot in the entire match was straight into the floor. The match everyone had been waiting for was over in twenty minutes.

1991's Amateur Nationals and Intercollegiate champ, Tim Sweeney lost to Kachtik in the quarters after taking out Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Ceresia in earlier rounds.



Semi Finals

Kachtik came to play against Yellen and was determined to keep the momentum and the edge. Only able to gain control in game three, Yellen consistently delivered "just-miss" pinches and passes which served as near set-ups for the speeding Kachtik. Kachtik did what he set out to do and advanced in four.

Hawkes and Obremski replayed their Toronto match. Hawkes never let up as Obremski played as though there were a two foot high squash tin on the front wall. In the end, Hawkes posted a convincing four game win.

Final

Kachtik was able only to squeeze by a much-improved and determined Hawkes in five tough games. The match was a plain and simple war with both players crashing into walls and diving for impossible gets. Hawkes unleashed missiles but Kachtik's well deserved reputation as being the king of the re-kill gained him the edge in the end.

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That's Fahrvergnugen, Pardner

**Andy Roberts terminates the pack to capture the first
VCI stop in a futuristic Dallas shoot-out**

By Mark Henry

They say that everything is bigger in Texas and no one in racquetball can argue after record numbers of pros and fans from throughout the Southwest converged on the beautiful North Dallas Athletic Club for the first stop on the most prestigious series in racquetball history. V.W. Credit Inc's VCI Credit Cup features three stops this season: Dallas, New York, and Los Angeles. In addition to the \$15,000 prize money the pros will battle for, each VCI stop is televised nationally.

Andy Roberts continued his tremendous season by terminating all the competition in Dallas including a thrilling final over hometown favorite Drew Kachtik. The final was a great match with enough contact to almost force Roberts to take on the role of The Terminator to survive a body crunching Kachtik and a hostile standing room only crowd. But the matches were just part of the show in Dallas. It included a media blitz from television and newspaper that lasted throughout the event, pro clinics, wheelchair exhibitions, and even ex-pitching great Doyle Alexander hitting the court for an exhibition. The Texas fans are unique; they pick their favorites and then flock to their matches and root as if at a football game. With a Texas contingent that included Kachtik, Aaron Katz, Mike Guidry, Todd O'Neil, and Doug Eagle, they had plenty to cheer about. As if this weren't enough, everywhere the fans turned they could see present and past

legends. Past National Champions Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen, and the Peck brothers, Dave and Gregg were all in Dallas for the VCI kickoff.

Round of Thirty-two

There was electricity in the air Thursday morning as the players arrived for the first round matches. They found enthusiastic crowds already filling the stands not wanting to miss a point! The 32's provided no upsets but did give fans a glimpse of past and future stars. The Peck brothers drew huge crowds as Dave took on #3 Tim Doyle in a battle of past vs present. It was an exciting match taken by Doyle in four as he showed off his monster serve. Peck's best weapon was the professional 1-serve rule which gave Doyle no second chance in launching his rockets.

Peck, always dramatic on the court, took full advantage by yelling to the crowd "I

Andy Roberts

11-8, 11-13, 11-3, 11-6

Drew Kachtik

SEMIS

Kachtik d. Ray

12-10, 0-11, 12-10, 11-4

Roberts d. Johnson

7-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-0

QUARTERS

Kachtik d. Newman

11-4, 11-6, 12-10

Ray d. Gonzalez

3-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-3

Johnson d. Doyle

11-8, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7

Roberts d. Yellen

11-7, 11-8, 3-11, 11-9

SIXTEENS

Kachtik d. Sweeney

11-6, 11-4, 11-7

Newman d. Hogan

11-7, 11-8, 11-10

Gonzalez d. Guidry

11-7, 11-7, 11-4

Ray d. Katz

11-9, 11-6, 11-7

Doyle d. Clouse

11-9, 11-2, 4-11, 11-4

Johnson d. Obremski

11-2, 11-3, 9-11, 11-4

Yellen d. Hawkes

2-11, 11-9, 11-4, 11-8

Roberts d. Lorello

11-9, 11-0, 7-11, 11-9



love this new rule!" every time Doyle faulted.

One Peck down, one to go, as Gregg took on #2 Roberts. Roberts is becoming known as the Terminator because of the cold calculating way he goes through opponents and this tournament proved no exception. Peck

Top: Former National Champ Gregg Peck made a rare IRT appearance.

Right: View from the North Dallas Athletic Club's three-tiered gallery of the Robert's Kachtik final.

Marianne Bellinger

played well, but found Roberts would not be denied. Despite being out of the pro draw early, the Pecks would both be heard from throughout the weekend with Gregg winning the Opens and Dave doing clinics and the color commentary for the finals telecast.

Elsewhere in the 32's, there were some brutal matches featuring some of the rising stars on the IRT Tour. The best match saw Memphis' Scott Reiff, a tour rookie, take on the tour's oldest player Ruben Gonzalez. Reiff took the two hour match to the fifth game and showed a strong all around game before bowing out 11-4 in the fifth. Watch Reiff for some major upsets as the season continues.

Florida's Jason Waggoner took tour veteran and tournament director Aaron Katz to five before losing 11-9 in a match where every point was an all out war. Jason has quickly developed a following among fans this year, but had to battle both Katz and half of Texas at this event.

Both Oregon stars fell this round but in much different fashion. Jeff Evans, a seasoned tour player and always a contender lost a tough five-gamer to Texas' own Mike Guidry after being up two games to one. Portland dynamo Vince Kelley having

spent his rookie year moving up the rankings ran into a brick wall in Dallas. Kelley was mercilessly blown out by Woody Clouse in three straight games. The best comeback of the round was #4 Mike Ray. He has had a disappointing year to this point and found himself down to Tony Jelso from New Mexico two games to one. Jelso's great athletic ability makes him both a treat for fans and a threat to any opponent. Never out until the final bell, however, Ray bounced back for the 11-4 win in the breaker.

Toronto pro stop winner Brian Hawkes struggled to a tough four game victory over another of the Texas clan, Todd O'Neil. Both matches featuring closely ranked players turned into quickies. #16 Tim Sweeney took out #17 Mike Ceresia in three games in a repeat of Jacksonville and #18 James Lorello easily beat #15 Dave Sable.

The most interesting match-up of the 32's was #6 Dan Obremski and Canada's #1 player Sherman Greenfeld. Greenfeld is a great talent who, in his only other appearance this season, was up 8-4 over Kachtik but couldn't hold the lead. This was the players pick as the best match early but Obremski came out strong and never let up winning in four games. Probably the most unpredictable shot selectors on the tour, these two provided some very interesting action until Obremski's go-for-





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broke gets and aggressive offense gave him the edge. Watch for Greenfeld to settle in for some big wins with his very diverse game plan as he focuses on the second half of the IRT tour.

Round of Sixteen

Every match is always interesting as personalities and game styles clash in the 16's. The North Dallas crowd was pumped-up as Team Texas hit the courts trying to take another step towards the finals. First up was #12 Guidry taking on #5 Gonzalez. Two of the best divers on the tour began hitting the floor with Gonzalez looking like a machine as he took the match in an easy three. Guidry usually looks better losing a match than most players do in winning. Look for him to turn the tide more often in coming months.

Next up was #13 Katz and #4 Ray. Ray, having survived his first round scare from Jelso, chewed up an obviously tired Katz in three straight. That meant the Texas fans were down to their last hope and he wouldn't let them down. #1 Kachtik was up against #16 Sweeney. Sweeney is one of the best servers on tour but can't seem to get it going whenever he plays Drew. With the crowd hooting and hollering after every diving get by Kachtik,

Sweeney went down in three easy games.

The last 16 in the top half of the draw featured racquetball legend Marty Hogan against #9 Jack Newman. Five years earlier Newman had pulled a huge upset in Dallas defeating Hogan. The result was the same this time as Newman used his incredible pinching game to control Hogan and win in three.

The bottom half of the draw didn't have any Texas players but the crowd got their money's worth from all the matches. #3 Doyle took out #14 Clouse in four. Doyle's awesome drive serves forced Woody to start every rally on the defensive. Clouse hung in with some great diving gets but Doyle's game seemed to be coming together as the rounds progressed.

California's Dave Johnson, #11, prepared for #6 Obremski in the most athletic match of the 16's. Both players can hit any shot and make it look easy and have unbelievable speed and court coverage. Johnson, who has had an up and down year, started out hot. Obremski appeared drained from his earlier match and couldn't muster enough offense as he went down in four games.

#10 Mike Yellen, coming off two strong tournaments, dealt out his trademark control offensive against #7 Hawkes. Hawkes, whose serve and forehand are two of the most feared weapons on the tour, blasted to an easy first game win. Yellen over the last couple of months seemed to have a renewed confidence and he began hitting passes and pinches with precision to capture the next three games.

The last Round of 16 match was #2 Roberts against #18 Lorello. Lorello has a unique game style and determination that makes him a threat to all the top players. Roberts did

have trouble but won in four close games. Lorello is just inches away from a breakthrough tournament.

Quarterfinals

By the time the quarters were ready to go on Saturday afternoon, each of the eight players left felt he should win the tournament. Reaching the quarters is the cut off point for a lot of players to feel like the weekend was a success. This wasn't true of any of the remaining eight who all were determined to be crowned champion. With three levels of seats full of spectators, Gonzalez and Ray kicked off the action. Ray was adamant about getting revenge for a semifinal loss earlier in the year in Toronto to his close friend Gonzalez. Gonzalez began the match with some patented diving gets and he and the crowd were psyched up as he won the first easily. But Ray was determined not to have another disappointing showing. In the second he began to take control and kill his automatic forehand from all parts of the court. He took the second and third games and the writing was on the wall. Ray closed it out in four games looking strong and heading for the semi's.

The next match had the California feel with frequent practice partners Johnson and Doyle squaring off. Despite the Southern California flavor this match was anything but laid back! When these two play you get a little of everything; great shots, diving gets, and some trash talking. Last time they played in Stockton, Johnson upset Doyle in a match that had players, referee, and spectators toe to toe. This time the fireworks were just on the court as both players came out smoking. They split the

Top: One of Drew Kachtik's diving kills against Mike Ray.

Right: Tim Sweeney and Kachtik in the early rounds.

Aaron Butler



first two games, then Doyle appeared to get frustrated with his inability to take control of the match. Johnson mixed solid, mistake-free play and great court coverage to go to 2-0 against Doyle this season.

The crowd was anxious to see their hero Kachtik, but first they were treated to another excellent match between Roberts and Yellen. The two played in the previous two stops splitting the matches and this promised to be a battle of control against power. Roberts won the first two games using a strong serve and backhand kills from the backcourt. Yellen fought his way back into the match with a typical display of perfect passes and frontcourt dominance. The crowd was with the "old timer" Yellen but Roberts was back on his game and killing the ball from backcourt for the four game victory.

Kachtik entered the court to chants of "Drew! Drew! Drew!" for the match the crowd had come to see. Kachtik and Newman figured to be an exciting match with Drew's court coverage and Newman's famous pinches. The crowd erupted every time Kachtik did anything right (and that was often) as he swept to easy wins in the first two games. But, as everyone began to think about the Kachtik-Ray semi, Newman wouldn't quit. The third game was a back and forth that finally ended 45 minutes later with a 14-12 Kachtik victory.

Semi-finals

With the Cowboys not in the playoffs and the Mavericks in shambles, it seemed as if all of Dallas was trying to get a seat for the semi's. Leading off was Roberts and Johnson in a match of power and concentration against grace and speed. Johnson used drive serves and reverse kills to keep Roberts off balance and win the first game. It is pretty much a rule on the tour not to let Johnson get the first game because when his confidence builds, he can't be stopped. But Roberts stayed cool and focused and began to wear Johnson down forcing mistakes and splatting his forehand for rollouts. He became a steamroller and there was no way Johnson could stop him. He tried every serve and shot he knew but seemed to lose heart after the third game giving Roberts a four game win and a spot in the finals.

The sell out crowd was hanging over each other filling the bleachers and three other levels of viewing at North Dallas as Kachtik and Ray approached the court. Ray

smiled as the crowd stood and the Drew chant began. This was going to be a tough match for players and crowd. This match was not going to disappoint anyone as the electricity could be felt in the air before the first ball had been hit. Ray vs. Kachtik is always a great match for the spectators because of their differing styles. Anytime Drew plays the rallies will be long and the diving gets will be phenomenal. The first game took over 30 minutes as they battled to 10-10. Kachtik hit two diving kills that drove the crowd into a frenzy. They quickly settled down as Ray established his forehand in game two and Kachtik seemed worn out from the beginning. Ray won, 11-0 to even the match and everyone watched with abated breath to see who would seize control. The answer was no one as once again they battled to 10-10. It was Kachtik who would win out 12-10 to take a 2-1 lead in games. This time it was Ray who didn't seem to recover as he skipped ball after ball. Kachtik seemed to get stronger winning in four games.

Finals

When it snows in Dallas you know you are in for an interesting day. It turned out to be just that and more. As 7:00 pm

drew near the preparation was already in full gear. VIPs including president John O'Green of VW Credit flew into Dallas for the finals. It seemed the only problem the tournament created was a lack of room for the match. Every ticket was sold and over 700 spectators squeezed-in to see Kachtik and Roberts battle for the title.

The importance of the match was evident immediately as both players appeared to be on edge throughout the match. The Texas crowd was once again going crazy for Kachtik in a match that contained an unbelievable amount of body contact. The contact culminated in Kachtik running over Roberts while hitting him full blast with his racquet. This collision almost brought the players to blows and the referee had to step in to take control. After this collision even the crowd, expecting a fight between the players, turned on Kachtik.

Following the altercation Kachtik seemed up tight and did not play well during the rest of the match. Roberts captured his second stop of the season and regained the #1 Ranking. But see it for yourself. The finals will be on Prime Network with the first showing on March 2 at 12 noon. Check local listings for Prime Network affiliates and repeat showings.

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Advanced Stroke Mechanics:
**Do It Like
The Pros Do**
The Forehand

By Aaron Katz

If there is one weakness I see when watching amateurs view the pros it is a focus on the pros' outstanding athletic ability. And although that is fun to watch, many players would benefit more by watching the fundamentals of the pros. For while most of us will never be able to hit a diving re-kill while parallel to the ground like Marty Hogan or retrieve the unretrieveable like Ruben Gonzalez, some of the basic fundamentals that the pros use are aspects of the game that we all should be able to incorporate.

The Forehand

To develop the proper forehand mechanics for maximum power and control some fallacies need to be dispelled. The first one is "get your racquet up, and high". When I first started playing I was told this time and time again. Very few of the pros begin their forehand stroke with the racquet any higher than the head. Rather you will notice on all the best forehands, Brett Harnett, Mike Ray, Tim Doyle, etc. the focus during the prepared position is with

the elbow high (at least equal to the racquet, normally higher. See photo 1.) This allows maximum elbow drive and extension which is crucial to a flat and powerful wrist snap at contact. When the racquet is held high (see photo #2) the elbow will lead in on the body, limiting your extension and lead to the more inconsistent, short and chopping stroke. Another prepped position that I often see is that of putting the racquet behind the head. Once again, this will greatly impair the proper extension of the elbow at contact.

So, if you have been told that the "butt" of the racquet is a camera lens, taking a picture of your back foot, take a look at the pros clarification.

The second fallacy is that of the point of contact. The myth that you should contact the ball off the front toe on the forehand

Left: Photo #4. Contacting the ball too far forward with the momentum of the stroke rather than the power portion.

Far left: Photo #5. The proper point of contact.





Photo #1. The correct prepared position.

Photo #2. Racquet too high.



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**Photo #3
Racquet
behind the
head.**

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Joel Robertson

Drew's Bad Day

Even at the professional level some matches are filled with frustration and tension. The pressure of the game is reflected in his every move and expression as Drew Kachtik works through a really tough match in Toronto.

Inoue Out for Season

Egan Inoue has officially announced that his knee injury from the Riverside stop will keep him out for the remainder of the IRT season.

SHORT SERVES

How Do They Do That?

The **KILLSHOT** look-of-amazement goes to Mary Lyons, Aaron Metcalf and their team at Racquetpower in Jacksonville, Florida for hosting not one but two world-class racquetball events in a two week period! When most tournament directors shy away from the task of putting on even one large tournament, these folks hosted an IRT pro stop along with a large amateur draw and the Bi Rak It national championships. Then they turned around two weeks later and put on the Junior World Championships. What's more, they did an extremely professional job of each and did it right in the midst of the holidays!

Bailey Signs with ProKennex

John Weaver, vice president of sales and marketing for Marty Hogan Racquetball division of ProKennex has announced the addition of Malia Bailey to the professional playing staff.

Bailey, currently the second-ranked player on the Women's Professional Racquetball Association tour has been a touring professional since 1989. She reached the semifinal round of five events in 1990 and challenged Lynn Adams for the championship of the WPRA tournament in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. An accomplished doubles player, Bailey teamed with Jackie Paraiso to win the 1990 AARA World Doubles Championship and the 1990 WPRA National Doubles Championship.

Bailey will use the all-new Graphite ASM-31 in all competition.

...and returns

Woody's Trivia

By Woody Clouse

1.
Who was the only player to ever shave his head prior to a match?
2.
What Canadian has held the highest ranking on the pro tour?
3.
Who was the last player to win a pro stop without skipping a ball?
4.
Who was the oldest person to ever win a round on the pro tour?
5. (This one's for pie)
Who was the last player to win a pro stop without losing a game?

ANSWERS

1. Steve Kieley 2. Lyndsay Myers 3. Charlie Brumfield 4. Fielding Snow, 42 5. Cliff Swain, Grand Rapids Michigan 1989.

A Transition for Dave Johnson

Transition Racquet Sports has announced its introduction to the Racquetball industry. Transition Racquet Sports will currently market a high end, high tech line. The company will also feature a complete line of bags, hats, fashion wear and other accessories.

Dave Johnson of Huntington Beach, California has been added to the company's professional advisory staff. Johnson will be endorsing his own Transition frame called Phase II. Transition Racquet Sports products will be available at Specialty Shops and Pro Shops only.



Photographing Racquetball

(or, Would You Rather Have a Root Canal?)

By Charlie Palek

You're wondering why your indoor racquetball action shots look so bad? Despite the fact that you are a brilliant photographer, have the latest do-it-all camera and your outdoor shots look like they were done by the pros at Geographic?? So, WHY do your racquetball shots look like they were done in a smoke-filled bar, instead of a brilliantly lit indoor court?? Having just started this agonizing torture test myself, I've come up with some handy DO's and DON'T's, a list I will no doubt add to it as the good ol' boys from Paducah continue having me cover the tourneys. Let's start with the downside first...

1) The Light is Poor

The light isn't as bright as it appears. The all white court can fool your camera meter into under-exposing your "subject"...(the girl with the racquet and very tight

shorts)...sorry, girls! I'm writing this from a male's point of view! This underexposure will render you thin negatives, resulting in prints with flat contrast and colors with about as much punch as a drunk fighting underwater. To avoid this pitfall, one must go into the court (preferably not during a match!) and take a meter reading directly off your hand or someone's cheek. You want to find a proper exposure for their skin tone. Spot meters, either in the camera or hand held, are excellent for this.

2) The color of the Light is Poor

(There's that word again!) Most courts are lit by either sodium vapor, mercury vapor or fluorescent lights. The color from these lights on film can vary from green to blue to orange depending upon the type and manufacturer of the tubes. Daylight film can produce grotesque results, unless you've got a lab willing to work with you. Filtering for these lights can be costly, frustrating and only serves to cut down the working f.stop of your lens.

3) The Film of Choice

Transparency or slide film will be your worst choice. Exposure for this film is very critical, and the poor lighting and color of the lights will only give you marginal to poor results. Take this stuff and put it back in your camera bag for those clear, bright days on the beach! The best film for these conditions will be the new, fast ISO negative films in the 1000-1600 speed variety. The grain holds together extremely well, exposure latitude is more forgiving (except for the Ektapress films) and the lab can work on density and color

corrections from the negative to give you optimum results. If you should need a slide for projection, they can be made from your negatives later. Since most clubs won't allow flash photography during a match, a fast film and lens combination is a must for available light work. Shutter speeds below 125th are not going to freeze the action effectively for the subsonic sport. Now is when lens speed comes into play.

4) Lenses That Don't Open Up To At Least f.2.0 or 2.8 Are Going To Be Too Slow If You Want the Shutter Speed Up In The Freeze Mode.

I've found that an f.2.0 lens is usually required if you want to shoot at 500th of a second at the very least. Again, all this information is dependent on the type and amount of lighting in the court.

5) Since you're going to be shooting with the lens wide open, your depth of field will be extremely narrow so focus must be extremely accurate. Even Superman would probably have trouble following Egan's 180+ MPH serve, we mortals must look to other techniques. Zone focusing is a technique that works up to a point. Try to find an area where the action takes place regularly, and wait for the action to enter that prefocused area. This is a bit restrictive, but it's better than your eyeballs bouncing around in your head trying to focus, frame, and shoot the action as it happens. A slightly wide angle lens in the 35mm range works well for this. With auto-focus cameras, you will at least be one step ahead of the manual focus users. However, I've tested some auto-





focus cameras at these tournaments and found them useful if the action is moving laterally across your camera position. If the action is moving back and forth, even some auto-focus systems can't keep up. Now if you want to deprive your family of the necessities of life for a couple of months, you could always spring for the top of the line Pro Camera systems that are made to focus faster and lighten your bank account by about \$3,000!!! Decisions, decisions?

6) You Will Be Shooting Through Glass Many Times.

This is like putting a low quality filter dipped in Mazola's finest on the front of your lens. It could affect your exposure and color balance and will most definitely affect your image sharpness. It also makes focusing tough. On top of all this, the glass will be scuffed, scratched, dirty, or may even have that wonderful stuff called "twin view" inside the court walls. "Twin View" is a dot matrix material covering the inside glass of some courts to cut down on interior reflections. This stuff can really be a problem when photographing through the wall at an oblique angle. My technique for dealing with this problem - fervent prayer that this stuff isn't on the access door to the

court so I can shoot from there. Try to shoot with the lens as flat against glass as possible; the more oblique the angle, the less image area will be in focus.

7) You May Be Lucky Enough to Have An Overhead Gallery To Photograph From.

Unfortunately, most of the time all you get is the backs of the players. I like to see the expressions on their faces while they are playing, but the gallery perspective doesn't lend itself to that very often. It is good if the action is hot and heavy with lots of diving, collisions and all out efforts. You don't have to photograph through glass, but you do have to contend with tight quarters as limited space and crowded conditions prevail at the gallery railing.

8) Other Minor Problems Could Be Reflections in The Glass From Lights or Light-Colored Objects Inside the Building. Other problems are cramped shooting positions, no viewing areas at all, empty candy machines and no cold beer available.

So much for the tough stuff. Now let's discuss the good points.

1) The Tournament Facility Is Usually Well Air Conditioned!

Well, there you have it! The good and the bad. This sport is quite difficult to photograph, but extremely challenging and a lot of fun. And, once in a while, conditions are reversed. The July, 1991 Outdoor Tournament in Gainesville, Florida was a dream to shoot. Oh sure, the players complained about the 98% humidity and the 100° temperatures. Why Florida in July instead of November—



the slackers!! I was shooting at f.16 at 2000th of a second and having a ball! But usually it's going to be low light, poor angles and no cold beer available.

Hopefully this short article has cleared up some problems you may be having photographing this fast-paced sport. But, have faith, I'm working on the Quatermous brothers about having a yearly swimsuit edition - photographed by yours truly in all kinds of exotic spots around the world. They keep mumbling about budgets, accountant's projections and bottom lines, but I'll prevail. That article will be much more interesting to write and illustrate!



Opposite: Shooting through glass with court lighting can produce some off color results.

Above left: Outdoor racquetball provides the perfect setting for good sharp photographs. This shot of Kim Russell and Martha McDonald is from the Outdoor Nationals

Above right: In addition to distorting the view glass walls can create problems with reflections.

Right: Focusing on a zone and waiting for the action in that area can produce some exciting shots.

Did You Miss 'em?

If you missed the colorful excitement of racquetball in the first issues of KILLSHOT, you can now order back issues. Only a limited number is available and no more will be printed when these are gone, so don't delay.

#1 Premiere issue. (Aug) Mike Ray profile, Michelle Gilman interview, MPRA & WPRA background, High School stars, beginning of Strandemo series, Racquetball Canada

#2 Nationals issue. (Sept) MPRA, WPRA, AARA, & Canadian Nationals, Andy Roberts interview, Ruben Gonzalez gallery, Dynamic Duo & America's Most Wanted begin, Florida Outdoor Nationals

#3 October. Marty Hogan profile, Caryn McKinney interview, Boudman on stringing, California Outdoor Nationals, Best of the Pros, look at the WPRA

#4 November/December. Lynn Adams profile, Egan Inoue interview, Holiday Buying guide, SMSU racquetball, instruction and tournament coverage



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America's MOST WANTED Racquetball

By Jack Newman

Answer: You can use two different types of lobs to keep a good short-hopper off balance. One serve is to direct your lob so it angles high into the sidewall and drops into the corner. Another way is to mix up the speed and height of each lob, so the returner can't get used to one serve.

Question #3

from Juan Martinez

How old is Ruben Gonzalez and how long does he plan on playing professionally?

Answer: Ruben will be 40 in July. He is planning on haunting all us young guys until about 45.

Question #4

from Rick Leigh

How do I keep myself from losing games when I have a big lead like 13-5?

Answer: It is important to always play each point like it is your last. You have to practice playing the rally, not the score of the game. Andy Roberts suggests that you not keep score in your practice games, just play in 15 minute intervals, working on your game. This way when the tournament comes you won't think of the score and just try to win the rally.

Question #5

from Steve Geroux

What is the most effective shot in racquetball?

Answer: The most effective shot is a perfect rollout! (just kidding) The down-the-line shot is most effective because it sets up all other racquetball shots. If you can control the shot so it doesn't hit the sidewall, and goes down the line, it will keep your opponent in the back court. This will enable you to set up and hit your pinch shots from the center of the court. By hitting down-the-line shots it also keeps

your opponent in the back corner of the court while you control the center.

Question #6

from Leo Shorbit

What other activities can I do to stay in shape for racquetball tournaments?

Answer: Cross-training is very important to conditioning for any sport. We recommend cardiovascular workouts such as: Lifecycle, Stairmaster, jogging, etc. This will give you better endurance and leg strength in your matches. Weight-training with light weights and high repetitions is also good for muscle strength and endurance. But most importantly you must practice your racquetball shots so you can be prepared for tournaments.



In the next few issues the instructors at America's Most Wanted Racquetball Camps will be answering questions submitted by readers. Specific questions can be addressed to any one of our individual teachers. We look forward to hearing from you at:

Rollout Inc.
8815 Golf Road, Suite G
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Question #1

from Terry Marker

How does Tim Sweeney get all that power on his serves?

Answer: Tim has tremendous eye-hand coordination as well as great wrist strength, that is a start. But his power comes from great body rotation and leg drive that bring him through the ball. Any player at any level can improve at this to achieve maximum power.

Question #2

from Alan Birkley

What kind of lob serve can I hit when my opponent cuts the ball off well?

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The Right Stuff

A look at some of the pro's and their equipment of choice

By Alan Golombek

Photos by Charlie Palek

Over Halloween weekend I was in Chicago on business for my regular job. Coincidentally, there was a mens' pro stop in Chicago at that time. I took the opportunity to put together a stringers log. Many racquetball players have asked me "What racquets are the pros playing with, and what kind of strings and tensions are they using?" I knew most of the players from having refereed them over the years so I took this opportunity to sit down with some of them and ask all of the questions most asked.

Helpful Info:

The gauge of a string refers to its thickness. The higher the gauge, the thinner the string. For example: a 16 gauge string is thicker than a 17 gauge string.

Ektelon grip sizes are as follows:

Super small - 3 5/8";

X-small - 3 7/8";

Small - 4 1/8"

Grommet: a plastic strip (or strips) that serves to cushion and protect the string from a frame's sharp edges. It is usually assumed that the bumper guard is part of the grommet. The bumper guard is the protective plastic or nylon cushion covering the top of the frame.

Jack Newman

Current MPRA ranking: 7
Racquet: Head Colossus 3000
String: HEX Premier (Made by Adtek) (17 Gauge)
Tension: 40 lbs mains, 45 lbs Xs
Grip Size: 3 7/8"
Grip Type: Tacki-Mac
Tether: Wristlacer
Vibration Dampener: Gamma ShockBuster (the Worm)
Notes: Brings four racquets to each tournament. His father does his stringing. Changes grommets only when worn. Changes his grips every tournament whether it needs it or not. Re-strings before each tournament. Using HEX string seems to have cut down on his breakage problem. Strings his racquet using a conventional pattern.

Gauge)

Tension: 40-45 lbs

Grip Size: small

Grip Type: Ektelon Rubber

Tether: Ektelon Raq-Cord

Vibration Dampener: No (but doesn't care if there is one)

Notes: Likes head-light racquets (this refers to the actual balance of the frame).

Mike Yellen

Current MPRA ranking: 11
Racquet: Ektelon Strobe
String: Ektelon Factory (16





regularly, and will change before a tournament. Changes grips only when worn.

Dave Sable

Current MPRA ranking: 15
 Racquet: Marty Hogan (Pro-Kennex) Infinity 31
 String: Kennex Micro 19 by Gosen (19 Gauge)
 Tension: 29-31 lbs
 Grip Size: 3 7/8 "
 Grip Type: Synthetic, Gamma Hi-Tech

Firmly believes the player makes the difference with any racquet. Would rather spend time on the court practicing than worrying about strings because all his racquets are close enough to what he likes. Mike knows how to string, but prefers to let his local stringer do it. Uses a conventional pattern and changes grommets when worn.

Tether: Fashions own cinch
 Vibration Dampener: Only what is built into racquet

Notes: Pays a lot of attention to his stringing. Does his own stringing on a SERRANO machine and does string for others. Changes grips regularly. Restrings when he notices



degraded performance, if the strings don't break first. This is usually no more than 2 months. Will also restring before tournaments. Changes grommets when worn.

Ruben Gonzalez

Current MPRA ranking: 6
 Racquet: Ektelon Toron RTS
 String: Gamma Boron (16 Gauge)
 Tension: 40-45 lbs
 Grip Size: X-Small shaved to personal preference
 Grip Type: Leather
 Tether: Wristlacer
 Vibration Dampener: Gamma ShockBuster (the worm)
 Notes: Does his own stringing on an Ektelon Machine and strings for others. Is USRSA member. Will experiment with different strings and tensions. Has tried and continues to experiment with strings such as Gamma 3 and textured strings. Has no preference in patterns. Changes strings



Tim Sweeney

Current MPRA ranking: 16
 Racquet: Ektelon Strobe
 String: Prince synthetic 16 (16 Gauge)
 Tension: 40 lbs
 Grip Size: x-small
 Grip Type: Ektelon Rubber
 Tether: Wristlacer
 Vibration Dampener: No
 Notes: Cuts out Factory strings and puts in his own immediately. Breaks strings every 2 weeks and as a result constantly replaces strings. Never



Tensions: 50 lbs
 Grip Size: x-small
 Grip Type: Ektelon
 Raq-Cord
 Vibration Dampener:
 Gamma ShockBuster (the
 worm)
 Notes: Uses the 50/50
 pattern. Brings 5
 racquets to a
 tournament. Changes
 the grip regularly. Has
 a stringer who does his
 stringing. Changes the
 grommets when worn.
 Breaks strings regularly,

pattern. Changes grommets regularly.
 Will experiment with different strings and
 works with a stringer who does his
 stringing. Will restring every 3 weeks if
 the strings don't break first and definitely
 before a tournament. Rotates through all of
 his frames, usually 7 to 8 frames, averaging
 2 to 3 hours per frame before a restring.

Andy Roberts

Current MPRA ranking: 2
 Racquet: Ektelon Strobe
 String: Ektelon Factory (16 Gauge)

had a grip last more than a month.
 Replaces grommets when worn.

Tim Doyle

Current MPRA ranking: 4
 Racquet: Ektelon Strobe
 String: Gamma Boron
 Mains, Ektelon Factory Xs
 (16 Gauge)

but would change
 every 2 weeks if
 they didn't break,
 and definitely before
 a tournament.

Dan Obremski

Current MPRA
 ranking: 5
 Racquet: Richcraft
 Pulsar



String: Gamma Gut XL (16
 Gauge)
 Tension: 41-44 lbs
 Grip Size: 3 7/8"
 Grip Type: Tacki-Mac
 Tether: Wristlacer
 Vibration Dampener:
 SORBSEE (the kind strung
 into the middle 2 mains)
 Notes: Pays a lot of attention
 to his strings.
 Personalizes his grip by
 shaving it or building it up
 slightly to his preference.
 Changes his grips every
 tournament. Uses the 50/50

Tension: 43 lbs
 Grip Size: x-small
 Grip Type: Ektelon Rubber
 Tether: Wristlacer
 Vibration Dampener: No
 Notes: Brings 5 racquets to a tournament.
 A definite string breaker he averages about
 2 matches on a set of strings. Claims to
 have set a New World Record at this years'
 U. S. Olympic festival with sixteen
 restrings in three days. Will cut out the
 factory string right away to have his
 stringer put in strings. Changes his grip
 every 2 tournaments. Uses the
 conventional stringing pattern. Changes
 grommets when worn.





Mike Ray

Current MPRA ranking: 1
 Racquet: Spalding Goliath
 String: Spalding Assault Gold (16 Gauge)
 Tension: 45 lbs
 Grip Size: 4
 Grip Type: Tacki-Mac
 Tether: Wristlacer
 Vibration Dampener: No
 Notes: A very personalized grip. Shaves down the top to fit his hand. The Spalding Goliath is still experimental, therefore, not on the market yet. Breaks strings regularly and will change them before a tournament. Does his own stringing. Prefers 17 gauge string but has to use 16 gauge because 17 breaks too easily. Only player on the MPRA tour to use racquet head protection tape. Strings his racquets using the conventional stringing pattern.

Egan Inoue

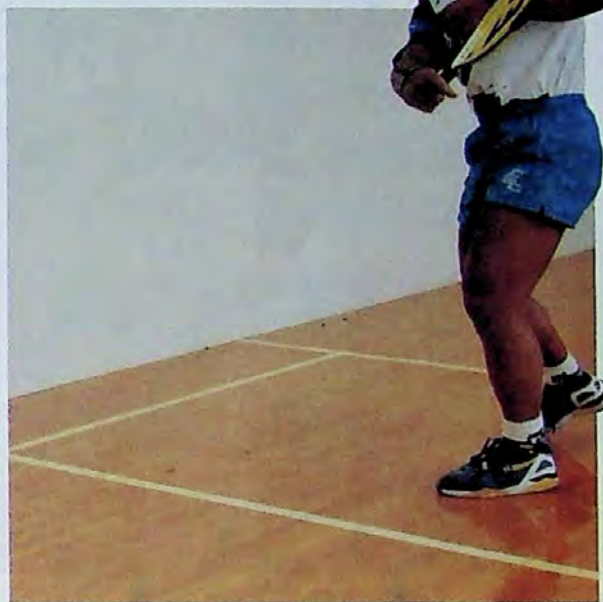
Current MPRA Ranking: 9
 Racquet: E-Force Terminator (formerly the Answer and Hammer)
 String: Head Redline (17 Gauge) or Gamma Pro 18 (18 Gauge)



Tension: 26 lbs
 Grip Size: 3 7/8"
 Grip Type: GX grip (Gexco)
 Tether: Wristlacer
 Vibration Dampener: No
 Notes: Would restring every 2 months if strings didn't break, but he can't imagine that as he breaks strings every 2 to 3 matches. Brings minimum of 6 racquets to a tournament. Does his own stringing. Uses a conventional pattern. Changes grommets regularly. Doesn't seem to have to change grips often, but obviously will change when worn.

Dave Johnson

Current MPRA ranking: 10
 Racquet: The Dave Johnson Transition, Phase II
 String: Gamma Gut II (16 Gauge)
 Tension: 25-30 lbs
 Grip Size: 3 7/8"
 Grip Type: Tacki-Mac
 Tether: Wristlacer
 Vibration Dampener: No



Notes: The Dave Johnson Transition Phase II is brand new and not yet out on the market. Changes grommets every time. Uses the conventional stringing pattern. Will experiment with strings and tensions. Has a stringer do his racquets. Changes strings every 3 weeks but is considered a string breaker and usually breaks his strings before the time he would normally replace them. Considers an average life for a set of strings ten hours of play.

General Observations

All of the pros are such hard hitters that they will break a string long before they have a chance to notice degraded performance. The average life of a string job was 1 to 2 weeks and that was rotating through many frames. Most of the pros would cut out the factory strings and put in their own using their own stringer (if not themselves) even if they put back in the same brand of string they just cut out. They used thinner strings, 16 gauge or thinner. The pros seemed to have more confidence in the consistency of their own stringer (or themselves, as the case may be). Tensions are down. Those players



that experimented with tensions all stayed within factory recommended ranges. All of the pros paid a lot of attention to their grips. Most of the pros used one type or another of rubber grip and cinch type tether. When I started to discuss the high-tech nature of strings today, the different constructions, thicknesses, techniques, etc., they were not quite fluent. For example, when I mentioned to those who do their own stringing about pre-stretching before stringing or releasing tension (you probably don't know what I mean either), they were lost. They knew what they liked, most were willing to experiment, but relied on professional stringers to help advise them on the more technical

aspects of stringing, i.e., new type strings and tensions that seem to work, etc. All of the pros changed their grips and grommets almost as often as their strings. The pros were genuinely glad to discuss stringing with me and expressed an interest in providing this information. I asked about what they used. All players agreed that good stringing was an integral part of their game.



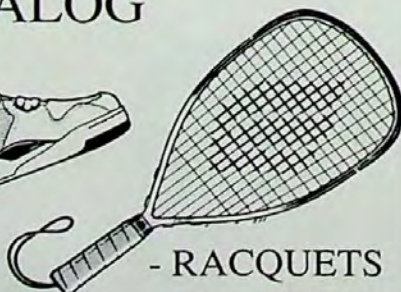
Allan Golombek is a USRSA certified stringer and has strung for many of the professional players on both the men's and women's tours.

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For more information about the USRSA, please contact them at USRSA P.O. Box 40, Del Mar, California 92014.



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June 12-14	Cincinnati, OH	Midtown Athletic Club
June 19-21	Salt Lake City, UT	Sportsmall
June 21-23*	Salt Lake City, UT	Sportsmall
July 10-12	Tacoma, WA (Seattle area)	Harbor Sq. Athletic Club
July 17-19	Colma, CA (San Fran area)	What A Racquet
July 24-26	Phoenix, AZ	To Be Announced

DATE	PLACE	CLUB
Aug. 7-9	Aurora, CO	Aurora Athletic Club
Aug. 28-30	Wilmington, DE	Pike Creek Court Club
Oct. 2-4	Sarasota, FL	Sarasota Family YMCA
Oct. 30-31, Nov. 1	Grand Rapids, MI	Michigan Athletic Club
Nov. 6-8	Columbus, OH	Sawmill Athletic Club
Nov. 13-15	Natick, MA (Boston area)	Natick Sports Club
Nov. 20-22	Durham, NC	Metro Sport Athletic Club

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By Norm Blum

Fast-paced action is
the standard at the IRF
World Junior
Championships

The

Young

And The Restless

Sudsy Monchik might become a great pro but one of his rivalries won't be with Jason Mannino. Monchik, 16, defeated Mannino for the 1991 IRF World Junior Racquetball Championships here December 18-22 in the 18 and under division.

Potentially the Monchik-Mannino match-up has all the elements of the classic rivalry. They are the up and coming players in the same age group and already have trophy collections most players can only fantasize about. It was cute when they played players like Marty Hogan in exhibitions before they were 10 years of age. They have graduated from the cuteness stage and the days of being towel boys for a professional match are no longer. They are the veterans of junior racquetball and it is now a question of who will reach the next coveted plateau.

But it will not become a rivalry --not right now -- not ever. Perhaps it will change in the future, but now they are the best of friends.

The two, having grown up together, live only eight houses apart on Staten



Allan Engel eliminated Scott Reiff in the round of sixteens, then fell to Fabian Balmori in a tie breaker.

Island, New York. After their performance in Jacksonville, they have to be considered among the best juniors in the world.

"I wouldn't call it a rivalry. We've grown up together," Monchik says. "We play a lot. A rivalry is Marty Hogan --Mike Yellen. We're too close friends to become that. Even if we make it to the professional level, we won't let it become a rivalry."

The local reaction in Staten Island after Monchik won the world championships at Racquetpower was one of amazement. No, they weren't surprised he won, but the odds of two players coming from the same block to travel all the way to Florida only to meet each other in the final

Stan Badz



18 and under winner Heather Dunn defeated '91 Junior Olympic champion Elkova Icenogle

had to be high.

Monchik's 15-7, 14-15, 11-5 win over Mannino was one of seven singles championships won by newly-formed "Junior Team USA". The USA also won four of the six girl's divisions and seven of eight doubles divisions. On team points, Canadian juniors were second and the ever improving Mexican squad finished third.

In the girls 18 and under final, Heather Dunn of Beverly Farms, Massachusetts defeated California's Elkova Icenogle 15-3, 8-15, 11-10. For Dunn, a freshman at Southwest Missouri State, it was her second consecutive world title and it came over a formidable opponent. Icenogle is the

current high school and US Junior Olympic champion.

While Dunn and Icenogle were expected to reach the girls' final, no one expected a Monchik-Mannino final. Defending world champion Doug Eagle and John Ellis were the prohibitive favorites. In fact, Ellis had highly ranked professional Andy Roberts into a tiebreaker in a recent tournament. But Monchik didn't pay much attention to the conventional wisdom.

"Going into the Junior World Championships, mentally both of us felt we'd make the finals. From a spectator's point of view no one expected us to do that. But I had such confidence that I just felt it," Monchik says.

Monchik's first two rounds were relatively easy not allowing either opponent

to reach double figures. He squeaked past Sameer Hadid of California 15-14, 15-13 to set up a showdown with Kansas' Erik Muller. Muller, a highly regarded junior, had just put on a racquetball show pummeling world champion Doug Eagle 15-10, 15-3. Monchik dropped the first game to Muller 15-13, but won the next two, 15-10, 11-6 to reach the final.

Meanwhile, Mannino showed little respect for Ellis the No. 2 seed. Mannino, who also coasted in the first rounds was prepared for a long match with Ellis. The crowd was set for a great match but it was like the Washington Redskin-Buffalo Bills match-up (a lot of hype but a one sided match). Mannino with the biggest victory of his career dominated the favored Ellis 15-9, 15-3 to reach the semifinals. The semifinals were hardly any push over as

Venezuela's Fabian Balmori took him to three games, 7-15, 15-14, 11-10. It was Balmori's second straight tiebreaker after having just beaten Southwest Missouri's Alan Engel 15-13, 6-15, 11-10.

Despite being neighbors and practice partners, Monchik and Mannino hardly face one another in tournament competition. "There are a lot of good players out our way and we usually don't reach the finals in the local tournaments," Monchik said. "I beat him in the 1983 Junior Regionals, the 1985 Junior 10 and Under and the 1989 14 and Under Junior Nationals.

Add the 1991 IRF Junior World Championships to that list in what still one day might become a rivalry of sorts.

Tournament results appear on page 54

Right: John Ellis and Jim Ellenberger in the boys eighteen and under division.

Below: From the boys 14 and under division, Miguel Urteaga and Javier Moreno in a hard fought match.

Below right: 18 and under finalists Sudsy Monchik and Jason Mannino (photo from the 1991 High School Nationals)



Stan Badz



Stan Badz



Charlie Palek

Serve Return:

Capitalize!

By Steve Strandemo

In the two previous articles we discussed the hard and soft serves; how they should be hit, serving locations, front wall targets and the direction of the serves. Since the serve directly affects your type of return, it is important to spend a fair amount of time explaining serve strategy and how the receiver reacts to the effectiveness of an opponent's serve.

The logical place to begin in a study of serve return is the mental strategy of the server. A server, capable of reasonable power, should ideally approach his opponent aggressively; coming at him with a well-rounded arsenal of low drive and hard Z serves.

The goal of the hard server is to deliver a variety of effective, powerful, and well-angled serves that will generate quick action and force the "well-intended" receiver into an aggressive return. The "informed" server clearly understands that his *smart opponent will have an aggressive hit/score attitude on the return of serve, because the name of the game, whether on offense or defense is to look for the first reasonable opportunity to score and go for it!* The "informed" server also understands that his opponent, wanting to be aggressive in his return shot selection, will be leaving up many of his returns. *Solid, consistent racquetball is based on playing off your opponent's "left-up" shots, being ready in Zone 2/3, anticipating and looking to capitalize on left-up returns.* The "informed" server understands and accepts

that his opponent will leave up about 65-70% of his returns in a very "hittable" area. The server also realizes that he is going to get an occasional ace, that he is going to get some weak returns, and that he is also going to get some aggressive, well-hit returns; some that go for winners but many that are left up. The server accepts the fact that by playing off of the left-up shots, he is playing with the highest percentage of hittable balls on his side.

The goal of the receiver is to mentally prepare himself to be aggressive in his return against hard serves. *Always remember in top level racquetball, you will not see receivers looking to be defensive.* Similarly, in baseball, good batters approach the plate looking to hit, not to walk. In tennis, top players anticipate an aggressive return-of-serve, not just the opportunity to put the ball in play.

Smart racquetball "receivers" understand the server's difficulty in executing all of the powerful serves and accept the fact that the server's margin for error is very small. *The receiver approaches play looking for the slightest mis-cue, the slightest error, from the server and welcomes the opportunity to aggressively attack the serve with down-the-line, cross-court, pinch and splat-type offensive returns.* The good aggressive receiver is looking to create offense and will only be defensive in his return (i.e. ceiling ball return) when the serve is so good that he cannot be aggressive on his

return and his only option is to be defensive. I find, however, that the majority of players around the country are too defensive when returning serve. Unless they have a great shot, they tend to go to the ceiling too much, bypassing offensive opportunities whenever the server hits a less-than-perfect serve. If this is your approach, you not only give your opponent continual reprieves, but you remove the psychological pressure from the server. By being aggressive on your return of serve, you place pressure on your opponent to hit a serve that is "right on the money" or he knows that the receiver is immediately going for a low zone return. *Each player, whenever serving or receiving, must know and understand his "shot option" responsibilities if he is going to manufacture really good racquetball.*

In summary, the receiver is looking for any mis-direction of the serve, any slight mistake to be offensive with mis-direction of the serve, any slight mistake to be offensive with his return. Again, it is much like a baseball hitter. If the pitcher makes a mistake, and gets the ball too much over the middle of the plate, you can bet that the batter is ready to rip. The server approaches the serve aggressively, doing his best to deliver well executed and directed serves, but readies himself in Zone 2/3 to play off of his opponent's left-up low zone returns.

Let's check now and analyze how the receiver gets physically ready for the

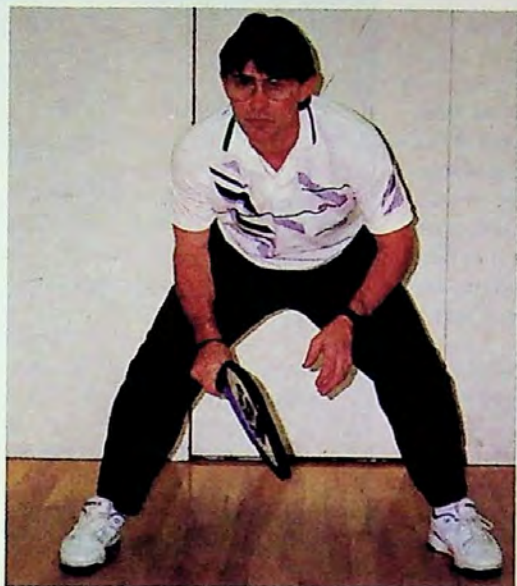


Photo 1: The receiver's body position is ready for low hard serves (either a low drive, hard Z or jam). Notice the receiver is slightly bent over at the waist, feet shoulder width apart, weight evenly distributed and left hand off the racquet. General conclusion: The receiver's body is ready for quick and efficient movement to the corner.

Photo 2: Just as the ball is struck by the server, the receiver makes this initial foot (body motion that prepares and readies the receiver for his full move to the corner.

Photo 3: After the receiver's initial movement (slight shuffle) he then crosses over with his right leg, coils his shoulders and takes the racquet back. He then uncoils his body to this hitting position. Receivers should remember against hard serves that aren't coming off the backwall, you get time for the quick shuffle, one crossover step and the hit. There will be no extra time. Learn this motion!

Photo 4: When the receiver is not short-hopping the serve and is preparing to return the lob serve from the back court, he can be much more relaxed and in a more upright position. He has plenty of time to slide over to the corner and evaluate the effectiveness of the lob serve.

STRANDEMO ON RACQUETBALL

return. The receiver's readiness depends in great part on his ability to read as much information from the server as he can. When the server gets down into a familiar lower crouched position, the receiver obviously can expect that he is ready to crank up and hit a hard serve, low drive to either corner, jam, or hard Z. When the server stands in a more upright position, the receiver can probably expect to see a lob-type serve coming. Analyzing the server's starting body position is the first thing to observe and obviously the easiest. The second clue is the server's actual hitting position and location in the service box. *If he is adept at camouflaging his serves and can deliver different low drives and hard Z's from the same hitting position, then the difficulty of reading the serve can increase greatly.*

When the receiver observes the server's lower body position and knows that the serve is coming in hard, he starts to prepare himself physically. He bends over at the waist, knees bent, bottom down, feet shoulder width apart, or slightly wider, racquet ready. (If the receiver is right-handed, his left hand should be off the racquet, enabling the receiver to respond to the serve with no unnecessary touching movements. Since the serve is coming in hard, reaction time is essential. The receiver has got to keep movements simple, efficient and powerful.)

Once the receiver is physically ready for the hard serve, he then reads the server's starting position and his stepping motion in the service box to pick up any additional help in identifying the serve and the serve direction. Any information the receiver can pick up just before ball contact will be a distinct advantage. Then as the server starts his motion, the receiver is keen to watch the racquet make contact with the ball to pick up the actual direction of the serve. This can be extremely difficult to do because the ball is traveling so incredibly fast. In addition, if the server has been conscientious and practiced the

serves in the previous article and has been diligent in mastering different serves off of the same motion, the receiver is going to have to be keen to anticipate the serve. Even if the receiver knows the direction and type of serve, it doesn't mean it will be easy to get to the corner, especially at the velocity at which some of these hard serves are hit.

An important point usually missed in instruction and a major point of this article is the initial foot movement by the receiver as the ball is being struck hard by the server. It is a subtle shifting of the feet, a preparation movement. It is a widening or slight hop of the feet. In baseball, it is that little bit of bat movement just before the swing. *You will see it in all sports--it is the movement that prepares the body to respond.* Once the receiver has prepared his body to move (shuffle or slight hop), he takes a cross-over step and goes. As the receiver is moving to the serve, his shoulders rotate, his racquet goes back immediately and he is moving with an aggressive attitude, ready to hit.

If the server comes in as a hittable shot into the receiver's low zone hittable area, the receiver should be ready to put pressure on his opponent and go for it. If the serve is so good that the receiver doesn't feel he can hit into the low zone effectively, then his option would be to go defensive and pop the return to the ceiling. *Be offensive first and defensive second.* Unfortunately, that statement is directly contradictory to some articles and videos that I read and viewed. I have read and watched instructional information that states that beginning players should be defensive the majority of the time when returning the serve. I would rather see beginning players start out thinking aggressive and offensive. It is very difficult to teach a player to be offensive when he has mastered a defensive "mind set" and a defensive game.

When the server begins his serve motion from a straighter, stand-up body position the receiver can read and anticipate a soft serve, lob, half-lob, or high-lob Z. The receiver's readiness position can start in a more relaxed form. His feet will again be shoulder width apart, racquet ready, hand off the racquet, but his body posture will be more upright, more relaxed, because the receiver has more response time when staying back and returning a soft serve.

The decision will always be there for the receiver to decide whether he will be returning lob serves offensively or defensively (offensive would be to move up and short-hop or over-head drive the return and defensive would be to stay back and let the lob serve rebound into the back court.) If he decides to be defensive and stay back, he then needs to immediately evaluate the effectiveness of the lob serve as it is approaching him. If he evaluates that the serve is well hit and coming in at shoulder height, the receiver should probably choose to return defensively with a ceiling ball and wait for a better scoring opportunity within that rally. The reason it is best to go to the ceiling with a shoulder high backhand is because for 99% of the players it is very difficult to pull down a return into the low zone area effectively from shoulder high. If the receiver feels that the serve is mis-directed, perhaps landing short, long, or off the sidewall, and is coming in at waist level or below, he should obviously choose to be offensive with his return.

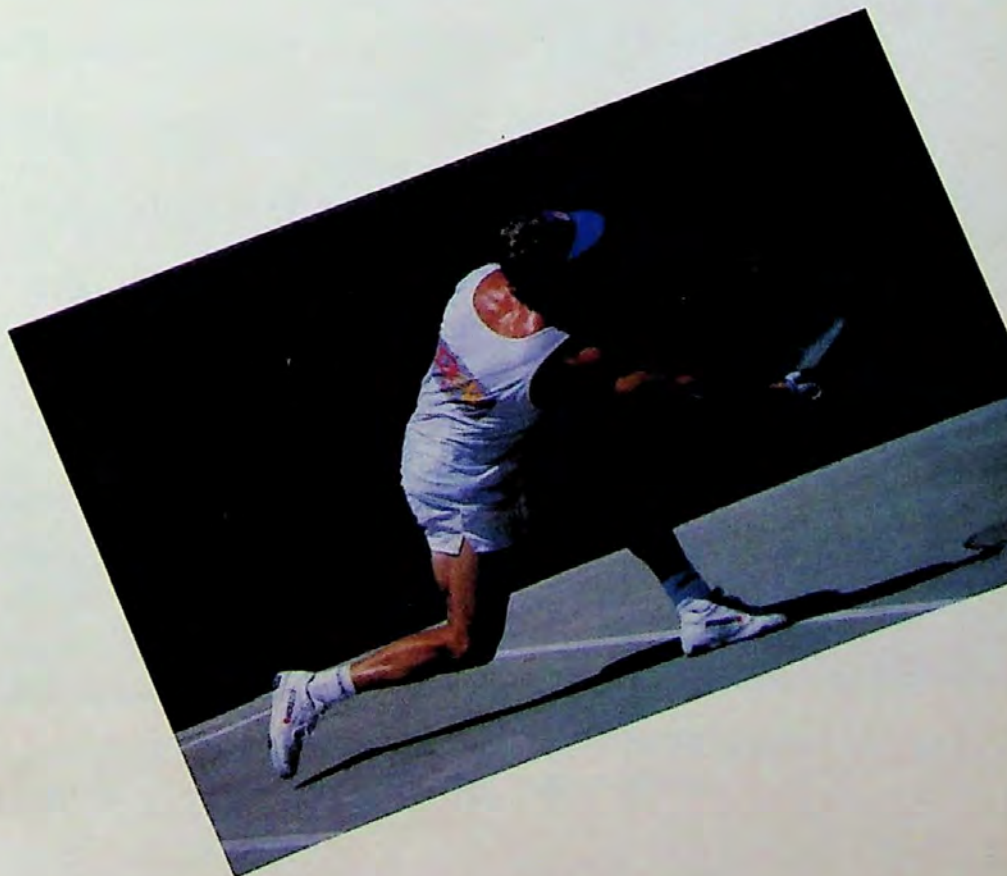
If in that first order of business the receiver had decided to be aggressive and move up to short-hop the serve, the receiver needs to anticipate the lob serve early and be physically and mentally ready to quickly move forward and to hit the return on the rise at approximately knee level. The receiver would then either drive the ball down the line, cross court, or pinch/splat the return. It is very important that the receiver exercise caution and good safety sense for the server when short-hopping the ball.

Emphasis should be placed on the importance of practicing the serving exercises described in the last article so that as a receiver you understand the direction, the heights, the front wall targets, the serving locations of all the different serves and the repercussions of mis-hit serves. Only after you fully understand serving, can you effectively evaluate and anticipate the serve in order to be competitive in your return of serve. *Remember, always be aggressive on the return and make the server "pay" for his mis-directed serves.*

Continue to practice the 30-second drill so that your ball control (with power) will constantly improve.



GALLERY



GALLERY

Brian Hawkes

JUNIOR NATIONAL OUTDOOR CHAMPION

1978, 1979

NATIONAL OUTDOOR CHAMPION

1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989

NATIONAL OUTDOOR DOUBLES CHAMPION

1981, 1983, 1987, 1989

AARA OUTDOOR CHAMPION

1991

AARA OUTDOOR DOUBLES CHAMPION

1991

AMATEUR NATIONAL CHAMPION

1984

AMATEUR NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPION

1988

MEMBER U.S. NATIONAL RACQUETBALL TEAM

1989, 1990

TOURNAMENT OF THE AMERICA'S GOLD MEDALIST

1989

OLYMPIC FESTIVAL SILVER MEDALIST

1989

OLYMPIC FESTIVAL SILVER MEDALIST

1990

OLYMPIC FESTIVAL GOLD MEDALIST

1991

PRO TOUR RANKED #16

1989-90 SEASON

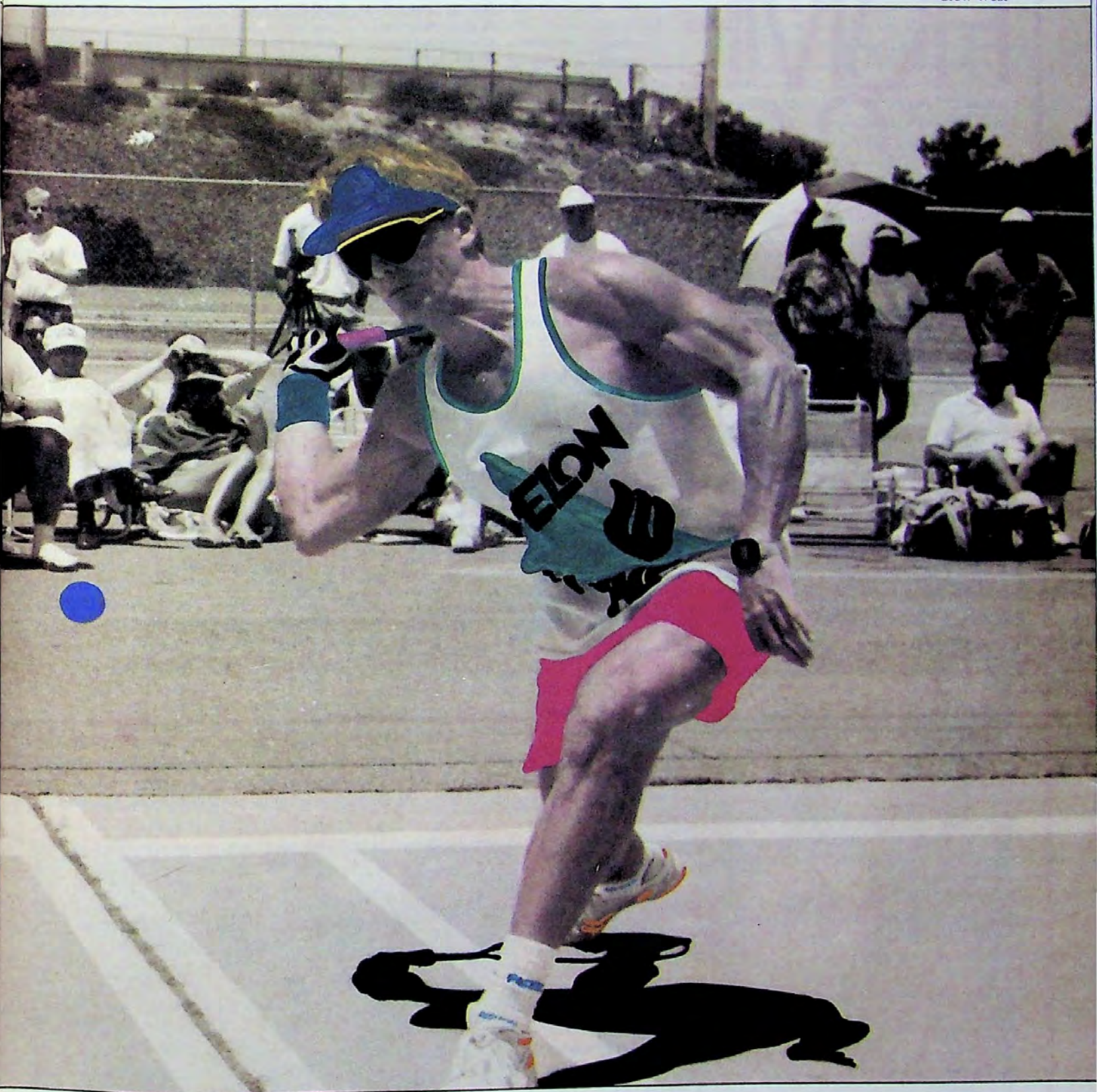
PRO TOUR RANKED #10

1990-91 SEASON

PRO TOUR RANKED #8

1991-92 SEASON





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HOME COURT

news from the hood

You have asked about the players and clubs in your neck of the woods and how they stack up with other parts of the country. OK, here goes! While Home Court can never cover everything, it will include a random taste of as much as we can fit in, chosen somewhat randomly, with priority given to people/clubs/areas we haven't covered before. You give us the material and tell us how the feature should develop. Remember, we are more likely to include information accompanied by color photos (no slides please). Photos submitted become the property of **KILLSHOT**, subject to the usual laws and regulations. Photos will not be returned. Send news to:

KILLSHOT P.O. Box 8036 Paducah KY 42002-8036

15th Annual Long Island Open Draws 850 players

It's only fitting that our first "Home Court" include the Granddaddy of tournaments. This fall's Long Island Open boasted a playing field of over 850 in the mammoth draw. Al Seitelman and company along with Miller Lite, Spalding, Penn, Jay Chevrolet, Paletta Cheesecakes and Frozfruit bars hosted the now legendary extravaganza which attracted names like Sekul, Fowler, Digiacomio, Montalbano, Monchik, Muller, Maninno, Simonette, Cline, and, of course, Garfinkle. IRT stars Ruben Gonzalez and Dave Sable took advantage of a weekend without a pro stop to drop in as well.

Winners in the singles skills divisions included: Craig Rappaport, Eric Gorman, Kevin Vega, Bill Engles, Glenn Pollack, Richard Simon, Randi Freedman, Beth Katz, Christine Tucker, Carol Schneider, Nina La Femina, Arlynn Abramsom, Mayori Aida.

Frank Pflumm



Randi Freedman



Mike Sekul

Wheels Fitness & Racquet Club Hosts Spalding Racquetball Classic

In January, The Wheels Fitness & Racquet Club in Chatham, Ontario hosted the Spalding Senior Racquetball Classic. Some of Ontario's strong A players such as Vic Budiak and Ed Khan turned out for the event as well as some tough competitors in the women's ranks from Windsor, Amherstburg, and Michigan. Singles winners included: Ian Lau, Gary Labadie, Ron Wingrove, Doug Toth, Rick Beck, Ralph McIsaac, Roy Perovich, Graham Frost, Charlie Garfinkle, Robert Neeley, Dianne McCauley, Lisa Stenyole, Charlene Shaw, Peg Shaw.

What do you do on Wednesday night in Cobden ?

Wednesday night doubles is an ongoing tradition at John Lipe's Union County Racquetball Center in Cobden, Illinois. Wednesday night doubles has been incorporated into the racquetball agenda for all of the fourteen years of the club's existence. Many of the players are from the original group. Twelve players are divided into six equal teams and they play round robin for two hours, or until all teams have been played.

The Wednesday night doubles crew.



1991 Ektelon/W.R. Knudsen Doubles Pro-Am

It is a tradition that can not be denied. Just like the leaves changing color and the rains coming to end the brief summers, doubles in October captures the entire Pacific Northwest. Over 650 players hit the courts this year continuing another tradition; the largest doubles tournament in the country! The Ektelon/W.R. Knudsen Doubles Pro-Am, in its eleventh year, sends a message to players throughout the region to grab their racquets for another great season on the Oregon Racquetball Association's (ORA) Ektelon/R.C Cola Tour.

The ORA, the only state in the country not affiliated with the AARA, runs singles, doubles, and junior tour schedules which stop in all the major and minor cities throughout Oregon and southwestern Washington. Players compete in each event for ranking points based on their finish in each tour event. An ORA State Team is named at the year end banquet made up of those players leading the point race in each division. Oregon's interest in racquetball does not stop with the amateurs: two ORA stops have also been pro stops. Jack Scott's Chelsea's Pro-Am which has seen past champions, including Hogan, Yellen, and Swain, capture the title and most recently, Salem served as the site of Tim Doyle's first pro win. In addition, the beautiful Multnomah Athletic Club hosts the TransCoastal Tournament of Champions featuring the top nine ranked pros at the close of each season.

Portland's Sunset Athletic Club played the perfect warm weather host with outdoor pool, jacuzzies, tennis courts, and sand volleyball to distract the players between matches. But, with 650 players, and some divisions beginning as a round of 64, there was not a lot of time to relax between matches. Most players were playing, reffing, eating, or trying to replenish liquids with tournament sponsor, R.W. Knudsen's Recharge Sports Drink or Bud Light. By tournament's end, over 40 cases of Recharge and eighteen kegs of beer were gone!

With a tournament of this size, matches

began Tuesday night for some divisions, but the pro draw did not kick in until Thursday night's round of 32. The \$5000 pro event has been a tradition featuring the top players from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and British Columbia. The event has seen its share of young stars passing through in their formative racquetball years; Tim Doyle, Corey Brysman, Roger Harripersad, Woody Coulse and Bobby Rodriguez, are just a few of the players who have made the event a Mecca for doubles.

By Saturday night, the tournament had reached a fevered pitch, and with a standing room only crowd and television crew in place, the Pro Semi-finals were ready to put on a show. In the first match, #20 ranked Jeff Evans and partner Derek Robinson (who grew up in Washington and now plays for National Champion SMSU) returned to the site of their incredible upset the year before. But this year was Evans/Robinson's to prove it had been a fluke as they took on Portland's Jeff Larson and Jon Martin. Larson, a past pro tour player and National Junior champion of the 1970's was half of the team that sent Evans/Robinson on the long trip home last year. This year, Robinson used his great backhand splats and Evans controlled the right corner as they posted a 15-9, 15-8 win. In the second semi, you truly had old vs young. The young crowd favorites featured Portland's hard hitting pro rookie, Vince Kelley and San Diego's Mike Brady against the two-time defending champs, ex tour star Corey Brysman and IRT Commissioner, Hank Marcus. Brysman/Marcus teamed up over two years earlier and had lost only once.

Kelley and Brady came out ripping the ball at full blast and everyone including television cameras and Brysman/Marcus had trouble seeing the ball. The first game came down to 14-14 when Kelley hit a 180 mph winner to take the game and set the tempo for the match.

Evans, Marcus, Robinson

Despite some great rallies, game two was an easy win for the young team.

Sunday, at this event, is always a little different from other tournaments. First, because of the large draws and doubles format, over 225 players play on Sunday alone! The Men's Pro and Mixed Pro finals are taped for later television release, but most famous is the salmon and champagne brunch served. Many players say they come not so much for the racquetball, but for the hospitality that is served from start to finish at all hours of the event. With that back-drop, Evans/Robinson vs Kelley/Brady hit the court. There was no question about whom the crowd wanted. The young rippers had won them over earlier in the tournament in a three hour 11-10 battle over Portland's John Wetherbee/Darin Campbell. In that match up both teams hit fluke winners at 10-10 to thrill the crowd and their support was confirmed on Saturday night by knocking off the #1 seed. But often, expectations can not be met and the combination of a workman-like effort from Evans/Robinson and a very sore arm for Kelley forced Brady into having to do too much. Evans/Robinson controlled the court and the match for a victory.

So, if doubles is your game, and you find yourself with the urge to see the Northwest, don't forget: rain isn't the only thing that overruns Oregon in the fall - the Ektelon/W.R. Knudsen Doubles Pro-Am is another tradition that won't go away.



1991 WORLD JUNIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SINGLES

	Boys	Girls
18-	Sudsy Monchik (New York) 15-7, 14-15, 11-5 Jason Mannino (New York)	Heather Dunn (Massachusetts) 15-3, 8-15, 11-10 Elkova Icenogle (California)
16-	Luis Munoz (Mexico) 15-13, 15-13 Shane Wood (Massachusetts)	Britt Engel (Florida) 15-11, 15-7 Tammy Brockbank (Idaho)
14-	Shane Wood (Massachusetts) 14-15, 15-7, 11-2 David Hamilton (Ohio)	Shannon Feaster (D.C.) 15-14, 15-11 Sadie Gross (Minnesota)
12-	Jed Bhuta (Alabama) 15-9, 15-8 Eric Urteaga (Canada)	Colleen Maginn (Wisconsin) 15-7, 9-15, 11-9 Vanessa Tulao (Tennessee)
10-	Gabe Gose (New Mexico) 15-11, 15-9 Shane Vanderson (Ohio)	Riva Wig (Canada) 15-8, 15-13 Sara Borland (Iowa)
8-	Matthew McElhaney (Florida) 15-3, 15-2 Jon White	Karina Odegard 15-2, 15-7 Alison Coggins 15-2, 15-7

DOUBLES

	Boys	Girls
18-	John Ellis/Eric Muller 15-10, 15-0 Doug Eagle/Sameer Hadid	Elkova Icenogle/Rachel I Gellman 14-15, 15-13, 11-8 Heather Dunn/Rusti Icenogle
16-	Luis Munoz/Javier Moreno 15-11, 15-4 James Mulcock/Craig Rappaport	Andrea Beugen/Shannon Feaster 15-10, 1-15, 11-5 Britt Engel/Dawn Peterson
14-	Paul Apilado/Christian George 11-15, 15-14, 15-5 John Stanford/Mark Hurst	
12-	Mark Bloom/Amin Florentino 7-15, 15-12, 11-6 Jed Bhuta/Robbie Thompson	Vanessa Tulao/Rhonda Rajsich 15-2, 15-5 Elizabeth Smith/Ashley Crouse
10-	Dan Thompson/Shane Vanderson 15-6, 15-9 Kent Henderson/Ryan Staten	

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From the President...

by Chris Evon

By now, many of you have heard about the decision by the men's pro tour to prohibit any of their top 16 players from competing in a non-paying event. Since this announcement in late October, I have heard from many people concerned with the effects of the decision on the sport and in particular, the women professionals. The general, although not inclusive, feeling of the women players is that the overall results of this policy is a very positive one for the sport. A distinction between amateurs and professionals is one that is long over due.

At this time, however, the WPRA policy will remain the same, which is to let each individual or the AARA determine whether an athlete is eligible to maintain her amateur status and therefore compete in AARA events, and possibly have the opportunity to be a member of the U.S. team. The future of this sport, especially as both tours grow and the commitment by the professional and U.S. team players becomes more demanding, will require that athletes and the organizations work together to develop a new system that will be fair for all people involved.

The pro/amateur issue has been a controversial one for many years. Many amateur players wonder why at the Amateur Nationals, they have to compete against a top professional player. Many professional players feel they should have a right to place winnings in a trust fund so that they have the privilege of competing for and representing their country. Some U.S. team authorities want the athletes to make a decision and dedicate themselves to either pro or amateur. Some don't think that decision or commitment is necessary.

The answers will always be debatable. It is the concern of the WPRA that whatever future decisions are made, it is in the best interest of the overall growth of the sport of racquetball!



Chris

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Racquet Sports



Dave Johnson
MPRA Pro Tour



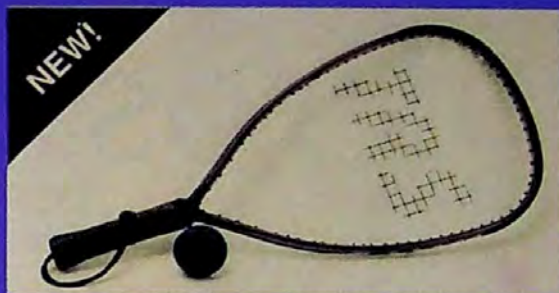
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Dynamic Duo

Pros and Cons

Racquetball's right way and wrong way

By Fran Davis & Stu Hastings



Developing that solid game of racquetball is much like constructing a building. In the past two issues we have set the foundation so we are now ready to construct the "frame" of your game by working in the area of Game Shots. By developing a variety of different shots you will become a more well-rounded player who is deceptive and unpredictable. You do not want to be the player your opponent easily reads and anticipates because you hit the same shot over and over again.

Game Shots can be broken down into defensive and offensive shots.

Defensive: -a shot that will

draw your opponent out of center court and/or gain you time

-a shot that is generally hit from shoulder height or higher

Offensive: -a shot that will end the rally and/or score you a point; a scoring opportunity

- a shot that is generally hit from waist height or lower

One of the most basic defensive shots is the Ceiling ball. The ceiling ball can be used on the return of serve or during a rally to get your opponent out of the middle or center court position. It can also be used to get you out of trouble. When you are off balance or out of position you can buy yourself some extra time to recover, regroup, and get back into position by just flipping the ball to the ceiling. It is a shot



that is necessary to build a strong, solid game.

Pros **The Grip**

1. The grip is the same as the regular forehand and backhand strokes

2. The ready position is the same as the regular forehand and backhand strokes with the eyes looking up at the ball

The Swing

3. The swing is the same as the regular forehand and backhand strokes but the contact points are different:

Forehand contact point: full extension above the head with the racquet at a 45 degree angle toward ceiling.

Backhand contact point: shoulder high with the racquet at a 45 degree angle toward ceiling

The Follow Through

4. The follow through is the same as the regular forehand and backhand strokes where they come completely around the body. The forehand ceiling ball follow through goes down and across the body to the opposite side but the backhand follow through goes level and across the body to the opposite side.

Cons **The Grip**

1. The grip is the same improper grip as the regular forehand and backhand strokes

2. The ready position is the same improper ready position as in the regular forehand and backhand strokes with the racquet down and the body square and open to the front wall, not sidewall

The Swing

3. The swing is the same improper swing as in the regular forehand and backhand strokes with the forehand contact point waist high or lower and not full extension above the head, swinging sidearm or from an underhand position. The backhand is swung underhand so that the ball is contacted waist high or lower rather than shoulder height.

The Follow Through

4. The follow through is the same improper swing as the regular forehand and backhand stroke where the racquet and arm stops and does not come completely around the body. The forehand ceiling ball follow through goes from low (waist high contact point to high (shoulder high follow through) instead of high (full extension



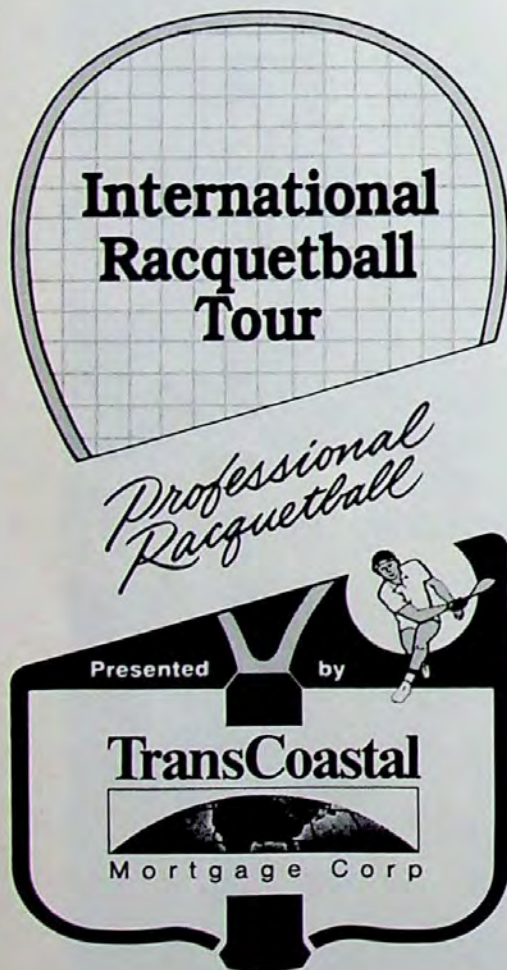
above the head) to low (waist high). The backhand ceiling ball follow through goes from low (knee high contact point) to high (shoulder high contact point to shoulder high follow through).

Opposite: Pros, the correct forehand and backhand ceiling ball.

Above: Cons, the incorrect forehand and backhand ceiling ball.

Hank's Top Ten

By Hank Marcus



This column is being written as I fly to Dallas for the first VCI Credit Cup Series event. In conjunction with the TransCoastal International Tour VW Credit, Inc. has established a three tournament series. With six events behind us and the new year just beginning it seems appropriate to look back at the first half of the IRT season. So, with apologies to all those who disagree and to David Letterman, here are the good, the bad, the ugly, the surprises, and the disappointments of the season:

The Good

1. The clubs and tournament directors whose work has helped create a 16 stop IRT tour.
2. TransCoastal Mortgage Corporation
3. VW Credit, Inc. and the VCI Credit Cup series
4. **Killshot**
5. Drew Kachtik's two wins and #1 ranking
6. Ruben Gonzalez in *Sports Illustrated*
7. Dave Negrete's hospitality in Chicago
8. The Ektelon ball
9. National television coverage for the pros
10. Excitement of Canadian fans at the Spalding Pro-Am in Toronto

The Bad

1. Manufacturers who haven't supported **KILLSHOT**
2. Mike Ray's preseason knee injury
3. Egan Inoue's knee injury in Riverside

4. Knee injuries in general
5. Chicago weather
6. Brett Harnett and Tim Sweeney's limited schedules
7. Drew Kachtik's wardrobe
8. Waiting until 1:00 a.m. for dinner on quarterfinals day at pro stops.
9. Doing business with people who don't return phone calls.
10. Skip balls at 10-9.

The Surprises

1. Top 16 pros resigning amateur status
2. Brian Hawkes: A new backhand and a win and its final appearance already
3. Mike Yellen: Returning to the form that made him the dominate player in the sport for five years
4. Steve Lerner: A quarterfinalist in Riverside with wins over Gonzalez and



- Katz in front of the home crowd
5. Woody Clouse: Losing for the first time in Bi-Rak-It to Ruben Gonzalez
 6. Mike Ray not making a final
 7. Egan Inoue not making a semi
 8. Cliff Swain not making a tournament
 9. Ruben Gonzalez never aging
 10. Restaurants that can make a lemonade milkshake

Hank Marcus

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At the conclusion of the three tournament		Woody Clouse	225
VW Credit Inc., series a \$10,000 bonus		Dan Obremski	225
pool will be distributed to the top ten		Brian Hawkes	225
players. The player finishing #1 in the		James Lorello	225
series will also receive the beautiful crystal		Mike Ceresia	100
VCI cup.		Brian Rankin	100
		Dave Peck	100
		Scott Reiff	100
Andy Roberts	1000	Mike Brady	100
Drew Kachtik	800	Jeff Evans	100
Mike Ray	600	Tony Jelso	100
Dave Johnson	600	Jason Waggoner	100
Jack Newman	450	Vince Kelley	100
Ruben Gonzalez	450	Gregg Peck	100
Tim Doyle	450	Louis Vogel	100
Mike Yellen	450	Sherman Greenfeld	100
Tim Sweeney	225	Brian Fredenberg	100
Marty Hogan	225	Todd O'Neil	100
Mike Guidry	225	Dave Sable	100
Aaron Katz	225	Jason Kirkorian	100

European Racquetball Over There

By Jan Chayt

THE BELGIAN OPEN

The ninth Belgian Open was held 9-10 November '91 at the Brussels Racquetball Center. The Center has four courts - one with a glass backwall and a championship court with a glass sidewall.

This year ninety people from across Europe played. Competitors came from Belgium, Germany, Holland, France, plus several American Service members. There were a total of five singles divisions, men's open, B's, C's, and women's open and doubles.

Results:

Men's Open - Philippe Lecompte, (France) defeated Edwin Schipper (Holland), 15-4, 15-3.

Men's B - Erland Schoenberger (Belgium) defeated Bill Curry (stationed in Germany), 15-5, 15-2.

Men's C - Tischler defeated Loomans 13-15, 15-13, 15-4.

Women's Open - Jan Chayt (stationed in Heidelberg) defeated Annick Peeters (Belgium), 15-1, 15-2.

An exciting Doubles final was enjoyed by everyone who watched Philippe Lecompte and his partner, Mark Boulet defeat Erland Schoenberger and Johan Van Marcke, 15-13, 15-6.

The tournament was sponsored by Ektelon who provided prizes for all the winners. An excellent job of keeping the matches on time was accomplished by the tournament directors, Angelique Boart de la Faille and Marijke Hillen.

And of course, special thanks to Erik Meyer, the President of the Belgian Racquetball Association.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT- STRASSBOURG FRANCE

The Second International Open was held at the Hotel Le Forum in Schiltigheim,

France. A total of 76 participants from eight countries participated. Players came from France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Ireland, Switzerland, Canada, and many of the players were Americans stationed or living in Germany.

Five categories were offered. Men's Open/A, Men's B/C, Men's D, Women's Open and Open Doubles. With only two courts, play lasted all night long on Saturday for those players in doubles and consolation.

In the Men's Open semi-finals, Lou Souther, stationed at Rhein Main Air Base defeated Richard Van Doezum, the Dutch Champion from Zoetermeer Holland, 15-13, 15-10. Tom Mafnas, stationed in Heidelberg Germany defeated the French Champion Philippe Lecompte, 15-5, 15-8 leading to another All-American Final. In the final, Lou defeated Tom 15-8, 15-8, demonstrating to the large crowd why the Americans have been in control of the Racquetball scene in Europe for so long. It was a demonstration of smoothly executed shots and well placed pinches. The name of the game was control.

For his efforts, Lou received prize money of 3000 French Francs (about \$600) and Tom took home 2000 francs. Richard received 1000 francs for third place. Although the French and Germans were represented in the Women's bracket, the semi-finals and final were all American. Many of the Europeans playing were reformed tennis players, and although they hit the ball, the shot that really finished a rally was not always there. In the semi-finals, Jan Chayt, stationed in Heidelberg Germany, defeated Connie Davis, whose husband is stationed in Augsburg Germany, 15-5, 15-6. Sue Mears, stationed in Augsburg defeated Le Ochs, whose husband is stationed in Stuttgart Germany, 15-14, 13-15, 11-0. Le impressed everyone with her courage and determination. In an earlier round she was hit by her opponent's racquet on the bridge of the nose. Luckily one of the Americans participating in the

tournament was an experienced medic. Aside from needing a bandage and a few minutes to rest she played on - making it all the way to the semi-finals, and ultimately finishing third. The finals of Jan vs Sue was a rematch for their finals match in Munich last month. At first it looked like J63

a replay of Munich where Jan won the first game 15-13. But, Sue came on strong in the second game leading for awhile before Jan got hot finishing it 15-9. Jan took home 1250 francs for her efforts and Sue received 750 francs.

In the Men's B/C, Jason Werner, stationed in Wiesbaden, defeated Paul Hansen, stationed in Heidelberg, 10-15, 15-4, 11-5. Mike Griffin also stationed in Wiesbaden, finished third.

In Men's D, Dan Mears, Sue's husband defeated Skip Arritt, stationed in Munich, 15-11, 15-0. Pierre Groleau, from France finished third.

The Open Doubles saw some international flair. Richard Berube (originally from Toronto Canada, who is presently teaching in Paris) and his partner Francois Louvet (Paris) defeated Larry Malesky (stationed in Frankfurt) and his partner Greg Carr, 15-11, 15-14.

In addition to cash prizes in the Men's and Women's Open all the winners received trophies and prizes provided by Pacific, Heineken, Orangina and many others.

Special thanks go out to the hotel who provided special rates for the weekend and a wonderful cold buffet in the true French style on Saturday night. Also to the tournament directors Pascal Muller and Bernard Cornelius who promise to invite the Americans back next year even if we keep taking all their money and trophies home with us. Finally, my personal thanks to the gentleman who taught me how to count to 15 in French for a match I was officiating for Sue and a French woman who spoke absolutely no English and no German.

The Pause that Refreshes

Using Time-outs as strategy

by Kaye Kuhfeld

Accustom yourself to taking timeouts!

I believe that unless you are virtually playing with complete control of the game that you should get into the habit of taking your timeouts.

Many players go through an entire game, under the most adverse of conditions and never use a timeout. Why not?

1. Not sure how to use this timeout (Do I leave the court? What do I think about? etc.)
2. Too self-conscious (It looks like I'm stalling. What will people think?)
3. Appearance of being out of control, out of shape, out of the game
4. A stubbornness in believing you can get

through this phase or problem by just continuing.

5. Believing it will not be of any benefit

Whatever the reasons, you should understand that you are entitled to these timeouts and should execute using all of them, if necessary. You are in control of how you can use them, giving you the edge.

When should a timeout be used?

1. Long rallies. A timeout will give you a chance to regain composure, oxygen, and a more prepared state of mind for the oncoming moment.

2. An opportunity to formulate a plan of action: this should occur whether you are receiving or serving.

3. When you are at a standstill (i.e. in the 12th, 13th or 14th point of a game and are perhaps tied or leading and cannot seem to move forward and get the next point.

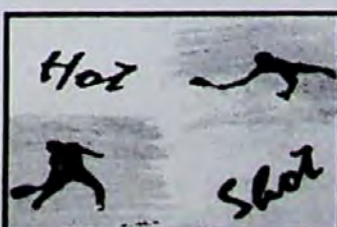
4. When your opponent has run a series of points.

5. When you find your mind wandering and becoming distracted.

I suggest using three timeouts in 5-point increments in a 15-point game. From this you can develop your own strategy to use all three timeouts over the course of a game.

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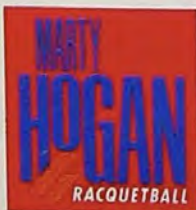


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