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lots of hands



RACQUETBALL

OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3

SUMMER 1973



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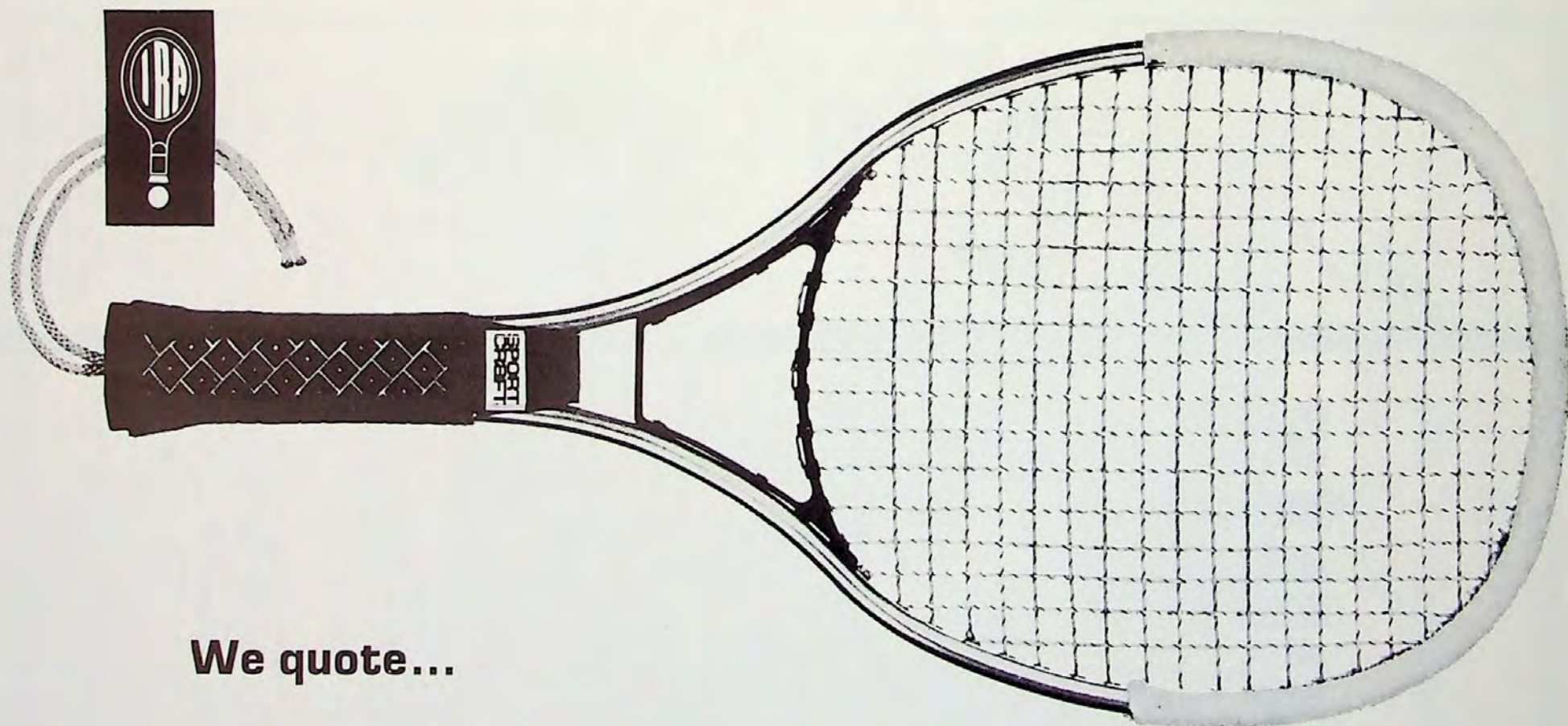
SIZES: Men - Medium, Large; Ladies - One Size Fits All.

COLOR: Bone White



S-72

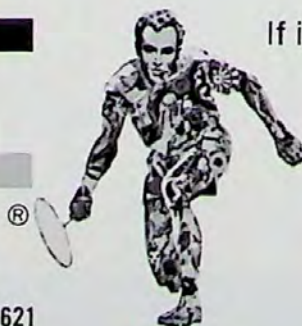




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RACQUETBALL

Volume 2, Number 3, Summer 1973

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THE INTERNATIONALS

Analytical reports on the International Championships, including brackets and extensive photographic coverage, were prepared for this edition of RACQUETBALL by former IRA executive secretary Chuck Leve. His reports start on Page 13.

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A New Beginning

By Ken Porco

As many of you know, our association now has a new President, six new members of the Board of Directors, a new home office and — for the next year — a new Executive Director.

Naturally, the feeling of surprise and confusion must have been present among those of you who were given only bits of information and those hearing second and third-hand rumors. If I may, I would like to clear the air and dispel any false information that may be circulating among the membership.

The IRA Board of Directors and the past president could not agree on many of the administrative matters of the association. Those administrative matters are too numerous and detailed to discuss in full, but the differences were sharply defined.

After a complete explanation was given to the general membership in attendance at the annual meeting April 7, 1973, in St. Louis, the Board of Directors was given a sincere vote of confidence by the membership for its efforts to establish a democratic organization.

As a guarantee that the Board of Directors will be completely responsive to the membership, two major changes in alignment were made.

First, the Board was expanded to 11 members, including the officers of the IRA who had not been members in the past — the President, National Commissioner, National Rules Commissioner and National Coordinator — plus a Canadian representative selected by the CRA.

Second, it was determined that no director can serve longer than a three-year term and cannot seek reelection until three years after that term expires. This means a constant involvement of new personnel and new ideas.

Your Board of Directors feels that the IRA is realizing "a new beginning" and, as such, approaches the coming months with a zestful enthusiasm. Our efforts since St. Louis have overcome some obstacles and have brought good results.

All systems are "Go" and a vigorous cam-



DeWitt Shy

President
International
Racquetball
Association

DeWitt M. Shy of Memphis, Tenn., new President of the IRA is president and chairman of the board of Shy Management Company, registered investment advisers, and president and chairman of the board of Compustrend Fund. He holds a BS in chemical engineering from Auburn University. With Smith Schippers, Shy placed third in 1970 and second in 1971 in National Masters Doubles. In his own words, he won "numerous local mugs consolation tournaments, 1969 to 1971." He retired from competition in 1971.

**See President's Report
on Back Cover**

paign is now on to unite the IRA into a stronger organization than ever before.

The IRA will continue to grow in such areas as memberships, tournaments, advanced equipment, player aid (both educational and financial) and, above all, the players' fraternity.

New happenings are taking place every day in our sport of racquetball and we want to share these new ideas with the entire membership through the use of RACQUETBALL magazine. As in any sport, the achievements of the good players are listed in detailed fashion, showing the whys and wherefores of championship style play.

This is certainly essential to the growth of the game, but even more so, in my judgment, is the achievement of the average player who never will reach the championship level. The backbone of our association is the average player who still manages to have fun while playing racquetball.

In our "new beginning" I would like to think that all caliber of players, men and women alike, young and old, share in a common goal — to make the International Racquetball Association the epitome of togetherness, competition and sportsmanship.

Rough Seas Astern . . . Smooth Sailing Ahead

By DeWitt Shy

On April 7, at the 1973 annual meeting of the IRA during the International Open Championships in St. Louis, I was elected President by the general membership.

On April 9, I wrote the past

president, Mr. Bob Kendler, a letter on behalf of all the members thanking him for the years of unselfish service he had contributed to the sport of racquetball. At this time I also requested the records, minute book, correspondence, contracts and all other material perti-

nent to the IRA, so that the new officers could continue to operate a viable organization.

During the weeks that followed, repeated pleadings from me and from other members of the Board of Directors to the past president

continued page 9

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Res. Phone 901-324-9401

See Page 6 for Resume

KEN PORCO

National Commissioner
3924 Layside Drive
Louisville, Ky. 40220
502-584-7711

A 12-letter, three-sport collegiate star at U of Louisville (football, baseball, track), Ken is one of the strongest athletes in racquetball and was 1971 International doubles champion (with Mike Zeitman). Operates a new athletic club in Louisville.



MYRON RODERICK

Acting Executive Director
PO Box 1016
Stillwater, Okla. 74074
405-377-2676

For 13 years, head wrestling coach at Oklahoma State University, where his teams won seven national championships. A three-time NCAA champion and Olympic wrestler, now executive director of U. S. Wrestling Federation.



BUD MUEHLEISEN, D. D. S.
National Rules Commissioner
6244 El Cajon Blvd. #14
San Diego, Calif. 92115
714-583-6791

A dentist in his "spare time," Dr. Bud probably has done more to develop and promote racquetball than anybody in the U. S. Former International Open champ, now the top senior player in the world after "double" in 1973 Masters.



GERARD W. LAPIERRE
National Coordinator
27629 Chagrin Blvd.
Woodmere, Ohio 44122
216-464-3022

Now athletic director at the Powers Club in Cleveland, Gerry has traveled extensively in sales in recent years and has been the roving ambassador of the IRA. He has been a great asset as a public relations representative for the sport of racquetball.

ROBERT A. CHALLENGER

Canadian Director
708 West 61st Avenue
Vancouver 14, B. C.
604-291-2246

Operates Challenger Equipment Ltd., dealers in chain-saws, logging equipment and electronic manufacturing. Born in Vancouver. First president of B. C. Racquet Association and has held almost all offices in Canadian racquetball.



ROBERT McINERNEY

PO Box 276
Coronado, Calif. 92118
714-435-1341

An excellent athlete, the tall San Diegan conducts tennis clinics throughout the U. S. as a tennis pro. Also brought experience in badminton and other sports to the first IRA tournament in 1969 and has been a long-time advocate of racquetball.

LARRY LEDERMAN

JCC, 1400 N. Prospect
Milwaukee, Wis. 53103
414-276-0716

As physical education director of Milwaukee's Jewish Community Center, Larry was the man responsible for the true beginnings of the IRA, organizing it on an international level with the help of the U. S. Handball Association. Served as first IRA National Commissioner.

SMITH SCHIPPERS

PO Box 378
Memphis, Tenn. 38101
901-526-112

President of Marx & Bensdorf, Inc., a mortgage banking firm dealing for more than 100 years in all areas of real estate, mortgages and insurance. Back in competition two years after a heart attack. Masters doubles runner-up 1971, third 1970 (with DeWitt Shy).



For reasons outlined in detail in these pages, the transition of IRA headquarters and problems involved in acquisition of materials and supplies delayed publication of the scheduled May issue of RACQUETBALL until this time. Bi-monthly issues resume with this Summer 1973 edition. Copies of the November, January, March and Summer issues may be obtained from the IRA office, PO Box 1016, Stillwater, Okla. 74074. If you have failed to receive the magazine, or know of someone who has, please let us know at the new address.



CHARLES BRUMFIELD
7177 Murray Park Drive
San Diego, Calif. 92119
714-469-3170

The top racquetball player in the world. Won International Open singles past two years, added 1973 doubles title (with Steve Serot). Has just completed law school. A great asset to the Board as a strong voice for the younger racquetball players.

WILLIAM A. SELLARS, M. D.

638 West 10th
Dallas, Texas 75208
214-948-3731

Allergy specialist and assistant clinical professor, Dept. of Pediatrics, Southwestern Medical School. Active in medical research and author of a dozen scientific papers. Runner-up Masters singles, 1973 Internationals, third in Masters doubles.



Rough Seas Astern . . . Smooth Sailing Ahead

From page 6

and our executive secretary (by letter and phone) requesting them to mail the IRA records to the new management fell on deaf ears.

After four weeks had passed and no response was forthcoming, an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee was held at St. Louis and I, as President of the Association, was directed to take whatever steps necessary to obtain our records. The situation by now had become critical; to mention one item — our Association had legal obligations with our suppliers to run advertising in the magazine as contracted.

Curiously enough, through all of this, I was practically alone in my complacency regarding the whole situation, since I remembered very clearly the discussion before the entire board that the transfer of management would be orderly and in good faith, with the executive secretary staying on the job and the Association's payroll until the next issue of our magazine was published and mailed.

This was agreed upon because the magazine was well on its way to completion and the deadline was rapidly approaching.

However, my faith was jolted when a series of alarming rumors came to my attention, rumors which I later verified as true. Our suppliers were being solicited for advertising in a new competitive magazine; furthermore, there was no intention of publishing our magazine. It was quite obvious that our magazine, our members and our contracts were being raided.

As officers and members of the

Board of Directors, we would have been guilty of gross incompetence and neglect had we allowed our organization to dissolve and become extinct.

Consequently, suit was filed by the IRA through Jenner & Block of Chicago, in the circuit court of Cook County, Ill., for an emergency injunction against Robert W. Kendler and Charles S. Leve.

After this legal action was filed, two members of the Board of Directors and IRA attorneys met in Chicago with attorneys for the de-

fendants and succeeded in obtaining the corporate seal, the minutes book, other corporate records including contracts and materials for the partially completed issue of the magazine.

Through the continuing efforts of the IRA attorneys, additional materials were made available and I am pleased to report at this time that nearly all the files of the Association are on hand at the new office. Our attorneys will continue to press the situation until it is completely resolved.

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The Commissioner's Court

What more can be said? The JCCA in St. Louis has done it again. The staff and tournament committees of the "J" again provided the IRA with the ultimate extravaganza of the year. The 5th annual IRA championship was a huge success, largely due to the fact that the host facility was so well prepared. As I stated in my message at the tournament banquet, no stone was left unturned in making the player's stay in St. Louis a happy one.

As a player and an IRA director, I would like to extend my congratulations and sincere thanks to all those wonderful people at the "J" for giving of themselves so unselfishly for many months prior to and during the tournament. Believe me, your hard work was appreciated by all of the players.

The tournament, as usual, had its own little surprises. There were upsets, near upsets, routine laughs, and some poor play. (I can readily attest to this). Some people thought

that for a time, either Steve Serot or Steve Keeley had solved the Brumfield style. But for those of us who were on hand it was easy to see that Charlie had only momentarily lost his concentration and control.

Of course, as most often is the case, the opponent's good play can make one lose his concentration. Serot and Keeley managed to do this for at least one game during their matches with Brumfield. To no one's surprise, Bill Schmidtke had another great tournament. In his first game against Keeley I never have seen him play better, but Old Man Fatigue finally caught up with Bill in the third game.

In the open doubles I don't believe that Ken Wong and Jerry Hilecher have anything to feel bad about. It would have taken a tremendous effort for anyone to have beaten Serot and Brumfield especially the way "Brum" was controlling the tempo of the games. Con-

gratulations must surely go to the teams of Bill Thurman and Bill Dunn and Joe Wirkus and Galen Johnson who proved their worth by reaching the semi-finals.

The Masters singles and doubles competition was again a joy to behold. This group of gentlemen manage not only to play tough competitive racquetball, but they mix in a little fun along the way. The "Mule" (Bud Muehleisen) tamed the "Wildcat" (Bill Evans of Louisville) but only after a hard fight in the semis of the Masters singles.

The racquetball world is talking mostly about the sweetest surprise of all — Peggy Steding, who swept through a strong field of women players losing only one game along the way. My impression was that many of the men in attendance would have been quite embarrassed were they to meet Peggy in racquetball competition.

All in all, it was a great tournament and the IRA's biggest ever. Which brings to mind the question "Will it soon become too big a tournament to have all at one time?" Your Board of Directors has some ideas along these lines, but we would like to hear from the general membership.

Finally, I cannot close this report without mentioning something about the "other" events of the tournament. I was as much surprised and saddened as everyone was at the resignation of Bob Kendler as president of our association. We will undoubtedly miss his leadership and unqualified experience for any future happening in racquetball.

Over the years the name of Bob Kendler has been synonymous with racquetball and handball. Players the world over surely must feel a debt of gratitude to this man who almost singlehandedly brought two rather obscure sports into national prominence. Bob Kendler's contribution to racquetball has been totally unselfish and for this, we the players, offer our most heartfelt thanks and wish him the very best of luck.

The IRA Board of Directors accept the responsibility of maintaining this organization with the utmost enthusiasm and along with the ideas and suggestions of the general membership, we plan to keep the rapid growth of our sport spiraling to an all-time high. You, as an IRA member, can be a big help in making your association grow by getting new players to join the IRA and letting your own voice be heard through Racquetball Magazine.

Attention, Players



The Board of Directors of the International Racquetball Association advises all players that no decision has been made and no policy has been established covering professionalism within the IRA.

The subject will be discussed at the next meeting of the Board of Directors, June 23 in Memphis, and a decision will be announced to the membership shortly thereafter.

Any player who signs a contract with a professional organization, or who competes in a professional tournament before an IRA policy is announced, will jeopardize his amateur standing and his eligibility for all future events of the International Racquetball Association.

Canadian Report

To: *The Directors of the Canadian Racquetball Association, Edmonton, Alberta*

By *Robert A. Challenger*

On your instructions and on your behalf, I attended and represented the Canadian Racquetball Association at the IRA directors meetings and annual general meeting, April 2-9, at St. Louis, Mo.

Not including the number of hours spent in informal discussion, the actual time spent in directors' meetings during the week was approximately 18 hours. The annual general meeting lasted approximately two hours.

The reason for the extended meetings was a result of a serious difference of opinion between the former president, Mr. Robert Kendler, and the Board of Directors. (Details of the reorganization of the IRA, including Mr. Kendler's resignation and the eventual election of Mr. DeWitt Shy of Memphis, Tennessee, as president, are presented elsewhere in this publication.)

Our allegiance remains with the IRA, the Directors of which received a unanimous vote of confidence from all the members at the annual general meeting for the actions they have taken, and they were given a clear mandate for the ensuing year.

Some of the important changes that took place include the one allowing for a Canadian Director. The Canadian Racquetball Association will appoint a Director to the IRA who will serve for a term of three years. Originally, the constitution said this Director must be approved by the IRA Board of Directors, but the IRA Board chose to strike this out and leave the appointment of the Canadian Director solely in the hands of the CRA. In my opinion, this is a very friendly and generous gesture.

There was no further discussion on the establishment of the Canadian Divisions as previously out-

lined and it is presumed that this is now in effect. The fares for the three players from the Eastern Canadian Division were paid by the IRA and it was unofficially given to me that an allowance for the same amount that would have gone to the Western Division in 1973 will be added to the financial assistance to be given to the Canadian Nationals in July.

Mr. Ken Porco, the National Commissioner, has urged the development of the sport of racquetball at the State level. All of the Directors feel that the strength of the Association lies in the grass roots in that State, Municipal and Civic organizations must function if we are to reach the estimated 100,000 racquetball players potentially available in North America at the present time. This, of course, is exactly the approach we have made in Canada and I would urge that the CRA continue to encourage the Provincial Associations to develop the sport at the Provincial level.

In discussions I had with Mr. Porco, the National Commissioner whose responsibility it is to appoint Area Commissioners, I recommended that consideration be given to Mr. Tevie Smith as IRA Commis-

sioner for Western Canada. As you are aware, functions of a Commissioner are to promote the sport within his area, assist in putting on any IRA sanctioned tournaments and, generally, to provide liaison between the IRA Headquarters and the players in his particular area. My reasons for recommending Tevie Smith are that he is able to and does attend almost all of the tournaments in our area, is fairly conversant with rules and regulations governing the game and is quite well known throughout our own area in Canada and the Western Region of the IRA in the United States.

In respect to assistance for the upcoming Canadian Nationals, I had discussions with some of the Directors and I gathered the impression that they wished us to carry on under the same arrangements that were previously discussed and enumerated.

The 1973 International Tournament was great. There were seven Canadians attending the tournament and, in my opinion, displayed some brilliant play on occasions. However, we have a good deal of work to do in Canada before we are able to field championship players to compete internationally.

**What's Your Racquet?
This is Ours!**

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"A BONANZA" OF FUN

1973

3rd ANNUAL CANADIAN NATIONAL

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ENTRY DEADLINE MIDNIGHT JULY 11.

ALL ENTRANTS MUST BE PREPARED TO SHOW
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WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO UP-GRADE ANY ENTRANTS WHO DO NOT ENTER THE CLASSIFICATION BEST SUITED TO THEIR CALIBRE OF PLAY LIMIT 2 EVENTS.

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C. R. A.

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Edmonton, Alberta

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SITE: University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

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RULES: I.R.A. rules and regulations apply. Entries must be signed. Consolations in all events excluding masters singles, and masters doubles.

TROPHIES: To first three places in each event, and first place Consolations.

PLUS: Banquet July 20, 1973; hospitality rooms, souvenir, refreshments, all inclusive for each entrant. Banquet guests \$5.00 each. If you tell us your arrival time, we will meet your plane.

ENTRY DEADLINE: In our possession by midnight July 11. Prescribed fee must accompany entry form. Entries received after the deadline date or without the prescribed fee will not be accepted.

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13332 - 106A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 1C2.
Cheque must accompany signed entry form.

Please enter me in: OPEN SINGLES () OPEN DOUBLES ()
B - SINGLES () MASTERS SINGLES ()
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We reserve the right to up-grade any entrants who do not enter the classification best suited to their calibre of play.

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NAME OF DOUBLES PARTNER _____ AGE _____ CLUB _____
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ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____

IRA CARD NO. _____ CRA CARD NO. _____

PARTNER'S CARD NO. _____ PARTNER'S CARD NO. _____

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Canadian Racquetball, Alberta Racquetball, International Racquetball Associations or their respective agents, University of Alberta or any other facility used for this tournament, for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

SIGNATURE _____ PH. _____

PARTNER'S SIGNATURE _____ PH. _____

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Upon arrival, check into the hospitality room
at Macdonald Hotel.

Make Cheques Payable to:
Alberta Racquetball Association. Same must
accompany entry.



The Internationals...

This Is How The Game Is Played

Charlie Brumfield retained his National Championship but he had to battle hard this year, including two three-game victories. He also won the doubles to lay claim to "all National and International titles."

Charlie Brumfield is the best racquetball player in the world. He proved it again April 3-8 in St. Louis as he swept through the open singles bracket to a thrilling, yet convincing championship round victory over Steve Keeley 21-8, 13-21, 21-12.

Both players call San Diego home right now and it was not the first time they had met in tourney competition. In fact, Keeley held an edge going in having defeated Brumfield once in paddleball and twice in racquetball over the past two years. But that's getting away from the story.

FIRST ROUND

Not much action in round one as most of the top players drew byes in the 102 man field. But there were some good matches. Bill Dunn, a top Californian needed three games to best Fred Blaess, Schaumburg, Illinois 18-21, 21-6, 21-8. Joe Wirkus, to gain later fame in doubles, topped Ron Starkman, San Diego, who went on to capture the consolation title. It was Wirkus 21-20, 21-7. One of the most exciting matches of the first round saw Paul Lazure, Colorado Springs down James Chandler, Memphis, with a 21-20 third game. Other good players bit the dust in the opening play. Roland Treat, Stillwater Oklahoma took it on the chin from Ivan Velan, Montreal, Canada's third ranked player, 21-16, 21-20. Bob Siegel, Atlanta topped Evans Wright, current open doubles titleholder in paddleball, 21-20, 21-15.

SECOND ROUND

The top players got their feet wet in the second round Tuesday with all of the big boys coming through. There were a few upsets and a number of close matches. Young Davey Bledsoe, Knoxville, Tennessee went three games before downing Don Edwards, Colorado Springs. Edwards had topped San Diego's Bob McInerney in the first round. Marc Auerbach gave Ken Porco a good battle before succumbing 21-11, 21-17; Wirkus topped Memphis' Eddie Hill by the same scores; Mike Luciw, who most likely would like to forget this tournament, was eliminated by Mark Susson, Newport, California 16-21, 21-15, 21-7.

As for the seeded players Brumfield topped Dick Bishop, Keokuk, Iowa 21-5, 21-10. Ron Rubenstein, Chicago, the tourney's second seed had an easy time against Bob Weinstein, St. Louis, 21-1, 21-7 and that was it down the line. Serot a winner, three and two; Wong, three and six; Austin seven and four; Keeley four and six. It was like shuffling the deck of cards, the real action was soon to begin.

THIRD ROUND

And action galore at two p.m. Wednesday with Dan Alder, the other half of the paddleball open doubles champs shocking Porco, National Commissioner of the I.R.A. The first game was routine enough. Porco taking a 21-10 win. But Alder did not let up and forced Porco to three taking the second game 21-12.

In the third Kenny reached back for that extra something and it wasn't there. He had gone two consecutive near-all night sessions in meetings and just couldn't get his game together. In a game attempt he fell short, 21-16. All of the other top 16 seeds reached the fourth round, but some barely made it.

Garfinkel, the ninth seed, was suffering from the same disease that was afflicting Porco but he got a quick awakening from Bledsoe, the lanky hard hitter now schooling at the University of Tennessee, 21-16 in game one. But the Gar turned things around and played his steady game moving to 21-8, 21-6 second and third game wins. Myron Roderick, the 12th seed, faced Roger Souders, San Diego and the Stillwater Oklahoman was destroyed in game one 21-6. Roderick, too, was fatigued due to Board meetings, but managed to salvage the match 21-10, 21-13.

George Rudysz, defending doubles champ from New Britain, Conn. had no excuses, except the fine play of Dave (D.C.) Charlson, San Diego. Rudysz used his great power and deadly forehand kills to race to a 21-8 first game win, but as he is prone to do, lost his concentration in game two and fell 21-17 to southpaw Charlson's fine control. Game three went to Rudysz 21-11, with neither man being sharp. Another player who did not look sharp was sixth seed Mike Zeitman, Louisville. Mike figured to be a strong contender after his excellent showing in



Minneapolis last December, but he too was forced to three games, by Bill Fearing, Newport Beach, California. Bill grabbed the first game 21-14, but Zeitman held on, turned it around and came out on top 21-12, 21-13.

The top seeds were still doing their thing. Brumfield gave Bill King, Memphis a tour of the court 21-9, 21-17 in a match closer than either man thought it would be. Wong had a surprisingly easy time against up-and-comer Steve Strandemo, St. Cloud, Minn. 21-8, 21-17. Serot blasted Wirkus six and 10, while Dunn gave Paul Lawrence a tussle before bowing 21-17, 21-12.

Bill Schmidtke, seed number three topped Velan 21-7, 21-14, but the match was close enough to give the young Canadian the incentive to keep working on his game. He's not that far away. Bill Thurman, seeded 14, had to scramble against Ron Strom, St. Cloud for a 21-14, 21-18 victory. Bill has all the tools just lacks the consistency. Jimmy Austin had a nice match against Craig McCoy, the youngest player in the tournament, just short of 16 years old. McCoy, a lefty out of Riverside, California had won a thrill-



1973 champ Charlie Brumfield casts the evil eye on opponents. It wasn't as easy this year, but Charlie made it two straight. (Below left) Brumfield tries to get out of deep left court by the soundest strategy: a ceiling ball. (Right) Steve Keeley zeroes in on a backhand kill.

ing three-gamer against Tom Wirkus in the second round with the third going 21-19. However, in the case of Austin the forehand southpaw against Jim's backhand is no advantage and Austin prevailed 21-19, 21-13.

Keeley "routined" Randy Stafford, Knoxville, five and 13; Jerry Hilecher did the same with Gordon Kelly six and 15, while Rubenstein topped Tom McKie, Stillwater nine and six. Charlie Drake, the 15th seed had a tough first game against Susson, eking out a 21-20 victory, then having no difficulty in the second game 21-6.

ROUND OF 16

If the emersion of the top seeded players shows good seeding then Executive Secretary Chuck Leve did his job. Fifteen of the top 16 seeded players reached the fourth round, with only number eight Porco missing. Ninety-nine matches in two days had trimmed the open singles bracket to the top 16 by Thursday.

In the upper bracket number one Brumfield met number 16 Wong in a match that was very difficult to anticipate, and even more difficult to explain. Wong's game had been steadily improving over the last eight months since his move from Indianapolis to St. Louis. Recent wins over Hilecher and Serot plus a highly disciplined game led many people to believe that little Ken could give Brumfield a run for his money.

Wong's biggest asset is still his speed and retrieving ability, along with a beautiful ceiling game. The question was could his shooting hold up? Well, Brumfield baffled the experts, by not putting Wong on the "tour." Figuring that Ken could most likely run all day, a tour game could last for weeks. Instead Brumfield reverted to his style of two years ago, shooting at the first opportunity. The strategy broke Wong down immediately, and Charlie raced to 19-0 leads in both games, coming out with identical 21-3 victories.

Garfinkel looked very good against Alder. The lanky Buffalo, New York native kept his concentration from the opening service and never let the Michigan State University grad student get untracked. The Gar triumphed 21-11, 21-8.

Serot, the fifth seed then met Roderick in what many hoped to be a good battle. Steve and Myron had met before, and the stocky ex-wrestler seemed to have the youngster's number, including a 21-1 victory in one tournament. But Steve was



not letting the psyche become a factor this year, and coupled with Roderick's lack of stamina (meetings, two events, 38 years old) the match was not even close going to Serot 21-3, 21-4.

The Lawrence-Rudysz match presented an interesting contrast in styles. Of course, Rudysz and anybody else in the nation will be a contrast in styles. But George, known for his rip-city specials and Lawrence, one of the masters of front court soft shots seemed to be a natural match-up. Rudysz relies primarily on his body; Lawrence primarily on his mind. Paul weathered an early first game storm and took control of the game at its mid-way point for a 21-9 win. In game two George stayed on the ceiling, mixing it with effective Z-balls to give Lawrence trouble. But the veteran racquetball and paddleballer held on for a 21-20 victory.

In the bottom bracket three of the four round of 16 matches went three games. Thurman came out smokin' against Schmidtke and plain outshot the former (1971) champ, 21-11 in game one. But experience seemed to pay off in this tournament and it did for Schmidtke, who is one of the greatest three game players in the game's history. He unloaded in the second two games, unveiling his top tourney forehand kills, along with an outstanding ceiling game, that kept Thurman constantly in back court. The result was 21-12, 21-11 wins.

Zeitman then met Austin, the 11th

seed, who came into the tourney after several rough outings in previous opens. But Jim was building his game up and seemed confident he could take Mike, especially after Zeitman's mediocre showing against Fearing. Zeitman had other thoughts, however, and showed them with an overwhelming 21-6 first game victory. It appeared that the match was going to be a routine Zeitman win. Not so, for Jim Austin came back, playing a much tougher game, especially with his erratic forehand now steady and topped Zeitman 21-14. Mike regained the momentum, and concentration to win the third 21-11.

Nobody likes to be seeded seven or 10. The only worse seeds are eight and nine. In the round of 16 these seeded players meet each other and in the case of this year's open one of two excellent players would not reach the quarterfinal round. They met in the round of 16: Steve Keeley and Jerry Hilecher.

Lanky, 18-year-old Jerry has been knocking on the door for three years, ever since he took Schmidtke to three games in the second round in Salt Lake City in 1971. Jerry is well known as a gambling shooter and he didn't disappoint the packed gallery against Keeley. But Steve is more consistent and it was that factor that eventually won him the match.

Game one was well played with Keeley dominating the majority of the rallies with great ceiling control and tremendous retrieving that led to a 21-14 win. Down a game Hilecher had one choice and he knew it: shoot. And did he ever, in a one game display that was as incredible a game as anyone has ever seen. When in doubt shoot, is the old axiom. And there was seldom any doubt. Jerry shot forehand and backhand, from front court or deep court. He killed Garfinkel serves, the worst percentage shot in racquetball except the overhead hypotenuse ball, which, had Hilecher shot in this game he would have made. All Keeley could do was give Jerry the worst possible shot, and hope to ride out the hot streak. Hilecher won game two 21-11.

The third game was literally unbelievable. The score fluctuated throughout until Keeley finally grabbed what seemed like an insurmountable lead at 20-15. Then in the weirdest series of rallies of the entire tournament, it took Keeley 10 innings, that's right 10 different services before he could tally the final point. And of those 10 innings, Hilecher could only score three additional points for the final score, in Keeley's favor 21-18.

The match between Rubenstein and Drake in the other fourth round match had interesting prospects, for Drake had actually topped Ruby in the consolation round of the Invitational Singles in December. But insiders felt that if Rubenstein wanted he could handle Drake easily.

Well, you can be sure Rubenstein wanted to, but he didn't. Drake continues to show great improvement in his game (must be the equipment) and Rubenstein, for lack of a more flowery term, looked horrible. He was listless in movement, his shots did not vary, and he just seemed to be going through the motions. It was enough, however, and Ruby emerged, with a 21-15, 21-12 win.

QUARTER-FINALS

Again all the top seeds advanced, with seven of the top eight seeds in the round of eight and Garfinkel, the ninth seed, taking the number eight spot. And it was the Gar who had the toughest task in the quarter-finals as he came up against Brumfield.

Those who have followed racquetball the past few years know that there is much more to this match than just the ninth and first seeds playing. It was Garfinkel who, in 1971, shocked the tournament by eliminating Brumfield in the round of 16, paving the way for Schmidtke to capture the national title. In that match Brumfield actually scored more points than Garfinkel, but lost. Ever since then it has been Garfinkel's claim to fame, and Brumfield's burden to carry.

And even though Brumfield won the title in 1972, Garfinkel, the only man to have beaten him in the previous year, missed the Nationals due to injury. Prior to the match the Gar exuded confidence, and Brumfield wasn't saying much. He let his racquet talk for him, to the tune of a 21-7, 21-5 victory.

"He's certainly not the same player I beat two years ago," said Garfinkel. "His control is much better and his ceiling game is perfect. I've never played against a ceiling game that good."

The other top bracket match pitted Serot against Lawrence, who was playing a much stronger game than most people thought he would due to lack of competition at home. Serot, however, was playing just great, giving up on the average of less than five points per game to this stage in the tournament. Lawrence, too, was playing well, but had yet to regain his 1970 or '71 form.

The match was actually quite routine. With southpaw Steve flailing photons from every corner of the court, Paul's up front game was completely neutralized. And without the power to match Serot ceiling to ceiling, Paul was at a distinct disadvantage.

The scores showed it 21-12, 21-9.

On the other side of the draw Schmidtke and Zeitman were getting together for a match that promised fireworks. Bill's game was beautiful to watch as he got tougher and tougher with each round, working up to a peak he hoped to carry him to the finals. Zeitman, however, was struggling. In both the round of 16 and the quarters he went three



A good look at Bill Schmidtke as he follows through with a deep court backhand. The former champ was eliminated in the semi-finals for the second year in a row.

games, and his concentration was not there. But the last time these two met was in December where Zeitman captured a three game victory. Not this time.

Schmidtke was just too good. His forehand was solid, his backhand consistent and he really went to town, 21-10, 21-16 on Zeitman.

"It's a real disappoint for me," said Mike. "Especially after waiting two years for this chance." The reference was to a back injury that kept him out of last year's tournament.

Another great match-up that fizzled was Keeley-Rubenstein. A week prior to the Nationals the two had worked out together in Chicago, splitting eight games and really battling each other. It appeared that somehow Keeley did a psyche job on Ruby, however, because Ron's game was only a shadow of its normal self.

"The way I played," said Rubenstein. "My grandmother could have beaten me."

Unfortunately for Ruby, his opponent was Keeley. Steve outthrustled Ron, out-shot him, and really outplayed him. Scores were 21-11, 21-15.

SEMI-FINALS

Without a doubt the best single game of the tournament occurred in the semi-final match between Serot and Brumfield. It had all the ingredients: 24-year-old tournament veteran against 17-year-old kid; lefty versus righty; two doubles partners against each other; hometown favorite versus the number one seed; home court advantage; the works. Yet one couldn't help but have the attitude

The Top 8

of "I hope Steve can get close." Everyone was hoping for a good match, few felt Steve could win.

After at least half a dozen defeats at the hands of Brumfield in tourneys and/or exhibitions Serot the last time out seemed bewildered against Charlie. And then to join up as a doubles team and have even more Brumfield domination really looked to unnerve the kid. So much so that he considered being hypnotized prior to the match so the Brumfield psyche would not have an effect.

But cooler heads prevailed and the fans settled down to enjoy a great game, which began strongly in Brumfield's favor. His tight defense and strategy of take the shots when you get them led to a 4-1 lead after five innings. Then Serot loosened up and tied the score at 7-all after the ninth frame.

Serot then went on a tear, tallying eight consecutive points over the next two innings, despite interruptions of three hinders and a Brumfield time out. His kills were dead, his retrieves tremendous and he gained a 15-7 lead. But Brumfield stalked back, much to the dismay of the partisan St. Louis J.C.C.A. fans. Three points in the 11th and three more in the 12th made it 16-13 Serot and two more in the 13th made it 16-15. But Steve kept the pressure on, killing for 17 and 18 one in each inning, while he held Brumfield scoreless over the next four frames. As the tension built and Brumfield closed in, Serot tallied 19 on an unbelievable point hitting a backhand kill, while making a diving retrieve. He then managed 20 on a corner kill off a ceiling ball, but lost the serve. Brumfield then reached 20 with three straight points but lost the serve on an error at 20-all. Serot then killed with his forehand for game point and a thrilling 21-20 win.

Games two and three were horrible, at least from a Serot standpoint. He had fatigued himself during his great first game effort and when Brumfield ran up a big lead (12-2) in the second game, Serot let him have the game, hoping to use the 10 minute rest period to regain the momentum. It never happened.

Charlie broke on top in the third game 6-1 after two innings and 10-3 after five. At 10-4 in the ninth inning Brumfield streaked for eight straight points to put the game out of reach. Six kills, two Serot

BRUMFIELD			
	BRUMFIELD		
GARFINKEL	21-7, 21-5		
		BRUMFIELD	
SEROT		20-21, 21-3, 21-4	
	SEROT		
LAWRENCE	21-12, 21-9		
		BRUMFIELD	
SCHMIDTKE			CHAMPION 21-8, 13-21, 21-12
	SCHMIDTKE		
ZEITMAN	21-10, 21-16		
		KEELEY	
KEELEY		12-21, 21-19, 21-12	
	KEELEY		
RUBENSTEIN	21-11, 21-15		
		THIRD PLACE: SEROT INJURY FORFEIT	

Paul Lawrence about to go to the ceiling in the quarters. Serot watches intently as he no doubt will get a ceiling to his backhand cross court on Lawrence's shot. This match went to Serot.





Brumfield has the "hot hand" and Serot wonders how to cool it off.

FINALS

"Keeley is the only guy Brumfield is concerned about," said one of the Brumfield backers before the match. "Keeley has the skills to win if he puts it all together."

In order not to let Keeley put it together, Brumfield had to play his game, one of patience, anticipation and re-kills. To get into a shooting match with Keeley would be suicide.

In the first game he did it to perfection. Being a more disciplined player, Brumfield has the patience to hit ceiling after ceiling ball and wait for his opening. Keeley had been varying his ceiling balls with around-the-wall balls during the course of the tournament. However, this shot is vulnerable to being taken out of the air and killed forehand if the opposition is ready for it.

And it worked exactly that way. Early in the game, Keeley tired of the continuous ceiling rallies and went around-the-walls. Each time Brumfield moved up and killed, forcing Steve back to the ceiling game, where he didn't want to be.

Brumfield managed a 5-0 and 6-1 lead and worked it up to 12-2 after a Keeley time out. At this point Steve was risking poor percentage shots from deep court and Charlie was jumping on the ball as it came up, and passing Steve who raced up for the anticipated re-kill.

Keeley tried to re-group and could only get to within 8-15, before Brumfield poured it on. Four straight passes, left, right and two more to the left put the game out of reach and three more Brumfield kills made it 21-8.

errors and a few hinders, including a plaster hinder all surfaced in that fateful ninth frame. After putting Steve out in the 10th all Charlie had to do was put the ball in play for the three points and ticket to the finals. Final game score 21-4.

The Keeley-Schmidtke match was anything but boring. Both men had brought their game to a threshold and now fought for the dubious distinction of finding out who would battle Brumfield for the title. On the first game results one would have voted for Schmidtke.

Easy going Bill was right on with his forehand kills, making it seem like the ball had a magnet in it that drew it to the front right corner on each kill attempt. After two scoreless innings Schmidtke hit for five quick points in the third to Keeley's one, then four more in the fourth and two in the fifth for an 11-1 lead. At this point people began to squirm for Keeley had been playing perhaps the best racquetball of the tourney and here was Schmidtke riding momentum to a big lead. Bill held on, played even after the big lead and came out with a 21-12 first game win.

The second game was nip and tuck, and after surrendering a substantial lead late in the game, Schmidtke almost took it away from Keeley. Bill broke on top with three points in the first two frames with two forehand kills and a pass and managed to increase it to 6-2 before Keeley untracked himself. But the curly haired ex-Michigander tied it at 11 after an avoidable hinder against Schmidtke gave him the serve.

Steve then tallied seven straight points over the next nine innings while holding Schmidtke scoreless during the same time. While Bill finally countered with a point in the 18th frame Keeley retaliated with two kills and a Schmidtke error for a 17-12 advantage, which he built to 19-13 an inning later.

But Keeley didn't seem able to hold

the lead. Two side wall-front wall corner kills to the forehand side made it 15-19, and after Keeley tallied with a hard pass that struck Schmidtke it was 20-15. But Bill came back again, holding Steve without a point for three more serves, while he chalked four points and moved to within 19-20. Then he skipped an off balance three quarter court kill attempt, regained the serve on a Keeley error, but Steve killed again for the lead, and finally put the game away with another kill, 21-19.

Keeley started hot in the third game, racing to a 5-0 and 9-2 lead. The closest Bill could get was 11-8 and 12-9, before Steve put the game too far out of reach at 16-10 and 18-12. It appeared that Steve was just too fresh and Bill didn't quite have the shots when tired.

Both players seemed to be trading points and serves from the midway point in the game until Keeley got a hot streak late. At 16-12 Steve hit six of his next seven kill attempts including two horrible percentage overhand deep court kills, one for point 17 and one for 20. Schmidtke called a strategic time out at 19-12 but it was to no avail. Final score 21-12.

OPEN SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

GAME ONE

KEELEY	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	1	—	8
BRUMFIELD	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	5	2	6	—	21

Kills — Brumfield 12, Keeley 8; Passes — Brumfield 16, Keeley 7; Errors — Brumfield 4, Keeley 5; Aces — Brumfield 1, Keeley 1; Hinders — 5; Time outs — Keeley 2.

GAME TWO

BRUMFIELD	0	1	1	0	0	4	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	—	13
KEELEY	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	5	1	1	0	3	4	—	21

Kills — Keeley 23, Brumfield 16; Passes — Brumfield 7, Keeley 9; Errors — Brumfield 8, Keeley 7; Aces — None; Hinders — 8; Time outs — Keeley 1, Brumfield 1, Referee 2.

GAME THREE

KEELEY	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	—	12
BRUMFIELD	0	0	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	3	1	—	21

Kills — Brumfield 16, Keeley 13; Passes — Brumfield 8, Keeley 5; Errors — Brumfield 7, Keeley 11; Aces — None; Hinders — 6; Time outs — Brumfield 2, Keeley 2. Referee — Bruce Kranz.



Random shots from the finals. (Top left) Keeley about to pinch right. (Top right) Brumfield re-killing from front court with Keeley far out of position. (Above) The champ sets for a backhand ceiling shot from deep court. Note the concentration. (Center right) Another Keeley kill attempt to the right corner. (Right) Keeley down after some rigorous body surfing. Get up, Steve, it isn't that bad, is it?



There was much more shooting in the second game, as Brumfield, perhaps thinking ahead to having to play doubles later in the day, tried to force the game. It looked like good strategy for awhile as he chalked up an 8-2 lead, but he should have known he couldn't outshoot Steve. Sensing the change in battle plan, Keeley's anticipation became outstanding and he quickly pulled to within 7-9 and tied it at 11.

From there the two San Diegans battled it out in front court, flailing away with low percentage kill attempts. It was exciting racquetball to watch, but dumb to play, at least for Brumfield. It went to 12-11, 12-all, 13-12 and 14-12 Keeley's add and then "Harpo" got hot.

A Brumfield pinch attempt to the right came up short, and gave Steve a two point bulge to work on at 15-13. When he killed two straight after long rallies to open up a 17-13 lead, the spectators could sense the game was completely away from Brumfield. Keeley's momentum, and accompanying confidence forced Brumfield to risk poor percentage shots, which he left up, making easy passes for Steve. At 18-13 a beautiful V-pass off the right side wall tallied 19 for Keeley and he finished up with a pinch right and pinch left for a great 21-13 victory.

Like many sports, racquetball can be defined in championship play as a game of momentum. As each player used various shots to move into a hot streak, the other did his utmost to counteract them. The third game became a game of streaks, with Brumfield leading off.

The defending champ began by reverting back to the successful style that had brought him an easy first game win. He did so in four innings, including a devastating seven point fourth, the longest string of the match, running up a 9-2 lead.



Then Keeley started back. The electricity was in the air. Brumfield was working as he seldom does — very hard. Would he tire? Could his shots be right there? It didn't look like it as Keeley rolled a six point frame, the eighth, into his longest string of the match. It was tied at 10-all.

What happened next was a display of perfect racquetball that literally won the match for Brumfield. In four innings Charlie scored seven points to Steve's none and grabbed a commanding 17-10 lead. In the series, Brumfield never took a bad shot. He waited for his opportunities, forced Keeley into mistakes and played the percentages to their hilt. When Keeley tried to get back into the game at 12-17, Charlie kept the ball in play, Keeley went for a deep court kill, it was up and Charlie passed him left for the service.

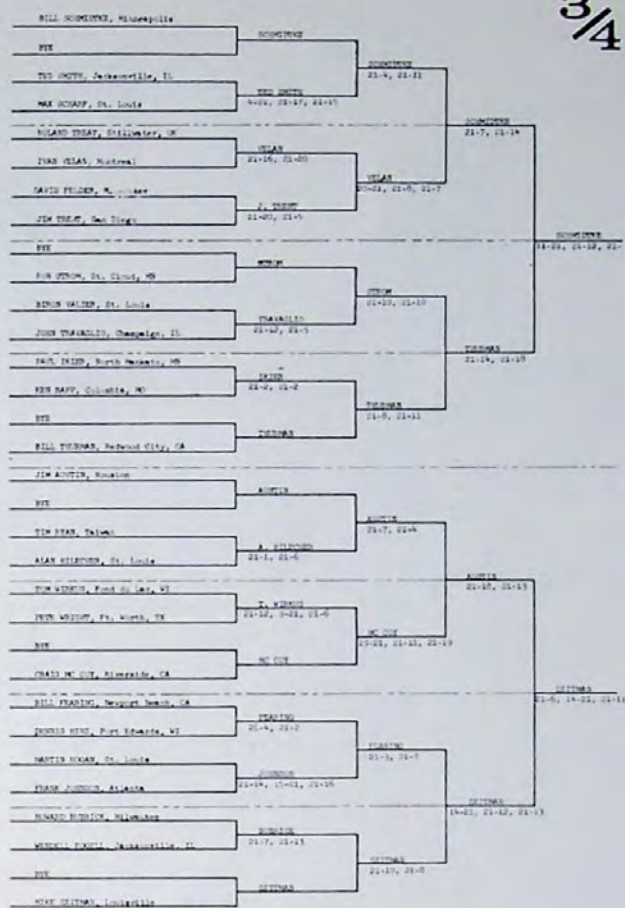
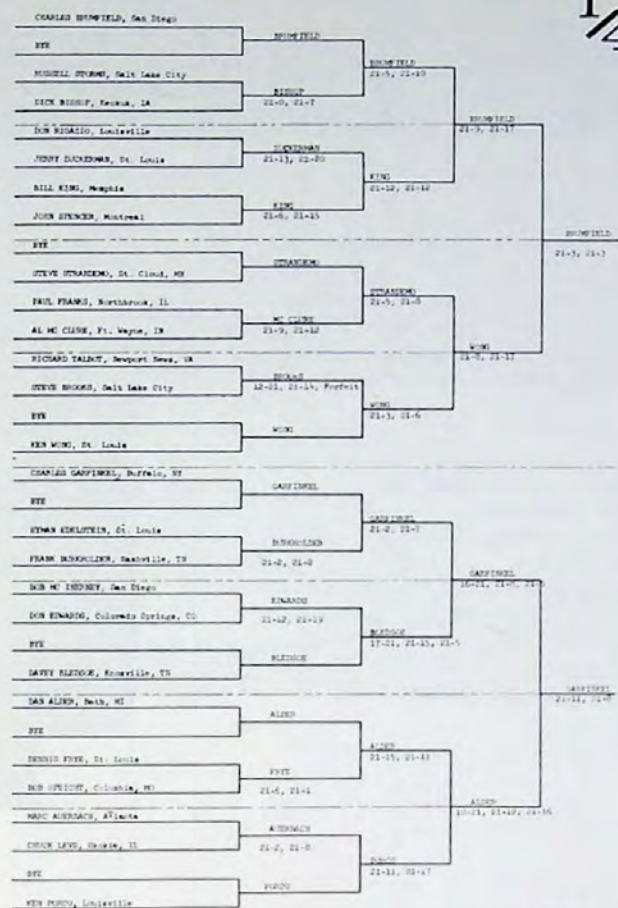
When Steve missed a "plum ball" to give Charlie his 19th point it was all over. Twenty came on pinch kill to the left and Steve finally took the serve with a pass of his own. But a Brumfield kill to the right gave him another match point serve, and to put the frosting on the cake Brumfield called a time out prior to serving.

"Just wanted to let him think about it," said Charlie.

Match point came with agony. Each player traded ceiling balls, six each back and forth down the left wall. Charlie broke the monotony with a pass attempt right, Keeley retrieved and Brumfield tried to get it by him again. Steve was ready and managed to get into pretty good position at three-quarters court for the forehand kill. But the shot skipped in and game, match, and "all national and International singles titles" went to Brumfield.



(Above) A Brumfield retrieve. (Left) Keeley killing in the front right corner with Brumfield's eye contact anticipating left corner. (Right) Brumfield on the tour in the second game.



The Draw





Was There Ever Any Doubt In The Open Doubles?

Brumfield and Serot teamed up for an unbeatable partnership, breezing through the open doubles without losing a game. By capturing both singles and doubles, Brumfield accomplished the first "double play" ever in open competition.

Two players in the 1973 Nationals did themselves well before ever stepping onto the court. One of these players was Steve Serot. The young southpaw, probably the best lefty in the game, happened to pick up Charlie Brumfield, the best righty, and together they formed a doubles team.

Due to the courtesies involved in a racquetball draw Serot-Brumfield were awarded the number three seed, behind last year's champs George Rudysz and Mike Luciw, the hard hitters from New Britain, Connecticut, and the next highest intact team, Ken Porco and Bill Evans, Louisville, fourth a year ago.

But as the tournament progressed, it became apparent that the only team not experiencing difficulty in each round was Brumfield and Serot.

After a first round bye, they defeated Bill Schmitdke and Bruce Kranz, the lanky Louisvilleite and referee extraordinaire 21-3, 21-4. The third round saw this dynamic duo utterly destroy a fine team, Mark Hegg and John Rude, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 21-1, 21-0. Hegg-Rude just couldn't do a thing right.

By round two Serot was playing the best left side short of Bud Muehleisen in his prime. With Brumfield setting him up with steady right side play, Serot was walloping his photon kills from all over the court. Fears that these two top singles players could not complement each other in doubles proved ridiculous. They worked like a Stradivarius.

Besides Brumfield-Serot, the other contending teams were in a dogfight each round, as the doubles produced some of the most thrilling matches of the entire tournament.

Near-upset number one occurred in the second round as Don Rigazio and new partner lefty Fred Michels were really put to the test by the pick-up team of Pete Talbot and Gordon Kelly, Newport Beach, Virginia-Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Rigazio-Michels captured game one 21-12, using Fred's lefty-righty advantage to its greatest. But Kelly-Talbot came back strong in the second game, with great retrieving and tough backwall kills to tie the match with a 21-12 win.

The third game was down to the wire. The momentum shifted to one side, then the other and back again, with each team having a clear shot at victory. In the end it was Rigazio-Michels and a 21-20 match triumph.

By the third round Thursday, each team left was capable of beating any of the others, and the match-ups were outstanding. Rudysz-Luciw, holding down their top seeded position precariously, managed to pull out a three-game win against Bill Fearing and Ron Starkman, Costa Mesa, California. The strong Easterners were not much stronger than those two Southern California bruisers and the first two games were great battles. George and Mike captured the first game 21-18, lost the second 21-19 and finally put some semblance of their 1972 form together to capture the third game 21-13.

"We're just not playing well," said George. "We'll have to get better tomorrow if we expect to win."

Opposite that match was a meeting of two rapidly improving young teams, Galen Johnson and Joe Wirkus, the Central Divisional champs from Green Bay and Reedsville, Wisconsin against the power hitting University of Tennessee tandem of Davey Bledsoe and Randy Stafford.

The pre-match advantage would seem to be in the Johnson-Wirkus corner due primarily to Johnson's tournament experience (four years in paddleball nationals) and his greater maturity after two years in the Army. Also, Galen being left-handed helped.

Johnson-Wirkus used their advantages to the fullest and pulled through with a relatively routine 21-8, 21-10 victory.

"I think we learned something," said Bledsoe after the loss. "We're young and we've got a lot of work to do, but I don't think we're that far away." He's probably right.

Rigazio and Michels ran up against Jerry Hilecher and Ken Wong, the South-

west Divisional champs, in their third round match and began it by taking their second consecutive 21-20 win. But Hilecher-Wong hung in, with Kenny's pin point ceiling game on the left and Jerry's great right corner kills, which they molded into 21-16, 21-6 second and third game victories.

Two major upsets occurred simultaneously at the five p.m. scheduling slot Thursday. The quickest one was a real jolt as Craig McCoy the 15-year-old lefty and Mark Susson, both from Riverside, California really stuck it to Porco and Evans.

Porco-Evans had had a difficult time in doing away with their second round foes, Myron Roderick and Fred Blaess, a last minute pick-up team, and it was evident that the grueling both ways route, was having its effect on Porco. More than that, in all probability, was Ken's lack of sleep due to conferences and meetings involving the national commissionership.

In any event, the Louisville team did not have it this day. McCoy's smooth forehand left corner kills, and the unusually well disciplined game of Susson proved to be simply too consistent for Evans-Porco, and the result was a 21-13, 21-16 rout.

The other major jolt was the defeat of the tournament's fourth seeded team, Roger Souders and Dave (D.C.) Charlson, the impressive San Diego duo. Souders and Charlson had proved to be the Cinderella team of the top 16 doubles tournament in Louisville in November, by finishing second to Brumfield and Muehleisen.

But word was out from San Diego that Roger's game was not on, and that D.C. was having difficulty playing good competition due to his duties running one of Mel Gorham's court club facilities.

Their opponents were a tough lefty-righty team of Dan Trost and Mike Mullins, Milwaukee, the Wisconsin state

(Right) Serot killing with his forehand into the left corner. This picture was taken at 1/250th of a second shutter speed. The ball, far right, is still a blur. Note Brumfield's perfect center court position.

(Opposite page) Wong hitting an overhand with Brumfield and Serot blocked out.



champs. Trost at times is one of the toughest players around, but, rightly or not, has picked up the reputation of not performing to his capabilities in big tournaments. Mullins is a steady right side player, who keeps the ball in play, setting up Dan's kills.

Souders-Charlson won game one 21-12, and then seemed to fall asleep on the court. In the second and third games, their movement was listless and their shots skipped so much you could smell rubber burning from court three at the J.C.C.A. End result was 21-14, 21-10 match victory for Trost-Mullins.

Another super-match occurred in the bottom bracket as the remaining third round matches both went three games. The best of the two pitted Bill Dunn and Bill Thurman, Hayward, California, both seasoned west coast tournament players, against an almost unknown team of Steve Strandemo and Ron Strom, kings of the hill in St. Cloud, Minnesota and second place finishers in the Central Divisional. Dunn and Thurman soon found out how tough St. Cloud is.

Strandemo-Strom blew 'em out of the court, to use the contemporary lingo, in the first game, blitzing to a 21-9 victory. Strandemo's gets on the right and southpaw Strom's pinch kills on the left put Thurman and Dunn into a daze.

The next two games were carbon copies of each other and as thrilling as you could get. In the end Thurman-Dunn won on experience, for when it got tight, their shots were there. Final game scores were identical 21-19 wins for Thurman-Dunn, giving Strandemo-Strom the dubious distinction of having scored more points in the match (59-51) and still managing to lose.



In the last third round match Steve Keeley and Charlie Drake, the sixth seeded team, San Diego, met Tom McKie, Stillwater, Oklahoma and Luther Bernstein, Dallas, the second placers in the Southwest Divisional.

It looked like Keeley-Drake entered the match over-confident, with both players holding back somewhat, since they both were going both ways. But for whatever reason, they soon were awakened by a resounding defeat, 21-9 in the first game.

The one thing people can always say about Charlie Drake is that he is competitive, very competitive. He fiercely wants to win, and for those who saw him in action for the first time in St. Louis, people, he has calmed down 50 per cent in the last two years.

Such drive enabled he and Keeley to get out the proverbial lead, and they moved on to a 21-15, 21-11 second and third game match win.

Of the four quarter-final matches only two were entertaining, from a spectator standpoint, with one being the almost unbelievable upset of Rudysz-Luciw by Johnson-Wirkus. Unbelievable, not so much in the fact that Rudysz-Luciw lost, for anybody can be beaten, and as re-

Joe Wirkus follows through with a shot in the semi's. Note Wong beginning his move to the left to retrieve a possible pass, while teammate Hil-echer starts forward to cover a kill.

ported earlier, they were not playing well. But it was unbelievable in the manner in which they lost.

It was a match that could not be predicted, although one armchair kill shot artist felt that the Wisconsin tandem could do the trick.

Rudysz-Luciw boomed their way to a first game win, 21-12, riding George's vapor balls (hit so hard you could only see a trail of smoke) on the left and Mike's right side kills and set-ups.

Early in the second game Johnson-Wirkus realized that the best way to beat the defending champs would be hard hit ceiling balls to Luciw, who was having a great deal of trouble judging the lively ball's flight off the back wall, and also picking it up off the glass in the deep right corner. To kill this shot was impossible, and Mike tried to get it back to the ceiling with little success. Still, George and Mike's play in the remainder of the court was good, good enough to

JOHNSON-WIRKUS

HILECHER-WONG

21-18, 21-12

HILECHER-WONG

SEROT-BRUNFIELD

CHAMPION

21-1, 21-15

SEROT-BRUNFIELD

SEROT-BRUNFIELD

21-9, INJURY FORFEIT

DUNN-THURMAN

THIRD PLACE: JOHNSON-WIRKUS
INJURY FORFEIT

give them a 20-15 second game lead with Luciw serving as the second server.

And thus comes the "I-wish-I-could-bury-my-head-in-the-sand" award as Mike, attempting to lob serve down the right side wall, a serve he uses almost exclusively when playing to the right sider in doubles, hit the side wall for an automatic loss of service.

Johnson and Wirkus came in like two kids who had just stolen a box of jelly beans. George and Mike were so stunned that Galen and Joe tallied six straight points for a 21-20 second game win.

The momentum carried over, as they battled the champs on even terms, and finally won the match with a 21-16 third game win.

The other "good" match of the quarters was Dunn and Thurman's win over McCoy and Susson. It was another case of "Why-win-in-two-when-you-can-win-in-three?" as Dunn and Thurman played their best single game of the tournament in game one destroying the kids 21-6. They then fell into the "it was-so-easy-let's-go-through-the-motions" routine and were promptly beaten in game two 21-16. Never take Southern California kids lightly, is a good rule of thumb in the Nationals. Bill and Bill regrouped and came out of the third game 21-12 to their favor.

Hilecher and Wong expected a pretty good battle from Mullins and Trost but it never materialized, as the Milwaukee tandem were nowhere near their previous round form. Jerry and Ken seemed to be working much better together, however, and the combination resulted in a

dissappointing (depending on your point of view) 21-5, 21-8 win.

Serot-Brumfield then met Keeley-Drake in one of those unfortunate instances where best friends must fight it out on the court. It looked like the Brumfield mystique did away with Keeley on the right and Drake seemed to lose confidence in his battle with Serot on the left. The outcome was an uneventful 21-14, 21-8 Serot-Brumfield win.

The Serot-Brumfield versus Thurman-Dunn match was brief. The eventual

ing the best racquetball of his life, eliminating errors and calmly rising with the competition that each round presented.

So Hilecher and Wong went out and beat them at their own game. Wong matched Johnson ceiling for ceiling, and Hilecher put the pressure on Wirkus, baiting him into a shooting match on the right, which Wirkus could never hope to win.

The first game was extremely well played and exciting, with the partisan



(Top right) Jerry Hilecher moves in to a forehand kill attempt in the doubles semi-finals. Moving in to cover is Galen Johnson, as Ken Wong watches.

(Below) Wong makes up for his lack of height by leaping for a ceiling return against Steve Serot in the doubles finals.



champs really used Serot's forehand advantage to its fullest and completely dominated game one 21-5. Early in the second game, Thurman dove in an attempted retrieve and landed heavily on his right shoulder. At first the fear was a separation, but later tests showed only pulled ligaments. Regardless, Bill could not continue and the remainder of the match was forfeited.

"It's really irritating," said Thurman. "I've never had any kind of an injury before, and now I get hurt in the semi-finals of the Nationals."

The victory gave the Brumfield-Serot team, now in the finals, the staggering statistic of allowing an average of exactly five points per game over all rounds through the semis. Now that's domination.

In the top bracket it was up to Hilecher and Wong to try and figure out what it was that Johnson and Wirkus were doing for four rounds to enable them to get this far unheralded.

What they had been doing was relatively simple. Johnson was playing the best left side of the tournament, excluding Serot. He was virtually unpassable, his left corner kills were dead, and his ceiling game very good. Wirkus was play-

St. Louis crowd, led by the Hilecher household, rooting "their boys" on to a 21-18 first game win.

In game two Hilecher-Wong were even better, and they really took the play away from Johnson-Wirkus, who just didn't have quite enough killing power. When Wong began hitting his backhand side wall-front wall pinches, it was over. Score was 21-12.

Third place was forfeited by Dunn-Thurman to Johnson-Wirkus (it would have been a great one) due to Thurman's shoulder injury.

The finals turned out to be an exciting match. But judging by the first game it looked to be nothing but a big bore, as Brumfield-Serot coasted, perhaps waltzed is a better word, to a 21-1 victory. If a spectator was 10 minutes late for the match he missed the first game.

Five quick points in the first inning set the pattern as Serot-Brumfield built a big lead, at 6-1 and from there everything went wrong for Wong-Hilecher. Wong did not kill a ball after this point and neither did Hilecher after the 9-1 mark. Serot was eating up Wong on the left, keeping him deep with ceilings, killing

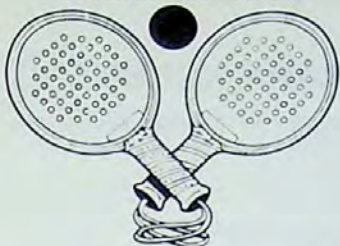
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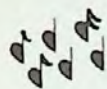
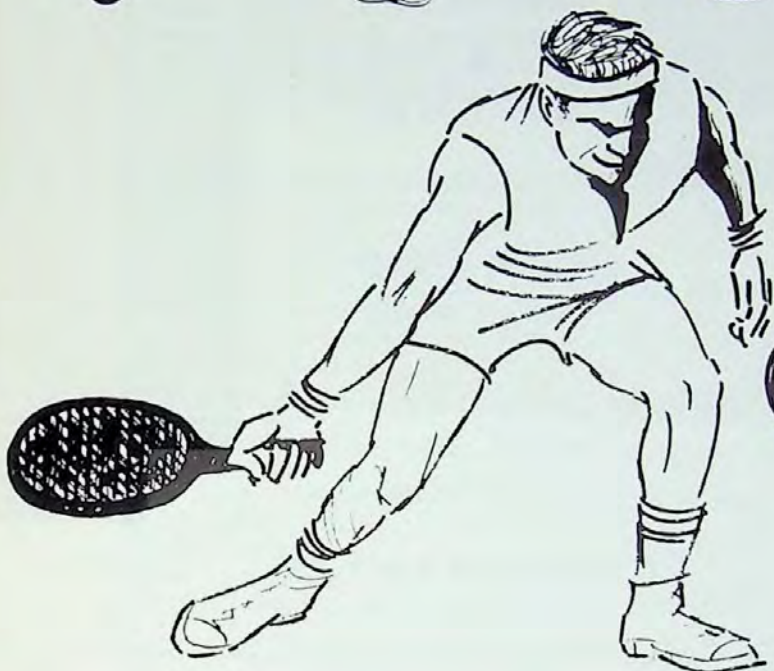
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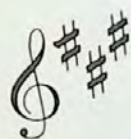
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"HOLIDAY INNS"

Serot-Brumfield Capture Open Doubles

From Page 25

in front of him, and Brumfield's V-passes were too good. They even tried switching sides at 13-1 to no avail. Their hopes were in the second game.

The first thing Wong-Hilecher did to get back into the match was to switch sides again, back to their original line-up of Wong on the left and Hilecher on the right. The second thing they did was shoot more, with Brumfield and Serot enjoying it less.

This game was one of quick scoring by both teams. Brumfield and Serot jumped out to a 4-0 advantage in the second, only to have Wong-Hilecher come back with seven points in their half to take the lead. Brumfield-Serot gave them five of the points with Brumfield missing on two plum balls and Steve erring three times. Then Ken and Jerry each killed once.

The lead didn't last, however, as Charlie and Steve came back with five more points in the third with two Serot passes, one kill and two Brumfield kills ending the rallies.

The two teams traded points over the next two innings, see-sawing the lead at

OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

GAME ONE

HILECHER-WONG	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	—	1
BRUMFIELD-SEROT	5	1	3	1	3	7	1	—	21

Kills — Serot 7, Brumfield 8, (15), Hilecher 2, Wong 2 (4); Passes — Serot 3, Brumfield 2 (5); Hilecher 0, Wong 2 (2); Errors — Serot 3, Brumfield 4 (7), Hilecher 8, Wong 6 (14); Aces — None; Hinders — 11; Time outs — Hilecher-Wong 1.

GAME TWO

BRUMFIELD-SEROT	0	4	5	3	2	7	—	21
HILECHER-WONG	0	7	1	3	4	x	—	15

Kills — Brumfield 11, Serot 5 (16), Hilecher 4, Wong 7 (11); Passes — Brumfield 4, Serot 6 (10), Hilecher 0, Wong 0 (0); Errors — Brumfield 5, Serot 8 (13), Hilecher 4, Wong 1 (5); Aces — None; Hinders — 18; Time outs — Hilecher-Wong 3.

11-12, 14-13, finally reaching a Wong-Hilecher 15-14 lead. The time was now ripe for one final Brumfield-Serot rally.

The inning started precariously for Wong-Hilecher, when Brumfield scored on a forehand pinch kill right to left. Using good judgement, Ken called time-out, their third and last. When play resumed with Serot still serving, Hilecher skipped a kill attempt from the right side, followed by a Brumfield, then Serot kill, before a hinder stopped play at 18-15.

Brumfield, on two beautiful set-ups by

Serot then killed twice and without ever losing his serve in this inning, Serot tallied 21 by passing Hilecher with a V to the right.

Reading the statistics carefully, one realizes that Brumfield and Serot clearly dominated the play, scoring points on their own shots, and losing points and serves on their own errors.

As Brumfield said, "We were hitting the ball into the floor before they could." Perhaps, but enough of them reached the front wall.

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She's No Longer An Unknown

Peggy Steding, "Super-Tex", hailing from Odessa, Texas, was unknown and unheard of, but she made believes quick en route to her "double play."



Who is Peggy Steding? Prior to the National Championships, nobody really knew for sure. But all this 37-year-old mother of one did was blast her way to racquetball's double play, taking the women's singles title and then teaming with Milwaukee's Ann Gorski to capture the doubles crown as well.

Both feats were accomplished in the most difficult of manners, as Peggy surged from unseeded positions in each event. In the singles, she met the tournament's number two seeded player, San Diego's Jan Campbell in the second round, and it was Campbell who took the only singles game off Peggy during the entire tournament.

In doubles the same thing occurred, as Steding and Gorski entered as a last minute pick-a-partner duo. They were slotted against the second seeded team of Campbell and Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Michigan. And again the match went three games, with Steding-Gorski emerging victorious.

"It's too bad we had to meet so early," Steding consoled Campbell after the doubles match. "This match should have been the finals."

She was right, but then, who could have ever imagined an unknown gal from Odessa, Texas coming into the Nationals cold and romping over just about everybody in sight.

How does a player obtain such skills, playing in Odessa, Texas and nowhere else? Peggy did enter the Southwest Regional, but lack of entries forced the tournament committee to abandon hopes of staging women's brackets. An unfortunate occurrence, for any kind of information on her ability would have given not only her a better draw, but the other top players as well.

Peggy showed the complete game. She hit forehand, backhand, ceiling balls and kills. She had power to effectively pass and keep opponents off balance, and she had finesse to go with it.

"I won a couple of local Y tournaments," said Peggy in response to a question concerning her tournament experience. "And I only play against the men."

But that in itself cannot do. Campbell, Jan Pasternak, Bette Weed, Gorski and all the other top girls, also play only men. Yet Steding not only had the shots, she had strategy, and the knowledge of when to hit a particular shot at a given time. It was amazing.

Another tough second round match, after the Steding upset of Campbell was Weed's defeat of fourth seeded Joan

Jan Pasternak wearily signals for a time out in the women's singles finals as eventual champ Peggy Steding reaches for a towel.

Zuckerman, St. Louis. Weed, the number two ranked woman a few years ago, was eliminated in the first round last year, and went on to capture the consolation title. An ankle injury knocked her out of the Western Regional, but she came from San Diego ready to play.

The match against Zuckerman, who later made the doubles finals with Sheila Siegel, was well played with Bette coming out on top 6-21, 21-19, 21-12.

All other seeded players moved on to the quarter-finals with little Chris Ackerman, St. Louis having the only other tough time, a 21-14, 21-16 win over Peggy Pruitt, Champaign, Illinois.

Pasternak, two time defending champ, eliminated Gorski with a 21-8, 21-18 win in the top bracket, while Williams, the Central Regional champ, topped Weed in an excellent match 21-17, 21-17.

In the lower bracket, former titleholder (1970) Fran Cohen, the number three seed, stopped Louisville's Evie Morguelan, the Southern Regional champ 21-14, 21-6, for a crack at Steding.

After defeating Campbell, it was mostly downhill for Steding, until the finals. She topped Ackerman 21-2, 21-4 in the quarters and then blitzed Cohen 21-6, 21-6 to reach the finals.

In the top bracket semi-final Pasternak was making her run for three in a row and reached the finals with a 21-9, 21-17 win over Williams.

Thus the final match was set, with newcomer Steding facing Pasternak, who despite her youth (19) was the veteran of the match.

After early first game jockeying, Steding broke on top by outscoring Pasternak 11-2 through six middle innings and taking a commanding 13-5 lead. But the Arizona State University sophomore came back rallying to within 9-13 and then again at 12-16. Steding added another point in the 12th inning on an ace serve for a 17-12 lead, but Pasternak fought back again. In the 13th she tallied four times on three passes and a Steding error to move to 16-17 before a Steding pass right regained her the serve.

Peggy managed one kill, a forehand



Peggy Steding shows the power in her shots as she rips a forehand against Jan Pasternak in the finals.

right corner kill that rapidly had become her trademark, before Jan regained the serve. This time she tallied once on an ace to the left and was very much in it at 18-19. But "Steady Peggy" took over, passing left for the serve and hitting two pinch kills right to left for 21 and the first game victory.

The second game followed virtually the same pattern, with Steding again jumping out to an early lead, 8-1 after three innings. When Pasternak closed to within 5-8, Steding bounced back for a 10-5 lead and increased it to 18-8.

But the game Pasternak was not through yet. In the bottom of the 13th she got hot, stringing together six points, on a pass, five kills and a Steding error to pull within 14-18. But that was about it, as Steding tallied once in the 14th and

twice more, both on passes in the 15th to take the title.

Williams defeated Cohen for third place in an exciting match 21-7, 13-21, 21-13.

The women's doubles draw found only nine teams entered, with Dowd and Susie Carow, from suburban Chicago topping Sarah Green and Chrissy Nichopolous to reach the field of eight.

Top-seeded St. Louisians Siegel and Zuckerman, the number two finishing team a year ago (winners Pasternak and Hill did not enter) breezed their way to the finals, topping Carow-Dowd 21-3, 21-6 and then Ackerman and Radine Robbins, another St. Louis team 21-5, 21-10. Ackerman-Robbins had won one of the better first round matches a 21-14, 18-21, 21-11 triumph over Pruitt and Mary Slaughter.

In the bottom bracket, Gorski and Steding had a great match in their first round against Campbell and Williams. After dropping the first game 21-17, "Super-Tex" and Ann came through with 21-14, 21-6 wins to gain the semi-finals.

In this match, Gorski's right side style seemed to upset Campbell, but the key was Steding's shooting and the fatigue

WOMEN'S SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

GAME ONE

PASTERNAK	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	4	1	2	—	19
STEDING	2	0	2	2	1	4	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	2	—	21

Kills—Steding 17, Pasternak 7; Passes—Steding 10, Pasternak 10; Errors—Steding 11, Pasternak 7; Aces—Steding 1; Hinders—5; Time outs—Pasternak 3.

GAME TWO

STEDING	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	1	2	1	2	—	21
PASTERNAK	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	6	0	x	—	14

Kills—Steding 18, Pasternak 8; Passes—Steding 5, Pasternak 18; Errors—Steding 6, Pasternak 10; Aces—Steding 3, Pasternak 1; Hinders—5; Time outs—Pasternak 3.

Women's Singles

JAN FASTERNAK, Houston	FASTERNAK			
BYE				
SARAH GREEN, Memphis	CAROW	FASTERNAK 21-14, 21-11		
SUZANNE CAROW, Glenview, IL		21-6, 21-9		
GOLDIE HOGAN, St. Louis	HOGAN		FASTERNAK 21-8, 21-18	
BYE				
BYE	GORSKI	GORSKI 21-15, 21-6		
AUD GORSKI, Milwaukee				
KATHY WILLIAMS, Hazel Park, MI	WILLIAMS		FASTERNAK 21-9, 21-17	
BYE				
SANDY WATTS, Bloomington, IN	WILLIAMS	WILLIAMS 21-4, 21-10		
SADINE ROBBINS, St. Louis	ROBBINS	21-13, 21-3		
BEVIE WEED, San Diego	WEED		WILLIAMS 21-17, 21-17	
RUTH KIMMOS, Salt Lake City	WEED	21-3, 21-7		
BYE				
JOAN ZUCKERMAN, St. Louis	ZUCKERMAN	21-21, 21-19, 21-12		
FRAN COHEN, St. Louis			STEDING 21-19, 21-14	
BYE	COHEN			
BEV MAY, Edina, MI	COHEN	21-1, 21-1		
BEV FRANKS, Northbrook, IL	MAY	21-7, 21-14		
HEILA SIEGEL, St. Louis	SIEGEL		COHEN 21-14, 21-6	
CHRISTY NICHOLSON, Memphis	SIEGEL	21-4, 21-1		
BYE	MORSEMAN	21-19, 21-7		
EVIE MORSEMAN, Louisville	MORSEMAN			
CHRIS ACKERMAN, St. Louis			STEDING 21-6, 21-6	
BYE	ACKERMAN			
GERRI REYES, Stamford, CT	ACKERMAN	21-14, 21-10		
FRYD FRUIT, Champaign, IL	FRUIT	21-4, 21-3		
LOIS RICE, Winnetka, IL	STEDING	21-0, 21-1		
FRYD STEDING, Odessa, TX	STEDING	21-0, 21-1		
BYE				
JAN CAMPBELL, San Diego	CAMPBELL	13-21, 21-13, 21-8		
			THIRD PLACE: WILLIAMS 21-7, 13-21, 21-13	

Women's Doubles

SIEGEL-ZUCKERMAN, St. Louis	SIEGEL-ZUCKERMAN			
CAROW-DAW, Glenview, IL		21-3, 21-6		
FRUIT-SLAUGHTER, Champaign, IL	SIEGEL-ZUCKERMAN	21-9, 21-10		
ACKERMAN-ROBBINS, St. Louis	ACKERMAN-ROBBINS	21-14, 18-21, 21-11		
COHEN-HOGAN, St. Louis			GORSKI-STEDING	
WEED-MAY, San Diego-Edina, MI	COHEN-HOGAN	21-5, 21-8		
GORSKI-STEDING, Milwaukee-Odessa, TX	GORSKI-STEDING	21-13, 21-8		
CAMPBELL-WILLIAMS, San Diego-Hazel Park, MI	GORSKI-STEDING	17-21, 21-14, 21-0		
			CHAMPION 21-15, 21-8	
			THIRD PLACE: ACKERMAN-ROBBINS 21-12, 21-13	

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(Above) Peggy Steding winds up for an overhead boomer. (Above right) Joan Zuckerman winds up from deep court in the women's doubles finals. Partner Siegel moves in, while opponent Gorski braces for possible shock. (Right) The gals and their loot, Zuckerman, Siegel, Gorski, and Steding.

factor getting to Campbell-Williams.

In the other semi-final match, Gorski-Steding earned their right to the finals by topping Cohen and Goldie Hogan 21-13, 21-8. Too much quickness and too many shots were the story in this match.

The finals was not seriously in question, as most observers felt that Steding-Gorski would run through Siegel-Zuckerman. But the little gals from the J.C.C.A. put up a good battle in the first game, holding their own before finally succumbing 21-15.

Game two was not the same, however, as Steding's remarkable strength on the left, and Gorski's steady play on the right were just too much for Sheila and Joan. Score was 21-8.

Cohen and Hogan came back to take third place over Ackerman-Robbins.

THOUGHTS ON WOMEN . . .

Twenty-three singles players and nine teams were the highest number of entries ever in women's events, but still disappointing on the over-all racquetball picture. Perhaps the success of Steding, an unknown, will encourage other gals to make a run of it in the Nationals . . . Along the same lines, some of the gals complain that there is no travel money available to them for winning Regional tournaments as the men get. But when there is not much money to be had on



the one hand, and the number of entries so low on the other, expenditures of this nature simply must wait until the interest warrants. Everybody in the national organization would love to see as many players as possible paid to get to the tournament, but it just is not feasible . . . Coup of the bracket must belong to Gorski, for having the foresight (or luck) of picking Steding as a doubles partner. "I never play doubles," said Ann. "I picked

a super partner." Amen . . . Pasternak did so much diving in her match with Steding, that she was overwhelmingly the body-surfing award recipient in the gals events. Such desire is great to see but tough to do and still stay healthy . . . No-shows from Kimberly Hill, number two in singles a year ago and half (with Pasternak) of the championship doubles team, and Kay Evans 1972 Southern Regional champ, were disappointing.

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For the second year in a row there was a scramble in both brackets of the Masters events and fears by many players that Bud Muehleisen would dominate the play proved correct. "Dr. Bud" took the singles and then teamed with Carl Loveday to capture the doubles, accomplishing the first double play in Masters history.

Neither victory was derived without difficulty, a fact that should warm the hearts of players in the 40 and over age groups. Muehleisen was forced to three games in the semi-finals in singles by the excellent play of Bill Evans, the fourth seed, while Bud and Carl were extended to three twice in doubles, including the finals against Jim White and John Fazio, the Milwaukee team that won the Central Regional.

In singles, the draw was affected by the absence of Chet Howard, the 1972 runner-up and the last minute default of Bob McNamara, third place finisher a year ago, and the second seed in St. Louis.

As a result, the semi-final match between Muehleisen and Evans was what conceivably could have been the finals, and was in the minds of many people. Not to discount the fine showing of Bill Sellars, who moved up through the lower bracket and finally lost to Bud in the championship match 21-5, 21-7.

In it Muehleisen showed the finesse and shots that makes him virtually unbeatable in the Masters bracket. All the tools were there when he needed them, power, kills, passes and ceiling. And Bud called on them as he felt necessary.

To that point, Sellars had played very well, although forced to a second round three games with San Diego's John Halverson 21-16, 8-21, 21-11. In the quarters Bill knocked off Vancouver's Herb Capozzi routinely 21-7, 21-2 and then faced St. Louis' Artie Albert in the semi-finals.

Albert had reached that point by winning two very difficult matches, a 21-10, 21-11 win over Champaign, Illinois' Phil Dziuk, Illinois' number two ranked Master, and a tough quarter-final win over Madison, Wisconsin's Ivan Bruner 19-21, 21-20, 21-9.

It was then Sellars against Albert in the match to see who would play Muehleisen. The pre-match line was about even with Albert's stamina and hustle balanced with Sellars strong shots and power. Bill dominated the first game 21-12, and although Artie made game two tighter, he couldn't take control and it cost him 21-15.

In the top bracket Evans was breezing toward his match with Bud. Dick Kalal, Milwaukee, fell 10 and five, and Al Rossi, San Francisco lost a good game 21-15 and then cracked his ankle in a weird accident and had to forfeit.

It's Much Easier Than Pulling Teeth

Bud Muehleisen, (below) the San Diego dentist, managed the first Masters double play by sweeping the singles and then the doubles with Carl Loveday





"Now, I don't mean to question your call, sir," seems to be the expression on Bill Evans face during his semi-final match against Muehleisen. Louisville's Evans took Dr. Bud to three games before bowing.

John Fazio rushes into front court to bury a plum off the back wall in the doubles title match. Fazio and partner Jim White also lost in the three game route to Muehleisen and Loveday.



The Evans-Earl Dixon quarter-final match was exciting and well played. Dixon, in his first year back after serious knee problems, gave it a real battle, using his top notch backhand and great court coverage to its fullest. But in the end it was Evans' speed and stamina that held up and resulted in a 21-11, 21-14 victory.

What could you say about the Evans-Muehleisen match? Bill, just turned 40 against the smoothest player in the game today. Nobody would believe that Muehleisen would not dominate the play, but it was Evans who took things into control.

Playing great defense, and using his reach and retrieving power, Bill continually frustrated Muehleisen, whose strategy seemed to be pass and kill. But without the effective passes he was in trouble and Evans was filling the lanes beautifully. The first game, in a shocker went to Evans, 21-15.

Muehleisen adjusted well in the second game, varying his shots much more effectively and killing more. He quit trying to pass Evans cross court and kept the ball down the lines primarily, beating Bill with fine control racquetball. Game two to Muehleisen 21-3.

The third game saw Evans attempt to unravel the mess in which he found himself in the second game and he did a pretty good job of it. But when he needed the gas to come on strong in the third it wasn't there. Just too much running had taken the edge off his shots. Game and match to Bud 21-12.

Bill did manage to capture third place in a 21-14, 21-6 victory over Albert. John Leech, Cleveland, captured the Masters consolation singles title 21-6, 21-4 over Stuart Kreisman, St. Louis.

There were many outstanding matches in the Masters doubles bracket, and many great stories. But the real heroes of the week were the "three game kids" Jim White and John Fazio, from Milwaukee.

Facing the toughest possible draw (they met the defending champs in the second round) Fazio-White rose higher and higher. Every team they faced after the first round (sorry Bob Challenger and Tevie Smith) were solid, tough opponents.

A first game loss to number one seed Joe Zelson and Marlowe Phillips at 16-21, didn't faze the Milwaukee pair. They came back and took the second game 21-20, with lefty White playing a great game and Fazio doing the same.

As for Zelson-Phillips, well, they just couldn't seem to put it together. It appeared that they weren't mentally ready for such a tough match so early in the tournament. In addition, their opponents were virtually unheard of outside the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin area, and it could be they just took the match too lightly. And as so often hap-

pens, when a team does not have the total concentration necessary from the beginning, they cannot get it all back.

And so the third game was total domination by the Milwaukee team, in a display of outstanding racquetball, 21-7.

In the next round they faced a couple of old pros in Dixon and Sam Caiazza the pick-up team from Indianapolis and New Castle, Pa. In the Masters Invitational doubles tournament held in New Castle earlier this season, Caiazza and Dixon proved to be quite formidable. But Fazio-White had their number, with the lefty-righty combination stronger than the two right handers. The match went to Milwaukee 21-15, 21-12.

In the semi s Fazio-White met Sellars and Richard Walker, who also had a tough road to this point, having knocked off Gene Grapes and Alan Schattner, Pittsburgh in the quarters 21-12, 21-20.

The Sellars-Walker Fazio-White match was a grueling affair, as the Texans battled with everything they had. The first game was a thrilling battle as the score went right down to the wire. Fazio and White managed to squeeze out the victory, by the narrowest of margins 21-20.

But Sellars-Walker turned it around in game two, hitting their shots and keeping Fazio and White effectively deep. The result was a 21-14 win for the Dallas team, forcing the third game.

Both teams began succumbing to the fatigue factor midway through the third, with Fazio and White outlasting Sellars and Walker 21-14 and a crack at the finals.

In the bottom bracket former Masters doubles champs Vince Cutshall and Don Erickson breezed to the semi s, stopping the Yavitz-Fuhrer local team 21-10, 21-9 in the second round and then besting Gerry Lapierre and Gerry Siegel by injury forfeit when Siegel twisted his ankle early in the match and couldn't continue.

Muehleisen and Loveday moved out of their number three seeded slot with a routine second round win but then ran into an unexpected snag in the quarter final round against Bob Troyer and Al Hanke, Lake Forest, Illinois and runners-up to Fazio-White in the Central Regional. Muehleisen-Loveday captured game one 21-11 and did so without much difficulty. Although Troyer (a lefty) and Hanke covered well, their shots couldn't quite keep up with the San Diegans, especially when Loveday, to whom the majority of the balls were hit, was playing well.

In the second game Loveday seemed to wilt, missing a number of shots that he was hitting in game one. Hanke and Troyer did not fear the ceiling rallies, in fact welcomed the drawn out play in an effort to tire Loveday. The strategy worked well and they won game two 21-18.

NELSON-PHILLIPS, St. Louis	NELSON-PHILLIPS		
BYE			
CHALLENGER-SMITH, Vancouver, B.C.	Fazio-White	16-21, 21-20, 21-7	
Fazio-White, Milwaukee	Fazio-White	21-4, 21-4	
CALAZZA-DIXON, New Castle, PA-Pittsburgh	CALAZZA-DIXON	21-15, 21-12	
KLAYMAN-GUMER, St. Louis-Louisville	CALAZZA-DIXON	21-18, 21-7	
BYE			
BRUNER-NELSON, Madison, WI	BRUNER-NELSON	21-18, 21-21, 21-11	
WALKER-SELLARS, Dallas	Fazio-White	21-20, 16-21, 21-4	
BYE			
GREEN-YEHLIN, St. Louis	WALKER-SELLARS	21-20, 21-6	
MITCHELL-LEECH, Cleveland	MITCHELL-LEECH	21-4, 18-21, 21-12	
SALVERSON-ROOSI, San Diego-San Francisco	WALKER-SELLARS	21-12, 21-20	
PERELMAN-PEARL, Mayfield Hts., OH	SALVERSON-ROOSI	21-5, 21-2	
BYE			
SCHATTNER-GRAPES, Pittsburgh	SCHATTNER-GRAPES	Forfeit, Injury	
MUEHLER-LOVEDAY, San Diego	MUEHLER-LOVEDAY	21-18, 11-21, 21-12	CHAMPION
BYE			
SCHINAGLE-TURNER, Cleveland	SCHINAGLE-TURNER	21-8, 21-6	
BYE			
CAPOZZI-POND, Vancouver	CAPOZZI-POND	21-11, 18-21, 21-8	
BYE			
KALAL-LINDHOLM, Milwaukee-St. Louis	TROYER-SARGE	21-10, 21-8	
TROYER-SARGE, Lake Forest, IL	TROYER-SARGE		
ALBERT-HILCHER, St. Louis	ALBERT-HILCHER	21-9, 21-8	
BYE			
SCHAEFFER-PRIMATTI, St. Louis	SIEGEL-LAPIERRE	20-21, 21-13, 21-12	
SIEGEL-LAPIERRE, St. Louis-Cleveland	SIEGEL-LAPIERRE		
YAVITZ-FURBER, St. Louis	YAVITZ-FURBER	21-8, 13-21, 21-19	
PRICE-LAWTON, Phoenix-Norman, OK	YAVITZ-FURBER	21-10, 21-9	
BYE			
OUTSALL-ERICKSON, Sioux Falls, SD	OUTSALL-ERICKSON		

THIRD PLACE: WALKER-SELLARS
21-9, 20-21, 21-20

Doubles

BUD MUEHLER, San Diego	MUEHLER	21-1, 21-8	
DON HARDESTY, Jacksonville, IL	MUEHLER	21-4, 21-3	
V.E. LAWTON, Norman, OK	MUEHLER	21-4, 21-3	
KEN MITCHELL, Cleveland	MITCHELL	21-17, 21-10	
SCIP ERWIN, St. Louis	ERWIN	Forfeit	
SID CARRADINE, Memphis	ERWIN	Forfeit	
PAUL NELSON, Madison, WI	WALKER	21-3, 21-8	
RICHARD WALKER, Dallas	WALKER	21-12, 21-17	
KARL DIXON, Indianapolis	DIXON	21-1, 21-5	
STUART KREISMAN, St. Louis	DIXON	21-4, 21-7	
JOHN GOTHARD, Chicago	PRICE	21-3, 21-4	
HAL PRICE, Phoenix	PRICE	21-3, 21-4	
AL ROOSI, San Francisco	ROOSI	21-9, 21-1	
GERALD SIEGEL, St. Louis	ROOSI	21-9, 21-1	
DICK KALAL, Milwaukee	EVANS	21-15, INJURY FORFEIT	
BILL EVANS, Louisville	EVANS	21-10, 21-5	
GERRY LAPIERRE, Cleveland	LAPIERRE	21-8, 21-11	
RALPH SPOCKER, Norwandy, MI	LAPIERRE	21-8, 21-11	
MILT SCHAEFFER, St. Louis	CAPOZZI	21-16, 21-16	
HERB CAPOZZI, Vancouver, B.C.	CAPOZZI	21-7, 21-6	
JOHN SALVERSON, San Diego	SALVERSON	21-13, 21-4	
JOHN LEECH, Cleveland	SALVERSON	21-13, 21-4	
JOHN CHLEISER, Anderson, IN	SELLARS	21-16, 8-21, 21-11	
BILL SELLARS, Dallas	SELLARS	21-5, 21-3	
ART ALBERT, St. Louis	ALBERT	21-2, 21-3	
DAVID PERELMAN, Mayfield Hts., OH	ALBERT	21-2, 21-3	
STAN BERNY, San Diego	DEJUN	21-20, 21-11	
PHIL DEJUN, Champaign, IL	DEJUN	21-12, 21-0	
IVAN BRUNER, Madison, WI	BRUNER	21-17, 21-11	
MYRON BERNARD, St. Louis	BRUNER	21-17, 21-11	
WALT TREBNE, St. Louis	TREBNE	21-5, 21-7	
BOB MC NAMARA, Minneapolis	TREBNE	Forfeit	

THIRD PLACE: EVANS
21-14, 21-6

Singles

However, in the third game Muehleisen went to work. With Loveday again hitting effectively after the 10 minute rest, he and Bud ran up a big early lead and virtually coasted to a 21-8 win.

People expected the same thing in the finals, an easy Muehleisen-Loveday win. The win came, but not easily. In fact, the win probably never should have occurred at all.

Fazio and White put together a brilliant show, refusing to fall over and play dead. Instead they battled that much harder, confident in their ability and their ability to win. They jumped away to a large first game lead, held it to 17-10 but somehow let it get away. Their collapse enabled Muehleisen and Loveday to capture the first game 21-18.

Game two was a shocker. Perhaps the San Diegans were overconfident, figuring they had Fazio and White's number. Well the only number Fazio and White cared about was 21 and they got it in game two, with great play throughout, 21-11.

In the third game Muehleisen and Loveday went back to basic, patient doubles. They picked their spots, played control and managed to tire White on the left. After an even beginning, the eventual champs kept the pressure on and bolted to a 21-12 victory and the championship.

Third place was probably the most exciting doubles match of the Masters bracket with Walker and Sellars capturing it 21-9, 20-21, 21-20. It marked the fourth 21-20 game they had played, winning three of them. Not a bad record.

MASTERS NOTES . . . Through the confusion on legalities and politics during the week, it was agreed at the players convention meeting Saturday to lower the Masters age bracket to 35, initiating age groups of open, intermediate (35), masters (45) and golden masters (55). These are not the official names of each group but the ages noted will be the lowest allowable age in that bracket. Doubles teams need only have both men at the minimum age . . . Some of the players were disgruntled that Muehleisen chose to go both ways in Masters, feeling that Bud had the brackets sewed up. But after his being forced to three games three different times, the older guys must now realize that under the right circumstances he can be had.

. . . McNamara's injury, a twisted ankle suffered the day before the tournament in preparation for it, weakened the bottom bracket, but not substantially enough that the tournament committee felt it necessary to re-draw. Looking very good until his injury was Al Rossi, plagued by undersized courts at home. "I'm willing to play anybody in the world on those courts," he said. "And I'll beat 'em all. That includes Brumfield." Reach for your pockets everybody.



Singles finalists receive their trophies after the title match. Bud Muehleisen takes his along with a handshake from Sheila Siegel, while Bill Sellars gets the same from Bruce Hendin.

(Below) More smiles for winners . . . Top row, Lennie Marks, floor manager deluxe, Carl Loveday and Bud Muehleisen, 1st, Sam Goldman, Bruce Hendin. Bottom row, Jim White and John Fazio, 2nd.



*The finalists and their awards:
(Bottom) Bruce Hendin,
tournament chairman and J.C.C.A.
phys. ed. director; Len Marks, 2nd;
Sam Caiazza, 1st; (Top) Marlowe
Phillips, 2nd; Sam Goldman,
chairman, J.C.C.A. racquetball
committee; Gene Grapes, 1st, Milt
Harris, tourney co-chairman.*



Eleven teams made up the first ever Golden Masters competition at the Nationals this year, and a couple of disappointed Masters competitors captured the title for the 50 and over set.

Hard-hitting Gene Grapes, Pittsburgh, teamed with Sam Caiazza, New Castle to make it an all-Pennsylvania tandem. Their victory in the finals came over Marlowe Phillips and Lennie Marks, St. Louis 21-11, 21-4. Phillips, too, had entered the Masters doubles and found the going rough, as he and partner Joe Zelson lost in the second round.

And although 11 teams doesn't sound like much, it was a great bracket and highly competitive, as all the Golden Masters players seemed to thoroughly enjoy the chance to play others of their own age.

Grapes and Caiazza held down the number one seed based on their well known skills demonstrated at other tournaments. After a preliminary round bye they faced the pick-up team of Milt Harris, St. Louis and Alex Guerry, Chattanooga. Gene and Sam had too many shots for the spunky Harris-Guerry tandem and the result was 21-11, 21-18. The feeling was that if Harris-Guerry could have pulled out game two, the third could have gone their way as the two partners got used to each other's style.

But such was not the case as Grapes' forehand kills from the left and Caiazza's tremendous retrieving power on the right, especially for the 50 and over group, were too much.

Two other very good players teamed as a pick-a-partner duo, Chicago's Jim DiVito and Louisville's Ike Gumer. Their first match pitted them against Chuck Austin, Green Bay and Fred Vetter, Milwaukee. It was well played and the first two games were close all the way. Gumer-DiVito, having trouble getting their style's together, lost the initial game 21-19, but came back to salvage the next two 21-15, 21-5.

In the bottom bracket Marks and Phillips faced Joe Kennedy and Joe Finn, Detroit and had little trouble reaching the semi's with a 21-10, 21-5 victory.

At the same time the tournament's second seeded team of Carl Loveday and Stan Berney, San Diego had a relatively easy time of it in their first match a 21-8,

If You Don't Succeed At 40; Try 50

Gene Grapes and Sam Caiazza, both frustrated in the Masters teamed to capture the first Golden Masters Doubles competition.

21-12 win against Sam Goldman and Ed Chod, St. Louis.

Thus the semi-finals were paired and both matches were outstanding. In the top bracket Grapes-Caiazza faced Gumer-DiVito in a hardnosed slugfest. With DiVito and Grapes neutralizing each other on the left, it appeared that Caiazza was just a little too quick for Gumer on the right, despite Ike's forehand kills that did much to keep this team in the match. Final scores were in favor of Grapes and Caiazza 21-14, 21-16.

In the bottom bracket, Marks, who served as one of the tournament's floor managers, and Phillips needed every-

thing they had to top Loveday and Berney. In fact they almost lost the match, dropping the first game 21-13 and barely escaping with a second 21-19.

The third game was an even battle early but the fatigue factor began to set in on Loveday and Berney mid-way through the game and it was all down hill from there with Marks-Phillips capturing the match 21-12.

The finals did not prove to be the exciting match people had hoped for, as Grapes and Caiazza really put it together for their win. Marks and Phillips just didn't seem to have the smoothness that

	GRAPES-CAIAZZA, Pgh-N. Catl.		
		GRAPES-CAIAZZA 21-11, 21-18	
ORR-VODLICKA, Northbrook, IL			
	HARRIS-GUERRY 21-20, 21-11		
HARRIS-GUERRY, St. Louis-Chattanooga			
		GRAPES-CAIAZZA 21-14, 21-16	
	GUMER-DI VITO, Lvle-Chgo.		
		GUMER-DI VITO 19-21, 21-15, 21-5	
	AUSTIN-VETTER, Green Bay		
			GRAPES-CAIAZZA
			CHAMPION 21-11, 21-4
	MARKS-PHILLIPS, St. Louis		
		MARKS-PHILLIPS 21-10, 21-5	
GINSBURG-FOSTER, St. Louis			
	KENNEDY-FINN 21-7, 21-12		
KENNEDY-FINN, Detroit			
		MARKS-PHILLIPS 13-21, 21-19, 21-12	
CHOD-GOLDMAN, St. Louis			
	CHOD-GOLDMAN 21-9, 21-5		
SPAULDING-EDWARDS, St. Louis			
		LOVEDAY-BERNEY 21-8, 21-12	
	LOVEDAY-BERNEY, San Diego		
			THIRD PLACE: GUMER-DI VITO 21-12, 21-11

marked their thrilling triumph of the previous round, and perhaps it was that win that took the edge off their shots. In any event, Grapes-Caiazza poured it on, 21-11 the first game and completely dominated the second 21-4.

Third place was won by Gumer and DiVito 21-12, 21-11.

NOTES OF THE GMD . . . There was substantial jockeying among the Golden Masters players in the pick-a-partner system. DiVito originally was going to play with Harris, and Gumer with Clearwater, Florida's Herb Frank. Frank had even flown to Louisville to work out with Ike, and unfortunately was hit in the eye with a shot and could not compete. Gumer came anyway, and teamed with DiVito. Harris, meanwhile, picked up Guerry, a good player, who was a last minute entry . . . With no Golden Masters Singles offered this year many of the players doubled up, playing Masters doubles as well. Berney was the only one who played down to Masters singles . . . Kennedy and Finn are both former district commissioners . . . All competitors seemed pleased with the inclusion of Golden Masters Doubles, and it appears that it will be a solid bracket in the years to come.

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Gossip From The Nationals



A view of the gallery. Avid racquetballers can you pick out a Wong, two Zelsons, two Challengers, a Leve, a Morguelan, a Goldman, a Semel, an Ackerman and two Funks?

How strange things become at National tournament time. And certainly the 1973 National Championships were strange in many ways. Never before had any man ever captured both the singles and doubles titles in any bracket. The feat had been done once before, in the 1972 women's bracket where Jan Pasternak won the singles and took doubles with Kimberly Hill.

This year three people turned the racquetball "double play." Charlie Brumfield in the open (he teamed with Steve Serot); Bud Muehleisen in the Masters (he teamed with Carl Loveday); and Peggy Steding in the women's (she teamed with Ann Gorski).

Peggy who? That's right, Peggy Steding, the 37-year-old mother of one, hailing from Odessa, Texas. Never before heard of, but she certainly rumbled through the women's brackets, knocking off one of the favorites, second seeded Jan Campbell in the first round, and sailing from there.

"I played some down home," drawled the Longhorn, affectionately given the name "SuperTex" for her amazing feats during the tournament. "But this is my first tournament except some local Y

stuff."

Brumfield was displaying his great skills in the open, in his drive to become the first two-time winner in open singles in racquetball history. By entering both singles and doubles he seemed to make the chances even more difficult. But Brumfield wasn't pushed in singles until the semi-finals when Serot forced him to three games, taking a thrilling first game 21-20, but not having enough of the ol' petrol to keep the momentum, and dropping games two and three 21-3, 21-4. The ease in which Charlie passed each round made his doubles game complement his singles, as he and Serot never came close to losing a doubles tilt.

The term, "Muehleisen Masters the Masters" was becoming almost monotonous in the Masters ranks of racquetball, but this year, the good doctor from San Diego had his hands full before coming out on top in both singles and doubles. Just-turned-40 Bill Evans, the lithe Louisvilleite, took Muehleisen to three hard fought games before succumbing in the semi-finals. The Muehleisen-Loveday duo was forced to three games in the quarters by a virtually unknown Illinois tandem of Bob Troyer and Al Hanke, two pros from Lake Forest College, spawning ground of young handballers.

But the real Masters excitement came in the doubles finals with Jim White and Bob Fazio, the Central Divisional champs from Milwaukee (over Hanke-Troyer), holding a big lead in game one before dropping it 21-19, capturing the second handily 21-11, but not being able to muster up the third, losing 21-11.

Golden Masters doubles was a first-

time event this year and the grand old men showed plenty of spunk on the court. Gene Grapes, the gray-haired gentleman hailing from Pittsburgh, and Sam Caiazza, New Castle, Pa., teamed to capture the title, topping St. Louis' Len Marks and Marlowe Phillips. Grapes, who, if 25 years younger might have been the greatest of them all, used his booming forehand backwall kills, along with Sammie's retrieving to destroy all foes.

In consolation events San Diego's Ron Starkman captured the open singles title and won two 21-20 tilts along the way. John Leech, the ex-pro boxer out of the Executive Club West in Cleveland topped the Masters consolation, while San Diego's Jan Campbell won the women's singles consolation over Joan Zuckerman.

It was a long week, six days of play and for many of the officials eight and nine consecutive days of racquetball. Politics was a highlight of the week and for those interested, the events are recorded on other pages in this issue. But many, many people gave their time, energy and money to make this tournament a huge success and not a moment longer should pass without them being recognized. Sid Semel, "Mr. Uniform," for the second year in a row our vote for most valuable player, in handling floor managerial duties flawlessly, ably assisted by Lennie Marks . . . Bruce Hendin, who should be gray by now, but doesn't have time to worry about it, for making the whole show go. Bruce was the man behind the WHOLE thing as they say . . . Ray and Lois, Robbins and Platt that is, cartoonists extraordinaire, doing a super job at registration along with Chris Ackerman . . . Mike Zeitman, Bruce Kranz, Dan Davis, Joe Zelson for



Sid Semel, the man who made it go. Sid is, without a doubt, the best floor manager and most valuable tournament official ever, anywhere.



Tourney workers receive awards... A shot from the banquet at the Nationals shows many of the hard working J.C.C.A. members all smiles with the recognition for jobs very well done.

having the guts to referee the crucial matches. And hats off to all the referees men and women, who did such an outstanding job... To Sam Goldman, tournament chairman for not letting anyone alone until he was satisfied that they were satisfied... Ditto for Milt Harris who's been through it before... To Lou Meyers for his artwork that was never out of sight... Gerry Lapierre, always lending a helping hand wherever necessary, draw, refereeing, committees... To Sheila Siegel a thank you for the hard work and headaches in hospitality and an extra kiss for being so nice... Nancy Zelson rates one on each cheek for giving some of the guys time to relax and keep their minds off racquetball for at least a few minutes of the week... There was Freddy Kreis reelin' in the fish all week. Cast a line and pull out a turkey, doesn't make much sense... Canadians Capozzi, Challenger, Smith, Khan, Velan and Spencer made the scene, did well and provided some of the greatest thrills of the tourney. Especially Tevie and Carol... Artie Albert showing St. Louis hospitality in the hospitality room one night... the Zelsons hosting in their home another...

And now the awards: **BIGGEST 180 DEGREEER:** Charlie Garfinkel, who didn't say much all week. Too tired to talk, Charlie? **BIGGEST**

DISAPPOINTMENT: Ken Porco, whose game was sharp coming in, bowed to the pressure of all night political sessions, and Dan Alder in the third round. **BEST MATCH:** Keeley over Hilecher in the round of 16, 21-14, 11-21, 21-18. Packed house was on the edge of their seat. **HE FEELS THE WORST AWARD:** Mike Luciw for serving into the side wall on match point 20-15 second game open doubles. Opponents Johnson and Wirkus came in, tallied six for the game, and went on to the match win in the third game. **FUNNIEST LINE:** Schmidtke after losing semi-final match to Keeley finally had the pressure relieved and went out with the boys. Somehow he managed to show up Sunday for the third place match with Serot which he was losing 20-0 in the first game when he pleaded injury forfeit. "What's your injury, Bill?" "Three cases of beer," he replied. **THEY CAN PLAY BUT THEY CAN'T PICK 'EM:** Brumfield's side wagering had an oh-for-eight streak at last count. Stick with the winners, Charlie. **THE WETHEAD IS DEAD:** Dr. Bud sporting a "natural." **LOTS OF POTENTIAL AWARD:** (Tie) Stafford, Bledsoe, Alder, McCoy, Susson. **MOST FLOOR BURNS:** Men's — Schmidtke. Women's, — Pasternak. **BEST FREAK BALL:** Serot's diving, backhand, side wall-front wall, super pinch roll off against Brumfield. Instant replay, anyone? **KEELYISMS, ETC. ETC.:** Plaster Ball: well placed ceiling balls dislodged chunks of plaster in the glass court leading to the plaster ball time out... Splinter Ball: That which is called "good" by the referee but the opponent to show his disagreement with the call

picks imaginary splinters out of the ball (which it picked up by hitting the floor first). Around the wall look: How to stare down your partner without looking at him, by George Rudysz... **WORST INJURY:** Al Rossi with a hairline fracture of his left ankle. Second Place: Bill Thurman with torn shoulder ligaments attempting a Serot freak ball against Serot in doubles. Etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

Poletta Captures Rochester Title

Sam Poletta, golfer, basketball coach, referee and racquetball player, recently regained his title as the #1 player in the Greater Rochester area, playing at the Jewish Community Center of Rochester.

In 1972, Sam Poletta was defeated for the first time in seven years, by Sonny Hill of Buffalo but regained his title this year by defeating Hill 19-21; 21-19; 21-19.

In March Poletta traveled to the Cleveland Open and brought home first place honors in the Masters. It was the second straight time he was in the finals, just missing the Master's title in New Jersey last year.

Like many handball players, Poletta switched to racquetball when he began having elbow problems.

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The Rules Say . . .

There were three significant rules changes adopted at the players' convention during the International Championships at St. Louis. The following key rules became "official" as of April 7, 1973:

1. A new playing category for players both male and female, 18 years of age and under, was adopted. This will also mean holding a separate tournament for this age group on a national (or international) level.

2. It was voted to state specifically that age category is determined by your age at the first day of the tournament.

3. The following new age group categories were adopted for the Masters divisions: Ages 35-44 will be the "Masters" division. Ages 45-54 will be the "Senior Masters" division. Ages 55 and over will constitute the "Golden Masters" division.

The Golden Masters division will be limited to doubles play only.

Each division may conduct a

separate invitational singles and invitational doubles tournament during the year, except for Golden Masters, which will have doubles only. Also, each division will conduct its own age group tournament at the annual International Open Championships.

Note: A player may play "down" in age groups at any time — except, of course, in the junior division. (Example: A 55-year-old may compete in any and all divisions from the open on up.)

Bids for hosting any of the International Racquetball Association tournaments for the coming year should be submitted immediately to the national office at its new address, PO Box 1016, Stillwater, Okla. 74074.

This continuing column by Dr. Bud Muehleisen, National Rules Commissioner, is intended to deal with questions and answers pertaining to official rules and interpretations, including game situations. Players of all calibers are invited to write their questions to Dr. Muehleisen, Racquetball Magazine, PO Box 1016, Stillwater, Okla. 74074.

Percentage Racquetball

Percentage racquetball, simply stated, means making a concentrated effort to apply all the winning percentages as they relate to the various shots and the game situation at the time.

As you analyze errors in racquetball, you begin to see the importance that percentages play in the game. To try to list the multitude of game situations and their individual percentages here would be an endless task.

The percentage that takes top priority hinges on whether you are serving or receiving serve.

As the server, whether you hit a winner or your opponent makes an error, you still score a point. Should you make an error, the only thing that would be lost would be the privilege of serving.

In this situation, the percentage to take a chance is in your favor. When serving, you might try a shot that may have a greater degree of risk built into it and have less to lose than you would if you were on the receiving end of the serve.

This is not to say that you should attempt poor percentage shots while serving. On the contrary, if you go with those shots that carry a low percentage for error while serving, you are gaining the maximum benefit from the percentages.

Conversely, you must critically analyze the percentage situation when you are receiving serve. In this case, you are automatically on defense from a percentage point of view. With the return of serve, you are normally hitting a defensive shot.

Remember that the best you can hope for during the ensuing rally when you make a winner or you force an error is that there will be a side out. Bear in mind that if you make an error, or your opponent makes a winner, you would lose a big point.

Therefore, it behooves you to make as few errors as possible by sticking with the best percentage shots. You should be thinking about forcing your opponent to hit an outright winner in order to score a point.

While racquetball ultimately becomes a game of execution, it is still basically a game of errors and success boils down to who wants to win the most and makes the fewest errors.

Avoid the pitfall of trying the "showboat" shot when the opportunity presents itself. This is a bad habit which may unconsciously be carried into tournament play, where it usually has a negative effect. Also, do not try to make a sensational shot out of an easy put-away. Leave yourself a margin for error.

In other words, in playing the percentages, play the shot that pays the biggest dividend but involves the smallest risk.

— DR. BUD MUEHLEISEN





The Regionals . . .

Milwaukee, Wis. (Central)

All five of the divisionals were successful, with the all time record entry and crowds at the Central at the Milwaukee Handball/Racquetball Club. (Left) Rubenstein and Schmidtke in the finals before part of the 200+ gallery.

The Central Regional tournament found the highest number of entries of any of the regionals, as the Milwaukee Handball/Racquetball Club hosted 183 total entries the weekend of March 2-4.

And as expected, the tournament's two top-seeded singles players, Ron Rubenstein and Bill Schmidtke, ranked two and three nationally at the time, met in the open singles final, with Rubenstein edging Schmidtke in a tough three game match.

The open doubles bracket was the most exciting of the tournament, with half a dozen or more teams having a real shot at the trip award to the Nationals. After some great battles, the top spot was captured by Galen Johnson and Joe Wirkus.

Masters singles was also highly competitive with Madison's Paul Nelson finally taking the title. An expected battle between Nelson and Chet Howard in the finals never materialized when Howard was injured and forced to forfeit.

The names Jim White and John Fazio, although well known in the Milwaukee area, were not so well-known even in the Central Region at large. But the lefty-righty combo proved their merit, not only by taking the Central Masters doubles crown but by taking second place in the Nationals three weeks later.

The lovely ladies provided the Central fans with some great matches over the weekend, including an exciting three game women's singles final in which Kathy Williams topped Ann Gorski.

Barb Tennesson, defending women's singles titleholder in the Central Region was stopped in the semi's by Gorski, but did manage to win the gals' doubles with Ev Dillon.

The open singles finals played to a full house Sunday afternoon as the M.H.R.C.'s 200-plus gallery court was overflowing to see Rubenstein, Chicago's best, battle Schmidtke, now of Minneapolis.

And the fans were not disappointed, although at one point the match looked to be an easy Rubenstein sweep. Ron held a big lead in the first game, but then had to hold back a determined Schmidtke comeback bid late, for a 21-15 victory.

A rash of "dead" balls marred much of the match as both players preferred something livelier. However, none were to be found, and all needles had been

exhausted by this point.

Game two appeared to be a rout, in favor of Rubenstein. With neither player able to go to the ceiling effectively, it became a match of shoot and drive. At this point, Ruby was shooting well, well enough to move to a 15-2 advantage.

Then Schmidtke started to come back. He began picking up three and four points per inning to Rubenstein's none or one, creeping to within 15-18. Then a broken ball hinder robbed Ruby of a point, and Bill came all the way back. At 20-all a controversial Schmidtke kill put Rubenstein out and Bill came in and tallied 21.

The third game was close throughout, with both players flailing away, unable to use ceiling, Z, or around the wall shots. Final game score was 21-18 in favor of Rubenstein.

"It's a shame," said Ron afterwards. "The match did neither of us any good. We were both looking for competition and when we finally get it, the balls are too dead to even come close to resembling a real game."

"And it was unfair for the fans, too. I know they would have liked to see some action instead of a shooting gallery."

In the semi's Rubenstein downed Steve Strandemo, St. Cloud, Minnesota, in a good match 21-16, 21-12. In the other semi, Schmidtke easily topped the surprise of the tournament, Bill Barnes, former tennis player at Lake Forest College, 21-11, 21-6.

Strandemo captured third place 21-7, 21-5.

Prior to the semi's the excitement surrounding the tournament was the string of upsets by Barnes, who was knocked out in the second round of this year's Illinois state tournament.

But in the round of 16 Barnes stopped Tom Wirkus 21-20, 21-19 to earn a shot at the tournament's number three seed, Dan Trost, the Wisconsin state champ.

Barnes was unquestionably playing the best racquetball of his life, and he topped Frost 13-21, 21-19, 21-14.

"I keep pinching myself," said Bill, "and I never wake up."

The open doubles provided the spectators with some hard hitting and rapid fire action. The draw was somewhat helter-skelter since no high ranking teams were coming back intact. But it wasn't long before one team became marked as the one to beat, that of Joe Wirkus and Johnson.

Galen's outstanding left side play marked the success of this team, as he controlled the tempo of each match, often by taking ceiling balls on the short hop and overhand killing into the right corner.

In the finals, he just ate up another good left side southpaw, Ron Strom who was paired with Strandemo. Most observers felt this would be a great battle, but Johnson-Wirkus were too good and completely dominated play. The scores were

21-5, 21-16.

The doubles semi's featured Wirkus-Johnson against Trost and Mike Mullens and after a disappointing first game, it turned into a good match with Wirkus-Johnson coming out on top 21-7, 21-18.

Strom and Strandemo, topped the Champaign, Illinois team of Don Webb and Ron Johnson in their semi-final match 21-10, 21-5. Trost-Mullens took third place 21-7, 21-14.

The Masters had some exciting matches, especially the semi-final of Howard against Phil Dziuk, Champaign. These two arch-rivals go to it annually in the regionals this time with Howard taking the match 15-21, 21-6, 21-15.

Nelson in the bottom bracket was having an easy time of it in the semi's with a 21-10, 21-9 victory over Mike Jacobi. In the quarters, however, Nelson was extended by Henry Krause, Appleton, Wisconsin, 21-9, 11-21, 21-17.

Dziuk took third place in a thrilling match 21-20, 21-20 over Jacobi.

The Masters doubles finals was a battle royal as White and Fazio took on the Lake Forest College team of Al Hanke and Bob Troyer, although inability to use ceiling shots certainly altered the style of play, the match was still a good one. The scores were 21-15, 21-20.

The semi-finals saw White and Fazio top Dziuk and Frank Hinds 15-21, 21-19, 21-11, while Hanke-Troyer were besting Howard and Ivan Bruner 21-9, 21-8. Bruner-Howard then took third, 21-20, 21-17.

Kathy Williams was the feature in the women's singles bracket, showing a complete game and too much strength for most of the gals. In the finals she topped Milwaukee's Ann Gorski 21-14, 13-21, 21-12. Gorski reached the finals by eliminating Tennesson 20-21, 21-17, 21-10, while Williams ousted Peggy Pruitt, Champaign, 21-10, 21-4. Tennesson captured third place 21-19, 21-15.

The ladies doubles, although short in numbers, was high in desire and the gals went all out. Tennesson and Dillon never lost a game en route to their title, with a 21-16, 21-15 championship match win over Gerri Stoffregen, Cincinnati and Camille McCarthy, Bloomington, Indiana.

Tennesson-Dillon had topped the Fargo, North Dakota tandem of Barb Heinecke and Ann Bateman in the semi's 21-13, 21-6, while McCarthy-Stoffregen eliminated Lois Dowd and Susie Carow, Glenview, Illinois 21-7, 21-13.

The tournament was the first major effort for the Milwaukee Handball/Racquetball Club one of the new court clubs that have sprung up in recent years. Bob Keenan, serving as tournament chairman, did a good job, and the co-operation of Hal Raether, club manager and Art Patch, the owner, were greatly appreciated.

Clearwater, Fla. (South)

The Louisville impact was certainly felt on the Southern Regional March 16-18 as Louisvillites captured four first places and four seconds out of the five brackets of play. The only non-Kentuckians to slip into the finals were defending Masters doubles champs Herb Frank and Tom Stidham, who bested Louisville's Ike Gumer and Hermie Abramovitz for the second year in a row.

Open singles produced some great matches, including the finals where Mike Zeitman downed his former doubles partner Ken Porco, both from Louisville, 21-12, 21-18.

Porco regained some solace by stopping Zeitman's bid for the "double play" when he and Bill Evans captured the open doubles title over Zeitman and Bruce Kranz 21-6, 21-15.

Masters singles was won by Evans, the only two-bracket winner in the tourney. Lanky Bill dominated the 40 and over set, and having just turned 40, really breezed through. He never allowed another player to tally double figures.

In the Masters doubles the defending regional champs Frank and Stidham repeated their 1972 win over Abramovitz and Gumer, this time 21-9, 15-21, 21-11.

Louisville's Evie Morguelan belted her way to the women's singles championship with a surprisingly easy 21-7, 21-13 win over defending regional titleholder Kay Evans, also from Louisville.

Thirty-nine men vied for the open singles crown and there were a number of outstanding matches, right from the first and second rounds. In the top bracket Davey Bledsoe bopped Steve Walker, reigning Florida State champion 21-7, 21-5, showing his prowess in racquetball as well as paddleball. Marc Auerbach came in with a nice victory over Louisville's Don Rigazio, the number five seed 21-18, 21-15 in the round of 16.

Another tough round of 16 match pitted Randy Stafford, University of Tennessee senior against Bob Siegel, Atlanta. Stafford came out on top, but not without a battle, 21-12, 19-21, 21-16.

In the quarters, Zeitman topped Bledsoe 21-14, 21-9, while Memphis' Bill King eliminated Auerbach by the unusual scores of 20-21, 21-4, 21-1. Norman Chambers, the pride of Raleigh, bested Stafford in a good match 21-14, 21-18 and Porco eliminated Memphis' Eddie Hill 21-14, 21-19.

Neither Porco nor Zeitman had much difficulty in the semi-final matches with Zeitman, the tourney's number one seed topping King 21-9, 21-10 in the top bracket as Porco, the second seed, defeated

Chambers 21-10, 21-8 in the bottom bracket.

Zeitman then captured his second Southern Regional in a row with the 21-12, 21-18 win over Porco. It was a good match, with Ken's power and Mike's control evening things out. But the added grind of going two events in this three day tournament proved to be too much for Porco, who was giving away 10 years to youth.

King topped Chambers for third place 21-12, 21-12.

In the open doubles, Zeitman attempted to help win a trip to the Nationals for his friend and right side partner, Bruce Kranz, but their attempt fell short as Porco and Evans, the fourth ranked team nationally prior to the Nationals had too much for them.

En route to the finals Porco-Evans defeated Stafford-Bledsoe 21-10, 21-8 in the semi's, and Steve Walker-Steve Flowers in the quarters 21-11, 21-9. Kranz-Zeitman topped fellow-Louisvillites Rigazio and Fred Michels in their semi-final match 13-21, 21-4, 21-18 and won their quarters match against the surprising strong Orlando, Florida duo of Roger Jenne and Dave Adams, 21-7, 21-17.

Porco-Evans had too much teamwork and just too many shots against Zeitman and Kranz. Mike's great right side play kept the underdogs alive in the second game, until the veterans Evans and Porco finally pulled away to the victory.

Stafford and Bledsoe captured third place, 21-17, 21-12 over Rigazio and Michels.

Masters singles saw a few strange things happen, including a forfeit win for Evans in the finals as Clearwater's Bill Caldwell failed to show for the championship match.

To that point Caldwell had been beating tough seeded players along the way and not easily. He took Andy Kozar, Knoxville, and former paddleball Masters singles champ (1972) in a brutal match 21-17, 18-21, 21-10 in the semi-finals. In the quarters Caldwell eliminated Louisville's Gumer 7-21, 21-12, 21-7. Prior to that he knocked out



(Top) Mike Zeitman, left, winner in singles, runner-up in doubles with partner Bruce Kranz, right, and tourney director Larry Leiving; (2nd from top) Baseball star Pete Rose, the guest banquet's speaker; (2nd from bottom) Women's singles champ Evie Morguelan and Leiving; (Bottom) The head table.

the tourney's number three seed, Ed Whitehurst, Raleigh, 21-9, 21-19 in the second round. Caldwell's first round match also went three games, a 21-14, 17-21, 21-15 win over John Hogan, Raleigh.

Meanwhile, Evans was breezing through the top bracket, topping Joe Lee, Raleigh eight and four; Ken Aungst, Selma, Alabama three and eight; and Clearwater's Tom Stidham nine and three to reach the finals.

It was then that Caldwell declined to play.

Stidham won third place, also by default when Kozar forfeited.

The Masters doubles bracket extolled some exciting matches, including the three game final round win for Stidham-Frank against Gumer-Abramovitz. Hogan and partner Luther Green took third place over L.T. Wadsworth and Whitehurst, again by forfeit. Stidham-Frank had defeated Hogan-Green in a tough semi-final match 19-21, 21-9, 21-5 while Gumer-Abramovitz knocked out Wadsworth and Whitehurst 21-9, 21-18.

The women's singles crowned a new champion in 1973 as defending champ Kay Evans, Louisville, could not repeat her championship performance and lost the finals match to young Evie Morguelan 21-7, 21-13.

Evans, top seeded, had had a relatively easy time of it until the finals, although Sarah Green, Memphis gave her a good battle 21-12, 21-15 in the semi's. Morguelan was tearing-through the bottom bracket, relinquishing a total of 10 points in her two matches prior to the finals.

One hundred and twenty-one total entries marked the 1973 Southern Regional and it was a great job turned in Stidham, Larry Leiving, Sid Semel, Richard Martin, Don Ho, Ron Leatherstone, Sonja Stefanadis, Smitty Schippers and all the other people giving their utmost to make this tournament such a success.

Tulsa, Okla. (Southwest)

Top seeded Steve Serot of St. Louis outshot Jerry Hilecher, also of St. Louis, to take the 4th Southwest Divisional open singles championships. In open doubles, Kenny Wong (St. Louis) and Hilecher trounced Tom McKie (Stillwater) and Luther Bernstein (Dallas) to cop the divisional title making it a clean St. Louis sweep.

Forty-five entries took the field at the Thornton Family Y in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Hopes for a women's singles competition ended with the tournament committee sadly withdrawing the event. Lyn McKie of Stillwater was entered along with newcomer Peggy Steding of Odessa, Texas.

Steding went on to shock the Internationals by winning both the women's singles and women's doubles.

The open singles marshalled the racquetball prowess of Serot and Hilecher for an electrifying 21-20 first game. Serot held Hilecher at game point, coming from behind to triumph. He then found the rocket shots to undo Jerry and finished the match 21-12.

The semi-finals pitted Serot against fellow St. Louisian Kenny Wong in a fast-paced 21-14, 21-10 match. Hilecher reached the finals by repulsing Jim Austin of Houston 21-12, 21-2, Richard Walker (Dallas) and Roland Treat (Stillwater). Wong rebuffed Austin to take third place. Young Dino Solomon of Houston drubbed John Casson of Topeka in the consolation finals.

The doubles final unexpectedly saw the previous brilliant playing by Tom McKie and Luther Bernstein fizzle out for a 21-9, 21-12 victory for Wong and Hilecher.

The Houston team of Jim Austin and Dewey Strickland finished in third place on a forfeit from Richard Spears and Bob Hill. Thirteen doubles teams made up the draw.

Master singles mobilized sixteen entrants. The number one seed Artie Albert of St. Louis captured the trophy after downing Ken Denny, Midwest City, Dewey Strickland, and Ray Crowley, Tulsa, on a forfeit by Dan Hilecher of St. Louis. Hilecher won the championship last year. Loren Dexter defeated Ray Crowley (Tulsa) for third.

Deceptively strong George Crowley (Fort Worth) forced out Lou Solomon (Houston) to take Masters consolation finals in a grueling 21-12, 14-21, 21-13 match.

Special thanks should go to Thornton Family Y for hosting the tournament, and their hardworking Physical Director, Gary Merryman.

Plaudits also to Dr. Paul Sommer for tremendous publicity including the television interview with Steve Serot, to Dr. Bill Sturdevant, Jay Leib, Rosie Leib, Tom Thixton, Ray Crowley, Audrey Thixton, and Bob Goodwin, Musical Director for American Christian College.

DR. JOHN RUTHERFORD
Tournament Director

Penn. State (East)

"Let George do it."

He did, 21-13, 21-19 to Charlie Garfinkel (Buff. N.Y.) in the Eastern Divisional Open Singles Finals; 21-17, 21-8 against Tom Kutas (Cinn., Ohio) in the semi's; and 21-3, 21-14 against Charlie Shapiro (Butler, Pa.) in the quarters. Then George teamed with partner Mike Luciw

(New Britain, Conn.) to methodically blast by Kutas and Rob Abrams for the Divisional Doubles Crown.

This was George Rudysz's weekend and doubters are hard to find.

Rudysz was extended only by Garfinkel in a match that should have gone three games. In game one "Gar's" passes were too hard, too high, and George was killing crisply. More importantly, George covered the front court pinch shots COMPLETELY. On passed balls George flicked the ball off the backwall and Garfinkel could only come back with another sidewall or pass.

Game two was an eye-popper with Garfinkel as hot and in control as we've seen him—but only for 17 points. Gar's pinches were now crushing George, rolling out from front and backcourt, some not percentage shots but working perfectly. And George was not up front as in game one.

Down 17-5 by recollection of some in the gallery, George seemed to simply blast two or three points. Then his kill confidence and ceiling control combination were back and in between quips on the court, Garfinkel suddenly found himself 18-all where he generally plays best.

But not this time. Rudysz played brilliant defense and killed his way to the title. Kutas captured third place singles as Luciw failed to show and forfeited (disappointing to all).

Luciw-Rudysz were the team to beat at the Internationals and based upon their shelling of the best in the East, they were the safest bet. No team scored more than 13 points against them in a game. In the finals Kutas-Abrams equalled the New Britainites on the ceiling but erred too often and were obviously frustrated by Rudysz's ability to turn a seeming kill into a wall-hugging ceiling return.

With Abrams up front and Kutas in the back court in the semi-final two-hour war with Don Wallace-Dave Yurgatis (New Brit.), the action was pugilistic, punishing, and pulsating. Dropping game one 15-21, the "Cincinnati kids" came back 21-16, 21-19. It was a slugfest all the way. Yurgatis proved himself a capable right side doubles player and a perfect opposite to the explosive "get-out-of-my-way Wallace."

Garfinkel defeated Luciw 20-21, 21-16, 21-1 in the semi's recovering from a slow start and mixing up sidewall frontcourt shots with passes down the right side that kept Luciw's head shaking. Rudysz's right side high, soft, wall-clinging serve kept Kutas from gaining the front court as George calmly won 21-17, 21-8.

The quarterfinals is the place to look for the future stars but in this writer's opinion either the young, new players did not turn up at the tournament, or the future is in the hands of Garfinkel, Luciw, Abrams, Rudysz and Kutas. Rich Cuneo (Pitts.) last year's second place

finisher soundly defeated Jack Soble (Cleve.) 21-11, 21-0 but then faded against Kutas 21-15, 21-9.

Shapiro (Butler, Pa.) whipped Mike Magno (Mass.) 21-12, 21-7 but was ripped apart by Rudysz 21-3, 21-14. Luciw presided over Abrams 21-3, 21-8 after Abrams had bested Mike Maurice (N.J.) 21-10, 21-4. Tom Sweeney (Penn State) battled past Mike Romano 21-14, 21-16 and the tournament host put up a respectable fight against Garfinkel 21-10, 21-16.

Four of the eight men in the quarters are over 30 and there is room for the younger player in the East.

An all-Cleveland final in Master's Singles pitted lefty Ken Mitchell against John Leech, with Mitchell grinding out a 21-11, 21-13 win on pass-right and back-hand kill right. Leech never tired but missed too many up-front opportunities and couldn't seem to find Mitchell's weakness.

Hayward, Ca. (West)

One hundred of the best racquetball players in the west converged on Chabot College for the Western Divisional Racquetball Tournament on March 2, 3, and 4. The entries included players from California, Arizona, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, British Columbia, and Alberta.

Open singles, with 62 entries, was highlighted by two upsets during the first day of play. Mark Deutsch of Phoenix upset the tourney's number four seed, Craig McCoy, in the first round, 21-5, 21-20. In the third round another relative newcomer, Mark Susson from Newport Beach, Calif., knocked off the number three seed, Chabot's Bill Dunn, 21-19, 21-18.

The quarterfinal action saw Steve Keeley hang on to beat Chabot's Keith Calkins, 21-6, 21-18; Susson continued his fine play by beating the eighth seed Deryck Clay in three, 14-21, 21-8, 21-12; Mark Wayne from Chabot outlasted Deutsch, 21-16, 8-21, 21-18; and Bill Thurman defeated Canada's top player Wes Hadekin, 21-19, 21-9.

Susson's charge was halted abruptly by Keeley in the semifinals, 21-14, 21-11; in the other half, Thurman was on his game to outshoot Wayne, 21-10, 21-11. The final marked a contest between two similar styles, hustle and shooting. In the first game both players left a lot of shots up, but in the end it was Thurman's tremendous hustle which gave him the edge and the game, 21-18.

The second game was the exact opposite of the first. Keeley led all the way, but Thurman was never very far behind. Keeley still left some of his shots up, but not as many as in the first game; and Thurman was having trouble re-kill-ing. This gave Steve the advantage he

needed to win 21-17. The win seemed to give Keeley the confidence in his game that he needed as he completely controlled the third game 21-11. Wayne captured third by dumping Susson in two, 21-14, 21-16. McCoy easily captured the consolation title. He defeated Phil Ivaldy from Los Angeles in two games.

Open doubles fielded an entry of 24 teams with four of the top teams in the nation entered: San Diego's Dave Charlson and Roger Souders, San Diego's Charlie Drake and Keeley, Chabot's Dunn and Thurman, and San Diego's Charlie Brumfield and anybody (anybody in this case was a fine player from Newport Beach, Ron Starkman). And these were the four teams that clashed in the semifinals. Charlson-Souders "routined" Brumfield-Starkman in three, 19-21, 21-6, 21-13. In the other half Drake-Keeley disposed of Dunn-Thurman 21-12, 21-17. The final saw Charlson and Souders continue their mastery of Drake and Keeley by quickly defeating them 21-6, 21-16. Brumfield and Starkman took third place over Dunn and Thurman, 21-11, 21-12.

San Diego's John Halverson triumphed in the Master's singles by defeating Portland's Will Sanders 21-13, 21-14. In the semifinals Sanders was a surprise victor over Al Rossi by the equally surprising scores of 21-2, 21-3. But to Rossi's credit, several hours before his match with Sanders he barely defeated Sammy Koanui in a grueling contest, 9-21, 21-20, 21-13. Halverson squeaked by his first semifinal game against Larry Hoyt from San Francisco by the score of 21-20, but put it together in the second game to win 21-9. Rossi took third by forfeit, and Stan Berney captured the consolation title by defeating Bob Pankler.

Halverson and Rossi also won the master's doubles title over Chabot's John Wagoner and Don Green, 12-21, 21-11, and 21-10. Berney and Mike Bugel took third over Arnie Kernes and "Rocky" Rocklin from Chabot 21-12, 21-8.

Pretourney speculation had the women's singles billed as the toughest draw in the country outside of the Nationals, but Bette Weed was forced to withdraw because of a pulled hamstring and Kim Hill also withdrew to devote time to the planning of her upcoming wedding.

Even so the women's singles saw a draw of 21 entrants with Jan Campbell and Jan Pasternak meeting in the final. Campbell appeared to be playing well in winning the first game 21-15. But Pasternak gradually began to put it together in winning the second game 21-18, and she really played well to win the third game 21-8. This marks the third meeting between these girls since the 1972 Nationals with Pasternak losing the first but winning the next two. All the matches

have been very close. Chabot's Dorit Stern defeated Carmen Pond from Riverside for third place, 17-21, 21-15, 21-7. Santa Barbara's Linda Siau won consolation over Sherry Redmond from Chabot.

Stern teamed up with Pasternak to win the women's doubles by defeating Campbell and Pond in the final 21-19, 21-14. Chabot's Mindy Childress and Mary Simon won third place over Donna Noguchi from Los Angeles and Brenda Childress from Chabot, 21-7, 21-9.

TOURNEY NOTES: Brumfield graciously bowed out of the singles competition as he already had his way paid to the Nationals and this allowed another person a trip; but he caused havoc in the doubles. Five players made the long journey from Hawaii and everyone was impressed with their style of play and their colorfulness. Their top player, "Shippy" Kealoha, forced Wayne to three games and their doubles team of Norman Lau and Koanui blitzed Drake and Keeley 21-6 in the first game before losing in three. They certainly played an important part in making this regional tournament as exciting as it turned out to be. Now, wouldn't a summer tournament in Hawaii be interesting?

Fitness Award

Women in Lynchburg, Virginia have picked up the racquet and joined the racquetball ranks.

Giving impetus to the interest in the hill city of Central Virginia is Pat Luth, physical education director at the Lynchburg Central YWCA.

A racquetball enthusiast, Mrs. Luth is one of the few women in the world to have received the Presidential Sports Award in Racquetball.

H.A. Schaefer, Lynchburg handball champion, introduced the game to Mrs. Luth as a good sport for women because of its rapid achievement and success in learning. For the past year Pat has been playing the game and introducing it to tennis and squash players. She has promoted a women's racquetball league in Lynchburg which now numbers 15. The group uses the local YWCA facilities.

The Lynchburg Women's Racquetball League plans a tournament for the late spring as well as a clinic for beginners.

Mrs. Luth is seeking the aid of the Lynchburg Recreation Department to build outdoor courts for the year-round sport.

A monthly Newsletter is also published for members to keep up interest and to inform on what's going on along the racquetball trail.

MARGARET CHABRIS

RACQUETBALL:

BY CHARLES BRUMFIELD

Racquetball at the tournament level requires the constant interplay of mental as well as motor skills. Because singles racquetball is an individual sport, you have an opportunity to be coach, general manager, and quarterback, all rolled into one. But this opportunity is all too often missed by the average player who thinks of nothing other than getting into the court and trying to break the sound barrier with the speed of his shots. Such a player misses the satisfaction, not to mention other rewards that come from outfoxing, outwaiting, or being a bit more ingenious than the next fellow.

My point is that there is much more to our sport than execution (the how to hit the ball). This article will expound on this dimension of racquetball, focusing on how to practice and play with an objective.

Practicing with an objective

Too often a player will enter a court for a workout with little or no thought given to what he should be working on. I've played many a fine player who after losing will comment that they're just having a bad day or that their game is "a little off." What they mean is, they didn't get to hit the shots they're best at; instead they continued to retrieve balls while off balance or out of position and therefore just aren't playing well.

Many of us develop and perfect a game style that's one of habit. This works well until we come up against a player whose style of play is effective against us and then we lose. The key to good racquetball is the ability to adjust to any style of play, and that isn't possible unless we practice with this objective in mind. Here are some rules I've made a part of my game to help in this regard.

Most of us practice with the same people, it's more convenient and after all racquetball is a social event. It would probably be better for our game if we played many different players, but if Mohammed won't go to the mountain, then we bring the mountain to Mohammed. That is, we play the same people with many different strategies. In practice for one week I won't hit a ceiling ball, but work on my kills, pass shots and ability to control the ball. Another time I'll hit only defensive shots and work on coverage and re-kills. I don't win every practice game, but you would be amazed at the versatility of my game after just a short time practicing in this manner.

In preparing for a tournament, I always develop one new shot that is not characteristic of my game style. In Memphis it was the ceiling ball, in St. Louis the overhead reverse pinch. (Used most effectively against Steve Keeley in the finals.) The objective here is to expand the tools available to me and sharpen those I'll use the most. The introduction of a "new" shot into my game doesn't necessarily involve the development of something previously unheard of, more often it's the development of some part of my game I neglected to work on.

Finally, review and critique. This is probably the most important part of any practice session. It's a rare occasion when I leave the court and don't sit down with my opponent and discuss the finer points of our performance. This helps me identify weak areas in my performance and keeps me sensitive to the strategies of opponents. Remember the player who practices with nothing more in mind than a workout, rarely finds himself in the quarter finals of any tournament.

Playing with an objective

What is the objective of racquetball? My objective, speaking competitively, is to win. How can I accomplish this objective? By understanding the Why, Where, When and How of racquetball.

The Brumfield Way

Part III

Where do we begin? Any pit boss in Las Vegas can give us the answer. Play the percentages. Play the odds. Take the high percentage shot and avoid bad gambles. Any discussion of percentages and gambling brings us back to our old friend center-court position. The player who controls the center-court and keeps his opponent near the back corners enjoys the all important percentage edge. Why is this? The player in center-court enjoys a coverage advantage because he is equal distant from all points of the court. From an execution standpoint, the player will percentage-wise be more accurate from the middle of the court than from the back wall. This is the "Why" we talked of earlier and is the life-blood of my game plan.

Now let's get down to some tactical analysis. "Where" do we hit the ball to implement the game plan of retaining center court position. In baseball, one little catch-all describes the "game plan" behind the entire sport: "Hit it where they ain't." In racquetball, the phrase would be more like: "Hit it where you want them to go."

We mentioned earlier that our game plan requires keeping our opponent deep in the back corner, so that is where we'll aim most of our shots. We'll paint him with ceiling balls, Z-balls, drive shots, and lobs, all struck to die in those back corners. If well executed (that's another article) these shots will force him back, well out of center court.

Our percentage analysis has already determined that such an eventuality will put us in strong strategic position and our poor opponent drawing to an inside straight. Sure, he'll be able to roll off some of those wall paper ceiling shots or some of those hard flat v-ball drives, but think of those percentages. Bigger and better hotels are built every year in Las Vegas by gamblers playing better odds than those. You just be the house for a few tournaments and let some other poor guy be the sucker.

But if this game plan is so perfect, you might be asking yourself, won't my opponent be doing the same thing to me. Yes, if he's smart which there's no guarantee that he is. Then the game resolves itself to a game of control. Ceiling ball is matched against ceiling ball, z-ball is matched against drive in a constant jockeying for position. Gradually the player with the least control is forced more and more out of that coveted position as his returns get weaker and weaker. Then the dominant player has him at



his mercy, to finish off with a volley ending kill or administering the grand tour of the court.

What if, in spite of the "best laid plans" you're still losing all or most of the points? Well, chances are it's back to the drawing board because you're just plain getting licked by a better man (or woman). But, this is a situation "When" you pull out all stops and go against the odds. Shoot low and gamble as the saying goes and maybe you can ride a hot streak back into contention.

I would also advocate a more wide open offense "When" you have a relatively safe lead. There are those theorists who say you should never change a winning style, but I disagree. The game plan we've discussed is mentally draining because it requires constant thought and dedication to the qualities of patience and poise. Furthermore, it often involves literally hundreds of energy consuming ceiling balls and drive shots, plus just plain time on the court. If you have your opponent well in hand you can afford to take a few extra chances and get out of the match a little quicker. I learned this from watching Bart Star open up on some long passes and quick scores after the Packers percentage offense had ground out a lead.

By now you should have a pretty fair idea of a skeletal outline for an efficient game plan. To put some meat on the bones, we need an understanding of the concept of "choice in shots". The general idea is to move your opponent out of center court, but the specific shot needed should depend on the player. Is he fast or slow, good shooter or just average, etc? What follows are some of the strategies I employ in playing different types of players.

How to play the speedster

If a player is known for his speed, do not challenge his lateral mobility. To do so is to play into his strength. Go to the ceiling and keep him deep to his off side, whether backhand or forehand. Do not, as a general rule, play a driving type offense. This will allow your opponent to do his thing — hustling around the court with the adrenalin flowing. If you keep him in the back court with ceiling balls and an occasional lob, the player who likes to make spectacular gets and really digs, often gets frustrated and makes untimely errors.

If you do want to chance a few drives, stick to the counter-plays for the most part. This is a pass that goes against the flow of traffic. If you have your opponent in a position where the obvious shot is in the right front corner, DON'T hit it there, drive it back down the left side. I learned this lesson the hard way playing Mike Zeitman in the Norfolk late last season. Every time I'd get Mike out of position, I'd try to hit to the other side of the court for what seemed to be an easy point; but with his tremendous speed, he'd lay my shot down everytime. The next time I met Mike in a tournament, I faked the obvious shot and went the other way. This neutralized Mike's speed and made point getting much easier.

How to play the three-toed sloth

There are many fine players who for one reason or another move around the court in what appears to be slow motion. When playing someone with this style, put him on the tour and keep your shots flat and hard so he can't float to them. A really effective shot against a slow player is a low drive down the line that doesn't reach the back wall. Most slow players are a little portly and usually don't have a quick acceleration. If the down the line gets by, it's the land of no return. Slow players are also especially susceptible to kill shots angled away from them. For instance, if you catch your opponent to the right of you and against the right wall, simply hit a pinch shot, right wall-front wall and watch it float tantalizing out of his frustrated reach.

Slow players are famous for what I like to call zone coverage. The zone consists of anything within one racquet's length. Try and hit away from that zone. Many slow players make up for their sloth-like speed by developing unusual eye-hand speed and can kill anything they don't have to move their feet to get. Some slow players to watch out for are Mike Luciw and Paul Lawrence.

How to play "Mr. Kill"

Most theorists that have written to this point feel that the best way to neutralize a great shooter is by not giving him anything decent to shoot. Of course, this is a truism, but it isn't of too much practical value unless you are a ceiling ball whiz. Naturally, you want to keep the ball in that area of the court where your opponent has the most difficulty with his accuracy. But no matter how good your control, everyone's human and if you keep the ball in play long enough, you'll give the good shooter that little opening he needs to pop in the winner. When I play a great shooter, I like to get the first shot, therefore, I'll go for a winner much more often than under normal playing conditions. Fight fire with fire. A good shooter often relies on his ability to put the ball away to the neglect of his control, and you may find yourself in a situation amounting to target practice. The best shooters to watch for are Ron Rubenstein and Steve Keeley, if you leave the ball up for any length of time with these players its lights out.

How to play the "photon flyer"

Many tournament players rely on their speed and ability to pulverize the ball in order to maintain an edge on their opponents. When faced with this type of opponent change the pace of the game and don't slug it out with him. Use soft, floating lobs and ceiling balls to throw off his timing and play a little deeper so if he does leave the ball up, you have time to react and set up for the re-kill. If you play up as close as usual, even the "Wong Kill" of a power hitter will be too hot to handle with any method. Use the lob and garbage serve so he can't use your own force against you. It's similar to the theory of throwing curves and off speed pitches to a home run hitter. At least make them provide their own power.

There remains one situation I haven't commented on, and that's what to do if you've never seen your opponent play. In this situation the idea is to accumulate as much information as quickly as possible. Use the warm up period to help you spot his favorite shots. Most players warm up with the shots they intend to use during the match. Check his backhand and forehand and try to determine what shot he will hit any given serve. Notice any unique mannerisms related to his game and style of play. For example, before a player will hit a backhand cross court, he might cock his wrist in a different manner than he would if he were hitting down the line. If you can pick up several clues of this type it may greatly facilitate your anticipation during the match. Also learn any pet shots because he'll use them 75% of the time.

When the match has started use the first several points as a sort of "diagnostic probe." Use your entire arsenal of shots including all your serves to identify strength and weaknesses in your opponent's game style. When this is done calculate a "choice of shots" that will maximize his weak area of play and minimize his strengths. All this may initially result in the loss of a few points, but if you can ultimately get your opponent to play your game it will have been well worth your while.

The message of this article is to think and play and not just play for practice. A favorite pastime for most racquetball players is to sit around and "bull" about their game. However, careful analysis of your game both on and off court is the single most important ingredient to winning.

The University of Illinois had to pull an upset victory in the B-singles finals to capture the team championship of the first IRA National Intercollegiates.

Some 40 entries from 16 universities and colleges competed in the two-day tournament at Illinois' 23-court complex. The Illini Racquetball Club was host to competition in A-singles, B-singles and Doubles, with racquetball players coming from as far as Fort Worth, Texas.

In the A-singles, nationally ranked Jerry Hilecher of Missouri had little trouble in putting away his competition and easily won over Pete Wright

of Texas Christian, 21-4, 21-14, in the finals. In the semi-finals Hilecher defeated Tom Esenther of Illinois, 21-14, 21-4, and Wright got by Steve Nycum of Lake Forest, 21-10, 21-12.

The Doubles provided most of the excitement and competition with Davey Bledsoe and Randy Stafford of Tennessee outlasting Helmut Braun and Charlie McCallion, 21-18, 12-21, 21-16, in a hard-fought, heated finals.

Although the competition was not

quite as strong, B-singles provided considerable excitement when John Parks of Illinois pulled off a come-from-behind upset over Kevin Deighan of Lakeland, 14-21, 21-19, 21-10. Missouri and Tennessee tied for second with Iowa State fourth.

The tournament was considered a success by all the competitors and considerable interest was generated toward carrying this tournament on as an annual event.

DON WEBB

Illini Win Intercollegiates

Ivan Velan Puts Ontario on Ice

Six years ago, Ivan Velan had never even heard of racquetball. Hockey was his game.

Velan played hockey for the Loyola Warriors, one of the giants of college hockey in Canada year in and year out. Another member of that 1966-67 team was left winger Bob Berry, now a 30-goal scorer for the Los Angeles Kings of the National Hockey League.

The next year Velan was accept-

ed at the University of Michigan. That's where he was introduced to racquetball.

After graduation, he returned to his native Montreal and last November was officially ranked No. 3 in Canada in racquetball.

Nobody questions Velan's high ranking after his performance in the Eastern Ontario Racquetball Championships. Velan won the singles title and teamed with fellow Mon-

trealer John Spitz-Spencer to place second in doubles.

After 16 preliminary games, Velan met Joe Carderelli, ranked among the top 10 in Canada, in the finals. He made short work of Carderelli, 21-7, 21-11.

The Toronto pair of Doug Henderson and Manuel Gregorio won the title in three close games from Velan and Spitz-Spencer, 21-17, 16-21, 21-19.

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Chabot Tough

The Chabot Racquetball Club dominated the Second Holiday Classic held at Mel Gorham's courts in San Diego. The San Francisco bay area club won first and third in open singles, and first and second in open doubles.

In open singles Roger Souders reached the semifinals by defeating Jim Trent 21-17, 21-3. Souders' opponent was Chabot's Bill Dunn who got by Bob Martin in the quarterfinals 21-15, 21-19. In the lower half Chuck Hanna defeated Chabot's Mark Wayne 21-15, 10-21, 21-12. Earlier Hanna had been forced to another three game match beating Len Stream also from Chabot 15-21, 21-16, 21-14. Hanna's opponent in the semifinals was Bill Thurman who advanced by virtue of a forfeit from Dave Charlson.

Thurman moved into the finals by displaying a consistent kill shot as he disposed of Hanna 21-15, 21-13. Souders and Dunn had the best match of the tournament in the other semifinal duel. Dunn won the first game easily 21-9. Souders came out shooting in the second game to build up a 19-9 lead only to barely hold on to win 21-19. The third game was a see-saw affair with Souders running the last five points to win 21-19. Then Thurman, playing his best racquetball of the tournament when he needed it most, defeated Souders for the championship 21-14, 21-12. Dunn took third over Hanna by forfeit.

The doubles featured an all-Chabot final. Thurman and Dunn knocked off Mark Susson and Ron Starkman 21-6, 21-9, to advance past the semifinals. In the other semifinal match Dave Charlson and Souders easily handled Stream and Wayne in the first game, 21-8. But the Chabot duo struggled back in the second tilt to pull out a 21-18 win over Charlson and Souders. In the deciding game Charlson and Souders found themselves holding a 20-15 lead with two serves coming. Wayne and Stream demonstrated some

clutch shooting to regain the serve. Then they promptly scored the next six points to pull off the upset of the tournament.

In the doubles finals Dunn and Thurman built up big leads in both games only to find themselves being forced to struggle to win the match 21-15, 21-19. Susson and Starkman captured third place by defeating Trent and Martin 21-18, 12-21, 21-9.

King's Court

The 1973 King's Court Invitational was held March 16-18. We had open singles and doubles, master singles, and women's singles and doubles. Entries came from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and as far west as Missoula, Montana.

In the open, the final match was preceded by Ron Strom of St. Cloud, Minnesota, beating Dennis Hanson in the quarters 21-13 and 21-14; Bill Schmidtke in the semi's 21-16 and 21-4 to meet in the final match with Steve Strandemo, his doubles partner from St. Cloud. I do not know if it is their looks or their personality, but everyone is starting to call them "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

Strandemo beat Mark Domangue in the quarters, 21-17 and 21-14, and edged out Bob McNamara 21-13, 19-21, and 21-11 in the semi's. In the final match, the left handed Strom got off to a good lead in the first game and was able to hold the edge despite a good comeback effort by Strandemo, 21-18.

The second was a hard fought seesaw battle all the way, but this tournament seemed to be Strom's from the start with his flawless play and dazzling kill shots from everywhere on the court. The match ended with Strom winning 21-17.

Third place in the open went to Schmidtke. Open consolation was won by Dr. Charles Schafer.

The open doubles was, as usual, a fight to the finish. The final match was between Paul Nelson of Madison, Wisconsin,

and Schmidtke versus Strandemo and Strom. The match went three games with the final game keeping everyone in the gallery in doubt to the last point, 16-21, 21-12 and 21-18. Third place went to Helmut Braun and Chuck McCallion from Ames, Iowa. The open doubles consolation was won by Kulas and Dobbins of Winona, Minnesota.

The first place trophy in the masters went to Nelson; second place to Max Falck of Minneapolis; and third place to Bill Caldough of Winona. Masters consolation was won by Dean Constantine of Minneapolis.

In the women's events, the doubles were won by a strong doubles team of Barb Tenneson and Ev Dillon from the U. of M. over Nancy Smylie and Mary Adam of King's Court, 21-10, 21-15. Third place went to Bev May and Jan Moore of King's Court. Women's open was won by Ann Gorski of Milwaukee, beating Barb Tenneson in the finals in a good three game match—13-21, 21-16 and 21-10. In the semi's it was Tenneson over Smylie and Gorski over Dillon. Third place was won by Dillon. The consolation trophy went to Nancy Harrer of King's Court.

BOB ADAM

Grapes Again

The 1973 version of the Pennsylvania Singles Tournament, held Feb. 17-18 '73 at Penn. State Univ., followed a unique format but with familiar results: Gene Grapes of Pittsburgh was the winner. But it's getting harder all the time, isn't it Gene?

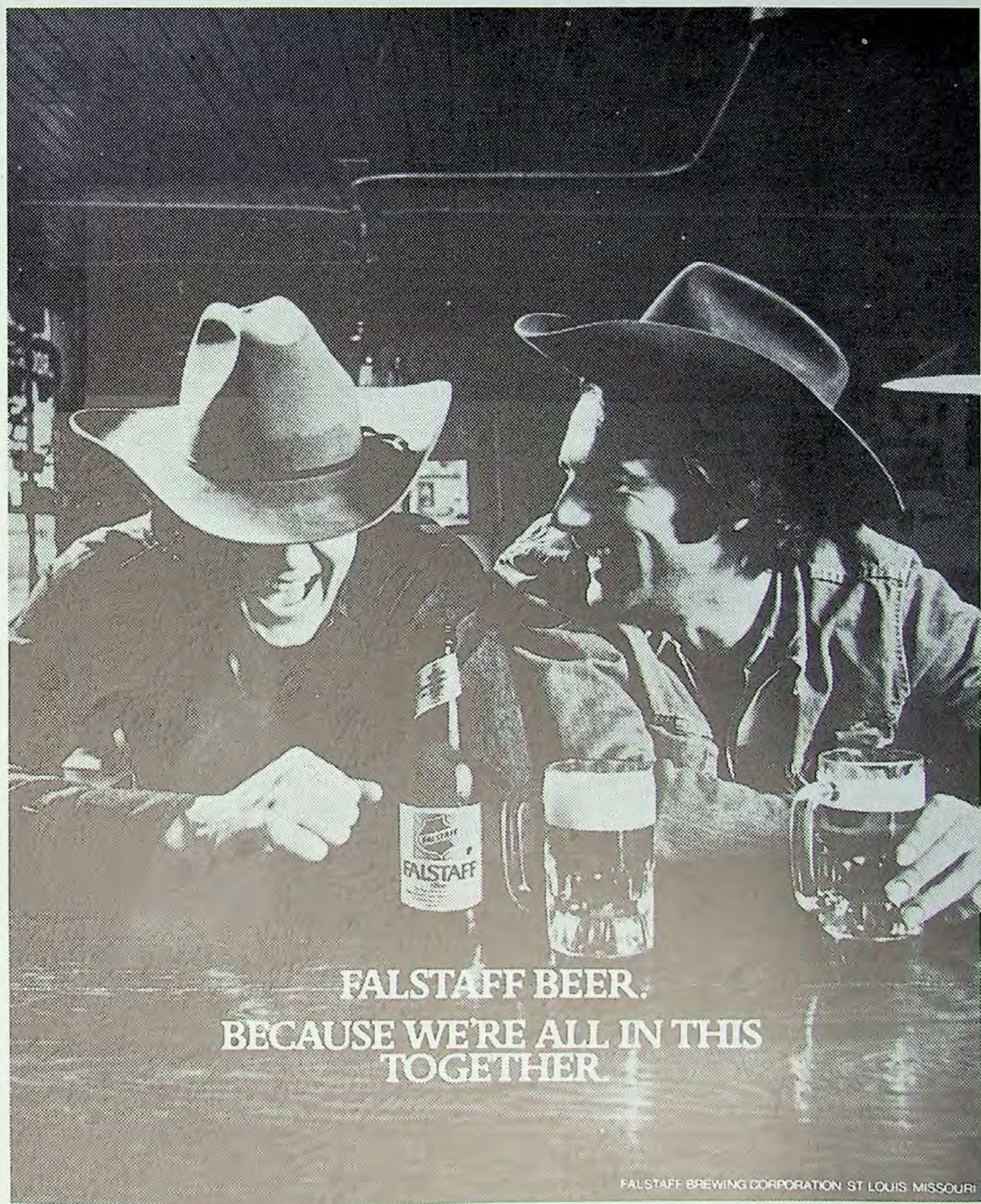
The tournament was divided into three divisions, A, B, C with A limited to those who had reached the quarterfinals of a major tournament away from home; B those playing a year or longer but not within the A definition; and C those playing a year or less.

All players played a round robin, 31 point matches, one point for each five scored plus three for winning the match. B and C were divided into leagues the first day and each man played round robin in his four-man league. The two top winners in each league were placed in a single elimination bracket for the second day of play. First day B-C matches were 31 points, a point for each volley and second day scoring was identical with the A division.

Grapes emerged with a 7-1 record and 70.2 points losing only to Charlie Shapiro (Butler) in an early morning match. Rich Cuneo, second, 65.6 with a 6-2 record losing to Grapes and upset by Jack Jackman (New Castle). Shapiro, 3rd, with 62.2 and a 5-3 record upset by Tom Sweeney (Penn State) and Roger Siegrist (Harrisburg).

Sweeney, 4th, a 5-3 record 59.2; Siegrist,

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rist, 5th, 57.4; a much-improved Dick Snyder (State College), 6th, 50.6; Jack Jackman, 7th, 48.8; George Rockno (Scranton-Wilkes Barre), 8th, 44.4; and James O'Malley (Pitts.), 9th, 35.4.

Six games were in the 31-30 to 31-29 range indicating pressure finishes. The "run" of the tournament was made by Siegrist in a match with Snyder. Down 30-16, Siegrist bullied his way to a 31-30 victory and Snyder headed for the local pub.

B DIVISION

In the 8-man B division on the second day in the semifinals Craig Guinter (Williamsport) over Charlie Levine (State College) 31-14 and Neil Casale (Williamsport) over Luke St. Onge (State College) 31-12. Guinter-Casale failed to play the finals and get the fickle finger of fate award for '73.

C DIVISION

Second day semifinals Augie Smarrelli (New Castle) fell to Carmen Selicetti (Indiana, Pa.) 31-14 while Kerry Carrington (PSU) defeated Mike Fry (Indiana) 31-21. Selicetti then turned it on defeating Carrington 31-6 for 1st place.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

A women's bracket was included for the first time in State Championship history. The new tradition was enthusiastically initiated by ten competitors, playing a round-robin of nine 21-point games (.2 for each point scored, winner +3).

Neil Donahue of Penn State took first place with 59.4 points, remaining coolly undefeated until the final round where she lost (21-9) to second place Karen Sweeney, also of Penn State. At the end of the nine rounds there was a tie for second (57.2 points each), which was decided in a hard-fought match (21-17) between Sweeney and Myrna Burns of Pittsburgh, who took the third place trophy. Carla Rodavich of Indiana, Pa., undefeated in the second day of play, was fourth with a total score of 54.2.

For a group of girls in their first season of play (all beginning last summer and fall), it was quite a learning experience. The short, one-shot chance at each opponent was a real test of psychological cunning and mental discipline, to say nothing of physical stamina... an early Monday phone conversation — "Hello No. 1. This is No. 2. Just wanted to let you know that I'm as sore as you are!" What price glory?

A Tight Fit

Lethbridge, Alberta was the scene recently of the Molsons' Cup Alberta Open Tournament held from March 14 through 17. What made the event unique was the fact that Lethbridge boasts only two courts at the local Y.M.C.A. With a list of 53 entries, the executives were well challenged in putting a reasonable playing schedule together. By holding some of the local matches on Wednesday, the pressure was released somewhat by the time play commenced on the 15th at 6:00 a.m.

Since several entries from Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver arrived that same day, we have only praise and admiration for the manner in which they accepted their heavy playing schedules turning in one fine game after another. We believe Ken Phillips of Edmonton may be eligible for some type of endurance record, playing ten games between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on the first day!

The afternoon of the 16th was highlighted by a clinic conducted by Dr. Bud Muehleisen, a knowledgeable and deeply impressed crowd found it most informative.

Friday evening sneakers were exchanged for dancing shoes as players, wives, and guests enjoyed a smorgasboard and some great music at the Henderson Lake Golf Club. In a brief presentation ceremony, Dr. Bud Muehleisen and Steve Keeley were presented with cuff links from the City of Lethbridge. Dr. Bud Muehleisen was also presented with an Eskimo Sculpture and plaque thanking him for his contribution to our tournament.

Saturday morning came early especially for some of the more active dancers, as play was resumed once more at 6:00 a.m. Our bleachers broached a new capacity record to watch our San Diego guests in their first matches.

Later that afternoon, Steve conducted another clinic. Your words were well taken Steve, as is evident by all the new serves we see around here lately. The day ended with another hospitality night.

Since Sunday morning marked several finals, an eager crowd was on hand. It took some juggling, but every set of eyes seemed to find a view of the highlight game — the final in the A Open Singles played by Steve and Bud. Although the crowd considered both "winners" Steve tucked the match away in two straight with scores of 21-16 and 21-20.

The following is a list of the over-all winners. Merchandise prizes awarded for these events were donated by local business men, along with trophies courtesy of Molsons' Brewery.

A Open Singles — Molsons Cup — Winner Steve Keeley over Bud Muehleisen 21-16, 21-20.

A Closed Singles — Wes Hadiken of

Edmonton retained his Alberta Championship by beating Logan Tait (Lethbridge) 21-11, 21-10. The Consolation event also went to Logan Tait.

A Open Doubles — Bud Muehleisen and Steve Keeley (San Diego) over Howie Rankin and Jack Groff (Edmonton) 21-2, 21-13.

A Closed Doubles Alberta Closed Championship — Wes Hadiken and Ron Pawlowski over Tim Filuk and Bob Daku (Lethbridge) 21-13, 21-4.

B Open Singles — Winner — Ron Pawlowski (Edmonton); Consolation — Jim Freel (Lethbridge).

C Open Singles — Winner — M. Padon (Lethbridge); Consolation — B. Ainscough (Lethbridge).

Another First

Louanne Pauley of Glasgow AFB parlayed poise and precision to win the A-singles competition, then teamed with fellow AFB ace Joan Hager to take doubles in the first annual Women's Hi-Line racquetball tournament March 16-18 in Glasgow, Mont.

In what is believed to be the first women's tournament ever held in Montana, Louanne defeated Janice Lilletvedt, 21-15, 21-8, in the finals. Vicki Ross won Class B, 21-14, 21-11 over Donna Woodford and Janet Hager took C over Denise Etchart, 21-7, 21-8.

They put on an excellent show. Each player tried her very hardest to win, the matches were held on time and, without exception, they were all good sports!

LEON GODDARD

Ruby Repeats

Ron Rubenstein made it two victories in a row in the Chicago Open and finished his sweep of all Illinois tournaments this season, when he defeated Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis in the finals.

In the women's bracket Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Michigan repeated her regional win over Milwaukee's Ann Gorski, with the match again going three games.

The tournament was marred somewhat by a quarter-final round eye injury to San Diego's Steve Keeley. Early in his first game against Don Webb, Champaign, Keeley was struck by a hard shot as Webb returned a soft serve. The ball struck Steve squarely in the left eye, and despite some bleeding and the eye closing, he continued.

Keeley struggled through the match, earned the victory, but had to forfeit his subsequent matches, a semi-final against

Schmidtke and third place to Jim Austin, Houston.

The tournament was sponsored by the Chicago Park District and held at the six court facility at the University of Chicago Circle Campus on Chicago's near west side. Competition was held in men's and women's singles only.

Fifty-seven players entered the men's bracket and by the time the round of 16 emerged, some outstanding players were alive.

Dan Alder, Bath, Michigan topped Rich Kraft, Des Plaines, in his round of 16 match 21-11, 21-14. Kraft had recently won the Illinois B tournament. John Travaglio, Champaign, stopped Lake Forest's Dave Cochrane, 21-13 21-17, after Cochrane had upset Chicago's Jerry Padula in the previous round.

Rubenstein and Austin took different routes to the quarter-final round with Ruby downing Chicago's Tony Arneri 21-2, 21-1, while Austin had a difficult time with Northbrook's Shelly Clar 21-20, then coming around 21-5.

In the bottom bracket Webb topped Al Levine, Chicago 21-18, 21-14; Keeley eased by Fred Blaess, Schaumburg 21-13, 21-5; Dan Little, Chicago, stopped Evans Wright, Okemos, Michigan in a thrilling match 19-21, 21-17, 21-17. It was Wright's third consecutive three game match, having defeated up-and-coming players Paul Nigro and Ron Rashkow on the way. Schmidtke bested Lake Forest's Bob Troyer in his round of 16 match 21-15, 21-7.

In the quarters, only Keeley had trouble, due to his injury. Without any sight in the left eye, Steve was forced to play every shot to Webb's forehand. Webb, playing smart, played to Steve's backhand. But the Keeley experience proved to be enough with "Harpo" taking a 21-17, 18-21, 21-11 win.

Schmidtke eased by Little 21-8, 21-12; Austin the same with Travaglio 21-7, 21-16; and Rubenstein over Alder 21-10, 21-14 in the other quarter-final matches.

In the top bracket semi, Rubenstein showed a devastating game that had Austin completely bewildered. Ron's shots were pin point in accuracy and he played possibly the best racquetball of his career against Jim. The final match score was 21-6, 21-9.

Thus another Rubenstein-Schmidtke match emerged, with Bill surely wanting another crack at Ruby, who had defeated him in the finals of the Central Regional three weeks earlier.

But this was Rubenstein's tournament. Feeling comfortable in his home surroundings with an encouraging gallery and tremendous shots, Ruby ran off a big first game lead, and held off Schmidtke's patented comeback for a 21-9 victory.

It appeared that Ruby would destroy Schmidtke in game two as Ron boomed to a 16-2 lead, but this time Schmidtke did come back. And just as he zeroed

his sights toward 21, Rubenstein tallied the needed points for an exciting 21-19 second game and match win.

The women easily played the best ladies racquetball ever witnessed in the Chicago area. And it was too much for the Chicago gals, as all four semi-finalists were out-of-towners.

Williams, the top seed, ripped Suzie Carow, Glenview 21-1, 21-12 in the quarters; Mary Slaughter, Illinois state champ from downstate Champaign, topped Northbrook's Shirley Lind 21-6, 21-15; Peggy Pruitt, also from Champaign, stopped Northbrook's Bev Franks 21-1, 21-1; and Gorski beat Lois Dowd, Winnetka 21-1, 21-5.

Williams had a rough time in her semi-final match, as Slaughter battled her to the finish, forcing the match to three games. Williams started as well as could be expected, taking the first game 21-5, but Slaughter turned it around and captured the second 21-11. The third game, on stamina, went to Williams 21-12.

In the bottom bracket, Gorski had little trouble reaching the finals as she defeated Pruitt 21-4, 21-12.

The finals, as with the men, was a repeat of the Central Regional, and again this match went three games.

Gorski, playing one of her best singles games ever, completely shocked Williams in the first game with a 21-4 victory. But Kathy came back, and put her strength and stamina together for 21-3, 21-7 second and third game wins.

Slaughter captured third place over her partner Pruitt 17-21, 21-13, 21-17.

East Canada



Ivan Velan and John Spitz-Spencer

The first annual Canadian Eastern Divisionals were held at the NW-YMCA in Montreal, March 23-25. There were 16 singles and eight doubles teams from Halifax, Toronto, Kingston and the Montreal Area.

In singles, John Spencer reached the finals through the bottom bracket after two closely contested matches 15-21, 21-11, 21-10 over Doug Bauld of Halifax and 21-20, 21-19 over Murdoch Cranston, also of Halifax. Meanwhile, Ivan Velan came through the top bracket in straight game victories and then de-

feated Spencer 21-4, 21-4 for the title. Third place was won by Cranston over Ed Kahn of Toronto 21-5, 21-20.

Guy Leeder of the Cataract Club in Kingston captured the consolation singles against John Butler, a promising young player from the host NW-Y.

The tenacious Montreal duo of Lorne Munday and Rick Colangelo provided some fireworks in the doubles with their aggressive and "close-checking" play. Through their chosen game plan they eliminated Ed Kahn and Jim Westwell and extended Spencer-Velan to three hotly disputed games, wherein Colangelo played the role of a moving target, before bowing 21-9, 17-21, 21-17. Meanwhile the Halifax team of Cranston-Snow played their way into the finals with relative ease only to lose to Spencer-Velan 15-21, 21-10, 21-16 in a match highlighted by Cranston's repeated backwall kills.

Third place went to Munday-Colangelo over Leeder-Valiquette of Kingston 21-12, 21-7 and the consolation doubles victors were Butler-Buckmaster over Christie-Moody, all of Montreal.

It's Keeley

Steve Keeley traveled to San Jose to win the first San Jose YMCA Open Singles Tournament, but it wasn't easy.

Steve was forced to three games in the quarterfinals by Bill Fearing before finally beating him 21-8, 18-21, 21-9. Bill Thurman also reached the semifinals as he defeated Curt Blanding from San Jose, 21-3, 21-8. In the lower half of the draw Chabot's Bill Dunn and Mark Wayne made it to the semifinals with Dunn defeating San Francisco's Louis Concha 21-15, 21-6 and Wayne outshot fellow club member Keith Calkins 21-12, 21-19.

Keeley played well to get by Thurman 21-18, 21-14 while Dunn managed to struggle by Wayne 21-13, 13-21, 21-10. In the finals Dunn led the entire first game up to an 18-15 advantage. At this point a bad call appeared to upset him; and Keeley, taking advantage of Dunn's mental lapse, regained the serve and the next six points to win 21-18. Playing with better composure in the second game, Dunn again led the entire game only this time Bill held on to win 21-18. In the third game Keeley's tournament experience made itself apparent as a change in the type of serve Steve was using gave him a quick lead, and before Dunn could adjust effectively it was over with Keeley winning the game and the San Jose championship 21-7. Thurman took third by forfeit over Wayne.



THE BEST RACQUETTES IN BOULDER, COLO.

The second annual ladies racquetball tournament held in Boulder, Colo. — with 25 housewives entered compared to six a year ago — was considered an exciting double-elimination meet. Finalists, pictured in pairs, left to right: Vicki Huber, defending champion, defeated Mary K. Edwards in Class A, 20-21, 21-20, 21-16; B — June Peterson def. Joan Schempp, 21-12, 12-21, 21-10; C — Joan Shepherd def. Marilyn Berkey, 21-11, 21-20. The D winner was Roberta McGann, 21-15, 19-21, 21-15, over Becky Taggart.

Twin Cities

Three years ago, Minneapolis/St. Paul hardly knew what the game of racquetball was all about. However, today there is no question that the game is here to stay.

King's Court, which introduced the first club designed exclusively for handball/racquetball, opened three years ago in Edina with a six court facility. Last year it branched out with duplicate facilities across the river in Roseville, a St. Paul suburb. Plans are almost complete for No. 3 in '73.

The Court House, an eight court racquetball/handball club with one glass spectator sport, opened just in time to host the Invitational Singles tournament. Two of the indoor tennis clubs have added racquetball courts. (You can put five racquetball courts in the same space as one tennis court). With these new additions complimenting the existing YMCA, Decathlon Club, St. Anthony Club, and JCC Club, they give the Twin Cities today 75 courts with many more on the drawing board.

Last fall the first Twin City racquetball league was formed. The league objective was primarily to generate enthusiasm and depth within each club, and to give the various club members an opportunity to play with different players.

With the first year's league season just coming to an end, we are already talking of an early start for next fall, which will include expansion clubs, and the addition of a "B" league and a women's morning league.

BOB ADAM

Northeastern

The Northeastern regional racquetball tournament was held at the Worcester YMCA the weekend of May 27-29. Fran Incutto of Worcester, defending his title, lost in the finals to Mike Luciw of Connecticut in two games, 21-11, 21-5.

Both these players had trouble getting into the finals. In one semi-final match, Luciw won by the skin of his teeth in a tough match against the upcoming youngster from Fitchburg, Mike Romano, 21-19, 11-21, 21-12.

In the other semi-final match two local boys were fighting it out. Jim Larai, playing the best racquetball we've seen him play in a while, was leading Fran Incutto 1-0 in games with the second tied up at 18, when a muscle in his leg snapped. Jim could not walk and forfeited the match.

Munich, Too

The Munich Racquetball Club went on its first road trip in March. We traveled to Wiesbaden and played the "Flyboys" at Lindsey Air Station. We played six games of singles and three doubles, splitting singles 3-3 and getting whopped in doubles 0-3.

The courts we have in Europe vary in size. Ours in Munich are 23 by 46 feet and in Wiesbaden they were even longer and with no ceiling! We have other trips planned to Stuttgart and Berlin.

Gene Moss and I are very interested in racquetball here in Europe. We have got on the subject of having one or two famous racquetball players such as Brumfield or Muehlisen travel to Europe for a clinic. This has been done with baseball, football, etc. The Air Force has flown them over free of charge in the past. Gene said if anybody was interested he would give it a try for approval.

In our 66th MI Gp tournament held here in Munich, we had 32 participants, single elimination, best of three games. It was played in three days. Mike Scheider came out on top, with Toni Phillips second, Rich Baruth with the consolation and myself third.

NEIL B. SPAULDING

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Working Together for Racquetball...

It is a real honor and a genuine challenge for me to follow a man like Bob Kendler in the presidency of the International Racquetball Association. His vision and know-how did much to advance the sport of racquetball.

The obvious question, then, is why did he resign as President and even as a member of the IRA? The answer is, very simply, an honest difference of opinion.

Bob Kendler felt the IRA could best be served by a strong president while reducing the power of the Board of Directors to merely an advisory status. However, our Constitution did not read that way. So, in order for the President to have sole control of the organization, Mr. Kendler proposed changes, i.e., amendments to the Constitution to effect this, plus changes that would perpetuate in office whoever was President.

Your Board of Directors was faced with a real dilemma. A careful study of other athletic organizations indicated one glaring fact . . . the successful ones were those which had an arrangement for bringing in "new blood, new life" in the organizations by rotating officers and directors while giving the balance of the responsibility for major decisions to their members through the Board of Directors.

On the other hand, history is full of one-man sports organizations which have sputtered, faltered, then finally suffocated from the lack of new personnel eager to try new ideas.

After many hours of meetings and discussions, as you who were in St. Louis for the Internationals know, the Board of Directors voted to keep the Constitutional provisions in effect. The vote was unanimous.

Any sport this size is just too big for one man to

run . . . it takes the constant infusion of new ideas, imaginative concepts and planning. Racquetball will be around long after we are all dead and gone.

One interesting sidelight . . . I couldn't help but notice a small placard back in the corner of one of the rooms at the JCC in St. Louis where we met. After the meeting, my curiosity got the best of me and I walked to the other end of the room to read it. The inscription seemed to vindicate our decision, for there was printed: "One of us is not as smart as all of us."

Speaking of new ideas . . . our first plan is to establish state chairmen for each state and hold state tournaments. Coinciding with this will be a membership drive with our goal in the next twelve months to double our membership. This shouldn't be too tough a task, since each member gets about \$6 worth of magazine and postage for his \$3 annual fee. Also you will receive, as soon as the work is completed, a financial audit of the organization.

One idea we intend to investigate is that of changing the IRA policy of having exclusive contracts for products to that of having contracts which meet IRA specifications. Some manufacturers prefer it . . . it will open the gate for many more suppliers . . . it will put more funds in the IRA till.

And we are going to have a National Junior Commissioner who will hold a separate tournament for this group alone. And there will be a new Racquetball Handbook.

The future for racquetball is unbelievably exciting . . . we have only scratched the surface. It's going to take a lot of work by all of us to implement new ideas. In less than three years, none of the officers will be around. You will have new officers and new directors. That's the way your Constitution reads.

The IRA is your Association. Make the most of it.

— DeWITT SHY, President