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RACQUETBALL TODAY

Hogan Over Myers at Kunnan/Leach

Hogan Wins Back To Back

By PHIL SIMBORG

Seamco/Leach again held its unique and exciting 4th Annual Kunnan/Leach Tournament of Champions in the beautiful 24-court Sportrooms of Coral Gables, Florida, and from my personal observations, it's one of the best stops of the year.

The amateur divisions offered plenty of excitement in their own right, and for a special report see page 19.

The Pro division was a 12-man invitational which included seven of the top eight players from the 1978-79 year-end season, plus five great "wild-card" players. In effect, all the players that could reasonably be expected to have a chance to win were there except for Hilecher, Bledsoe, Fleetwood, and Dave Peck, who had the flu and was an alternate.

IN ADDITION TO having a top field, the money made it very interesting, as the winner received a total of \$15,000 (the biggest single purse except for the Nationals), and the final match was, in effect, a winner-take-all match for \$8,000!

(Continued on Page 4)



Marty Hogan

Women Pros Go Their Own Way

By PHIL SIMBORG

Unless there's a drastic change in styles in the near future, you won't see anything but hairy legs in the pro division of future NRC Pro/Am's. According to a press release issued by the NRC's (National Racquetball Club) public relations firm: "The decision to cancel competition for women professionals on the tour was made to mutually benefit the NRC and the women who wanted to establish their own tournament series."

In an effort to get the "whole" story, I contacted Dan Bertolucci, Executive Director of the NRC, and Dan Seaton, Commissioner of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA), and talked to both of them at length. While there is some discrepancy as to exactly who made what demands upon whom, following is a rundown of what I was able to determine took place:

1. Last June, at the Nationals in Tempe,

(Continued on Page 19)

Dominates at Coors Classic

By RALPH MOIL

It looks like TV Superstar Marty Hogan decided it was time to start concentrating on his racquetball game once again, as his play in the NRC's Coors Classic February 21-24 was as domineering as most of us had ever seen in his fine, young career. After suffering defeats earlier this year at the hands of Don Thomas and Dave Bledsoe, and going many tie-breakers in previous tournaments that he did win, he came on strong to pull off two tournaments back-to-back. While he had some tough games, Hogan seemed to "win at will" when he needed the points and was never pressed to a tie-breaker in Denver.

He had no problems with Dave Peck in the finals (21-14, 21-8) and little problem with Yellen in the quarters (21-11, 21-19). In the semi's he had a tough match with Hilecher, winning 21-20, 21-17, and in the 16's he had a most unusual match with David Fleetwood. Dave was winning the first game 20-11, and Hogan turned it on and won the game! Hogan relaxed again and was soon down in the second game

(Continued on Page 5)



Lindsay Myers



Dave Peck

We Get Letters . . .

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY,
 I would like to start off by thanking Phil Simborg, Al Shetzer, and Tom Street for putting out an excellent paper!!! I love it as well as many of my customers !! I would also like to thank you for your excellent article on Jennifer Harding (most definitely my favorite women's player on the pro tour today). Being a big fan of Jennifer I really enjoyed the article. I commend her for being able to run a racquetball club and doing the pro circuit, as well as keeping up with her engagements! She truly is a pro in every sense of the word.

Last but definitely not least I would like to thank Tom Grobmisi for his humor he adds to each issue. I look forward to reading his articles each issue!

Thank you to everyone who helps with RACQUETBALL TODAY!

Yours in racquetball,
Ellen Kay Wenger
 Manager
 Courts N' Stuff

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY,

I've just finished reading your February issue, which is the first one I've seen here in Wisconsin. The paper contained 5 articles on how to play (by Sauser, Hoff, Sterling, Garfinkle and Gabrisko); an article on the rules of the game; an article on the Hands Vs. Racquet match; articles about Jennifer Harding and Marty Hogan; an article on health; three really funny articles by Tom Grobmisi; reports on local tournaments; tournament schedules; Association news; news briefs; Sportsman of the Month; etc., etc. How do you do it all? There is as much value and

interest in your little paper as in almost any national magazine I've ever seen on racquetball.

I just wanted to be sure you knew that you are read and appreciated outside of Illinois and I hope you will soon start providing coverage of tournaments and players in Wisconsin, too.

Linda Perry
 Waukesha, Wisconsin

Dear Linda,

Thanks for your praise. We have been receiving many letters from people from all over the country who read our paper and have assured them all that we will print the results of tournaments worthy of note providing we are sent the results and black and white, non-returnable pictures. Results of Wisconsin tournaments will be carried in our Midwest Edition. The larger the tournament, the greater will be our coverage, regardless of what state the tournament is in. Currently, however, we do not have the staff to cover local tournaments all over the country and must rely on the tournament promoters to send us the information.

Ed.

Dear S/S/S,

I think you guys are doing a wonderful job with your paper and your tournaments, and it's time the players stood up and declared themselves in favor of what you guys are doing. I for one am not afraid to be counted as someone who appreciates your efforts and will be loyal to your tournaments.

Sincerely,
 Anonymous

A.P.R.O. Convention Set for Chicago

The American Professional Racquetball Organization will hold its second annual national convention in Chicago on Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4. The convention should be very informative for racquetball teachers, managers, and even owners.

The two days will consist of guest speakers, round table discussions, open forum speak outs, and other formats to further the knowledge of all involved.

Some of the topics will be: teaching techniques, health aspects, program de-

velopment and promoting, stroke analysis and many other topics.

Then on Monday, May 5, RACQUETBALL INDUSTRY magazine will conduct a racquet testing session with our American Professional Racquetball Organization professionals. This will be the first such session in the world.

For further information on the convention call or write the American Professional Racquetball Organization, 730 Pine Street, Deerfield, Illinois 60015, 312-945-4678.

Sportsman of the Month

In an effort to encourage and reward good sportsmanship, RACQUETBALL TODAY is pleased to announce a new feature: Sportsman of the Month. Each month we will feature a person selected for his/her high sportsmanship demonstrated in and around the racquetball court. The winner will be selected from letters sent in by readers. If you know of someone deserving of recognition for demonstrating good sportsmanship, send us a note about it (a picture, if available, would also be good).

To the Editor:

Judy Harper has both my admiration and my vote for Sportsperson of the Month. During the recent S/S/S Natural Light Tournament at Evanston, the Seniors and Masters divisions were combined. One match found Judy playing against a sweet, elderly lady, obviously a novice. When I looked down on the court, Judy was hitting the ball gingerly and with compassionate control to the center of the front wall, volleying pleasantly back and forth, amidst moans and groans

from an obviously disenchanted audience. Judy could have given her opponent a doughnut — instead, she gave her a workout and a good time. What a gracious lady.

Sincerely,
 Diane Gabrisko



Judy Harper

Racquetball Goes 'Big Time' in Chicago

Thanks to The Sun-Times, Wendy's, Wilson, Coca Cola, The Metro Club, and Follet Recreation, people in Chicago have begun hearing and reading about racquetball in the same ways they have been presented with tennis, bowling and other sports — BIG MEDIA, BIG TOURNAMENTS, BIG PRIZES.

The big event, the Sun-Times Wendy's/Wilson Shootout was unveiled in the Sun-Times in it's Sunday, February 24 edition,



Len Ziehm

with a large ad and entry form in the regular part of the paper, and a big article on the event by Len Ziehm in the sports section.

The "shootout" itself takes place over six weekends, offering competition for all amateur levels of play, including novice; with competition beginning at 15 area clubs feeding into four regional clubs, down to the finals at the Glass Court (in Lombard) April 19-20, then topped off by a "beat the pro" for the winners who will get handicaps and a chance to beat former national champs Davey Bledsoe and Shannon Wright to win two Chevy Chevettes! Other prizes include home video computers, stereos, radios and other valuable prizes. Entry deadline is March 12. For information contact "Tournament Central" at 644-4895 or check the Sun-Times.

This is, without question, the biggest thing that has happened to racquetball anywhere. After the event gets going for a couple of years, it should be every bit as big as the Sun-Times bowling and tennis "fests" with the end result of greatly increasing the number of people in the area participating in the sport. We applaud the efforts of the companies involved, and particularly Len Ziehm and Jim Bronner who generally "quarter-backed" the implementing of the idea.

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'Steely Dan' Bertolucci Meets Press

By BOB GURA

Steely Dan is the name of a popular rock group. It could also apply to Dan Bertolucci, executive director of the National Racquetball Club. Direct and crisp in manner, Bertolucci, at 30 functions as if he plans to be part of pro racquetball's long term future.

Chatting with him about issues facing the sport proves he's in touch with most every bruhaha — directly. Mention a topic under discussion in the racquetball community and an answer pops up on the double, or triple, if that's possible.

One of the primary laments of pro racquetball fanciers has been the long-term lack of recognition awarded by the media — especially television. To hear Bertolucci the anonymity will soon be a thing of the past, come two or three brief years.

"TV COVERAGE will be enhanced when the white glass court becomes installed in a permanent facility," he calmly stated. Continuing on with nary a breath, "It will allow for maximum panning by the camera, help reduce glare, and permit better positioning of the cameras." Confident the change to white glass will become reality he matter-of-factly said, "We're technically only 2-3 years off."

Aware that television exposure will cause pro racquetball's image to skyrocket Dan is taking steps to insure potential trouble spots are eliminated.

An example of which is the concern over the quality of officiating in tourneys and matches. As many amateur court hackers are aware, hardly a tournament goes by without a player feeling he or she's been wronged by the referee. A top ref in his own right, Bertolucci is working hard to remedy the situation. Admitting frankly "right now only a handful of guys are really capable," he spoke of a new organization in the works. "We're going to be forming the National Racquetball Referee's Association," adding that the groundwork is currently being laid.

"All members of the NRRRA will be tested," he continued, asserting that "gradients of ability will be established within the association." Owing up to the basic problem faced by anguished touring pros he exclaimed, "It's obviously a different story when you're playing for thousands of dollars or a trophy."

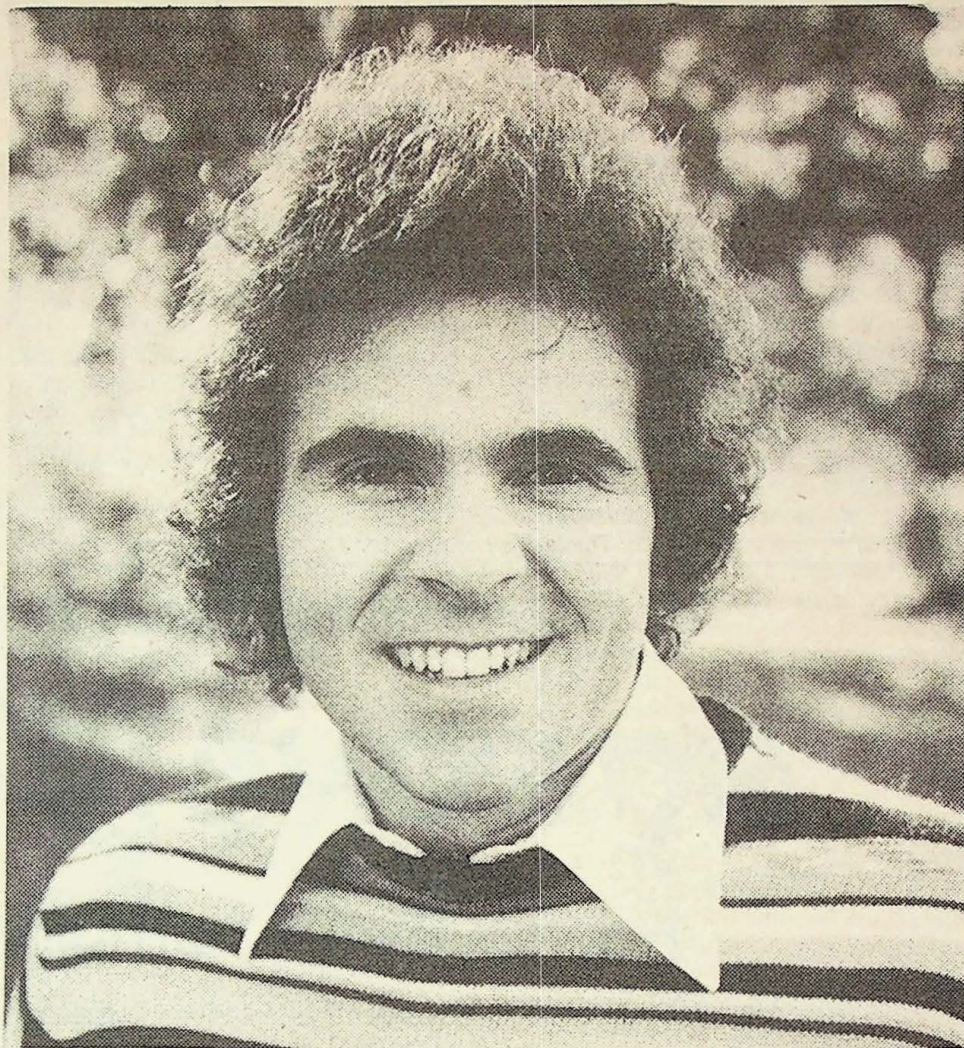
STILL, HE implied, the standards of officiating at all levels of the sport will be

"TV coverage will be enhanced when the white glass court becomes installed in a permanent facility."

maintained at as high a peak as possible.

Talk turned to the timetable for the program getting off the ground. "It'll take a year or so to get rolling," he added. The association will hopefully begin instructing the decisionmakers along with the September 1980-81 season.

What with the plans for TV coverage and the referee's association a bit removed it was surprising to hear of video plans already in the works. Fans anxious to see racquetballs hit about pro style on the small screen may realize their wish in April. According to Bertolucci several national TV networks are negotiating to telecast the Seamco Racquetball Classic held in Boston (April 9-13). The type of coverage should make viewers happy as, he commented, it will be Live, Tape-Delay, Same Day programming. This development along with the mention of "a new format in the works for TV" should make video hungry fans cheer up. Pressed to



Dan Bertolucci, executive director of the National Racquetball Club.
(Photo courtesy of the NRC)

reveal the format Dan politely refrained, but made clear it would increase the game's appeal.

Although willing to bend with some change for the good of the sport, certain proposals ring tinny to his ear.

THE NOTION of switching over to a "slower ball" in tourney play is an example of an off-key suggestion. Even though many players (club pro's among them) feel the speed of the regulation ball detracts from long rallies and more strategic play, Dan disagrees.

"The pro's that complain about the ball (being too fast) are older and slower." He paused for a second and offered a proof in his behalf. Speaking slowly he related that a tournament was recently held in Coral

NRC's case. The issue was prompted, he stated, by the women placing certain requests on the sponsors and NRC which could not be met at this time. Pausing, he added, "It was beyond the sponsor's dollar commitment this season."

No fool when it comes to recognizing female participation in the sport Dan said, "I wish them the best of luck." The wish was amended with a thought towards the ladies' efforts to improve their lot. The rift, he commented, might help the women by "allowing them to achieve the status they'd like to achieve via their own efforts."

Other areas of debate continue to peek over the shoulder of the executive director. Few are more discussion-inspiring than that of young players qualifying for pro tourneys.

If one's not in the know, the Wednesday before a tournament is the time when hopefuls attempt to qualify. Eight players

survive and enter the field of 32, of which 24 pros have been given a bye. Many players and observers feel this process puts an undue strain on the eight, inasmuch as play begins on Thursday. Bertolucci turns thumbs down on the idea, adhering it seems to the age old principle that "talent will win out."

IN HOPING to vie with many of the top pros amateurs, he said, are living out a dream. "We don't like to cut off a young amateur from shooting his guns against the pros," he added.

Going along with the line of reasoning Bertolucci commented there's a great variance in skill between the top pros and those who qualify for a tourney. He narrowed the point to the Chicago region. Here he said there are no local players or pros who could currently be considered more than marginal at best on the pro tour. Queried to name names he rattled off a few, but decided beforehand it would be more diplomatic to let the statement stand on its own.

The discussion turned to his own background as a racquetball referee, and the

"I think racquetball in Chicago is flourishing still and will grow."

call he found toughest to make. Since officials make hordes of difficult decisions each match it was natural to think the answer would require lengthy pondering. Not so. In a flash the answer came forward, loud and clear. "That call (the toughest) is calling an avoidable hinder when it should be called, instead of not calling it."

Another issue that couldn't be avoided is the fate of the pro tour and racquetball in Chicago. "Within the next two years," he said, "you'll see virtually all pro stops sponsored by outside money (outside the racquetball industry itself). Except for a few legacy type tourneys like the Kendler, Leach and Seamco events," he hastened to add. This increased recognition implies to him the sport will soon make a big impact on the public, and provide a major boost in popularity.

JUST AS racquetball champion Marty Hogan's success on ABC's "Superstars" program will be. "Hogan's performance in a terrific boost for racquetball. Helping to make the sport a household word," he enthused.

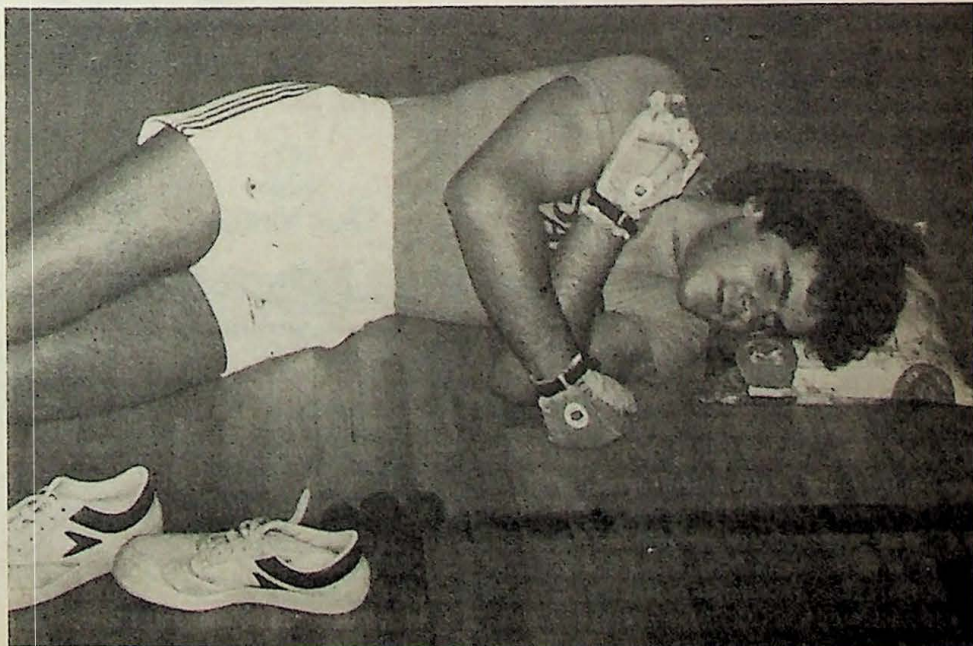
One of the areas that will always be available to house the sport will be Chicago.
(Continued on Page 5)

Gables, Florida, with two of the most aggressive pro's meeting in the finals. Although the regular (fast) ball was used the action, he said, was fast and exciting.

At the same time he admitted the NRC is constantly looking for ways to improve the quality of play. Such as several non-pro matches to be played featuring the use of the "Assasin," a racquetball designed to allow more English to be imparted to the stroke.

While he might prefer to deal with concepts of future innovations, a part of his work inevitably deals with the here-and-now. This taskload includes some topics which have become creatures of more than a little interest. The recent severance of the NRC and its sponsors from the Women's pro tour is a subject alive in locker rooms and offices.

AWARE THERE are two sides to the story Bertolucci did his best to present the



Steely Dan takes a "time out."

Hogan Dominates Tournament of Champions

(Continued from Page 1)

There was the added flavor of wondering just how well No. 1 seed Marty Hogan would do, as it no longer seems to be "automatic" that he will win. Both Bledsoe and Don Thomas have wins over Hogan this season, and Hogan's had to win quite a few tie-breakers in the past few months.

Another nice aspect of this tournament is that since there were so few pro matches, spectators like me had plenty of time to enjoy playing and watching in the amateur divisions; plenty of time to visit with and talk to the pros themselves; and time to think about and anticipate the upcoming matches. In many ways, a tournament of this nature offers more excitement and intrigue than a full pro/stop.

The format was interesting as the top four seeds got byes to round two, and the other eight played double-elimination. In the first round Brumfield beat Steve Mondry, Wagner beat Keeley, Lindsay Myers beat Craig McCoy, and Don Thomas beat Bobby Bolan. (All those matches went two straight and were pretty much routine and as expected, though McCoy would generally be picked to win over Myers.)

ROUND 2 WAS very "ho-hum" as all four losers from round 1 played the top four seeds and lost in two straight without even a single close game. The winners were Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen, Ben Koltun, and Steve Strandemo.

In Round 3, which was the quarterfinals, the excitement mounted. Hogan beat Rich Wagner in two, but Wagner did get 20 points in the second game. And when you're only one point away from a tie-breaker with Hogan the crowd starts buzzing.

Hogan looked steady and made some great shots as always, but didn't seem to have the zip I have seen in him at other times, and, though he won, we all walked away with the feeling that he might well lose in the semi's or finals.

This feeling was enhanced by watching the others play. Thomas looked fantastic in his 18-21, 21-16, 11-0 win over Koltun; and Myers who impressed us all with his win over McCoy completely dominated Strandemo and won 21-11, 21-11.

FOR MY MONEY, the match of the tournament was between Yellen and Brumfield. They both made so many spectacular shots that it was hard to believe that anyone could beat the winner of that match.

The match, too, was a pleasure to watch, as both players were concentrating hard on their games, while at the same time joking with each other, the crowd and even the ref.

They called double-bounces on themselves and didn't get upset even when there were a couple of very evident wrong calls. . . all of this in the heat of an extremely close match. Brum won the first game 21-16, but was obviously tiring in the second as Yellen won it 21-14.

In that second game, I personally have never seen anyone hit more PERFECT backhand pinch shots and kills in a single game than Yellen did, and he kept doing it in the tie-breaker and won 11-4.

BUT IN THE semis, it was all Hogan as he took care of Yellen 17 and 10. The other semifinal was a great one between the two sophomores on the Pro tour: Don Thomas, of Mesa, Arizona, and Lindsay Myers, the Canadian National Champion.

Thomas won the first game in a thriller which was easily the best played, and most exciting game of the tournament, by a score of 21-19. In that game, Thomas made one great shot after another and Myers made one great "get" after another.

In game two, Thomas visibly "let up"

and Myers took it effortlessly 21-11. I don't know the statistics, but I'm willing to bet that when it comes to winning the tie-breaker, the player who wins the second game probably wins over 75 per cent of the time. . . he's the one with the momentum, the one with the adrenalin pumping the hardest, and the one that didn't let up; and that's what happened in Coral Gables as Myers took the game and match 11-5.

That left Myers and Hogan in the finals playing for \$8,000, and as Charlie Drake said, "You've got to favor Hogan of course, but I would never count a player like Myers out of it," and as Dan Bertolucci told me before the match "Hogan's not playing as well as I've seen him, and Myers hits the ball about as hard and as well as Hogan."

IN GAME 1 of the finals, Myers made a lot of great, impressive shots, but ap-

peared nervous as he made many unforced errors and even blew a few shots that I could have handled myself. In truth, the game was pretty dull, as Hogan played a good, steady, unflashy game and won 21-14.

In Game 2, Myers came out blasting with everything he had. His many great shots and great gets early in the game spirited the crowd to his corner, causing them to loudly cheer the "underdog." This visably charged up both players as they both made motions and comments to the crowd.

At 11-11 Hogan made some joking comment to a fan that was cheering Myers on, and Myers response was to appeal one of Hogan's ceiling shots because he "thought it might have skipped in."

HOGAN'S SPORTSMANSHIP was put

to the real test at 15-15 when he made a great diving get, got up, and was called for an avoidable hinder by Bertolucci.

The call, in my opinion, was a very close one, but absolutely correct on Dan's part.

Frankly, Hogan did not look very tough. (That's much easier to say, I know, when you're not the one playing him.) But he rarely got a first serve in, except a lob serve or soft-Z serve, as every attempt at one of his patented "Foton" serves ended up short.

Myers had the momentum, and he had the crowd with him (though Hogan never loses the respect and admiration of a TRUE racquetball fan), and I guess I was just lucky I couldn't find someone to take the money I was willing to put on Myers in the tie-breaker. HOGAN SIMPLY GOT SERIOUS and put Myers away 11-3.

Attention Racquetball Players

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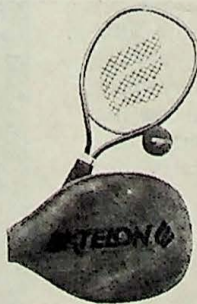
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Championships



HITACHI

RACQUETBALL ILLUSTRATED



Editor's Note: Jean Sauser, the sixth ranked women's racquetball pro, and photographer Arthur Shay, are the co-authors of "Racquetball Strategy," a book devoted to those racquetball players who are absolutely determined to get better and better. With permission of the author and publisher, RACQUETBALL TODAY will reprint portions of that book.

Situation:

Playing with a fast ball

There are two types of racquetballs, pressurized and nonpressurized. Balls that come in pressurized cans are usually faster and require a different game style than balls that are not pressurized. To see what kind of ball you are playing with — fast or slow — hit a medium-speed ceiling shot. If it travels with snap and bounces high to the back wall, you are playing with a fast ball.

Strategy: Hit lower and harder.

To play your best with a fast ball and be able to control it you will have to change your shots slightly. Play a faster, lower power game. Pass shots will have to be hit lower than the normal two feet off the floor. Hitting that front wall only one foot off the floor, and sometimes even lower, will now make a good pass shot. High lob serves are out. A lob serve with a live ball will almost always come off the back wall for a "plum" shot for your opponent. Your ceiling shots will have to be hit softer, again to prevent that back wall set-up. Generally, when you shoot a fast ball, aim low. Corner shots, especially, must be accurate kills, or they will pop into center court for a set-up. The key to playing a fast ball is to hit it as low as possible, hard, and with a good angle.

If you have a choice, choose a fast ball when you're playing a fast, hard-hitting



Strategy

By JEAN SAUSER

player who has little control of his shots. You will retrieve more deep court shots than you could with a slower ball that dies up front.

Situation:

Playing with a slow ball

Balls that do not come in pressurized cans but in boxes or nonpressurized cans are usually slower. To test for a slow ball, hit a medium-speed ceiling shot. If the ball fails to bounce higher than your head, you have a slow ball. Bouncing two or three balls comparatively should help weed out the real clunkers.

Strategy: Play a control game.

The slow ball lends itself to a control or defensive game. Hit your ceiling shots slightly harder than normal, so that they do not fall short of deep court. Your pass shots will have to be higher — two or three feet above the floor at the front wall — so that the ball will carry to deep court and not bounce up short in front court for a set-up. Serves can be lobs or "garbage serves," soft, deep serves to your opponent's weaker side, which lend themselves very well to a slower ball. Drive serves can be effective, but you will have to hit them harder or higher on the front wall to get them in. Be careful not to fatigue yourself trying to blast drive serves with a slow ball. Changes in speed can be effective in a game with a slow ball.

Situation:

Your opponent hits the ball very hard

Strategy: Slow the game down.

Before the match begins, get the slowest, lowest-bouncing ball that he will agree to play with. To try and play a hard-hitting opponent who can control his shots with a lively ball will make it harder for you to react to his cannon shots. The first thing to try in mid-game is to slow up the pace with well-executed ceiling shots. Power hitters are notorious for having no patience with ceiling balls, trying to shoot them for low kills at every chance, and because they often miss the kill, leaving set-ups for you in mid-court or off the back wall. Play an aggressor aggressively. Hit your passes and kills hard, deliberately, sharply, and cleanly. If you can't overpower him, emulate him.

Situation:

Your opponent hits the ball softly with a lot of finesse

Strategy: Play a faster pace.

Blow the ball by her with every opportunity, using as much power as you can muster. Hit hard, fast pass shots. To leave a finesse player — one who consistently makes good shots — in center court is deadly. Run her around as much as possible, because a finesse player must usually stop to hit in order to play her best. If you can keep a player like this on the run, you'll find her finesse turns into set-ups for you to put away. Stay away from ceiling rallies because this type of player will be more patient than you and unjustly likes to volley for a long time before trying for a kill.

Coors Pro/Am Report

(Continued from Page 1)

14-0, and he came back to win that on 21-17!

Peck also had a relatively easy time getting to the finals with wins over Strano in the semi's, Larry Meyers in the quarters, and Lindsay Myers in the 16's. In the other quarter-final matches it was

Hilecher over Koltun, 21-19, 21-18, and a big surprise, Steve Strandemo had to go three games to beat young John Egerman 11-7 in the tie-breaker. Egerman not only made it through the extremely large and tough 57 man qualifying field, but beat Davey Bledsoe in the 16's (21-18, 13-21, 11-6) to break into the "big time."

IN THE 16'S it was Yellen over Don Thomas in three, Koltun over Wagner, Hilecher over Morrow, Strandemo over Mondry, Larry Meyers over Charlie Brumfield in three close games (11-6 in the tie-breaker), Hogan over Fleetwood, and Peck over Lindsay Myers.

There were a total of 81 men in the Pro division: 57 qualifiers and the 24 seeds. The eight qualifiers were John Egerman (Boise), Gregg Peck (El Paso), Doug Cohen (St. Louis), John Klearman (Chesterfield, Mo.), Rick Newcomer (Overland Park, Kansas), Kirk Williams (San Diego), Mike Levine (Rochester), and Ross Harvey (Montreal and presently San Diego).

Gregg Peck not only made the qualifying, but he won the Men's Open Division beating Mike Levine in the finals. Gregg is Dave's younger (and bigger) brother and is coached by Dave. Illinois' Dennie McDowell got beat in the qualifying by Kirk Williams, and Steve Sulli got knocked out by Jeff Bowman.

In the Women's Open, Barb Faulkenberry of Colorado Springs beat Mary Dee of St. Louis in the finals.

The tournament can only be termed a huge success as every seat was sold out for every round far in advance; it was the largest pro qualifying field ever; and the amateur divisions drew over 400 entrants!

Dan Bertolucci

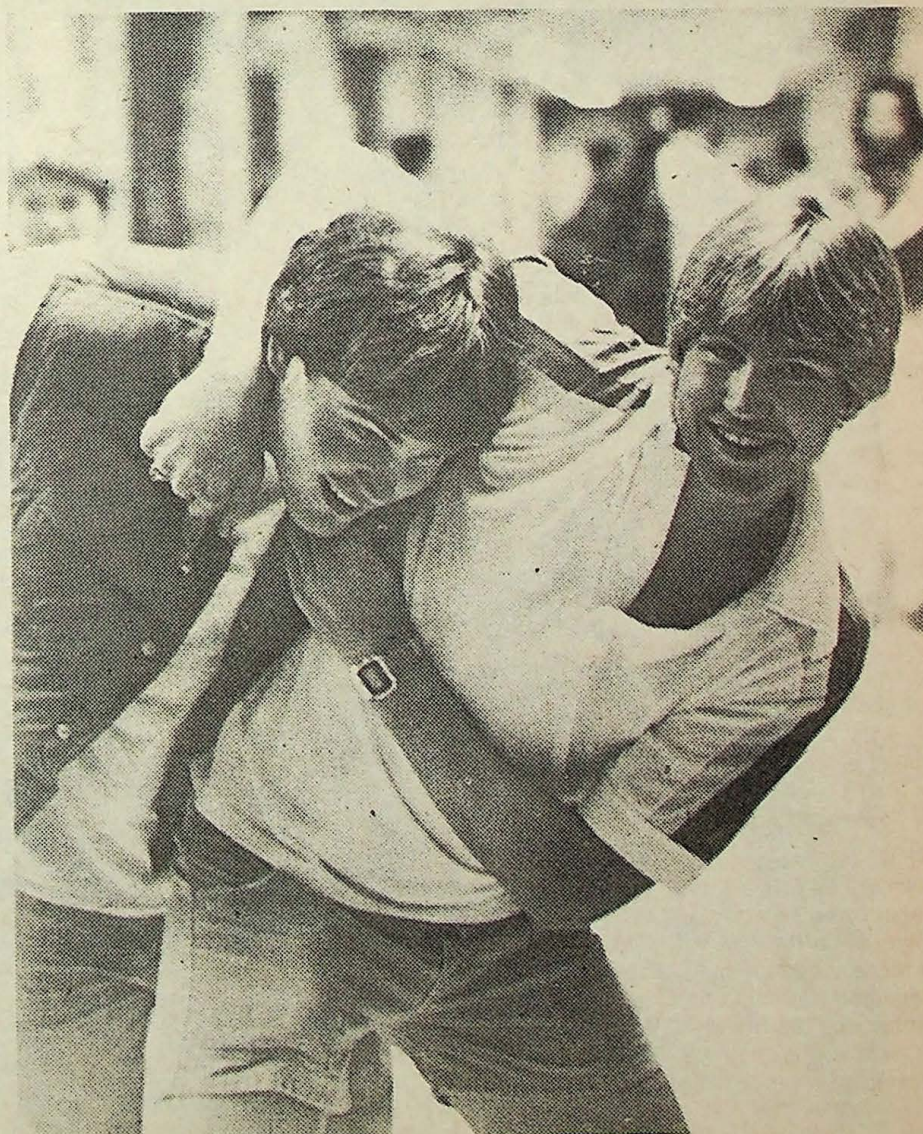
(Continued from Page 3)

go, said Bertolucci. Speaking confidently he stated, "I think racquetball in Chicago is flourishing still and will grow." He tossed a plum to the ISRA (Illinois State Racquetball Association) saying, "The ISRA has always served as a pilot program across the country."

The welcome news that Chicago deserves at least one pro stop per given season was also dispensed. He wouldn't reveal the months in which any stops might be held, but indicated thoughts of when the leaves fall had crossed his mind.

Winding down the talk he touched on a few other topics of concern to the NRC. Yes, to whether the organization would devote more attention to amateur racquetball. No, to if he'd offer any comments on the men pros' efforts to organize their own negotiations. A topic which, he felt, he hadn't heard much news about.

As it came time to terminate the interview it was clear Bertolucci felt in control of his post at the NRC. Never once during the confab did he raise his voice, or sound a hostile note. No doubt about it, a Steely Dan if there ever was one. I wonder if he can sing?



Dave Peck (left) may be younger brother Gregg's coach at racquetball, but Gregg feels he can hold his own off the court. (Sixteen-year-old Gregg is 6-2 and weighs in at 170 pounds.) Dave took second in the Pro Division in Denver, while Gregg made the qualifying and won the Amateur.

**Everything you always wanted in a beer.
And less.**



TOURNAMENT NEWS

St. Valentine's Day Massacre

By JIM HARPER

Killshot, Ltd. hosted its third consecutive St. Valentine's Day tournament February 15th through 17th. Efficiently run by S/S/S Promotions, the tournament drew 368 players in twelve divisions; both a tribute to the popularity of the Killshot tourney and the excellent promotional efforts of S/S/S. Not unnoticed was the great show of tournament handling by the efficient team of Diane Gabrisko, Geoff Peters, Ken Rattini, Dave Negrete and Eileen Vescei.

went through the upper bracket like a forest fire, burning Sean Moskwa 9 and 9 and Andy Witt 8 and 13. Witt had earlier assassinated number one seed Steve Butler, 21-10, 21-13. Negrete had a couple of tough tie-breaker wins over Jeff Ludke, 15-21, 21-20, 11-8, and Tom Golueke, 19-21, 21-17, 11-5. Dave went on to take the championship from Amatulli with little difficulty 21-8, 21-6.

SUE CAROW went the distance in the

draw, having only one tough game against Joan Azeka in the finals, 21-20, 21-4.

Shelly Clar was as menacing as ever as he two-gamed it all the way to the Senior championship, and proved his "clutch" performance as he beat "The Force," Marshall Waldo, in a fantastic final 21-18, 10-21, 11-10.

Two newcomers to the Men's Masters tried to crack the charmed circle, but Jack Moskwa and Jim Harper couldn't

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE RESULTS February 15 - 17 Killshot Ltd.

MEN'S OPEN

Quarters: Andy Witt d. Steve Butler, 21-10, 21-13; John Amatulli d. Sean Moskwa, 21-9, 21-9; Dave Negrete d. Jeff Ludke, 15-21, 21-20, 11-8; Tom Golueke d. Harvi Miller, 14-21, 21-6, 11-5.
Semi's: Amatulli d. Witt, 21-8, 21-13; Negrete d. Golueke, 19-21, 21-6, 11-5.
Finals: Negrete d. Amatulli.
Consolation: Tom Keele d. Jeff McDowell, 21-6, 21-7.

MEN'S A

Quarters: Don Jenkins d. Duane Mulvaney, 21-18, 4-21, 11-3; Tony Femenis d. Dave Milazzo, 6-21, 21-15, 11-9; Fernando Gonzalez d. Clyde Senters, 20-21, 21-5,



An added attraction, some might say, curiosity, was the use of the new "assassin" ball from Seamco. The dimpled ball, that allows one to put English on one's shot, sometimes bounces off the walls in such a manner as to leave the defender looking somewhat like a pretzel twist, as he contorts his body to get in position for a return. Most players I talked to said they didn't think they'd like the ball as a steady diet, but admitted that it was fun to try. A few players actually preferred the ball to others they have played with. S/S/S in an effort to determine the likes and dislikes of the players, took a survey of the participants. The consensus of this and previous surveys revealed that the players strongly prefer the Seamco 600 to all other balls.

Spirited play with exciting matches set the tempo at this tourney. Young John Amatulli (age 15) and Dave Negrete (an ancient 19) ended up in the finals of the Men's Open. Amatulli was smokin' as he

Women's Open round robin with a record of 4-0. Laura Sidello ended up second with a 3-1 record while Caprice Behner was third with a 2-2 record.

In the Men's A division, Don Jenkins rubbed out all comers as the mighty lefty took a couple of tie-breaker wins early, including an upset win over number one seed Dave Bennett, 21-7, 12-21, 11-4.

He beat Bob Slick in the finals. Claudia Loizzo became an Open Player as she riddled the 13 person Women's A

get past the semi's as they lost to Dick Porter and Saul Sandoval. The Senor's game in the finals was as hot as his peppers as he defeated Porter for the championship, 21-10, 21-15.

TOURNAMENT NOTE: Because of RACQUETBALL TODAY'S multi-state distribution, there were many players from outside of Illinois competing; this greatly added to the interest and excitement of the tournament.

11-5; Bob Slick d. Gary Loizzo, 21-20, 11-21, 11-7.
Semi's: Jenkins d. Femenis, 21-20, 21-17; Slick d. Gonzalez, 21-16, 16-21, 11-10.
Finals: Jenkins d. Slick, 21-20, 21-4.
Consolation: Cartwright d. Kelvie, 21-16, 19-21, 11-5.

MEN'S B

Quarters: Spencer Karlin d. Gary Stearns, 21-11, 21-10; Bill Schmeier d. Jerry Fronczak, 21-19, 14-21, 11-2; Jim Thompson d. Gary Miller, 21-10, 21-14; Dave Budreau d. Scott Phillips, 21-14, 21-18.
Semi's: Karlin d. Schmeier, 21-8, 21-6; Thompson d. Budreau, 21-19, 21-17.
Finals: Thompson d. Karlin, 21-10, 21-12.
Consolation: John Poole.

MEN'S C

Quarters: Bruce Lejeck d. Ron Weinicki, 21-11, 21-17; Tom Hillis d. Jeff Bennett, 21-9, 21-13; Bob Kowalski d. Ron Pruitt, 21-15, 21-19; John Fabrini d. Tom Casterton, 21-18, 7-21, 11-9.
Semi's: Hillis d. Lejeck, 13-21, 21-7, 11-5; Kowalski d. Fabrini, 21-19, 21-15.
Finals: Hillis d. Kowalski, 21-16, 19-21, 11-7.
Consolation: Mike Merkel d. Dave Motherwell, 21-5, 21-5.

MEN'S D

Quarters: Mike Lichtfuss d. Walt Donath, 21-3, 21-13; Dave Oliphant d. Art Meyer, 21-9, 21-14; Dan Mitchell d. Bob Dressel, 21-10, 21-15; John Schmitt d. Pat Cornwall, 21-10, 21-12.
Semi's: Lichtfuss d. Oliphant, 21-12, 21-19; Mitchell d. Schmitt, 21-9, 21-15.
Finals: Mitchell d. Lichtfuss, 21-11, 21-11.
Consolation: Platt Hill d. Kevin McAllister, 21-7,

(Continued on Page 16)

RACQUETBALL TODAY

1980

Tournament Schedule

Illinois Tournaments

• February 29 & March 1 & 2, 1980
ISRA State Doubles
Site: Tinley Park Racquetball Club
Contact: S/S/S Promotions
312-371-2555

March 7, 8 & 9, 1980
Ektelon/Perrier Racquetball
Championships
Site: The Glass Court
Lombard, Illinois
312-629-3390

March 14, 15 & 16, 1980
Tinley Park Invitational
Site: Tinley Park Racquetball Club
Contact: Mike Bazzo
312-532-7900

* March 14, 15, 16, 1980
Spaulding Racquetball/Vittert Chicago
Open
Site: Spaulding Racquetball Club,
Highland Park
312-433-6000

• March 28, 29 & 30, 1980
USRA National Inter-collegiate
Championship
Site: University of Illinois
Contact: Don Webb
217-328-3143 after 6 p.m.

March 28, 29 & 30, 1980
YMCA State Singles
Site: Peoria YMCA
Contact: Mich Bernstein

March 28, 29 & 30, 1980
3rd Annual April Fool's Open
Site: Silver Lake Racquet Club
Orland Park, Illinois
Contact: Mary Jane Kamper
312-349-6947

* April 4, 5 & 6, 1980
USRA Regionals
Site: Killshots Limited
Contact: S/S/S Promotions
312-371-2555

* April 11, 12 & 13, 1980
April 18, 19 & 20, 1980
Four Corners Tournament
Site: The Glass Court, Lombard
312-629-3390

* May 16, 17 & 18, 1980
ISRA State Singles
Site: To be Glass Court
Contact: S/S/S Promotions
312-371-2555

July 25, 26 & 27, 1980
Keebler Women's Open
Tentative Site: Glass Court
Lombard, Illinois
Contact: Jim Ver Haeghe
312-498-3626

* August 22, 23 & 24, 1980
S & S Insurance Agency Open
Site: To be announced
Contact: S/S/S Promotions
312-371-2555

* Denotes ISRA Sanctioned Tournament.
To add tournaments or to get up to date
information, contact Jim Harper - (312)
875-7045.

Michigan Tournaments

* March 7, 8 & 9, 1980
Franklin Racquet Club
Southfield, Michigan
313-352-8000

March 14, 15 & 16, 1980
Sports Illustrated Court Club
Okemos, Michigan
517-349-5500

March 20, 21, 22 & 23, 1980
Rose Shores Racquetball Inc.
31950 Little Mack
Roseville, Michigan
313-296-2200

March 28, 29 & 30, 1980
Racquet King Courts
1630 Fort Street
Trenton, Michigan
313-676-5850

March 28, 29 & 30, 1980
Lansing YMCA
301 W. Lenawee Street
Lansing, Michigan
517-489-6501

* April 4, 5 & 6, 1980
USRA Regionals
Site: Killshot, Ltd.
Bloomington, Illinois
Contact: S/S/S Promotions
312-371-2555

* April 18, 19 & 20, 1980
State Singles Championship
Sports Illustrated Court Club
Lansing, Michigan
Sponsored by Adidas and WVIC
517-321-1430

May 1, 2 & 3, 1980
Three Days In May
Racquets West
Grandville, Michigan
616-531-5220

* May 9, 10 & 11, 1980
State Doubles Championship
Davison Racquet Club
Davison, Michigan
313-653-9602

May 14, 15 & 16, 1980
Grand Rapids City Championship
Racquets West
Grandville, Michigan
616-531-5220

* June 20, 21 & 22, 1980
Junior State Singles Championship
Franklin Racquet Club
Southfield, Michigan
313-352-8000

September 5, 6, & 7, 1980
Ektelon/Natural Light Pro/Am
Davison Racquet Club
Davison, Michigan
Contact: Tyrone Minto
313-653-9602

* Denotes MRA or USRA Sanctioned
Tournaments. To add tournaments or to
get up to date information, contact Jim
Easterling - 313-352-8004.

OUT OF STATE

June 1-7, 1980
Colgate National Championships
Site: Las Vegas, Nevada
Contact: NRC/USRA
312-673-4000

August 15, 16 & 17, 1980
11th Annual Masters Invitational
Doubles
Site: Supreme Court
555 Odana Road
Madison, Wisconsin
Contact: Joe Wirkus
608-274-5080

Natural Lite, S/S/S Bring NFL Players to Courts

The first team members from 28 football clubs across America will exchange a football for a racquet as the Natural Light/National Football League Players Association Racquetball series gets under way this month.

Los Angeles is the site for the first in a series of five regional play-offs with the national finals scheduled for St. Louis.

The three-day racquetball tournament will begin at noon at the (site to be announced) on March 28.

Participating in the Los Angeles match will be Carl Ekern, Bill Bain and Preston Dennard of the Los Angeles Rams; Gordon Ceresino, Bobby Ferrell and John Ayres of the San Francisco 49ers; Willie Buchanon, Charlie Joiner and Charles Dejunnett of the San Diego Chargers; Lindsay Mason, Derrick Ramsey and Dave Dalby of the Oakland Raiders; and Dave Brown, Sam McCullum and Don Dufek of the Seattle Seahawks.

In conjunction with the Natural Light/NFLPA contest, an amateur tournament will begin at noon on 3-27 at the (site to be announced). Divisions are Men's Open, B, C and Seniors; Women's Open, B, C and Novice. Players may enter only one event. For entry information, contact Triple S Promotions at (312) 371-2555.

Following the Los Angeles match, three-member teams from the Miami Dolphins, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, New Orleans Saints, Baltimore Colts, Washington Redskins and Atlanta Falcons will take to the courts on April 18-20 in Miami, Florida.

In Dallas, April 25-27, members of the Cowboys, Houston Oilers, Kansas City Chiefs, St. Louis Cardinals and Denver Broncos will meet in competition play.

Chicago is the site for the third play-off in which members of the Bears, Detroit Lions, Green Bay Packers, Minnesota Vikings, Cleveland Browns and Cincinnati Bengals will meet on May 2-4.

On May 16-18, in Boston, competition will be among members of the New England Patriots, Buffalo Bills, New York Jets, New York Giants, Philadelphia Eagles and Pittsburgh Steelers.

At each meet, Natural Light is putting up a purse of \$2,000 for each of the top two players, \$750 for third place and \$250 for fourth.

Additionally, the top two players of each meet will compete in the national finals in St. Louis, June 13-15, where the first place winner will receive \$8,000; second place, \$4,000; third place \$2,000 and fourth place \$1,000.

Natural Light regularly sponsors racquetball tournaments through its wholesaler network. The 1980 NFLPA series is further evidence of its commitment to the sport.

According to Robert F. Merz, product manager for Natural Light beer, "Last summer we sponsored a racquetball meet among members of the Patriots, Giants, Bills and Jets. The tournament was so successful that we worked with the NFLPA to establish a series of meets where players could demonstrate that they are pros on the courts as well as on the gridiron."

Kal Weinstein, special events director for the NFLPA, says that racquetball is not an unusual sport for football players to adopt. "Racquetball affords the football players with a new way to exercise, to increase leg stretch, to control wind and timing," said Weinstein.

Weinstein further explained that racquetball is a favorite sport among the players not only because it is a physical

and exciting game, but also because it is an excellent conditioning game. "In racquetball, we see football players in an entirely new arena, one where they can show how adroitly they can move, one which illustrates their coordination and time," he said.

Regionals One of Biggest

By Alan Shetzer

Once again S/S/S Promotions has teamed up with the U.S.R.A. to bring the Central Regionals to Illinois.

Always one of the largest tournaments in the country, players from Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin will congregate at Killshot over the Easter weekend.

Open Division winners will compete for trips to the Nationals and special awards and prizes will be available for the other

divisions.

Saturday evening will be a special one with a live band augmenting the gaiety in Killshot's Lounge.

Tournament headquarters for out of town players will be The Carson Inn at Nordic Hills Country Club.

Entry blanks are available in this issue of RACQUETBALL TODAY or at your local club.

Dates — April 3-4, 1980

Dates — Central Region April 3-4 (Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ontario)

Ohio Valley Region April 10-13 Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee

United States Racquetball Association 1980 Central Regional Championships

ENTRY DEADLINE: All entry blanks and corresponding entry fees must be in the possession of tournament director by Friday, March 21, 1980.

ENTRY FEE: \$18 for one event, \$22 per Doubles team, \$12 for second Singles event. Limit two events per player. (\$8 additional for non-USRA members.)

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 600 (blue) in all events.

RULES OF SANCTION PLAY: All current USRA rules will govern play. No player having accepted \$1000 or more in prize money on NRC Pro Tour within last 12 months may enter amateur events.

ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be current USRA members. Membership applications and renewals will be available at host facility for an additional \$8.

AWARDS: Trophies to first three places in all events. Round-trip coach air fare for the winners of the men's and women's open divisions to the 1980 USRA National Championships June 1-7, 1980, in Las Vegas. Trips will only be awarded to those winners who play in the same event in the Nationals as they won in the regionals. Players crossing Regional boundaries not eligible for trip.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL ENTRIES TO: See bottom of this form. Starting times may be obtained by contacting host facility.

NOTE: All entrants must play in the regional in which they reside as depicted by the boundaries set forth on the accompanying map. Players wishing to cross regional boundaries must obtain approval in writing from USRA headquarters.

Region 5 — Ohio Valley: Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee.

Region 6 — Central: Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario.

Region 5 — Ohio Valley This regional will be played April 10-13, 1980.

SITE: Arlington Court Club, 5005 Arlington Centre Blvd., Columbus, OH 43220

PHONE: (614) 451-1930

DIRECTOR: Phil Stepp

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO: Arlington Court Club

Region 6 Central — (This Regional will be played April 3-6, 1980)

SITE: Killshot Ltd., 321 Edgewater Drive, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

DIRECTOR: Al Shetzer

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO: Triple S Promotions, Box "D", Posen, IL 60469, (312) 371-2555

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS: Carson Inn, Itasca, IL (312) 773-2750

Please Enter Me In:

Mens Events

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Super Golden Master Singles (60+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Open (30+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mens B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Singles (35+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mens C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Senior Singles (40+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Master Singles (45+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Master Singles (50+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Masters Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Master Singles (55+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Master Doubles |

Womens Events

- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Singles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Womens B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Womens C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Doubles |

SHIRT SIZE: _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large

Name _____ Regional Number _____

State representing _____ Please print

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

USRA Membership card Exp. Date _____

Business phone _____ Home phone _____

Doubles Partner _____ Please print

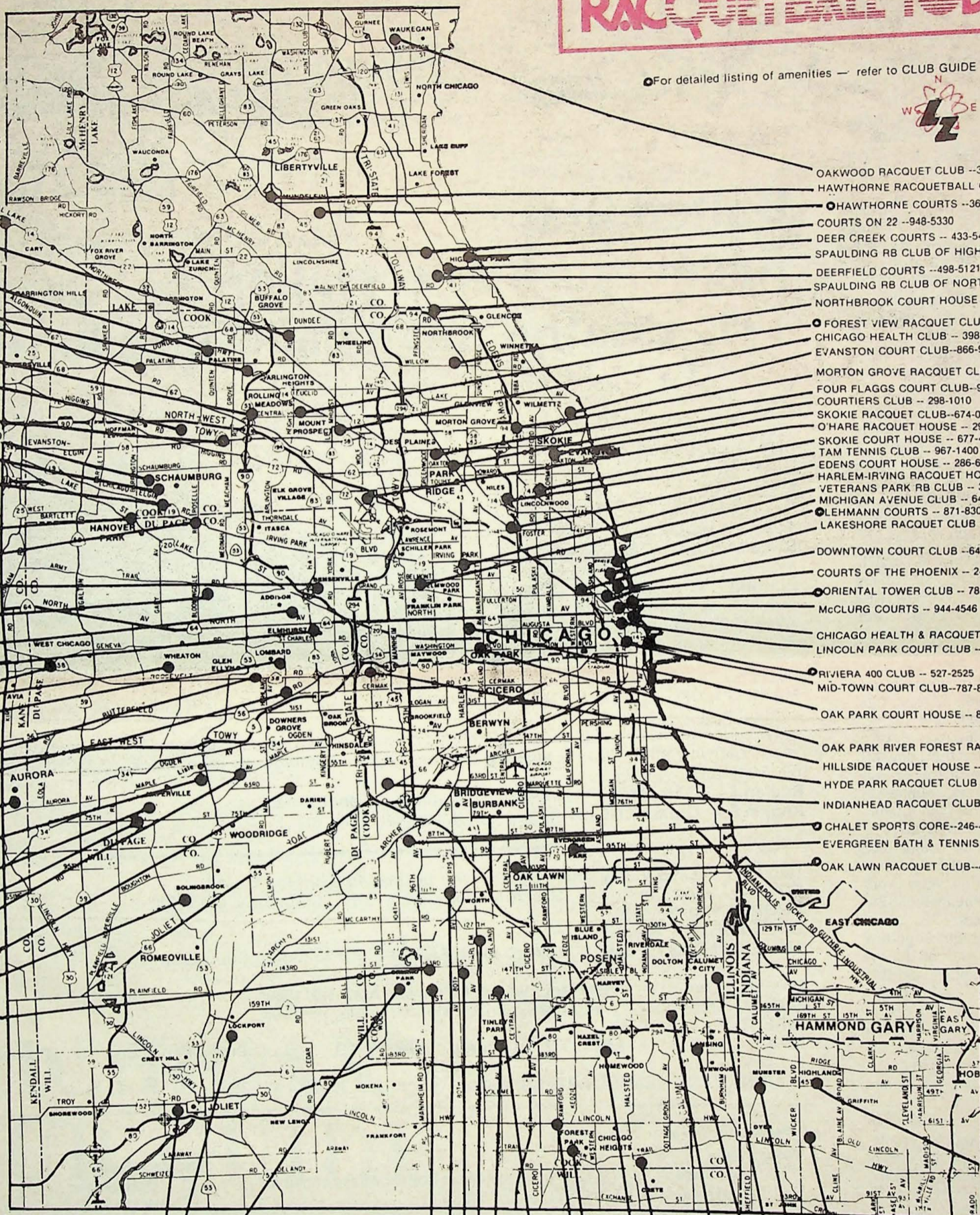
WAIVER

I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, agents and administrator, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the USRA, its affiliated clubs, and their respective agents, representatives, successors and assigners for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my participation in the Regional or National tournaments.

Date _____

Signature _____

WHERE TO PLAY



For detailed listing of amenities — refer to CLUB GUIDE



- PRO RACQUETBALL FITNESS CENTER -- (815) 338-8222
- SUPREME COURT -- (815) 455-3330
- ARLINGTON HTS COURT HOUSE -- 398-4656
- ARLINGTON TENNIS & RACQ. CLUB -- 394-9860
- FOREST GROVE SWIM & RACQUET CLUB -- 991-4646
- BUEHLER YMCA -- 359-2400
- THE MEADOW CLUB -- 640-3200
- POPLAR CREEK RACQUET CLUB -- 885-7720
- SCHAUMBURG COURT HOUSE -- 882-4636
- THE RIGHT CLUB -- 397-3300
- WOODFIELD RACQUET CLUB -- 884-0678
- CHICAGO HEALTH & RACQUET CLUB -- 885-0800
- HANOVER PARK RACQUET CLUB -- 837-8300
- ROSELLE RACQUET CLUB -- 894-7337
- THORNDALE RACQUET HOUSE -- 595-2020
- KILLSHOT, LTD. -- 893-9575
- DU PAGE RACQUET CLUB -- 543-9200
- THE COURTS -- 833-5064
- NORRIS CENTER -- 377-1405
- WHEATON SPORTS CENTER -- 690-0887
- THE GLASS COURT CLUB -- 629-3390
- COVE COURTS -- 495-2285
- CHICAGO HEALTH & RACQ. CLUB -- 963-3600
- LE BEAUS HEALTH CLUB -- 897-1626
- FOUR LAKES RACQUET CLUB -- 969-8660
- NAPER RACQUETBALL CLUB -- 255-5600
- NAPERVILLE COURTS RB CLUB -- 961-1535
- WESTERN RACQUETBALL CLUB AT MEADOWBROOK -- 963-5100
- OAK BROOK R/B H/B CLUB -- 986-5340
- BOLINGBROOK RACQ. CLUB -- 739-0304
- RIVERA COUNTRY CLUB -- 349-1100
- THE CHARLIE CLUB -- (815) 729-4503
- RACQUET CLUB OF LOCKPORT -- (815) 838-3621
- ORLAND COURTS -- 349-1222
- CHICAGO HEALTH & RACQUET CLUB -- 349-0100
- PALOS RACQUETBALL CLUB -- 974-1900
- SILVER LAKE COUNTRY CLUB -- 349-6947
- WIMBLEDON U.S.A. PALOS CLUB -- 389-1900
- TINLEY PARK RACQUETBALL CLUB -- 532-7900

- OAKWOOD RACQUET CLUB -- 336-7444
- HAWTHORNE RACQUETBALL CLUB -- 949-8180
- HAWTHORNE COURTS -- 362-9330
- COURTS ON 22 -- 948-5330
- DEER CREEK COURTS -- 433-5450
- SPAULDING RB CLUB OF HIGHLAND PARK -- 433-6000
- DEERFIELD COURTS -- 498-5121
- SPAULDING RB CLUB OF NORTHBROOK -- 498-9890
- NORTHBROOK COURT HOUSE -- 498-3626
- FOREST VIEW RACQUET CLUB -- 640-2574
- CHICAGO HEALTH CLUB -- 398-4500
- EVANSTON COURT CLUB -- 866-9656
- MORTON GROVE RACQUET CLUB -- 965-7554
- FOUR FLAGS COURT CLUB -- 966-8787
- COURTIERS CLUB -- 298-1010
- SKOKIE RACQUET CLUB -- 674-0211
- O'HARE RACQUET HOUSE -- 296-6144
- SKOKIE COURT HOUSE -- 677-4100
- TAM TENNIS CLUB -- 967-1400
- EDENS COURT HOUSE -- 286-6700
- HARLEM-IRVING RACQUET HOUSE -- 457-2040
- VETERANS PARK RB CLUB -- 343-5151
- MICHIGAN AVENUE CLUB -- 644-5225
- LEHMANN COURTS -- 871-8300
- LAKESHORE RACQUET CLUB -- 477-9888
- DOWNTOWN COURT CLUB -- 644-4880
- COURTS OF THE PHOENIX -- 248-4477
- ORIENTAL TOWER CLUB -- 782-3199
- McCLURG COURTS -- 944-4546
- CHICAGO HEALTH & RACQUET CLUB -- 861-1220
- LINCOLN PARK COURT CLUB -- 943-2266
- RIVIERA 400 CLUB -- 527-2525
- MID-TOWN COURT CLUB -- 787-8400
- OAK PARK COURT HOUSE -- 848-5200
- OAK PARK RIVER FOREST RACQUET CLUB -- 386-2175
- HILLSIDE RACQUET HOUSE -- 449-2255
- HYDE PARK RACQUET CLUB -- 548-1300
- INDIANHEAD RACQUET CLUB -- 482-4800
- CHALET SPORTS CORE -- 246-4031
- EVERGREEN BATH & TENNIS CLUB -- 425-7200
- OAK LAWN RACQUET CLUB -- 499-3626
- SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB -- (219) 924-0690
- OMNI 41 -- (219) 865-6969
- OLYMPIC RACQUETBALL CLUB -- 895-2290
- COURT CLUB OF CALUMET CITY -- 862-1890
- TREBORSHIRE RACQUET CLUB -- 754-8400
- SOUTH HOLLAND COURTS -- 596-6608
- INDIAN TRAILS COURT CLUB -- 755-5500
- HOMWOOD FLOSSMOOR -- 799-1323
- COURT CLUB OF RICHTON PARK -- 481-7055
- OLYMPIAN COURT CLUB -- 748-6223

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This new pressureless ball has the look and performance of a champion. Off the wall, "Blue 600" responds with a consistent bounce, coupled with lively action—play after play. Whether you play with a power game or a ceiling game you are always in control. Brilliant blue color gives it high indoor visibility, too. Has the unique distinction of bearing the seal of the USRA. And that's official. Next time, put Seamco "Blue 600" into play and see what it does for your game. It's a blast! It's the ball control players can appreciate!

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Michigan All-Women's Tourney Draws Over 200 Participants and Catches TV Camera's Eye



Tournament Director Kathleen Zale (left) congratulates Open Division First Place winner Donna Henry.

The first annual Cloverleaf All-Women's Tournament at Sports Illustrated Court Club of Sterling Heights, Michigan, February 1, 2 & 3, was a rousing success. The tourney hosted over 200 women with more than half the participants in the novice divisions.

The purpose of this special tournament, endorsed by the Michigan Racquetball Association, was to highlight the progress of women in racquetball and to encourage even more participation by women in competitive racquetball. Over a dozen door prizes, continuous hospitality (including plenty of beer), a special dinner and over \$2,000 in awards made every supporter of this event a winner.

A special thank you is extended to the Cloverleaf Bar and Restaurant of East Detroit for sponsoring the tournament, along with Seamco for providing the '600' tournament ball. They also

gave each player shorts, a shirt and a can of balls. No participant in the All-Women's Tournament went away empty handed.

THE TOURNAMENT caught the camera eye of two Detroit area television stations, which televised the Novice II finals win of Patricia Brown-Mahon over Sandy Kupper. The other televised match was the exciting 11-10 tie-breaker victory of Donna Henry over Michigan Open State Champion Stacey Fletcher. The tournament proved that women are on their way in Michigan racquetball.

The other division winners were:
 B: 1st - Chris Todd; 2nd - Barb Swaab. C: 1st - Jo Hastings; 2nd - Dawn Bungart. Novice I: 1st - Pat Columbo; 2nd - May Huerner. Seniors: 1st - Evelyn Pasko; 2nd - Wanda Dockery.

Note Changes to Liven Michigan State Singles

With the State Singles Championship around the corner, April 18 - 20, a few changes have been implemented to make it a more competitive event.

Since both C divisions are extremely large, they have been divided into two divisions for the State Singles only. Any participant with a 1400 ranking or higher will play Men's C, below 1400 will enter Men's D. In the Women's division, those with a 1300 ranking or

above will be in Women's C, while those with fewer points will play in Women's D.

The Men's Senior division will also be split into two classes. Seniors with 1800 points or over will play Seniors A, rankings below that are eligible for Seniors B.

These changes are for the State Singles Championship only and should ensure somewhat smaller and more competitive draws.

MICHIGAN CLUB GUIDE

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No. 1: 2111 Golfside Road, Ypsilanti, MI. (313) 434-2111. 10 courts, Nautilus fitness center, free nursery, saunas, lounge, racquetball instruction, pro shop and much more!

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No.2: G-3237 Beecher Road, Flint, MI. (313) 733-3000. 10 regulation courts (1 glass). 2 saunas, co-ed whirlpool, fully-equipped pro shop, leagues, lessons and parties. Aerobic Dance classes. Group discounts available. Manager: Bruce Gouin. Program director: Terry Graham.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No.7: 2717 Schust Road, Saginaw, MI. (517) 790-0150. 15 regulation courts, Swedish sauna, whirlpool, free nursery from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Universal fitness center with jogging area, and pro shop.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No. 12: 42140 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights, MI. (313) 254-1012. 8 regulation courts, 2 saunas, 2 whirlpools, 1 badminton court. Special women's programs, free nursery, men's and women's traveling leagues. Aerobic dance classes. 2 professional instructors (APRO). Manager: Kathleen Zale. Program director: Debbie Fultz.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No. 21: G-5219 W. Pierson Road, Flushing, MI. (313) 733-7730. 15 regulation courts, Swedish sauna, whirlpool, fee attended nursery from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Universal fitness center with jogging area. Pro shop.

Located 1 mile west of I-75 on Pierson Road, across from Fashion Square Mall. "Stop in on your way up north!"

Tourney Lures 506

By RON DEMUNTER

The Sports Illustrated Club in Lansing was the site for the largest tournament in the history of the Michigan Racquetball Association. The tournament provided exciting play in all divisions as 506 entrants competed in 14 categories. As the state singles draw nearer it becomes apparent the caliber of play increases. Such players as Marty Miller and Davison's own 10-year-old Jimmy Floyd put in excellent performances while 16-year-old Stacey Fletcher proves that she is a dominating force in Women's Open competition.

The results were as follows:

- MEN'S OPEN**
 Semi's: B. Wilhelm d. R. Vanover, 21-15, 21-17; G. Schmidt d. R. Vanderlind, 21-9, 21-12.
 Finals: Wilhelm d. Schmidt, 21-11, 12-21, 11-0.
- MEN'S A**
 Semi's: A. Mack d. R. LaBelle, 21-10, 21-18; S. Jeziorski d. D. Schreiber, 16-21, 21-11, 11-4.
 Finals: Mack d. Jeziorski, 21-1, 20-21, 11-7.
- MEN'S B**
 Semi's: C. Adamson d. T. Swineford, 21-19, 21-17; R. Pudduck d. L. Sheperdigian, 21-5, 21-15.
 Finals: Pudduck d. Adamson, 8-21, 21-10, 11-8.
- MEN'S C**
 Semi's: R. Beal d. J. Reno, 21-5, 21-11; M. Miller d. R. Byrum, 17-21, 21-16, 11-5.
 Finals: Miller d. Beal, 8-21, 21-11, 11-6.
- MEN'S SENIORS**
 Semi's: J. Erickson d. L. Douglas, 21-17, 8-21, 11-2; L. Jackson d. S. Lelf, 21-10, 13-21, 11-7.
 Finals: Jackson d. Erickson, 4-21, 21-13, 11-4.
- MEN'S MASTERS**
 Semi's: L. Hahn d. H. Shore, 21-9, 21-10; D. Matyas d. D. Schaffer, 21-12, 13-21, 11-2.
 Finals: Hahn d. Matyas, 16-21, 21-9, 11-0.
- MEN'S GOLDEN MASTERS**
 Semi's: D. Wood d. D. Spayde, 21-9, 21-3; D. Shoop d. H. Wolcott, 9-21, 21-3, 11-2.
 Finals: Wood d. Shoop, 21-1, 21-4.
- BOYS 15 AND UNDER**
 Semi's: J. Garrison d. C. Jaksen, 21-16, 21-3; A. Pugh c B. Deck, 21-4, 21-5.
 Finals: Garrison d. Pugh, 21-8, 18-21, 11-2.

BOYS 17 AND UNDER

Semi's: M. Wyman d. K. Killman, 21-14, 21-12; D. Millstead d. B. Adkins.
 Finals: Wyman d. Millsted, 13-21, 21-18, 11-9.

WOMEN'S OPEN

Semi's: P. Folkertsma d. J. Huhta, 21-17, 21-4; S. Fletcher d. D. Henry, 21-8, 21-13.
 Finals: Fletcher d. Folkertsma, 21-13, 21-2.

WOMEN'S A

Semi's: C. Thompson d. G. Luscomb, 21-15, 18-21, 11-3; S. Schreiner d. C. Roach.
 Finals: Thompson d. Schreiner, 21-12, 21-18.

WOMEN'S B

Semi's: K. Plamondon d. M. Miller, 21-15, 21-16; C. Stella d. J. Minier, 16-21, 21-16, 11-4.
 Finals: Stella d. Plamondon.

WOMEN'S C

Semi's: J. Minges d. J. Lyden, 21-19, 21-8; J. Hastings d. S. Berliner, 11-21, 21-20, 11-9.
 Finals: Minges d. Hastings, 21-10, 21-13.

WOMEN'S SENIORS

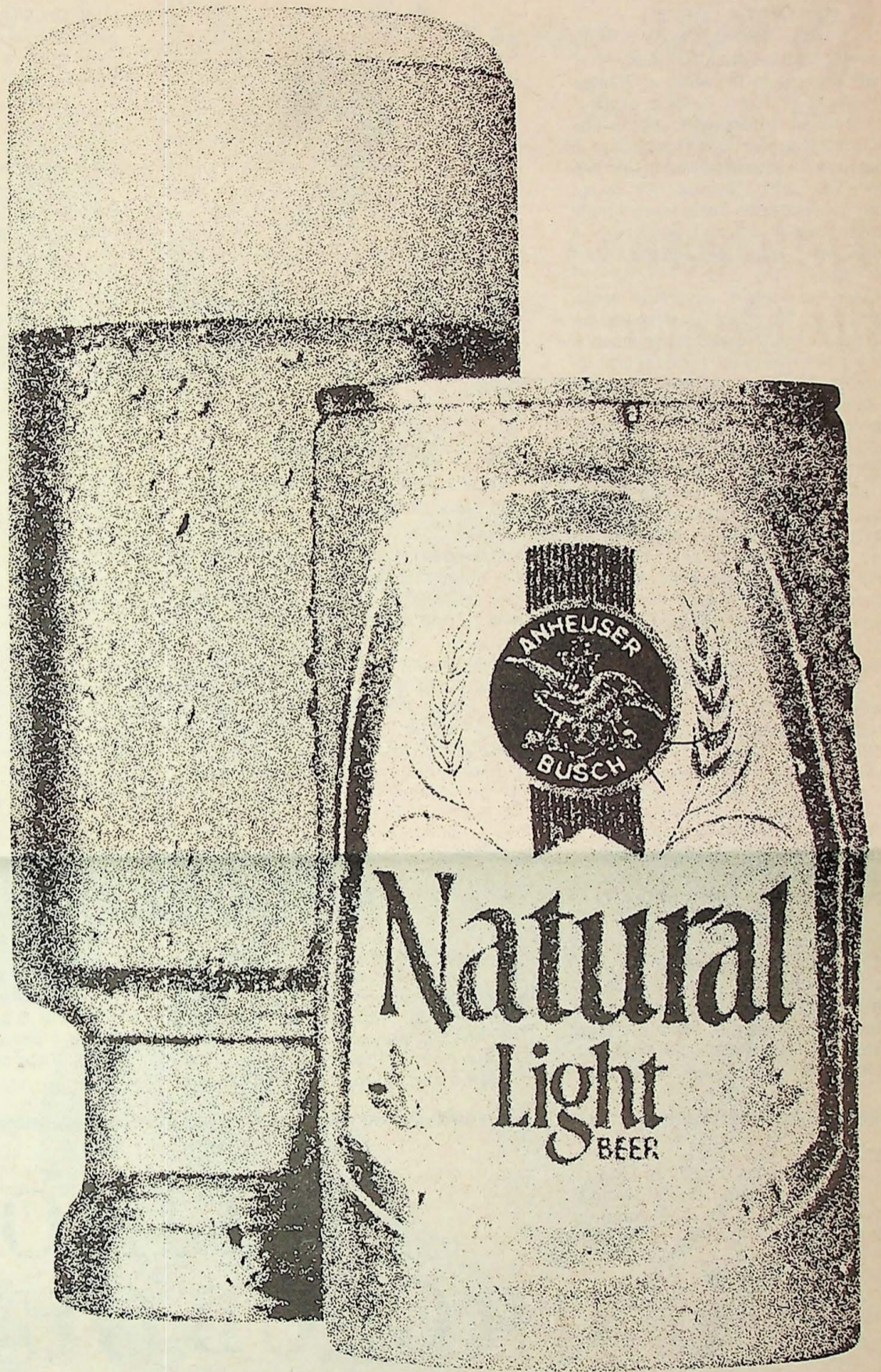
Semi's: W. Dockery d. E. Passariello, 21-5, 21-8; D. Barnstead d. C. Craig 21-19, 21-12.
 Finals: Barnstead d. Dockery, 21-11, 2-21, 11-1.

Davison Hosts State Doubles

The 1979-80 State Doubles Tournament will be held at the Davison Racquetball Club in Davison, on the 9, 10 and 11 of May. Look for more details in the April issue of RACQUETBALL TODAY.

Quench — It's Official

Quench gum has been named the "official" gum at all S/S/S tournaments and will be available to the players on a complimentary basis. Jim Hallet's eyeguard kept falling off during his match at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre and was greatly hurting his ability to concentrate on the match. he stuck some QUENCH GUM between the eyeguards and his nose and they stuck perfectly. (He lost anyway, 21-3, 21-6.)



Introducing two beautiful new ways to go Natural.

Now you can enjoy the smooth, clean taste of Natural light beer in our classic new bottle or handsome new can.

All you have to do is just say...Natural.

McDowell No. 1 and on the Run

By DAVID A. COHEN

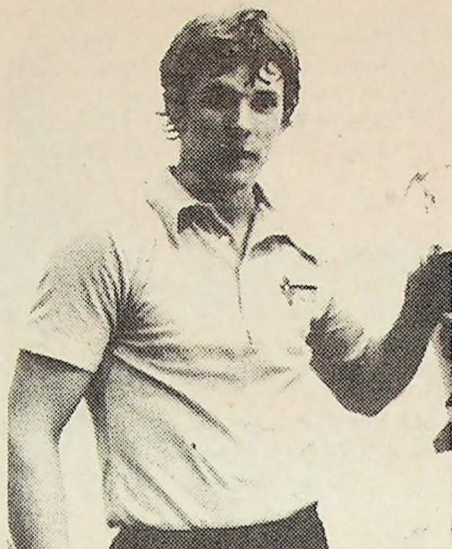
"It's a good feeling," says Dennis McDowell, about his Number 1 Men's racquetball ranking in the state of Illinois. "And I like it. I'd like to be here awhile."

The pride of Bloomington has established himself in the top slot with superb playing performances early on in this 1980 season. The lanky righthander swept through his opposition during three January tournaments, winning decisively in the Super Bowl, Illini Open and the Vittert Winter Classic.

McDowell is a quiet competitor and a sportsman on the court. He remains almost a spectator to his own achievements, preferring to speak in the terms of his athletic ability. "I just go out there to play. I don't think about it too much. You can psyche yourself out doing that. I know that if I play like I should I'll win, or at least I'll be competitive. There are a lot of guys out there who hit the ball harder than me. They can be tough, especially in the early rounds. But my strength is improving as well (due, in part, to a new Nautilus training program) and with it, my confidence." So far this year the twenty-seven-year-old from downstate has proved to everyone that his confidence is well founded.

COMPARED TO MOST of the U.S. pros, McDowell is a latecomer to racquetball. He first started playing at twenty-one, unlike the Hogans and Koltuns who used to battle it out for twelve and under crowns. He has progressed rapidly though, to a career high 16th ranking last year on the pro tour. He earned a quarter-final berth in an NRC event, beating Jerry Zuckerman and Steve Chase on the way, before falling to a tough Richie Wagner — the same Rich Wagner who knocked him out of the recent Kendler Classic.

Since then McDowell has dropped to 27th in the pro ranks, which puts him in the unenviable position of having to play qualifying at every stop. "That makes it really hard. You travel, get down there



Dennis McDowell from Bloomington, is No. 1 in Illinois.

and have to play maybe three matches on the Wednesday before the tournament. The next day, if you survive, your opponent is fresh and almost always one of the top seeds."

Through this experience McDowell has notice a change in the atmosphere surrounding the pro circuit that is damaging to the younger, newer players. The 'gas-house gang' image of the old tour has been replaced by a new professionalism. "It seems more like a dog-eat-dog situation out there. I don't know. Is it money? The established players don't want to make things any easier on us. They have

to be thinking that next time out you're going to beat them. But they're just worried about keeping their rankings up. They all want to make the quarters. You don't look bad if you make the quarters and then you can keep your sponsors, maybe get a few endorsements. The fun is definitely going out of it."

Prize money is causing repercussions in the lower levels of competition, also. Semi-pro events now offer cash winnings in the Open divisions as incentives for attracting the best players, most of whom are considered amateurs. McDowell accurately points out that an 'amateur' can make a lot of money playing these three and four hundred dollar tournaments and still retain his amateur standing.

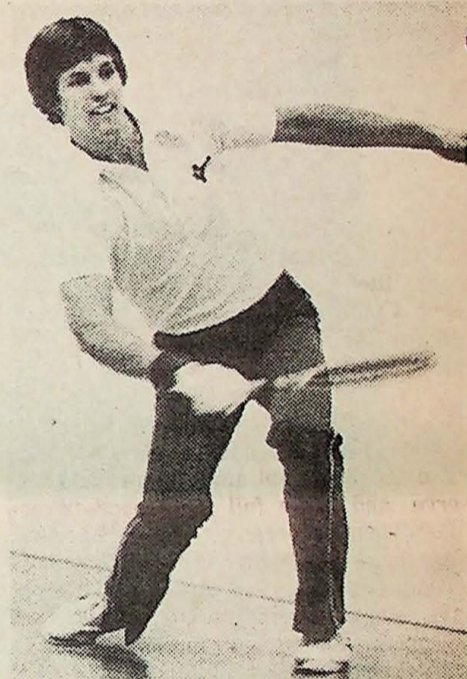
"UNDER NRC rules you are allowed, as an amateur, to win up to one thousand dollars within a year's time. But they only count the prize money earned at NRC pro stops. A good player could win well over that amount in these semi-pro events without changing his status. I don't know if that rule is right." McDowell's convictions are surprising, given that he is exactly the type of player who can and does benefit from the vagueness inherent in the NRC's position.

The whole matter of professional/amateur status demands close examination by the racquetball hierarchies. To his credit, McDowell draws a distinction between his personal concerns and those vital to the health and survival of the sport in which he so actively participates.

And what does the future hold? John Lynch, the former top Illinois singles

player, has returned to the state (after living in Ohio) and McDowell, ever the competitor, welcomes the news. "I'm looking forward to playing John again," says the current No. 1 player. "He beat me last year at the ISRA State Singles in the semi-finals. I wish I could play him more. He always seemed busy with other things, his job, whatever. I know how that is. You can only enter so many tournaments."

For McDowell, "other things" include work at the Courtside Three club in Bloomington as manager/pro. His schedule there is flexible enough to fit in the continuous weekends of travel. Lately, at least in Illinois, they have been very successful weekends. McDowell would like to keep his record intact.



Dennie McDowell represents Vittert, is 27 years old and looks forward to meeting Lynch in the ISRA State Singles.

Referee help all levels

What is a referee's clinic? A place where referees recuperate after a tough match? No! It's where beginning, intermediate, AND ADVANCED players can learn all the fine points about the rules of the game and refereeing. The national-

ly-recognized ISRA Referees Committee is available, free of charge, to come to your club and hold a clinic for 5 or more people. To arrange a clinic, call John Greene at 869-0267, or contact the ISRA office.

ILLINOIS CLUB GUIDE

THE RIGHT CLUB: 2330 N. Hammond Drive, Schaumburg, IL. 397-3300. 8 racquetball courts featuring 4 new glass backwall courts, complete Nautilus-aerobics fitness center with supervised programs and exercise classes; 5 tennis courts featuring indirect lighting providing the highest ceiling in Chicago; cocktail lounge with viewing gallery; attended nursery, whirlpools, saunas, traveling teams, instructional and advanced leagues, sanctioned tournaments, match arranging, social events and parties.

RIVIERA 400 HEALTH CLUB: 400 East Randolph (Lake Shore Drive), Chicago. Climate controlled racquetball/handball courts, non-glare lighting and gallery viewing. NO COURT FEES. Landmark geodesic dome, swimming pool and whirlpool. Double tier sundeck with attended jucebar and private cabanas-chaise lounges available. Separate men and women's health clubs carpeted and attended. Saunas, steam room (men's), Roman Spa whirlpool (women's), Universal gym, weightlifting, sunrooms. Professional massage and facial (appointment). Towels, soaps, and toiletries complimentary. Pro Shop, lessons, programs, laundry service. Executive Health Fitness Program, fitness classes, T.V. lounge. For individual or corporate memberships to this plush Spa call (312) 527-2525. Director: Gale Landers.

PRO RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CENTER: 1055 Lake Avenue, Woodstock, IL. (815) 338-8222. 8 climate controlled racquetball/handball courts. Fully carpeted locker rooms including saunas and whirlpools. Nautilus fitness center for extensive exercise programs. Spacious lounge with championship court viewing. A place for everyone to see.

SUPREME COURT: One Virginia Road, Crystal Lake, IL. (815) 455-3330. 10 air-conditioned racquetball courts, saunas, whirlpools, carpeted locker rooms, attended nursery, fully equipped pro shop. Manager/Pro: John Isaacson.

OAK LAWN RACQUET CLUB: 10444 South Central Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL. 499-3526. 5 racquetball/handball courts, 8 tennis courts, saunas, whirlpools, exercise room, carpeted locker rooms, attended nursery, T.V. lounge.

KILLSHOT, LTD: 321 Edgewater Drive, Bloomingdale, IL. 893-9575. 15 climate controlled racquetball/handball courts, fully carpeted locker rooms, large co-ed whirlpool, separate saunas, and massage rooms, extensive exercise room, fully equipped pro shop, attended nursery, spacious lounge with viewing gallery. Horseshoe-shaped bar with 2 way fireplace. Private and group lessons. General Manager/Head Pro: Don Jenkins. Manager/Pro: Sue Sulli.

CHARLIE CLUB: 2701 Black Road, Joliet, IL. (815) 729-4503. Open 24 hours, 7 days. Restaurant and Disco (open to the public). 8 racquetball/handball courts, 2 indoor tennis courts with special "Sport Sod". Fully equipped men's and women's exercise rooms with Nautilus, Universal and Paramount equipment. Indoor swimming pool and jogging track, one kilometer outdoor parcours; locker rooms include saunas, steam rooms, massage, showers, and private Swedish massage. Supervised nursery. Members over 18 years. Corporate memberships available.

SILVER LAKE COUNTRY CLUB: 147th Street and 82nd Avenue, Orland Park, IL. 349-6947. 9 racquetball/handball courts (1 glass walled court for viewing), saunas, free attended nursery, exercise rooms, full length lockers, extensive bar and lounge. Private and group lessons available.

FOREST VIEW RACQUET CLUB: 800 East Falcon Drive, Arlington Heights, IL. 640-2574. 8 air-conditioned racquetball/handball courts, 6 indoor tennis courts, 6 outdoor tennis courts. Separate saunas and whirlpools, men's and

women's locker rooms, attended nursery. Manager/head pro: Jeff Wilke. Racquetball pros: Georgia Maskalunas, Scott Thurber.

TINLEY PARK RACQUETBALL CLUB: 17500 Duvan Drive, Tinley Park, IL. 532-7900. Open 7 days, 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. 15 regulation racquetball/handball courts with unique use of glass for uninterrupted playing and viewing. Luxurious health facilities including saunas, steambath, whirlpools, Universal exercise areas. Free attended nursery. Pro shop, racquet rental, complete lessons program. Temperature controlled for comfortable year-round play. Home of the plush Prime Time Lounge. Managed by Five Stars International Enterprises, Inc.

CHALET SPORTS CORE: 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, IL. 246-4030. Conveniently located 1 mile from the Tri-State and Stevenson expressways. 22 racquetball/handball courts, indoor swimming pool, indoor running track, exercise room, saunas, whirlpools, steamroom, sunroom, free attended nursery, pro shop, cocktail lounge and disco.

TAM RACQUETBALL AND TENNIS CLUB: 7686 N. Caldwell, Niles, IL. 967-1400. Year round air-conditioned facilities. Includes 5 racquetball/handball courts and 8 tennis courts with award winning lighting. Free attended nursery, deluxe locker rooms with separate whirlpools and saunas, pro shop, member lounge and kitchen. Racquetball Pro: Howard Sandler. Head Tennis Pro: Rod Schroeder. Pro staff includes: Stewart Flank, Jeff Rothstein, Tim Buturac, Sarah Dutton.

HOMWOOD-FLOSSMOOR RACQUET CLUB: 2940 W. 183rd St., Homewood, IL. 799-1323. Four racquetball courts, 8 tennis courts, separate whirlpools, saunas, ex-

ercise room, supervised instructional exercise program daily, attended nursery 4-4:30 Mon. thru Fri. Facility Manager: Duane Elliott.

THE RACQUET HOUSES

1. O'HARE RACQUET HOUSE: 951 East Touhy Ave., Des Plaines, IL. 296-6144. Club Pro: Shirley Scheithe.
2. THORNDALE RACQUET HOUSE: 1220 Mark St., Bensenville, IL. 595-2020. Club Pro: Colleen Shields.
3. HILLSIDE RACQUET HOUSE: 4401 W. Roosevelt Road, Hillside, IL. 449-2255. Club Pro: Tony Fennis.
4. HARLEM IRVING RACQUET HOUSE: 4203 North Harlem, Norridge, IL. 457-2040. Club Pro: Sam Rizzio.
5. ELMHURST RACQUET HOUSE: 233 West Grand Avenue, Bensenville, IL. 595-5060. Club Pro: Rose Magliano.

All clubs have racquetball/handball on 8 regulation courts. Carpeted locker rooms, saunas, whirlpools, steamrooms, exercise facilities, free attended nursery, pro shop, racquet rental, group and private lessons, instructional and non-instructional leagues. Open 7 days a week. Director of all club operations: Carol Armstrong. Program Director/Head Pro: Nancy Kronenfeld.

SPAULDING RACQUETBALL CLUBS:

1. 2699 Skokie Valley Road, Highland Park, Ill. 60035, 433-600.
2. 2175 Commercial Avenue, Northbrook, Ill. 60062, 498-9890.
3. 220 West North Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60610, 943-2266.

All clubs have 12 air-conditioned racquetball/handball courts, carpeted locker rooms, saunas, whirlpools, free attended nursery, pro shop, racquet rentals, group and private lessons, leagues, programs and parties. Open 7 days a week.



The Referee's Chair

By JOHN R. GREENE

"THE TEN SECOND RULE"

Thanks to the dogged persistence of one Farrel Sims, I just learned the proper interpretation of the ten second rule! Mr. Sims, who plays out of the Bolingbrook Racquet Club, expressed an interest in joining the Referee's Committee in January. Passing the Ref's Quiz with almost a perfect grade, Sims started to assist at the Vittert Winter Classic tournament, held at the Chalet Sports Core.

Mr. Sims asked for my interpretation of the above rule. After I gave my view, he asked Phil Simborg, because mine didn't jibe with what he thought the ISRA's Referee's Guide stated. Well, I, ah, was, um, wrong. (Gee, that was hard!)

The interpretation I had of the Ten Second Rule was that, after the ref called the score, the server had ten seconds to serve. Failing to do so by the time the ten seconds had lapsed, it was a Side Out. So far, so good.

HERE COMES the hard part (where I blew it): I thought that the receiver could raise his racquet at any time prior to the serve, and get a full ten second "time out." When the receiver dropped his racquet, the server again had another full ten seconds to serve . . . I thought. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Properly stated: both the receiver and the server have the same ten seconds before the server has to serve! If, for instance, a receiver raises his racquet after five seconds had passed (after the calling of the score), he now has only five seconds before the server is supposed to serve. If the receiver does not drop his racquet by the time the ten seconds have lapsed, the referee awards a point to the server. The receiver has committed a "Deliberate Delay!"

Allow me to re-phrase this for you, as it is written in the Referee's Guide (Page 4,

Section IV, 6b3.): "The calling of the score begins the Ten Second Rule. When the server is ready, he must look back to the receiver to be sure the receiver is ready. If the receiver is ready the ball must be served within the ten seconds, or the referee awards a Side Out (or Hand Out in doubles).

If the receiver is not ready he should raise his racquet above his head after the score is called, and drop the racquet within the ten seconds, or the referee shall award a point."

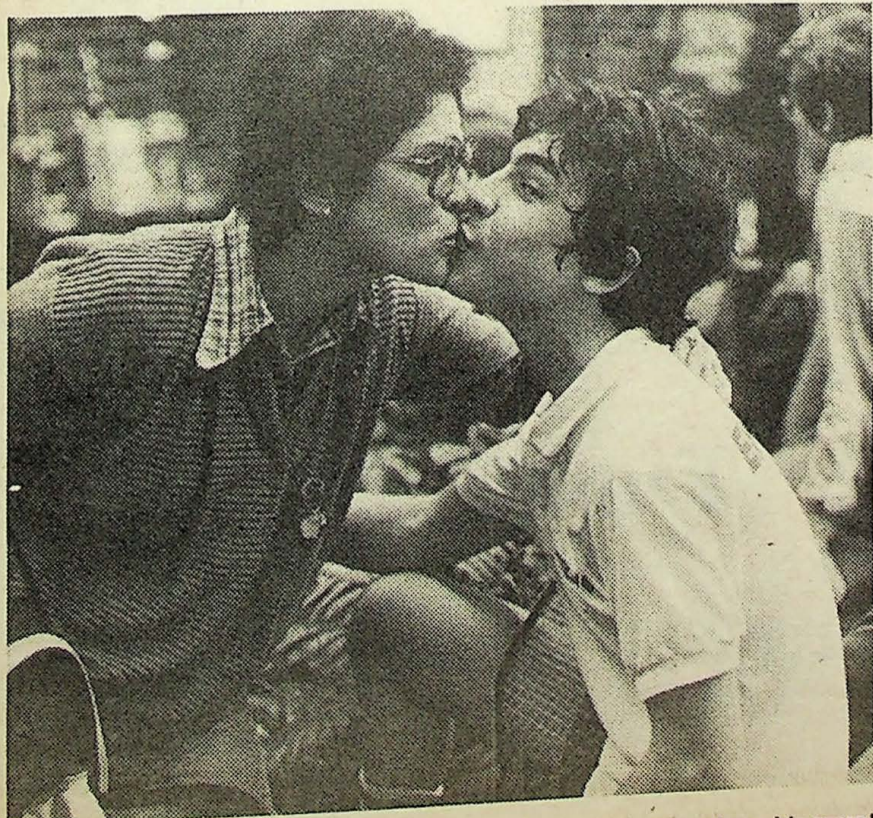
There it is! I just plain missed it. Probably thought: "Oh, I already know that!"; and, went right on by it. Wait! There is more.

"IF THE SERVER does not check the receiver, but the receiver did not have his racquet in the air, the serve counts. If the server checks the receiver and the receiver is not signaling unready, and after the server turns to serve, then puts up his racquet, the serve counts."

When it is absolutely obvious that the receiver is not ready and the receiver cannot easily put up his racquet, the server should hold up (ie: receiver is kneeling tying his shoe laces, or has his back to the server and is adjusting eye wear, racquet, etc.); however, it is the receiver's responsibility to make it obvious to both the server and the referee.

Well, I admit it: I just plumb blew it. I've gone back and re-read the Referee's Guide. I haven't found any others that I missed; but, I am going to re-read it once more to be sure.

Phil did a darn good job of putting this Guide together. It's interesting reading. Read the book, now. Don't wait for the movie. If you would like a 14-page detailed guide on the rules, contact the ISRA, Phil, or me.



Jack Newman receives "expert" coaching from his mom!

Intercollegiate championships

The USRA will be holding its second annual Men's and Women's USRA National Intercollegiate Championships at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana March 28-30. Through the sponsorship of Seamco/Leach, \$10,000 in scholarships will be awarded to individuals and teams.

The event was won last year by Memphis State University, with the University of Illinois placing second. Bobby Bolan won the men's individual title and has gone on to be one of the better players on the NRC tour.

The event will feature both men's and women's singles and doubles competition, and will be open to the public for viewing. For information, contact Donald Webb, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, Room 170 Intramural Building, 201 Peabody Drive, Champaign, Ill. 61820.



Bob Bolan

As the Ankle Turns

The continuing saga of one of America's favorite racquetball families...THE GROBMISIS

As we left the Grobmisi's last month, Tom Jr. was quite upset about the poor ref that "cost him the match" in the 8-year-old and under club championships, while Susie (age 14) was being punished for not practicing her backhand and for getting pregnant again. Momsie and Tom Sr. are discussing the family's problems in the kitchen:

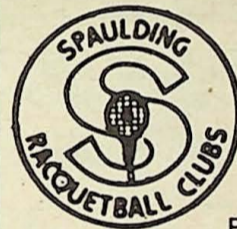
Tom Sr.: "What's for dinner?"

Momsie: "Dear, you really can't go on ignoring the children's problems like this. Junior's coach says he'll never be any

good unless we buy him a graphite racquet, and if Susie has the baby she'll miss the Regionals! I can't take her to the clinic on Tuesday 'cause I've got league, and worst if all, they won't let me play for the team until I pay last month's club bill."

Tom Sr.: "We're not having yogurt and alfalfa sprouts again, are we?"

Just then their intimate conversation is interrupted by a phone call from Tom's teenage daughter (from a previous marriage) who threatens to take up tennis if Tom doesn't renew her Metro Racquetball Club membership. Be sure to check us out next month to find out "what's cooking" on the Grobmisi family.



SPAULDING RACQUETBALL CLUB VITTERT CHICAGO OPEN

MARCH 14, 15, 16

PLACE: SPAULDING RACQUETBALL CLUB
2699 Skokie Valley Road
Highland Park, IL 60035
(312) 433-6000



MEN'S CLASSES: OPEN, A, B, C, D, NOVICE, MASTER'S
WOMEN'S CLASSES: A, B, C, D, NOVICE
ENTRY FEE: \$21.00 . . . You may enter one class only. Entry fee includes at least 2 matches, shirt, a can of balls and our hospitality room!!
ENTRY DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1980, 9:00 P.M.
NO REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 12, 1980

TROPHIES WILL BE AWARDED TO 1ST, 2ND, 3RD, AND 1ST PLACE CONSOLATION
OFFICIAL BALL: VITTERT GOLD LABEL
MAIL ENTRY FORM WITH CHECK TO:

SPAULDING RACQUETBALL CLUB
2699 Skokie Valley Road
Highland Park, IL 60035
ATTN: RICH LUKASEK
(312) 433-6000

ALL PLAYERS WILL BE ASKED TO HELP OFFICIATE
DEFINITIONS OF CLASSES

- OPEN — Top Rank players of your area.
- A — Consistency with all shots and serves. Excellent judgement in shot selection and correct court position.
- B — Regularly attempts passing shots, ceiling shots and side wall kill shots. Backhand is consistent defensively and is moderately successful as an offensive weapon.
- C — Player's shots lack variety and consistency. Beginning to succeed hitting balls off the back wall. Variety of his serves is limited.
- D — Player's strokes and basic serves are in the development stage. Learning to play shots off the back wall. Positioning is less than average. Shots are generally defensive.
- NOVICE — A beginning player who has had some instruction, knows the rules; but lacks playing experience and confidence on the court. He can get a serve into play, is learning to hit forehand shots off the back wall, and can maintain a volley at a slow pace, but has little understanding of court position.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| MEN'S CLASSES | WOMEN'S CLASSES |
| () A | () A |
| () B | () B |
| () C | () C |
| () D | () D |
| () NOVICE | () NOVICE |
| () MASTER'S | |

Spaulding reserves the right to reclassify any player.
Shirt Size: () small () med. () lg. () xlg.

Club location you play at: _____
NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ HOME PHONE _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____ CLUB YOU PLAY AT: _____
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SIGNATURE _____
DATE _____

Court Talk

"Our day will come" could have been the anthem of racquetballers five years ago. Today's courtwise tunesmiths can hum along to the strains of "Weep no more my lady" (or sir, for that matter).

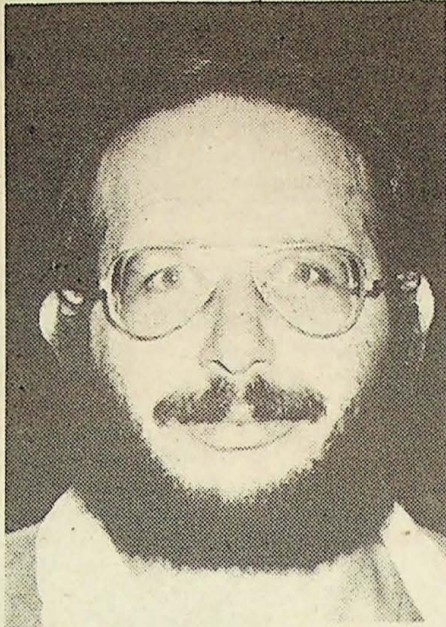
Why the change in sentiment? Simple. Spell it a sweet sounding instrument a la television. Thanks to ongoing developments in the field of glass wall court construction and other happenings a video breakthrough is on the way. And that means good news for racquetball professionals, ardent club players, and just plain everyday stokers.

Only in recent years has racquetball begun to enjoy large scale popularity. In fact, one of the best kept secrets in America is the number of men, women and children who play the game — 11 million at last count.

NOW, THANKS to the ability of television to invade, or be invited into millions of homes, the skills of Marty Hogan and company will become common knowledge.

A knowledge that will include familiarity with some of the quirks, eccentricities and flamboyant personalities of today's top touring pros. Whether blowing an opponent away with skillful strategy, wicked killshots or heavy head work, racquetball's best have what it takes for good TV viewin'.

Which makes for good news for anyone involved in the game or who has ever longed to tote a racquet. Urged on by heady sponsorship dollars racquetball should find its recognition factor climbing



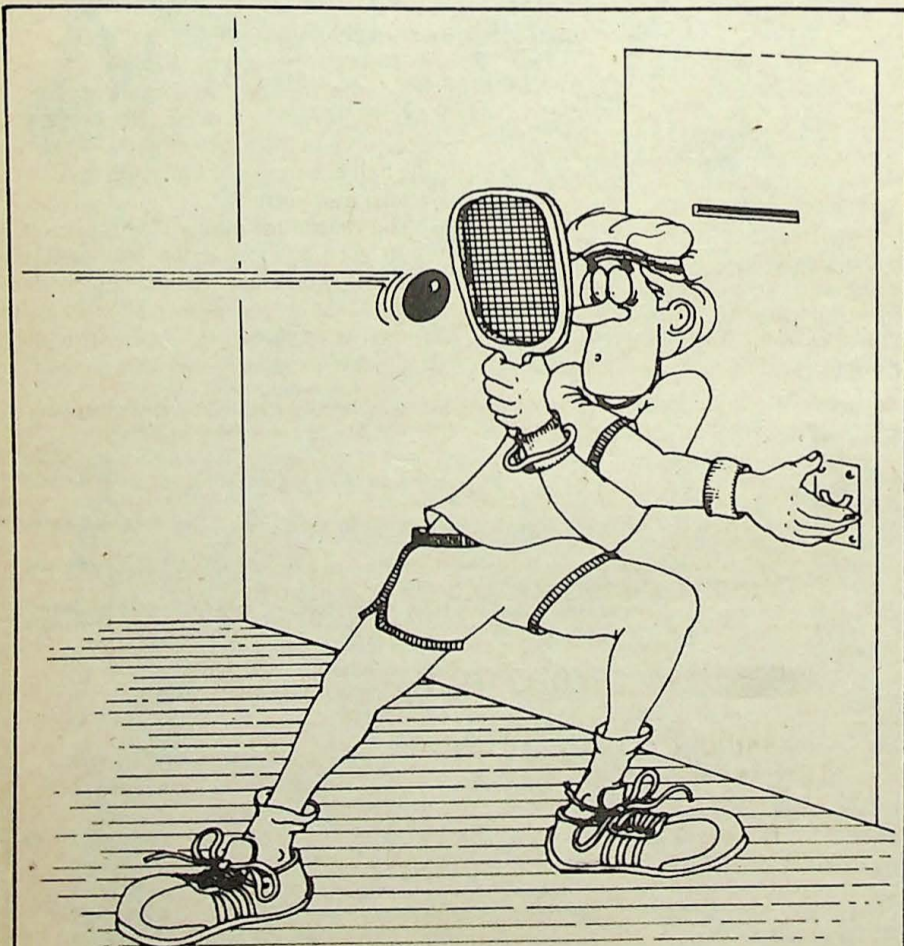
Bob Gura

with each telecast. The first of which is planned for later this year — according to a racquetball organization that ought to know.

Buttressed by video p.r. and aided by word of mouth, racquetball should assert itself alongside tennis and golf in the individual sports pantheon. Most player hope the audience will come to appreciate the game as an activity for the physically fit, mentally quick and witty.

Which after all, just reaffirms what racquetballers have known all along, doesn't it?

THE FUN-DAMENTALS OF RACQUETBALL by R.W.JANOUSEK



... FORCE YOUR OPPONENT OUT OF CENTER COURT !!

More Tournament News

Y State Doubles

By JIM HARPER

The weekend of February 1-3 brought 32 hopeful teams to the Buehler YMCA in Palatine to compete for the Y State Doubles championships in five divisions.

Several divisions played round robins since the draw was not large. In the Men's Open, Shelly Clar and Scott Berry came through without a loss.

In the Men's Masters (40 and over) Larry Meyer got the award for distance as he came up from the Jacksonville YMCA to team up with brother-in-law Jim Harper. But the distance between first and second place was only one point as Art Michaely and Bob Gullett defeated Meyer-Harper 21-10, 9-21, 11-10 in an exciting tie-breaker. Both teams swept the remainder of their round robin matches.

The Women's Open had a four team draw and also had an exciting finish as three teams ended up with two wins and one loss. Huff and Puff (Sheryl Weiss and Judy Harper) of the Evanston Y came back from a one-year hiatus to recapture the crown they won in 1978, but it wasn't easy. They defeated Connie and Marge Godinez on Sunday afternoon to throw the event into a three way tie. Director Art Michaely judged the only fair thing to do was immediately run an 11-point tie-breaker play-off. Coins were flipped and Godinez and Godinez played Shirley Scheithe and Margaret Hoff while Huff and Puff drew a bye. Scheithe and Hoff, losers to the Godinez' team earlier, got off to a fast start and led 6-3. But Connie Godinez took over and powered her team to an 11-7 win to gain the re-match with Huff and Puff. Alas, lightning struck twice as Weiss and Harper were shooting with excellent precision to take the championship, 11-3.

First place: Weiss - Harper (Evanston Y) 3-1; Second place: Godinez - Godinez (LaGrange Y) 3-2; Third place: Scheithe - Hoff (Park Ridge Y) 2-2; Consolation: Burbury - Klein.

Eastern Illinois

By DAVEY BENNETT

The Four Seasons Club of Danville, Illinois, held their first tournament since opening in September of 1979. The First Annual Eastern Illinois Team Racquetball tournament was held January 25-27. The tournament consisted of 137 singles players and 27 doubles teams from 11 downstate area clubs. All converging in Danville to compete for individual honors, and the number one team honors.

The tournament was filled with excitement and close competition, 41 total tie-breaker matches in the tournament. Several of the singles players were doubling up in singles and doubles. But by Sunday the overloading began to take it's toll, as the scene of players napping in any vacant spot throughout the club, was common sight. By 3:00 p.m. Sunday the smoke had cleared and the Terre Haute Racquetball Club had come out the victors, with the University of Illinois closing out in second.

Points were accumulated by each club according to their individual members finishes in their respective divisions. First place; 10 points; Second, 6 pts.; Third, 4 pts.; First consolation, 1 pt.

Standings: Terre Haute: First, 71 points; U of I: Second, 67 points; Four Seasons Club: Third, 41 points.

Results

Men's Open: Lawler def. Bennett; Knaver def. Braun; Knaver def. Lawler.
Men's A: Howard def. Huelskoetter.
Men's B: Martin def. Willis.
Men's C: Brokaw def. Tobin.
Men's Doubles Open: Lawler/Knaver def. Bennett/Bennett.
Men's Doubles B: Brokaw/Miller def. Peterson/Tobin.
Woman's Open: Lorrain def. Parker.
Woman's B: Toman def. Showers.
Woman's C: Maher def. Metzger.
Woman's Doubles Open: Lorrain/Carr def. Parker/Spires.
Woman's Doubles B: Metzger/Maher def. Randich/Kell.

St. Valentine's Day Massacre

(Continued from Page 7)

21-4.

MEN'S SENIORS

Quarters: Marshall Waldo d. Gary Saratsky, 21-8, 21-13; Ron Paul d. Jerry Iafallo, 21-12, 21-8; Shelly Clar d. Wally Bryniarski, 21-10, 21-19; Ron Johnson d. Al Shetler, 21-16, 21-13.
Semi's: Waldo d. Paul, 21-18, 21-4; Clar d. Johnson, 21-12, 21-5.
Finals: Clar d. Waldo, 21-18, 10-21, 11-10.
Consolation: Bill Schram d. Jim DiCastris.

MEN'S MASTERS

Quarters: Dick Porter d. Don Dennis, 21-5, 21-1; Jack Moskwa d. Dorsey Boult, 11-21, 21-12, 11-6; Jim Harper d. Nate Karras, 21-16, 21-4; Saul Sandoval d. Ralph Shively, 21-16, 21-10.
Semi's: Porter d. Moskwa, 21-17, 21-10; Sandoval d. Harper, 21-18, 16-21, 11-4.
Finals: Sandoval d. Porter, 21-10, 21-15.
Consolation: Tony Buckum d. Jim Fyle, 21-18, 21-18.

WOMEN'S OPEN ROUND ROBIN

First Place: Sue Carow 4 - 0
Second Place: Laura Sidello 3 - 1
Third Place: Caprice Behner 2 - 2

WOMEN'S A

Quarters: Claudia Loizzo d. Kim Ruck, 21-8, 21-8; Joan Pearce d. Diane Gabrisko, 21-4, 21-2; Joan Azeka d. Sue Czapl, 21-16, 21-17; Laurel Davis d. Cathy Nemeth, 21-14, 21-12.
Semi's: Loizzo d. Pearce, 21-6, 21-7; Azeka d. Davis,

21-18, 21-17.

Finals: Loizzo d. Azeka, 21-20, 21-4.
Consolation: Cathy Nemeth d. Mary Precht, 21-5, 21-17.

WOMEN'S B

Quarters: Peggy Woods d. Rose Magliano, 21-6, 21-6; Kim Donahue d. Shirley Priekstas, 14-21, 21-17, 11-9; Lois Jandris d. Joanne Hall, 16-21, 21-16, 11-6; Doris Barnes d. Kay Ralston, 21-9, 21-10.
Semi's: Woods d. Donahue, 21-12, 21-6; Jandris d. Barnes, 21-18, 9-21, 11-5.
Finals: Woods d. Jandris, 21-11, 21-9.
Consolation: Joanne Hall d. Sue Korienek.

WOMEN'S C

Quarters: Linda Shafer d. Marianne O'Roarke, 16-21, 21-18, 11-8; Wilma Hancock d. Judy Beckwith, 21-3, 21-5; Donna Schwartz d. Celeste Brychek, 21-8, 21-18; Liz Burns d. Martha Pahanich.
Semi's: Hancock d. Shafer, 16-21, 21-6, 11-6; Burns d. Schwartz, 21-16, 21-13.
Finals: Hancock d. Burns, 21-19, 15-21, 11-3.
Consolation: Pat Miller

WOMEN'S D

Quarters: Pat Sellers d. Pat Breen, 21-13, 21-6; Debbie Jepsen d. Carol Mayer, 21-12, 8-21, 11-8; Engert d. Mary Pernacciaro, 21-9, 21-4; Piera Bylian d. Mary Binkley, 21-11, 21-6.
Semi's: Jepsen d. Sellers, 21-20, 21-9; Bylian d. Engert, 21-20, 20-21, 11-10.
Finals: Jepsen d. Bylian, 21-17, 16-21, 11-5.
Consolation: Debbie Gardner d. Debbie Pappas.

Funny Things

By TOM GROBMISI

Some "funny" things
Just aren't so funny —
Like playing with torn shoes
'Cause you don't have any money;
Like bruises on your back
From getting blasted with the ball,
Or a bandage on your knee
Where you ran into the wall.

Like losing a big match
Without scoring any points
'Cause the pain was so bad
In your muscles and your joints.
You can have these "funny" things.
It ain't my kind of humor;
Next time I catch you laughing
I hope you get a tumor.

Drive Your Opponent Crazy With Pass Shots — By Racquetball Pro Rita Hoff



Rita Hoff

Editor's Note: Everyone wants to improve their game and Rita Hoff, professional racquetball player and director of Natural Light beer's programs, is a lady to listen to. She is ranked in the top 10 nationally and has pitted her skills against such non-professional racquetball players as Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears, Jack Youngblood of the Los Angeles Rams, Earl Edwards of the Cleveland Browns, Bill Lenkaitis of the New England Patriots, and Roger Wehrli of the St. Louis Cardinals. Proving to all that it's more than size and power when it comes to being a racquetball ace.

anyone can hit and one that will serve you well as long as you remember one thing — a passing shot cannot hit anything but the front wall. If it hits anything else, the side or back wall, it will not be effective.

To hit a good backhand pass, the angle of the body is important. To go down-the-line, your body is facing the side wall. Since I am right-handed, I face the left wall with my feet perpendicular to the side wall. That's the way to make contact — off the front foot, striding into the front wall, hitting up and down the wall without the ball hitting the left side. To hit a cross-court pass, pull the right foot back with the left foot pointing toward the center of the front wall.

Hit the ball as hard as you can so that it goes past your opponent fast. The ball should take its first bounce somewhere in mid-court so the second bounce comes before the back wall. Be careful not to let it rebound off the back wall.

My favorite is the backhand down-the-line pass. It forces your opponent to make a quick decision; the cross court shot

gives your opponent just a little more time. This pass is also effective as an attempted kill. If you keep the ball parallel to the wall and go for a kill, even if your shot is just a little high, it still turns into a dynamite passing shot.

THE DOWN-THE-LINE passing shot can lose every bit of its effectiveness if it hits the side or back walls. Keep your feet squared and be sure to hit off the front foot. If the ball hits the side wall before the front wall, it will pop out into the middle for a plum.

In some circumstances, the cross-court pass can be terrific. It is a little easier to hit for some than the down-the-line. Also your opponent may be backing up or cheating to the left in anticipation of your shot. Ripping it across court can catch him leaning the wrong way.

Either type of pass can be effective as a service return, particularly on a low-drive serve to your backhand. The ball will be coming at you like a line drive and that's exactly how you will be trying to return it.

If the serve comes at you without hitting the side wall, your opponent may be edging to the left and going cross court could be the answer.

If the serve ricochets off the side wall and consequently bounces out toward the middle of the court, your opponent probably will be moving to the right in fear of getting hit. That's your chance to rifle it down the line and *drive your opponent crazy*.

In racquetball, the name of the passing game is hit it where your opponent isn't.

One of the toughest situations in racquetball is returning a hard drive or even a soft lob to your backhand corner.

A return which combines sufficient offensive attack with a relatively good chance of success, is the backhand pass.

THE BACKHAND pass is a shot that



By PHIL SIMBORG

Ed. Note: Phil Simborg is currently Executive Vice President of the ISRA. As Chairman of the Referee's Committee, Phil wrote the referee's guide and was responsible for many changes in the rules of the game and refereeing procedures. He has worked with the USRA in the structure and wording of its official Rule Book, and can often be seen personally refing the "tougher" matches in Illinois and at major tournaments around the country.

To me the toughest call in the game is the screen serve, particularly at the more advanced levels of play. After refing many Open and Pro division matches, I am convinced that almost all the good players "screen" their opponents to some extent when they hit drive serves. I'm also convinced that the current rules regarding the screen serve call leave so much to the judgement of the referee,

that the call can be a matter of such fine and close degrees that MOST of the drive serves could be called a screen or let go, depending on how the ref was feeling that day. The problem is even more pronounced when there is no referee and players are charged with the responsibility of determining for themselves what constitutes a screen serve.

I have read recommendations by people such as Charlie Brumfield which suggest dividing the court down the center and requiring the server to stand on one side and hit to the other side; that suggest that screen serves be counted as a fault serve; that suggest the server only get one serve; and other ideas that will reduce service advantage and help eliminate the screen problem. But all of these recommendations have the disadvantage of drastically changing the nature and flow of the game, and I'm basically against anything that drastically changes the game. Racquetball is a great game right now, and a lot of fun, and it's enjoying enormous growth. I believe we should be extremely careful not to drastically change the rules. However, I have come up with an idea I think will virtually eliminate the screen serve problems without changing the basic flow and structure of the game.

I recommend that we draw two lines parallel to the side walls within the service zones, five feet from each side wall. These lines will "narrow" the service zone to the centermost 10 feet of the court,

and like the other boundaries of the service zone, the server will be required to begin his motion within these lines, and not cross those lines until the ball has passed the short line (or he is charged with a footfault). The effect is that the tough, hard, drive serves that go down either side wall cannot be effectively screened by the server, thereby eliminating the major problem. As for those balls which come "relatively" close to the server's body, by definition they will not be too far from center court, and the receiver should have plenty of time to see, adjust, and get to those serves. Naturally, if the ball goes between the server's legs, under an arm, or is so close to the server that it nearly hits him, a screen may still be called.

THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS CHANGE over the others is that the server can still hit drive, Z, or lob serves to all parts of the court, and the basic strategy and flow of the game remains intact. We've simply taken the guesswork out of the screen serve call and taken away the service advantage that some players enjoy who are able to take advantage of an inexperienced ref or receiver who are too timid to

call the screen.

I have sent this recommendation to both the USRA and AARA in the hopes that it will be adopted by both. In my discussions about this proposal with top players and referees, I have received nothing but very positive responses. The only question seems to be whether the lines should be five feet or six feet from each side wall. Since, in my opinion, the problem is greatest at the highest levels of play, it is my hope that the NRC will adopt the rule first to apply to the professionals. Then, by use of a non-permanent paint, test the rule at a tournament at the five-foot mark and see how it is accepted by the players. (The refs will probably love it because it takes all the pressure off of them.) If the pros feel they have a fair shot at the ball from the five-foot mark, the rest of us should have no problem (they are more deceptive in hitting to either side, they hit the ball harder and lower, and they hit the crotch more often).

The reason for publicizing this proposal is to get player reaction and sentiment. Please let us know your opinions; and if you have any ideas on how we can improve the rules, refereeing, or structure of the game, drop us a line.

Tinley Park Club Leads South Suburban League

Tinley Park Racquetball Club	Men 157 Women 131 Handball 90 378	Omni 41 Racquet Club	Men 141 Women 49 Handball 72 262
Evergreen Bath & Tennis Club	Men 113 Women 158 Handball 80 351	Sports Illustrated Court Club	Men 130 Women 93 Handball 36 259
Palos Racquetball Club	Men 182 Women 113 Handball 18 313	Indian Trails Court Club	Men 114 Women 42 Handball 64 220
Silver Lake Racquet Club	Men 128 Women 111 Handball 44 283	Olympian Court Club	Women 150

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PSYCHING

By MARILYN STERLING

I awoke from a dream the other night in which I was pounding on football coach Vince Lombardi's massive chest, fervently screaming, "You're so damn serious Vince, I can't stand it!" pound, pound, pound, pound, "Get off my back!" pound, pound, pound. What a dream! It was really rather funny, I knew right away from where it stemmed. A good friend of mine and I were talking after a game, and we were discussing winning and losing. I was saying I enjoyed being second best on our traveling team; not being singled out as the "best" or the "worst." She condemned me for being a "gutless wonder."

Hmmmm — winning; it's always been a problem for me. Sports psychologists classify sport participants into three categories; leaders, leaners, and losers. I'm your classic leaner. If I win it's great, if I lose, it's OK too. I rationalize the loss away with; well, I had a great time anyway, etc. etc. Sport "leaders" aren't afraid of the risks involved in striving to win, and work solely towards that goal. Leaners don't make a concerted effort in either direction, and losers, well, they see themselves as losers and unconsciously strive to maintain that position. These three prototypes all view winning from different angles too.

There's the attitude conveyed by my "good friend" Vince Lombardi which states that, "Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing." Bless his heart. It's true that winning has profound positive effects on our self esteem and well being. It's great fun to be admired! Winning seems to be a very basic desire; we strive for the winning achievement that results in exultations of joy!

DR. VANDEWEGH, who along with Dr. Lawrence Morehouse, runs the Human Performance Laboratory at the University of California in Los Angeles says there are five important reasons why winning is worth the effort.

1. It builds confidence. It fosters attitudes that become a cause of the success.
2. Winning produces good morale. In a "one-to-one" sport such as racquetball, a habit of winning strengthens your future chances.
3. Winning is a reward, a prize in itself. In a world where there are very few rewards or recognition given for discipline and effort, winning brings approval.
4. **WINNING** a competition, opponents being of about equal skill, prepares you for the real competitive issues and arenas of life.
5. Winning sets up an attitude of striving that spills over into other areas of life. It also deepens the interest needed to work at overcoming one's own limits.



John Egerman (Boise, Idaho) made it into the "big time" at NRC's Coors Classic. He made the qualifying, beat Dave Bledsoe, and then lost in the quarters to Steve Strandemo.

Winning Is Everything Or Is It?

Then there's another school of thought; that there should be emphasis on things other than just "the win." If Vince Lombardi's axiom prevails in our sports, I feel that it levels them to a very base line, that of finding satisfaction only after prevailing over someone else. Our motivation comes not from wanting to have fun, or in doing the job well, but solely in wanting to be Number 1.

These are my five reasons for not always pursuing the No. 1 spot.

1. **IT INVOLVES** a lot of risk. once you're labeled a winner you often become separated from the "group" of other participants. Friends who were once just fellow players now may appear in a new light, that of challenger. Comfortable relationships change.
2. Winning requires an investment of time and energy in order to maintain it.
3. There's constant pressure to endure. if you're No. 1 everyone seems to be after you.
4. Sometimes there are accusations to bear when you're the victor.
5. **THE ONLY** alternative left to you if you've decided to value "the win" is loss.

Since so few can win, it leaves us with a world of people who consider themselves losers.

The last reason bears the most weight in shaping my attitudes on play.

I've thought about it a bit, and read about winning and losing, and I've come to the following conclusions. Unlike some theorists who feel we should eliminate a "winning and losing" format in our games entirely and strive for enjoyment solely in the "doing," I don't feel we need to eliminate winning. We need to fit winning into a more rational perspective; a personal perspective. As Dr. Laurence Morehouse and Leonard Gross state in their book "Maximum Performance," "The business of winning need not be exclusively a matter of combat between individuals. It is expressed best by each person's attempt to become the best possible person he or she can."

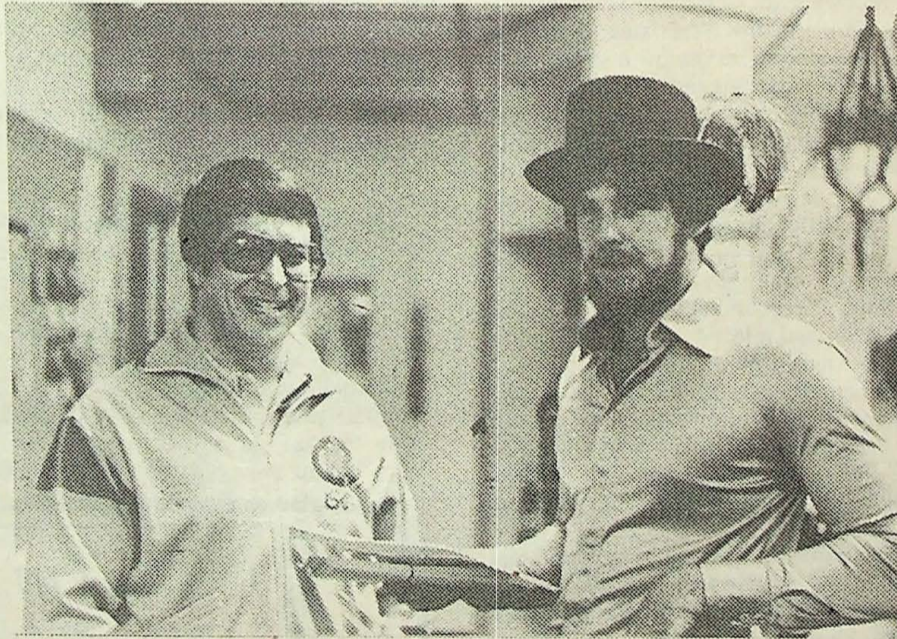
So, there are pros and cons to being "the winner," and winning should ideally be expressed by our attempts to become the best possible people that we can. OK, then I conclude that I'll strive to become the best No. 2 player that I possibly can... how's that Vince? Now will you get off my back?

Cancer Tournament Raises Over \$2,000

A real "fun-for-all" was held to raise money for the American Cancer Society at the Olympian Court Club Saturday night, February 9th. The event was MC'd by a fun-loving Bob VanTuyle, and there were some dynamite men's and women's

Lynch won the serve and ran a string of points that was impossible to catch, though Golueke did make a charge at the end.

On behalf of Tom Creal, chairman for the event, they wish to thank the follow-



"M.C." Bob Van Tuyle (right) presents Dennis Vesce with his award for 6th place, Novice Division, at the Cancer Society Benefit.

singles and doubles exhibitions.

The main attraction was a Jai Alai-rotation match involving Illinois State Singles champ John Lynch, Andy Witt, Phil Simborg, Tom Golueke, and Phil Presendo. Spectators drew players to win prizes (VanTuyle tried to trade "three Phil Simborgs for one John Lynch" and found NO TAKERS).

The match itself was very exciting with Phil Simborg scoring the first two points (VanTuyle looked clearly worried and embarrassed at that point). However, with Bob acting as the ref, and holding a Lynch ticket (it cost him two Golueke's and a Witt, and \$3), three bad calls later

ing people and companies for promotional consideration and help in running the event: John's Pizza Company (Dick Pizza, Pres.), Chicago Dough Company, the Metro Club, **RACQUETBALL TODAY**, Ben DeBerry, Cheryl Golueke, and Tom Grobmisi.

Those who know how to win are much more numerous than those who know how to make proper use of their victories.

Polybius



Marlys Sperger, Assistant Executive Director of the National Court Clubs Association, talks racquetball with Tom Street, well-known racquetball raconteur, during the recent National Sporting Goods Association show at McCormick Place. (Photo by Ivan Fuldauer)

From Behind Tournament Control Desk

By DIANE GABRISKO

It has been my philosophy that one learns best through experience. If there is one thing I am learning, it is that running a tournament desk is quite an experience. I meet the winners and the losers, the refs and the I-can't-refs, the boasters and the complainers. They all come to me, sooner or later, and I like to think that I'm ready for them. Having arrived early, I have the control desk humming with unparalleled efficiency. I know precisely how many matches are being played, who is playing, who is refing, and on which court each historical event is transpiring. (Or should I say perspiring?) I can answer any question from "Are you on schedule?" (Yes!) to "Where is the bathroom?" without even lifting my head. I can listen with interest to the details of a hard-fought victory, while the winner's sweat drips on my court control sheets. I can, with unleashed sympathy, console the losers.

Through practice, I have an answer for just about everything: "This ball dead." **HIT IT HARDER.** "Do I have time for a shower?" **I HOPE SO.** "What's an UNavoidable hinder?" **PHIL SIMBORG.** In the course of a day, I may call a hundred matches. And fifty referees. And twenty people to the phone. And parents to their children. And children to their parents. And Shetzer from the bar... I have called so many players to the desk that I can, with calculated precision, give odds on their behavior (or lack of it) upon their arrival. I can, without hesitation, predict that nine out of ten avid enthusiasts, nine out of ten nervous novices, nine out of ten MEN, come to the desk and simply: **STAND THERE.**

Some of the more anxious competitors announce "Here I am!" or "I'm ready to go - what court?" I am smiling, but thinking: **IT HASN'T EVEN OCCURRED TO YOU THAT YOU MIGHT TELL ME WHO YOU ARE. YOU EXPECT ME TO KNOW.** With dispassionate alacrity you point out my imperfection when I ask, "Who are you?"

"Why, John Pearson — you just called me!" John walks away shaking his head. Me? I am reduced to an ordinary person as subtly as Hogan hits a killshot. A glutton for punishment, I keep waiting for someone to arrive at the desk, fired-up and smiling, **ANNOUNCING HIS NAME.** Maybe, someday I'll learn — everyone's name, that is!

See you at the next S/S/S tournament!

Split — Women Go Their Own Way

(Continued from Page 1)

the WPRA met with Bob Kendler and Joe Ardito of the NRC, and the two major sponsors, Charlie Drake of Leach and Al Mackie of Seamco. In Seaton's words, the women "wanted to work towards parity" with the men. The women were dissatisfied with the NRC tour in that they were receiving 1/3 the prize money the men were getting, and they felt they were given far worse scheduling, court assignment, and publicity. The women wanted to be involved in seeding and court assignment, and have input on other rules and policy. Further, the women wanted the right to get their own sponsors and run their own tournaments in addition to playing on the NRC tour.

2. **THE WOMEN'S** purse was raised slightly, which Seaton says "was perfectly acceptable for the time being, and a step in the right direction." At this point there are conflicting reports as to who made what demands and ultimatums, but the negotiations between the two parties

obviously became strained and began to break down.

3. The NRC drew a three-year contract which required the women to play for a fixed purse, and which gave the NRC control of any "women-only" tournaments.

4. The WPRA held a meeting at the Kendler Classic in Chicago (Sept. '79) and voted UNANIMOUSLY to reject the contract.

5. Seaton attempted to negotiate further with the NRC but was informed that the contract offered "was not subject to further negotiation" and the women were subsequently "dropped" from the tour.

After hearing both sides, I must conclude that **THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG, GOOD OR BAD** side. You can't blame the women for trying to get the best deal they can for themselves, and when they didn't get it, you've got to admire their guts and determination in sticking it out and going their own way. Neither can you blame the NRC and its

sponsors for trying to cut the best deal they can for themselves — **the pro tour is a business**, and they have the right to run it in a manner that they perceive is best for that business. Why should the NRC pay money to people who are in the process of setting up their own, independent tour, which, when established, they might use fully and abandon the NRC tour? Why should the women continue to play on a tour where they feel they are not being treated or rewarded adequately?

WHAT NOW? WHAT HAPPENS TO PRO RACQUETBALL IN THE FUTURE?

The NRC tour will go on as scheduled, sans the women pros. There will still be a full offering in the men's and women's amateur events, and the prize money allocated for the women pros "will be applied to a greater number of prizes and awards" for the Men's and Women's Open (amateur) divisions. You might also expect to see some changes in the NRC/USRA amateur eligibility rules so there will be "improved distinction" between the amateur and professional player.

The WPRA is in the process of setting up its own tour. They've already had one tournament (in New York, won by Shannon Wright), and they're running around trying to set up more. Their plan for the 1980-81 season is to have 10 stops, with a major sponsor and auxiliary sponsors for each, offering \$10,000 in prize money at each stop except the last one (in June), which would be their "Nationals" and have a purse of \$25,000. Seaton tells me he's got the major commitments for 5

stops and is in the process of firming up "handshake" agreements for the balance. Seaton has been in contact with virtually all the major sponsors and equipment manufactureres and is confident "the women will be much better off in the long run as a result" of the split. Dan's got a lot of interesting ideas about changes in the structure of the game and the running of tournaments that he and the women believe will make the game much more attractive to fans, sponsors, and ultimately, to television.

Personally, I don't think anyone can say for certain whether this split is good or bad for the sport, and we'll never have the benefit of a controlled study for comparison. All who know and love the sport cannot help but feel tremendous gratitude toward the NRC, Leach, Seamco and the other major sponsors for their contribution to the growth of the sport; and all who value the skill and participation of the women pros cannot help but respect their right to look out for their own best interests (history has clearly proven that if you don't do that for yourself, nobody else will). *I think they'll both do well.* There should be enough sponsors and markets for both to make it, particularly when you look at the projections for the growth of the sport in the future. The only thing I'm sure of, after talking to both sides, is that I won't be "holding my breath" waiting for them to get back together. Both "Dan's" told me "their door is open" and they are willing to talk and listen, but the differences are obviously too great at this time.

Midwesterners Compete At Kunnan/Leach in Miami

By PHIL SIMBORG

The Pros weren't the only ones hitting the ball around down in Miami, as 390 amateurs came from all over the country to compete in their various divisions. For the sake of our current major readership, I'll concentrate on those divisions where we had Midwesterners competing.

In the Men's Open, Jim Scheyer surprisingly got knocked out rather early, but UNSEEDED Dennie McDowell took out the number 1 seed, Mike Fatolitis, in the Quarterfinals in a great match 14-21, 21-14, 11-6. In the Semi's, McDowell came up against a local 16-year-old boy by the name of Sergio Gonzalas (sound Jewish?), and in spite of help from the Illinois referee, lost the tie-breaker 11-3. In the 1st Semifinal, Tim McAuliffe went down in two straight to Matt Mathews from Gainesville, Florida. So the finals was Mathews vs. Gonzales, a rematch of a local tournament the previous week which Mathews won easily, and he did it again to take the trophy.

Because of the fact that there were no women's pro matches (except for an exhibition where Heather McKay trounced Karin Walton), the Women's Open did not have the caliber of draw as the Men's, but there were many fine matches as Gail Woods from Metairie, Louisiana, beat Brenda Grossnickle in the finals.



Beth Eaton (from Muskegon, Michigan) is a familiar face to many racquetball players. She and her younger brother Rick Myers travel around the country in their camper catching the action at various Pro Stops.

THE PRIDE OF THE MIDWEST, this tournament, was Eric Scheyer, who won the Boys 15 and under, beating the Florida State Champion in the finals 15 and 16.

In the Men's Seniors, Jerry Iafollo of Chicago got knocked out early, as did top Illinois Senior's player Ron Johnson.

Ron got whipped by John Buckley from Michigan in two straight, but Chicagoan, yours truly, Phil Simborg, avenged his loss by beating Buckley SOUNDLY (18-21, 21-19, 11-10). I also ran into ex-Illinoisian Fred Blaess, now the Florida State Seniors Champion, and took him easily too (18-21, 21-20, 11-9). Then I met Jeff Leon in the Semifinals, and Jeff, not impressed with my previous victories, (or reputation), beat me and went on to win the tournament easily, taking Luke St. Onge in the finals.

It was also good to see other friends there from the Midwest, including Dave Prym from Lemont, Illinois; Larry McDowell who won two matches in the Men's B division; Beth Eaton and Rick Myers from Muskegon (old friends from the Kendler Classic), and Tom Grobmisi from Illinois who lost in the first round of the Men's D to a nine-year-old by scores of 21-2, 21-4, but claimed a bad call by the ref on the first point cost him the match (the ref called "play ball").



Eric Scheyer

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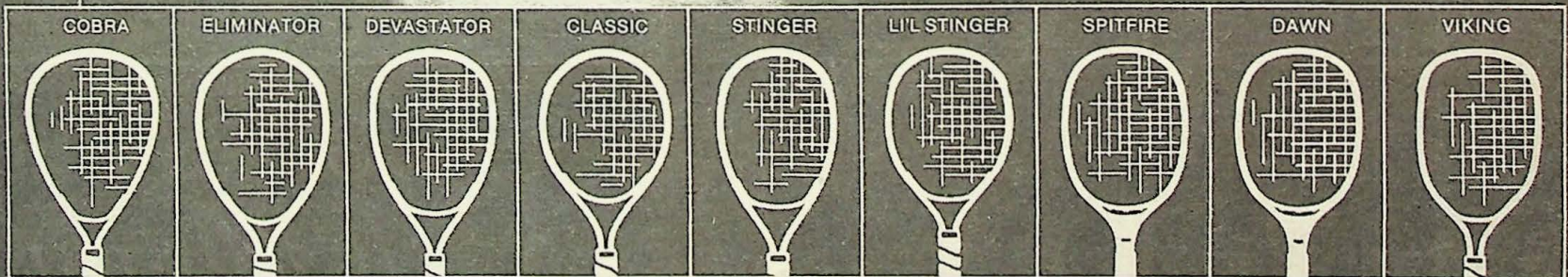
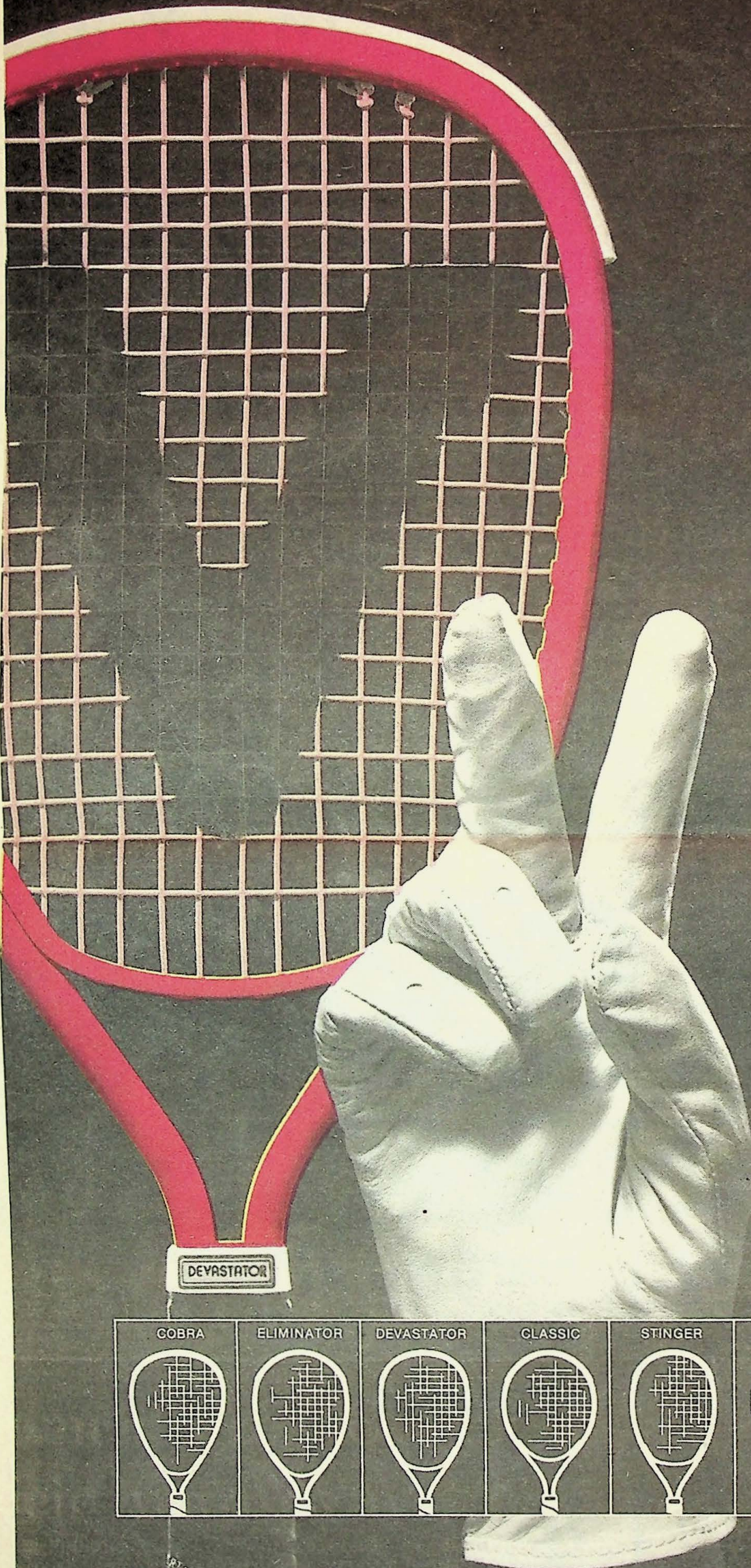
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