

National Racquetball®

Vol. 13 • No. 8
August, 1984
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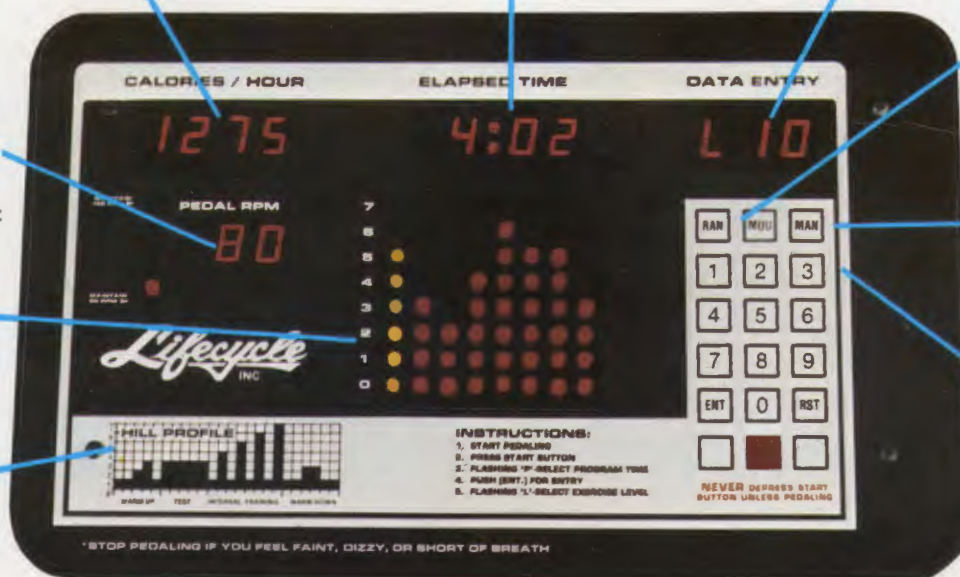
LED Matrix Display: provides graphic display of present and upcoming effort levels.

Hill Profile: visually represents terrain encountered in standard programs.

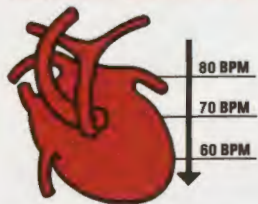
RAN: provides an immeasurable number of pre-programmed, random-accessed combinations to test the advanced user.

Manual: circumvents hill profile with a pre-selected fixed load for the purpose of testing at a constant level.

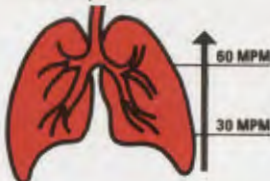
Maximum Oxygen Uptake: approximate measure of milliliters of oxygen consumed per minute, a documentable gauge of improvement.



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On the cover . . .

Steve Keeley, racquetball's resident world traveler, has added Central and South America to his long list of corners of the globe to which he has brought racquetball. Here in the Land of the Incas, Keeley and co-host Carole George continue their clinic tour and series (page 6)

—Photo by Carole George.

Next issue . . .

A feature on broadcast journalist Cheryl Hansen highlights the issue along with full coverage of the AARA National Juniors Championships, and an in-depth study of the latest trends in the club business. This plus our regular features, instructional and many departments.

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From The Publisher . . .

Welcome *Racquetball Illustrated!*

This issue is a special issue for it marks another step in the development of our magazine. Those of you who have been readers during the three years we've been publishing *National Racquetball* know we are dedicated to the growth of both the sport of racquetball and our magazine.

Now, we're proud to welcome the

subscribers of *Racquetball Illustrated* to our family, and we hope they'll be as satisfied with our magazine as you have.

On June 12, *National Racquetball* bought *Racquetball Illustrated* (see page 34) including its paid subscriptions. We will be fulfilling the unexpired portion of *Illustrated's* subscriptions on



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an issue-by-issue basis. And, of course, those of you who are subscribers to both magazines will have your subscription to *National Racquetball* extended by the number of issues of *Racquetball Illustrated* that you are owed.

Thanks to your continued interest and support, in addition to this acquisition, our family of readers continues to grow. And we believe that our growth is a result of our ability to effectively serve your racquetball needs.

We're proud to be able to report that with the addition of *Racquetball Illustrated* subscribers, our circulation will exceed 50,000 beginning with this issue—the first time any racquetball magazine can make this claim and have it verified.

Certainly, we're not satisfied with only 50,000. We anticipate more, aggressive circulation development steps to come. It is very much our desire to make *National Racquetball* synonymous with racquetball. If you want to know what's happening in every facet of the sport, you will read us.

That's not to say our product can't be improved. It can. The best way for us to know that the editorial and advertising combination is serving you well, is for you to tell us.

So drop me a note and let me know what you think we're doing right (and wrong) as far as you're concerned. Everybody in our office plays racquetball, nobody in our office plays it very well. But we all have fun, and we strive to have that enjoyment of the sport be read in our magazine, either on the lines or between them.

Thank you to those of you who have continued to support our efforts. And a hearty "welcome aboard" to the readers of *Racquetball Illustrated*. May your stay be fun-filled and rewarding! ●

Hugh Morgan

Letters



Kudos To AARA

Dear Editor:

My compliments to everyone connected with the planning and production of this year's AARA National Singles Tournament. Luke St. Onge, the board of directors, Pat Gerrity and his volunteers, Jim Hiser for his slide presentation and Paul Henrickson all deserve accolades for bringing about an outstanding and enjoyable event.

Kathy Mueller
St. Cloud, MN

Is This Racquetball?

Dear Editor:

On the subject of cheering:

I was recently involved in a tournament here in Canada where I was playing "the local favorite" in the semi-finals in my division. Needless to say, the cheering was one-sided.

However, the manner in which my opponent's comrades were cheering was the real problem. Every time I skipped a shot or made an error of any kind, the loud cheering and pounding of the glass would start.

I appealed to the referee who said they could cheer any way they wished after the rally. I have since seen the same thing happen to other players in tournaments, with the same effect on their concentration.

This seems to happen mostly in novice and intermediate levels and not in open and professional matches where I've found the fans more quiet and considerate of the players. My feeling is that the game should be played by the players and if you are going to cheer, cheer the good rallies and shots, rather than trying to affect one player or the other.

Also, isn't there something in the rules that the refs can use (other than a baseball bat) to stop this behavior and keep the game on the court?

Paul Hammill
Mission, B.C., Canada

Rule 1.E.2 states, "The referee shall have jurisdiction over the spectators as well as players while the match is in progress." Next time carry a rule book and appeal to the tournament director.
— Ed.

And Well Deserved, We'll Add

Dear Editor:

Dan and I just returned from Atlanta and the DP Nationals. It was great seeing so many familiar faces and our racquetball friends.

DP put on a great tournament. The player's hospitality was wonderful and the free admission was most appreciated by all. I enjoyed watching both the men and the women's matches and was surprised at how different the women's point system is. Personally, we like the 11 point games better.

The excitement of watching racquetball tournaments has always been a thrill for us. But the biggest thrill at this tournament was passing the front desk, seeing your magazine there, looking down and realizing that our son Jerry, was on the cover!

It was a lovely Father's Day present for Dan and a very proud day for both of us. Our thanks to you and your fine magazine for your coverage of our favorite sport.

Anne and Dan Hilecher
Chesterfield, MO

Amateurs Mad

Dear Mr. Leve:

On behalf of the 920 entries in the 1984 United States National Racquetball Championships sanctioned by the AARA and sponsored by Lite Beer by Miller, Diversified Products, and Penn Athletic Products, I strongly disagree with your statement that the Ektelon and DP nationals "are the unquestioned two major tournaments of the year," as found in your editorial of the June, 1984 issue.

Although your editorial dealt with the state of professional racquetball, when a national publication expresses such comments editorially, it is insulting to the amateur player to be totally overlooked when major events are discussed.

I strongly urge in future editorials, that you show more sensitivity towards the amateur player, which makes up the vast majority of your magazine subscribers.

Paul Henrickson
Milbury, MA
President, AARA

The editorial dealt with the state of professional racquetball. Nobody denies that the AARA Nationals is one of the most important events of the year and certainly the most important amateur event of the year. — Ed.

Hurrah For Keeley/George

Dear Editor:

I read with interest *Racquetball South of the Border* by Carole George and Steve Keeley in the July issue. Having the pleasure to know both of these fine individuals made the article that much more enjoyable, but realizing that through the years these two haven't lost their sense of adventure really made me feel good.

Racquetball enthusiasts around the world can sleep better tonight knowing there are still people who love the sport for what it is and are willing to teach it to others, regardless of the monetary rewards (or lack of).

Carole, Steve, keep up the good work and come visit me here in Aspen.

John Foust
Aspen, CO

A late addition to our Second Annual Glove guide, published in May, is from AMF Head.



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From The Editor . . .

Macro Mad? Or Glad?



I told my friend I was going to San Diego and he thought I was crazy.

"Who goes to San Diego in June?" he snorted. "You go to San Diego in January or February, when it's 20 below here. You don't go after the tulips have bloomed."

But when I told him I was going at the request and compliments of Ektelon, he sang a different tune.

"Need a porter?" he grinned.

Ektelon rolled out the red carpet to the media in mid-June for the unveiling of its revolutionary new racquet line, the Macro series (see page 12). The line presently is made up of two racquets, unique in that they are significantly oversized, yet weigh only 245 grams.

The head of the racquets (*Contra* and *Maxum* by trade names) are ballooned teardrop shaped, making a standard sized racquet look like a ping pong paddle in comparison.

"Wow! Look at this!" exclaimed my friend as he fondled the *Contra* I was given in San Diego. "But don't you think this will look odd on the shelves with regular racquets?"

"Sure, it'll look odd," I said. "But Ektelon's aiming at the beginning and intermediate players. They believe that Macro racquets will make the game easier to play and will therefore stimulate the development of new players while revitalizing old ones."

We chatted a little longer as I explained that Ektelon believes that people will have more fun swinging *Macros* than regular racquets. So much so that they've already gone into production and will be ready to ship next month. If their testing and marketing research ring true (they've a pretty good track record, I'd say) then you, I and the rest of us may soon be playing with *Macros*.

"I'm not so sure," said my friend, reminding me that he's a pretty good hacker. "Specially in doubles. Looks to me like these racquets are going to make a small court even smaller."

My friend was alluding, of course, to the injury factor, something that Ektelon doesn't take lightly, and again, has the research to back up their position, which is that an extremely small percentage (less than one percent) of all injuries are racquet-related. They

point out that squash, with a longer racquet and smaller court, has fewer injuries, so what's the big deal?

"But aren't there rules against oversized racquets?" asked my friend.

Of course, there are rules restricting the size of the racquet and the Ektelon *Macro* series does exceed the restrictions. But that's a problem for governing bodies, tournament directors and other rule enforcement types. Ektelon accurately maintains that 95 percent of all racquetball players don't care what governing bodies or tournament directors say. They just want to have fun.

"Well, how do you feel about it?" asked my friend, knowing that I'm a strict traditionalist.

"I've played with the *Macros*, but not enough to give a definitive statement," I said. "They are certainly playable, as lightweight as advertised, and after a few rallies, you hardly notice the larger size. You actually notice more the smallness of your standard racquet when you go back to it."

That seemed to satisfy my friend who promised to give the racquet a good workout (along with me) next Tuesday.

I actually believe that the ultimate judge and jury will be the average racquetball player. If the marketplace is turned on by *Macros*, then *Macros* are here to stay. If not, they'll go the way of dimpled balls.

As for rules, regulations and tournaments, I'm sure a short-term compromise can readily be reached. A series of designated tournaments which allow *Macros* would be a good test to be followed by evaluation and eventual ruling by the AARA next Spring.

It's a bold, aggressive strategy. But like I said, Ektelon's got a track record that's tough to beat.

Chuck Lane

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Racquetball South Of The Border:

Part II

by Steve Keeley

Raquetbol De Panama

I'm beginning to feel like the Johnny Appleseed of racquetball, dropping little green and blue balls in courts all over Latin America, thus seeding the game. Carole George and I are into the second month of our clinic tour of Central and South America.

Right now, though, racquetball is in the farthest corner of my mind. It's nighttime, and the heavy, humid air is filled with the nocturnal sounds of the Panamanian jungle. The insects chirp loudly and the monkeys howl like tortured banshees.

I'm hitchhiking northwest on the Pan-American highway to Costa Rica. Actually, Pan-Am highway is a misnomer for the thin strip of concrete beneath my feet. Four horses just galloped by me in the passing lane and few cars have gone by in the past half hour.

I left Panama City 11 hours ago in a milk truck. An army friend I met at one of the Panama clinics had arranged the

Diary Of A Clinic Series



A group shot from Ft. Howard, Panama. Racquetballers, world-wide.

by Carole George

Raquetbol De Honduras

What a sight the three of us were when we finally arrived at the luxurious Hotel Prado in Tegucigalpa, Honduras after traveling for 10 days across three countries and 3300 miles. All of us were several days past our last change of clean clothes. Shock registered on U.S. Major Juan Gonzalez's clean-shaven face when he first picked us up at the bus station, and saw Keeley's bristles.

The contrast was incredible between the dark, noisy streets patrolled by soldiers and the elegantly lit lobby of the hotel. We paid more to tip the bellboy who insisted on carrying our dusty backpacks and racquetball bags upstairs to our air-conditioned rooms than we'd been paying per person for the accommodations we'd stayed in en route.

Dear Readers:

Both Keeley and I got robbed today, Friday the 13th. Separately. He lost about \$10 and the keys to his friend's apartment where we're staying. I had two guys pull a knife on me and get \$6 and my mother's wedding ring.

But they never opened my big bag with camera equipment and this article and

photos. And they didn't frisk me for my money belt. They even returned my passport, Spanish dictionary and pen. But they did cut me up a little, trying to scare me.

We're on our way to Bolivia and will follow with Ecuador and Colombia. See ya!

Carole & Keeley

ride for me. The milk truck dropped me off in a city named David, a few kilometers from the Costa Rican border, and I started hitching from there, walking along the pavement out of town and then into the jungle with my thumb stuck into the night.

All I own at the moment is in a knapsack on my back: sleeping bag, jungle hammock, a couple changes of clothes, paperbacks, maps, a compass, four tins of sardines, and racquetball gear.

Our March racquetball clinics during the last week in Panama City were a success—lots of enthusiastic attendance at three separate sites. The Panamanian leg of our journey was fun for me in a number of other ways: I got to tour the Panama Canal Locks, attend a cockfight, wander around a U.S. battleship, go to a zoo where the citizens were not the normal bears and deer, but rather crocodiles, colorful parrots, and anteaters; tour a meat processing plant; and visit a leper colony. I

had a companion for the leper visit, but as we drove up she spotted a white-draped figure behind a bush.

"I'm not going to stay if they have to hide them under sheets!" she exclaimed, and drove off while I met the people.

Her squeamishness was unfortunate because my limited Spanish didn't allow me to delve into the lives of these outgoing and friendly lepers, plus upon closer scrutiny I found that the white-draped figure was only a religious statue.

While in Panama, I also walked a 10-mile jungle stretch of the century-old railroad track which parallels the Panama Canal. Barry Stevens, an army veterinarian and the top racquetball player in Panama, who also loaned me his floor to sleep on during out two weeks in Panama, accompanied me on the railroad walk.

Barry, an adventurer in his own right, his girlfriend, and I also hiked in a mountainous area called *El Valley*. We slept the night in a *small hotel in a dusty pueblo*: I got the floor and they got the bed.

I woke up the next morning with a four-inch scorpion under my sleeping bag. We put the creature into a jar and later presented him to the preventive medicine unit at Ft. Clayton army base in Panama City. They identified it as venomous but added that the fellow's sting caused only swelling and hurt, unlike its more deadly cousin in Mexico.

While at preventive medicine I also attended a lecture by the singular Dr. Chaniotis, a Greek entomologist, on the venomous snakes, biting bugs and deadly plants of Central America. He persuaded me to obtain a snake antivenom kit before we left for the city, which I did, gratis, from the Santo Tomas Hospital.



Keeley instructing on his still picture-book backhand at Ft. Davis, Panama.

Fortunately, the Hondurian racquetball association was paying for our lodging, otherwise we would have stayed near the bus station. Sleep came easily that night.

The next morning we met with our host, Maj. Gonzalez, downstairs in the hotel restaurant and discussed the clinic details: daily format, photocopying handouts, borrowing a typewriter to type up last month's segment, reserving a video tape recorder to show films, and exchanging dollars for *lempiras*.

First on the agenda was a picnic at a hilltop country club that afternoon where Rudy Castanda, one of our clinic students, was celebrating his 35th birthday and introduction into the seniors division.

We met many of the other players between *cervezas* and boiled *yucca*. One of them, Chema Agurcia, whose family owns the Hotel Prado, chauffeured Lonnie and me to the picnic and back in his late-model Volvo. I couldn't help flashing back to the crowded, bumpy bus rides we took for endless hours through Guatemala and Honduras.

Rather than depending on chauffeur service in the city, we chose to ride the crowded local buses from the hotel to the racquetball courts. For 20 *lempiras* (about 8¢-10¢, depending if you exchange your money legally or not), we could hop on at the *Parque Central* (Central Park), a few blocks from the Hotel Prado.

Each bus in Honduras is privately owned so there's no schedules; there's also

no scarcity of boys yelling "*Lomas, Lomas, Lomas*" or "*San Miguel, San Miguel*" to lure you onto their buses.

Keeley and I felt that our first clinic ran smoothly, even though they always started and ended at least a half hour later than the scheduled 6-9 p.m. But that, as we found, is normal Latino punctuality.

The students numbered approximately 25, ranging in age from 10-year-old Johnny Gonzalez, Jr. to folks in their late thirties. A few, like the Gonzalez's, were Americans in the military or the U.S. Embassy, but the majority were Hondurians.

The two courts in Tegucigalpa are solid concrete, floors included. It would have been pointless (pun intended) to call

Racquetball in Panama is played mostly at armed forces installations. Carole and I gave clinics at the army's Ft. Clayton (one court), at the Air Force's Ft. Howard (four courts) and at the Army's Ft. Davis (one court).

At each of the clinics, Carole and I marched the soldiers through the basics on the first day, though most of our students were already equipped with fair forehand and backhand grips and strokes.

I think the players more enjoyed the later lectures on strategy, shot selection and psychology. They gobbled up such tidbits as 1) *Always change a losing game*; 2) *Shoot forehand kills into the forehand corner and backhand kills into the backhand corner*; 3) If you're on the losing end of, say, a 19-13 score and if you have a tendency to let up when you're ahead, *mentally reverse the score*.

As Bob Appin, our gracious army coordinator and Spanish translator, had in-

formed us, the caliber of player in Panama, at least among the army boys, is zealous, albeit unstrategic. Except for a couple of standouts such as Stevens and Don Gonzales, most players ripped the ball plenty hard on their serves and strokes, but it was a collective case of utilizing unharnessed brute force to compensate for a lack of mental game.

The classic symptoms were 100 mph serves that came high off the back wall, the sin of service, and 100 mph kill shots that went cross court and too high, the sins of kill shots.

A quick talk on service and shot selection helped this. Similarly, the soldiers were footquick, scampering in a flash after any shot in the court, but their motion was often excessive and directionless. I compared them to the excited cowboy who got on his horse and rode outa town in all directions at once.

A 10 minute lecture on shot anticipation cured this squirrel-in-the-treadwheel syndrome; I told them to assume a staggered stance in center court as their opponent set up on a shot, don't forget to judge the opponents upcoming shot by his past ones, and watch his body as he sets up, looking for such telltale body language as a crouched stance, tightening of the facial muscles and pointing of the lead foot at the near front corner on kill shots.

Carole and I also gave a three day clinic at the air-conditioned two-court Panama Racquet Club. This is the only private club in Panama, save one court at the Hilton Hotel in Panama City. Carole handled most of the teaching at this club because many of the players were beginner females. I've found that lady players relate better to a lady pro and that beginners are less hesitant to demonstrate their untutored strokes to an amateur player/pro instead of to a professional.



The outdoor court at Gamboa, Panama.

court hinders because every rally has at least one freak bounce off the patched cracks in the floors. A wooden ceiling reaches half way back; the rest is chicken wire.

Wire also separated the court from the upstairs, outdoors spectator platform to keep high shots from escaping. Although it was supposed to be dry season, there was rain one night and it got in through the chicken wire, making the court too cold for lectures and too slippery for play. Nonetheless, we put on sweats and mopped the floor until the rain stopped.

The only other court in the country is privately owned by Tito Atala, the top Hondurian player. He has been playing longer than any of the others who began when the club *Raquetbol de Honduras*, was built a year ago.

Already they have 80 members and there's plans for a new club in San Pedro Sua.

Even though racquetball is very new to Honduras, the caliber of play is surprisingly strong. Keeley's still trying to figure out why the Latinos on a whole are so much more coordinated than most gringos. I was told it might have something to do with *pelotas*, *fron tenis*, and *jai lai* — sports which have a long history in Latin America and a lot of similarities to racquetball. Even the ancient Mayans had handball courts, some of which are still standing today in the ruins at Copan, Honduras, which unfortunately we had to bypass to keep on schedule.

Originally we had promised Maj. Gonzalez we'd be in Tegucigalpa, or



Keeley, Lonnie and Carole at Mira Flores Locks on the Panama Canal.

"T-Town" as Keeley called it, and ready to teach on March 1. I think he knew us better than we knew ourselves and scheduled the clinic for March 5-10. That worked out fine because it gave us a few days rest and preparation after we arrived late at night on the 2nd.

Border crossings and sporadic bus schedules had slowed us down more than any of us could have predicted. We eventually developed a technique of asking several people the same question and letting the majority rule, if there was a majority.

For example, a simple question such as "*When does the train leave for Tapachula?*" when asked of five people brought five different answers:

Ben Moyer, president of the racquetball association in Panama, housed Carole and Lonnie during our stay, and kindly lent us his video machine to allow students to look at their own strokes.

Big hits at all of our clinics in Latin America have been the three racquetball movies we brought. The first is the Voit film *Rollout* which excites the players about the sport by synching slow motion doubles play to inspirational music. The stars of this 20 minute film are the game's top players of yesteryear: Charlie Brumfield, Steve Serot, Steve Strandemo and Keeley.

The second "movie" is actually Marty Hogan's video tape *Power Racquetball* in which the game's premiere player tells how he does what no other player in the history of the game has been able to do: hit his strokes and serves at 140+ mph.

The third video is perhaps the most beneficial from the standpoint of strategic instruction. It shows the men's and women's finals matches at the Boise, ID pro stop, 1981. Here, Mike Yellen outlasted Dave Peck while Shannon Wright eeked by Lynn Adams in the tie-breaker. Steve Strandemo and Chuck Leve performed admirably as commentators.

In total, we instructed about 60 players in Panama. Racquetball in this country, as in the rest which we've visited in Latin America, is on the upswing. But the sport is at a stage which the United States experienced in the late 1960's and early 1970's: the players who play in street tennis shoes and undershirts, clamor for more courts, everybody patches his own racquet strings, racquets themselves are hard to come by and often have to be mail ordered, club owners are unsure whether to build a

second club, and the general public raises a questioning eyebrow whenever racquetball appears in the newspaper.

Anyone interested in playing racquetball during a future trip to Panama can write to our contacts: Bob Appin (for the Armed Forces), Intramurals, Box 739, Balboa, Panama; and Ben Moyer (for the civilians), cl-6, 14A Del Golf, Panama City.

* * *

Still nighttime on the concrete strip in the Panama jungle. After half an hour of walking and hitching on the Pan-Am highway, I give myself 15 minutes to flag a ride, then I'm going to string my hammock twixt two trees and sleep. But moments later a bus, of all things, pulls over on the dark road and picks me up. I ride to the Costa Rican border where the *policia* tell me I can't pass until 8:00 the next morning, so I walk toward some lights.

It's about midnight and I'm not picky about a hotel. For just two U.S. dollars I get a 13' X 13' room in a small pueblo house. There are four beds in my room, though I'm all alone - save a couple species of large spiders, a small squadron of mosquitoes and many marching cockroaches, the leader of which is a four-inch fellow, by my own measurement.

The room's shower is interesting. There are two head-high lead pipes sprouting from the wall, both of which burp little trickles of cold water. You have to twist the angle of the two pipes so that the two trickles collide in mid-air and combine to form a single, stingy stream of cold water. The travel grime of the hot trip up from Panama slowly washes from my body.

"7:00 tonight, but you have to switch trains at 3 a.m. in Veracruz."

"You just missed the last one until manana."

"It's already sold out."

"The train's late. There's been an accident."

And my favorite, "There aren't any trains to Tapachula, but you might be able to get a bus."

And all of these responses came from people who worked at the train station.

So we considered ourselves lucky to even have made it to Tegucigalpa at all. We took a northern detour to avoid dodging bullets in El Salvador, although even in Honduras we couldn't help but feel the presence of the military. At least 10 or 15 times between the border and the capital city of Tegucigalpa the

bus was halted by soldiers who ordered everyone off while they searched the vehicle and asked for passports before we could reboard.

My suspicions that some of these rifle-carrying soldiers couldn't be more than 16-years-old, were later confirmed by one of the racquetball players. He said *National Geographic* had run an article which criticized the Honduran army for forcibly recruiting young boys out of secluded villages. But who was I to criticize the Honduran army, especially when they're the ones holding the rifles and I'm the one holding the bus ticket?

At least it was reassuring to know they weren't looking for *norteamericanas*, only for guerrillas trying to smuggle arms into El Salvador. So they let us through without even confiscating our deadly racquetball racquets.

In the sunshine of the next morning I'm on my way to San Jose. Our clinic there runs April 2-6, starting two days from now. Carole and Lonnie left Panama City three days before me, also hitching and busing. We don't have an exact place or time to rendezvous, but how many court clubs can there be in San Jose? Besides, there is no such thing as having a game plan when traveling in Latin America. ●

Editor's Note: Steve Keeley and Carole George began a racquetball clinic tour of Central and South America in late February, 1984. This is the second in a series of articles by them describing their adventures south of the border.



Keeley shakes hands with one of the local juniors at the Gamboa Court, while Amos Milwood, Jr., a teacher at Gamboa's Elementary School looks on.

I must admit, though, I felt a lot more secure inside the one-inch thick bullet-proof windows of the Ford Bronco we rode in with a racquetball player named Alfonso Espitia. He was nice enough to drive us around Tegucigalpa to obtain visas to several South American *consulados* and take us to lunch at the U.S. Embassy.

I had heard a rumor that there are racquetball courts in El Salvador, but I have never gotten around to investigating for a potential racquetball clinic. Not that Keeley isn't crazy enough to do it. But I figured we'd be seeing enough military at our next clinic with the U.S. Army in Panama.

Take it away, Keeley! ●

Larry Lee: Racquetball Impresario



Larry Lee

by Mort Leve

Larry Lee started in racquetball in the early 1970 boom years, with outdoor four-wall play at McClintock High School in Phoenix's suburban Tempe. When Dr. Bud Muehleisen's 10-court club opened there he was one of a pioneer Valley group that became national class tournament performers. The group included Steve Chase, Bobby Bolin, Ken Garrigus, Keith Fleming, Jack Nolan, Bill Hildebrand, Mike Grigg, and Sally Murphy.

At that time there were few other courts for racquetball available in metro Phoenix. In the initial area tournaments Larry noted the weaknesses in refereeing culminating with bad calls, bad blood, and bad antics.

"This no doubt led the way for the so-called animalism actions by tournament players of that era," he says. "I started refereeing and soon was given all the matter matches by request."

Larry gave full assistance to the U.S. Racquetball Association at the 1979 pro-am nationals held at the Tempe's Arizona Athletic Club, and was then invited to be an official referee on the pro tour the following season.

"It was more or less a labor of love", Larry relates, "as there was not a lot of money available. It was a wonderful experience though there were some toughies to handle— Hilecher, Bledsoe, and Brumfield, for starters. I had a particular problem with Charlie (Brumfield). The Brum told one and all, 'I don't want some C player refing my match', and I was supposedly in that category."

Brumfield was the master of the psych, starting in the locker room and carrying over onto the court. He would intimidate one and all.

"On a questionable call he would bolt out of the court and look up at me in the referee's perch with a look of incredibility. When I would politely ask, 'Why did you leave the court?' he would shout, 'I can't believe it . . . you ask me that when you have made such a ridiculous call!?' It was then my task to get the game moving again. Overall, I felt that I was consistent with my calls, knew the rules and was firm without being too authoritative."

Larry further feels that the playing talents of a referee are minor in relationship to the ability to properly handle top plateau ball players.

"I got to know their capabilities," he said. "It goes without saying that other sports have competent umpires and referees who certainly are not peer performers to the professionals."

From this Larry Lee has moved into tournament promotions, working with media people to set up charity events by gaining local sponsorships. "Something for everyone" is the general theme, including brackets of play for mixed doubles, senior play, juniors, and from class A down in both singles and doubles. Lee, long an advocate of doubles, actively promotes four to a court.

"By properly introducing more and more doubles play I feel we are stimulating this exciting, teamwork phase of the game that has been long neglected. Too many players feel that doubles is dangerous and should be avoided. But, the better players can handle the close confines without undue problems and as a spectator attraction it is hard to top."

Larry also handles the Scottsdale Clubhouse league play and has successfully broken down segments of schedule into seasonal dating.

"We have maintained more than an 80% carryover from one league season to the next," he says. "Last Summer we had more than 180 players involved."

Larry personally contacts players, accumulating a wealth of information on their respective skills through the many tournaments he promotes, and the individual and group lessons he handles. Along the way he has developed an intense hatred of sandbagging.

"For a full week prior to the opening of league play I have a qualifying series of matches and closely watch the play," he said. "If a player is not registered in the proper class we make changes. The worst thing that can happen in league play is imbalance."

Non-members of the Clubhouse are allowed to play in Larry's leagues and with the reputation he has built up there is always an abundance of entrants waiting. It leads to more leagues, better overall play, and means a benefit to club management in new members.

"My aim in the sports enterprises is to put people together to have a good time. My sales background and experience with organizing play stands me well in these endeavors," says Lee.

Right now Larry has plans for an Arizona Racquetball Grand Prix, in which entrants would have to participate in three out of five tournaments to qualify. Proposed sites would include Phoenix, Tucson, Sierra Vista, Flagstaff, and Prescott; Automobile dealerships have been approached to donate a car and there are possibilities of other product prizes along with cash awards.

Lee taking his refereeing job seriously.



In addition to racquetball, Larry Lee Sports Enterprises (the official company name) is branching out into other sports. This includes planning a basketball slam dunk contest, organizing marathons, and super sports variety competition.



Teaching the kids, which he does without compensation, has always been one of the ways in which Lee gives back to the sport.

Further, Larry gives freely of his time to conduct outdoor court clinics at the Valley schools, always working toward junior development.

The handsome, young six-footer has dabbled in TV and national magazine commercials, having been featured on United Dairy milk promotions, and General Motors Buick commercials.

"We're looking forward to the day when racquetball will finally get important national and cable TV exposure," he says.

"This is obviously what is needed to bring big league status to the game and swell the prize money to the point where it will gain proper notice from the press.

"And, the next time a player beefs that the referee in question is a C player, counter with, 'I may not be in your class playing but I have championship level eyes.' " ●

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Ektelon's 'Macro' Racquets: Oversized!

Ektelon, racquetball's leading racquet manufacturer, has introduced racquetball's first oversized racquetball racquets to provide players with a hitting surface 40-50% greater than that of conventional racquets.

Ektelon's new, two model "Macro Series" was unveiled by Ektelon Vice President and General Manager Bob McTear at the company's annual sales meeting June 11-13 in San Diego.

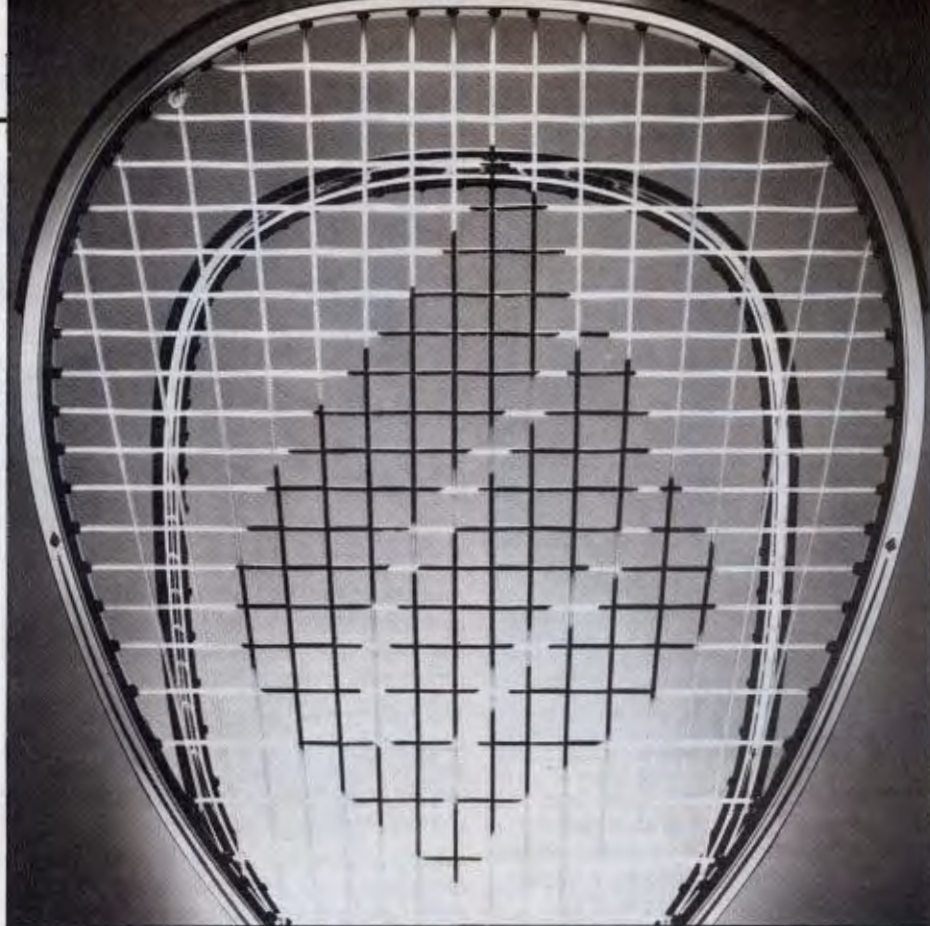
"It's our feeling that these racquets will contribute to the overall growth of racquetball," said McTear. The sport is fun when you can return the ball to the front wall. This is true at all levels of play. These two racquets provide an 80% larger sweet spot, which simply means greater enjoyment for the player. The contribution that the larger racquets have made to tennis are well documented. That same thinking has now been applied to racquetball."

The new Macro Series racquets are 20.5" by 10.5" in length and width compared to conventional racquets which are approximately 18.5" x 9", increasing the hitting surface by about 32.5 square inches. The Macro Series racquets, however, weigh only 245 grams, the same weight as Ektelon's CBK, the racquet used by Mike Yellen and Lynn Adams.

Racquet weight was one of Ektelon's biggest developmental challenges according to Ektelon director of Research and Development Ray Mortvedt.

"Our goal was to make a Macro racquet that met Ektelon's durability, stiffness and playability requirements, and yet maintain a very light weight," said Mortvedt. "It was a difficult task that took over a year. We had to push Alcoa's aluminum extrusion technology to the limit. Ektelon pays a premium price for their participation. The playability of the racquets prove it was worth the effort."

Ektelon chose to introduce the Macro in aluminum in two price points for one primary reason, according to McTear. *"We made the racquets available in popular price points because we*



wanted it to be affordable to a large cross section of players. So we have two models: the Maxum™ at \$75 retail, and the Contra™ at \$45 retail. Aluminum was the only material that provided playability and cost effectiveness."

Both racquets feature teardrop head shape. The Maxum features a single-celled channel extrusion, similar to that in Ektelon's Magnum 2 racquet, which will make it slightly stiffer than the Contra. The Contra features an extrusion, similar to that in the Ektelon Interceptor, and a graphite reinforced throat piece which stabilizes the frame. Both racquets weigh 245 grams and are evenly balanced.

"The Macros are the natural evolution of racquetball racquets," said McTear, "Ektelon's goals in product development are to provide products that offer the player superior playing characteristics and improve the player's overall performance. If that means we have to break new ground, so be it."

One of the grounds sure to be broken will be rules, since the Macro racquets exceed current AARA rules specifications. Two days after the introduction of the racquets, a high-level meeting took place in San Diego between McTear and AARA executive director Luke St. Onge.

"We hope to convince the AARA that this racquet is in the best interests of broadening the base of racquetball," said McTear. "Should the AARA or any

organization attempt to limit its distribution, we would feel they would not be acting in the best interest of racquetball."

"Remember that AARA rules govern amateur tournaments only, and by far the majority of racquetball participation is outside tournament level. Racquetball's popularity is in its appeal as a recreational sport and sport of physical fitness."

St. Onge had no immediate comment on the racquets.

"We'll be calling a Board meeting once it's presented officially," he said. "We'd need to get at least five Board members together first."

It is not anticipated that top players will be rushing to get their hands on oversized racquets. As in tennis, the top players don't need the extra sweet spot or reach, rather, the advanced technology of the more exotic racquets.

Can the racquetball world expect the market to be flooded with oversized racquets? Not so, unless it's Ektelon doing the flooding.

"By owning the patent, at least we can control who can make the racquet," said Mortvedt. "If we decide we can make enough oversized racquets for the number of people who want them, we will probably try to get all that business."

It appears that Macro racquets are here to stay. ●

What You Told Us About Your Racquet

Large numbers of players responded to our annual reader's survey concerning racquets (May, 1984). As in previous years' racquet surveys, people took a lot of time to tell us what they thought about their racquet. Scribbled notes were included on almost all the returned surveys, mostly praising the racquet they were using, a few with suggestions, and some with pleas.

"It's hard to buy a racquet," a reader from Danbury, CT wrote to us. "You can't tell what it's like and how it feels until you play with it. By then it's too late."

Many of our readers said that they had used many different racquets before determining which was suited for their needs. For the player who's been with racquetball since its inception, this has meant a great deal of watching different brands come and go.

"I've owned various models of Leach, Ektelon, AMF Voit, Olympian, and EST racquets. I dumped them all and ended up with the now defunct Starmaster. Mine is all Black; the model is called Carbon L."

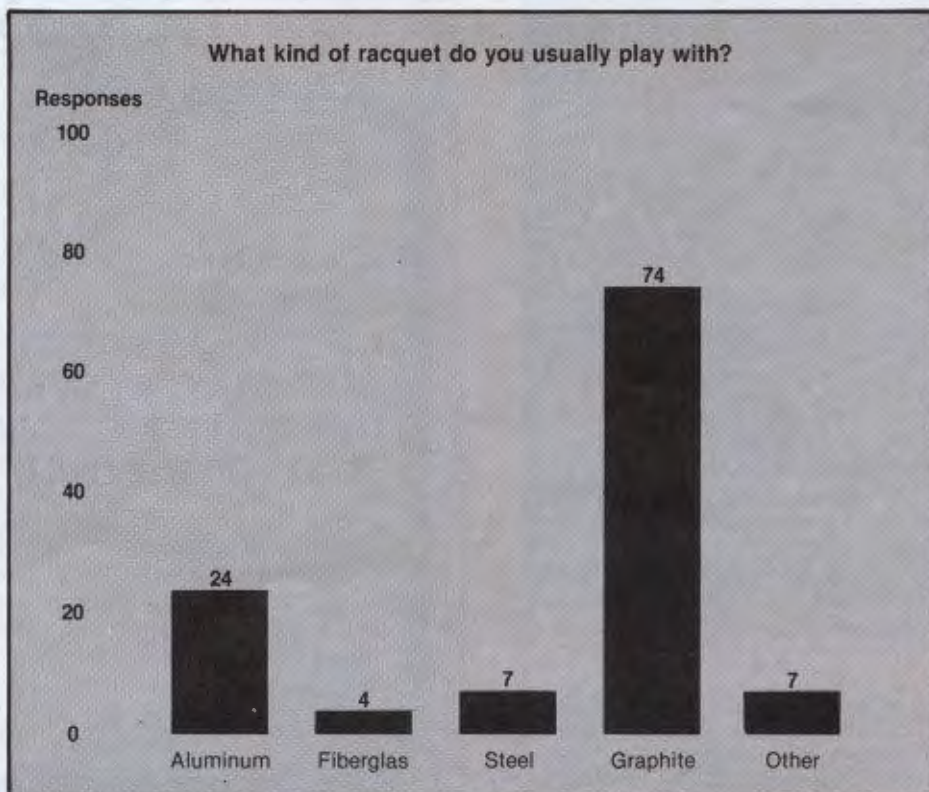
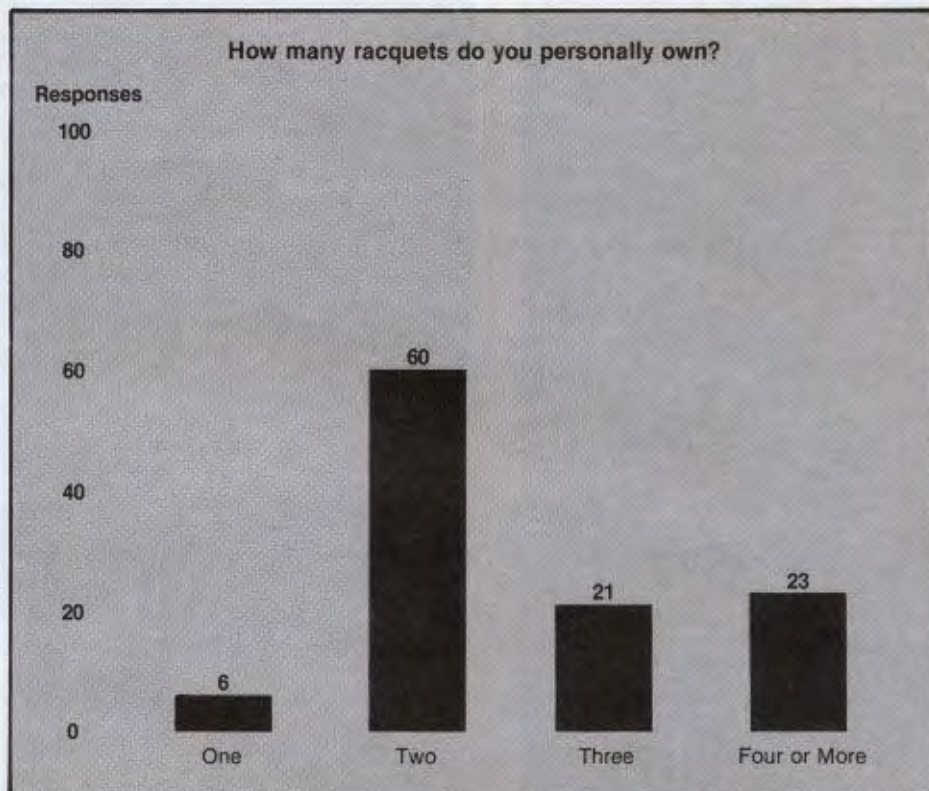
"It's the best racquet I've ever had and you can bet I'll restring it again and again and again . . ."

This reader was a good representative of those players answering our survey — the real hard-core racquetball players, who visit the courts three or more times a week. Eighty-seven percent of our respondents trek over to the club that often! Of the others, 19% go two times a week while less than 2% that responded go once a week. We had one reader who apologized for only being able to sneak in a game once a month or so.

Where are the women who play racquetball? Male response was 82% compared to 18% of the female racquetballers answering our questionnaire.

Most of our answers came from people in the 25-34 age bracket (46%), followed by 25% in the 35-44 age group and then minimal numbers in any other age group.

We felt we had the cream of the crop taking the time to answer our survey



and tell us just how they felt about their racquets. And tell us, they did.

Many people mentioned the specific brand that they used and were not shy when complimenting or complaining about how the racquet handled—or what they'd like to see changed.

Ektelon models were again popular, with the CBK receiving the most ink from players who cared to voice an opinion.

"CBK had improved my game," wrote James Eads, Kansas City, MO.

Thomas Faulk, Abbeville, LA, said, *"I felt that CBK was worthless until I practiced with it for 30 days. Then I improved my game 200 %!"*

"I'm totally satisfied with my CBK Lite after trying many others," Dian Brody, Liverpool, NY wrote.

"There are racquetball racquets and there is the CBK. Nothing comes close to the CBK. And nothing ever will unless Ektelon has something in store for the future," Michael Crook, St. Joseph, MO.

Well Michael, Ektelon has come up with something new (see page 12).

But Ektelon wasn't the only manufacturer to receive kudos.

"The Voit Impact One is the best I've ever played with. I try others off and on, but always come back to it," wrote Larry Lambert, Wichita Falls, TX.

"DP Leach 8000 is a super racquet!" raved reader R. Bowers, Houston, TX.

"Kennex has the best of everything," said Jim Gregersen, Racine, WI.

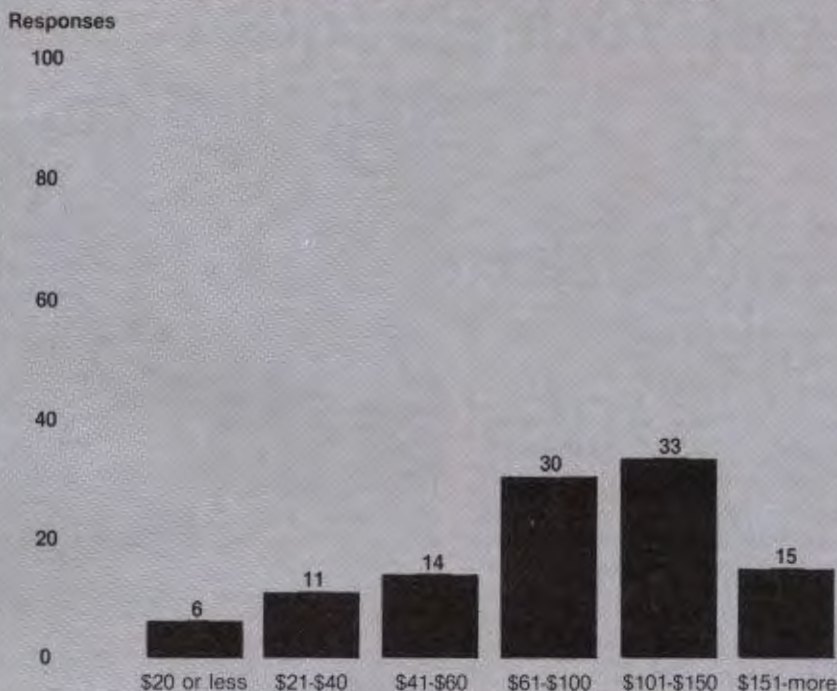
"The Step-Down Graphite (Pro-Kennex) is unique and very powerful," said Miker Aubusson, San Diego, CA.

Then there was the guy who didn't seem to care that type of a racquet he played with, claiming *"It's fun to beat someone who owns a \$200 racquet with a \$5.95 Pic-N-Sav special"* Clag Offut, Torrance, CA wrote.

We wish we could take the time to answer individual reader's questions about their racquets because there were some. For instance Rob Culp, Longwood, FL wrote, *"I am a power player! What kind of a racquet would you recommend for me?"*

To Rob—and others of you—who feel they need guidance in the selection of a racquet, we offer our *"Annual Racquet Guide"* (page 16). But also, take the

What was the cost of the last racquet you bought?



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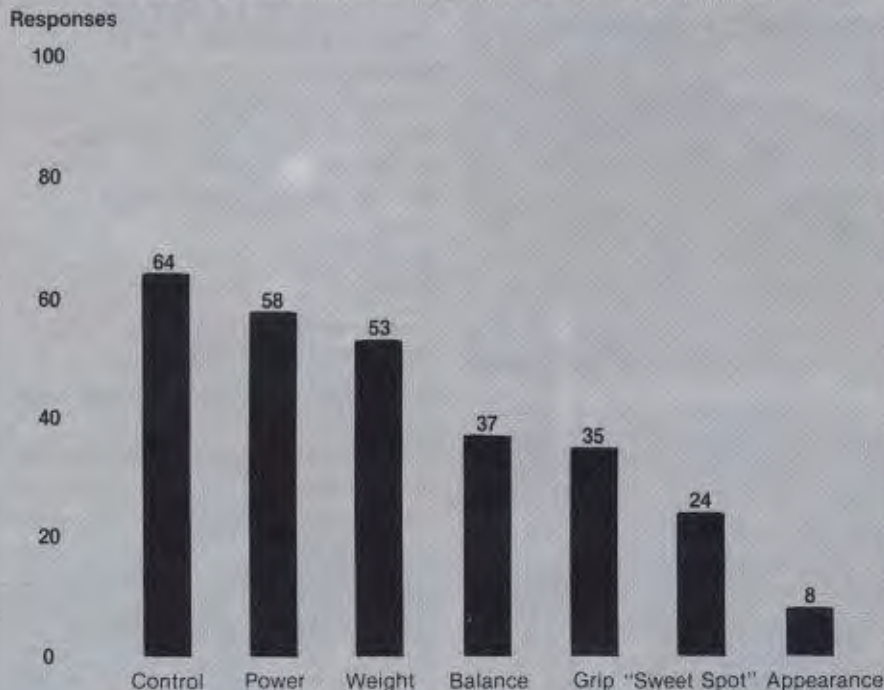
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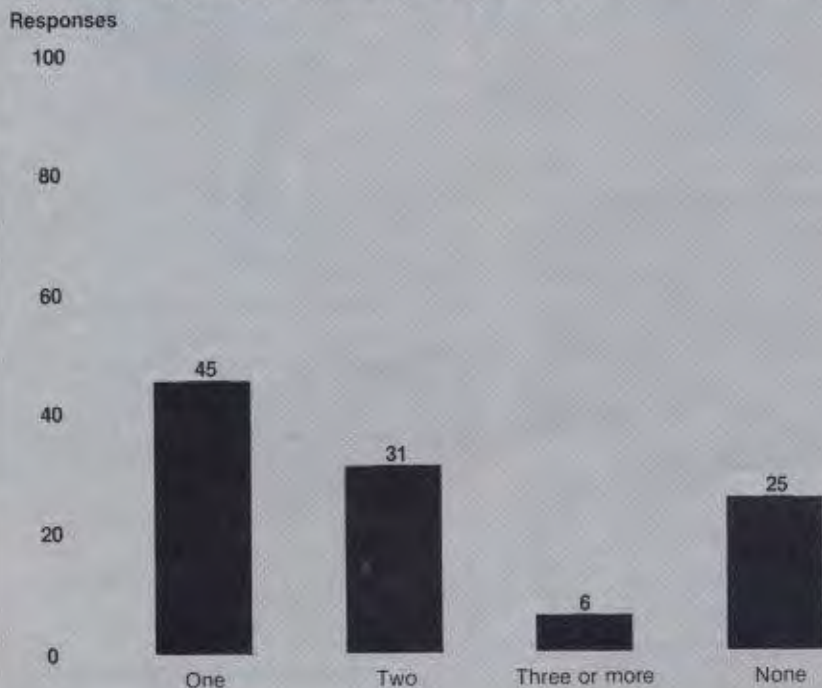
time to look over the graphs on these pages. In these, our readers rated what they like most and least about their racquets. Perhaps our graphs and racquet guide

will give you the information you'll need when it comes time to buy another racquet. And perhaps, next year, you'll be the one writing in to voice your opinion! ●

What do you like most about the racquet you're now using?



How many racquetball racquets did you buy in the last 12 months?



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National Racquetball's Annual Racquet Guide

Your One-Stop Comparison Shopping List

Graphite! Graphite! Graphite! That seems to be the war cry in the racquetball racquet business these days, but that's not all. There's still plenty of aluminum, fiberglass and various mixtures of materials that go into racquet frame construction.

You can find out who makes what for how much, just by reading these pages. Our thanks to the many manufacturers who unselfishly provided samples, photos descriptions and prices of their products.

For further information on any of the racquets included in this guide feel free to contact the appropriate manufacturer:

AMF Head, Inc., P.O. Box C-5227, Princeton, NJ 08540

AMF Volt, Inc., 5741 Rostata Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621

DP, 309 Williamson Ave., Opelika, AL 36802

Ektelon, 8929 Aero Dr., San Diego, CA 92123

Omega, 9200 Cody, P.O. Box 14926, Overland Park, KS 66214

Pro-Kennex, 7444 Trade St., San Diego, CA 92121

Wilson Sporting Goods, 2233 West St., River Grove, IL 60171



Titanium by Omega

- Only titanium racquetball racquet in the world
- Lightweight, strong, flexible
- Combined with exclusive MAD RAQ stringing for combination of power control and lightweight strength
- MAD RAQ stringing dampens vibration
- Ball shock dispersed in six directions
- Graphite composition yoke
- Raised leather grip in 3-7/8 and 4
- Integrated sewn-in grommet strip and bumper
- Suggested retail price: \$100



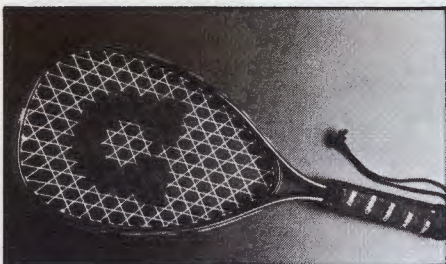
Star 1000 by Omega

- Engineered for durability and maximum control of squared tube of 7005 aluminum for extra strength
- Graphite composition integrated yoke and frame construction
- MAD RAQ stringing puts a better bite on the ball for control, finesse, top-spin, and slice
- Stringing pattern dampens vibration with ball shock being dispersed in six directions
- Premium leather grip
- P.U. formed integrated handle-frame goes all the way to butt cap
- Premium grade strings
- 234 grams
- Grip sizes: 3-11/16, 3-7/8
- Suggested retail price: \$75.00



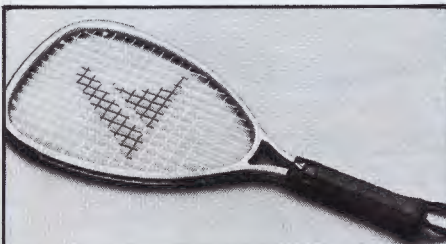
Excalibur Racquet by Omega

- Exclusive MAD-RAQ stringing
- Engineered for durability and maximum control with square tube construction made strong with 6066 aluminum
- Throatless racquet provides larger hitting area
- Larger sweet spot
- Better "bite" for control, finesse, top-spin, slice
- Stringing pattern dampens vibration with ball shock going in six directions
- Grip sizes: 3-7/8 & 4
- Suggested retail price: \$52.50



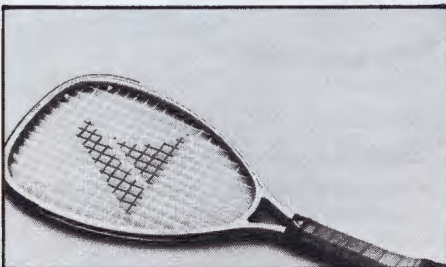
Alpha 1000 by Omega

- Designed of structural tubular aluminum
- Gives power and strength of regular extruded aluminum but with less weight
- Exclusive MAD RAQ stringing method gives a better bite for control, finesse, top-spin, slice
- Dampens vibration better than other stringing methods
- Ball shock dispersed in six directions
- Raised leather grip in 3-7/8 and 4
- Suggested retail price: \$60.00



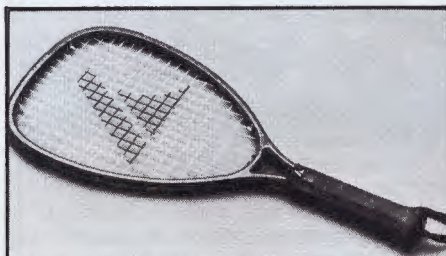
Marty Hogan Bronze by Pro-Kennex

- 60% 40% blend of graphite and fiberglass
- Maximum value in high-performance, composite racquet
- Foam core to dampen vibration
- Calfskin leather grip
- Thin-gauge synthetic strings for power and control
- Exaggerated teardrop shape
- Larger sweet spot for superb feel
- "Step down" frame construction
- Lightweight, yet powerful and maneuverable
- Suggested retail price: \$69.95



Hogan Comp by Pro-Kennex

- 80% 20% compositional mix of graphite and fiberglass
- Foam core to dampen vibration
- "Step down" frame construction provides flexibility in throat area
- Lightweight, yet powerful and maneuverable
- Suggested retail price: \$79.95



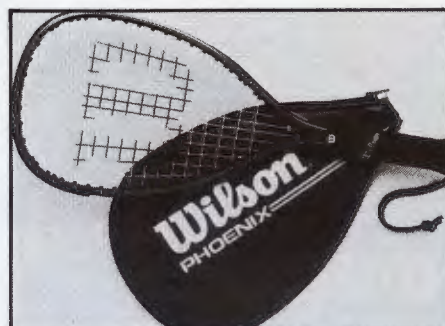
Hogan Graphite by Pro-Kennex

- 100% graphite
- Foam core dampens vibration
- Exaggerated teardrop head shape
- "Step down" frame construction provides flexibility in throat area
- Lightweight, yet powerful and maneuverable
- Personally used by Marty Hogan in all competition
- Suggested retail price: \$119.95



Sting Graphite by Wilson

- Injection composite blend of graphite/fiberglass in a nylon matrix for exceptional power without sacrificing control
- Popular quadrangular head shape
- Larger sweet spot for surer shots
- Radiant string pattern with variable density creates uniform tension over a greater area resulting in a more uniform ball response
- "Hourglass" handle provides maximum leverage for competitive edge
- Power balanced allowing racquet head to do more of the work
- Lightweight for mobility, allowing player to respond with less effort and more speed
- Multifilament string
- Strung-in bumper
- Vinyl head cover
- Grip size: 3-3/4 & 4
- Weight: 240 grams
- Suggested retail price: \$75.00



Phoenix by Wilson

- Designed with unique rectangular extrusion
- Lightweight for power and speed, but offers flex characteristics for greater control
- Flared head shape with open throat
- Larger sweet spot for truer shots
- Unique radiant stringing pattern creates a more uniform tension over a greater area offering added control
- Two-tone pinstripe on blue anodized aluminum
- Multifilament string
- Strung-in bumper; grommet strip
- Foam-filled handle to absorb vibration
- High tack leather grip
- Vinyl cover
- Grip sizes: 3-11/16 & 3-7/8
- Weight: 240 grams
- Suggested retail price: \$65.00



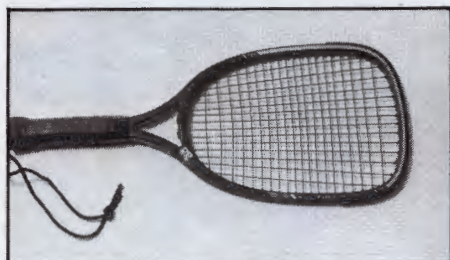
Flare by Wilson

- High strength aluminum in a unique tubular extrusion
- Aerodynamic cross section, extremely efficient in allowing racquet to be lightweight, yet strong
- Provides speed and mobility for quicker response
- Attractive gold pinstriping on brown anodized aluminum
- Multifilament string
- Strung-in bumper
- Foam-filled handle to absorb vibration
- High tack leather grip
- Vinyl cover
- Grip size: 3-11/16 & 3-7/8
- Weight: 255 grams
- Suggested retail price: \$52.00



Composite Plus by Wilson

- Premier high-tech racquet
- Layers of graphite and fiberglass in each racquet wrapped and diagonally stratified by hand
- Playability characteristics are virtually "dialed in"
- Innovative, yet practical design feature—the arched throat—arches gently outward to provide racquet head support
- Strung-in bumper and grommet strip for added string protection
- Foam-filled handle to reduce vibration
- High quality grip
- Grip sizes: 3-11/16 & 3-7/8
- Weight: 245 grams
- Suggested retail price: \$120.00



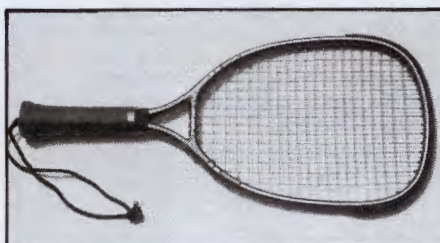
Boron Graphite by DP

- Unique combination of light, but powerful boron and durable graphite
- Supremely efficient frame with little vibration
- Boron fibers provide maximum strength in areas of greatest stress
- Sunburst string pattern maximizes racquet performance
- Modified teardrop head shape
- Long lasting graphite strings
- Full length deluxe cordura style cover
- Firm flex
- Smooth leather grip available in two sizes: 3-7/8 and 3-5/8
- Suggested retail price: \$179.99



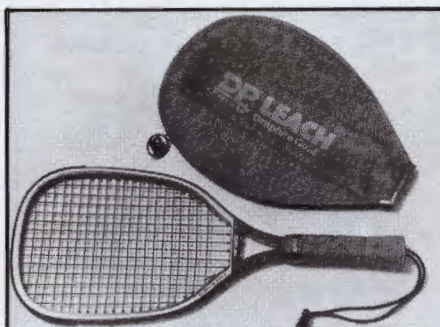
Graphite USA by DP

- 100% graphite
- Made in USA
- New core design eliminates air pockets and ensures smooth string holes
- New graphite spiral strings
- Raised leather grip
- Three grip sizes: 4, 3-7/8, & 3-5/8
- Deluxe cordura style cover
- Extra firm flex
- For intermediate/advanced players
- 250 grams
- Suggested retail price: \$152.00



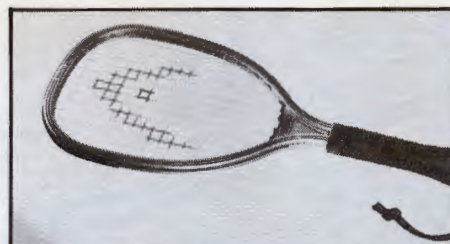
Graphite 8000 by DP

- 80% 20% graphite composite
- New core design eliminates air pockets and ensures smooth string holes
- Modified teardrop head shape
- Molded bumper guard and grommet strip
- Long lasting graphite strings
- Deluxe cordura style nylon cover
- Smooth leather grip available in two sizes: 3-7/8 & 3-5/8
- 250 grams
- Suggested retail price: \$102.60



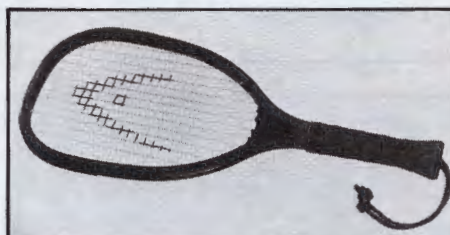
Graphite Gold by DP

- Constructed of fiberglass wrapped graphite
- New diamond head shape with quadriform upper head and modified teardrop at bottom
- Tournament strings
- Contour molded bumper guard
- Smooth leather grip: 3-7/8
- Firm flex for the intermediate/advanced players
- 240 grams
- Suggested retail price: \$73.00



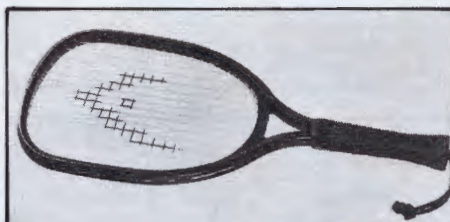
Master by AMF-Head

- 6061 aluminum I-Beam extrusion; light yet durable
- Zytel nylon throat piece and replaceable, patented, interlocking grommet and bumper strips
- Quadriform head shape, hourglass handle for superior maneuverability
- 12x16 open string pattern
- Weight: 250 grams
- Recommended player: Beginner and up
- Suggested retail price: \$55.00



Professional by AMF-Head

- 7005 aluminum I-Beam extrusion; Head's strongest, most durable
- Zytel nylon throat piece and replaceable patented, interlocking grommet and bumper strips
- Shaped for stiffness and power
- Quadriform head shape, hourglass handle, cowhide grip
- Head heavy balance for maximum power
- Weight: 255 grams
- Recommended player: Intermediate to professional
- Suggested retail price: \$65.00



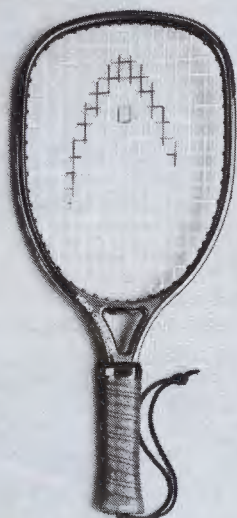
Graphite Express by AMF-Head

- Hollow torsion tube construction of graphite/fiberglass blend
- Designed by computer, assembled by hand
- Replaceable polyurethane bumper/grommet strip
- Lightweight, strong, vibration absorbent
- Quadriform head shape, hourglass/foamed handle
- Open throat design
- Weight: 250 grams
- Recommended player: Intermediate and up
- Suggested retail price: \$105.00



Midsize Vector by AMF-Head

- CU74 aluminum drawn tube—strong, stiff and durable
- Nylon throatpiece, replaceable interlocking bumper/grommet strip
- Very stiff; more power transferred to ball instead of absorbed by racquet
- Better feel and control; enlarged hitting surface; more forgiving
- Weight: 245 grams
- Recommended player: Intermediate and up
- Suggested retail price: \$80.00



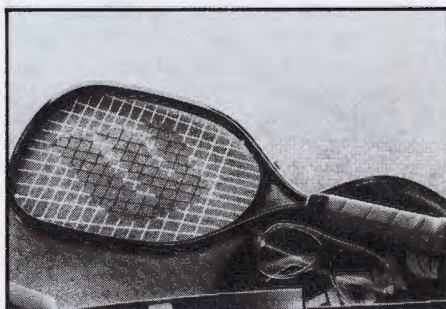
Midsize Graphite Apex by AMF-Head

- Epoxy impregnated graphite and fiberglass with continuous fibers
- Replaceable nylon bumper/grommet strip
- Enlarged hitting surface for more power and less vibration
- Exceptional strength, additional feel, lively response
- Built-in reinforcement against twisting on off-center hits
- Integrated throat design
- Weight: 245 grams
- Recommended player: Intermediate and up
- Suggested retail price: \$145.00



CBK by Ektelon

- Structural layers of continuous graphite fibers add stiffness for explosive power while minimizing overall racquet weight
- Kevlar core dampens vibration, controls flex
- Boron fibers add strength in areas of critical stress
- Enlarged sweet spot created by wishbone frame means fewer mis-hit balls, increased control
- Each racquet "fine-tuned" by hand for perfect balance, stiffness, flex, and stability
- Sunburst string pattern heightens individual string efficiency —produces better overall "feel"
- Protective CBK cover included
- Weight: 245 grams
- Grip sizes: 3-11/16, 3-15/16, 4-1/8
- Suggested retail price: \$200.00



Marathon Graphite by Ektelon

- Graphite fibers stiffen frame, deliver more power without adding weight
- "Chopped" fiberglass fibers result in excellent flex characteristics for added control, strength and durability
- Sunburst string pattern heightens individual string efficiency —produces better overall "feel"
- Special nylon resin matrix produces superior durability
- Polyurethane foam handle absorbs shock, increases comfort
- Protective cover included
- Weight: 245 grams
- Grip sizes: 3-11/16, 3-15/16, 4-1/8
- Suggested retail price: \$65.00



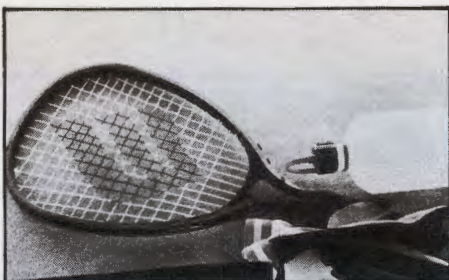
GRC 3000 by Ektelon

- Continuous graphite fibers stiffen frame/add power
- New Kevlar core dampens vibration, controls flex
- Fiberglass fibers are precision wrapped around core for excellent flex and control
- Torque-tube construction sharply reduces head twisting at impact
- Enlarged "sweet spot" created by Teardrop head shape and Wishbone frame design increases percentage of accurate shots, rescues mis-hits
- Each racquet "fine-tuned" by hand for perfect balance, stiffness, flex, and stability
- Sunburst string pattern heightens individual string efficiency —produces better overall "feel"
- Protective cover included
- Weight: 245 grams
- Grip sizes: 3-11/16, 3-15/16, 4-1/8
- Suggested retail price: \$150.00



ST 245 by Ektelon

- Varying wall thickness at critical points along the frame produces perfect blend of stiffness for power, flexibility for control
- Lightweight for quick response and increased mobility
- Durable True Temper high-strength steel alloy frame for longer life
- Sunburst string pattern heightens individual string efficiency —produces better overall "feel"
- Aerodynamic, thin profile frame quickens response time, increases swing speed
- Enlarged sweet spot created by Wishbone frame means fewer mis-hits, more overall control
- Protective cover included
- Weight: 245 grams
- Grip sizes: 3-11/16, 3-15/16, 4-1/8
- Suggested retail price: \$100.00



Excel Graphite by Ektelon

- Concentrated "chopped" graphite fibers produce stiffest injection-molded frame, delivers outstanding power
- Aerodynamic, thin profile frame quickens response time, increases swing speed
- "Chopped" fiberglass fibers result in excellent flex characteristics for added control, strength and durability
- Sunburst string pattern heightens individual string efficiency—produces better overall feel
- Teardrop shaped frame creates greater stability and widens the sweet spot for better control
- Special nylon resin matrix provides superior durability
- Protective vinyl cover included
- Weight: 240 grams
- Grip sizes: 3-11/16, 3-15/16, 4-1/8
- Suggested retail price: \$70.00



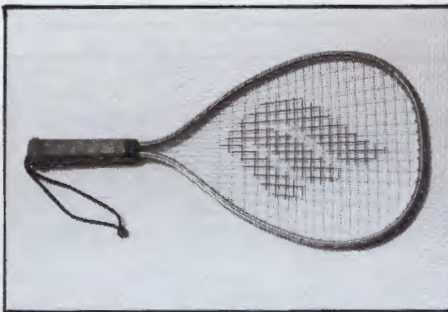
Magnum 2 by Ektelon

- Flexible frame of high strength aluminum alloy combines excellent control characteristics and exceptional durability
- Aerodynamic thin profile frame quickens response, increases swing speed
- Enlarged sweet spot created by Wishbone frame means fewer mishits, increased control
- Sunburst string pattern heightens individual string efficiency—produces better overall feel
- Vinyl bumper and grommet strip reduce vibration, increase string life
- Protective cover included
- Weight: 245 grams
- Grip sizes: 3-11/16, 3-15/16, 4-1/8
- Suggested retail price: \$75.00



Composite 250G by Ektelon

- Continuous graphite core provides outstanding power, responsiveness and added snap at impact
- Urethane "damping" ring minimizes head vibration
- Continuous laminated fiberglass fibers provide excellent flexibility and shot control
- Torque-tube construction sharply reduces head twisting at impact
- Each racquet "fine-tuned" by hand for perfect blend of stiffness, flex, and stability
- Special grommets bumper increases string life
- Protective cover included
- Weight: 250 grams
- Grip sizes: 3-11/16, 3-15/16, 4-1/8
- Suggested retail price: \$120.00



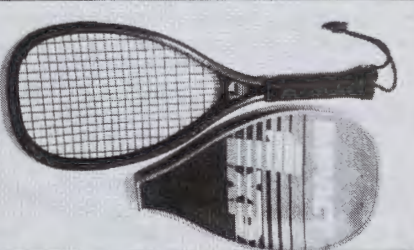
Maxum by Ektelon

- Exceeds tournament racquet specifications
- Stiff, single-celled aluminum alloy extrusion adds power, reduces head twisting
- Sunburst string pattern heightens individual string efficiency, produces better overall "feel"
- Wishbone frame design results in added power, excellent response
- Macro racquet has much bigger hitting surface and sweet spot than standard-sized racquets
- Strung at higher string tension for optimum response at impact
- High-strength, lightweight, aerodynamic aluminum alloy frame
- Weight: 245 grams
- Length: 20-1/2"
- Width: 10-1/2"
- String tension: 45 lbs.
- Grip Sizes: 3-11/16, 3-15/16, 4-1/8
- Suggested retail price: \$75.00



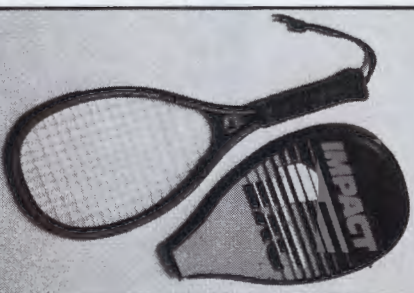
Impact 1 XL by AMF Voit

- 6000 Series aluminum alloy frame
- I-beam construction
- Modified teardrop headshape
- Stitched-on bumper guard protects frame; assures head balance
- Patented floating throat keeps ball on strings longer
- Unique, one string per hole stringing pattern
- Top grade leather grip in 3 3/4, 4
- Weight: 245 grams
- Suggested retail price: \$70.00



Impact 1 XP by AMF Voit

- 7000 Series aluminum alloy frame
- I-beam construction for strength
- Teardrop head shape perfect for power player
- Special stringing pattern puts more impact into each slot
- Polyurethane foam handle for soft, comfortable grip
- Floating nylon throat takes impact off the elbow
- Top grade leather grip in 3 3/4, 4
- Weight: 265 grams
- Suggested retail price: \$72.00



Impact 1 XC by AMF Voit

- 7000 Aluminum alloy frame
- I-beam construction for strength
- Quad headshape for larger sweet spot
- Floating nylon throat, foam handle to dampen vibration
- Stitched-on bumper guard to assure balance and protection
- Top grade leather grip in 3 3/4, 4
- Created for control and flexibility
- Weight: 255 grams
- Suggested retail price: \$72.00

Charlie Garfinkel's 'Spot' Racquetball

Playing Against The Lefthander

by Charlie Garfinkel

This article continues a monthly series by former top pro Charlie Garfinkel using the "spot" theory of racquetball, which helps improve your game by hitting a specific spot on the wall, which will give the desired effect for the shot. The spot theory also takes into consideration the "spots" on the court occupied by both you and your opponent.



About 10 years ago, at a Memphis pro stop, Steve Serot, a tremendously gifted lefty, was playing against Johnny Hennen, also an excellent player. Although the match was fairly close, Serot, then ranked number two, emerged the winner. After the match, Hennen was noticeably upset.

"Playing Serot was very frustrating," he said. "Because he is a lefthander I had to change the direction of my serves, my kill shots, and my passing shots. My usually reliable ceiling ball was even giving me trouble. Playing a lefthander can wreak havoc with your game."

Hennen's remarks are even more revealing when one realizes that Hennen himself, is a lefthander. Is it any wonder that righthanders are so leery of playing a lefty in practice or a tournament, when lefthanders themselves admit that they hate playing other lefties?

Hennen's remarks aptly depict the effect a lefthander can have on his opponent. The lefty "mystique" is definitely for real, especially as far as the person playing him is concerned.

Unbelievably, many players, both righthanders and other lefthanders, hate playing against a lefty. They often go into a match against a lefthander mentally defeated before they start. They feel that they must completely change their game plans, alter their shot selection, and practically roll out every ball. They're concerned that they must change the angle of their serve and the direction of their service return.

Many of these feelings are derived from the fact that playing a lefthander is indeed different. A lefty's strengths and weaknesses are the opposite of what most players usually encounter during a match. This difference can force you to change prevalent strategies that have worked for you.

When playing a righthander, most of your serves and shots are hit to his backhand. However, these same serves and shots, would go to the lefthander's forehand. Naturally, this is his most effective shot. When hitting your passing shots you'll find that you can generate more power when you hit with your forehand. And this shot is effective against a righthander, because you're hitting the ball to his backhand side. But, against a lefty, you're hitting it to his forehand strength.

Passing with your backhand could be effective, as you'll be hitting to the lefty's backhand. But, since most players' backhands are their weaker shots, passing shots hit with your backhand will be weaker than with your forehand.

As for ceiling balls what is more mind boggling than trying to hit ceiling balls to the lefthander's backhand? When playing a righthander, most ceiling balls

are hit from your backhand to his backhand. However, when playing against the lefthander you'll find that you constantly have to change the direction of your shot.

By now, you're probably thinking, *"Playing against the lefthander is almost impossible,"* and it can be difficult. But, it doesn't mean that you can't defeat the lefthander. All it takes is a little preparation, some strategy, and occasional psyching.

First, you must be mentally prepared for a southpaw. You must approach the match with a positive attitude. Negative feelings about a lefthander being unbeatable must be erased. You *can* defeat the lefty. You may have to change certain parts of your game to adjust to the lefthander's style, but a good player can readily adapt. And a good player is hard to defeat, regardless of which hand you play with.

An ideal way to prepare yourself for a lefthander is to play and practice against them as much as possible. This will greatly help you in determining which serves and shots are most effective against them. Just as important, you'll become accustomed to the different angles and directions that you must use when you're up against the lefthander.

If you're having difficulty arranging matches against lefties, play against righthanders as if they're lefties. That is, your serves and service returns should go to the forehand side as should most of your shots during the rallies.

Of course, you're hitting to your opponent's strength. And, if you're having reasonable success by practicing in this manner against a righthander, just imagine how many points you'd be scoring by hitting to the lefthander's backhand!

As we said earlier, lefthanders themselves don't like playing against other lefthanders. They also have to change their game plan and strokes.

If a lefthander does have an advantage in a tournament against a righthander of the same ability, it usually has more to do with practice and experience than any particular style. This is because a righthander may not play against a lefty until his third or fourth match. The lefty is usually well prepared for his right-handed opponent, because he's only played against righthanders in his early matches. That's why it is imperative that you play against lefthanders in practice before a tournament.

In The Match Against The Lefty

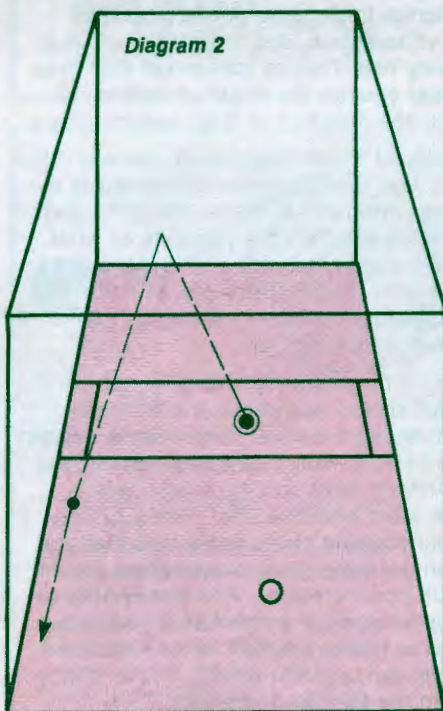
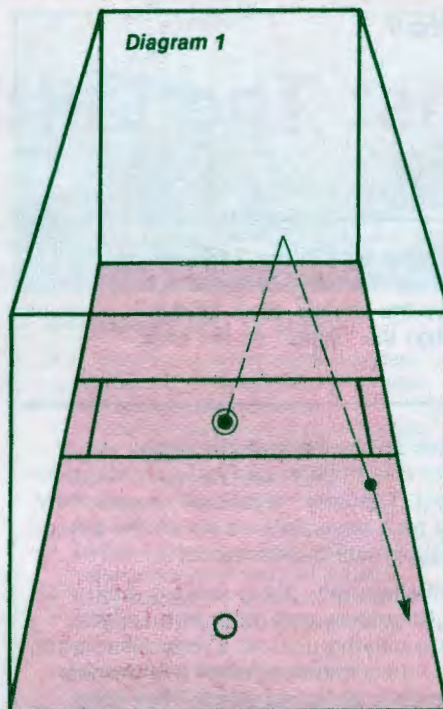
Before you begin to serve, be sure to note where the lefthander is standing. He may be leaning slightly to the right side of the court in anticipation of a serve to his backhand. Or, he may be inching up to take a possible lob out of the air. In either case, by looking to see where he is before you serve, you'll be showing him that you know where he is standing. This will help you relax and could cause some uneasiness on your opponent's part.

It is wise to serve from the middle of the court. This will make it easier for you to move to and return shots. Too many players make the mistake of moving too far to the left of the service box when serving to lefthanders. They feel that this type of serve will produce a sharp angle that will give the lefty a difficult serve to return.

The problem with this, however, is that the serve must be practically perfect. If it isn't, your lefthanded opponent has an return straight down the line. Because the server is stationed so far toward the left side wall, he has virtually no chance to return this shot. If he'd been serving from the middle of the court he'd have a relatively easy time returning the service.

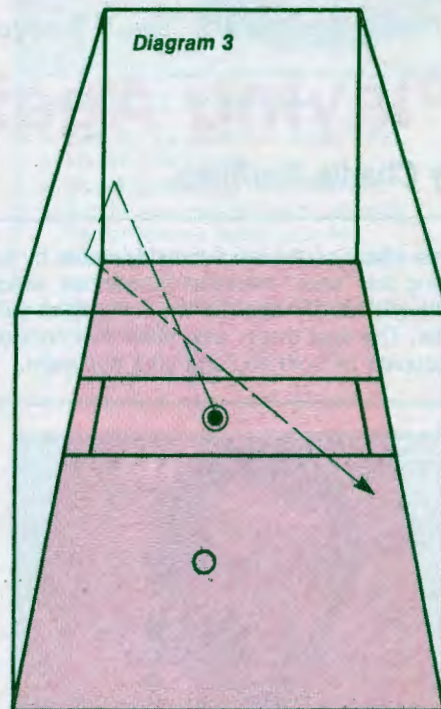
Using a wide variety of serves is especially important against a left-hander. This will not only keep him guessing, but it will also keep him off balance. A drive serve (*Diagram 1*) to the lefty's backhand is especially effective. The serve hits slightly to the right of center on the front wall, about three feet high. It then crosses just over the short line.

If the ball cracks out, of course you've got an ace. If it doesn't, you've still hit a serve that is very close to the right



side wall. This will cause great difficulty because your opponent doesn't have much room in which to swing. And, if he does return the serve, you'll have an easy shot to put away.

Occasionally, a drive serve to a left-hander's forehand can be very effective, especially when used at the right time. The correct time to use this serve (*Diagram 2*) is when the lefthander has moved slightly toward the right wall, in



anticipation of a drive serve to his backhand. When he sees that the drive serve is going to his forehand, he'll have a great amount of difficulty returning the serve, because he has positioned himself so far away from the left side wall.

An excellent serve to use for a second serve is a medium high Z-serve (*Diagram 3*). While standing in the center of the service box, the serve should be hit 8-10 feet high on the front wall about 2-3 feet from the left side wall. The ball will then hit the left side wall and carry just past the short line on the right side of the court. Because the serve is angled and produces a relatively high bounce, you'll be forcing the lefthander to hit a low percentage return, or a ceiling ball.

When the lefty is serving he will usually attempt to serve most of his serves to your backhand. The safest return is still the crosscourt ceiling ball to his backhand (*Diagram 4*).

This shot should hit 1-2 feet to the right of center on the ceiling. This will cause the ball to angle deep to the left—hand's backhand in deep court.

Be careful, though. If you hit the ceiling ball too close to the right side wall on the ceiling, the ball will catch the right side wall, enabling the lefthander to easily put the ball away.

Another good service return to occasionally use is to drive the backhand

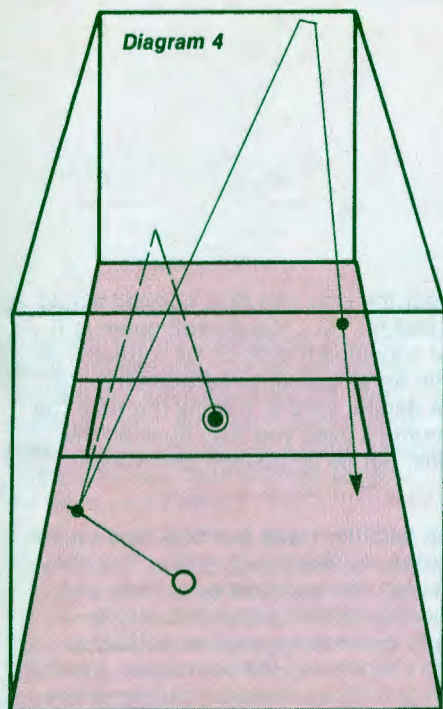


Diagram 4

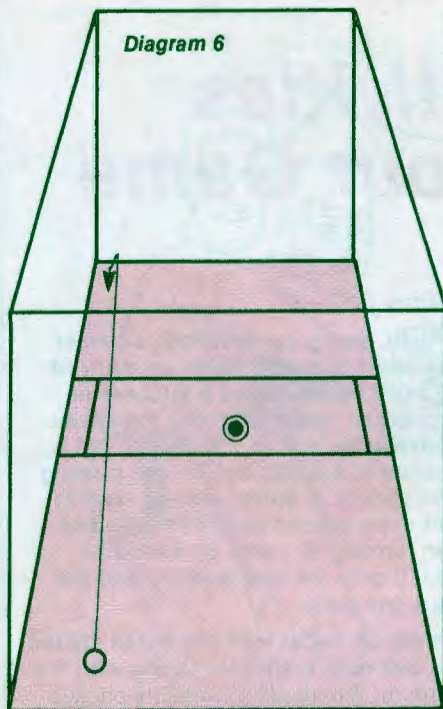


Diagram 6

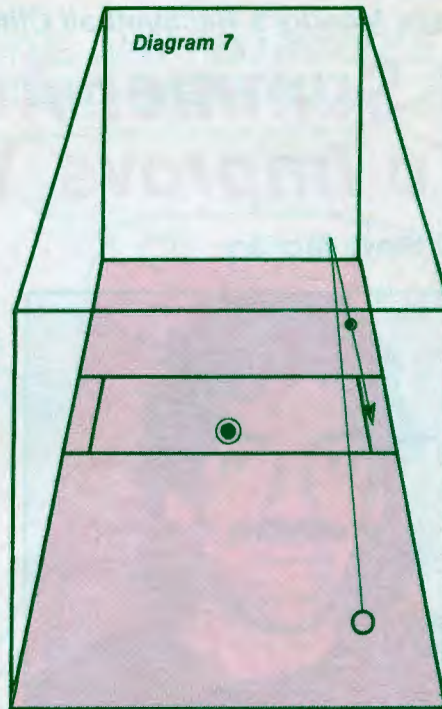


Diagram 7

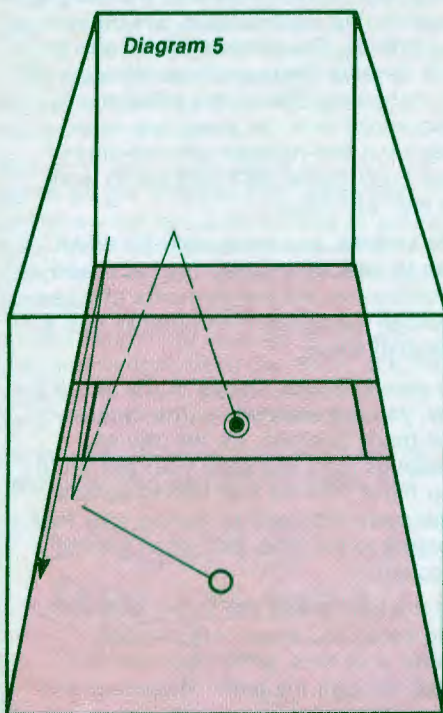


Diagram 5

return straight down-the-line (*Diagram 5*). Even though it is to the lefty's forehand he'll usually have no chance to return the ball as he's already moved toward the right side of the court.

When you're rallying it is still wise to use the shots that work best for you. For instance, if your opponent gives you a set-up off the back wall on your

backhand side, shoot the ball straight in (*Diagram 6*). So what if it's on your opponent's forehand? If you hit the ball low enough he will not return it. Therefore, when you have your favorite kill shots, don't change the direction of the shot. Shoot the same shot as if you were playing against a righty.

Passing shots are a different story, though. For instance, when you get a shot on your forehand, your natural tendency is to pass cross-court. You'd be smarter to pass down-the-line (*Diagram 7*) as the shot will be on the southpaw's backhand. Even if he is able to return the shot he'll still be slightly off balance from having to turn and run to the back wall.

Other shots such as the pinch shot can be very effective. When a player has a lefthander behind him it constantly amazes me how many times they'll hit a hard cross-court drive. The lefty merely steps over and returns the shot. The pinch shot in this situation is a beauty (*Diagram 8*). You should try to hit the ball as low as you can into the right side wall-front wall corner. Because the lefthander is stationed behind you, he'll find this shot virtually unreturnable.

Overheads, drop shots, reverse corners, and volleys are other shots that may be used. However, I'd stick to the basics. If you do want to use these shots, do so judiciously.

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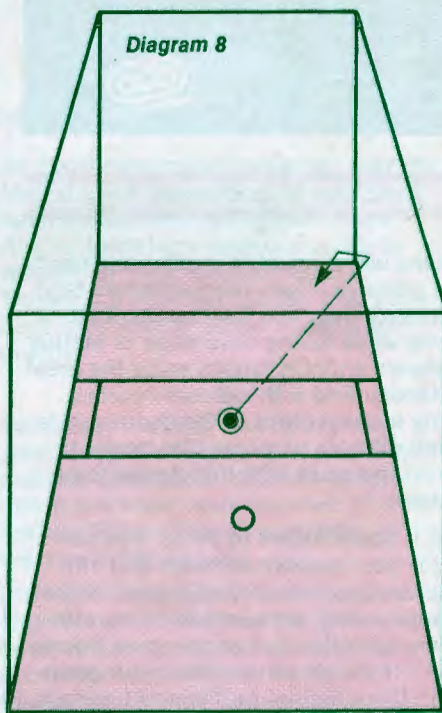


Diagram 8

When playing the lefthander, play your game. When you have the opportunity to use your favorite shots, do so. If you don't, stay to the ceiling or pass your opponent. Hitting the proper "spot" when called for, will put the lefty in a tight "spot" time after time. ●

Steve Mondry's Racquetball Clinic

5 Summer Activities To Improve Your Game

by Steve Mondry



As the warm weather invades the northern climates, many racquetballers tend to merely maintain their racquetball game while taking advantage of Mother Nature's enticing lure to enjoy the great outdoors. And with outdoor courts a rarity in most parts of the country, it is often difficult to merge that desire to be on the court with that desire to be outside.

But it doesn't have to be so. You can enjoy your outdoor activities and still improve your racquetball game. At first glance it may not seem to be so with some activities, but upon closer inspection I think we can improve your game even if you're not on the court. Here's how;

1) Play Softball

Softball, that great American summertime sport, actually builds up many of the skills needed to be a successful racquetball player. Running the bases, for example, (and assuming you get a hit once in a while) can be like running wind sprints. A batter running hard to beat out a ground ball is no different than running 30 yards on a football field. It gets the legs working and the heart pumping.

Getting up to bat with the bases loaded and two outs in the last inning with the game on the line is a pressure-packed situation—no different than the pressure you'll feel at 20-20 with the other guy serving. Your ability to effectively perform your skills in this situation is a test of your under-pressure skills and good practice for any pressure situation, be it racquetball, occupation, or recreation.

Catching a fly ball or fielding a ground ball will aid your eye/hand coordination—one of the critical elements to playing racquetball well. Throwing the ball accurately to a given base or player is in a sense practicing your control, which is also crucial to your racquetball success.



About the only way that softball would be bad for your racquetball game is if you consume too much of softball's official thirst quencher between innings. The danger here is that by the time the summer's over, you may have all the skills, but be 20 pounds overweight.

2) Use The Batting Cages

One summer I was working hard on improving my backhand stroke. The combination of nice weather outside and repetition-causing drudgery inside made me look for another activity to help accomplish the same goal. I found that activity at the local batting cages.

Being left-handed, I entered the batting cage and hit right-handed, which has two effects. The general affect was to help develop the overall coordination of my right side. One of the criticisms of racquetball over the years has been that it's a one-handed and one-side-of-your body game. So I decided to work on my "off" side.

The second, and more specific effect, was to directly improve my backhand coordination. All the elements of a racquetball swing are incorporated into a baseball swing.

As you take your stance in the batter's box, you are basically in the racquetball ready position. As the ball approaches (and you keep your eye on it) you move into the ball hitting across your body, similarly to having your feet parallel to the side wall when you hit a racquetball.

As the ball enters the strike zone (hitting zone) you stride into the ball, rotate your hips, bring your bat (racquet) through the point of contact and follow through.

About the only thing batting can't help with is high pitches, which in racquetball would normally be taken with an overhead stroke. But certainly, going down for that knee-high strike is good practice.

Using batting cages or the swinging motion is one of the ways we demonstrate certain skills at my racquetball clinics and camps. There are many ways to teach and many activities that can help your game.

3) Relax At The Beach

Although at first glance going to the beach doesn't seem to be an activity that will do much good for your racquetball game, a closer inspection of beach life can prove you wrong. I will admit, however, that we may stretch the point just a little.

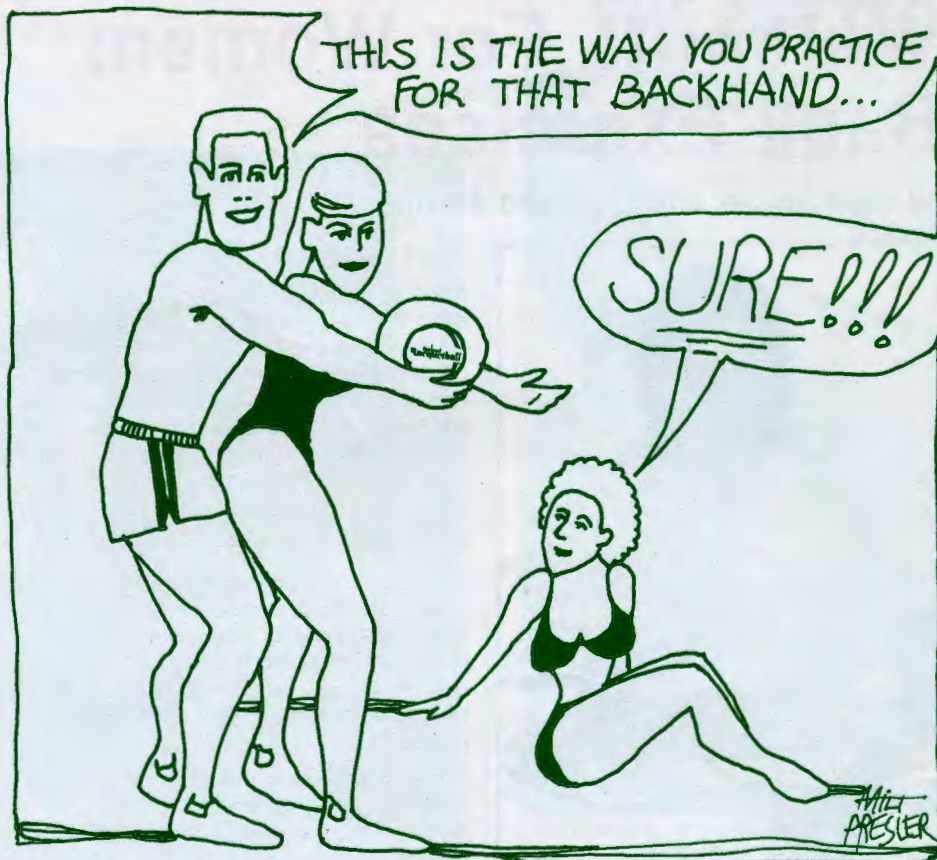
Instead of lying on the beach all day, why not get up and play a little frisbee with your girlfriend? Not only will you get some exercise, you'll also be grooving your backhand swing, including that all-important wrist snap at the point of contact (frisbee release).

Your girlfriend (or boyfriend) should appreciate that attention (especially since you've chosen a day at the beach with her over a day at the courts). Such a supreme sacrifice should help a lot more than your game.

But don't stop there, lay it on thick! Offer to go get a frozen treat while she works on her tan. Just be sure to get in your 10, 50-yard wind sprints in the deep sand on your way to the concession stand!

After a little more relaxing in the sun it's time to cool off in the water. It's not only fun to swim, but is also builds endurance and strength for racquetball.

So you see, a day at the beach can be helpful to your racquetball game. And



the added benefit, of course, is that you've become a hero in your own house.

"He was just great," she said. "During our vacation he never once thought about racquetball or going someplace for a workout!"

4) Hit The Links

Golf is not only a great way to get away from it all and relax, it is also an excellent way to work on your racquetball swing.

One of my favorite client-students is an avid golfer, practically living on the golf course from May to September. When he pumps up his racquetball game in earnest in September, it's as if he'd maintained his three times a week regimen all summer instead of reducing it to once a week.

The reason for his success is that all the fundamentals of a complete racquetball swing are incorporated into a golf swing. Racquet (or club) back, hip rotation, weight transfer and follow through.

5) Play Catch

The kids want to play catch—and you want to play racquetball. The first thing you should do is go play racquetball! However, the next option, playing catch, can still help your game.

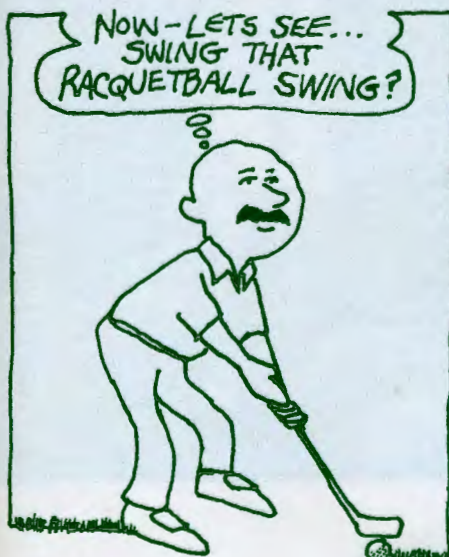
By concentrating on throwing "over the top" you will be working on your overhead motion and ceiling ball stroke. And by throwing sidearm you will be working on your forehand stroke. Throwing a baseball utilizes that same body mechanics needed to hit a racquetball.

★ ★ ★

Obviously, the best way to improve your racquetball game is to play and practice racquetball. And the serious player will never really be able to replace 500 backhand repetitions on the court with frisbee.

But there is no reason why you can't improve, or at least maintain your skill level while enjoying the summer, outdoor activities with your family and friends. As for your racquetball time—there are always rainy days. ●

Steve Mondry, a top touring pro for six years, is author of numerous instructional articles on racquetball, conditioning, and weight training.



Workouts For Women: Back Exercises

by Jean Sauser with Jodi and Jennifer



Everybody has back problems, just ask. Racquetball players are no different. Bad backs abound the courts, hampering play and making life difficult (not to mention painful) for thousands of players.

Unfortunately, most of us put far more strain on our back muscles than was intended for them by Mother Nature. The back, which was never meant to lift anything, sometimes ends up lifting a great deal.

On the court, your back plays a vital role in determining the success of virtually every shot, especially kills and passes. Without back strength and flexibility, you really can't go far because you won't be able to consistently hit low shots effectively.

The following exercises will develop your back muscles for more strength, greater flexibility and good posture.

Dead Lift

For strengthening the lower back area, specifically the sacrospinalus, the dead lift is one of the best exercises you can do. It's effect will enable you to bend easily for low shots off the back wall; it will aid in trunk rotation for greater power; and it will protect against lower back pain.

Equipment Necessary: Straight bar with no weight or light weight.

Starting Position: Stand with bar at your feet, which should be shoulder width apart. Squat down, bending your knees and gripping the bar with a mixed grip. When you grip, your hands should be approximately a hip's width apart (Photo 1).

Phase 1: Slowly stand up, lifting the bar by using your legs and lower back. Keep your arms straight as you do so (Photo 2).

Phase 2: Lower the bar back down to the floor by bending your knees, using your legs to squat back to the floor.

Number of Repetitions: 10-12.

Number of Sets: 1-3.

Additional Tips: If you have lower back problems, or any back problems for that matter, do not attempt this exercise until you've consulted with your physician or therapist.

It is important to use a very light weight at first to prevent any strain as well as to practice the proper form. Never lock your knee in this exercise as it will put too much strain on your back.

By using your legs in combination with your lower back to properly do this exercise, you will achieve the desired results with no strain!



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

Bent Over Rowing

This exercise concentrates on the latissimus dorsi area. The mastering of this exercise will give you a stronger back and body rotation which will give your shots greater power as well as better daily posture.

Equipment Necessary: Straight bar with no weight or light weight.

Starting Position: Bend knees slightly while bending over the bar. Grip the bar with an overhand grip and hold the bar with extended arms down at knee level (Photo 3).

Phase 1: Pull the bar up and into your waist, exhaling as you do so (Photo 4).

Phase 2: Lower the bar back to your starting position to the count of four, inhaling as you do so.

Number of Repetitions: 10-12.

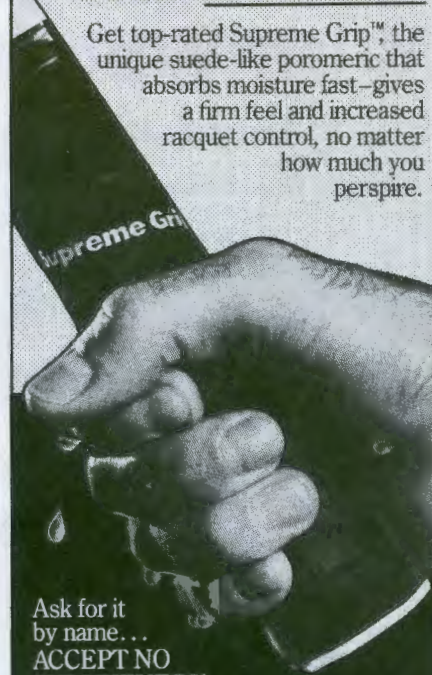
Number of Sets: 1-3.

Additional Tips: Again, for back protection, keep your knees slightly bent. Increase the weight load so that on the 12th repetition you are fatigued. ●

Next Month: arm exercises.

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Getting Quick With Weight Training

by G. H. Bachara, M.A., Ph.D. and H. Sullivan, L.S.M.F.T.

How many times have you opened your latest edition of *National Racquetball* magazine to read another article lauding the benefits of becoming stronger and the subsequent improvement it will add to your game?

Also, do you often find yourself one step too slow on the racquetball court?

Most local clubs appear to have two basic groups of membership: racquetball players and weight training enthusiasts, but usually the racquetball player doesn't want to use his precious racquetball playing time by lifting weights in the "fitness" room. This time element has prevented many players from doing more than poke their head into that machine-filled, mirror-walled, torture chamber.

There have been two schools of thought in racquetball training:

- 1) Strength for the power game; and
- 2) Quickness, the fast-paced control game.

Often we see the big, strong "open" players in the court smashing one shot after another but if you think back never have you ever seen the strongest of players hit a shot that went *through* the wall. It just doesn't happen. No matter how hard you can hit the ball, it will remain in that 20x40x20 room.

On the other hand, we have all seen players at all levels, even the big strong weight training types included, just too slow to get the ball causing that errant shot. In other words, if you can't get the ball it won't matter what you would have done with it had you gotten there.

Let's look at the quickness strategy. How many times do you hear a player remark, "Gee whiz, I hate to play John Doe, he is so quick, he gets to everything." In taking two players of equal ability with one concentrating on getting big and strong and playing a power game and the other player a quick, soft-touch game, the quicker player will always dominate.



There is an obvious void in the training program for these players who play three or four times a week and want to improve their quickness game but do not have the time or desire for bulk. After years of research a simple program has been developed to aid you in achieving that much-needed quickness without those unsightly muscles.

The normal weight training plan starts with a small amount of weight and increases the weight as the program advances. The workouts take from 35-40 minutes consisting of 12 repetitions on each of the various machines.

Compare that to our new quickness plan that can be completed in as little as three minutes! That's right, three minutes!

You can complete your workout before or after a match and even fit it in during tournament play if given five minutes rest between games.

In our quickness plan, we use all of the same machines but *no weight* is used on any machine and only *two repetitions* are done—as quickly as possible—on each machine (two repetitions being due to the fact that you will never swing at the same ball more than twice without hitting it).

Caution: when first starting this program please do not try to start with no weight as this can result in the "false quickness syndrome." Start the program with 20-30 lb. of weight and *work your way down* until you achieve no poundage and unbelievable quickness.

We anticipate that this quickness plan will cause most players to rush to the weight training room, jump on those machines, do the quick reps, and race out of the room, headed for their racquetball court, their weight workout completed. The stunned look on the bulk builders in the room should be worth the price of membership.

Additionally, the participants in our quickness plan will be better racquetball players, quick enough to dig out those back wall, corner shots. As more and more people get into our (or other, similar) quickness program it, might come to pass that the number of repetitions will be increased.

Who knows how quick we can become?! ●

Q's And A's About Your Racquetball Travels

by Victor Block

Dear Mr. Block:

Last fall, you described hotels located at or near airports in several cities that have racquetball facilities. I frequently fly to Chicago on business, and wonder if you know of a hotel near O'Hare Airport where I can play?

Carol Asbed
Norwalk, CT

Dear Ms. Asbed:

Your in luck, because the recently opened Westin Hotel O'Hare, near the airport in suburban Rosemont, has two racquetball courts. Other health club facilities include an indoor swimming pool, exercise rooms, whirlpool and sauna. All 535 rooms at the hotel are soundproofed, so you don't have to worry about noise from low-flying jet planes. They also have a refrigerator and color TV with free cable movies.

Basic rates are \$75-\$115 single and \$90-\$130 double. For additional information or to make reservations contact the Westin Hotel O'Hare, 6100 River Rd., Rosemont, IL 60018; (312) 698-6000, or call toll-free (800) 228-3000.

Dear Mr. Block:

A new assignment will be taking me to Cleveland several times during the next few months. My work will be conducted near the center of the city. Can you recommend a first-class hotel where I can stay—and have the use of racquetball courts?

Morris Kaplan
Eugene, OR

Dear Mr. Kaplan:

If you think of Stouffer's only in terms of frozen dinners, you may be surprised with my suggestion that you consider staying at Stouffer's Inn on the Square. It's located in the heart of Cleveland in the Tower City Center, which was built in 1918 and has been undergoing extensive renovations.

Stouffer's is a grand hotel which combines the elegance of a past era with modern-day conveniences. And it offers guests use of the facilities of the Thirteenth Street Racquet Club, which include racquetball and squash courts, a jogging track and fitness activities.



Action on the court at the Palm Desert Resort Country Club.

A dramatic feature of the hotel is a 10-story high enclosed atrium, complete with trees, a swimming pool and bar. For information about Stouffer's Inn on the Square, and its arrangement with the nearby racquet club, call the hotel at (216) 696-5600 or toll-free at (800) HOTELS-1.

Dear Mr. Block:

I hope you can help me with a project my boss has asked me to handle—to find a nice resort in California where my company can hold its annual salesmen's get-together. My employer would prefer somewhere with good golf and tennis facilities, and a relaxed atmosphere that doesn't convey the hurried pace encountered at many resorts which specialize in hosting meetings.

Being a racquetball player, I'd prefer somewhere that also has a court or two. My raise may depend on what I come up with for the next company conference!

Arlen Blackman
Toledo, OH

Dear Mr. Blackman:

Congratulations on your raise! If your boss doesn't go wild over the Palm Desert Resort Country Club, perhaps his pay should be docked. It's a 320-acre resort complex with a challenging 18-hole golf course, 16 night-lighted tennis courts (one set in a 1,000-seat amphitheater) and 20 pools

spread throughout the grounds. Accommodations are in one- and two-bedroom villas, all of which have fully equipped kitchen facilities, bar, dining area and patio.

There are a dozen meeting rooms and areas ranging in size from the Board Room, where your company's top dozen officials may dine, to the Aruba Pavilion, which seats 210 people theater style. A complete range of meeting and audio-visual equipment and services also is available.

And, yes, there are a couple of racquetball courts. The charge to play is \$6 an hour per person, with a maximum hourly rate of \$14 per court that makes cut-throat or doubles play a particular bargain. Palm Desert's mailing address is 40-999 Resorter Blvd., Palm Desert, CA 92260. Call toll-free (800) 662-4387; in California, (800) 472-3712. ●

Victor Block is a free-lance travel writer for newspapers, newsletters and magazines; a state editor for Fodor's Guidebooks, and a member of the Society of American Travel Writers. When not on the go researching travel articles, he lives in Washington, DC.

Readers are encouraged to send your racquetball travel questions to Victor Block, c/o National Racquetball, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.

Taking On Breast Support Myths

by Dr. Joan A. Finn



Should female racquetball players wear special bras for protection and/or support? They should if they *think* they should for whatever reason.

Very little scientific information or research is available on the topic of breast protection and support for any type of sportswomen.

Myths seem quite common, however. For example: women develop sagging breasts from jogging; breasts are very delicate and fragile, thus must be protected from blows and hits; women who exercise vigorously can expect to have breast discomfort . . . and so on. You can probably add to this list of "common knowledge" errors.

In this article I will present factual information about the adult female breast, report the results of a questionnaire completed by numerous female athletes, and discuss the influence of the culture regarding the effects of sports participation on breasts.

The entire human body is made up of only four types of tissue: muscle, connective, epithelial and nervous. The breast structure involves the first three.

The flat bones of the chest (ribs and sternum) give a firm foundation for the softer tissues. Two large, powerful sets of chest muscles (pectoralis major and minor) control specific shoulder joint movements. These muscles pass from the midline of the body out to the upper arm.

When the pectoralis muscles are developed from power-demanding exercise they give the chest its characteristic "double-mounded" appearance. Male power weight lifters often have muscle masses so large that a "cleavage" develops. The bone and muscle chest structures are the same for both males and females.

The epithelial and connective tissue differences of the breast are controlled by the sex hormones that distinguish males and females after puberty. Packets of epithelial tissue form glands (specialized to produce milk) in the adult female. Usually 15 to 20 of these packets are arranged in a network of fat and ligament-like connective tissue. The number of packets and the number of fat cells developed is quite certainly a result of heredity.

However, the composition and size of a woman's breasts can be altered somewhat. Physically fit women possess fewer and smaller fat deposits all over their bodies. They also display more toned, firm muscle than their inactive counterparts.

Conversely, unfit, overfat females (and males too) have drooping, jiggling, sagging and bulging body parts. The fact is that arms, hips, abdomens and, sure, breasts all need support. The most desirable support is provided by well conditioned, underlying skeletal muscle. Bras, girdles, and support hose are often used to replace weak, flacid muscle!

I was specifically interested in what women racquetballers thought about breast support and protection during play. A questionnaire was completed by 104 women who played racquetball and engaged in various other sports including tennis, basketball, jogging, aerobics and volleyball. The results were as follows and are reported in approximate percentages regarding each item.

The most surprising result of the responses was that none of the women questioned had ever had a sport-related breast injury! These women ranged in age from 16 to 42 and all reported that they considered themselves athletes. I expect this injury absence is a very important finding. Women racquetball players and sportswomen, in general, need not be overly concerned about wearing specific protective-designed bras because injury occurs very rarely.

If the breast was hit by a ball or racquet during play, the blow would cause the same pain and bruising as for any body part padded with fat. Nothing awful is going to happen if you get hit. Remember what a breast is made of — muscle, glands and fat don't "break."

As a matter of fact, one of the purposes of body fat is protection. The breast fat is probably developed specifically to protect the glands. (Note: male testicles do not have such tissue; therefore should be protected.)

Ball marks from errant hits are likely to appear on a player's upper leg, trunk and seat, not on her breast. Proper court position and front wall focus dictated by racquetball probably account for this.

The next question, that of need for sport-specific breast support, appears to depend on personal preferences. Nearly all of our women surveyed wore a bra during sport activity. That's where any clear tendency ended. Half of our racquet women wore sport bras, half wore regular ones. Most players never experienced breast discomfort either during exercise or daily activities, but some did at times.

The most common reason these sports-women wore a bra was to "minimize or to compact breast movement." They also consistently reported that bras should be soft, seamless, snug-fitting, and should not "ride up."

I think it safe to conclude that there is no special magic or mystery involving breast support for women athletes. The important issue is comfort. Competitive attire should fit well and allow unrestricted movement. It doesn't matter what's "riding up," whether it's shorts, shirts or bras (athletic supporters for males); discomfort will interfere with performance.

That brings us to several "cultural" observations I have made regarding women, breast support and protection, and racquetball participation in general.

Southern Connecticut State University Human Performance Laboratory Dr. Joan A. Finn, Director

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Do you wear a bra for everyday activity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes 40% • Always 60% • Never 0% <p>2. Do you wear a bra during athletic activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes 8% • Always 90% • Never 2% <p>3. Do you experience breast discomfort during exercise?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes 30% • Always 0% • Never 70% <p>4. What type of discomfort?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General ache and/or pain 30% • Chaffing from straps 0% • "Riding up" of bra 30% • Excessive breast motion 30% • Other 10% <p>5. How do you relieve the discomfort?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most common: "I don't" • "Wear sport bra" | <p>6. Do you experience breast discomfort during normal daily activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes 30% • Always 0% • Never 70% <p>7. What type of discomfort?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General ache and/or pain 50% • Chaffing from straps 10% • "Riding up" of bra 40% • Excessive breast motion 0% <p>8. Have you ever had a breast injury during sport participation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes 0% • No 100% <p>9. Do you use a specially designed bra for exercise?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes 50% • No 50% <p>What kind/brand? No particular brand was preferred</p> <p>Does it have a built-in protective lining or device?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes 50% No 50% |
|--|---|

Racquetball began its growth spurt during the '70's. About the same time, women's sport participation increased graphically. It was becoming socially appropriate and attractive to be fit for both men and women. That refreshing trend is still expanding, but has created a general sports myth:

To achieve personal excellence in competition and/or fitness, the sport participant must own certain things.

The sports equipment industry is big business as well as sport-specific. For example, you own a certain type of racquet, have several gloves strapped to your special racquetball bag . . . etc.

Your jogging neighbor owns a particular pair of shoes and never runs without his wrist-worn timing device. It seems to me that sports bras can be included in the extensive list of available equipment for athletes. They may not be necessary but if they make the athlete "feel good," then they are fine. Besides, if men need athletic supporters, many women think they need sport bras!

My other cultural observation has to do with what I believe to be a "natural

selection" process. Women with large breasts either are non-participants because of self-consciousness or tend to select sports that:

- Are non-weight bearing in nature such as swimming or cycling; excessive breast movement is limited for these activities.
- Do not require striking movements with the arms as in racquetball and golf. Large breasts limit range of motion in these sports.
- Are "for females" such as aerobic dance. Social embarrassment resulting from bouncing breasts is minimized because males are absent.

Knowledge of scientific facts, recognition of cultural influences, awareness of what her body is saying and the use of good old common sense will allow each woman racqueteer to answer: Is special breast protection and support necessary for me? ●

Dr. Finn, a member of the American College of Sports Medicine, is the Director of the Human Performance Laboratory at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, CT.

New Products



Idealgard

Idealgard is a new pressure sensitive tape that protects racquets from impact-damage. Introduced by Ideal Tape Company, the tape is applied around the head of the racquet to protect it from nicks, scrapes, and gouges.

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For more information contact Lance Atkins, Executive Vice President of Marketing, TruGrip, 250 Blair Ave., Reading, PA 19601, 800-351-1201.



Aerobic Mat; Aerobic Tote

AMF Whitely introduces two new products which complement general fitness application. Designed by AMF fitness engineers, the products provide both practical exercise benefits and fashion flair.

Made of high quality nylon with a generous foam pad, the Aerobic Mat folds in the center and closes with Velcro snaps. Ample side straps allow for shoulder carrying and a generous cargo area. Outside pockets offer additional storage with enough room for shoes, clothing and personal items.

The Aerobic Mat comes in two fashion colors, rose and silver. It retails for \$19.95 and is available nationally at department and sporting goods stores.

The Aerobic Tote is made of washable, high quality nylon and features double pockets, nylon zippers, and separate compartments for storage of dry and wet exercise gear. The adjustable shoulder strap and curved design allows for easy wear and effortless carrying.

Available in five colors—hot pink, lavender, black, red, and royal blue—the Aerobic Tote retails for \$19.95 and is available wherever AMF products are sold. For further information contact AMF Whitely, 29 Essex St., Maywood, NJ 07607 or 201-638-1788.





Court Porter

A rack-plus-bag system designed to keep tennis and racquetball courts litter free has been created by M.S. Plastics & Packaging Company, Inc.

Called the Court Porter, the system consists of a two-part rack and tough, opaque plastic sacks. An 8 x 12 oval, steel frame with a special all-weather finish and a U-bolt that attaches the rack to a net post are its features.

The Porter may be mounted on a wall as well as on a net post. The litterbag is opaque white, boasts an eight-gallon capacity, and is imprinted "litter return," and can be custom printed.

For more information, contact M.S. Plastics & Packaging Co., Inc., 400 Union Ave., Haskell, NJ 07420 or call 201-529-1240.



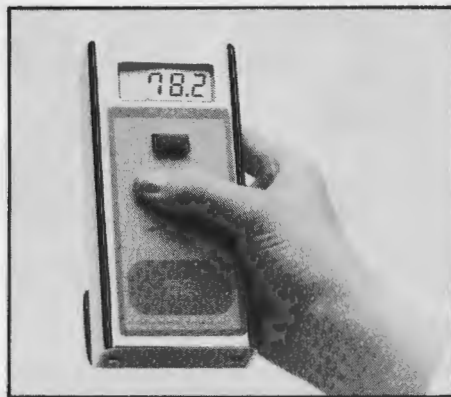
Computerized Weight Control Monitor

Caltrac, a new pocket-sized personal activity computer that automatically tracks the wearer's calorie expenditure, will soon be available nationwide.

Worn next to the body, Caltrac's digital display visually reports the cumulative total of calories the wearer is burning up during normal daily activities or periods of exercise. The display is automatically updated every two minutes.

Successfully test-marketed last fall in Seattle, national advertising for Caltrac will begin this spring and will be available through major department, drug and sporting goods stores.

For more information, call toll free, 1-800-336-4366.



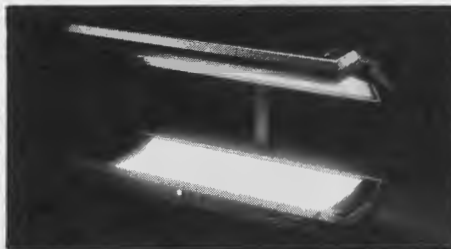
Manual Muscle Tester

Sport Medical Technology Corporation introduces the new Nicholas-ISMAT Manual Muscle Tester, a compact, digital instrument which provides a reliable standard for quantitative measurement of muscle strength.

Weighing less than two lbs., this hand-held, battery-operated unit indicates patient muscle reaction to applied pressure and gives rapid, dependable validation of therapy requirement and progress.

The measurement, peak force output in kilograms, is displayed on a large, easy-to-read LCD display. The examiner can use the standard break test techniques without modification. Results are accurate, repeatable, reliable.

For complete information, call or write Sport Medical Technology Corporation, P.O. Box 656, Center Moriches, NY 11934, or 516-878-0101.



Profi 431 Tanning System

Designed with German precision and craftsmanship, the Profi 431 features 24 fourth generation Bellarium "S" lamps enhanced by an optimized reflector system.

An articulated sunceiling may be hydraulically raised or lowered by the touch of a button. Increased comfort is possible with the addition of four variable cross-current vents which provide a cooling breeze that surrounds the user.

Nextel, a 3M chemically bonded coating is virtually impervious to scratching and will maintain its good looks for years to come.

Improved design, greater comfort, and faster tanning time make the Wolff Profi 431 the finest tanning system available today. Call toll free 1-800-526-9061 or contact SCA, 2875 152nd Ave., N.E., Redmond, WA 98052.

EXTRA!

National Racquetball Buys Racquetball Illustrated!

RACQUETBALL
ILLUSTRATED



Publication Management, Inc. (PMI), the parent company of *National Racquetball* magazine, has announced the acquisition of the assets of *Racquetball Illustrated*. PMI is a Glenview, Illinois based firm specializing in magazine management.

Along with *National Racquetball*, PMI also publishes *Racquetball In Review*, the official publication of the American Amateur Racquet-

ball Association. The purchase of *Racquetball Illustrated* further establishes PMI as the authoritative voice in the racquetball industry.

"The circulation of Racquetball Illustrated will be integrated into the circulation of National Racquetball," said Hugh Morgan, president of PMI. *"With this increase in circulation and our constantly expanding newsstand sales, we'll be*

providing in excess of 50,000 confirmed, dedicated racquetball players, club managers, teaching pros and owners. Nobody else in the industry can approach these figures."

This step is consistent with PMI's broadening interest in the racquetball industry and its aggressive marketing of an effective advertising

medium for those companies who want to sell in this market.

PMI is a multi-faceted publishing house with ownership, consulting, sales and management in the magazine field. Special emphasis is in the metal finishing, defense, and education fields.

AARA Notes . . .

American Handicap Ranking System Endorsed

The AARA has adopted the American Handicap Ranking System (AHRS) as the official ranking system of the AARA. The current method of National, State and Regional rankings will be continued, but administered by AHRS.

In addition, AHRS will experiment with two state organizations for two years on implementing a Handicap Ranking System on the state level. The objective of the program is not only to give National, State and Regional events a ranking system, but to establish a valid method of ranking in A, B, C, D and Novice skill levels to eliminate sandbagging in tournaments.

Referee Certification

The AARA has adopted the long-awaited Referee Certification Program, which will go far in alleviating one of the most serious problems in racquetball. Three different levels of certification will be administered through AARA state associations. The program was developed by Michael Arnolt of Indiana and Jim Hiser of Michigan.

Annual Awards

At the Annual AARA Membership Banquet held at the Nationals in Houston, the three most coveted awards in racquetball were given:

- *Male Athlete of the Year* — Jim Austin of Houston, TX, winner of the 40+ in the 1983 U.S. National Singles Championships and the 40+ Division in the U.S.

National Doubles Championships with partner Bill Schmidtko.

- *Female Athlete of the Year* — Malia Kama-hoahoa of Norfolk, VA, who placed second in the 1983 U.S. National Singles Division and first in the 1983 U.S. National Doubles Women's Open Division with partner Carol Frenck. Malia also placed third in Mixed Doubles at the 1983 U.S. National Doubles Championships with partner John Hooge.
- *John Halverson Award* (to the person who has made the greatest contribution to the AARA and racquetball during the season) — Michael Arnolt, Indianapolis, IN, Regional Director for Indiana and Kentucky, and co-author of the Referee Certification Program.

New Board Members Elected

In conjunction with ballots submitted through *Racquetball In Review* and the Annual Membership Meeting, four highly qualified individuals were elected to three-year terms on the AARA Board of Directors.

Mike Arnolt of Indiana, Garner White of South Dakota, Van Dubolsky of Florida and Jim Hiser of Michigan were all elected.

Officers elected to two-year terms were Pual Henrickson of Massachusetts as President, Al Seitelman of New York as Vice President, Al Swofford of Tennessee as Secretary-Treasurer, Dubolsky as National Commissioner, and Arnolt as National Rules Commissioner.

RMA Taps H. Marlboro Co.

The Racquetball Manufacturers Association (RMA) in their continuing quest to secure sponsorship for the men's professional tour, has hired the Howard Marlboro Co., a New York sports promotion firm specializing in sports event management.

Marlboro was selected over six other applicants based on personal interviews and evaluation of presentations by each firm as to their anticipated approach to handling the pro tour.

"We felt that Marlboro's enthusiasm was a big factor in their favor," said RMA executive director Don Bushore. "They felt there would be no problem

finding sponsors. We felt they had the credentials to do the job."

As for Marlboro, the RMA represented just the type of organization that they look for.

"We elected to make a presentation to RMA because we were impressed with the total industry commitment to the pro tour effort," said Marlboro president Donald R. Dickson. "The manufacturers, the players, the clubs, and the racquetball media all want a tour to succeed. So do we."

Another major factor in the selection of Marlboro was their in-house event management capabilities. The RMA, based on

Marlboro's expertise, does not now believe that a "commissioner" (some in-racquetball expert to govern the tour) is necessary any longer.

"Marlboro will be able to do a complete turn-key pro tour from rules and regulations all the way down to managing the on site events," said Bushore.

"There's no need for a commissioner because the first thing the commissioner would do would be to hire somebody like Marlboro to do the pre-and post-tournament promotion and p.r."

As for likelihood of the tour beginning in September, 1984, or the naming of any sponsors Dickson was ex-

pectedly non-committal, stating the obvious ("right now we have not signed a sponsor"). He did, however indicate where they're looking.

"We have 10 companies who have scheduled presentations from us," he said. "We feel confident that one of those 10 firms will become the national sponsor."

"We're talking to a beer company, a manufacturer of sports medicine-related products, a soft drink firm, a snack food company's health line, a tea company, and a personal care products firm. Sometimes we're talking to more than one company within the product category."

Stay tuned.

WPRA Tour Talk

Dr. Hamilton, I presume?

An impressive fact which is not known by most racquetball followers is that Shannon Wright-Hamilton, one of the sport's greatest players, is currently a junior in the pre-med program at University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Shannon was recently awarded the Marie Barbara Woolrich scholarship, a continuing, full scholarship annually bestowed upon an outstanding academic student.

The WPRA's third-ranked player also received the Award of Achievement for general chemistry at UNLV and, upon graduation, plans to apply to medical school at the University of Nevada-Reno. Shannon wed Jim Hamilton, a minister at Sunrise Community Church, almost two years ago, and the couple resides in Las Vegas.

RMA Recognizes WPRA

The Racquetball Manufacturers Association recently nominated the WPRA as an "honorary" member of the RMA. An honorary member is selected on the basis of "rendering distinguished service in public, business, athletics or has promoted the interest of racquetball."

"The WPRA is pleased to be recognized by the RMA for its service to racquetball," stated WPRA President Jennifer Harding. "We believe that the WPRA, since its inception almost five years ago, has been instrumental in the development of opportunities for women players as well as the overall professionalism of the conduct of our side of the game. We appreciate that a group such as the RMA has seen fit to publicly acknowledge our efforts."

More AARA...

DP Named Major Sponsor

The AARA has approved a four-year contract with Diversified Products, making DP a major sponsor of all AARA National and Regional Championships.

DP will be known as the official racquet sponsor of the AARA Adult and Junior Nationals, Adult and Junior Regionals and National Intercollegiates. DP also will supply the official uniform for the U.S. Team through 1986.

DP's Impact Energy Drink will serve as the official energy drink of all sanctioned AARA National and Regional events.

National Doubles to Boise

The AARA has selected The Court House, Boise, Idaho

as the site of the 1984 U.S. National Doubles Championships, October 24-28. The Court House long has been known for its excellent facilities and hospitality and was chosen as site from five cities bidding for the honor. Special rates have been arranged through Western Airlines, the official carrier of the U.S. National Doubles Championships presented by Lite Beer.

Wilson Named Official Ball

The AARA has announced that Wilson TruBlue racquetball was named the official ball of the U.S. National Doubles Championships presented by Lite Beer. This will be the first time that Wilson has been so designated and is a testimony to the quality and dedication of Wilson to the grassroots amateur player in the United States.

Tournament Results

Injury Forces Harnett Out

Yellen Wins DP For National Title; Hogan 2nd

by Charlie Garfinkel

Yellen proudly displays his bounty from capturing the DP Nationals and retaining his number one ranking.

Just when it looked like Mike Yellen was out of it, he was back in it. Just when it looked like Bret Harnett was in it, he was out of it. Just when it looked like Marty Hogan had it, it was gone.

So it was at the 1984 DP National Championships June 11-17 at the beautiful Atlanta Sporting Club, which saw a virtual re-lay of last year's finals between defending champ Yellen and former five-time national champ Hogan.

Going into the match both players were tied in total ranking points, largely due to Yellen's grotesque, first round loss a month earlier in the Ektelon Nationals. The final round showdown, therefore, was not only for \$16,600 first place money, but also for the undisputed number one ranking in pro racquetball.

The road to number one was paved for Yellen and Hogan because Ektelon winner Bret Harnett was unable to compete due to an injury. On the verge of becoming the fourth national champ in as many years, Harnett was forced to pull out of the tournament due to an infected blister on his racquet hand.

Both Yellen and Hogan acknowledged the extreme importance of the tournament.

"Winning this tournament is imperative to be recognized as the number one player in the world," said Yellen.

Hogan was even more adamant. Every spectator and racquetball aficionado knew how desperately Hogan wanted to win.

"This tournament is my whole year," said Hogan before the match. *"It's like Wimbledon in tennis or the Masters in golf. Every world racquetball champion, including myself, has always based their season on this tournament. I'm extremely proud of my five national championships. I'm also proud of the fact that this is my ninth consecutive year in the finals. I think that's a record that will never be broken."*



"I won't lie. Losing my title last year hurt a lot. But I'm playing well, now. I've trained harder than ever. I'm going to re-establish myself as the dominant player in the game. I'm hoping to win this championship more decisively than any other that I've won in the past."

However, it wasn't to be.

Yellen won his second straight national championship with a dazzling display of racquetball in a three hour 15 minute marathon of a match. The scores were 6-11, 11-1, 10-11, 11-8, 11-6.

In game one Hogan started out as if he were a prophet. Using his powerful serve, he scored his first point with a near perfect ace. Point two was a clean ace to the left side. Although Yellen tied the score at 2-2, Hogan proceeded to serve strongly to take a 7-2 lead. His strong serves continued to elicit weak returns that produced three flat backhand Hogan kills.

After a brief Yellen rally to 7-5, Hogan cranked up his serve again. He won the game 11-6, producing yet another ace at point nine. Hogan had dominated the backhand court, scoring 10 of his 11 points there—three aces and seven other shots that were all made from the left side of the court.

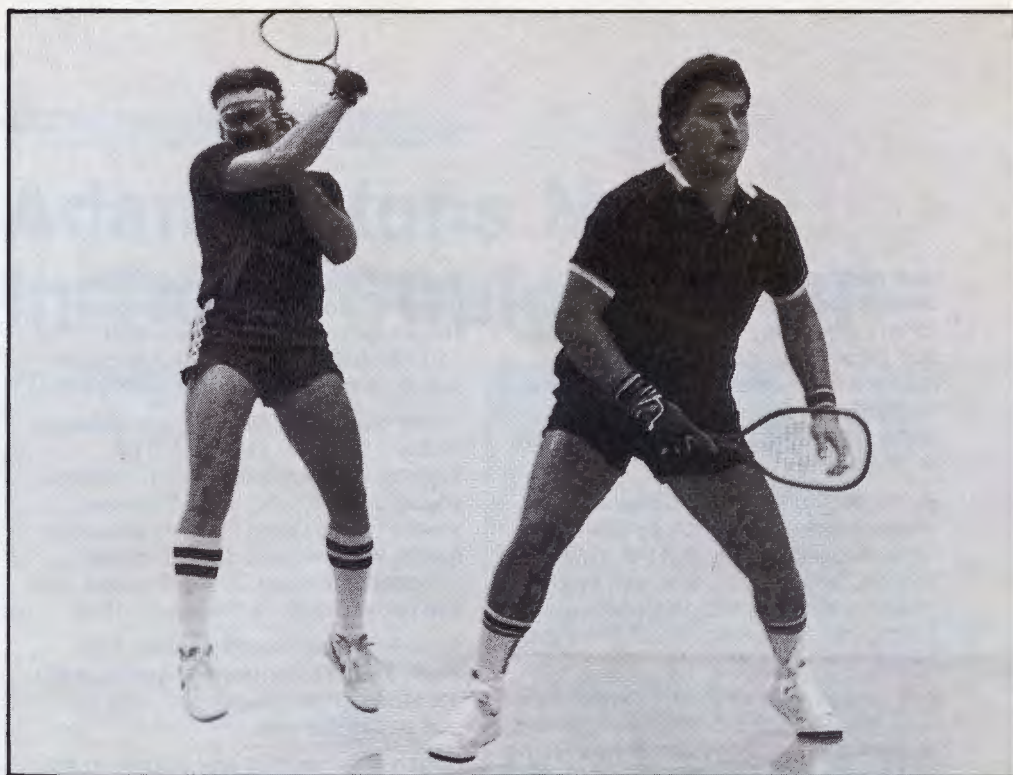
"Hogan was flawless and overpowering in the early part of game one," said Yellen. *"His serve was so devastating that I was constantly off balance. Fortunately, I started to adjust to the speed of the ball and rallied from 7-2 to 11-6. This greatly helped my confidence."*

Did it ever!

In game two Yellen looked like a Hogan clone. Using a drive serve to the left of his own, Yellen continually kept Hogan off balance. Although he didn't ace Marty, his well placed serves produced returns that he quickly pounced on. Yellen jumped out to a 5-0 lead by hitting two forehand pinches (one an incredible off-balance shot while practically flat on his back), a forehand kill, a backhand pinch, and a Hogan error. The crowd was going wild, as it became evident that Yellen had taken complete control of the game.

After Hogan scored a point to make it 5-1, Yellen served an ace to the left for 6-1. Hogan looked angry and confused. Yellen finished the game with an Hogan error, three beautiful backhand pinches, and a flat forehand kill. At 8-1, Hogan appeared to let the game go. But everyone, including Yellen, knew that the match was far from over.

Hogan drives his vaunted forehand against Yellen in the finals as Yellen moves to cover.



Yellen said, "After game two I was really feeling good. I had beaten Marty at his own game. I knew that it bothered him a lot. But, I also knew what a great competitor he was. I figured that he'd be a tiger in game three."

Yellen's assumption was correct. It was a game that lasted almost 50 minutes. It was without doubt the most exciting game that this writer has ever witnessed. It also produced a shot that the spectators and myself had never seen in the history of professional racquetball.

Suffice it to say, that a rejuvenated Hogan regained his serving prowess. He quickly converted Yellen's service returns into a 3-0 lead with two forehands and a backhand pinch. But, at 3-0, a shot occurred that angered Hogan greatly. After a prolonged rally, marked by great gets by both players, Yellen hit a shot that barely touched Marty, though it was quite apparent that the ball would never have reached the front wall. (In men's racquetball a point is played over when the ball hits an opponent, even though it is apparent that the ball won't reach the front wall.)

Hogan claimed that the ball hit the floor before it hit him. After a heated debate with the referee, the point was played over. Hogan was livid.

This controversy seemed to greatly affect Hogan's concentration as Yellen quickly scored six points with a variety of backhand and forehand pinches to lead 6-3. Hogan then went ahead 7-6 with three forehand kills and an ace to the left. Yellen tied it at 7-7 with a fly kill; he scored point 8 with a forehand pass; and then, unbelievably, he skipped an absolute set-up with his backhand.

Hogan next hit a mind-boggling backhand splat from 39 feet to make it 8-8. Yellen made it 9-8 with another forehand pass. Hogan tied it at 9-9 with a backhand kill. Yellen hit a perfect ace

to the left to make it 10-9. It was like two heavyweights standing in the center of the ring trading what should be knockout punches.

After Hogan regained serve, another controversy erupted, this one on a one-in-a-million shot. Marty skipped in the serve! Er, well, at least that's what everybody thought. The spectators saw it skip. Yellen saw it skip. One of the line judges saw it skip. But the referee and the other line judge said the ball didn't skip.

After considerable arguing and discussion, it was ruled a legal serve. Yellen, of course, was furious. But that was nothing compared to his fury a few moments later when the referee ruled that the serve was not only legal, but an ace as well!

Claiming that the ball hit a tiny crack on the front wall, two inches above the floor, that crack causing the ball to rise up and barely over the short line, the serve that everybody thought would give Yellen the serve at 10-9, game point, now was awarded by the referee to Hogan at 10-10, game point!

Hogan's ensuing backhand splat kill to win the game 11-10 was anti-climatic.

Yellen who rarely has unkind things to say about anybody, let alone referees, couldn't hold his tongue on this one. *"The call at 9-10 was the worst I've ever seen in racquetball. It was a continuation of poor refereeing that plagued the match. I re-grouped, though, telling myself to forget the point and the game. I had to concentrate on the fourth game."*

Game four quickly saw Yellen jump to a 6-3 lead. At this juncture, Hogan, who had just buried an easy backhand kill into the floor, screamed at himself, *"What are you afraid of?"* Yellen just stared at him.

Mike made it 7-3 with a fly kill from the short line. But, Hogan came right back with two forehand splats and a backhand kill to make it 6-7. Yellen then hit a super backhand splat to make it 8-6. A Hogan forehand kill and an uncharacteristic Yellen skip made it 8-8. Three more points and Hogan would reclaim his number one ranking. But, Yellen wasn't through. Two superlative backhand kills and a Hogan skip gave Yellen the game, 11-8.

"At 8-8 in game four I was just concentrating on saving three more points," said Yellen. *"Fortunately, I did."*

So now the national championship came down to one game to 11. In it, Hogan jumped to a 3-0 lead on two awesome backhand splats and a Yellen error. Marty held the lead to 6-3, five points from the title.

But as Yellen has done so many times, he reached back. Four great drive serves produced weak returns that Mike quickly put away. Hogan skipped a deep backhand to make it 8-6. On points nine and 10, Yellen made a tactical switch by serving two half-speed backhand Z's. Yellen pinch killed both returns to make it 10-6. A superb pinch shot at 11-6, won him the championship for a second straight year.

Hogan, obviously bitterly disappointed,

was magnanimous in defeat. At the awards presentation, he praised Yellen for his great play and complimented him on his win. Yellen, equally a gentleman, thanked Hogan for making professional racquetball what it is today. Atlanta had witnessed a match for the ages.

In the semi-finals, Yellen played great. He destroyed Greg Peck by the amazing scores of 11-3, 11-2, 11-6! Yellen's control, ceiling balls, and well placed shots, constantly had Peck off balance, producing many setups that Mike put away.

And yet, as well as Yellen played, he was lucky to still be in the tournament. In his round of 16 match he was losing to a sizzling Mike Levine, the "Rochester Rocket," 11-10, 11-5, 9-8. Up to this time in the match, Levine, an extremely powerful righty, was serving and hitting his forehands, as if he were possessed. At 9-8, Levine gambled on an overhead kill that missed badly. Yellen came back to win 11-9. Levine's shots started going astray in the last two games as Yellen won, 11-3, 11-4.

"Many people thought that I wasn't playing well," said Yellen. "Actually, Levine's drive and Z-serves were remarkable. I could never get set. Luckily, he started to miss, allowing me to get back into the match."

In the other semi-final, Hogan defeated unseeded Ed Andrews who had stopped sixth seeded Jerry Hilecher in a five game, round of 16 match. He then proceeded to defeat third seeded Dave Peck in four games in the quarters.

Andrews, a smooth 6'3 righthander, was as surprised as anyone to be in the semis.

"I only had enough clothing for three matches," he said. "I figured that I'd make the quarters and that would be it. I even had a plane ticket back for Friday. This is the best I've played in over a year. Win or lose, I'll have an enjoyable match with Marty."

And a good match it was. Andrews, with some great shooting, took a 5-0 lead in game one. Hogan returned the favor and went ahead 9-5. Andrews caught him at 10-10 but a Hogan forehand won the game at 11-10.

In game two Andrews grabbed an 8-3 lead. After a brief Hogan rally to 8-5, Andrews ran out the game at 11-5.

Games three and four were almost identical. Both were tied at 6-6 and Hogan went on to win them both, 11-6, 11-7. Andrews appeared to run out of steam in the latter part of both games.

In the quarters, Yellen handily defeated Richard Wagner, 11-9, 11-4, 11-6. Wagner had defeated Lance Gilliam, a young upstart, who had eliminated seventh seed Gerry Price, in an earlier round. Wagner also defeated former national champion Davey Bledsoe, in a five game match in the round of 32.

As in his latter match against Greg Peck, Yellen's control and ceiling balls constantly kept Wagner off balance and paced the win.

Hogan was never in any trouble in his quarter-final, 11-5, 11-1, 11-8 win over Chicago's Jack Newman who had surprised eighth seed Scott Oliver in the 16's 3-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-2.

In the third quarter-final, Andrews upset third seeded Dave Peck. After being obliterated 11-0 in the first game, Andrews stormed back to win three straight, 11-6, 11-10, 11-4. *"I'm moving laterally as well as ever,"* said Peck, referring to his well-detailed leg injury. *"But, I'm still having trouble moving forward on certain shots."* This was evident, especially when Andrews was hitting his well-placed pinches.

In the final quarter-final, fourth seed Greg Peck looked like a potential tournament winner in his 11-1, 5-11, 11-4, 11-0 win over the mercurial Ruben Gonzalez. Peck's kills, pinches, and passes were fantastic. His pace constantly had Gonzalez off balance. And, his remarkable gets greatly discouraged Gonzalez.

"I'm hitting more shots straight in," said Peck. *"Yellen, Hogan, and (my brother) Dave are all doing more of that. It has greatly helped my game."*

And while it didn't help him against Yellen, Greg Peck shouldn't feel too badly. Yellen also defeated Levine, Wagner, and Hogan. Like they say, *"That ain't too shabby!"*

DP Nationals

Atlanta Sporting Club
June 11-17, 1984

Men's Professional Singles

Round of 16: Yellen d. Levine 10-11, 5-11, 11-9, 11-3, 11-4; Wagner d. Gilliam 6-11, 11-7, 11-10, 11-8; Gonzalez d. Egernan 11-2, 9-11, 11-10, 11-8; G. Peck d. Sell 11-3, 11-4, 11-4; D. Peck d. Simonette 11-8, 11-9, 11-6; Andrews d. Hilecher 11-4, 11-9, 6-11, 5-11, 11-6; Newman d. Oliver 3-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-2; Hogan d. Ray 11-0, 5-11, 11-5, 11-7.

Quarter-finals: Yellen d. Wagner 11-9, 11-4, 11-6; G. Peck d. Gonzalez 11-1, 5-11, 11-4, 11-0; Andrews d. D. Peck 0-11, 11-6, 11-10, 11-4; Hogan d. Newman 11-5, 11-1, 11-8.

Semi-finals: Yellen d. G. Peck 11-3, 11-2, 11-6; Hogan d. Andrews 11-10, 5-11, 11-6, 11-7.

Finals: Yellen d. Hogan 6-11, 11-1, 10-11, 11-8, 11-6.

Notes of the Tournament . . .

Thanks to Caryn McKinney, the tournament director, who did a great job . . . DP Racquetball . . . Penn . . . *The Atlanta Sporting Club . . . Cindy Branch, Martha Adams, Chuck Bagley, Otto Dietrich, and Jim Hiser . . .* All volunteers . . . the excellent slide presentation at the banquet . . . to the amateurs . . . to the men's and women's pros . . . to Charlie Garfinkel for having laryngitis on the day of the finals.

Congratulations to Mike Ray, Men's Open Winner by the unusual scores of 15-1, 14-15, 11-0 over Jim Cascio. Ray skipped his serve in at 14-11 in game two!!!; Marci Drexler, a 15-11, 15-11 winner over Kay Kuhlfield in the Women's Open . . . Jay Schwartz, the Men's Vets and Men's Senior winner, over Davey Bledsoe, 15-3, 15-10 and Ed Remen 15-14, 15-4, respectively. This gives Schwartz a clean sweep of the Ektelon National Vets, the AARA Vets and Seniors, and the DP Vets and Seniors — truly a remarkable achievement . . . Peggy Steding, former three time national champ and a great lady. She defeated Linda Siau in the finals of the Women's Masters . . . Charlie Garfinkel, for his 15-8, 15-8 win over Hugh Durham in the Men's Masters, his 14th national title . . . all the winners in the other divisions.

Some Measure of Revenge

Adams Stuns McKay In Three Straight at DP

by Charlie Garfinkel

Women's Open

Quarter-finals: Drexler d. Kamahoa; Alvarado d. Bell; Lynch d. Gluvna; Kuhfeld d. O'Brien.

Semi-finals: Drexler d. Alvarado; Kuhfeld d. Lynch.

Finals: Drexler d. Kuhfeld.

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: Ray d. St. Onge; Gonzalez d. Laughter; Cascio d. Gilliam; Simonette d. Vacarro.

Semi-finals: Ray d. Gonzalez; Cascio d. Simonette.

Finals: Ray d. Cascio.

Women's Junior Vets

Quarter-finals: Siau d. Walters; Sanders d. King; Swofford d. Mueller; Adams d. Gebhart.

Semi-finals: Sanders d. Siau; Adams d. Swofford.

Finals: Adams d. Sanders.

Men's Junior Vets

Quarter-finals: Schwartz d. Cleveland; Wickliffe d. Sears; Bledsoe d. Walthour; Clark d. Hardenbrook.

Semi-finals: Schwartz d. Wickliffe; Bledsoe d. Clark.

Finals: Schwartz d. Bledsoe.

Men's Seniors

Quarter-finals: Schwartz d. Bellah; Carson d. Grigg; Icaza d. Wehrle; Remen d. Westwood.

Semi-finals: Schwartz d. Carson; Remen d. Icaza.

Finals: Schwartz d. Remen.

Women's Seniors/Masters

Quarter-finals: Steding d. Siegel; Bird d. Donnelly; Light d. Yurjevic; Siau d. Mueller.

Semi-finals: Steding d. Bird; Siau d. Light.

Finals: Steding d. Siau.

Men's Masters

Quarter-finals: Garfinkel d. Baker; Shamburger d. Oliver; Kilbride d. Legere; Durham d. Payne.

Semi-finals: Garfinkel d. Shamburger; Durham d. Kilbride.

Finals: Garfinkel d. Durham.

Men's Golden Masters

Quarter-finals: Lake d. Acuff; Arem d. Romig; Bareilles d. Phillipson; Kilbride d. Koran.

Semi-finals: Lake d. Arem; Kilbride d. Bareilles.

Finals: Kilbride d. Lake.

Adams using the lob effectively against McKay in the finals.

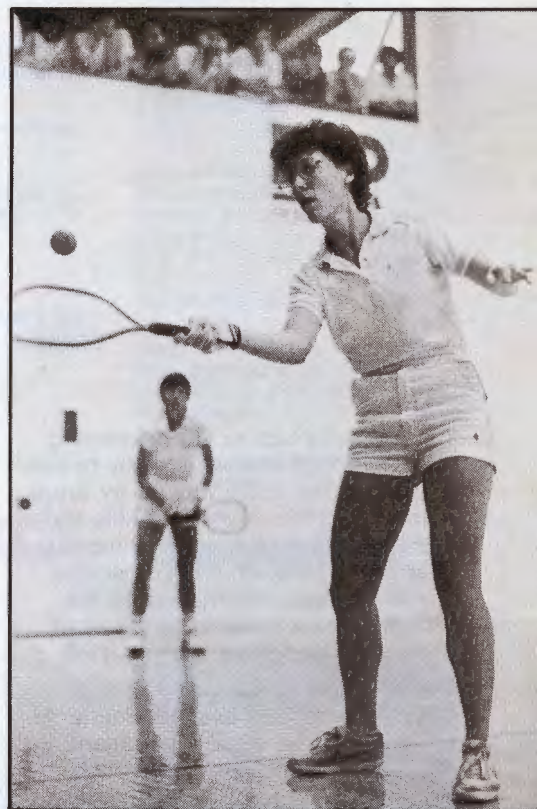
Lynn Adams had something to prove in Atlanta. She had lost to Heather McKay twice during the six weeks prior to the DP Nationals. The first loss occurred in the Ektelon Nationals finals in early May. The second loss was a month later in the WPRA finals — a five game thriller.

Adams was the second ranked player on the women's pro tour, one spot below her desires. Worst of all, another loss would have given McKay a sweep of every major women's title this season. Adams didn't want to spend the long summer remembering her losses.

"After losing the WPRA Nationals to Heather I was really feeling sorry for myself. I didn't do anything for three days," said Lynn. "On Thursday, my husband and coach, Jim Carson, started getting on my case.

"He said, 'You do whatever you want. However, moping around isn't going to do you any good.' That got me somewhat motivated. But, I only did some light conditioning before I arrived in Atlanta. When I arrived here I was really pumped up. I wanted to play well."

In the first game of the finals Adams was serving slow serves and hitting an abundance of around-the-wall balls. She was shooting as well as she had all year and quickly ran up a 17-9 lead. Eight of those points were scored on deadly forehand passes, pinches, and kills. McKay, uncharacteristically, had skipped in seven shots. She wasn't sharp and seemed to be somewhat lethargic in her movements.



However, this isn't to take anything away from Adams, who was keeping McKay constantly off balance. After a brief McKay rally to 18-13, Adams closed out game one, 21-15, with two forehand pinches and a forehand kill.

In game two Adams quickly moved to a 9-4 lead. The frustrated McKay slammed the ball into the floor after the point, drawing a referee's warning on a technical foul. After Adams had scored on the next rally on a beautiful backhand pinch (making the score 10-4) McKay slowly walked up to Adams, smiled, and politely placed the ball in Lynn's hand. The crowd roared with approval.

As in game one Adams continued to shoot unerringly. McKay skipped more shots than she normally did. And, her usually deadly pinches, were virtually non-existent.

Adams and McKay played evenly until 18-13. Adams closed out the game with two great backhand kills and a forehand pinch for a 21-13 final.

Adams buries a forehand in the finals.



In game three McKay started playing better although she was greatly helped by Adams. The score was 9-3 by virtue of four well placed forehand kills and a backhand pinch. A somewhat nervous Adams had skipped in the other four points. However, Adams scored the next three on a flat backhand rollout and two McKay skips, making it 9-6

Adams started to shoot better and McKay's own skips cost her dearly. At 14-14, Adams hit a superb forehand pass, then a great backhand pinch. McKay made it 16-15 with a forehand pass down-the-line. A backhand kill made it 17-15 for Adams as McKay's frustration reared again drawing another warning for slamming the ball into the ground.

An Adams skip make it 17-16. Lynn then shot a 39 foot backhand kill down-the-line, followed by a beautiful forehand pinch, 19-16. Heather hit a forehand pass to make it 19-17 but on the next rally, McKay hit a backhand down-the-line which, unbelievably, hit her on the return, 20-17 for Adams. After a short rally Lynn rolled out a forehand to win 21-17. She was going to enjoy the summer after all.

After the match Adams said, *"I knew that my game was there. My plan was to play her as if she was a lefthander. I was aggressive and took my shots. I purposely kept the ball to her forehand and didn't pass a lot. Heather is amazing at getting to passing shots and putting them away. Today was as well as I've played all year."*

In the semi-finals Adams won, but it wasn't easy. She defeated Marci Drexler 24-22, 21-11, 21-19, in a match that was as close as the score indicated.

"Who is Marci Drexler". For starters, she is merely the Ektelon Women's National Open Champion, the WPRA Women's National Open Champion, the AARA National Women's Open Champion, and the DP National Women's Open Champion. All four victories accomplished in the last two months of the '83-84 season!

As for the DP Nationals pro division, Drexler defeated fourth seeded Jannell Marriott in four games, and unseeded Molly O'Brien (who had upset fifth ranked Vicki Panzeri) in five games.

Drexler, only 18, has a shoot, shoot, shoot, style similar to Marty Hogan's at that age. She's a lefthander and plays with reckless abandon. Exceptionally quick, she has one of the strongest backhands in the game, hits unbelievable reverse corner kills and has a wonderful court attitude. Planning to be on the tour full time next year, she should be a consistent top eight player.

In the other semi-finals McKay defeated former national champion, Shannon Wright-Hamilton, 21-23, 21-15, 21-17, 21-10.

In game one Wright-Hamilton was serving and shooting exceptionally well.

McKay, however, wasn't putting the ball away as she had earlier in the tournament. From 10-9 to 20-20, no more than three points separated the two. At 20-20, McKay hit a beautiful backhand pass. Wright countered with a great backhand kill, but incredulously, McKay skipped in the last two shots giving game one to Wright-Hamilton 23-21.

Shannon continued to play well until the middle of game two where she was up 12-8. At this juncture she appeared to tire. It seemed that her brutal, five game match the previous day against Jennifer Harding, and her exhausting first game against McKay, had gotten the best of her.

McKay, sensing Wright's weariness, started passing more frequently, winning four of her last 11 points with outright passes. Wright-Hamilton contributed further to her own demise with four unforced errors. Final score: 21-15 McKay.

In game three Wright got a second wind. After McKay had taken a 12-7 lead, she mounted a great comeback. Shooting well off both sides she caught McKay at 16. Heather then mixed pin-point passes with some deadly forehand kills to win 21-17.

Game four was all McKay as Wright-Hamilton succumbed 21-10.

The loss could mark Wright-Hamilton's last professional appearance. She is presently enrolled at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas to pursue premed studies. School commitments will keep her out of most tournament activity.

How does McKay keep winning? A remarkable physical specimen at age 42, she said, *"Because of my squash responsibilities I must teach squash four to six hours a day. I only play racquetball three times a week. But, I do play quality pros. Brian Vallin, Hayden Jones, and Gus Komerulous are excellent players. I also run four to five miles a day, five times a week. This keeps me in tip top shape."*

In the quarter-finals Adams had a struggle against tournament director, Caryn McKinney. The scores were 21-18, 16-21, 21-6, 21-15 and not surprising since McKinney had been playing exceptionally well, having lost to McKay 19-17 in the fifth game at the WPRA Nationals.

McKay had a relatively easy time as her deadly pinch shots were never better against Malia Kamahoahoa. The scores were 21-11, 21-14, 21-8.

Wright-Hamilton and Jennifer Harding played for almost two and a half hours before Shannon emerged a 21-18, 16-21, 19-21, 21-12, 15-4 winner. Wright-Hamilton was also voted the cleanest player in the tournament. This was due to her somehow managing to take a shower between games four and five of the match.

As for the lefthanded Harding, she was serving and shooting extremely well in the first four games. *"I played well,"* she said *"but Shannon was unreal in the tie-breaker. She didn't miss a kill shot."*

In the last quarter-final, Drexler made a great comeback to defeat perky Molly O'Brien, 19-21, 18-21, 21-16, 21-15, 15-9. O'Brien's major upset over Panzeri in the round of 16 was 21-14, 13-21, 21-18, 16-21, 15-9.

So, the Lynn Adams-Heather McKay rivalry continues. However, names such as Drexler, O'Brien and Kamahoahoa will be heard from more and more in the future. ●

DP Nationals

Atlanta Sporting Club
June 11-17, 1984

Women's Professional Singles

Round of 16: McKay d. Lynch 21-14, 21-9, 21-6; Kamahoahoa d. Gluvna 21-18, 18-21, 21-18, 21-19; Harding d. Gilreath 10-21, 24-22, 21-15, 22-20; Wright-Hamilton d. Hoff-Scott 21-8, 21-16, 21-14; Drexler d. Marriott 21-12, 21-17, 19-21, 21-18; O'Brien d. Panzeri 21-14, 13-21, 21-18, 16-21, 15-9; McKinney d. Stoll 21-12, 21-11, 21-19; Adams d. Alvarado 21-13, 21-16, 16-21, 21-11.

Quarter-finals: McKay d. Kamahoahoa 21-11, 21-14, 21-8; Wright-Hamilton d. Harding 21-18, 16-21, 19-21, 21-12, 15-4; Drexler d. O'Brien 19-21, 18-21, 21-16, 21-15, 15-9; Adams d. McKinney 21-18, 16-21, 21-6, 21-15.

Semi-finals: McKay d. Wright-Hamilton 21-23, 21-15, 21-17, 21-10; Adams d. Drexler 24-22, 21-11, 21-19.

Finals: Adams d. McKay 21-15, 21-13, 21-17.

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Tournament Results

Drexler, Ferris Win Open Titles at A.A.R.A. National Singles

by Linda Catanzaro Boberg

Dan Ferris, Hopkins, MN, and Marci Drexler, North Hollywood, CA, showed the amateur racquetball world the best in overhead and center court kill shots by winning the Men's and Women's Open division titles of the 1984 U.S. National Singles Championships presented by Lite Beer from Miller.

Held May 24-28 at the Downtown YMCA, Houston, the tournament boasted the largest draw ever for the AARA event, with 922 entries representing most of the U.S. and Canada.

With 37 divisions competing for gold, silver, and bronze medals and consolation plaques, the 32 courts (10 with Twin-View glass) were constantly busy. Miraculously, the tournament stayed on schedule 90% of the time.

There were few surprises in the win-

ners' circles. Ferris came back to Houston to win his second consecutive title, defeating San Antonio's Ken Kaihlanen.

Cindy Baxter, Lewistown, PA, returned to retain her title as well, but was upset in the finals by Drexler in a match that went point for point until Drexler's match-ending ace serve. Jay Schwartz, Pensacola, FL, took home two gold medals, winning in both Men's 30+ and 35+ divisions.

Conspicuous by their absence from the event were West Virginia's Malia Kama-hoahoa, number two seed in the Women's Open Division and winner of the AARA Female Athlete of the Year award; Renee Hebert, defending Women's 40+ champ; and Steve Chapman, Men's 30+ division leader.

Men's Open

Ferris proved again that he's tops, destroying Kaihlanen, 21-8, 21-8 in the men's championship match. Kaihlanen, who had put on a dazzling display in his lower bracket semi's match against Jim Cascio, Lancaster, PA, could only stand by and watch as Ferris ripped kill after kill into the center front wall.

Kaihlanen took an early lead in the first game, 7-0, but as soon as the serve went to Ferris, things changed. Dan took over with a precision that could only make Kenny stare in disbelief as the ball landed where Ferris willed.

"*Danny's on a hot streak,*" a pleased spectator noted between games. And he was, coming back in the second game with the same determination that helped him win last year's title.

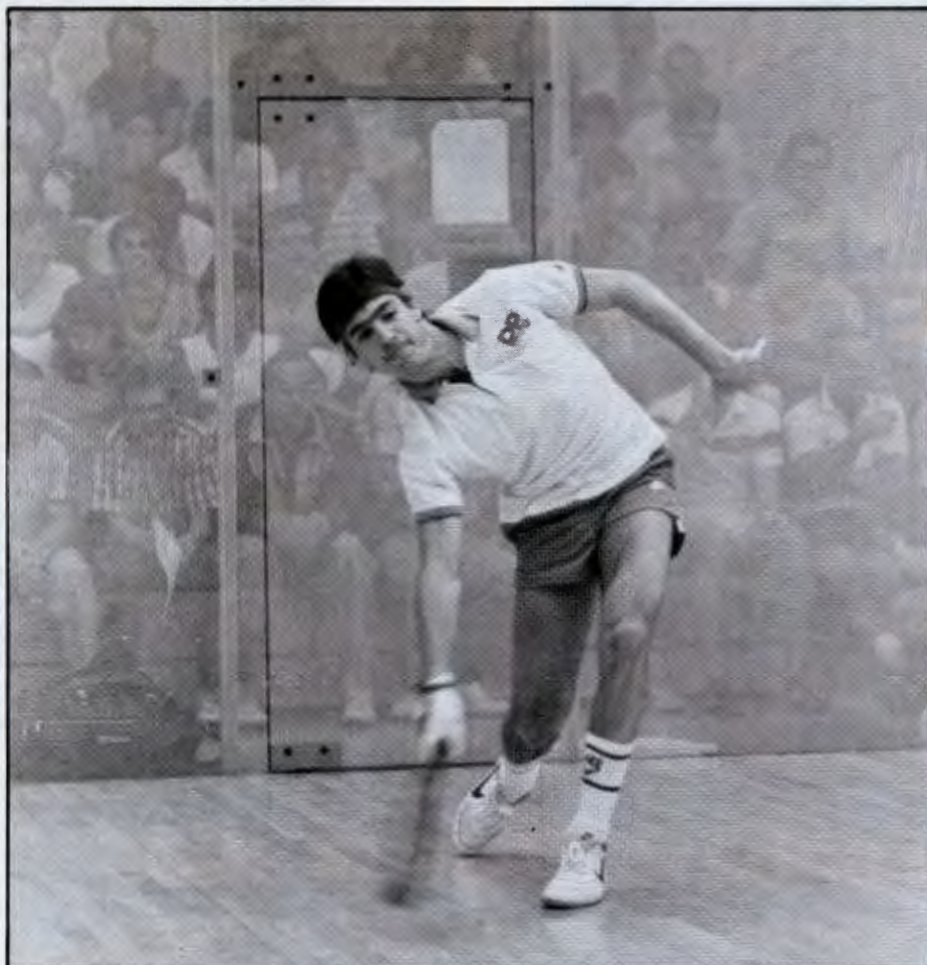
Tough competition for Ferris came when he faced Tim Hansen, Palm Beach, FL, in upper bracket semi-final action. Hansen, who went on to win the Men's 19+ title, gave it all he had and definitely owned a good deal of the left front corner. Unfortunately, he didn't own it all, as Ferris stopped him.

Ferris faced Fielding Snow, Seattle, in upper bracket quarter-final play. Snow, seeded eighth, and Ferris played as if they were roommates instead of opponents, helping one another off the floor, laughing after tough rallies, showing what good sportsmanship is all about.

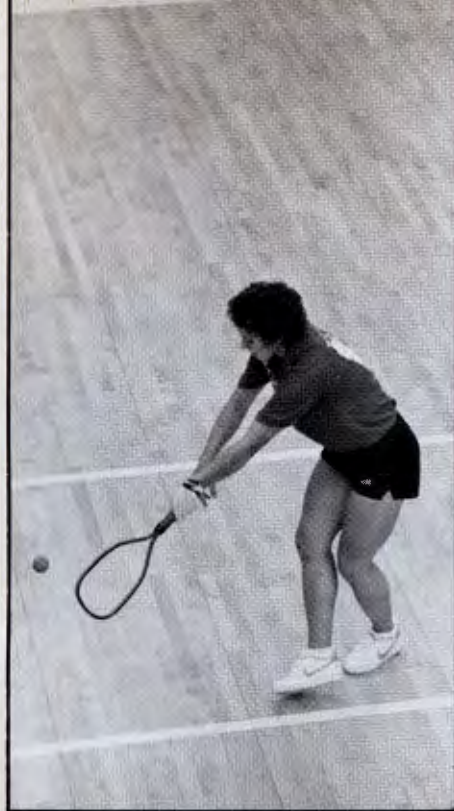
In the quarters action of the lower bracket, Cascio faced Tom Montalbano, also of New York. In one of the tournament's tenser tie-breakers, Cascio, seeded second, let out several war cries, claiming later that "*they help give me the little extra push to win.*" Win he did, 21-14, 11-21, 11-3.

Cascio's victory yells over Montalbano were of little help to him in the match against Kaihlanen. Kaihlanen's powerful serves frazzled Cascio, leading to in Texan's 21-9, 21-17 win. Cascio won the bronze.

Kaihlanen faced Dan Obremski, PA, for his quarters match of the lower bracket, winning a tough one, 21-9, 21-20.



Open winner Dan Ferris makes it two in a row.



Marci Drexler steps into her power drive serve.

Women's Open

Marci Drexler faced tough times throughout the tourney as evidenced by her wet, dangling curls at the end of every match. The road to the top was not easy as Drexler found herself in tie-breaker situations in almost every round. Her quiet cool, though, led to her eventual national championship in the Women's Open.

Both Drexler and top seed Cindy Baxter played extremely well throughout the tournament and looked tough coming into the championship match. In finals play, the key factor turned out to be Drexler's superb overhead kills.

Neither player surged ahead with point after point being exchanged until Baxter called a time out at 20-20 in the second game. When play resumed, Drexler served up a drive that the ref immediately termed an ace, winning her the title.

In upper bracket semi's action, Baxter faced Marci Lynch, PA, who despite playing on the WPRA tour, is still deemed amateur by the AARA. Lynch won the first game, 21-18 but Baxter's determination paid off as she handily won the next two, 21-6, 11-1.

Drexler faced Mary Dee (another WPRA player) in lower bracket semi-final. As in her other matches, Drexler worked hard for the win, eventually upsetting Dee.

For the third place bronze medal, Lynch took the first game 21-12, but it was Dee's day as she took the next two games, 21-10, 11-7.

Age Categories

In other division play, the Men's 19+ received a good deal of attention as spectators looked to the likes of Hansen, Montalbano, Peter Chardavoyne, and Mike Coleman as future Open champs.

In the end, Hansen, the big kid from Florida, took the title, proving that the combination of control and power make his game difficult to beat.

"Tim is one of four or five kids from Florida who are equally good right now," State Director Van Dubolsky said. Actually, Hansen's win makes him just a little better than the others.

The bleachers were packed not only with Floridian spectators, but with backers from New York and Massachusetts out to cheer their youngsters on.

In Women's 19+ action, California's Mona Mook took the title from Cathie Nichols, Niagara Falls, Ont., Canada, 21-17, 21-19. Mook was the only Inter-collegiate Champion to also win at the Nationals.

Aaron Metaj, 14, Ypsilanti, MI defeated Drew Kachtik, 16, Brownsville, TX, 21-18, 14-21, 11-7 in a thrilling match for Men's B title. Third place went to Geoff Hunter, 15, Miami, FL.

"That kid is always on," a spectator commented about Metaj, who rarely called a time out in the match, never contested the ref's calls, was first back onto the court after his opponent's breaks and didn't appear to even sweat. Kachtik played an impressive match, but just didn't have enough.

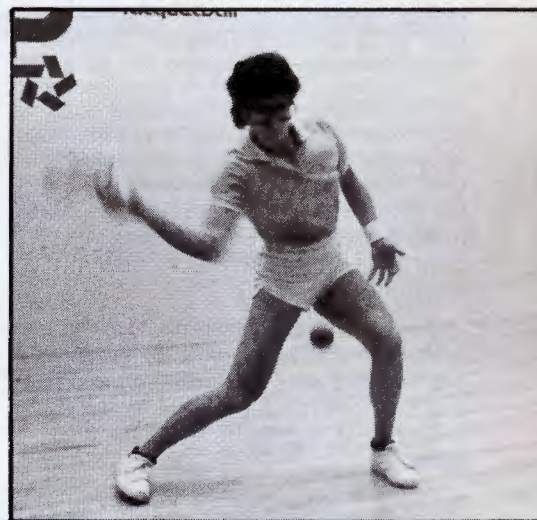
Jane Bonine, MN won the gold medal in the Women's B divisions while the silver medal went to Robin Rodriguez, Alaska.

Kathy Mueller, MN, announced that she would win her division. Her gutsy determination failed to win her a gold medal, but she left with medals in two divisions.

Susan Busch, St. Louis, MO, won the gold with Mueller winning the silver in Women's 45+. Susan Kraft, Wichita, KS, won the women's 45+ division with Barb Smith, Boise, ID, coming in second, Mueller third.

In a repeat match between Lucy Zarfes, York, PA, and Donna Henry, Novi, MI, in the Women's 30+ division, Zarfes

Cindy Baxter prepares to rip a forehand in the finals.



defeated Henry, 14-21, 21-15, 11-5. The two had played at the Ektelon/Perrier the year before in which Zarfes demonstrated how a ceiling game can be effective against a power player.

"I thought I could do it this time," Henry said, *"I was confident, but she was the better player."*

Jay Schwartz, winner in both the Men's 30+ and 35+ divisions defeated Bob Wilhelm, Flint, MI for Men's 30+ and Fielding Snow for the Men's 35+.

In the Men's 40+ division, Jim Austin, playing before his hometown crowd, defeated Bob Riley, West Palm Beach, FL.

The Men's 45+ division finals was in the spotlight—they were on the glass court designated for the Men's Open finals! While their match went on and on, spectators were gathering for the Open. Soon, the entire gallery was cheering Dario Mas and Donald Costleigh, Dr., NY, as they battled for first place which Mas won.

Bob Folsom, former AARA president, upset number one seed Bud Muehleisen in quarters play and went on to win the Men's 50+ division.

Fintan Kilbride, Toronto, Canada, brought home the second medal for Canada, winning over Pierre Miller, Terre Haute, IN in the 55+.

The Golden Masters divisions, both men and women, were an especially nice touch to this year's tournament. Although some divisions had only

enough entries for round robin play, their spirit and determination matched those of younger players.

In the wheelchair division, scores weren't as important as the availability of players! Unfortunately, Special Olympics for Wheelchairs was being held the same weekend in Los Angeles, and many players who would otherwise have been at the Nationals opted instead for Special Olympics.

The exhibition that wheelchair athletes presented was inspiring to able-bodied players who watched. Although allowed two bounces instead of one, the wheelchair player has few differences in rules.

In Men's Open, wheelchair division, Chip Parmoly, San Diego, upset defending champ Jim Leatherman, Baltimore. Dan Kiley, San Diego, placed third.

Tammy Riggs, San Diego, took the gold medal in the Women's Open, Wheelchair division with Kathy Donoho, Houston, placing second. Ken Matlock, Denver, won in the Men's Novice category. Price Williams, Houston, was second.

Thank You, Everyone!

Where does one begin to thank the many people who were responsible for making the 1984 U.S. National Singles Championships the most memorable ever?

Without question, Lite Beer from Miller's continued involvement with the AARA and racquetball was once again in great evidence. Many thanks go to: Lynne Schlaeger, Young Adult Marketing Coordinator from Lite Beer in Milwaukee, WI; Doug Wood, Area Manager of Miller Brewing in Houston; Chuck Riverman, Regional Administrator for Miller; Horlock Beverage Company, Miller distributors in Houston; Van Calligan, radio interviewer representing Lite Beer; and Judi Martin, Senior Account Executive, from the Ketchum Advertising Agency who handled publicity.

A special expression appreciation goes to Diversified Products' Greg Eveland, Racquetball Product Manager, Vice President Jimmy Thompson, and Buck Bowers, Regional Manager for their continued involvement in the AARA and amateur racquetball in the United States.

Appreciation goes also to Bob Beebe, Product Manager for Penn Athletic Products Company, and to Larry Keating, Promotion Manager, for supporting and sponsoring this most prestigious tournament.

And, it is difficult to express just how much we appreciate the Houston Downtown YMCA and the Organizing Committee headed by

The men with their gold: (l. to r.) Doug Wood, area manager for Miller Brewing, Ferris, Kaihlanen, Luke St. Onge.



1984 U.S. National Singles Championships Presented by Lite Beer From Miller Sponsored by DP and Penn Houston Downtown YMCA Houston, TX, May 25-28

Dick Bagby for another outstanding job.

Thanks to the CENIKOR volunteers under the guidance of Ken Barun, who manned the tournament desk with Floor Manager Pat Gerrity. They were so helpful and did a wonderful job.

Gerrity once again combined his great organizational skills with patience and public relations in order to achieve a smoothly-run Nationals—sometimes against incredible odds.

To Mary Ellen Fish, Executive Secretary of the AARA, thanks for coordinating everything between National Headquarters and the Downtown YMCA.

To Barbara St. Onge who put in 50-hour weeks of voluntary effort to help put things together.

To the highly professional Downtown YMCA staff under the direction of Executive Director Gary Clark, Assistant Executive Director Jim Ferber, and staff members Dan Wilcox, Mark Norman, Jerry Sampson, Kelly Gordon, and the many others too numerous to name who made it all happen—over and above normal responsibilities—we express our deepest appreciation.

Then last, but certainly not least, a standing ovation for the 600+ singles entrants, who multiplied to over 900 in the playing of two events. They made the Championships a big success and another historical, very special moment, in racquetball.

Men's Open: 1st—Dan Ferris, Hopkins, MN; 2nd—Ken Kaihlanen, San Antonio, TX; 3rd—Jim Cascio, Lancaster, PA

Men's Junior Veterans 19+: 1st—Tim Hansen, Palm Beach, FL; 2nd—Pete Chardavoyne, Shrub Oak, NY; 3rd—Mike Coleman, Worcester, MA

Men's Junior Veterans 25+: 1st—Bill Land, Lafayette, LA; 2nd—Skip Merrill, Dallas, TX; 3rd—Dennis Aceto, Hyannis, MA

Men's Seniors 30+: 1st—Jay Schwartz, Pensacola, FL; 2nd—Bob Wilhelm, Flint, MI; 3rd—Joe Wirkus, Madison, WI

Men's Seniors 35+: 1st—Jay Schwartz, Pensacola, FL; 2nd—Fielding Snow, Seattle, WA; 3rd—Johnny Hennen, Chattanooga, TN

Men's Seniors 40+: 1st—Jim Austin, Houston, TX; 2nd—Bob Riley, West Palm Beach, FL; 3rd—Harold Powell, Millington, PA

Men's Masters 45+: 1st—Dario Mas, Wilmington, DE; 2nd—Donald Costleigh, Sr., Long Island, NY; 3rd—Joseph Jackman, West Pittsburgh, PA; C.—Larry Barclay, Ft. Bragg, CA

Men's Masters 50+: 1st—Pat Colombo, Scarsdale, NY; 2nd—Bob Folsom, Portland, ME; 3rd—Al Ferrari, St. Louis, MO

Men's Golden Masters 55+: 1st—Fintan Kilbride, Toronto, Canada; 2nd—Pierre Miller, Terre Haute, IN; 3rd—Dub Freshwater, Wrightsville Beach, NC

Men's Golden Masters 60+: 1st—Earl Acuff, Blacksburg, VA; 2nd—Carl Loveday, San Diego, CA; 3rd—Art Goss, Colorado Springs, CO

Men's Golden Masters 65+: 1st—Earl Acuff, Blacksburg, VA; 2nd—Marvin Simkins, York, PA; 3rd—Luzell Wilde, Centerville, IT

Men's Golden Masters 70+: 1st—I.R. Gumer, Louisville, KY; 2nd—John Pearce, Waco, TX; 3rd—J. Frank Douglas, San Angelo, TX

Men's B: 1st—Aaron, Metaj, Ypsilanti, MI; 2nd—Drew Kachlik, Brownsville, TX; 3rd—Geoff Hunter, Miami, FL

Women's Open: 1st—Marc Drexler, North Hollywood, CA; 2nd—Cindy Baxter, Lewistown, PA; 3rd—Mary Dee, Weare, NH

Women's Junior Veterans 19+: 1st—Mona Mook, Sacramento, CA; 2nd—Cathie Nichols, Niagra Falls, Canada; 3rd—Val Pease, Bronx, NY

Women's Junior Veterans 25+: 1st—Molly O'Brien, Sellersville, PA; 2nd—Babette Bell, Pensacola, FL; 3rd—Chris Evon Lawrence, Oak Park, IL

Women's Seniors 30+: 1st—Lucy Zarfos, York, PA; 2nd—Donna Henry, Novi, MI; 3rd—Gail Troxell, Orlando, FL

Women's Seniors 35+: 1st—Barb Tennesen, Elk River, MN; 2nd—Kathy Huban, St. Cloud, MN; 3rd—Mildred Gwinn, Matthews, NC

Women's Seniors 40+ : 1st—Susan Kraft, Wichita, KS; 2nd—Barb Smith, Boise, ID; 3rd—Kathy Mueller, St. Cloud, MN

Women's Masters 45+ : 1st—Susan Busch, St. Louis, MO; 2nd—Kathy Mueller, St. Cloud, MN; 3rd—Nancy Harrer, Minneapolis, MN

Women's Masters 50+ : 1st—Colleen Sloan, Aptos, CA; 2nd—Sue Graham, Ft. Carson, CO; 3rd—Cleata Ching, Philadelphia, PA

Women's Masters 55+ : 1st—Janet Kettman, Fairfield, CT

Women's Golden Masters 60+ : 1st—Mary Lou Acuff, Blacksburg, VA

Women's Golden Masters 65+ : 1st—Lucille Douglas, San Angelo, TX

Women's B: 1st—Jane Bonine, Blaine, MN; 2nd—Robin Rodriguez, AL

Men's Wheelchair Open: 1st—Chip Parmoly, San Diego, CA; 2nd—Jim Leatherman, Baltimore, MD; 3rd—Dan Kiley, San Diego, CA; 4th—John Foust, Aspen, CO; 5th—William Clark, Houston, TX

Women's Wheelchair Open: 1st—Tammy Riggs, San Diego, CA; 2nd—Kathy Donoho, Houston, TX

Men's Wheelchair Novice: 1st—Ken Matlock, Denver, CO; 2nd—Price Williams, Houston, TX

Notes of The Tournament

Notes on the tournament . . . The camaraderie felt at the Nationals seemed to blossom as the tournament went on. One high point came during a slide show presented at the Annual Banquet, Saturday night, by Michigan's Jim Hiser. Whoops of laughter were heard all around as familiar faces popped up to strains of such songs as "Older Women" and "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" and "Let's Hear It For The Boys." Tears and a quiet hush came over this same energetic crowd when slides of the Olympic Center, Colorado Springs, flashed on the screen . . . *Lite Beer From Miller celebrity, Bert Jones, former Baltimore Colts quarterback, tried his hand at a celebrity racquetball match with Dave Carter, Houston Oilers center. They gave up a good deal before the 21-point cut-off with Jones asking, "Is there a 'poor' division in racquetball?" . . . Jones was also asked to squash a Penn racquetball can in an attempt to parody his TV commercial . . . (He couldn't) . . . Mike Arnolt, IN, received the John Halverson Award for outstanding contributions to racquetball at the state level . . . Arnolt, Van Dubolsky, FL, Garner*

White, SD, Jim Hiser, MI were elected to three-year terms on the AARA board of directors. Dubolsky was elected by the Board to serve as the National Commissioner and Arnolt was given the responsibilities of National Rules Commissioner . . . *Pat Gerrity, PA, did a remarkable job as floor manager at the Houston Y, keeping the tournament on course and seeing that each loser took a turn as ref . . . The Houston Y with its 32 courts has been chosen to again host the Nationals in May, 1985 . . . Lee Frederickson, MI will never forget reffing the game Bud Muehleisen lost . . . DP and Penn sponsored the tournament by supplying balls, fruit, fruit bars and Impact drink to all players . . . Upset AARA women members campaigned to have those WPRA touring pros ousted from Nationals play or else forced to play with Men's Open players . . . Chip Parmoly, winner in the Wheelchair Men's Open division, was the stand-in for Jon Voight in the movie "Coming Home" . . . Great sums of (play) monies were earned at Saturday night's Casino night, run to raise money for the U.S. Racquetball Team. ●*

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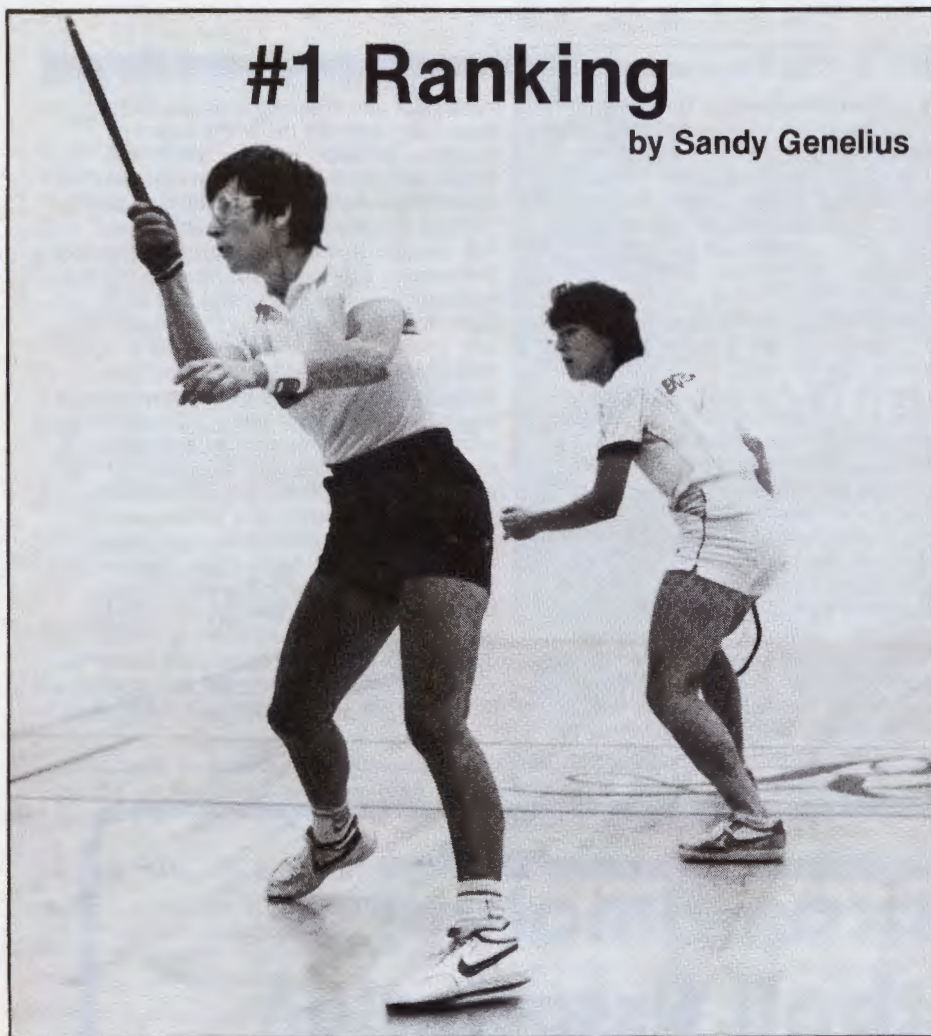
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McKay Gains WPRA National Title,

#1 Ranking

by Sandy Genelius



McKay sets up for a backhand drive as Adams prepares to cover in the finals.

It was not an astronomical illusion. At precisely 3:41 p.m. on June 3rd in Ft. Worth, there was a lone star shining over Texas, and its name was Heather McKay.

The amazing McKay, a superb athlete who celebrated her 43rd birthday on July 31, had just persevered to pull out a 21-17, 21-16, 18-21, 11-21, 15-10 tie-breaker victory over chief rival, Lynn Adams, at the beautiful RiverBend Athletic Club to claim her third Women's Professional Racquetball Association national singles title in five years.

McKay also pocketed \$5,250, the winner's share of a record \$23,000 in prize money, the largest purse ever offered at a WPRA event in its five-year history. With the win, McKay cemented her position as the number one player in women's racquetball for the 1983-84 season. Although Adams might have attempted to challenge that claim

before the tournament began, there was no disputing the fact afterwards.

The dossier on the Adams-McKay rivalry for the season would appear to indicate a near stand-off heading into the Nationals, but McKay was poised with her finger on the trigger. During the season the two women met in the final of every WPRA tournament in which they both participated with McKay winning three out of five. Heading into the WPRA Nationals, then, the most important tournament of the year and the one which every other event points towards, McKay should have felt very confident, right? Wrong.

Within women's racquetball, this tournament is, by far, the most important of the year, so anything can happen in the Nationals. Anything almost *did* happen as McKay came the closest to being eliminated before a final as she had all year, thanks to a heroic effort by eighth seed Caryn McKinney in their quarter-final encounter.

Although the top-ranked player barely escaped with her life via a 19-17 tie-breaker win, perhaps the phenomenal struggle put up by McKinney forced McKay to reassess her play, which had not yet come close to its customary peak, and prepared her for what promised to be a tough semi-final match and a possible confrontation with Adams in the final.

What was made perfectly clear was that the caliber of play in WPRA tournaments has increased dramatically over the past five years. Ironically, although it put a severe scare into McKay in Ft. Worth, it is really a tribute to the exceptional standards of skill which have been set by top players like McKay, Adams and Shannon Wright-Hamilton. Truly, the best is yet to come.

A sampling of the best was provided by the top two seeds in the finals showdown. The "Shootout at RiverBend Corral" was nothing less than a masterpiece of athletic abilities, emotional swings and mental toughness. It was the kind of match which one hates to see either player lose, especially with so much riding on the outcome: the winner of the contest would reign as the number one player for the season and would also collect an unprecedented third WPRA national singles title.

McKay had claimed the first two championships in 1980 and '81, and Adams



Davis, playing probably the best ball of her career, takes one off the back wall against McKay in the semi-finals.

Wright-Hamilton reaches to cover a backhand down-the-line against Adams in the semi's.



entered this year's tournament as the two-time defending champion. Throw in the record-setting prize money and endorsement bonuses, and one can understand why the pressure and tension throughout the week and especially on June 3rd was as thick and heavy as a bowl of Texas chili.

The first game saw Adams surge to an 8-3 lead, primarily the result of several skips off a somewhat nervous McKay. The Toronto resident came back, though, to score the next three points on a forehand pinch, a kill and two Adams skips, to pull to within 6-8.

After trading shots for a brief time, McKay, at 8-11, scored the next five points, mostly on offensive shots, to take the lead for the first time. She combined two forehand passes, an Adams skipped return of serve, a backhand pinch, another skip and a drive serve ace to hold a two-point advantage at 13-11. Following a McKay missed return and an Adams forehand kill, the top seed reeled off a sizzling forehand down-the-line pass, and Adams skipped the next three shots, all forehands, to allow McKay to surge to her biggest lead of the game at 17-13.

The two women traded points evenly until, at 20-16 in McKay's favor, Adams saved a match point with a soft backhand kill. One point later, however, she skipped a forehand to allow McKay to claim the first game.

Game two was a nip-and-tuck affair from the start, having been tied at 3, 4, 5 and 6. Excellent serves were the order of play, with both players effectively mixing drive and Z-serves to keep each other in a more defensive position. McKay increased a 13-10 advantage by three points with a forehand kill, a drive serve ace to Adams' backhand and a sharp forehand cross-court pass to push to a commanding 16-10 lead.

After calling a time-out, Adams returned to hit a backhand V-pass and a forehand kill down-the-line to cut the lead by two points. Finding herself down at match point again, 20-14, Adams cracked a forehand pinch from deep in the backcourt to pull to within four, but McKay countered with a cross-court backhand pass on the return of serve to go two up in games.

"I was too pumped up in the first two games," reflected Adams. "The fact that the year-end rankings were not determined going into the match added even more pressure."

McKay's summation of the first two games was similar. *"I felt very much in control in games one and two. Lynn didn't seem to capitalize on many breaks in those games, maybe because she seemed nervous and was over-playing her shots."*

Very rarely in racquetball is a player able to muster enough grit to come back from a 0-2 deficit. In the third and fourth games at RiverBend, Adams pulled out her sixguns and vehemently defied all of the logic and statistics which say that accomplishing such a feat is nearly impossible. In a display of determination rarely seen, she finally began to execute her game plan: serve consistently hard and deep, take advantage of every McKay error, play with abandon, and go all out on every point.

This strategy allowed Adams to build relatively comfortable leads and did not allow McKay to establish any sort of rhythm. In the third game, with the score tied at 13, Adams ran off six consecutive points on an even mixture of passes, kills and unusually effective pinches, to surge to a 19-13 lead. While McKay made a late charge to narrow the gap to 19-16 in Adams' favor, the Californian hit a forehand pass down-the-line to move to game point.

McKay then saved two game points when Adams skipped a backhand dink in the front court and McKay connected on a forehand pinch. Adams cracked a

backhand kill down-the-line to seal the game and cement her comeback bid.

The fourth game was closely contested until, at 12-11 in Adams' favor, the second seed strung together an incredible nine straight points to easily even the match score at two. Only two of these points were scored on McKay miscues, proving that Adams was taking the offensive and working her game plan to perfection.

The spurt included six Adams kills, a sure sign that her game was working. With the final kill, then, she had accomplished the near-impossible: she had come back from the brink of elimination to even the match at two games apiece.

Heading into the tie-breaker, the fifth and deciding set which would determine the WPRA national champion for 1984 and the number one ranking for the year, one might think that Adams would have had momentum and confidence on her side. McKay thought so, as she related afterwards, but Adams disagreed.

"I honestly felt that we were dead even going into the tie-breaker," said Adams. "Unfortunately, a few things happened that changed the course of the game drastically for me."

Those "things" were two crack-outs on McKay shots, one of them occurring on the first point of the game. *"When she hit the crack on the first point, I got a little down, mentally," said Adams. "But when she did it again, I have to admit that it did affect my play. I started missing set-ups, and that was the end. I think they got Heather going, too."*

McKay concurred. *"Those kinds of shots can easily serve as a boost to the person who hits them and they seem like easy points. The other person has to try very hard to pull herself together, which isn't easy when there is so much pressure there to begin with."*



McKinney chases down a McKay pass in their thrilling quarter-final tie-breaker.

Photos by Drew Stoddard

In the end, the top seed won the tie-breaker on her own ability to hit pin-point pinches and Adams inability to do so, with seven of the last eight points decided in this manner. McKay summed up her championship performance: "I was able to serve well, hit hard shots and play my game, which I knew I had to do to even be competitive in the match. Beyond that, I think that I played a little better at the right times."

Neither of the semi-finals quite lived up to the expectations of the crowd and players. McKay easily disposed of Francine Davis, 21-13, 21-13, 21-17. Davis, nonetheless, played an excellent tournament to cap off one of her finer years on the WPRA tour. She chalked up three impressive wins en route to her loss to McKay, ended the year in the number 11 position, her finest finish since 1981.

If a player ever had cause to win one for someone special, certainly Shannon Wright-Hamilton qualified at the Nationals. The 27-year-old native of Ft. Worth was not only playing in front of her husband, father, brother and grandmother, but had also announced earlier in the week that she was officially "semi-retiring" from WPRA competition. It is assumed that this retirement will not be of the Ali variety as Hamilton has plenty to keep her busy—she is a junior in the pre-med program at UNLV and plans to attend medical school at UNR upon graduation.

Shannon reigned as the number one player for many years and has never fallen lower than the third spot in the five years of the WPRA's existence. RiverBend proved to be her last stand in 1984, however, as Adams spoiled the party 22-20, 21-14, 21-13.

Other than the final, the match of the tournament was the quarter-final match between top banana McKay and McKinney, although a legitimate argument could be presented for this encounter remaining in most people's minds as "the biggie."

In four years never has McKay come as close to being erased from a tournament than she did at the hands of the feisty, never-say-die McKinney. Match points were as plentiful as oil rigs and,

although the Atlantian looked like a reject from *General Hospital*, she played like anything but an invalid. McKay readily agreed after the match that she was "lucky to win," as the 21-16, 9-21, 17-21, 21-10, 19-17 final score attests.

In other quarter-final action, Davis pulled out a tie-breaker win over the formidable and unpredictable Heather Stupp of Montreal, 23-21, 21-14, 16-21, 12-21, 15-9, in a match which saw the Canadian also come back from a 0-2 deficit; Hamilton booted Joyce Jackson, who broke a bursa sac in her arm midway through the match 23-21, 21-13, 21-16; and Adams squelched Brenda Barrett of Miami, 22-20, 21-11, 21-9.

The WPRA tour now takes its summer hiatus and will resume action in the fall.

WPRA Nationals

RiverBend Athletic Club

Ft. Worth, TX, May 30-June 3, 1984

Women's Professional Singles

Round of 16: McKay d. Stoll 21-12, 21-8, 21-16; McKinney d. Gardner 15-21, 21-14, 19-21, 21-13, 15-10; Davis d. Marriott 14-21, 21-16, 21-12, 21-15; Stupp d. Panzeri 16-21, 21-19, 22-20, 21-15; Wright-Hamilton d. Harding 21-9, 21-17, 21-13; Jackson d. Gilreath 21-19, 22-20, 20-22, 21-10; Barrett d. Bell 22-20, 21-17, 21-13; Adams d. Rasmussen 21-16, 21-10, 21-15.

Quarter-finals: McKay d. McKinney 21-16, 9-21, 17-21, 21-10, 19-17; Davis d. Stupp 23-21, 21-14, 16-21, 12-21, 15-9; Wright-Hamilton d. Jackson 23-21, 21-13, 21-16; Adams d. Barrett 22-20, 21-11, 21-9.

Semi-finals: McKay d. Davis 21-13, 21-13, 21-17; Adams d. Wright-Hamilton 22-20, 21-14, 21-13.

Finals: McKay d. Adams 21-17, 21-16, 18-21, 11-21, 15-10.

WPRA Rankings (Season-ending)

Ranking	Player	Total Ranking Points
1.	Heather McKay	306.13
2.	Lynn Adams	290.25
3.	S. Wright-Hamilton	165.00
4.	Janell Marriott	100.07
5.	Vicki Panzeri	99.38
6.	Terri Gilreath	90.50
7.	Laura Martino	87.33
8.	Caryn McKinney	74.86
9.	Marci Greer	69.25
10.	Brenda Barrett	66.25
11.	Francine Davis	64.13
12.	Joyce Jackson	60.75
13.	Peggy Gardner	56.67
14.	Heather Stupp	50.50
15.	Jennifer Harding	46.13
16.	Stacey Fletcher	37.50
17.	Bonnie Stoll	37.13
18.	Diane Bullard	28.83
19.	Molly O'Brien	24.57
20.	Marcy Lynch	21.71
21.	Carol Pranka	20.36
22.	Liz Alvarado	19.67
23.	Martha McDonald	15.71
24.	Mary Dee	14.67

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

Director Caryn McKinney was also honored by being elected president of the WPRA, with Lynn Adams vice president, and new board members Terri Gilreath, Marcy Lynch and Molly O'Brien . . . *AMF Voit Most Improved Player award went to O'Brien, whose level of play increased dramatically as the season wore on. She received a \$500 check and trophy for her well deserved award . . . The Steding Cup, awarded annually to the WPRA member "who has contributed the most to the sport of racquetball"* went to McKay, who is credited with playing a major role in the raising of the

skill level of women's racquetball . . . *The Sportsmanship Award went to Jennifer Harding, outgoing WPRA president who has been instrumental in the success of the WPRA for the last four years . . . Hats off to Ken and Dave Newell, RiverBend A.C. owners, tournament director Mary Pat Sklenka and the entire staff for a first-class showcase event. WPRA will be returning to RiverBend for the next two years . . . The finals were televised over Home Sports Entertainment (they also do Texas Rangers baseball and Dallas Mavericks basketball), with Rita Hoff-Scott impersonating Howard Cosell.* ●



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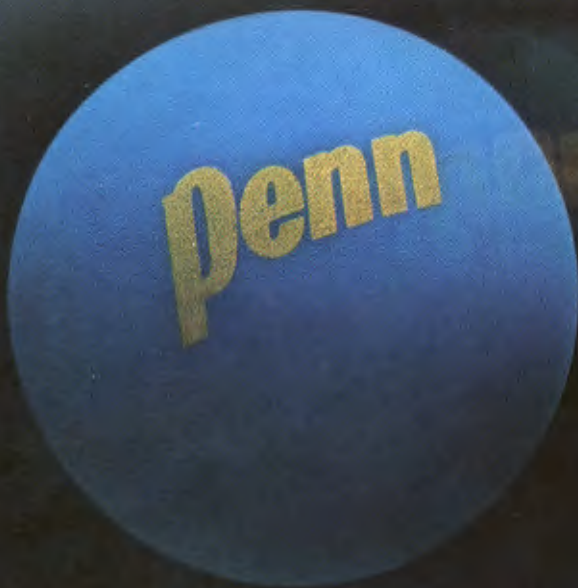
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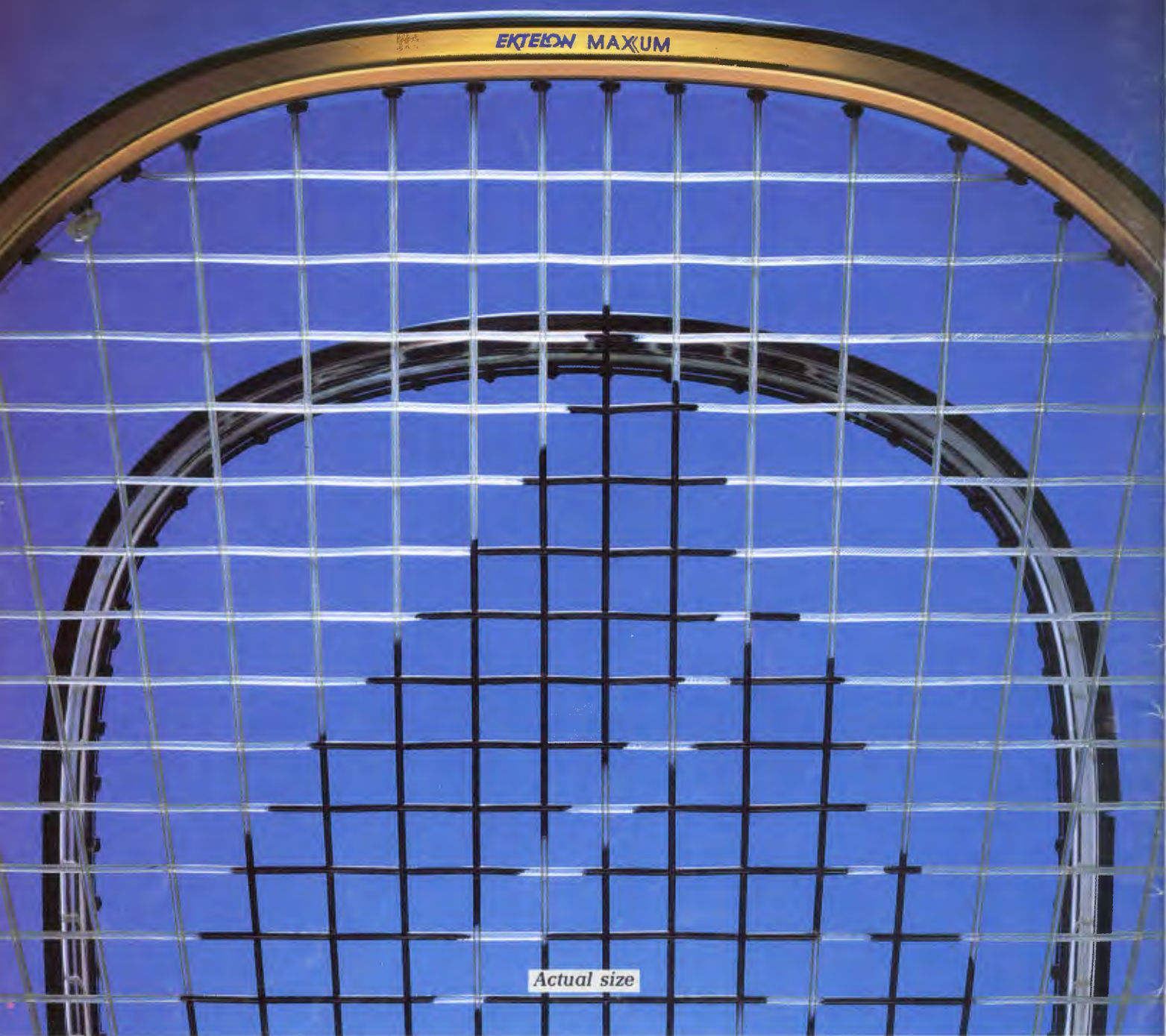
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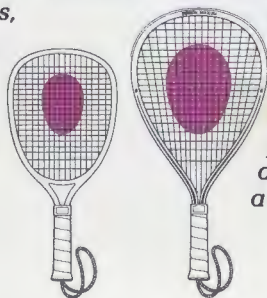
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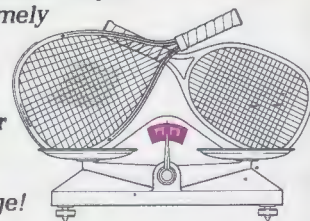
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