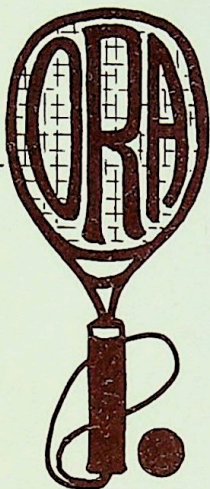


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OHIO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION



**FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
1975**

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY



City of Cleveland

RALPH J. PERK
MAYOR

The Ohio Racquetball Association
First Annual State Racquetball Tournament
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Participants:

I am delighted to extend a cordial welcome to each of you on behalf of the people of Cleveland.

We are honored, along with Cleveland State University, to be selected as the site for the First Annual State Racquetball Tournament, on December 13, 14, and 15, 1974.

It is my sincere hope that all of the participants competing in the men and women brackets, junior, and collegiate, will enjoy a successful event.

If your busy schedule allows, please take the time to visit Cleveland's many civic, cultural, and sporting attractions.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Ralph J. Perk, written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being prominent.

Ralph J. Perk
Mayor of Cleveland

RJP:rjs

THE CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115

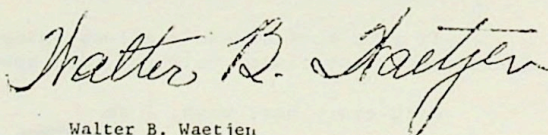
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

(216) 687-3544

It is a distinct pleasure to welcome the participants of the First Annual Ohio Racquetball Association State Tournament to the Cleveland State University campus and to the CSU Physical Education Center.

A tournament such as this, providing healthful recreation and competition to both men and women of varying ages from the teens through the more senior years, epitomizes the purpose and value of sports.

We are happy that Cleveland State can offer the facilities to carry out this tournament, and hope you thoroughly enjoy your stay on campus. I hope, too, that while you are here you will have the opportunity to visit other parts of our growing campus and share with us our pride in this growing state university.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Walter B. Waetjen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" being the most prominent.

Walter B. Waetjen
President
Cleveland State University

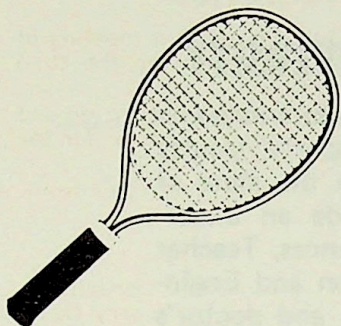
THE HISTORY OF CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Cleveland State University was created in 1964, by the transferral of the property, faculty and program of Fenn College to the state of Ohio. It's mission is to provide an undergraduate program in Arts and Sciences, Teacher Education, Business Administration and Engineering and to introduce master's and doctor's degree programs in these same areas; to emphasize service to those in the commuting area; and to provide educational leadership in northern Ohio.

In line with the above purposes the Physical Education Center was built. It has afforded our students and faculty with greatly increased opportunities for teaching and training experiences and for both intramural and intercollegiate programs.

Compliments of

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OHIO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

127 NORTHFIELD ROAD
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(216) 439-2424

Dear Participant:

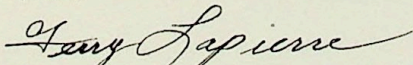
The Board of Directors are pleased to welcome you to the first Annual State Racquetball Tournament. All efforts have been exhausted to make your visit most pleasant and enjoyable.

This occasion is indeed a first, not only for the State of Ohio, but for the entire country. We are not only seeking true State Champions, but are the first to have established league competition encompassing the entire state.

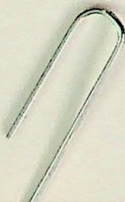
Article II, Section 1 of our Constitution defines its purpose and, that is in part: "A non profit organization for educational purposes designed to foster the development of the sport of racquetball in the State of Ohio". This tournament is part of that development and we are especially interested in the women, collegiate and juniors for this is where the future strength of racquetball lies.

The Board of Directors are indeed proud of those who unselfishly gave of their time and energy towards making this tournament a success. I wish at this time to personally thank the entire committee, the staff at Cleveland State University and its students for their assistance and enthusiasm for the greatest sport in the world. We hope that some of this enthusiasm will be shared by all and upon returning home, you will become an "Apostle" for racquetball and our Association.

Good luck to all and our sincere wish that we will see you next year.


Gerry Lapierre

President



THE HISTORY OF THE OHIO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

The Ohio Racquetball Association was formed in July 1974 with a meeting of representatives from across the state for the purpose of approving the Ohio Racquetball State Constitution and election of state officers.

The State Racquetball Association Constitution with By-Laws was approved and has been properly recorded. In addition, the State has granted a Charter for the formation of the Association and it is duly recorded in Columbus, Ohio.

The following are the officers elected who also serve on the Executive Committee:

President	Gerry Lapierre
Secretary-Treasurer	Reed Gunselman
I.R.A. State Representative	Jerry Davis
Tournament Director	Jack Soble
Representative District 3 & 4	Art Payne

The State is divided into essentially four geographical districts. Each district has or will have a representative who will sit on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall determine the direction of racquetball in the State of Ohio in accordance with the wishes of the State members and the State Constitution.

Each district representative is responsible for the promotion of racquetball within his district. He also provides a source for the members in that district to express their feelings on the development of racquetball both on a local as well as a national level. He coordinates racquetball activity within this district, reporting it to the Home Office in order that a Newsletter can be sent to all members of the O.R.A. informing them of developments around the State.

Each district is also participating in League play with the clubs meeting in a home and home series with clubs in that division for a total of 8 matches in a period from October thru April.

In April a playoff will be held between Districts in the State which will determine a State Team Champion.

Team play consists of 6 players ranked 1 thru 6. The number 1 player plays the other number 1 player two games of 21 points. Subsequently, the number 2 thru number 6 players play their counterpart two games of 21 points also. This provides a total of 21 team points in singles. Then the number 1 player becomes partners with his number 6 player and plays the other team's number 1 & 6 players a game of doubles of one game of 21 points. Subsequently, the number 2 & 5 and 3 & 4 play their counterparts. This provides a total of 3 team points in the doubles play. The total match then consists of 15 team points. The winner of the League, again of the season, is the team with the best winning percentage.

The growth of racquetball in the State of Ohio has been aided by the cooperation of all clubs, private and public. The 1971 League play consisted of a couple of invitational matches between 2 or 3 clubs in Northeast Ohio. This was followed in 1972 by a League of 6 clubs. In 1973, it was a League of 8 clubs and this year, 1974, the League in Northeastern Ohio is 10 teams. Next year it is expected to be 12 teams. This type of growth will be experienced both in the Northwest District 1 as well as the Southern Districts 3 & 4.

The growth of the sport in a sense is a natural one but there are two people that have devoted an extra effort to the promotion of racquetball. One is Gerry Lapierre who is the first President of the Ohio Racquetball Association and former member of the Executive Committee of the International Racquetball Association. His efforts have always been to organize the State into an Association for the control of its own destiny and the promotion of the sport of racquetball. Second is Reed Gunselman who has promoted League play locally in Northeast Ohio and now this year the League has developed into play around the State.

The Association feels that racquetball is in the infant stage and within the next few years we will see a phenomenal growth in the number of players.

"Be a swinger and join the racquetball team".

OHIO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Gerry Lapierre
Secretary/Treasurer	Reed H. Gunselman
I.R.A. State Representative.	Jerold Davis
Program & Tournament Chairman	Jack Soble

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

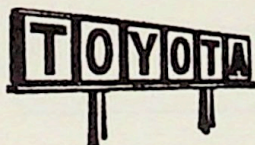
Director	Gerry Lapierre
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Floor Manager	Len Buttitta
Floor Manager.	Mike Hoaghlund
Hospitality	Marshall Mallie
	Guy Bromelia
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Advertising	Dick King
	Bill Stubbs
College Chairman	Jane Pease/Cleveland State University
	Dr. P. F. Cosiano/Baldwin-Wallace College
Student Representative	Carolyn Miller
	Mike Hoaghlund
Financial Chairman ,	Reed Gunselman
Reporter	Maury Kastner
Photography	Cleveland State Photography Club
Registration Manager	Patricia Kubat

Good luck, racquetballers!

Whether you're a top seed or playing in your first tournament, D. B. Frampton & Co. wishes you luck. You're playing one of America's most strenuous and fastest growing year-round family sports, and that alone is something to be proud of. As America's leading handball/racquetball/squash court manufacturer, we are pleased to hear of the enthusiastic response to your tournament, and extend our best wishes for the future.

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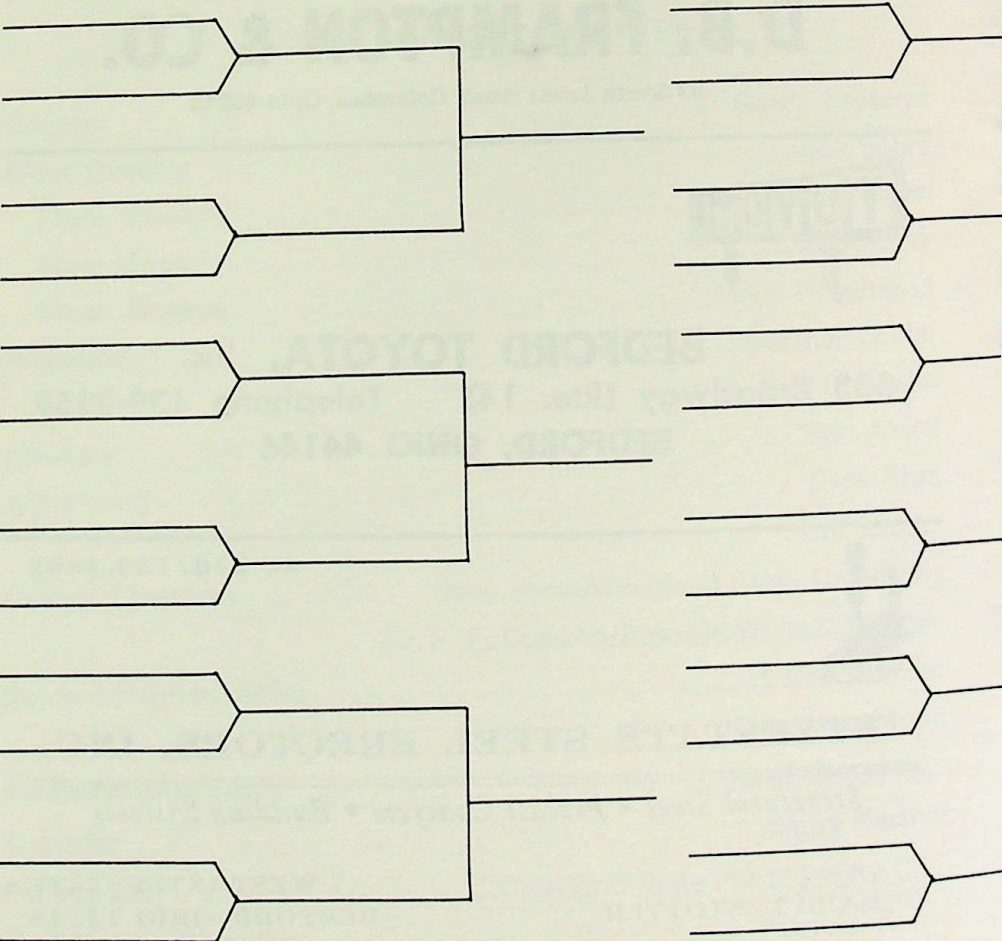
TOURNAMENT

SITE: Cleveland State University Physical Education Center

- EVENTS:
- Open Singles
Senior Singles (35 & over)
College Singles
Open Ladies Singles
Open College Ladies Singles

Open Doubles
Master Singles (45 & over)
Junior Singles (18 & under)
Open Ladies Doubles

TOURNAMENT	December 13th, Friday	5:00 PM
STARTING	December 14th, Saturday	8:00 AM
TIMES:	December 15th, Sunday	9:00 AM



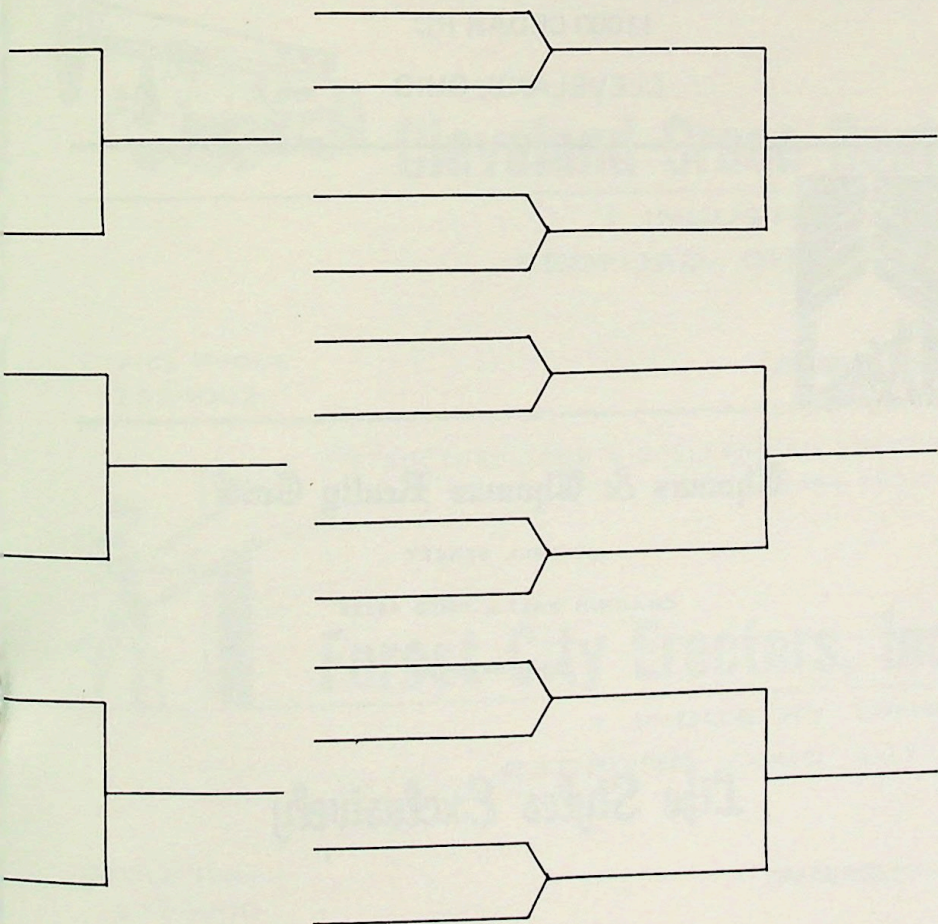
T SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION: December 13th, Cleveland State Hospitality Room
at 4:30 PM

BANQUET: December 14th at 8:00 PM

HOSPITALITY SUITE: Holiday Inn, Friday & Saturday
from 9:00 PM to 12:00 PM

HOUSING DIRECTOR: Mr. Roy Ramsey, Holiday Inn, E. 22nd
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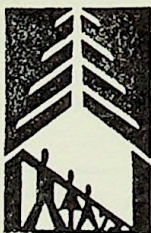
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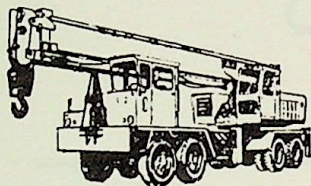
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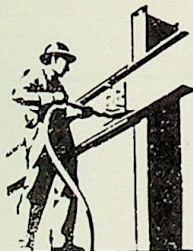
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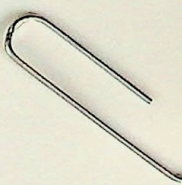
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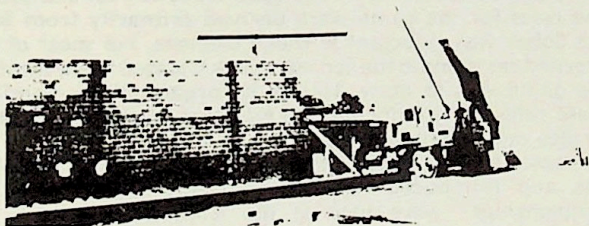
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THE HISTORY OF RACQUETBALL

Racquetball was started in 1949 by Joe Sobek who is credited with inventing the game. The original name of the game was "Paddle - Racquets". Prior to 1949 Sobek left his profession as a tennis and squash pro and was working in a white collar job with a Bridgeport, Connecticut company. His answer to the lack of physical activity was supplied at the local Greenwich YMCA. However, there were problems as to what activities he could participate in conveniently. Handball was too painful for the hands. However, paddleball was interesting because of its similarity to squash. He thought that paddleball could be a more interesting game if a strung racquet were used rather than a solid-faced wooden version.

Sobek designed a racquet with the same weight and measurements as the paddle, but with the additional advantage of a string-hitting surface. He took this design to a New England manufacturer of tennis racquets, squash racquets and badminton frames. The original order of 25 racquets were made from the badminton frames.

With these racquets, Sobek started a group playing at the Greenwich "Y". The new racquet opened up a new game as its resilient strings created all kinds of new shots.

In those early days, the only ball suitable was a Spalding red, white and blue child's ball. As the supply became exhausted, Sobek then put out a request to friends traveling throughout the country to buy this ball wherever it could be found in toy stores. Finally, the supply was exhausted. Sobek went to Spalding only to find that they did not plan to make this ball any longer. Spalding did, however, have a pink rubber ball that was similar to the inside core of a tennis ball. They had to wait two years before the ball lost its compression and would match the old play ball they had been using. This was used for many years as well as a softer ball, which was blue in color and developed especially for Joe Sobek.

The rules for the game were derived primarily from Squash rules. Over the years Sobek was reluctant to make changes, but most of those that were made concerned revisions in the serves. Sobek decided there must be uniformity in rules if the game was to grow. Hence, he organized a committee and compiled the present rules. He also formed the National Paddle Racquet Association to control the rules and promote the game.

The sport spread rapidly from the Greenwich "Y" as players moved to other towns and introduced the sport. During those early years, the "National Championships" were held at the Greenwich "Y" in Connecticut and the championships were really identified as Paddle-Racquets. In those early years, Sobek would often send a YMCA four racquets and several balls and ask them to try out the sport. He did this very frequently in the years from 1949 thru 1959 and as a result the sport spread rapidly throughout the nation's YMCA's. In this ten years, Sobek reports that the early participants in the game consisted of approximately 50 percent handball players and the remaining players from other racquet sports.

Even though Sobek had played many racquet sports, he felt that paddle-racquets had more to offer than any of the others. It proved to be a wonderful winter activity. It was also fun, gave tremendous exercise and was easy to learn. Another advantage was that anyone, young or old, could step into the court and play at his own pace. As the game continued to grow during the 60's and spread out into many other geographic areas and also into private clubs, many different types of balls were used in an experimental effort to find out which was most satisfactory. The official ball is now Seamco 558. Also during this same period of time the game was played under a number of different names, such as: "paddle-racquets", "paddle-tennis" and "paddleball", etc.

It was not until 1969 that the first International Tournament was organized. This first tournament was held in St. Louis, Missouri and the first singles I.R.A. Champion was Dr. Bud Muehleisen. At this time the International Racquetball Association was established through the resources and leadership of Robert Kendler and the U.S. Handball Association. The new leadership brought together most of the splinter groups throughout the country. Soon the newly formed association became the International Racquetball Association, or as it is referred to, the I.R.A.

Joe Sobek, the Father of Racquetball and Dr. Bud Muehleisen the first I.R.A. singles champion have been selected as charter members of the Racquetball Hall of Fame.

