

Passing Shots

Norm Blum
Editor & Publisher



It's Sergio!

TAKE THIS JOB AND SHOVE IT — After being taunted, ridiculed and subjected to uncalled-for verbal abuse, the referee finally listened to the player. "Why don't you just call the score and forget about hinders and everything else?" the player suggested. "What if I just leave and let you guys call your own match?" the referee retaliated. "That will be fine," the player obnoxiously stated. And with that last remark the referee left the scorecard on the ledge and left the club. Perhaps that was his finest call.

NEW ALIBI — It's awfully tough for teenagers to come up with new excuses when they want to tell their parents they are at one place but are really somewhere else. However, racquetball clubs may have alleviated that problem. Says one teenager: "Sometimes I tell my parents I'm at the club. They can call the club and the person at the front desk will say I'm on the court and I can't hear the message because the PA system doesn't go into the courts. It really comes in handy."

SPLAT SHOT — Pensacola's Beverly Bell has a shot that too many people won't repeat. With money on the line in her quarterfinal match with Mary Lyons at the Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix, Beverly lunged after a passing shot and ran smack into the concrete wall. "I had no chance for that ball," she later acknowledged. She wanted to continue play after the rescue squad came by and checked her vital signs. But after considering the patient's blurry vision and a bump the size of a racquetball ball, the doctor wisely turned down her request.

SHOP TALK DEPT. — The AARA's newly revamped *Racquetball in Review* receives a failing grade for its first issue. It was neither informative nor interesting. . . *Racquetball Today*, published by a group of insurance men, folded. . . *International Racquetball* looks like a fun publication, but it's basic premise is awfully weak. The meat of the magazine's coverage is the men's pro tour, but that no longer exists, which could weaken the publication's editorial policy.

THUMBS UP — Laurels to the Fontainebleau Racquet Club. The Ocala club sent a plaque to The Racquet Ball in Orlando wishing them luck in playing host to the first Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix. . . Laurels to The Racquet Ball manager Tom Wise for making out-of-towners feel like members of the club at the Grand Prix. Special laurels to juniors Zoe Kavanaugh and Leslie Oddy for their special help. . . Laurels to the AARA for making the tournament report card a reality. While it isn't nearly perfect, it's a start in the right direction and should improve the quality of tournaments. . . Laurels to Carl Nicks of the Tyrone Racquetball Club. His generosity enabled the AARA to add to its coffers in the recent state games.

THUMBS DOWN — Darts to tournament players who abuse the staff of the host club. . . Darts to clubs that don't sweep their courts on a regular basis. . . Darts to tournaments which offer money in the novice division. This promotes sandbagging and will adversely affect the game. . . Darts to people who write letters complaining but don't use their energy to help find a solution. . . Darts to

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'I knew my friends were talking about how Reuben would beat me. That just made me play harder.' — Sergio Gonzalez.

By Norm Blum
Publisher

ORLANDO — Sergio Gonzalez, Sr., has snapped thousands of pictures during the last seven years. None will be quite as memorable as the ones of his son Sergio defeating Ruben Gonzalez in the finals of the Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix at The Racquet Ball in Orlando last month.

The 20-year-old Gonzalez answered any Doubting Thomases who acknowledged his superiority in Florida, but wondered whether he could compete against the big-time racquetball names.

And Ruben Gonzalez, folks, is big time. He finished second in the nationals at Chicago, losing to Mike Yellen in the finals and in a Labor Day pro tournament in Michigan, Ruben lost in the semifinals to eventual winner Marty Hogan in a thrilling tiebreaker. He was on a roll and expected Florida and the tournament to pay an easy \$1,500.

Sergio, seeded third in the tournament behind Gonzalez and California's Rich Wagner, had played Gonzalez a few years ago as a junior and lost in a tiebreaker. He was well aware of what his friends thought about his chances against Ruben. Ruben, his friends publicly told everyone, was in a different class. Pitting Sergio against Ruben was like the Yankees playing against their farm team.

But Sergio, who hasn't been pushed in Florida, raised up his level of play a notch and stunned Ruben. He lost the first game 15-13, won the second game 15-12 and didn't miss in the tiebreaker, cruising to a 15-4 win and a first-place check.

With his father snapping away.

Ruben tried everything in the tiebreaker and although he wanted to win, he realized Sergio was just too hot. Behind 14-4, and Sergio shouting to himself "one more, one more," Ruben walked up to Sergio and circled him trying to calm him down. He called a timeout and then asked referee Rich Wagner for a



A disenchanted Rich Wagner was forced to referee the final:

towel to wipe the floor. "Is it really wet?" Wagner asked. It was Ruben's last delay tactic and Sergio promptly won the next point and literally scaled the front wall in excitement.

"I had a lot of energy in me and had to find a way to release it," Sergio explained. "I didn't think of the money during the final. I had total concentration and didn't think about anything else. I knew my friends were talking about how Ruben would beat me. That just made me play harder. Ruben is a great player and still should be seeded ahead of me when he enters another Grand Prix."

Ruben admitted he took Sergio too lightly and said he was too relaxed during the Grand Prix. "I relaxed too much and let him go," Ruben explained. "I couldn't rattle him toward the end. He was too pumped up. I wanted to make a comeback against him, but when a kid is playing tough, there is no way to stop him."

The 31-year-old Gonzalez says Sergio is ready for the pros. "He has the ability, but the hard part is to keep the pressure and determination every weekend. When you can do that every weekend, every shot, every point, you are there. That comes with experience."

Neither Gonzalez had much trouble reaching the final. Ruben disposed of No. 4 seed Mike Ray (Athens, Ga.) in two games and Sergio blew Rich Wagner back to California 15-8, 15-3. Wagner, seeded second, narrowly escaped Freddie Calabrese in the quarterfinals, with a 15-14 tiebreaker win. Wagner lost the first game to Calabrese 15-5 after breaking the string in his racquet. A Leach racquet was in his bag, but it also had broken strings. Wagner used about three racquets before finding one that had an oversized grip. He came back to win 15-9 the second game and the tiebreaker went back and forth. Calabrese was serving for the

game at 14-13 when Wagner unleashed a backhand pinch. With the score at 14, and Wagner serving, Calabrese missed a shot off the backwall, enabling Wagner to win the match.

"It was a good tiebreaker. He played well and I did also," Wagner said. "The big difference between him and Sergio is that he misses some easy shots. I felt fortunate to get out of that match. Against Sergio, I didn't put the ball away and he served well. Sergio is right up there with all the guys. I'm disappointed. In a tournament like this I have to win the first-place purse to make it worth my while."



Sergio Gonzalez

In the women's open division, Diane Bullard edged Brenda Poe Barrett in the finals and Martha McDonald finished third. In other money divisions, Gainesville's Randy Pfhler won the \$500 27+ division, Joe Icaza teamed with Sergio Gonzalez to take the open doubles title and Icaza, along with Frank Johnson, took the 27+ doubles division.

GRAND PRIX NOTES — Players who joined the Open Players Association are reminded to send their entry in for each tournament. . . There will be a meeting of the Sun State Racquetball Association at the Grand Prix in Ocala. . .

Where To Play

For \$100 a year, your club can reach all the racquetball players in Florida. Contact the Florida Racquet Journal about placing your club in the Where To Play section. Call (904) 721-3660.

AUBURNDALE

Auburndale Tennis & Pro Shop — 202 West Park St. (813) 697-7265. 4 outdoor 4-wall courts. 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Public courts. Non-resident, \$3 during daytime, \$5 after 5.

BOCA RATON

The Olympiad — 21069 Military Trail. (305) 368-6441. 11 racquetball courts, 2 squash courts. Nautilus, whirlpool, sauna. Pool under construction. Restaurant. \$5.25 guest fee for out-of-towners.

BRADENTON

Power Racquetball Plus — 6412 14th St., West Bradenton (813) 755-0137. Six air-conditioned courts. Pro shop, snack bar. \$3 guest fee. 6 a.m.-11 p.m. Under new ownership. Guests welcome.

CORAL SPRINGS

The Quadrangle Racquetball Complex — 2160 University Dr. (305) 753-8900. 12 courts. No guest fee for NCCA card holders; \$5 for others. Pro shop, cafe, nursery, Nautilus, whirlpool, sauna. 7 a.m.-midnight weekdays. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. weekends.

CLEARWATER

Suncoast Court House — 2147 Pine Forest Dr. (813) 531-8933. 15 courts. 2 glass tournament courts. Aerobics room. \$5 guest fee. Lounge/restaurant. Nautilus, pool. Fully equipped lockerroom.

CRYSTAL RIVER

Kelly's Racquet & Swim Club — Rt. 2 Duncan Field St. (904) 795-3703. 2 racquetball courts, 2 tennis courts. Large swimming pool spa, weight and exercise room. ¼-mile roller skating and jogging track. Shuffleboard courts. \$3 guest fee plus court fee.

FORT LAUDERDALE

Holiday Courtrooms — 750 W. Sunrise Blvd. (305) 764-8700. 19 courts. \$6 guest fee for out-of-towners. Basketball court, running track, two Nautilus rooms, swimming pool.

Racquets 2 — 5300 Powerline Rd. (305) 772-2222. 9 racquetball courts; 2 international, 2 American squash courts. Complete Nautilus Fitness Center. Full restaurant and lounge. 30 seconds off I-95, Commercial Blvd. exit. Take Powerline Rd. North.

Bodycenter, Health & Racquet Club — 5065 NE 13th Ave. (305) 491-2255. 9 courts. \$5 guest fee. Aerobics, Slimnastics, Dancerize. Yoga. Nautilus for men and women. Complete lockerroom facilities. Day care center.

FORT MYERS

The Olympiad — 8450 Dayton Ave., SW (813) 939-4477. 10 courts. Country club atmosphere. Fully equipped lockerroom, outdoor jogging track. Convenient and accessible from all directions. 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.

GAINESVILLE

Gainesville Racquetball Club — 6916 W. University Ave. (904) 372-2120. 6 courts. \$3 guest fee (call ahead). Universal. Lounge, juice bar, color TV.

HOLLYWOOD

South Florida Racquet Club — 5555 Ravenswood Rd. (305) 987-6410. 10 courts. No guest fee for NCAA members. \$3 for others. \$2 guest fee for basketball and volleyball. Whirlpools, saunas, free baby sitting in nursery. Pro shop. Video games & pool tables. 7-foot TV Screen in a full service cocktail lounge. Full Nautilus facilities. Open challenge courts every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday.

JACKSONVILLE

The Place — 6651 Crestline Dr. (904) 724-6994. 10 courts. Nautilus, Aerobics. The only club in Jacksonville that caters to out-of-towners.

Ortega Racquet Club and Fitness Center — 4206 San Juan Ave. (Ortega/Avondale area). (904) 388-1500. 6 courts. No guest fee for active out-of-town club members. Largest heated indoor pool in Jacksonville. Separate men's and women's lockerroom facilities. Steam Seafood Restaurant.

Racquet Power — 3390 Kori Rd. (904) 268-8888. Premier club in Jacksonville. 14 courts. No guest fee when accompanied by member. Otherwise, \$10 during non-prime time hours. Modern Nautilus room, Dynavit, out-side whirlpool, steam room, sauna, aerobics, self-defense classes.

NEPTUNE BEACH (JACKSONVILLE)

Beaches Wellness Center — 450 Atlantic Blvd. (904) 241-5252. 6 courts. Nautilus, aerobics room, complete lockerroom, nursery and snack bar. Expanding. Check us out.

MELBOURNE

The Harbour Pines Racquet Club — (305) 777-6737. NEW CLUB! 13 racquetball courts, 1 squash court, Nautilus Equipment room, steam room, whirlpools, saunas, \$3 guest fee. Tyrone Racquetball Club — 6690 Cross Winds Dr. North (813) 381-8711. 16 courts. \$5 guest fee; Non-Prime time \$8, Prime Time \$10. Whirlpool, sauna, exercise room. Private club. 6:30 a.m.-midnight daily.

MIAMI

Bogey's — 5885 NW 151st St. (305) 822-0160. 9 courts. \$6 guest fee includes court time. Gymnasium, aerobics. Restaurant and lounge.

Holiday Health & Racquet Club — 10631 SW 88th St., Dadeland West Office Park. (305) 596-0600. 11 courts. \$5 guest fee, plus court time. Fee waived for NCCA members. No reservations, please call. Separate men's and women's health club. Nautilus, fully equipped lockerrooms, pro shop. Lounge, social area.

Miami Court Club — 9395 Bird Rd. (305) 226-4014. 10 courts. No guest fee for NCCA members; \$3 for others (no reservations).

Hotel guests in Miami can reserve non-prime for \$7 (6 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, 6 p.m.-midnight weekends). Prime \$9 or \$12. Racquets, shoes for rent. Pro shop, whirlpool, sauna, steam room. 6 a.m.-midnight daily.

Miami Lakes Athletic Club — Palmetto Expressway & NW 154th St. (305) 821-1150. 9 racquetball courts. Championship court. Diane Bullard — head pro. Gymnasium. Restaurant and lounge. Nautilus. Aerobics. Guests must be accompanied by members.

NAPLES

The Olympiad — 1048 Castello Dr. (813) 262-1112. 8 courts. \$5 guest fee. Pool, complete lockerroom. Restaurant. Under new ownership.

NEW PORT RICHEY

Richey Racquetball — 8836 US 19 North (813) 842-1455. 10 courts. Whirlpool, sauna, weight room and bar. \$2.50 guest fee.

OCALA

The Fontainebleau — 2120 Northeast 46th Ave. (904) 236-2288. 10 courts. \$3 guest fee. Nautilus, swimming pool, sauna, steam room, whirlpool, lockers. Aerobicise, karate, gymnastics. Pro shop, supervised nursery, hair salon. Video games, snack bar, lounge

ORANGE PARK

Park Avenue Racquet Club — 714 Park Ave. (904) 269-8000. 6 racquetball courts, 8 soft tennis courts. \$3 guest fee plus court time. Nautilus, whirlpool, pro shop, nursery. Bar and lounge. 7 a.m.-11 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. weekends.

ORLANDO

The Club — 825 Courtland St. (305) 644-5411. 10 racquetball courts, 16 tennis courts, swimming pool, Nautilus, lounge, pro shop, sauna, whirlpool. Guest fee \$3 & \$5. 7 a.m.-11 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekends.

The Racquet Ball — 5165 Adanson St. (305) 645-3999. 8 courts. \$6 guest fee. Nautilus, complete lockerrooms. Restaurant.

Racquetball South — 5224 S. Orange Avenue. (305) 857-1388. Brand new facility. \$5 guest fee. 8 courts, 2 glass championship courts. Nautilus. Spacious lounge and grill with large screen TV. A new era in relaxation — Flotation. Completely stocked pro shop.

ORMOND BEACH

Omega 40 — 1 S. Old Kings Rd. (904) 672-4044. 10 courts, 24 pieces of Nautilus, \$5 guest fee. Swimming pool, whirlpools, steam/sauna. Open 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Manager of the year Mike Phillips resides.

South Florida Racquet Club

POMPANO BEACH

Tennis Trainer — 1301 W. Copen Rd. (305) 974-4310. 7 racquetball courts, 3 tennis courts, 2 indoor practice tennis courts. \$7 guest fee (full use of club). Fully equipped lockerroom.

PORT CHARLOTTE

Charlotte Racquet Club — Loveland Blvd. (813) 629-2223. 4 racquetball courts, 6 tennis courts. \$3 guest fee; \$6 non-prime, \$8 prime. Universal, ping pong. Snack bar. Plans for expansion.

SARASOTA

SARASOTA YMCA — 1075 S. Euclid Ave. (813) 967-0770. 6 courts (2 new exhibition courts with excellent spectator viewing). \$2 guest fee. Non-prime \$5, prime \$7. Co-ed whirlpool. Visitors and guests welcome. Open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Massage therapist on duty 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Sarasota Racquetball Club — 2170 Robinhood Dr. (813) 922-3546. 6 courts. \$2 guest fee (no reservations); non-prime \$6, prime \$8. Nursery. Lounge, free first-run movies.

ST. PETERSBURG

Tyrone Racquetball Club — 6690 Cross Winds Dr. North (813) 381-8711. 16 courts. \$10 guest fee for out-of-town club members with current card; non-prime \$7, prime \$9. Whirlpool, sauna, exercise room. Private club. 8:30 a.m.-midnight.

STUART

Mid Court Racquetball Club — 20 N.E. Dixie Hwy., Rt. 707. (305) 692-9488. 8 courts. \$2.50 guest fee (guests welcome); \$8 prime (4 p.m.-11 p.m. weekdays). All other hours \$6. Racquets, balls for rent. Universal gym, whirlpool, saunas, pro shop, nursery. Lounge, billiards, game room. 8 a.m.-11 p.m. daily.

TAMPA

Brandon Racquet Club — 2011 S. Parsons Ave. (813) 689-4410. 5 courts. No guest fee for out-of-town club members; \$6 non-prime, \$8 prime. Universal, saunas. 7 a.m.-midnight daily.

Tampa Bay Court House — 7815 N. Dale Mabry (813) 932-5321. 10 courts. 2 side-wall glass courts. \$5 guest fee covers court time. Nautilus, pool, fully equipped lockerrooms. 6:30 a.m.-midnight weekdays, 8 a.m.-midnight weekends.

TAVENIER

Wall to Wall Racquetball — Upper Florida Keys, Milemarker 91.5 (behind Harry's Restaurant) (305) 852-2634. 5 courts. No guest fee for out-of-towners with current club card. Nursery. Ideal resort area. Finally, racquetball in the Keys!! Check it out.

VENICE

Venice Racquetball and Fitness Center — 581 N. Venice By-Pass (813) 484-8427. 8 courts. \$3 guest fee; \$4 non-prime, \$8 prime. 2 full gyms, swimming pool, sauna, steam bath, inhalation room. Big lounge.

VERO BEACH

The Forum — 650 12th St. (off U.S. 1). (305) 567-7727. 6 courts. Under new management. Watch the Los Angeles Dodgers train and play a game of racquetball. Club expects to expand shortly and become a showcase among clubs in Florida. Watch us grow!

WEST PALM BEACH

The Courthouse — 1500 Old Okeechobee Rd. (305) 684-2111. 7 courts. Complete Nautilus Fitness Center. Enjoy the sun and then visit the Courthouse. Food and cocktail area.

Winners

Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix

The Racquet Ball, Orlando

Women's Open — Diane Bullard def. Brenda Poe-Barrett 3rd — Martha McDonald, B — C. Andrus def. K. Price 3rd — Derreck def. Janaes. C — Adameck def. Angleroth 3rd — Heshner def. Chaffin. B Doubles — Ramsey/Price def. Ramsey/McDowell. 3rd — Hoover/Vahner def. Chaffin/McConnell. Juniors — Kuchenreuther def. Ginsburg. 3rd — Holroyd def. Ramsey. Seniors — Schmidt def. Zenk 3rd — Serabia. Men's Open — Sergio Gonzalez def. Ruben Gonzalez A — James Lorello def. Scott Nelson 3rd — Tom McEwen def. Matt St. Lawrence B — Oscar Gonzalez def. Blanchard C — Mike Altman def. Bedsaul. 3rd — Lazar def. Mirigliotta D — Sganga def. Lewis. Junior Vets — Randy Pfahler def. Bobby Owens 3rd — Leo Marsocci def. Tom Ruffing 45 — Ed Vlock def. G. McCauley 3rd — Ron Rogers def. Richard King Juniors — Charlie Nichols def. Lorello 3rd — St. Lawrence def. Paul Welch Open Doubles — Icaza/Gonzalez def. Hansen/Gautier. B Doubles — Binix/McEwen def. Roche/Cisko. 3rd — Dennis/Neimyer def. Reece C Doubles — Far-

rand/Meehan def. Altman/Mirigliotta 27 Doubles — Icaza/Johnson def. Owens/Marsocci 3rd — Serabia/Potter def. Davis/Ruedlinger.

The Fontainebleau

Ocala

Invitational

Mitch Campbell (\$500), Joe Icaza (\$200), Mark Morrison (\$100). Women's Open — Mary Holroyd def. Brenda McMillan A — Faye Hodge def. Jill Carlson. B — Kelly Price def. Holly Ramsey C — Joyce Metcalf def. Joan Purdy. Novice — Nancy Brown def. Kathy Van Vleet C Doubles — Ruth Gorman/Mary Ann Hames def. Linda Dyals/Joyce Metcalf. Open — Jeff Bales def. Greg McDonald A — Jeff Hager def. Scott Richburg. B — Mary Holroyd def. Joey Story C — Jeff Bagby def. Joey Story Novice — Tim Hodges def. Richard John. Open Doubles — Frank Johnson def. Steve Jones/Chris Buckner. A — Rito Rodriguez/Gene Rodriguez def. Keven Dennis/Greg Neimeyer B — Kevin Dennis/Scott Stuckey def. Lloyd Dreggors/Willie Beard C — David Stewart/Glenn Lillycrop def. John Colacci/Marcus Benedetto Mixed Doubles A — Brenda McMillan/Willie Beard

def. Connie Whittaker/Don Gibson. B — Fay Hodges/Robbie Matheny def. Peg Hermandson/Mike McDonald 14 — Scott Richburg def. Rob Kulp 30 — Ron Clark def. Jerry Goebei 35 — Bob Riley def. Ron Clark 40 — Bob Riley def. Charlie Kramer.

Miami Lakes Athletic Club

Men's Open — Sergio Gonzalez def. Freddie Calabrese. B — Oscar Gonzalez def. Fred Shersbinsky. C — Michael Altman. Women's Open — Brenda Poe Barrett def. Mary Lyons. 3rd — Susan Morgan. B — Carol Andrews def. Beth Alo. Open Doubles — Sergio Gonzalez/John Ehring def. Tim Hansen/Bubba Gautier. 3rd — Barrett/Mirigliotta def. Van Dubolsky/Randy Pfahler. Mixed — Calabrese/Bullard def. Barrett/Desormey. 3rd — Pfahler/Morgan.

State Doubles Championship

Tyrone Racquetball Club, St. Petersburg

Men's Open — Joe Icaza/Sergio Gonzalez def. Tim Hansen/Bubba Gautier. 3rd — Van Dubolsky/Randy Pfahler. Men's B — Matt St. Lawrence/Paul Welsh def. Sal Scimeca/Leo Piwnicka. 3rd — Thomas Johns/Chris Hopkins.

Men's C — Don Jordan/George Stratton def. Toni Conti/John Colacci. 3rd — Danny Nolan/John May. Boys 10+ — Keven Carlan/Doug Carlan def. Donny Myers/Nicki Nicks. Boys 14+ — Rob Walden/Mike Altman def. Ed Blaess/Oscar Gonzalez. 3rd — Eric Cramer/Tom Wagner. Boys 16+ — James Lorrello/Robbie Bennix def. John Rowley/Benny Lee. 3rd — James Walden/Rob Walden. Mixed Open — Julie Pinnell/Van Dubolsky def. Randy Pfahler/Nancy Hamrick. 3rd — Bill Cottrill/Sue Soetello. Mixed B — Linda Heshner/Larry Cashion def. David Brett-William/Sue Dawson. 3rd — Peter Nehr/Linda Derrik. Boys 18+ — Mark Barrett/Steve Mirogliotta def. Charlie Nichols/John Schneider. 3rd — Richard Hull/Mitch Campbell. Men's 19+ — Tim Hanson/Bubba Gautier def. Vinnie Ganley/David Reep. 3rd — Curtis Winter/Chris Buckner. Men's 25+ — Bob Owens/Thomas Ruffing def. Randy Pfahler/Steve Jones. 3rd — Bill Cottrill/Tod Taylor. Men's 30+ — Bob Owens/Leo Marsocci def. Dubolsky/Gary Zetrouer. 3rd — Greg McDonald/Russ Degan. Men's 35+ Icaza/Jeff Leon def. Mario (Please turn to page 9)

SUNState
Racquetball Association

Grand Prix promotions

presents



Grand Prix

No. 2

October 13 - 16

1983

at the

**THE
FONTAINEBLEAU
RACQUET
CLUB**



2120 NORTHEAST 46TH AVENUE
OCALA, FLORIDA 32670
904-236-2288

Divisions

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Men: | Open _____ | Juniors: Boys 16 & under _____ |
| | A _____ | Girls 16 & under _____ |
| | B _____ | |
| | C _____ | |
| | D _____ | |
| | Jr. Vet (27+) _____ | |
| | Senior (35+) _____ | |
| | Master (45+) _____ | |
| | Open Doubles _____ | Partner _____ |
| | B Doubles _____ | Partner _____ |
| | C Doubles _____ | Partner _____ |
| | Jr. Vet Doubles _____ | Partner _____ |
| Women: | Open _____ | |
| | B _____ | |
| | C _____ | |
| | D _____ | |
| | Jr. Vet (27+) _____ | |
| | Senior (35+) _____ | |
| | Master (45+) _____ | |
| | Open Doubles _____ | Partner _____ |
| | B Doubles _____ | Partner _____ |
| | C Doubles _____ | Partner _____ |

Location: The Fontainebleau
2120 Northeast 46th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 32671
(904) 236-2288

Entry Fee: \$25 First Event
\$10 each additional event
Juniors: \$15 First Event, \$8 each additional event

Entry Deadline: Friday, October 7, 1983, 12:00 noon.

Souvenirs: Collared shirt

Awards:	* Women's Open:
Men's Open:	First - \$500
First - \$1,000	Second - \$200
Second - \$350	Third - \$150
Third - \$200	Fourth - \$100
Fourth - \$100	Fifth thru Eighth - \$50
Fifth thru Eighth - \$50	

* Junior Vets (Men's):	* Junior Vets Doubles (Men's):
First - \$300	First - \$300
Second - \$200	Second - \$200
Third - \$100	Third - \$100
Fourth - \$50	Fourth - \$50

* Minimum draw of 16 required or purse will be adjusted accordingly.

Awards will be given for first four finishers in each division.

Hospitality: Food, beer, Pripps Pluss all weekend.

Facilities: Ten courts. Fully equipped lockerroom. Nursery. Restaurant and lounge.

Date: October 13-16, 1983

Starting Times: Available October 11, 1983, 3:00 p.m.

Ball: Ektelon Speedflite

Rules: AARA sanctioned. Two out of three games to 15. 15-point tiebreakers. No consolation. If entered in three events, one must be doubles.

Tournament Directors: Steve Ruedlinger, Norm Blum, Kathy Van Sleet.

Send entries to: Grand Prix Promotions, 124 West Pine Street, Orlando, FL 32801. Or call (305) 423-1151 or (904) 236-2288. (Phone entries with VISA or MasterCard only).

Entry Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Shirt Size: _____
Telephone: _____
Amount Enclosed: _____
I can play on Thursday _____
Friday a.m. _____ Friday p.m. _____

Due to the large turnout expected, the tournament will begin Thursday for local entrants.

Out-of-towners who can't play until late Friday must indicate that on the entry form. We'll try to accommodate your request.

General Information

AARA Membership: \$6.00 - available at tournament.

SSRA Membership: \$5.00 - available at tournament.

Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Every now and then you hit a rollout. You'll spend most of this month trying to analyze why. Instructional booklets will become your nightly reading.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may be working hard this month, so schedule your time wisely. Try playing a match before work. There are plenty of folks willing to play at 6:30 a.m.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Avoid playing with your spouse or girlfriend. This month you two are incompatible on the court.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Many important changes are taking place in your game. You've made tremendous strides because you've been willing to take the advice of players who are better than you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is not the greatest month for starting projects. If you want to change your backhand, wait a month or two.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are accident-prone this month. Beware of that situation and take an extra step away from your opponent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Your personal energy and fitness return in a swoop now, and you're like a surfer who has

finally caught his wave. Your opponents might be jealous of your discovery. Beware.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22): Avoid impressing friends with your ability. They know you aren't a great athlete, so don't fake it. You'll have a thrilling 26th.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21): Your hope and optimism is high now and it carries over to your game. During the last week, some important personal decisions will be made and only you can determine the impact on your game.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The last two months you have focused on ethics. Do you admit you got to a ball in two shots or that the ball skipped? These answers will tell an awful lot about yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are losing in tournaments on a regular basis. Perhaps if you loosen up you'll regain that old spark. You'll have troubles until the middle of the month.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): This month your game goes up and down. One day you roll 'em out and the next day you'll skip them. Don't despair. By the 23rd you'll be consistent and have it all figured out.

Gonzalez/Icaza dominate

Special to the Journal

ST. PETERSBURG — One is a veteran and the other is a budding superstar. Joe Icaza, 37, and Sergio Gonzalez, 20, won last month's open division title at the AARA state doubles championship at the Tyrone Racquetball Club and are expected to challenge for the national title at the end of this month.

The Gonzalez/Icaza team hasn't lost a game in the last five tournaments it's entered and the more times the two play the more one-sided the outcome.

"We were talking about playing together for a year," said Icaza, who has worked with Gonzalez as his teacher over the years. "In Miami we played Tim Hansen and Bubba Gautier in the finals. They were quoted in the paper (*Florida Racquet Journal*) that they wondered if there was a doubles team that could give them a match. They walked into the finals against us dressed in a warm-up. They took off the warm-ups and they were wearing a white dress shirt with pink bow ties and hawaiian shorts. It only served to boost us even more. We had more than losing at stake. We had the ridicule. They thought it would be pretty easy. Sergio was cramping pretty badly, but in spite of that we still beat them in two games."

In last month's Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix, the Gonzalez/Icaza team humiliated Gautier and Hansen, the Intercollegiate National Champs, 15-8, 15-3.

"The crowd doesn't bet on who is going to win, but the number of minutes it will take," Icaza boasts. "They have some severe handicaps, but I won't get into that."

Icaza says the strength of the team is that it is never out of position.

"If any ball goes past me, Sergio is quick enough not only to recover on my side, but actually make an offensive return. We do play side by side, but I play the front of the court while he covers all of the rear and due to my hand speed up in the front of the court, I can put any ball away at will. Since he can put the

ball away in back of the court, it leaves very little room for error or strategy against us."

According to Icaza, the team that beats them will have to outshoot them. "It will take a very specialized doubles team to beat us. We may lose a game on a given day, but on a consistent basis there's no way to beat us."



Flo Fox is a professional photographer. She is legally blind.

President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Washington, D.C. 20210

1983 Florida State Outdoor 4-wall Championships

November 11 - 13

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Co-sponsored by: Penn, Juice Bowl and Squincher

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Deadline: Monday, November 7. Trophies to top 3 singles, top 2 in doubles.

Divisions: Open, B, C, Novice, Juniors, 35+, 45+

Starting Times: Wednesday, November 9. Call (813) 967-7265 after 6 p.m.

All participants receive a collared shirt.

Sponsored by the City of Auburndale Recreation Department.

Calendar

Oct. 7-9 — Lakeland

* Oct. 7-9 — BodyCenter, Ft. Lauderdale

Oct. 7-9 — Capitol Fitness Center — Tallahassee

* Oct. 13-16 — GRAND PRIX No. 2 — The Fontainebleau, Ocala

* Oct. 26-30 — Tyrone Racquetball Club, St. Petersburg

* Nov. 5-7 — Omega 40, Ormond Beach

* Nov. 11-13 — Jacksonville Racquetball Club

* Nov. 11-13 — Auburndale

Nov. 11-13 — Venice

* Nov. 18-20 — The Club — Orlando

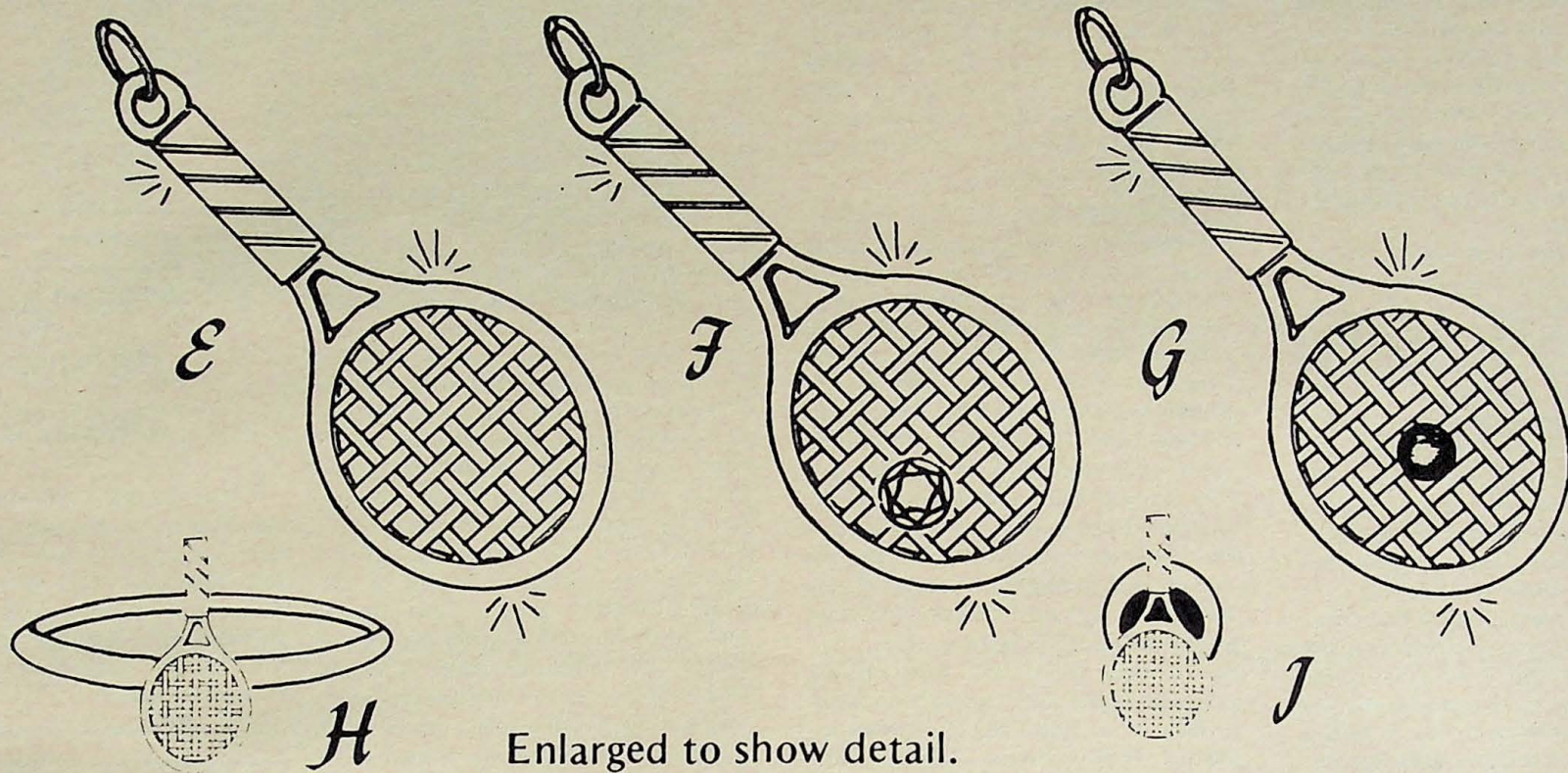
* Dec. 1-4 — GRAND PRIX No. 3 — The Quadrangle, Coral Springs

* Dec. 9-11 — Holiday Courtrooms — Ft. Lauderdale

* Dec. 9-11, — Suncoast Courthouse, Clearwater

* AARA Sanctioned

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Passing Shots

(Continued from page 1)

players who don't lodge at the Holiday Inn during the Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix.

THINGS WE LIKE — Positive letters to the editor, cold energy drinks, Scott Nelson's fourclub traveling racquetball league (and the hospitality shown by The Club to the Fontainebleau's team last month) and the city-wide doubles league at The Place in Jacksonville which proves clubs from within a city can get along and help promote the sport.

THINGS WE DISLIKE — Players who need a written invitation to referee, players who request referee changes before the match even starts, splat shots (if you don't have any speed they're impossible to retrieve), open players who complain about early starting times.

POTPOURRI — Some clubs forget about the little guy when they build ledges overlooking the courts. In some cases if you aren't six feet tall you can't see over the darn things. . . Brenda Poe Barrett, a winner over No. 1-ranked Lynn Adams in last year's Ektelon Championship, won't be traveling the circuit like she did last year. With little money to win on the pro tour, combined with the fact that she's married and has a family, makes it tough to get motivated. She won

more money finishing second in the Grand Prix than she did in most pro stops. . . We predicted Sergio Gonzalez would win the Grand Prix and we also expect Miami's Diane Bullard to be ranked in the top six by the end of 1983-84 season. . . What motivates people to steal towels and locks from clubs? Someone has to set an example in order for the problem to be curtailed.

OFF THE WALL — The Titusville backhand is becoming famous. A player literally climbs the wall on the lefthand side in order to hit a forehand instead of a backhand. . . We wonder if Sergio Gonzalez would make a great high jumper. After beating Reuben Gonzalez for the \$1,500 first-place Grand Prix check, Sergio ran up the front wall and came within a few feet of hitting the ceiling. Honest. . . Ken McCabe, who says he'll be the McDonald's of racquetball, still hasn't gotten his first Orlando club built yet. But the ever-optimistic McCabe says things are shaping up and he'll be acquiring clubs shortly to get his empire in gear. . . We receive more phone calls from realtors who want to sell clubs, but have no earthly idea as to how they should be appraised. Their questions, such as: How

much does it cost to build a club? only mean they have an awful lot of homework to do.

GRAND PRIX NOTES — The sit-down dinner at the Holiday Inn during the Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix was too sophisticated for racquetballers. While the waitresses were pouring the wine, a few obnoxious players, dressed in shorts and thongs, wanted to know where the beer was. Oh well. . . The average player received \$65 worth of goods for his \$25 entry fee at the first Grand Prix. Now that's a good investment. . . If you are really interested in improving your game, Steve Strandemo, considered by far the best instructor in the game, will be holding a pair of Thursday through Sunday camps during January or February in South Florida. Read the Journal for details. . . Can't comprehend how a person can play racquetball in the same t-shirt two days in a row. Disgusting. . . There will be less basketball played at the Beaches Wellness Center. Tates Locke, the former Clemson, Buffalo Braves and Jacksonville University coach, is leaving his position as general manager and is getting into the golf business. . . No we can't confirm the rumors of who is buying the

Sportrooms. If it's sold, bet on some big conglomerate buying it. . . The AARA Nationals should be quite a treat. If you have the time stop by the Tyrone Racquetball Club in St. Petersburg the last weekend in October.

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Nov. 5 & 6: Tyrone Racquetball Club of St. Petersburg
(813) 381-8711 Attn: Carl Nicks

Nov. 19 & 20: The Fontainebleau Racquet Club of Ocala
(904) 236-2288 Attn: Kathy Van Sleet

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Players rate the tournaments

By Van Dubolsky
AARA Editor



Beginning with the 1983 State Doubles Championship in August, tournament report cards have become a reality. Since then every sanctioned event has been rated by the participating players.

The categories are rated on a scale of one to five with one considered poor and five excellent. Hopefully, these results and many more like them will help players become more aware of which facilities give them the most for their tournament dollar. We hope the report cards lead to an overall improvement in all sanctioned events.

Here are the results of the first three tournaments to be rated:
Aug. 26-28: Tyrone Racquetball Club, St. Petersburg (State Doubles)
Sept. 9-11: Fontainebleau Racquet Club, Ocala
Sept. 9-11: Miami Lakes Athletic Club, Miami Lakes

PARTICIPATION:

State Doubles had almost 300 single players combined as over 270 teams participated. Ten percent of the players filled out the rating form.

At the Fontainebleau Racquet Club, 200 individuals participated, and 15 percent of the players filled out forms.

At the Miami Lakes Athletic Club, 100 individuals were entered; 25 percent of them filled out report cards.

THE RATINGS:	Tyrone	Fontainebleau	Miami Lakes
Balls	4.4	4.4	4.7
Facility	4.0	3.9	4.9
Towels and Lockers	4.8	4.5	4.9
Hospitality	3.8	4.7	4.9
Tournament Shirts and Souvenirs	4.3	4.2	4.4
Trophies	3.8	4.4	4.7
Promises on Entry Blanks	4.0	4.5	4.8
Tournament Directors	3.0	4.7	4.9
Scheduling	3.5	4.1	4.8
Sandbagging	4.0	4.5	4.9
Overall Rating			

TOURNAMENT REPORT CARD
THESE FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT EVERY AARA SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT AND ANY PLAYER IS WELCOME TO COMPLETE ONE. PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES ON A SCALE OF ONE TO FIVE WITH ONE BEING POOR AND FIVE CONSIDERED EXCELLENT. THE RESULTS WILL BE USED TO HELP PLAYERS BECOME MORE AWARE OF WHICH FACILITIES GIVE THEM THE MOST FOR THEIR TOURNAMENT DOLLAR.

	TOURNAMENT LOCATION				
	Excellent 5	4	Average 3	2	Poor 1
BALLS					
Practice balls available?	5	4	3	2	1
New balls for matches?					
FACILITY					
Air conditioning adequate?	5	4	3	2	1
Good lighting? Good viewing?					
TOWELS AND LOCKERS					
Adequate locker space?	5	4	3	2	1
Towels available upon deposit?					
HOSPITALITY					
As advertised?	5	4	3	2	1
Free beer at some point?					
Food, quantity and quality?					
Adequate Pripps, Gatorade, etc?					
TOURNAMENT SERVICE AND SOUVENIRS					
How'd the money? (as part of a total tournament package)	5	4	3	2	1
TROPHIES					
Site and type of award?	5	4	3	2	1
PROMISE ON ENTRY BLANKS					
Hotel arrangements?	5	4	3	2	1
Hospitality?					
Proving for door prizes?					
TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS					
Level of organization?	5	4	3	2	1
Seatings reasonable (considering information available)?					
Referee procedures?					
SCHEDULING					
Matches on time?	5	4	3	2	1
Match times reasonable considering total turnout?					
SANDBAGGING					
Was sandbagging allowed?	5	4	3	2	1
Were lots of players in more than one skill division?					
Were past tournament records used? (when available)					
OVERALL, HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE TOURNAMENT?	5	4	3	2	1

PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED REPORT CARD TO THE AARA c/o 930 N.E. 14th AVENUE, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601. ALL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS ARE APPRECIATED.

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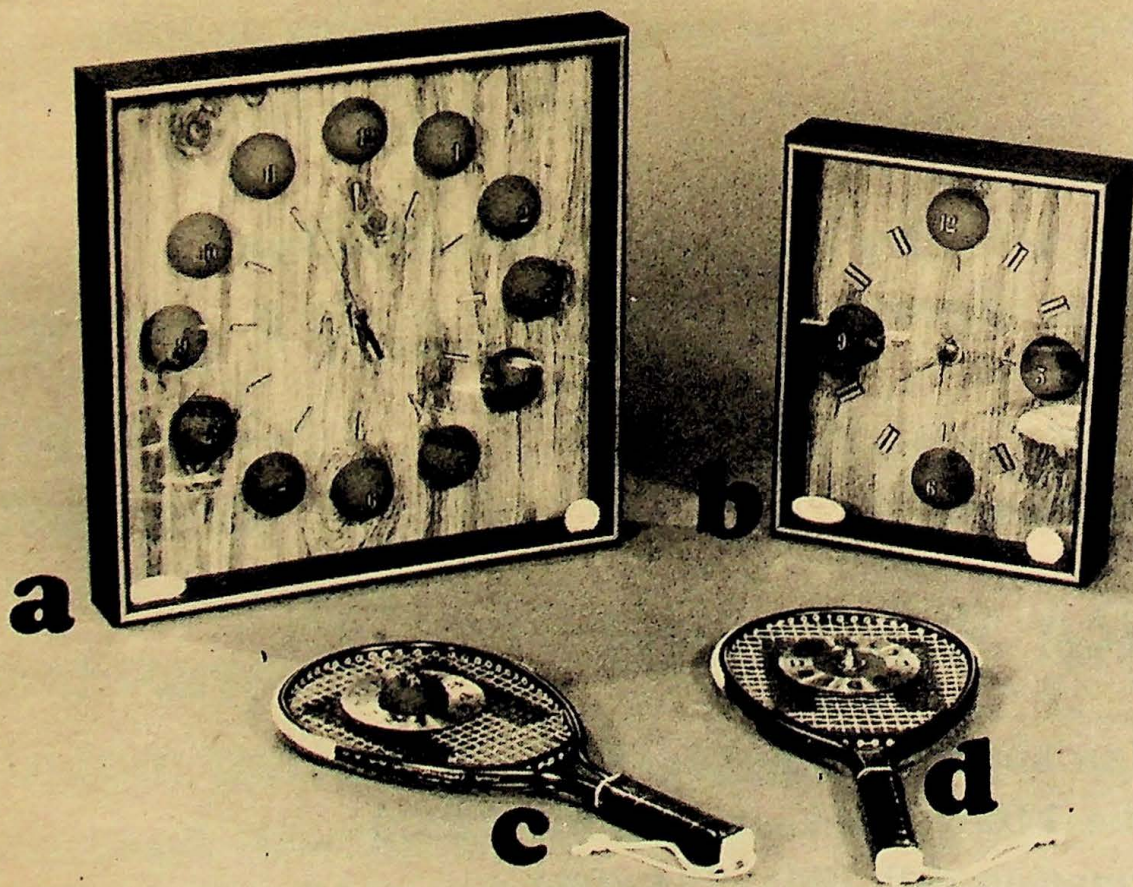
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Letters

Sir:

It has been my great pleasure to be able to host the 1983 AARA State Doubles here at Tyrone Racquetball Club recently. It was a refreshing experience to have many of the top players in the State, and what I feel is the top open team in the country participate in this state tournament.

There are several people whom I would like to thank for helping with the tournament, however, if I try to name them, I am sure I will forget someone, so please accept my thanks in general, you have the satisfaction of knowing who you are, as do the other tournament directors and players throughout the state. It is indeed a pleasure to have that group of racquetball nuts who go from tournament to tournament, helping and having a big time. Once again, thank you.

Now, for you no-talent cry babies who refuse to referee, throw your garbage on the floors, steal the towels, locks, and toiletries, and in general do nothing but detract from every event you go to, PLEASE DON'T COME BACK TO TYRONE RACQUETBALL CLUB.

I feel it is up to tournament directors as well as the players to police this problem to keep all of our state and local tournaments a fun activity.

If in reading this letter someone has been offended, that is my intention. Because those are the people that offended our tournament staff as well as most of the people at the state doubles.

Carl E. Nicks, Jr.
Manager, Tyrone Racquetball Club

Sir:

Curiously, the organizers and sponsors of the recently successful Grand Prix racquetball tournaments have paid the women's open participants quite a compliment. They determined that — of the total prize monies available — less than 16 percent would be distributed to the top-ranked female players in the state. With the addition of cash to the men's 27+ bracket, the total amount of prize money rose to \$7,650 of which the top eight female participants in the women's open bracket received a combined \$1,200. This decision clearly demonstrates the respect held for the money-management skills of the participants in the women's division. After all, the high-calibre female competitor in the state of Florida must have (in addition to her considerable athletic talents) some other method of defraying the costs of tournament play aside from direct cash winnings if she is to compete in this series of events.

She will, most likely have to lose a day's salary to compete on a Friday, and will have to sacrifice a weekend with her family. All participants, however, have to weigh these leisure time decisions. Unique to the women's open competitor is the chance to recoup all or even part of the expenses of the out-of-town tournament on a third of the prize amount. The total cost of a tournament weekend runs no less for the female participant than it does for anyone else. She does not get a discount on the tournament fee, and must arrange for the full amount in

advance. Making hotel reservations at one of the sponsor's facilities, she does not receive a reduced rate for the duration of her stay. Possibly buying an additional piece of equipment for good luck (perhaps even supporting one of the sponsors), she will not see any mystery deduction on her sales slip. Should she choose to eat or drink anything other than standard tournament fare, she will have to pay the same prices as her mixed doubles partner. And, if she even considers joining the open players association, there is no question of the amount she will have to write a check for. It is these fixed expenses that make any argument that supports offering reduced prize money to female racquetball players completely without foundation.

This past weekend the winner of the men's open division did an outstanding job of eliminating all of his opponents to win his well-deserved \$1,500. Conceivably his expenses could have reached the entire amount of the women's first place award (\$500) and he would still have had quite a deposit to make on Monday. The women's open winner

quite probably will begin exercising those excellent money-management techniques right away, and begin saving to go to Ocala.

Linda Mojer
Orlando

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Winners

(Continued from page 2)

tie), 5) John Rowlee 7) David Schwartz 9) Craig Powell. C — 1) Tony Sansone (tie) 4) Wade Weismann 5) Jose Sanchez 6) Rick Ford (tie) D — 3) Rich Alvarez 4) Rich Sieb (tie) 7) Rob Matheny (tie) 12) Andrew Ives. Novice — 2) Ed Digiorgo 3) Lino Swarez 4) Lyle Atherly (tie) 4) Tip Shumaker. Boys 10 — 1) Jon Xynidis 2) Nick Xynidis 13 — 6) James Lorello (tie) 6) Miragliotta (tie). 14 — 2) James Lorello 5) Bump Blaess (tie) 5) Glen Roberts (tie) 8) Eric Cramer. 18 — 2) Mitch Campbell 4) Steve Lardizibal 5) Charlie Krestul 6) Curtis Winter. 19 — 1) Sergio Gonzalez (tie) 1) Mike Hodgkinson 3) Vinnie Ganley 4) Tim Hansen (tie) 4) John Scargle 4) Chris Buckner. 30 — 1) Leo Marsocci 2) Frank Johnson 3) Bobby Owens (tie), 3) Joe Serabia 3) Van Dubolsky, 35 — 1) Joe Icaza 2) Steve Chapman 3) Joe Serabia (tie) 5) John Alton. 40 — 1) Jack Ross 2) John Alton 3) Charlie Kramer. 4) Sam Sprout. 45 — 1) Dave Dennis 2) Ed Vlock 3) Jim McCauley 5) Al Winter. 50+ — 1) Tom Vann 2) Robert Harper 3) Mike Wyman 4) Don Woodington (tie). 55 — 1) Al Sarmiento 2) Paul Gormon 3) Bob Albertson 4) Bob White. Women's Open 2) Melanie Britton 3) Susan Sotello 4) Babette Bell 8) Deb Bedell A — 1) Mary Jo Kazen 7) Gail Flynn 16) Jan Curtis 25) Sunday Mann. B — 1) Agatha Falso 2) Cherisse Sansone (tie) 5) Janet Watts 6) Linda Icaza. C — 1) Cheryl Atherly 2) Kathy Hanson (tie). 4) Jo Kenyon 5) S. Hensley D — 4) Nancy Brady (tie) 4) Holly Ramsey (tie) 11) Maggie Reynolds (tie) 11) Sandra Tilley (tie). Novice 1) Irene Dumas 3) Joan Purdy 4) Dagmar Kalms (tie). 4) Holly Ramsey (tie). 4) Jeanie Toups (tie). 14 — 1) C. McCarthy 2) Pam Afford 3) Dana Conroy 4) Holly Ramsey 16 — 2) Pam Afford (tie) 2) Julie Ginsburg 2) Kay Schoeneman (tie) 5) Jennifer Afford 18 — 1) Jill Carlson 2) Jamie Lamareaux 3) Candy Winter 4) Kay Schoeneman. 19 — 1) Jan Curtis 2) Terri Losano 3) Nancy Froelich 4) Melanie Britton 25 — 1) Janet Watts 3) Robin Midgett 4) Gail Lauteria 6) Sue Dawson (tie) 6) Sunday Mann (tie) 30 — 1) Sue Sotello 2) Kathy Piccione 3) Agatha Falso (tie) 4) Mary Korbut (tie) 35 — 2) Gretchen Spiegel 3) Judi Schmidt 5) Libby Laney (tie) 5) Carolyn

Carlson. 40 — 1) Julia Williamson 2) Grace Page 3) Gretchen Spiegel 4) Ruth Zenk.

1983 Pasco Area RB Tourney
New Port Richey

Men's Open — Leo Marsocci def. Alton. 3rd — Klusza. B — Marut def. Bartlett. 3rd — Kubisek. C — Fields def. Derrick. 3rd — Rickard. Novice — Rickard def. Peretka. 3rd — Surrett. Women's B — McCarthy def. Alton. 3rd — Klusza. C — Adameck def. Spurdling 3rd — Kalleel. Novice — Fields def. Kalleel. 3rd — Wing, Jr. Vet. — Lee Shock def. Katz. 3rd — Stauderman.

AARA National Rankings

Men's Open — 1) Sergio Gonzalez 2) Tim Hansen. 8) Bubba Gautier. 11) Freddie Calabrese 13) Tico Fernandez 14) Paul Clemons 20) Dan LeFlore 31) Jeff Bales 32) Vinnie Ganley 33) Mitch Campbell 39) Charlie Nichols. A 1) Tom Rothstein (tie) 3) Steve Chapman (tie), 3) John Ehring (tie), 12) Mike Craft. B — 1) Thao Tran Ariet/Graig Swaak. 3rd — Lee Handley/Mike Moser. Men's 40+ — Shaak/Ariet def. Jack Ross/Bill Afford. 3rd — Leon/Steve Xynidis. Men's 40+ — James Scott/R.V. DeLanin def. Robert Harrison/Bo Parmer. 3rd — Pat Mongovan/Bill Hogue. Men's 45+ — Al Winter/Frank Shumer def. Ed Vlock/P. Nuznoff. 3rd — Mike Moser/Dan Fox. Men's 50+ — Herb Nathanson/Bill Hurst def. John Hinkamp/Malcolm Robers. 3rd — Carlos Sena/Alberto Sarmiento. Men's 55+ — Sena/Sarmiento def. Roberts/Hinkamp. Women's Open — Julie Pinnell/Gail Lauteria def. Marilyn Miller/Janet Watts. 3rd — Chris Collins/Nancy Hamrick. Women's B — Terry Losano/Donna Eggleston def. Audrey Faist/Barbara Horne. 3rd — Beth Aloï/Cheyl Atherley. Women's C — Jennifer Afford/Pam Afford def. Sue Hensley/Becky Holder. 3rd — Sonia Anderson/Mary Chancy. Women's 25+ — Judi Schmidt/Lauteria def. Janet Watts/Marilyn Miller. 3rd — Valerie Bazarre/Cindy Carter. Women's 19+ Terri Losano/Donna Eggleston def. Aloï/Carol Delgado. 3rd — Elise Vaughn/Lori Basch. Women's 30+ — Schmidt/Agatha Falso def. Linda Derrick/Rene Fish. 3rd — Mindy Beville/Linda Vernon. Women's 35+ — Susan Miller/Jacqueline Mitchell def. Schmidt/Libbie Laney. Girls 18+ — Julie Ginzburg/Candy Winter def. Mary Halroyd/Linda Kuchenruther.

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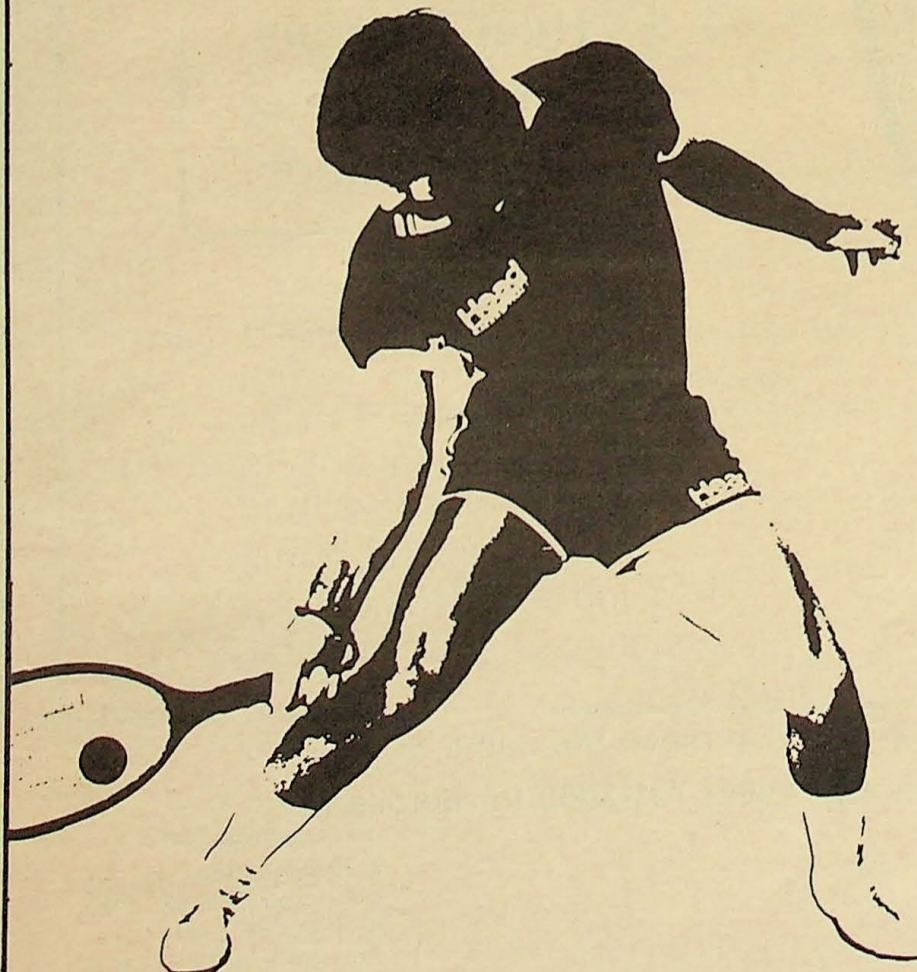
Crowded

It was standing room only at the Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix last month at The Racquet Ball in Orlando. Some of the nation's top players came to compete in the Grand Prix. This month in Ocala, more big names are expected. The second Grand Prix is set for October 14-16 at the Fontainebleau Racquet Club.

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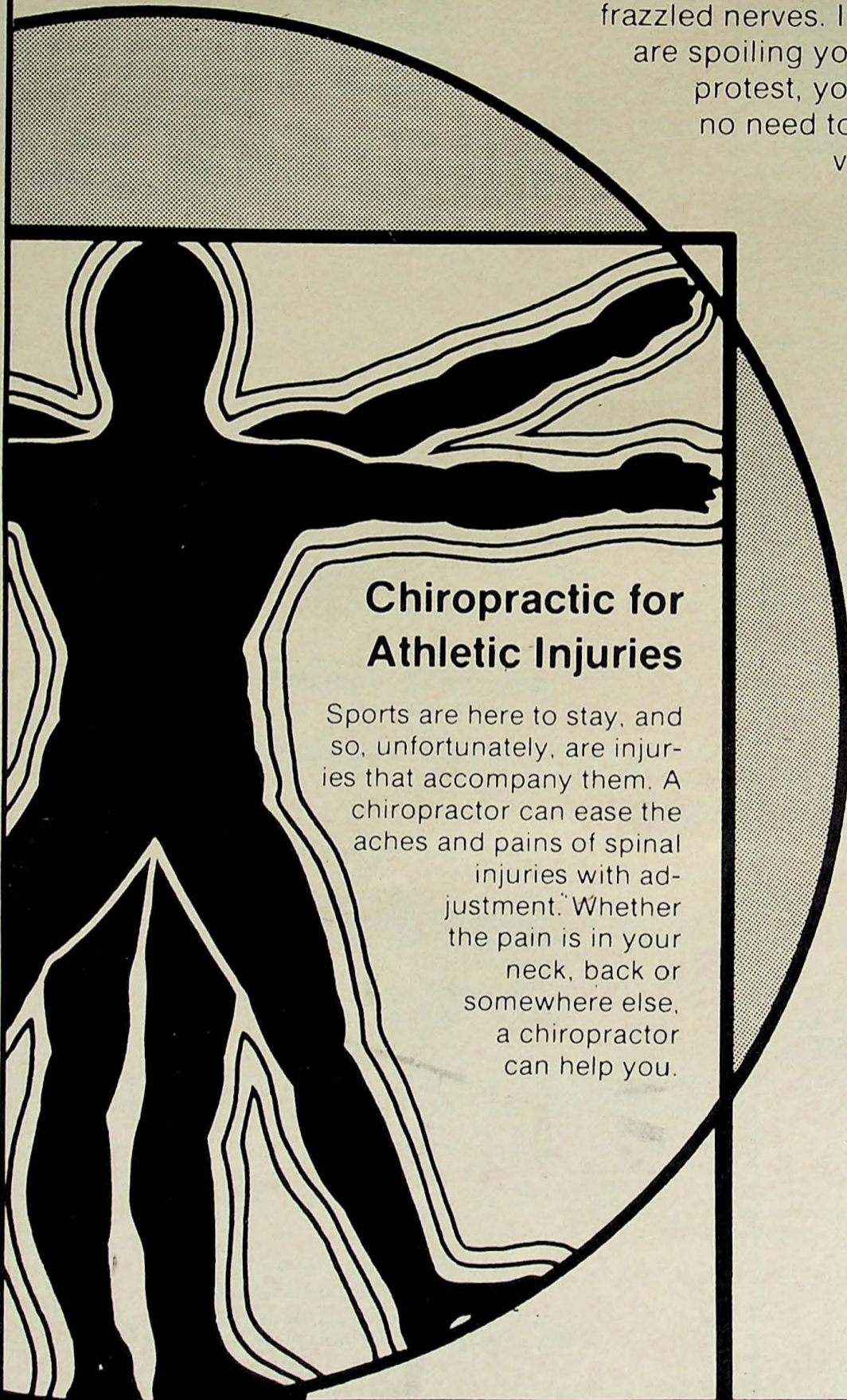
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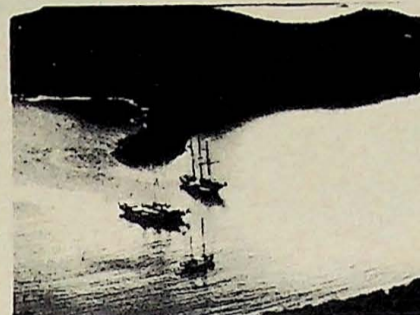
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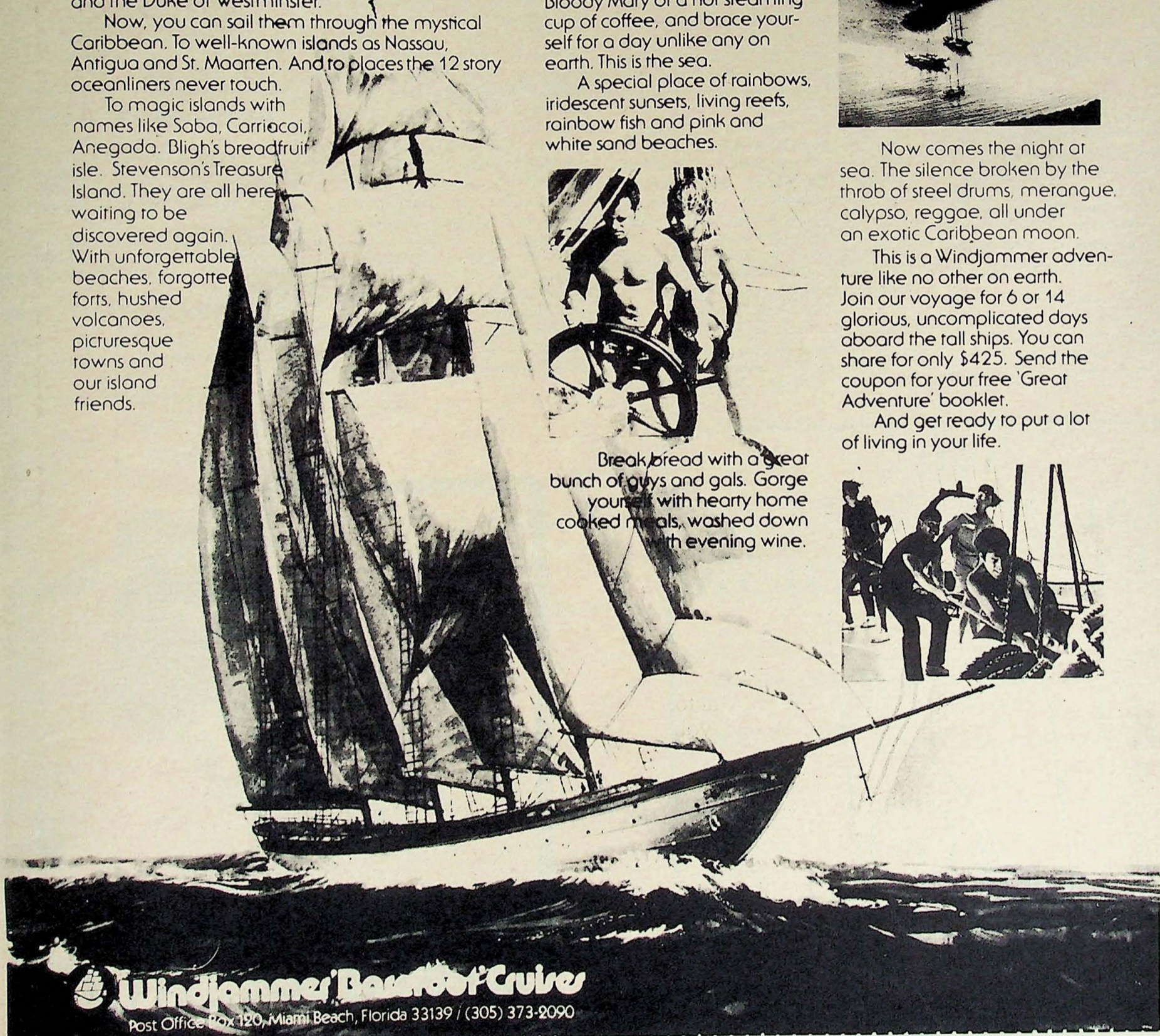
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Wide-angle passing shot good strategy

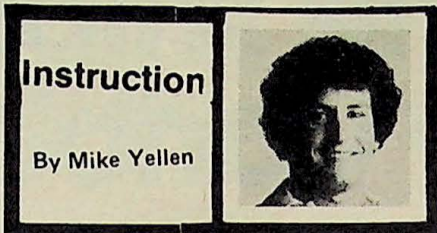
I am a firm believer in hitting passing shots and wearing my opponent down until his legs feel as though he is trudging through sludge. No one can survive the exercise he gets being on the wrong side of a good passing game and you can usually mop the guy up with a large sponge by the time the tiebreaker rolls around.

There are some players, though, who you just can't seem to get the ball past. These are guys who move around the court like they were shot from a gun or my Ektelon teammate Dave Peck who hovers over the floorboards like a low-flying Superman indiscriminately hitting killshots.

There are guys with rubber arms whose forearms will stretch an extra foot or so who seem to know where the ball is going before you hit it.

They fall into the general category of "good retrievers" and, against these kinds of players, a normal passing shot may not work. But, I see no reason to change what is, basically, a good game strategy so what I usually do is simply switch to wide-angle passes.

A wide-angle pass is little more than a normal passing shot hit at a slightly wider angle. It puts a little extra distance between the ball and your opponent and, often, that is just enough to take it out of



reach of one's rubber arms, one's speed or Peck's low-flying sorties.

A wide-angle pass can even fool a thinker because it is hit in exactly the same way as a regular pass, but the ball won't travel the same path. In fact, a wide-angle pass is particularly useful against a good control game player who will usually have a lock on the important center court position.

The second most important object of the passing game, you will remember, is to move your opponent out of center court and into the back court where he can do less damage. The main object, of course, is to zing the ball past him and score the point on that shot.

In both cases, the wide-angle pass can be a lifesaver. It is, however, slightly more difficult to hit than a normal pass.

The normal pass or drive shot is aimed at one of the corners. It is either a down-the-line shot or a crosscourt shot hit off the backhand or forehand.

A wide-angle pass also can be hit off

the backhand or forehand, but it is invariably a crosscourt shot. Instead of aiming for the corner, you are aiming for the side wall about the same distance as your opponent from the front wall.

A normal pass can be hit when your opponent is as far as three-quarters of the way back from the front wall. A wide-angle pass, though, should never be hit when your opponent is farther back than center court because the ball will be rebounding from the side wall and will come right at him if he is too far back.

The wide-angle pass should contact the front wall about three feet up, give or take a foot. It will bounce and then rebound to the side wall somewhat lower than that and even with your opponent. It will then come toward the middle of the court, but so far back and so low that your opponent will have little chance at the ball.

It should be just about rolling by the time it comes off the side wall and may even crack out from the side wall floor seam. Even if the ball isn't that low, your opponent will still be trying to take the ball off the wall and we all know how much fun that is.

If he waits until the ball comes off the wall, he will be trying to hit a ball forward while moving toward the back

wall at the right spot.

A word about hitting the right spot on the side wall: no one is so accurate that he will be able to always place the ball even with his opponent. You can assume that you will make errors. Unfortunately, in this shot, the room for error is smaller than for many shots.

You don't want the ball to bounce off the side wall in front of your opponent or it will be heading for the middle of the court just about where he would like to have it. It is much better to err in the direction of the back wall and let the ball contact the side wall a little behind your opponent.

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Publisher and Editor — Norman A. Blum
 Managing Editor — Kathy Blum
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RACQUETBALL TIPS: by Steve Strandemo

Be assertive in assuming your coverage position, but also be reasonable. Have a respect for your opponent by giving him room to hit straight-in to the front wall, to go cross-court, and to pinch using the nearest side wall.

What: AARA National Doubles

Where: Tyrone Racquetball Club - St. Petersburg

Club - St. Petersburg

Admission: Free

Some of the best doubles players in the nation will be in Florida as the Tyrone Racquetball Club in St. Petersburg serves as the showcase for the 1983 AARA National Doubles Racquetball Championships Oct. 27-30.

Over 500 of the top amateur racquetball players from the U.S. and Canada will be vying for the coveted gold medal, significant of the U. S. Amateur National Championships. Twenty-three age divisions will be contested along with the ever popular Mixed Doubles, which has become a full-fledged event.

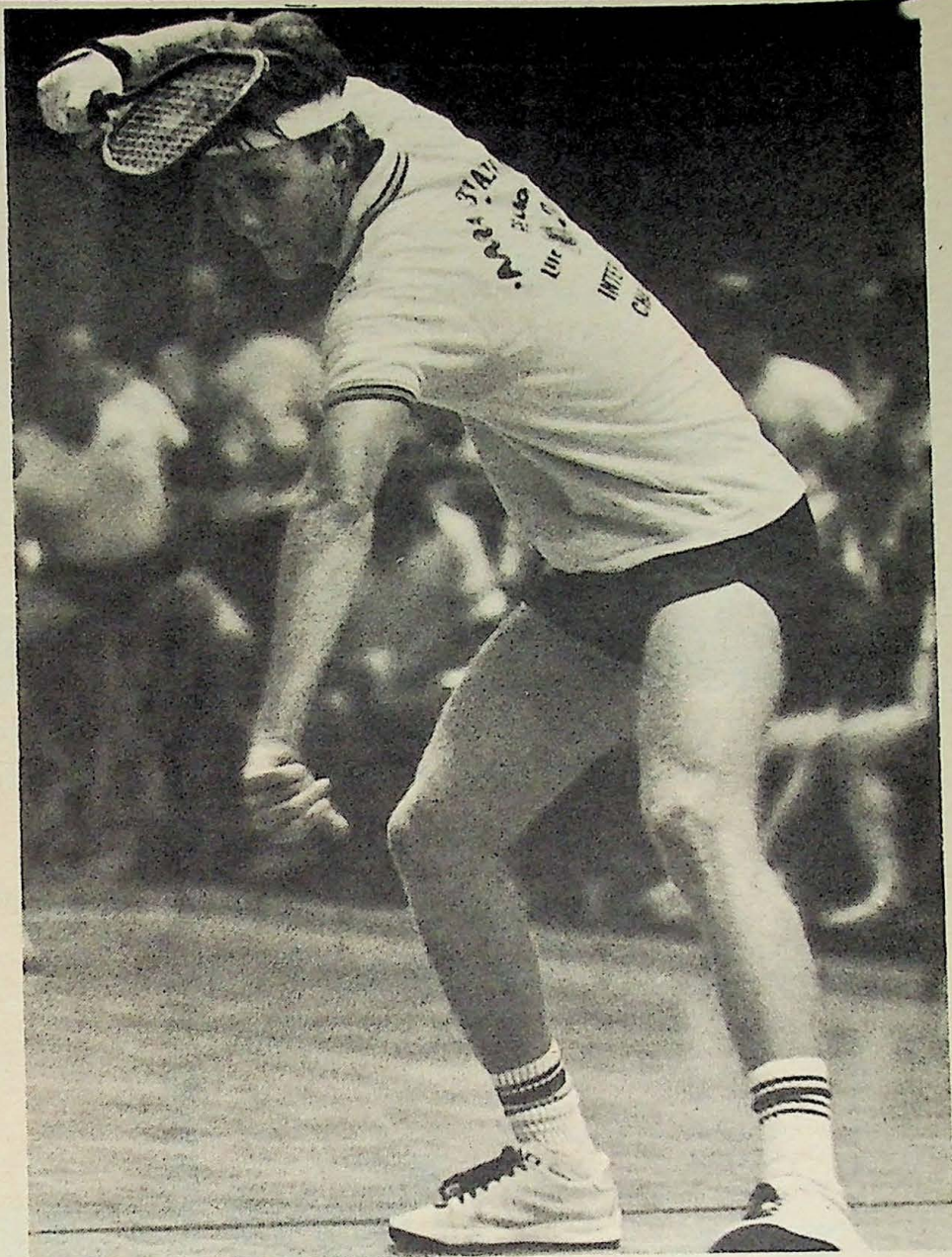
Last year's winners, Stan Wright and Steve Trent, will return to defend their National title against such teams as Joe Kwalter and Mark Malowitz from Texas; Ray Navarro (Texas) and Jeff Plazok

(Wisconsin) and a host of the top doubles teams.

Two doubles teams have dominated the open division in Florida. State champs Joe Icaza and Sergio Gonzalez will be seeded high as will intercollegiate national champs Bubba Gautier and Tim Hansen.

The women's open division will feature defending national champions Tammy Hajjar and Beth Latine from Pennsylvania against Marci Drexler and Mo Nard from California.

The Men's 40s will feature the returning National Championship team of Jim Austin (Texas) and Bill Schmidtke (Minnesota) while the 45s will boast 56-time National Champion Bud Mueheisen (California) and Myron Roderick (Oklahoma).



Bubba Gautier prepares to serve the ball. Gautier and his partner Tim Hansen hope to do well in the upcoming AARA National Doubles Championship Oct. 27-30 at the Tyrone Racquetball Club in St. Petersburg. Over 500 of the top amateur racquetball players will vie for national titles. For information, call the Tyrone Racquetball Club at (813) 381-8711.

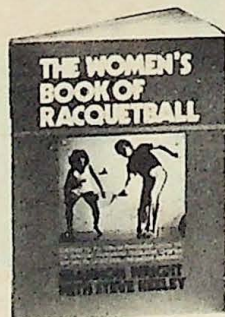
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On the Pro Tour

By Diane Bullard

(as told to Norm Blum)

MIAMI LAKES — I'm seeing a shrink -- a sports shrink that is. One of my biggest problems on the pro tour is concentrating. My mind tends to wander and at times I lack aggressiveness and you can't be that way if you want to be successful on the pro tour.

Once every two week I see this fellow who works with the Miami Dolphins. I don't want to reveal the details but already I can feel the difference. After losing in the first round at the first pro stop to junior national champ, Liz Alvarado, I played in the first Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix stop at The Racquet Ball in Orlando.

I defeated Martha McDonald in the semifinals and Brenda Poe Barrett in the final and I could feel that I had a little more fire.

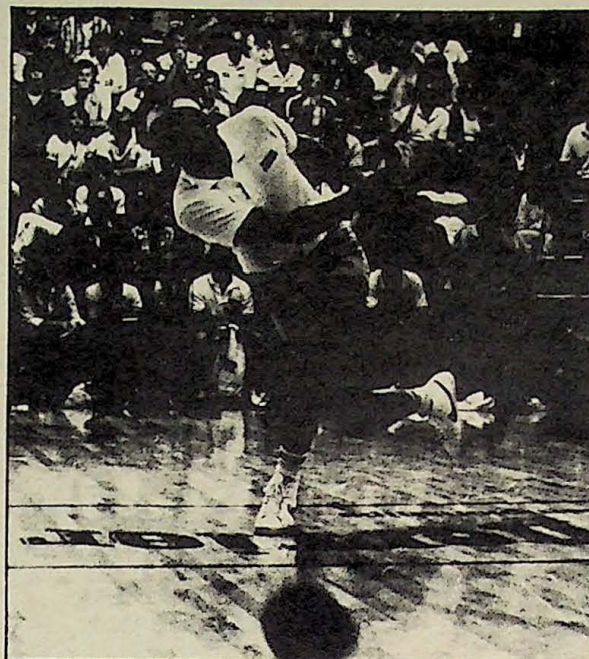
My goal this year is to reach the

top 10 and I honestly feel everyone on the pro tour is beatable. Last year I had my doubts but not this season. I've been playing with Freddie Calabrese and it has helped my game by at least 20 percent. I've played other open players in the past but most of them were on my level and didn't really push me. Freddie hits the ball so hard and accurate that the ball seems so much slower when I play other women. My reaction time is so much faster.

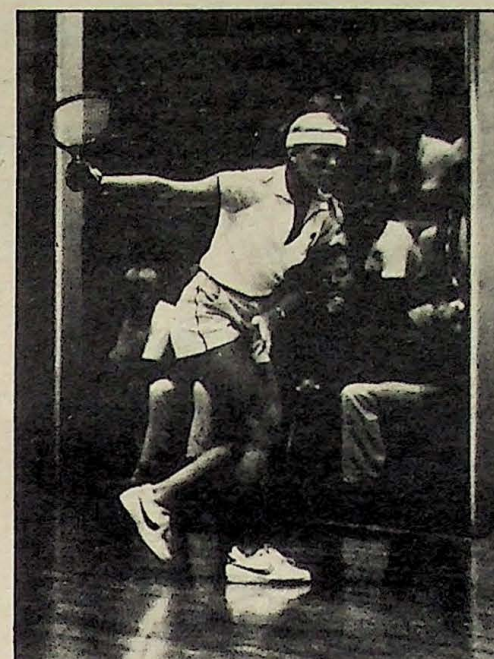
The concept of the Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix is fantastic but I was a little disappointed that everyone didn't stay at the Holiday Inn. While a good portion of people did lodge there, I feel everyone should support the Grand Prix by staying at the Holiday Inn in future tournaments. The Grand Prix is like an amateur tour and the players need to support the sponsors.



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