

National Racquetball®

Vol. 7 No. 7
July, 1979
\$1.50

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WILLIAM A SCHULTZ
1402 VILAS AVE
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• BREWING RACQUETBALL

• 13 PAGES OF INSTRUCTION

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- Avoiding
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On the cover . . .

Tony Bucken, 13, and his sister, Christy, who's 14, put on a racquetball performance for National Racquetball Photographer Arthur Shay at SkyHarbor Court Club in Northbrook, IL, to remind readers that July 19-22 are the dates for the Junior Regionals and that the best young players around the country will compete August 13-18 in Tucson. The cover is also a quiz. To find out what's missing in the cover photo turn to page 80.

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It certainly should come as no surprise that we are actually producing one way white glass — the court club component that will have tremendous impact on players, spectators and court club owners. Twin Vue, which is what we expect to call this miraculous product, will make playing easier. When applied to the inside surface of glass it produces a slightly textured surface which eliminates skid and improves ball bounce off the wall. Under proper lighting the player views a white surface while the spectator view is perfectly clear. The advantage to the club is Twin Vue's durability. When tempered the material is fused into the surface and is impervious to damage from player, racquet or ball contact.

But the principle reason we welcome this long awaited wall is that it creates a background that enables television to follow the ball. Twin Vue makes it possible to use 200 foot candles of lighting — as low as possible on the outside of the court, instead of with conventional glass that requires 250 to 300 candles both inside and outside the wall. The 200 foot candles in that low placement will provide the ideal lighting for television. What we'll have is a stadium-like atmosphere, where the audience and the players focus on the court and not beyond the walls.

One of TV's most capable technicians — David Pearson of England — developed this glass with W & W Products International, our associates in this venture. The glass combines newly designed printing technology with special ways to apply ceramics to glass. Twin Vue is available through W & W Products International in Spring Valley, NY, which will produce and deliver under a 16 to 20 week schedule, with limited production during 1979.

Needless to say before the USRA endorsed this system we gave it every conceivable test, and all the pros who played in the experimental court offered their stamp of approval. What is appealing to owners is that the added cost of this perfect wall is not great enough to make a significant difference in ultimate court cost.

We claim some of the credit for this history making step for racquetball. After all — we built the first glass court in Chicago in 1943, actually designing and building it ourselves. We took the first step to open the doors of athletic clubs, those male sanctuaries, inviting in the public, women and children included. This step, in turn, triggered the court club explosion now visible in 50 or 60 court extravaganzas surrounded by amenities beyond the imagination.



We think the benefits of racquetball are so great — that it promotes health and understanding — that everyone should see it — and they will with white glass.

We're happy to report that white glass' impact goes beyond even television. Current plans call for a *portable* court of one-way glass that will make it possible for 20,000 spectators to watch racquetball in any gym, arena or auditorium. Now we can bring our racquetball showcase with us.

Let's be honest. The line forms on the right. We are not going to be able to install everyone's court at the same time. Ron and Jerry Haber of W & W will be buried with orders. So if you want to upgrade your facility, don't wait. We'll be glad to figure with you just as soon as you call, and we'll make installations as soon as it's possible. You can get literature and details from W & W. Or call me at the number I've been at for 50 years —

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Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

I Corinthians 15, Verse 58

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The Engineers Did It

Though I wouldn't be happy spending my days in a scientific laboratory, I have a lot of respect for the researchers who do just that.

They're the men and women who help our game by creating improved balls, better racquets and now — Strongwall, a revolutionary court system that clears up all the problems that have bugged installers as they've put in walls for racquetball courts.

Strongwall asked its research team of engineers and chemists to create a product that:

- Can be installed in any conditions. Installation conditions can seldom be controlled. For instance a building might be completed and ready for the court surfaces to be applied, yet have too much moisture or cold for most systems to be installed.
- Would not have to be painted. Coatings should be applied on an absolutely dry base. With the pressure of a scheduled club opening — walls are sometimes painted when the surface is still damp, and the poor adhesive leads to peeling.
- Could resist ongoing environmental stress. Under the best of conditions changes in temperature, and particularly humidity, play havoc with most systems.

What Strongwall's researchers came up with was a three layer product, machine applied directly to masonry blocks or metal stud partition walls. Made of fiberglass reinforced resins the new base is packed with white pigment, and it needs no other paints or coatings. Strongwall's "reacted resin finishing coat" creates a seal that

A Strongwall lab technician trowels the new pigmented formula on small test panels.



Lab samples test tensile and compressive strength, as well as color consistency.



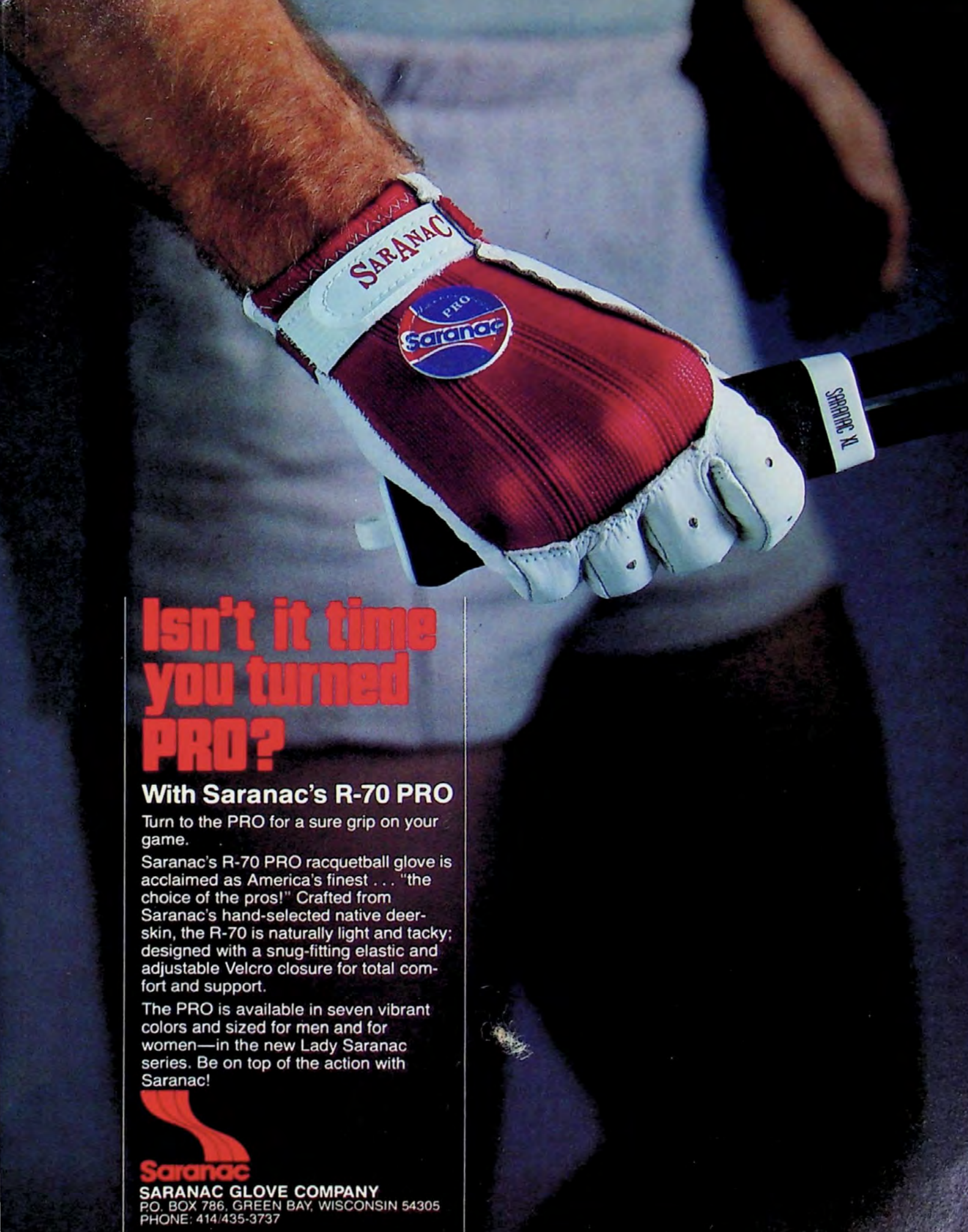
resists ball marks and virtually excludes maintenance. Bill Kokoletsos, executive vice president and head engineer, says "If we'd like, we could use Strongwall as a swimming pool coating. That should give you a good measure as to its ability to deal with water."

Strongwall's research team has invented a seamless surface that never varies, providing ideal characteristics of rebound, spin control, uniform impact sound and fast play. The seamless surface eliminates erratic bounces and contributes to the good looks of the Strongwall court.

Name the quality you'd want in a court system and the Strongwall engineers and chemists produced it: a surface that resists peeling, cracking, warping or chipping; that can be wiped clean of ball marks and that is fire-resistant, non-skidding and requires no shutdown for costly repairs.

Now the company's national organization is taking over with the same dedication they've demonstrated for racquetball in the past. With plants on both coasts and distribution points around the U.S. and Canada, delivery will be fast. Steve Kass, Strongwall president, tells me that Strongwall will fill orders within two weeks after they're received.

Though I recognize the importance of Strongwall's efficient sales and distribution organization, I give most credit to those researchers. I hope they have a chance to get out of their labs and play some racquetball — on Strongwall courts, of course. ●



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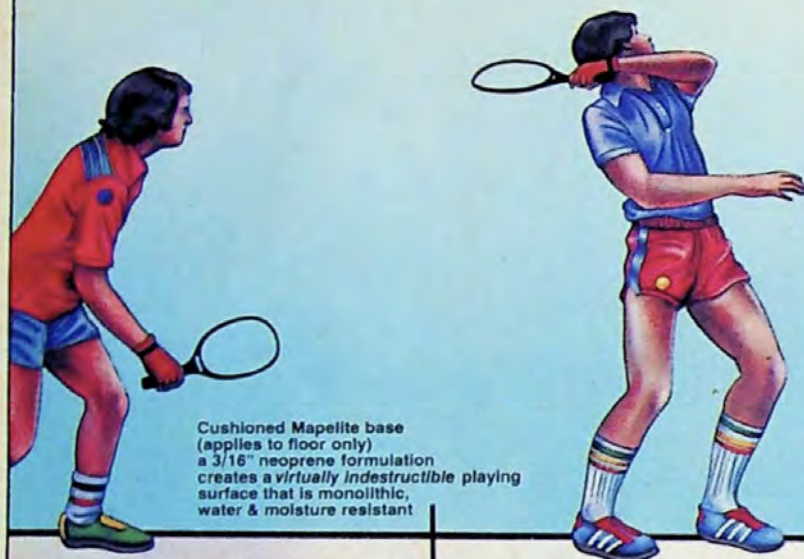


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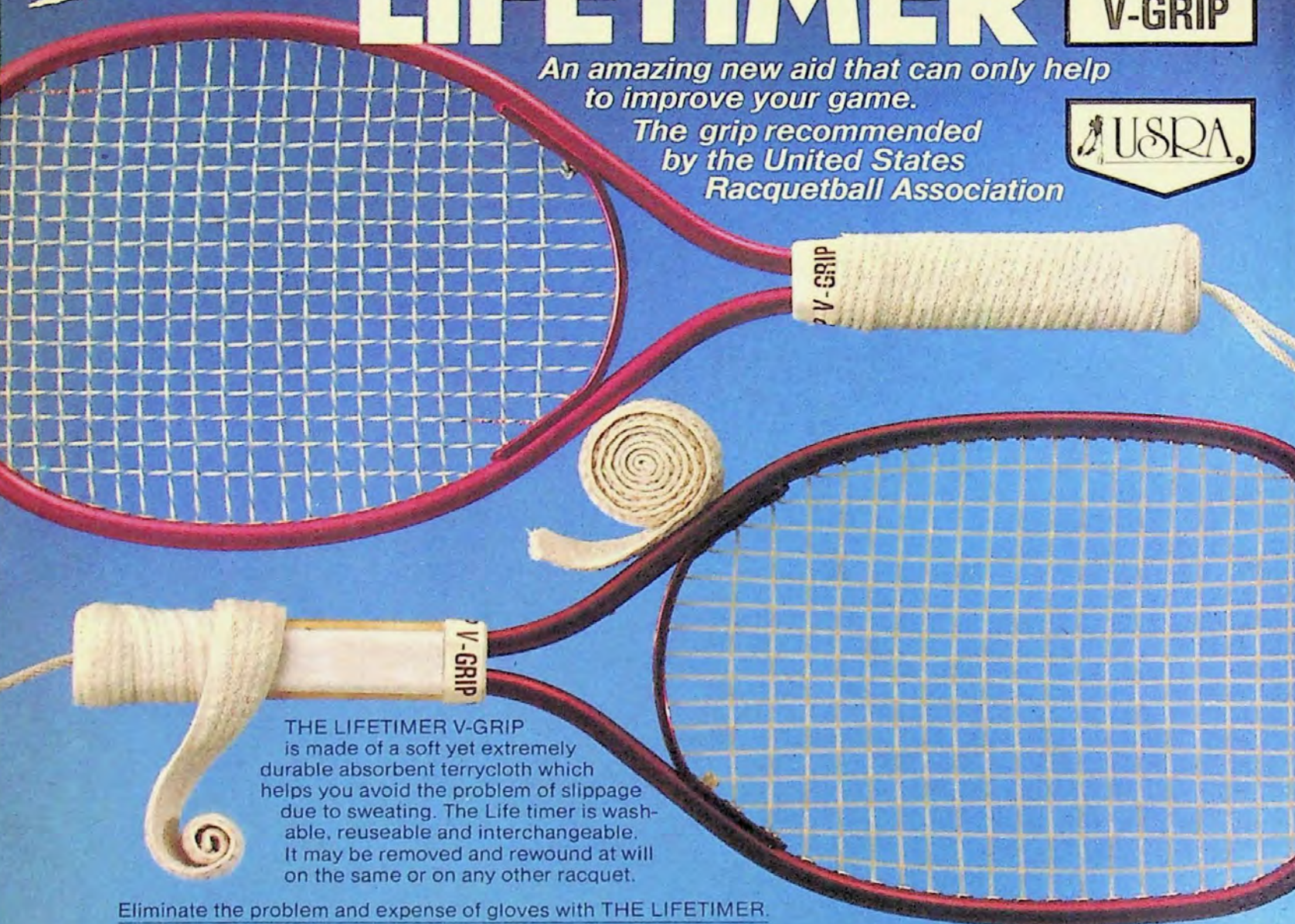
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Mike Yellen



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When so many others are still trying to play racquetball in tennis shoes, you can get a big advantage by playing in the best specialty racquetball shoes available. Lotto.

Take it from Mike Yellen and Jennifer Harding. They've earned their place at the top through talent, a love of the game, good equipment and a lot of



sweat. But it pays off. Mike went to the National Men's Semi-Finals in 1978 in only his second year on the tour, and Jennifer made it all the way to the Women's Finals!

Mike and Jennifer wear Lotto because they know how important it is to have

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Try Lotto. It'll bring you a step closer to the finals.



Jennifer Harding

Lotto

Lotto-Newk USA, San Antonio, Texas

Coors — the Racquetball Brew

Founder's Grandson
Markets Our Game

by Nick Longhurst

Does a Rolls Royce parked outside the court club or a nifty Louis Vuitton signature racquet tote show that you, old "Killerball" Anybody, are a sophisticated racquetballer?

Are you one of the million players — out of the eight million racquetball enthusiasts energetically whacking away across America — sophisticated enough to pick the right racquet for your needs?

For the purposes of this article sophistication is knowing what you want — and presumably getting it whether it be a brand new macho looking Graphite 100 or a can of the best balls.

So if you don't know what you want, who is going to tell you what is best for your needs, be it racquetballs, racquets, shoes, gloves or beer.

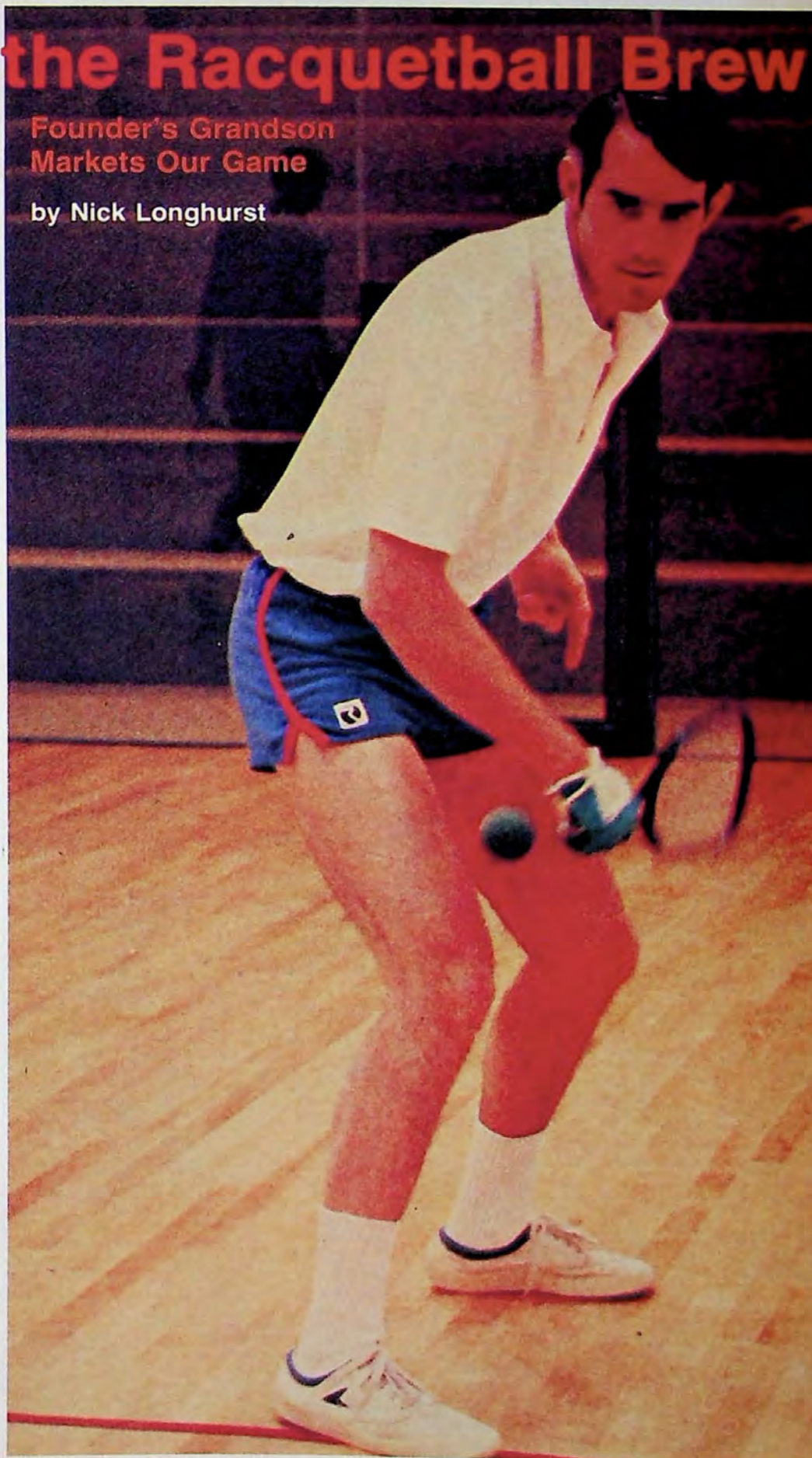
Beer?

Yep it seems that in the marketing world, once you get more than a handful of people together to take part in a joint pursuit, be it anything from backgammon to group sex, the animal of demographics rears its computerized head.

You can be counted, added, subtracted, tested, divided by age, sex, height, number of credit cards, number of cars, mortgages, vacations, geographical location, anything absolutely anything. And once the wizards of the I.B.M. keyboard can find enough of the same, you become a marketing unit.

And racquetball, having come of age in more ways than one, has now broken that Madison Avenue promotional barrier, throwing our sensibilities open to advances from any manufacturer who likes our demographics.

A large part of the racquetball playing public is between the ages of 18 and 85, and has a college education. Now it



Peter Coors is an early riser, often he is out of bed by 5 a.m. and running his daily five miles. In the summer he runs outdoors near his home but when the Colorado snow keeps him indoors he's at a health and racquetball facility in Golden, CO, where the family brewery is located.

just so happens that beer manufacturers look for a large part of their sales to that same age group — men and women — and the college education has given most at least a passing Delta House type affinity with the foamy brew.

Personally I am glad we have been singled out by the beer companies rather than the manufacturers of L' Eggs Pantyhose or the Forest Lawn Mortuary Pre-payment plan. So far the beer manufacturers participation in the sport has been like the first sip from a freshly popped can — it's an exploratory taste.

Smuggled Nectar

All except one, and that is Coors, the Golden, CO, brewery whose pleasurable product is sold in part of the country and smuggled into the rest, often by such notables as Henry Kissinger, who allegedly used the presidential plane to do it.



Coors has plans to invest almost one and a half million dollars into racquetball over the next three years, some of it into the Colorado pro-am, otherwise known as the Coors pro stop, and the Coors All Pro tournament, which pits professional athletes from other sports into a race for the largest purse in racquetball history.

One of the men largely responsible for putting the brewery into racquetball carries the Coors name. He is Peter

Coors, who lists among his titles, Vice President of Sales and Marketing. He is the son of the current president, Joe Coors, who is the son of Adolph Coors, the founder of the brewery.

Peter Coors is a conservationist, a sports fanatic and a self confessed workaholic whose day starts at 5:30 a.m. with a three to five mile run.

The daily jog isn't his only form of exercise. He likes to take part in any number of sports, including a regular bout of racquetball.

"I love sports," he explains. "I do a little of everything, so I'm really not excellent in any one thing but I love them all."

"I learned to ski when I was six, and I started to play tennis when I was seven. I'm a long time squash player and living in Colorado I enjoy hiking and even sailing."

Peter Coors, who graduated from Cornell University as an engineer, then took a business administration master in his home state before moving back to the family company which has grown into the largest single brewery in the United States.



He plays mean — and tough with all the skill of a long time sportsman. Peter Coors describes himself as a broken down squash player but years of tennis and squash, jogging and skiing have left him in excellent shape. Here he plays one of his twice weekly racquetball games and exhibits reasonable form.

All in the Family

The first bridge he had to cross was to join the company.

"I had a lot of thoughts about striking out on my own, and there was a lot of anxiety about going into a family business with the extra pressures and so on. But my Dad prevailed upon me that there was a niche for me here so I came back - he's very persuasive."

In just a few years he graduated from his first job, working in the brewery waste treatment plant, euphemistically called *"learning from the ground up."*

In those days the company was small, and in the enviable position of selling all of its beer. But in 1970, '71, the company realized that for the future production was to be stepped up.

He explains *"We had demands for our product then in excess of what we could put out of the plant, so our energies were geared towards building production rather than solving marketing problems."*

Those problems came later.

Peter Coors headed the company's first venture into market research in 1975 in a move to understand just who the beer drinkers were.

It was then that they first gathered serious demographic data.

"We were beginning to understand who our beer drinkers were. If they were leaving us - why, and if they were suddenly drinking Coors beer, what had made them change."

"Coors had been almost a fad, largely because of the quality of the beer and partly because we were the little man, a small brewery in Colorado that no one had ever heard of."

"I hate to talk about demographics but most of our buyers were in the 18 to 34 age group. It sometimes seems that you are leaving the others out, but most of the consumption was in those

age groups, predominantly male but with some female involvement, probably because we had a lighter beer than our competitors."

"That's interesting because for 20 years we had been telling them that we were America's fine light beer and finally they had gotten the message loud and clear."

But in 1977 Coors began to lose sales, analyzed by the company as a combination of the fad moving on and the increased competition from the other breweries in the market. That meant more advertising . . . and finally racquetball.

More Miles Per Dollar

One of the major problems with being a comparatively small organization was the cost of advertising.

"We cannot buy network prime time nationally like our competitors," Coors explains, "so our decision to move into the sponsorship of sports events was to provide us with some exposure where we could hopefully receive greater miles for the dollar spent."

First, naturally, they began with skiing. The first sponsored event was a water ski jump contest, closely followed by the Colorado snow ski pro tour.

"And now we sponsor all kinds of things - tractor pulling contests in Salinas, CA, lumberjack contests, soccer, volleyball, the Indianapolis-type Texas 200 car race and even tricycle races in Orange County, CA."

But then the company began to see a future in racquetball.

"As we looked at racquetball," he says, "we saw two things. First of all its own growth as a sport, and then the general growth of health consciousness of which I think racquetball is a part."

"We saw the association of age group. The game can be played by anybody but the predominate age group is in our target market."

"We could see that there was a strong growth potential in the marketplace and that we had a great opportunity to align ourselves with something totally different from anyone else in our industry."

Side by Side

"Racquetball was a sport where we could see ourselves taking a leadership role in helping it grow, so we could see our sales grow with it."

Finally Coors settled on two basic approaches - the sponsorship of one tournament for racquetball professionals and the Coors All Pro tournament, where professional athletes from different sports compete for a stupendous prize.

Why pro athletes? *"We found the program interesting because of the notable professional athletes involved in the sport."*

"We believe it humanizes racquetball a great deal and brings it prestige from the standpoint of the fame of the athletes playing it. People will stop, look and listen when they see men like John Brodie, Jerry West and O. J. Simpson involved with racquetball."

The Coors involvement wasn't cheap, with the final price tag zooming well over one million for the first three years.

"It's a lot of dollars, I can tell you," he jokes. "There were lots of times when I swallowed hard when those contracts came through."

But there may be more dollars on the way for racquetball.

"Racquetball is new to us, as it is new to nearly all sponsorship. First we need to see how our programs are going to work for us and whether we are getting our money's worth. We are very satisfied so far."

"There is an opportunity for us to expand our involvement into other areas in local and regional amateur tournaments linked with our local distributors, and we shall be looking hard at those plans in the near future." ●

National Juniors — Stepping Stone to Better Things

The one thing former National Juniors champions have in common is that they all have gone on to higher achievements within the racquetball world after capturing their national crown.

On the eve of the fourth USRA National Juniors Championships those former champs come to mind — Ben Koltun the first winner in 1975-76; Larry Meyers in '76-'77 and Scott Hawkins last season. And whoever wins in 1978-79 this summer is sure to have plenty of kill shots ahead of him.

In the girls divisions the winner was Jamie Abbot in 1976-77 (the girls played against the boys in the first year's competition) and last season Michelle Busacca captured the crown. All of these winners competed in the 17-and-under categories.

Of all the former champs Koltun has achieved the greatest success as their racquetball careers continued, winning the 1976 National Amateur title and rising to number four rank on the professional tour at one point this season. Koltun signed with Leach Industries a month after winning his junior title and has been with Leach ever since.

Meyers, who was seeded a difficult seventh the year he won the title, reached the top 16 on the pro tour earlier this season but recently slipped back to 24th. Larry was one of Wilson's earliest contract players.

Hawkins, the latest juniors champ has played primarily in the amateur ranks since his victory, playing under the Ektelon banner and reaching a professional rank in the top 30. He has either won or finished second three times in amateur tournaments on the pro tour.

The irony of the National Juniors is probably the careers of some of the players who never won that event — sort of a "don't let it get you down, there's still hope" kind of a thing.



Larry Meyers



Michelle Busacca



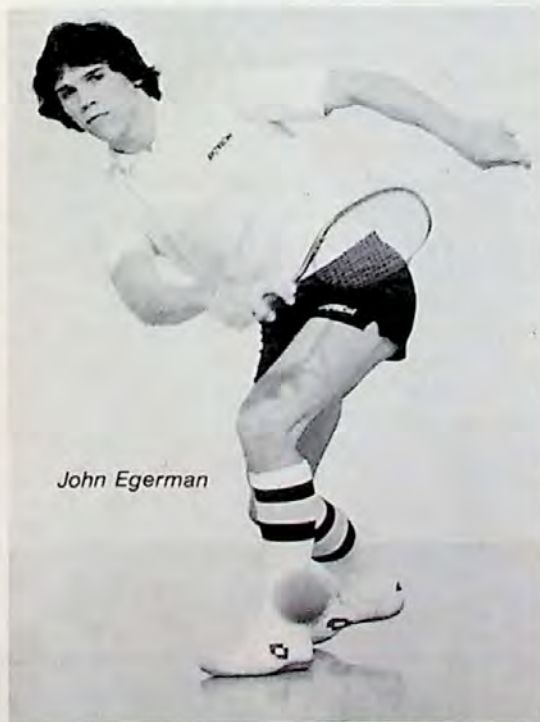
Scott
Hawkins



Lindsay Myers



Bob Bolan



John Eggerman

For example current winner of everything Marty Hogan was a professional before he had a chance to compete in the juniors, a factor that probably helped the National Juniors program first by making the competition more equal and second by giving the juniors a hero whose accomplishments made their world seem more real and their goals more attainable.

One of the players who didn't win the juniors that first year, but went on to great accomplishments (and all predict even greater things) is Lindsay Myers, a Vancouver, BC, native who two years after his third place finish in the juniors won the Canadian National title. Lindsay is tied with Larry Meyers for a 24th rank on the pro tour and has won many tough amateur tournaments.

Mark Malowitz, then a lanky 15-year-old, was a quarter-final loser in the boys 15-and-under that first year, but scarcely three years later he and partner Jeff Kwartler won the National Amateur Doubles Championship.

Non-winners who have continued to do well emerged the second year as top seed Mike Yellen, currently ranked six on the pro tour and 1978 professional Rookie-of-the-year, was unable to beat Meyers but later put his game together to reach his present status.

Bobby Bolan, who came an eyelash away from winning the National Amateur crown last year, was a loser in that 1977 National Juniors in the semi-finals to Meyers. Yet Yellen became a fine Ektelon sponsored player and Bolan went on to sign with Leach.

Perhaps the player making the biggest waves on the heels of a National Juniors championship is John Eggerman, now 16, who won the 15-and-under title last season. Eggerman, who has qualified twice in different pro events, has captured numerous amateur events, including wins over Hawkins, among others.

The boys have no monopoly over fine post-junior careers, although their credentials far surpass the girls achievements. Abbott, who reached a top 16 ranking just months after her title, has allowed her game to suffer as school commitments and outside activities have limited her court time as well as ability to reach major events.

Laura Martino, who finished second to Abbott in 1977, has hovered around the top 20 (currently 24th) again, without the aid of major sponsorship to take her to the competitive tournaments.

Last year's winner Busacca is another player who has elected to concentrate on college (UCLA) rather than disrupt her education to take in the pro tour. She stays in competitive shape by playing local events, hitting a few larger tournaments when they come through.

The point of all this is that the National Juniors program, with the 50 state championships, the 10 regional championships and the Nationals, is a program of competition and camaraderie that is meant for all junior racquetball players. Those who win and go on to careers in our sport gain much in prestige and achievement.

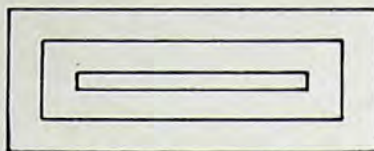
But those who don't win, history tells us, can follow two roads. There are those who try harder, play more and emerge even better racquetball players than even the winners of the national titles. And there are those who continue to play for fun — the fun of racquetball, which will carry through their entire lives as a means of physical fitness that is second to none.

This year over 6,000 kids ranging from age eight to 17 will participate in the National Juniors program. At the end of the season five players will be crowned national champions. The true success of the National Juniors is to ensure that the other 5,995 feel like winners, too.

Because they are. ●

Inside the Master's Mind

by Charlie Brumfield



The Backhand Part II: Drills for the Muscles

With this article Charlie Brumfield, four time national champion and touring pro for the Sportrooms Racquetball Clubs, continues his exclusive series for *National Racquetball*.

Use of Your Legs

Get down on the ball. The more weight you can get behind the shot, the more pace your shot will have. This is where your knees come in. If you don't flex as you loop into the ball and lift at impact, you've robbed yourself of the hitting power trapped in your thighs and rear end.

If you lift properly with your legs and rear, then with your upper torso, you will have the distinct impression of almost leaving the ground! This is an *effect* of the proper motion. Trying to feel the effect without properly using the legs will open a Pandora's Box of uncontrolled flails as you ineptly try to leave the ground to impart pace to the shot.

One mistake often made by ardent players is an attempt to stay low throughout the swing. If you do that, only your arm and wrist supply power. Really if you use your legs properly, you'll work hard to swing easy. Remember — lift, don't lunge.

Weight Shift

Think of a batter striding into a ball or a boxer stepping into a punch. You want your weight moving into the shot. However just prior to impact (perhaps in accordance with the physical law that says a force in one direction requires an equal and opposite force in the other direction) the knees and upper torso should actually shift backwards slightly to accommodate the power of the racquet now flashing through the ball. This theory is certainly consistent with reality. I point to the tremendous power that a Hogan or Bledsoe get as they crash backwards into the back wall.

The Inverted Windup On the Backswing

As you begin your backswing, your wrist should turn under. This has two functions. 1) We discussed at length the concept of the loop in Backhand, Part I last month. Not only should your shoulder and arm be involved in this pendulum style swing, but the forearm, wrist and hand should also trace out their own mini-looping parabola. The motion is: close, open, close. 2) If the ball gets on you quick, particularly if it's inside your normal contact position, the tendency is to lift or cut the ball very severely and leave the plum about eight feet up on the front wall. If you make it a habit to close your racquet on both your backswings (forehand and backhand), you'll find yourself able to keep the ball down.

Contact Zone

Remember in my power forehand article in May I destroyed the old wives' tale that the ball should be hit off the front foot, in favor of the more modern theory that the ball should be released *off the hitting shoulder*? This same principle applies to the backhand. This means you really should contact the ball maybe six inches behind your hitting shoulder. Talking about positions in the stance is not really relevant. You should be thinking in terms of your *hitting shoulder*.

The biggest error I see when watching all levels of play is contacting the ball *too far forward*. This means the ball cannot really be "*hit*," and you're not really using your power.

One more point before we leave the subject of power. Try to retain an integrity between your body and your arm. This allows your body power to be transmitted to the head of the racquet. When you take a backswing, don't let your arm go back on its own. You should firm up (voluntarily) the connecting muscles in your upper arm so that your shoulder *pulls* your arm back and forward. If you don't maintain this integrity, your body power dissipates and you have to swing that much harder with your arm.

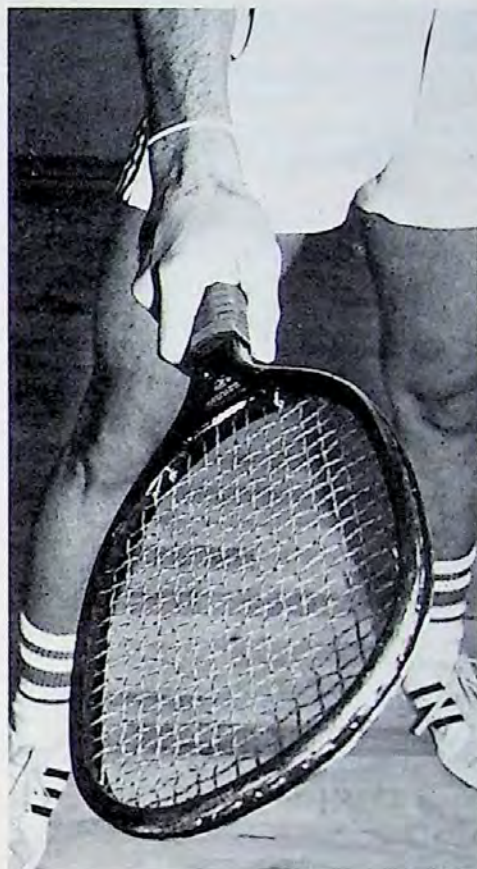
In addition particularly you tennis enthusiasts, don't ignore the slapping power created by the contraction and extension of the muscles governing the forearm and elbow. Many of the hard hitters tell me that is their chief sensation of effort, when really ripping the ball.

Finally we get to the wrist. Remember in the May article, I de-emphasized the role of the wrist in the production of brute power. Although I do concede that power is there, it is the forearm motion, rather than a big motion of the wrist, that produces most of the power. This is true on the backhand where there is definite wrist motion but it is primarily directional and can be very useful in deception.

The traditional "eastern" grip.



If you use the forehand grip to hit a backhand, the result is an inclination for the racquet head to point up, thereby forcing your shots higher on the front wall.



This is Marty Hogan's grip. Note that Hogan makes the adjustment by moving his wrist, rather than his grip.



Grip

For years racquetball purists have recommended a grip change when hitting a backhand shot. The purpose behind the grip change was a sound one, "close the face of the racquet to compensate for the different angle of the wrist and forearm relative to the forehand." These grip changes correspond to what is usually referred to as the "Eastern grips" in tennis. Many of the modern pros are attempting to use *one grip* for both forehand and backhand. Hogan, who is in this group, feels that there is insufficient time in the quick modern rally to make a grip change, particularly on serve return and in front court.

But even Hogan cannot flaunt the laws of physics, i.e., the ball will go where the plane of the racquet face directs it. In order to keep his racquet face square to the intended line of flight Hogan inverts his forearm and wrist on the backswing and uses only a minimum rotation of the forearm and wrist opening and closing on the downswing.

In other words the position of the wrist and forearm (and not the closed Eastern grip) give the ball its flat trajectory. This system is more sound if it can be committed to muscle memory. The traditional method (Eastern grip) makes it difficult to hit with pace particularly from over waist high, without flip flapping the wrist and forearm over the ball. Timing and touch are critical. That means you'll have bad days and good days depending on whether your racquet face makes it too square or is short or long of the mark.

Eye Contact and Head Position

Ever since I was a teenage paddleball player, I've always heard the phrase, "Watch the ball." But it's only now at the late stages of my career that I truly understand what this phrase really means. I always felt I watched the ball, despite photos that clearly showed I was watching the target and not the ball at impact. The same was true of my fellow pros. But watching the ball doesn't mean that — it means what it says, WATCH THE BALL. Pick up your opponent with peripheral vision and learn where you are on the court at all times. Remember the ball is moving, not the spot on the wall where you're aiming. It's a good idea to emphasize the old golf adage, "Watch where the ball was at impact, don't turn to see where it went or it's not going anywhere!"

The pulley exercise strengthens the muscles used for the backhand stroke . . .

A good example of keeping your head back after impact.



When you overswing on your follow through, your head will open up too soon with a sweeping of the ball occurring instead of the snap of a towel.

Eye contact is a particular problem on the backhand stroke. The impulse to look at the target area is the one factor that prevents everyone from doing the two things necessary to competent backhand power production. These are:

1. Use a very large shoulder turn. (If you turn your shoulders, it's very, very difficult to see your target area).
2. Let the ball get into your proper hitting zone. (Most people swing when they can see both the ball and the target area in a line — most times this is improper.)

In addition to fostering the decay of these two important principles improper eye and head movement (looking up too soon) has a tendency to open up your shoulder too soon. (If you turned your shoulder even a little, it virtually forces you to hit cross-court.)

Training Drills for the Backhand

Since the backhand motion is used so seldom in everyday life, most people could use a little muscle development to help them develop power and control. Two simple exercises are a good start.

1. The pulley exercise (note photos).
2. Swing 50 backhands a day with a tennis racquet with a cover on it. Each month, put an extra ball in the cover, until you work up to six balls in the cover.

The Setup Procedure

This is another traditional body of theory that's ready for the scrap pile. Ideally you never want to hit stationary or flat footed, even on the easiest setups. It's actually easier to turn your shoulder away from the ball if both feet are off the ground just prior to impact. The top power hitters actually lift and throw themselves into the ball to produce torque. So don't setup, stop, then hit. Rather, set up, *hop*, then hit. Very similar to the principle of the jump shot in basketball. Of course the timing to lift, rather than lunge, doesn't come overnight. That's why even in the pros only two or three are thus far able to do it.



Intensive Practice

After a while you'll come to the realization that nothing will make your backhand hit like Marty Hogan's. But practice can go a long way toward making it presentable, at least among friends. Myself, I'm a firm believer in practice, particularly INTENSIVE PRACTICE.

I take great pride in my number of national titles because I'm a MADE racquetball player, not a BORN racquetball player. So you can use determination and stick-to-it-tiveness to improve your game if you can maintain intensity.

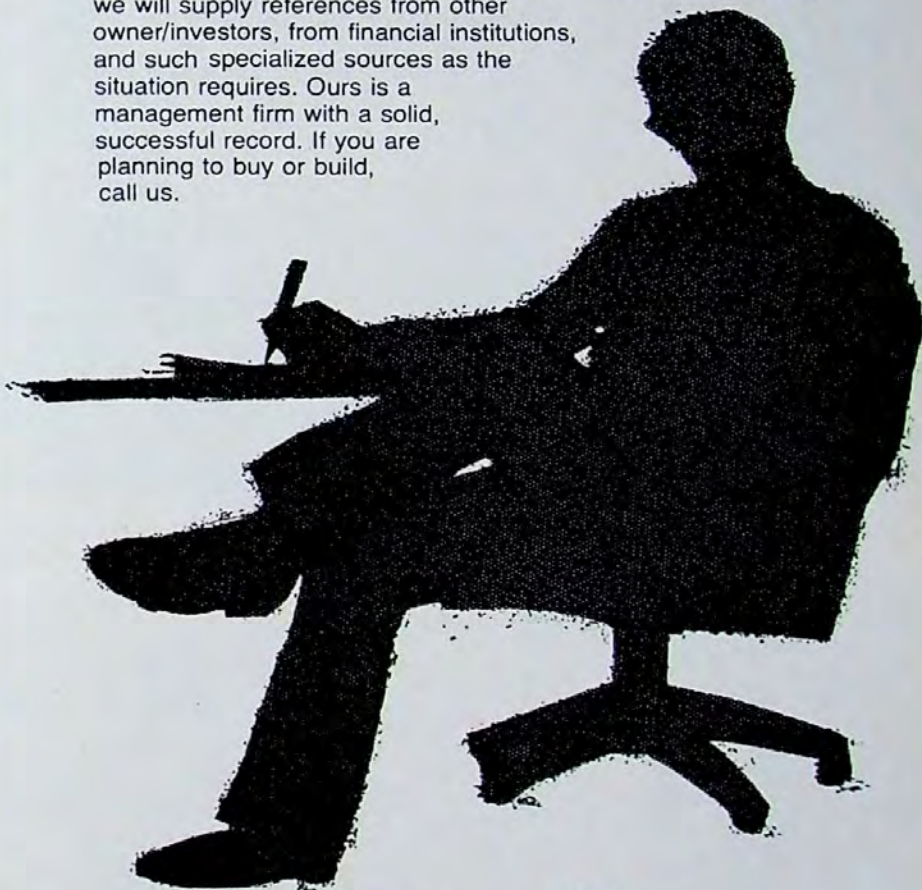
My goal is to implement these backhand principles into my own game. It's sort of a dilemma, because in the process I'll have to discard a backhand that, if not a strength, has at least been a friend these past 15 years. I think it's worth it, though, because if you can't hit your backhand — not hack, not poke, not ceiling ball — you'll never be the racquetball player you could be.

My program will be simple — to hit every backhand hard as soon as I get my stroke semi-grooved through drop-and-hit drills. And I mean hit every backhand hard. I'm not going to try and mix in finesse or change of pace, just hit everything and let the position of the ball dictate where the shot will go.

Remember work only on one thing at a time — intensely. ●

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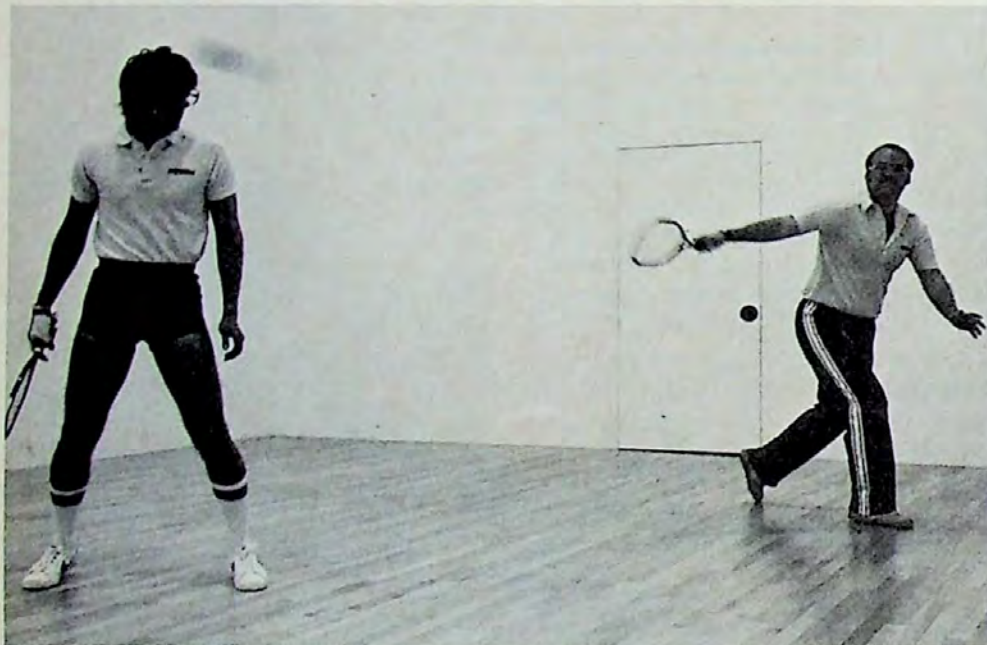
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Back at You

by Jerry Hilecher

In this exclusive *National Racquetball* series top ranked pro, Jerry Hilecher, answers your questions on specific aspects of the game. Send questions to Hilecher % managing editor, *National Racquetball*, and one of the sports best teachers will bounce the answers back at you every month.



In these photos Hilecher is able to keep his eye on the ball longer and anticipate its trajectory, knowing that his eyes are protected.



Question: I took up racquetball about a year ago and, lately, I've been hearing a lot about the need to wear eyeguards. I notice, though, that the pictures of tournament play in *National Racquetball* show a lot of the top pros playing without eye protection. Can eyeguards be so necessary if the players who hit the ball the hardest and fastest don't wear them? Also are there any playing advantages that result from wearing eyeguards?



One common cause of eye injuries is an opponent's backswing.

Answer: You bring up a good point. You'll often see professional players — myself included — without eyeguards in tournament matches when all the photos seem to get taken. But that doesn't mean that we don't wear them in practice and it certainly doesn't mean that it is safe for you to go without them. In fact I strongly recommend that you wear them and I think most of the other pros would agree with me.

I'm sure that you know a doctor who smokes even though he knows it is bad for him, but I doubt if there is a doctor in the world who would recommend smoking. Do as we say, not as we do.

Also the different levels of ability between pro and amateur should tell you that you can't get away with everything a pro can. After 14 years on the court I have developed an ability to anticipate where the ball and my opponent's racquet are headed most of the time. That still doesn't mean it's safe for me to go without eye protection, though, and I assure you that it isn't safe for you either. As for your second question, the answer is yes, eyeguards can actually help your game.

One of the most important rules in racquetball as in most sports is to "keep your eye on the ball." Too often an inexperienced player will simply stare at the front wall after his shot for fear of being hit with the ball. That really reduces his ability to anticipate his opponent's shot and, therefore, his own chances for a decent return. No one will progress very far playing this way. But here's where eye protection can help.

Knowing that your eyes are protected with eyeguards will give you the confidence to look over your shoulder while your opponent is shooting until the last possible second. You can note

his position on the court, how his body is turned, whether he is using a backhand or forehand and the general trajectory of the ball as it heads for the front wall. Armed with this information and the extra time to view the ball's path, you will be in a much better position to anticipate the rebound and make a good return.

Another way that eye protection will help is that when you are playing

behind your opponent, you will be able to stay closer to him and/or the ideal position on the court without fear of catching a backswing in the eye. You'll have greater command of the court which is important in racquetball.

Wearing eye protection and following the ball closely can add several points to your game and make you a thinking player. ●



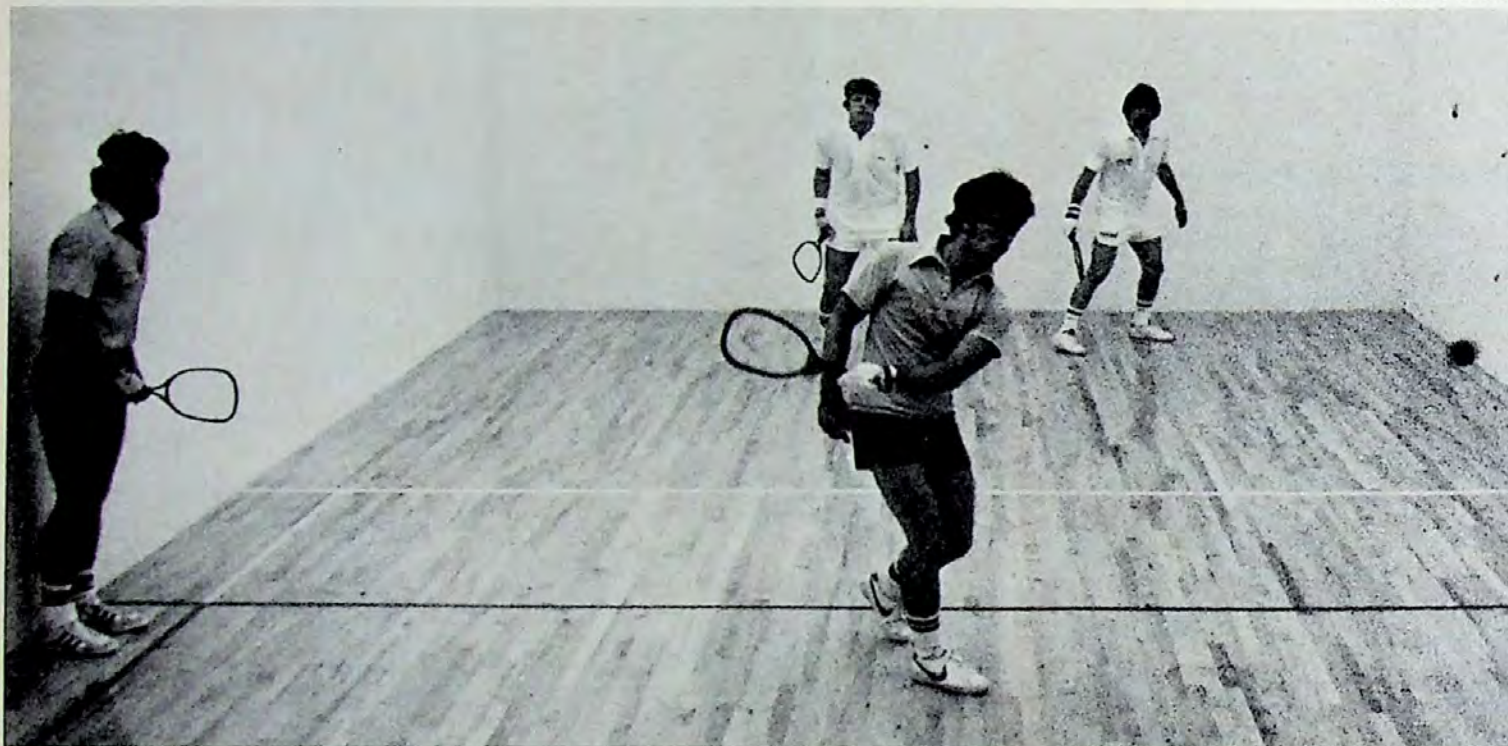
These photos show the difficulty in following the ball when your opponent is shooting from behind you and you aren't wearing eyeguards.



Doubles Basics: Position and Etiquette

by Steve Strandemo

— Jack Miller photos



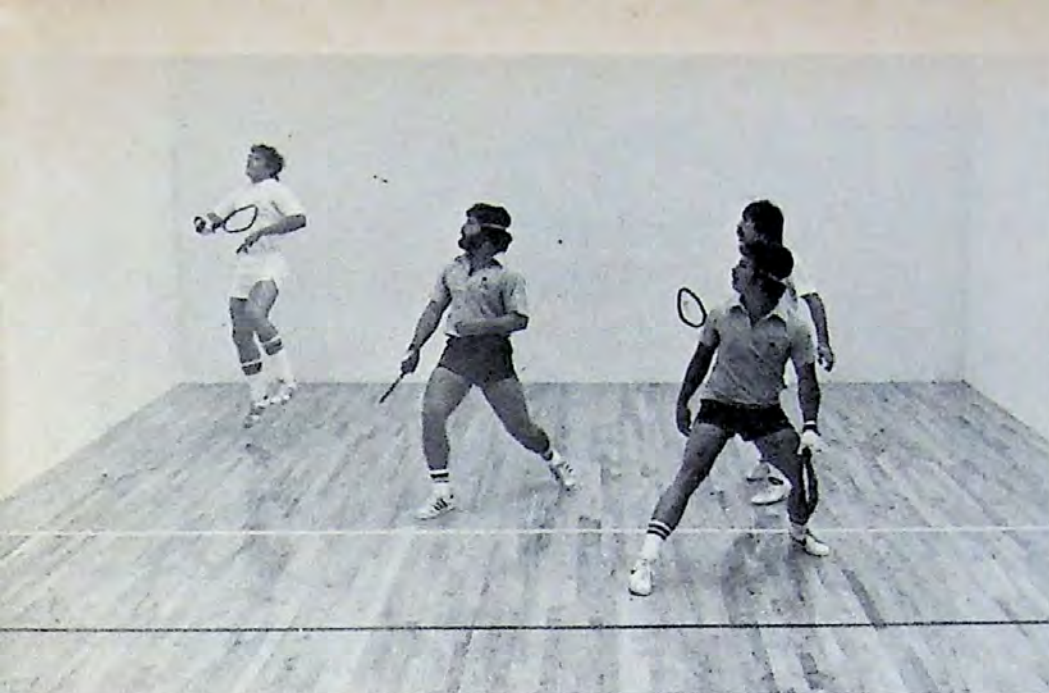
Play begins with the teams in basic side-by-side positions. Server's partner must stay in the service box until the ball has come back across the back service line. Server is serving to the backhand side, where the defender with the better backhand should be stationed. The pace of the play is such that teams often are pulled out of this side-by-side arrangement, but both players should always have in mind their primary areas of coverage, one forehand, the other backhand, bisecting the length of the court. (In this demonstration game the gray-clad players are Jim Harper, right, and John Manson. The team in white — Jeff Bowman, left, and Steve Strandemo.)

Racquetball doubles is a game that can be fun, fast and sociable, one that allows four friends instead of two to get in their hour on the court. But given the very close quarters it is important that all four players be thoroughly aware of the particular requirements of doubles play.

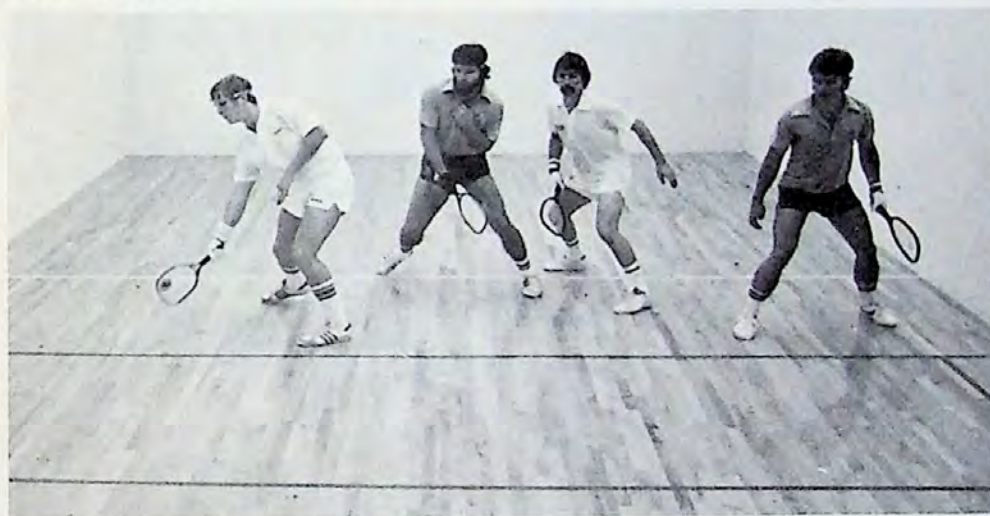
All the same basic rules of singles play apply, of course. You should have a good knowledge of singles fundamentals — position, strategy and shot selection — before you can expect to play good doubles. With doubles position, accuracy and etiquette become doubly important. If even one of the four players can't maintain proper court position and observe the rules of etiquette, the game will break down into a mad jumble and can, in fact, become dangerous for all.



This photo demonstrates how the side-by-side position is maintained during play. It is not exact, of course; teams flex according to the situation. The flow tends to be back and forth, front to back. The defenders have the right to the front position and of course must leave the hitting lanes — down-the-line, pinch, and crosscourt pass — open to the offense. Here the hitter has gone for a down-the-line. This is classic doubles position.



As in singles control of the center court is desirable. More accuracy is required in shotmaking in doubles, since there are two defenders dividing the coverage. Even with that added emphasis many, if not most, shots are mis-hits slightly, and the majority of these come right back into center court. Here both teams are in good shape to maintain center court control. The gray team is ready to return this shot if it's not a rollout or a winning pass shot, and the white team has good position for gray's subsequent shot.



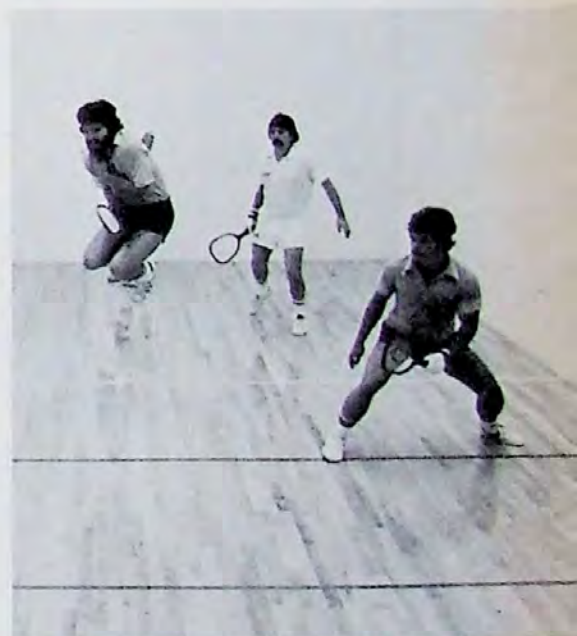
In this photo the white team has played the gray team into shaky position. The basic side-by-side coverage has been disrupted, leaving one member of the gray team stranded in the front part of the court. White team is in very good coverage position. The gray defender in the front court has a good chance of being called for a visual hinder if the ball is driven into the backhand side of the court.



In doubles as much if not more than singles, watching the ball is very important to good play. Here, as the defenders move into position to play the offense's ceiling ball, all eyes are squarely on the ball. It's a small court and a crowded one, with four players on it. The ability to anticipate is crucial to smooth, efficient, knowledgeable movement. And you can't anticipate unless you know exactly where the ball is, and where it's likely to go.

Once you get the hang of doubles, you should enjoy it as much or perhaps more than singles. Since you have to cover only half the court, doubles requires less stamina than singles. In any event, you won't be as tired at the end of the hour. And if you feel your forehand is your best side, you can play the forehand side of the court, if your partner has the better backhand. If you are right handed and your partner left handed, of course he'll take the left side of the court and you the right.

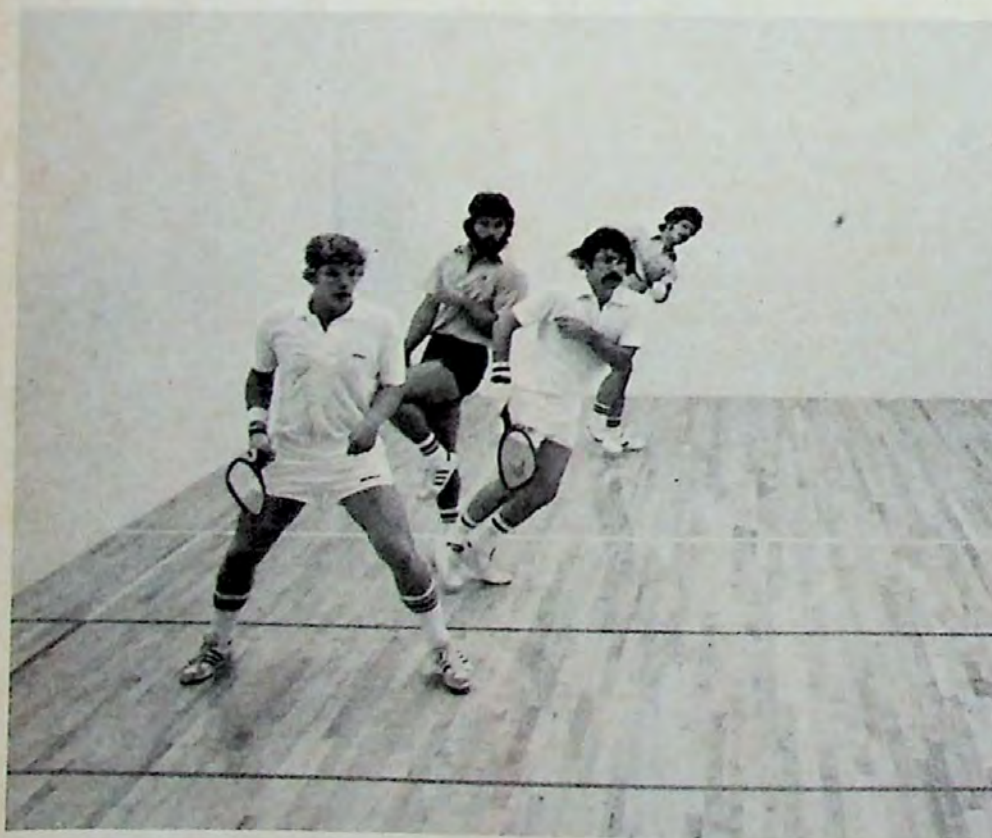
And there are a couple of extra challenges in doubles. Since there are two defenders covering the court, it forces the offense to be more accurate with its shots. Execution is crucial. Plus the action tends to be faster and gives everyone's reflexes a good test.



Sometimes good form in doubles assumes a disguise. The defender at left, being about three feet in the air, would appear to be at a loss as to what to do. In fact he has done the only thing he could do to give the hitter, whose elbow is barely visible over his shoulder, a clear shot to the front wall. He knew he wouldn't have time to shift either left or right to open the lane, so he took the only alternative left. It's a fast game. If he doesn't jump, he gets ripped in the back of the leg.



Good form is present in this photo, too, though it would appear everyone has run together on one side of the court. But the game flows, back and forth and side to side, pulling teams this way and that. The good teams maintain the best position possible, relative to each other, throughout the play. Here the white team is not in the best position to cover the shot — the backhand player should be over near the backhand wall, but it's not bad for the circumstances. And the gray team still is moving as a unit with the hitter's best shot a kill attempt down the left wall.



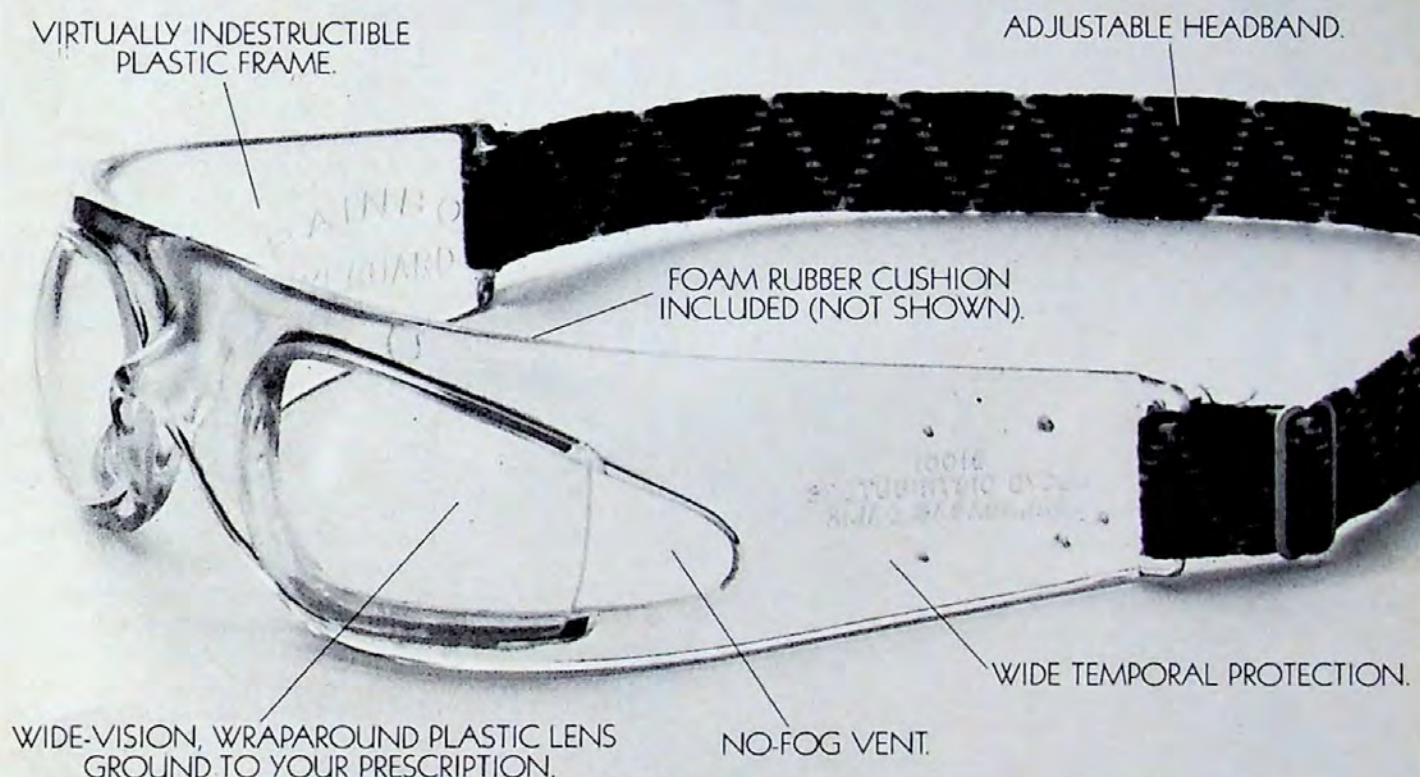
There will always be some body contact in a good game of doubles, particularly between players struggling for center court position. But it's a "leaning" kind of contact, not shoving or running into. Etiquette must be observed if the game is to proceed enjoyably. Form is important too, in that the swing — either forehand or backhand — in such close quarters becomes compact. A player can still take a full swing from the backcourt, as shown here, but the swing's tightened up in heavy traffic.

Finally there is the sense of teamwork that doubles gives you. It is important to communicate with your teammate, from before the match to a critique afterward. Strategy becomes a mutual effort, and success a shared reward.

The photos on these pages illustrate the basics of doubles from the standpoint of sound position and proper etiquette. Without this fundamental knowledge strategy really doesn't matter. Strategy — the serve, the return, shot selection and so forth — will be discussed in subsequent articles. ●

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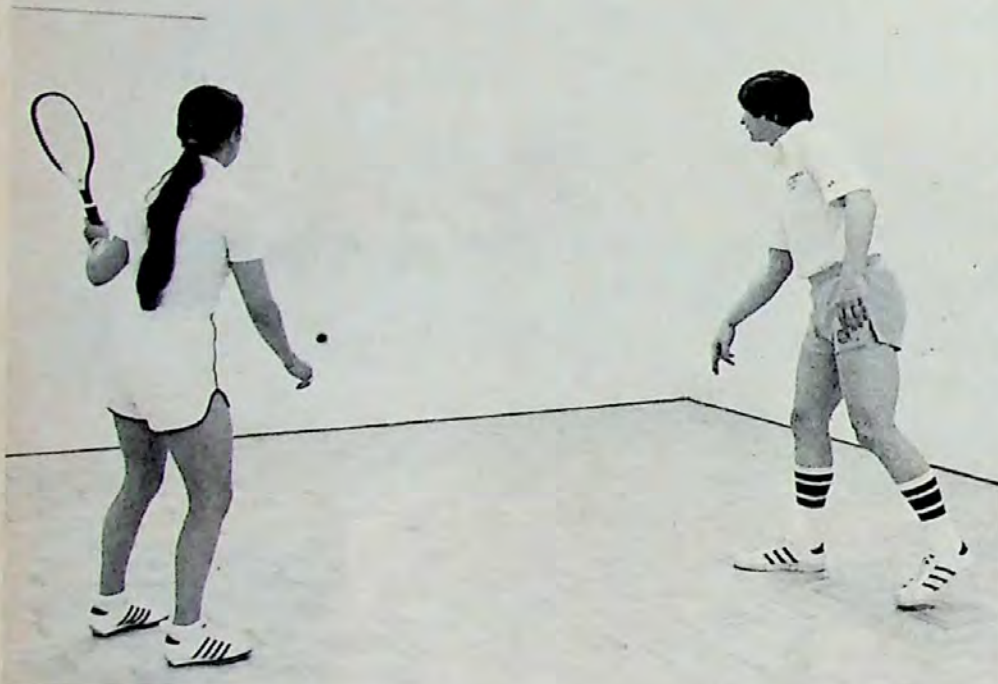
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Basics for Beginners

Learning to Hit Off Back Wall

by Terry Fancher



With the help of a friend or a certified APPO instructor, a beginning player can learn the timing and technique of the back wall shot. When perfected, this shot is one of the best offensive weapons any player can have in his arsenal.

There are several facets to practice and be aware of to enable the beginner to learn back wall play. One important item that many people fail to recognize is that they must follow the flight and bounce of the ball with their eyes the entire time it is in play even as it bounces on the floor. Many players simply look back to the back wall and try to pick up the ball with their eyes after it rebounds to them.

This faulty method has two major flaws: (1) you lose eye contact with the ball just long enough so as to hinder your stroke and (2) you lose your ability to judge the speed of the ball as it travels to and rebounds off the back wall.

Properly judging the speed of the ball will let you determine whether or not you should allow the ball to even get by you and go to the back wall in the first place. A hard hit shot by an opponent that does not allow you time to get set should be played off the back wall. Conversely, a medium or slow hit ball can often be played on the fly (out of the air).



Mistake: Back wall woes

Many players tend to regard the back wall as an enemy instead of a friend and rush to hit the ball before it can rebound off the back wall. Or, even after letting the ball hit the back wall, they lose that essential sideways stance and end up hitting the ball (if indeed they do) lightly, with the body erroneously parallel to the front and back walls. Often they make the additional mistake of letting the ball crowd their body, resulting in an awkward swing.



Correction

A more experienced player will time the ball so that he swings his body into proper hitting position as the ball comes into range. The point is to keep the ball at a proper distance so that it doesn't crowd your shot.

The real trick is to face sideways (forehand or backhand, it's still sideways) and leave enough room for a full swing. This is often one of those racquetball situations in which there is more time to get set than you think there is.

Practice this shot by throwing or hitting balls high to the front wall and letting them come back to the rear wall. Time them so that you swing as they come out six feet from the back wall. As your skill improves, you should be able to cut this distance down to one racquet-length from the rear wall. This is a "retrieve" shot, defensive usually, and often a desperation shot, so hit it hard and aim it to come well back in the court to give your opponent the most trouble you can.



Another often abused practice is to hesitate too long before going back to retrieve a back wall shot. Most beginners wait far too long before retreating backwards. Good players move their feet quickly and set up far in advance of the back wall shot, allowing plenty of room to execute their swing and plenty of time to see where their opponent is moving to on the court. The result is an effective rally ending shot or, at worst, an offensive return.

Watch your club pro or any good player during a match and notice the fluid movement and anticipation on back wall shots. With practice and analysis anyone can learn this shot. ●



APRO Teaches . . . Children with Special Needs

by Jim Winterton

Jim Winterton, instructional programming director at Rochester, NY's Winton Racquetball Club, is the author of this month's "APRO Teaches," a regular *National Racquetball* feature devoted to information from APRO, the American Professional Racquetball Organization. Next month we will resume our series on how two beginners can learn on their own, excerpted from *Contemporary Racquetball* by APRO President Chuck Sheftel and *National Racquetball* Photographer Arthur Shay.

Much has been written about teaching racquetball to the average club member, and rightfully so, for it is this person who forms the foundation of membership. There are other members in your community who your club can help. I am referring to children in the "special education" programs. In New York State that would include the mentally and multiply handicapped children. These people are part of a neglected population as far as racquetball is concerned. Once your club becomes involved with the racquetball education of these children, it becomes a community "institution" more than a club because of your commitment to the area populace.

These children need racquetball for the same reasons we all do; it's fun, it improves your coordination, and it improves your self-image. In the brief span of two months last summer I saw an enormous amount of improvement in these areas in the students I worked with. Two examples that come to mind are those of John and Joe (fictitious names). John had brain damage and the first week was spent just dropping the ball and trying to make contact. He seemed ready to give up but with a little coaching and encouragement, he kept trying. By the end of the second week he could not only hit the ball, but could also carry on rallies with the other kids. Just as amazing as his on court progress was his off court progress! His attitude began to change from sullenness to friendliness. He became more positive in his actions and changed from a loner to "part of the crowd" — the racquetball crowd.

The other boy, whom we will call Joe, was paralyzed on his left side in a childhood car accident. Joe had to learn how to hit the ball on the serve with the same hand he held the racquet in. By the end of the two months he could not only hold his own with the other kids, but he could actually beat them! These two cases illustrate the dramatic results that can be obtained in a special education program.

To initiate such a program takes some planning and cooperation from the institution with which you are working. It is recommended that the school that you are working with send along someone who knows the kids. At the Winton Racquetball Club we asked the kids to dress in a regular physical education uniform of a white cotton shirt and shorts. The uniforms were provided by Champion Products Inc., a nationally known clothing manufacturer. Children with special health problems such as asthma, hay fever, diabetes and other ailments were watched carefully for problems.

The Rochester City School district's Work Experience Center was the institution we worked with. The Work Experience Center is a vocational training center for the special education students. The first lesson was spent acquainting the children with the club. Locker room procedures were gone over and two instructors from the Work Experience Center helped the students get ready for their first lesson.

An introduction to the game was given on an individual basis. For some kids this meant the teaching of the grip, stroke, rules, and court positioning.

Turn to Bob Van Tuyle's description of a pilot program sponsored by the NRC/USRA — "Racquetball for Special Kids" — on page 36.

These kids became "junior instructors" and helped me teach the others who could not advance so quickly. The other children were taught the grip and a cooperative game of "you hit it and I'll hit it." As this second group improved in skills they became motivated to learn the rules, stroke, and could receive more sophisticated instruction. We found the motivation necessary for increased attention at lesson time.

The program consisted of two days a week for two months. Each group had eight to 10 students in it and we had two groups per day. Depending on their schedule the kids were at the club at least once a week and most of them came twice. This activity took the place of their regular physical education classes at the Work Experience Center.

In the Special Olympics in 1979 a clinic on racquetball will be given. Some of the students we had this summer will be able to participate in an exhibition. In each community across the nation there is a Special Olympics program. They would be more than happy to participate with your club. Each high school sends handicapped students and Special Education students to central institutions of learning. By contacting such an institution a program can be initiated at your club. By getting your club involved in such a program you can deepen your ties to the community and just as important you can change some young peoples' lives! ●

Ask an Expert . . .

Fly Ball Bounces

by Dan Bertolucci



Some situations don't come up very often, and for that very reason — no one knows how to deal with them. A letter from Linn Kracht, program director of the Junction City, KS, YMCA, brings up one of these game-stopping questions.

Does this sound familiar?

A) A player hits a high ball off of the front wall and the ball carries to the back wall on a fly, then it bounces on the floor and carries to the front wall before bouncing a second time.

Question: Can the player hit the ball as it comes off of the front wall a second time as long as the ball does not bounce off of the floor for a second time?

B) If the ball makes it back to the front wall on a fly, can it be played on a fly off of the front wall or must the player wait to let the ball bounce before playing it?

In answer to question A the offensive player can hit or return the ball as it comes off the front wall as long as the ball doesn't bounce on the floor a second time. As for situation B the offensive player may either return the ball by hitting it on the fly or before it bounces twice. ●

The ball that has flown from back to front wall can be played off the front wall as long as it doesn't take two bounces on the floor.

Dan Bertolucci, associate coordinator of the USRA, and frequent referee at professional matches, will answer your questions about rules if you write him at the USRA, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

Racquetball for Special Kids

New USRA Program Teaches More Than A Game

by Robert J. Van Tuyle

Bob Van Tuyle explains tactics to gym teacher, Bennie Rogers, left, during the Racquetball Social.



- Gordy Bormis photo

1979 is the International Year of the Child and it is only fitting that in the first month of this year the United States Racquetball Association moved to establish a program of racquetball play and instruction for children with mentally handicapping conditions.

As a teacher of Educable Mentally Handicapped students for eight years and a racquetball player for almost as many I had long been interested in getting my students involved in the game. When, in the early '78-'79 school year, I took five students to the courts for a sort of field trip with racquetball added, they were enthused about playing, and by the end of the hour two 11-year-olds were ripping the ball with unexpected skill.

Everyone knows that racquetball is fun, but does this justify taking valuable school time to play games? As a racquetball player and human being I say "of course," but as a teacher (and

some of my students might say that precludes being a human being) I can say my students are expanding their experience, too. They gained knowledge about procedures for joining and reserving a court and observed some of the social graces practiced not only in racquetball but in all recreational sports. In a small group there are opportunities for increased rapport between child and teacher. All this in addition to the intricacies of the game itself which teaches counting, alternating sequence, eye-hand coordination; which trains the large muscle groups and which requires the use of short term memory. (What's the score?)

But there were roadblocks to setting up a program for these children who would get so much from the game. The cost of guest fees, court time, and transportation were beyond the means of individual students. Most special education classes don't have an experienced racquetball player as a teacher and most teachers have more students than could be accommodated on one court.

Racquetball Field Trips

Still because the game is so easy to learn and because I had faith that, given the right opportunity, the teachers would overcome any minor obstacles I began designing a program specifically for the district in which I work — District 18 of the Chicago Public School system on the far south side of the city. The program was based on racquetball field trips. The teacher reserves a court at the friendly neighborhood club, takes the kids to the facility, shows them around, gives some instruction, supervises play, everyone has a good time and it's back to school. It looked great on paper but of course even the best laid plans are often laid aside and forgotten, and it wasn't until between blizzards in January that they were picked up again. Imagine my surprise when the phone rang as I was contemplating the mounting drifts in my driveway and it was the USRA/NRC asking me to help coordinate and implement a program for special education students in racquetball.

In spite of delays by the snow I soon met with USRA/NRC President Bob Kendler, his wife Evie and Carol Brusslan, National Racquetball managing editor. It was decided to begin with a pilot program in District 18. It was our feeling that we could learn a lot just by trying out some ideas, and any activities that were viable in Chicago could, with minor changes, be implemented anywhere in the country. I left the meeting feeling that everything had fallen into place like so many well aligned dominoes. It wasn't quite that simple. I soon found I would need the approval and help of the district superintendent, principles and special education staff. I was told that a meeting with the teachers would be difficult because of lost school days during the winter. There were questions about insurance, club participation, types of transportation, teacher interest and on and on. I carefully surveyed all the problems.

Mr. Van Tuyle's class, Room 227, Shoop School



New players get in the courts.



- Bob Van Tuyle photos



Student Darrell Smith points out the serving box on the model court that Bob Van Tuyle made to introduce children to racquetball.

They looked like a tangled pile of rope. I decided to start in the middle and work toward both ends.

I contacted the managers of three area clubs and asked for their cooperation. Jim Shields at Wimbledon U.S.A. in Palos Heights informed me that the club employed special education students and he would be happy to help out. Everyone I spoke to at the clubs, including Brian Hayes at the Oak Lawn Racquet Club in Oak Lawn and Vern Roberts at Evergreen Bath and Tennis, was equally gracious in providing racquets, balls and eyeguards.

The school officials — James Blackman, principal of the John D. Shoop school; Gerald McDermott, Special Education Coordinator, and James Moore, Superintendent of Schools District 18 — were delighted, especially when I told them that Bob Kendler was underwriting the project.



We began organizing a meeting with representatives from 14 grammar and two high schools with special education classes. It was necessary to provide at least a cursory knowledge of the game and to introduce the field trip plan. Through the Athletic Institute we obtained a 10 minute instructional film which, coincidentally, was made at Evergreen Bath and Tennis in Evergreen Park. (Yours truly, also quite coincidentally, appeared briefly in the film.) The USRA provided National Racquetball magazines, rule books and instructional materials.

After the presentation each teacher received several packets of materials including an evaluation to be used in planning future projects. The teachers seemed enthusiastic, but I wondered if it would wear off.

Practice in the Gym

The first courts were reserved the afternoon of the presentation and within a week the first evaluations arrived. They were glowing. One teacher with the aid of a gym instructor planned three trips taking 15 students with learning disabilities to play.

Another suggested that with racquets and balls the students could practice in the gym before or after their session on the courts. Bill Galhaher, a teacher at the Marcus Garvey school, wrote "We had a super experience. The children enjoyed it greatly. The trip... the lunch at McDonald's were icing on the cake to the fun they had at the club. Their behavior was very good and we were invited back by the staff." Bill took 12 special ed students ages 11 to 15.

Other teachers were not so eager to jump on the courts because they were not familiar enough with the game, so the Racquetball Social was arranged. My dear wife Barb and two local players, Steve Butler one of the best in the state and Bill Johnson a fine player and instructor "volunteered" to teach the teachers. Gordy Bormis offered his services as photographer and we were off. The recipe for the racquetball social is easy enough. Take eight hours of court time on a Saturday night add 20 teachers and mix in pizza and beer. Blend in plenty of racquetball instruction and you have a wonderful if hectic time. By May of 1979 the District 18 racquetball program was made available to over 1,000 students.

Bob Van Tuyle will answer questions about setting up a Racquetball for Special Kids program in your community if you write him at 11013 S. Mayfield, Chicago Ridge, IL 60415. And turn to Terry Fancher's column in the USRA Amateur section to learn how you can help teach racquetball to competitors in the 1979 International Summer Special Olympics at the State University of New York College in Brockton August 8-13.

This is only a small step. We are currently working to get racquetball included as an accredited course in the Chicago Public School system. We are learning from several special recreation associations that are now serving many area suburban park districts. Opportunities in work-study classes, juniors programs, interschool competition, access to coaching and scholarship funds are only a few of the areas yet to be developed in racquetball. Our service can act as a coordination point for those who can help and those who need help.

To some children just knowing how to play — being able to do something that your peers have not done — can mean a world of difference when you've met nothing but frustration in the past. The goal of Racquetball for Special Kids (formally known as the USRA Special Education Service) is simple: "To further the education, health and well being of students with special needs through racquetball."

Our pilot program is proving we can meet that goal. ●

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Backstage Heroes of Football Step into Racquetball Spotlight

Placekickers Mike Michel of Philadelphia and Rafael Septien of Dallas overwhelmed linebackers, quarterbacks and wide receivers April 11-13 in San Diego to win the National Football League competition, part of the \$188,000 Coors All Pro Racquetball Championship.

Michel and Septien, who each received \$4,000 for wins in the double elimination tournament at the Atlas Health Club, advance to the All Pro Finals next January, where they will vie for \$100,000 more in prize money against athletes from four other sports.

Don Kessinger, manager of the Chicago White Sox, and Al Oliver, Texas Ranger outfielder with the .299 batting average, have already qualified for the All Pro Finals to be held at the Las Vegas Sporting House.

Randy Vataha, former Green Bay Packer wide receiver, won last year's All Pro Finals \$58,000 first prize, but isn't eligible for this year's football competition because he was released from the club following the 1977 season. (Vataha, who now operates a chain of racquetball clubs in Massachusetts, is one of many athletes in the racquetball business. One of this year's NFL All Pro contenders was Miami Dolphin Strong Safety Tim Foley, part owner of Sportrooms of Coral Gables, site of the January stop on the Colgate Pro Am Tour co-sponsored by Seamco/Leach.)

With Vataha out of the action some experts thought one of this year's NFL winners would be Joe Theismann, Washington Redskins quarterback, who competed in last year's All Pro Finals, but met Vataha in the quarters. Theismann was three-fourths of the way to grabbing one of the two spots when he met Michel, a racquetball player for seven years, in the finals of the March competition.

Mike Michel, Philadelphia kicker, downed Quarterback Joe Theismann (Washington) in the finals of the football players' event 21-11, 21-17.



Horace Irwin, right, director of advertising for the Adolph Coors Co., presents a \$4,000 check to Mike Michel, one of two finalists of the football players' segment of the \$188,000 Coors All Pro Racquetball tournament.



Rafael Septien, Dallas Cowboy placekicker, defeated linebacker, Joe DeLamielleure of Buffalo, in a close contest 21-19, 18-21, 11-2 to claim a final spot and \$4,000 in the Coors All Pro Racquetball Championship.

"He had all the right ingredients — a strong serve, a powerful backhand and forehand," Theismann said. "My serve is not that strong and I have to play with my brain. Evidently my brain just wasn't working today."

Michel, down 8-7 in the first game, fired off 14 straight shots, to close out the first match 21-11. He also came back from an 11-5 deficit in the second match, stopping Theismann at 21-17.

Michel said two points in his favor were his small build and the fact that kickers use their legs more and are therefore more mobile than other NFL players.

"He was the class of the field," Theismann said of Michel. "He's going to take the Finals. No doubt about it."

Another hopeful for a top spot in this year's competition was Buffalo lineman, Joe DeLamielleure, stopped in the 1978 All Pro event by Minnesota linebacker, Matt Blair.

DeLamielleure, at 6'3" and 250 lbs., took Septien to a tie-breaker in their final meeting, but the Cowboy's stamina outweighed the Bill's in the third set, and Septien captured the match 21-9, 11-21, 11-2.

DeLamielleure upset Bakken in the quarter-finals 21-20, 21-16. The Buffalo player denied that weight was a disadvantage on the racquetball court.

"Weight has nothing to do with winning," he said. "Some players are more mobile but that comes with conditioning. Septien was more mobile, but I'm used to playing with adversity."

"After all, I play in Buffalo."

Septien's mobility comes from more than his football career. The former Mexico City resident has played front tennis (a game similar to jai alai) and soccer for several years.

Septien equated the mental pressure a kicker faces with the pressure of a racquetball game.

"Racquetball is a game of momentum. If you have confidence in your play, you have a much easier time," he said. "You must have confidence as a kicker, too. Every time a kicker goes onto the field he is expected to make it — either you do or you don't — and you have to convince yourself each time that you will make it. I'm used to the pressure and I'm always 100 percent confident that I will make the point whether it be football or racquetball."

Results

First Round — Dennis Shaw (Kansas City) d. Tim Foley (Miami) 21-7, 21-12; Steve Jones (St. Louis) d. Bill Kollar (Tampa Bay) 21-11, 21-1; Ken Bordelon (New Orleans) d. Efrén Herrera (Seattle) 21-10, 21-5; Greg Fairchild (Cleveland) d. John Vella (Oakland) 21-6, 21-2; Benny Ricardo (Detroit) d. Paul Ryczek (Atlanta) 17-21, 21-1, 11-1; Rafael Septien (Dallas) d. Ron Howard (Seattle) 21-3, 21-4; Mike Michel (Philadelphia) d. Clyde Powers (Kansas City) 21-2, 21-1; Terry Jackson (New York Giants) d. Mike Douglass (Green Bay) 21-9, 21-5; Carl Mauck (Houston) d. Harold McLinton (Washington) 21-17, 21-12; Powers d. Bobby Farrell (San Francisco) 21-14, 9-21, 11-5; McLinton d. Douglass 21-1, 21-1; Ryczek d. Howard 21-5, 21-5; Foley d. Vella 21-15, 21-7; Herrera d. Kollar 21-15, 16-21, 11-10; Joe Theismann (Washington) d. Ryczek 21-9, 21-16; Matt Blair (Minnesota) d. McLinton 21-7, 21-15; John Grant (Denver) d. Willie Buchanan (Green Bay) 21-14, 13-21, 11-1; Dave Brown (Seattle) d. Marvin Cobb (Cincinnati) 21-3, 20-21, 11-3; Shaw d. Charlie Joiner (San Diego) 21-5, 21-12; Mauck d. Joe Washington (Baltimore) 21-12, 21-3; Jim Bakken (St. Louis) d. Foley 21-12, 21-9; Michel d. Joe DeLamielleure (Buffalo) 21-10, 21-11; Roger Wehrli (St. Louis) d. Herrera 21-6, 21-3; Septien d. Greg Horton (Tampa Bay) 21-5, 17-21, 11-5; Stu Voigt (Minnesota) d. Fairchild 21-18, 21-9; Steve Odom (Green Bay) d. Bordelon 21-16, 21-9; Jones d. Brian Kelley (New York Giants) 21-10, 21-11; Ricardo d. Mike Rae (Tampa Bay) 21-18, 21-17; Ed Galigher (San Francisco) d. Jackson 21-5, 4-21, 11-2; Tony Adams (Kansas City) d. Powers 21-1, 21-2; DeLamielleure d. Powers 21-6, 21-4; Washington d. Herrera 21-18, 14-21, 11-6; Buchanan d. Joiner 21-5, 21-2; Ricardo d. Grant 21-20, 21-8; Rae d. Bordelon 21-10, 21-10; Jackson d. Kelley 21-13, 21-19; Ryczek d. Foley 21-9, 21-11; Bakken d. Shaw 21-7, 21-7; Horton d. Cobb (forfeit); Fairchild d. McLinton 21-15, 17-21, 11-0; Blair d. Galigher 21-8, 21-19; Jones d. Wehrli 21-14, 21-17; Michel d. Odom 21-5, 21-8; Mauck d. Voigt 21-14, 21-17; Adams d. Brown 13-21, 21-14, 11-5; Septien d. Theismann 18-21, 21-16, 11-8.

Second Rounds — Theismann d. Shaw 21-10, 21-3; Grant d. Galigher 21-9, 21-9; Odom d. Jackson 21-12, 21-11; Brown d. Horton 21-17, 21-13; Buchanan d. Voigt 21-15, 21-13; Washington d. Ryczek 21-9, 21-20; DeLamielleure d. Rae 21-10, 21-14; DeLamielleure d. Adams 21-18, 21-19; Bakken d. Grant 21-1, 21-5; Ricardo d. Buchanan 21-17, 21-9; Theismann d. Jones 21-3, 21-6; Michel d. Brown 21-11, 21-10; Mauck d. Wehrli 15-21, 21-18, 11-5; Blair d. Odom 21-8, 21-8.

Quarter-finals — DeLamielleure d. Bakken 21-20, 21-16; Theismann d. Ricardo 21-9, 21-13; Michel d. Mauck 21-13, 21-7; Septien d. Blair 5-21, 21-5, 11-2.

Semi-finals — (Two finalists qualify for January All Pro Championship) Septien d. DeLamielleure 21-19, 18-21, 11-2; Michel d. Theismann 21-11, 21-17.

Joe Washington, running back for the Baltimore Colts, was one of 37 contestants in the National Football League players' segment of the \$188,000 Coors All Pro Racquetball Championship. He was the only pro to wear protective eyeguards.



Washington, who has played racquetball three years, says he has always worn eyeguards even prior to two eye injuries suffered during football scrimmages.

"I wouldn't play without them," he says. "It doesn't take much to injure an eye on the racquetball court. I've been hit dead center but luckily I was wearing the eyeguards."

Joe probably wishes they required similar goggles on the football field. When he was with the San Diego Chargers in 1977, Joe's eye was on the receiving end of a Seattle Seahawk's finger during one of the final games of the season. He suffered a similar eye injury at training camp last summer.

Now he wears eyeguards — Rainbo's combat style — with his own lens prescription for both sports.

"I'm probably safer playing racquetball than football as far as my eyes are concerned," Washington says. "I can't understand why more players don't wear eyeguards. They don't restrict my vision and I can concentrate better on my game if I don't need to worry about protecting my eyes."



Racquetball



Terry Fancher

State Associations Try Out of Court Service

Several of our state association chairmen and committeemen enjoy doing things for people. Many of these dedicated men and women go above and beyond the call of regular racquetball duty and perform services with unusual benefits.

For instance, in the state of Maine, our state chairman Kevin York began a program for deaf children. The children were taught how to play racquetball with the help of their special education teacher using sign language. The course provided basic instruction and was a big success.

In Delaware, through the Delaware Racquetball Association and our state representative Eric Faddis, a benefit tournament for the Leukemia Society was conducted recently to raise funds for that charity. The USRA does not make it a practice to directly support charity events or fund raising affairs, but we leave it up to our affiliates to select their own. Our efforts go to raising funds or services directly to the state racquetball associations.

In Illinois the ISRA, through co-chairmen Tom Street and Alan Shetzer, have sponsored charity tournaments with the Cancer Society as the principal benefactor.

Bob Van Tuyle, also of the ISRA, has organized a pilot program for special education students in a Chicago school district. (See article on page 36.) This program, underwritten by Bob Kendler, focuses on instruction that starts with the classroom teachers, since they must be the ones who help the students acquire the skills necessary for the game.

Maine Chairman Sets Up Program for Deaf

Kevin York, second from left, past state chairman for Maine, arranged to teach racquetball to deaf children last year at the suggestion of special teacher, Louise Pelletier, who used sign language for students during a six week session for beginning players. York arranged for courts and teacher and for Leach Industries to provide racquets and uniforms.



The Upstate Racquetball Association in Western New York has two key people devoting a great deal of time and effort to directing activities for the handicapped and to young players. Doug Reighley and Jim Winterton in the Rochester area are involved in the Special Olympics International Games in Brockport by organizing racquetball clinics for any of the 3,500 competitors who would like to try our game.

It's clear that to those involved in state associations running racquetball tournaments is not their only function. Members are also glad to be able to donate their time and energy to worthwhile causes.

Teaching Where It Counts

If you're an experienced racquetball player — and especially if you're also a special education teacher — you can get a lot of satisfaction from your skills by teaching handicapped children at the Special Olympics International Games August 8-13 in Brockport, NY. Jim Winterton is in charge of setting up racquetball clinics for competitors in this event held every four years. You can contact Jim at the Winton Racquetball Club, 3120 Winton Road South, Rochester, NY 14623, 716-271-3700.



\$10,000 in Scholarships at USRA National Intercollegiates; Memphis State, Illinois Win Sobek Cups

Collegiate players from 33 schools in the U.S. and Canada vied for individual and team honors in the First Annual USRA Intercollegiate Championships at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign Campus, March 23-25. They all gave it the old college try to win a share of the \$10,000 Robert W. Kendler scholarship fund donated by Seamco Sporting Goods Company and Leach Industries.

Thousand dollar individual scholarships were presented to both men and women's division champions and additional \$1,000 grants went to the schools winning the team titles. The schools also received the silver Sobek cup named in honor of the inventor of the sport. Memphis State won two of the three men's events to outdistance runner-up University of Michigan by 12 points. Home favorite Illinois captured the women's championship by a margin of six points over closest rival Lake Forest College. Team titles were limited to schools with a complete four person team although players from schools with less than a full team could compete for individual awards.

The men's number one singles division looked like a reunion of former USRA National Juniors players with Bobby Bolan outclassing the field in the upper bracket except for a three game victory over tough Don Constable. In the bottom bracket Keith Dunlap never let anyone get over 14 points en route to the finals. However it was all Bolan in the championship match as he managed a surprisingly easy win over Dunlap 21-12, 21-7.

The number two men's singles turned out to be a relatively easy victory for Dan Cohen as Memphis State rolled up more points toward the team title. Cohen defeated Bill Kane, a much improved Chicago area player, after Kane had built up an early first game lead and watched it slip away. From that point on he was never able to mount a serious threat.

Pete Tashie and Mike Gora of Memphis State cinched the team title by coasting through the entire field before posting a 21-13, 21-9 victory over Michigan's tandem of Doug Sheperdigian and Mike Kaufman.

Memphis State was easily the class of the tournament in the men's divisions, racking up a total of 28 points out of a possible 30.

In the women's number one singles it was all decided almost before the round robin competition started, when Barb Faulkenberry edged out Michelle Busaca 11-10 in the tie-breaker in the first round. Neither player was tested for the rest of the tournament. Busaca is already attending UCLA with the assistance of a \$1,500 scholarship which she won at the USRA National Junior Championships last July. Faulkenberry has gained valuable experience while playing in the qualifying rounds of the Colgate pro tour in the women's division.

The excitement continued in the women's number two singles category which was also round robin and was not decided until the last match between Amy Gudbransen and Jeanine Toman. Each player had three chances to win at 10-10 in the tie-breaker, with Gudbransen eking out the last point to win the title. Toman wound up third behind Terry Harrington. The host University of Illinois won a hard fought victory in the women's team competition which shaped up as a battle between Illinois and Lake Forest College. It was all decided in the third round of the women's doubles when Dawn Kell and Maureen Biermingham defeated Carol Weisbacker and Lois Wiesbrook of Lake Forest 21-17, 21-18. Playing on their home courts Illinois won the team cup by a 20 to 14 margin.

In addition to the Sobek cup for the National Champion teams players won trophies and plaques, and the first four finishers in each of the six divisions were named to the first All America list for the United States Racquetball Association, recognizing outstanding achievement in collegiate racquetball. All those named were awarded certificates. Participants in collegiate events are encouraged to continue their education and are urged not to give up their studies for a pro career. This is one major objective of the scholarship fund.

Thousand dollar scholarship winner, Amy Gudbransen, College of Lake County (IL) shows off her first place trophy from the Women's Number Two Singles.



- Dan Kasberger photo

NOTES ON THE TOURNAMENT

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves at this inaugural tournament and players were treated to a beer and pizza party and a campus disco on Saturday night. It gave them a chance to relax and meet entrants from a cross section of the country — California, Utah, Texas, Canada, New York and Arizona — as well as most of the midwestern states.

The tournament would not have been possible without the combined efforts of the professors and administrators of the University of Illinois staff who made their 20-court complex available to the USRA for this event. Don Webb, Frank Heinz, Bill Williamson, Dave Matthews, Phil Dziuk, and volunteer assistants Dawn Kell, Diane Webb, and Barb Larrain proved invaluable. A referee contingent from the USRA and ISRA kept the matches under control. Special thanks to Bob Van Tuyle, Andy "the Colonel" Witt and Dan Bertolucci. Tournament shirts were courtesy of Leach Industries and balls were donated by Seamco. We hope to see more collegians next year.

Upcoming Event

July 20-22

Oly Open, Racquetball West, 6355 Westhaven Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46224, 317-299-4206



Results

Men's #1 Singles

Quarters: Bob Bolan (Scottsdale Community College) d. Don Constable (Bethel College) 21-12, 20-21, 11-4; Larry Fox (Michigan) d. Ross Harvey (Dawson College) 21-7, 21-18; Ron Phillip (Texas-Austin) d. Dan Ferris (St. Cloud State) 21-18, 21-4; Keith Dunlap (Memphis State) d. John Moshides (New York-Buffalo) 21-4, 21-11.

Semis: Bolan d. Fox 21-10, 21-14; Dunlap d. Phillip 21-11, 21-14.

Championship:

Bolan d. Dunlap 21-12, 21-7; Third Place: Fox d. Phillip

Men's #2 Singles

Quarters: Dan Cohen (Memphis State) d. Suk Graham (Illinois-Chicago Circle) forfeit; John Feldman (Colorado) d. Bill Houk (Southern Illinois) 21-14, 21-16; Barry Allen (Illinois) d. John Peumer (Erie Community College) 21-18, 20-21, 11-9; Bill Kane (Illinois-Chicago Circle) d. Lee Bentsen (Michigan) 21-10, 21-8.

Semis: Cohen d. Feldman 21-11, 21-12; Kane d. Allen 21-3, 21-16.

Championships: Cohen d. Kane 21-16, 21-14; Third Place: Feldman d. Allen 21-17, 21-7

Men's Doubles

Men's Quarters: Pete Tashie/Mike Gora (Memphis State) d. Hagman/Horn (Nebraska) forfeit; Gary Morrison/Ken Koehn (Colorado) d. Jim Cherry/Seymour Knox (Lake Forest) 21-7, 21-13; Doug Sheperdigian/Mike Kaufman (Michigan) d. Ian Munnoch/Les Tadelman (Southern Illinois) 21-3, 21-1; Tom Stanger/Roger Show (Illinois) d. Jim Wray/Kyle Heaton (Lake Superior State) 21-5, 21-9.

Semis: Tashie/Gora d. Morrison/Koehn 21-3, 21-3; Sheperdigian/Kaufman d. Stanger/Show 21-17, 21-10

Championships: Tashie/Gora d. Sheperdigian/Kaufman 21-13, 21-9; Third Place: Stanger/Show d. Morrison/Koehn 21-8, 20-21, 11-7

Men's #1 Singles Consolation: David Clark (Texas-Arlington) d. Dennis Lutz (Illinois) 21-13, 21-9

Men's #2 Singles Consolation: Greg Hayenga (St. Cloud State) d. John Fabrin (Illinois) 21-12, 21-13

Women's #1 Singles

(All matches round robin)

1st — Barbara Faulkenberry (Air Force Academy); 2nd — Michelle Busacca (UCLA); 3rd — Elena Mildenberger (Canisius College); 4th — Julie Fremder (Illinois); 5th — Bev Vattenhorst (Nebraska); 6th — Sue Hendrixon (Lake Forest College)

Women's #2 Singles

(All matches round robin)

1st — Amy Gudbransen (College of Lake Country); 2nd — Terry Harrington (Nebraska); 3rd — Jeanine Toman (Illinois); 4th — Jean Tapas (Lake Forest)

Women's Doubles

(All matches round robin)

1st — Dawn Kell/Maureen Biermingham (Illinois); 2nd — Carol Weisbacker/Lois Wiesbrook (Lake Forest)

1st Annual USRA All America List

(Awarded to the first four finishers in each division)

Men's #1 Singles:

1. Bob Bolan, Scottsdale Community College
2. Keith Dunlap, Memphis State University
3. Larry Fox, University of Michigan
4. Bob Phillip, University of Texas-Austin

Men's #2 Singles:

1. Dan Cohen, Memphis State University
2. Bill Kane, University of Illinois-Chicago Circle
3. John Feldman, University of Colorado
4. Barry Allen, University of Illinois

Men's Doubles:

1. Pete Tashie/Mike Gora, Memphis State University
2. Doug Sheperdigian/Mike Kaufman, University of Michigan
3. Tom Stanger/Roger Show, University of Illinois
4. Gary Morrison/Ken Koehn, University of Colorado

Women's #1 Singles:

1. Barbara Faulkenberry, Air Force Academy
2. Michelle Busacca, UCLA
3. Elena Mildenberger, Canisius College
4. Julie Fremder, University of Illinois

Women's #2 Singles:

1. Amy Gudbransen, College of Lake Country
2. Terry Harrington, University of Nebraska
3. Jeanine Toman, University of Illinois
4. Jean Tapas, Lake Forest College

Women's Doubles:

1. Dawn Kell/Maureen Biermingham, University of Illinois
2. Carol Weisbacker/Lois Wiesbrook, Lake Forest

Team Standings

(Limited to schools having a full four-person team)

Men: National Champions — Memphis State, 28 points; 2nd — Michigan, 16 points; 3rd — Colorado, 10 points; 4th — Illinois, 10 points; 5th — Southern Illinois, 4 points; 6th — (tie) Lake Forest, Nebraska, Lake Superior State, 2 points

Women: National Champions — University of Illinois, 20 points, 2nd — Lake Forest, 14 points



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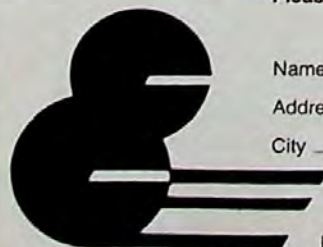
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All Eyes on Kentucky, Minnesota and Michigan

National Racquetball's campaign for eyeguards took three giant steps forward when Kentucky, Minnesota and Michigan's USRA state organizations voted to make eyeguards mandatory at their sanctioned tournaments. We'll keep readers posted on player reactions to the requirement and we'll report on more states that set the rule.

In the meantime keep sending us photos of competitors wearing eyeguards when they play. We'll continue to give priority to those photos in this USRA Amateur section.



Tournament Writeups Pared Down

Starting this month *National Racquetball* will be condensing tournament writeups when space restrictions make it necessary to print shorter reviews. Since we can't predict when we'll be heavy with tournament writeups, we suggest that you continue to send us full results. The best way to draw attention to your tournament at any time is to send clear black and white photos of the action. A reminder, too, to include the place where the tournament was played, the date when it took place and the person (with phone number) to contact if we need more information.



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Tournament Results

Please send tournaments results (and clear black and white action photos) to Terry Fancher, USRA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL, 60076. Type your results double spaced using the form you see on these pages. Use first and last names the first time you write about a player (in doubles matches, too) and last names only when you mention the player again. Allow two months or more for your tournament writeup to appear here.

Oregon

1979 Northwest Regionals were held in Eugene April 6 — 8 at Courtsports I and the new Courtsports II.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Jeff Larson d. Kevin Delaney 21-5, 21-1; Dave Retter d. Doug Shaddy 21-8, 21-3; Hank Marcus d. Bob Lund 21-13, 21-7; Tony Kraus d. George Gerjalva

Semis: Retter d. Larson 21-17, 9-21, 11-6; Kraus d. Marcus 21-19, 21-16.

Finals: Retter d. Kraus 21-14, 21-19

Men's B

Quarters: Steve Pulliam d. J. Eberle 21-16, 21-13; Bruce Anderson d. Dave Matheson 21-13, 21-4; Brad Poppino d. Bob Newman 17-21, 21-18, 11-4; Mark Martin d. D. Hage 21-11, 16-21, 11-2; Jo Cho d. Steve Hull 13-21, 21-9, 11-9; Alan Klausen d. Mike Sherman 21-8, 21-20; Glen Vanderpool d. Pete Lood 21-13, 21-8; Sandy Cutler d. Kelly Rasmussen 16-21, 21-14, 11-9

Semis: Pulliam d. Anderson 21-12, 21-17; Martin d. Poppino 21-8, 9-21, 11-7; Cho d. Klausen 21-16, 21-18; Vanderpool d. Cutler 16-21, 21-4, 11-9

Finals: Vanderpool d. Pulliam 21-11, 21-12

Men's C

Quarters: Kurt Ballentyne d. Mark Zacharias 21-12, 21-4; Jerry Gjesvold d. Bill King 14-21, 21-11, 11-6; Lew Marks d. Steve Jones 21-10, 21-6; Ron Von Behren d. Bob Miesen 21-14, 21-11; Jim Berry d. Chris Sorenson 21-10, 21-15; Bob Kildow d. Wade Bell 21-12, 11-21, 11-4; Deno Paloni d. S. Keen 19-21, 21-18, 11-6

Semis: Ballentyne d. Carl Ruggles 21-6, 21-4; Gjesvold d. Marks 21-18, 21-7; Berry d. Von Behren 17-21, 21-4, 11-2; Paloni d. Kildow 21-12, 11-21, 11-4

Finals: Gjesvold d. Paloni 21-11, 21-20

Men's Novice

Quarters: Tim Smith d. Bob Brinkman 21-15, 16-21, 11-9; Mark Hinchee d. Rick Mower 14-21, 21-14, 11-2; James Wills d. Jack Rowberry 19-21, 21-13, 11-4; Buettner d. Kurt Bieschke 21-11, 21-18

Semis: Smith d. Hinchee 21-18, 21-15; Wills d. Buettner 21-16, 14-21, 11-0

Finals: Wills d. Smith 21-18, 21-15

Men's Seniors

Quarters: John Rude d. L. Rasmussen, David Logan d. T. Friedlander 21-2, 12-21, 11-3

Semis: Tom Ballentyne d. John Rude 21-9, 21-9; C. Berry d. David Logan 21-17, 21-10

Finals: Ballentyne d. Berry 21-14, 21-8

Men's Masters

Quarters: Foster Keene d. Lee Smith 14-21, 21-11; Dick Brouwer d. Hi Hops; John Mistkawi d. Ron Myers 21-11, 21-13

Semis: Keene d. Moyer 21-3, 21-13; Mistkawi d. Brouwer

Finals: Mistkawi d. Keene 21-7, 21-9

Men's Golden Masters

Quarters: John Leshner d. Rollin Gield 21-1, 21-1; Jerry Lamb d. Mel Brown 14-21, 21-14, 11-8; Ben McConnell d. Harold Lijik 12-21, 21-20, 11-5; Bruce Kelly d. Jack Duncan 21-15, 21-17

Semis: Leshner d. Lamb 21-17, 21-7; Kelly d. McConnell 21-13, 21-7

Finals: Leshner d. Kelly 21-7, 21-18

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Tony Kraus/Hank Marcus d. Norval Nelson/Kip Reeder 21-8, 21-7; Tom Ballentyne/Terry Friedlander d. Doug Shaddy/Ray Oram 21-13, 21-4; Bob Lund/John Rude d. Dennis Hage/Kevin Delaney 21-17, 21-17; Dave Retter/Jeff Larson d. Charles Berry/Steve Pulliam 21-9, 21-9

Semis: Kraus/Marcus d. Ballentyne/Friedlander 21-19, 21-8; Retter/Larson d. Lund/Rude 21-17, 21-18

Finals: Larson/Retter d. Kraus/Marcus 21-4, 21-12

Men's B-C Doubles

Quarters: Jo Cho/Stan Keen d. L. Rasmussen/Jim Barry 21-5, 21-11; Dave Mathison/Bill King d. Ben Perry/L. Rasmussen 21-4, 21-13; Steve Deaton/Deno Paloni d. Bob Newman/Sandy Cutler 21-10, 21-10

Semis: Cho/Keen d. Rasmussen/Martin 21-19, 21-17; Deaton/Paloni d. Mathison/King 21-8, 21-16

Finals: Cho/Keen d. Deaton/Paloni 19-21, 21-16, 11-9

Women's Open

Quarters: Vicki Gardner d. Mary Rasmussen 21-17, 19-21, 11-9; Connie Pererson d. Susie Johnston 21-8, 18-21, 11-6; Pat Denevi d. Sheila Schoonover 21-15, 21-17

Semis: Vicki Penzeri d. Gardner 21-9, 21-12; Denevi d. Pererson 14-21, 21-15, 11-9

Finals: Penzeri d. Denevi 21-12, 16-21, 11-1

Women's B

Quarters: Momi Lee d. Jan Newton 21-17, 21-4; Edie Smith d. Cathy Felker 21-18, 14-21, 11-4; Karen Pressman d. Lailani Olbu 21-14, 21-11; Susan Houck d. Barbara Seff 17-21, 21-10, 11-10

Semis: Lee d. Smith 21-10, 21-13; Houck d. Pressman 21-17, 21-6

Finals: Lee d. Houck

Women's C

Quarters: Leslie Wilhite d. Bobbie Mekvold 21-16, Julie Bagan d. Cheri Romania 21-17, 19-21, 11-2; Shirley Janz d. Coreen Peterson 21-15, 21-18; Trudy Grant d. Allison Hayes 21-19, 21-9; Bitsy Ray d. Kathy Reich 21-9, 21-1; Ada Mattox d. Kim Webster 17-21, 21-20, 11-10; Lori Perkins d. Chris Nelson 21-12, 21-17; Collene Rudd d. Nancy Smith 21-12, 21-15

Semis: Wilhite d. Bagan 21-2, 21-8; Grant d. Janz 21-8, 21-2; Ray d. Mattox 21-3, 21-4; Perkins d. Rudd 20-21, 21-10, 11-2

Finals: Grant d. Perkins 21-13, 21-13

Women's Seniors

Quarters: Terry Walters d. Jean Moore; Becky Fish d. Janet O'Deherty 21-19, 21-17

Semis: Betty Field d. Walters 21-15, 21-11; Pat Hawkey d. Becky Fish 21-10, 21-7

Finals: Field d. Hawkey 21-17, 21-19

Women's Open Doubles

(Round Robin)

1st — Connie Pererson/Pat Denevi, 2nd — Susie Johnston/Vicki Panzeri, 3rd — Edie Smith/Jan Newton

Women's B-C Doubles

Quarters: L. Olbu/Y. Calavan d. K. Webster/R. Jeffery 21-8, 21-6; T. Walters/Christi Caster d. Judy Walenga/Lew Fuzzard 21-18, 21-18; Allison Hays/Bitsy Ray d. Lori Perking/T. Maughan 21-7, 21-10; B. Seff/K. Pressman d. T. Holcomb/F. Felker 21-1, 21-10

Semis: Olbu/Calavan d. Walters/Caster 21-18, 21-18; Hays/Ray d. Seff/Pressman 21-12, 21-14

Finals: Olbu/Calavan d. Hays/Ray 21-7, 10-21, 11-5

New York

The State University College at Cortland (New York) held its 1st Annual All Campus Racquetball Championship April 23-May 2. The tournament, which was open to all full-time undergraduate students at Cortland, drew over 50 participants in two divisions of play.

Results

Men's Open Singles

Quarters: Doug Lally d. Tom Bowen 21-6, 21-8; John Hawley d. Mark Durlak 21-1, 21-3; Mark Renzi d. Ed Ramos 21-8, 21-15; Scott Rapp d. Jeff Cardinal 21-2, 21-2

Semis: Hawley d. Lally 21-11, 21-16; Renzi d. Rapp 21-14, 21-11

Finals: Hawley d. Renzi 21-16, 21-12. Third: Lally d. Rapp 11-21, 21-4, 11-9

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Ramos/Hawley d. Mike Ridgeway/Cardinal 21-6, 21-5; Durlak/Bob Rothstien d. Bowen/Glen Laws 21-15, 21-14; Tom Hohensee/Dave Seagers d. John Ricci/John Crossett 21-6, 21-13; Renzi/Rapp d. Brian Payne/Chris Grady 21-11, 21-15

Semis: Ramos/Hawley d. Durlak/Rothstien 21-3, 21-17; Renzi/Rapp d. Hohensee/Seagers 21-4, 21-20

Finals: Ramos/Hawley d. Renzi/Rapp 21-4, 21-17

New York

The Second Annual New Paltz State Racquetball Tourney was held on the College Courts starting March 15 and concluding with the Final Doubles Match at 5 p.m. March 18. The Pepsi Cola Distributors from Newburgh, NY, along with the Department of Physical Education at the College sponsored the tournament with the sanction of the USRA.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Michael Levine d. Doug Radz 21-4, 21-14; Rubin Gonzalez d. Eric Hardy 21-11, 21-9; Brian Dehm d. Leo Marsocci 2-21, 21-16, 11-8; Victor Neiderhoffer d. Conrad Schmidt 21-5, 21-2

Semis: Levine d. Gonzalez 21-11, 21-9; Neiderhoffer d. Dehm 21-16, 16-21, 11-2

Finals: Neiderhoffer d. Levine 21-19, 21-4

Men's B

Quarters: Steven Freidman d. Julian Gershaw 21-8, 21-19; Paul Wicha d. Richard Englander 21-18, 21-7; Jack Nocera d. Mike Marrone 21-7, 21-14; Ray Gianotti d. Jerry Terracino 21-5, 21-19

Semis: Wicha d. Friedman 13-21, 21-3, 11-3; Nocera d. Gianotti 21-19, 21-15

Finals: Nocera d. Wicha 21-15, 21-5

Men's C

Quarters: Wil Zosche d. Eddie Rubin 20-21, 21-17, 11-3; Norris Dowdy d. Michael Daniels 21-18, 21-18; Richard Castaldo d. James Tomasek 21-15, 21-13; John McKinney d. Craig Powell 21-8, 21-1

Semis: Zosche d. Dowdy default; McKinney d. Castaldo 21-17, 21-17

Finals: McKinney d. Zosche 21-12, 21-14

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Robert Lake d. Ted Weiss 13-21, 21-1, 11-2; Conrad Schmidt d. Tom Flannery 21-7, 21-14; Eric Larsen d. William Dempsey 21-5, 21-3; Neil Shapiro d. Jerry Terracino 21-8, 21-5

Semis: Schmidt d. Lake 21-11, 21-13; Shapiro d. Larsen 21-1, 21-3

Finals: Schmidt d. Shapiro 21-19, 21-20

Men's Masters

Quarters: Robert Lake d. Joseph Pettigrew 21-2, 21-4; Dino Casciola d. Martin Goerg 21-16, 21-10; George Pressley d. Maurice Keroack, forfeit; Vincent Gabriele d. Alex Teranko 21-12, 21-6

Semis: Lake d. Casciola 21-13, 21-6; Gabriele d. Pressley 21-13, 21-6

Finals: Gabriele d. Lake 21-11, 21-8

Men's Doubles

Quarters: Mike Levine/Leo Marsocci d. Rich Soghoian/Doug Sheppard 21-3, 21-11; Jack Nocera/Howard Packer d. Eric Hardy/Dan Babuka 21-18, 21-11; Barry Russell/Neil Shapiro d. William Austin/Tom Flannery 21-7, 21-15; John McKinney/Brian Dehm d. Jack Fruin/Scott Anderson 21-17, 2-21, 11-3

Semis: Levine/Marsocci d. Nocera/Packer 21-17, 21-10; McKinney/Dehm d. Russell/Shapiro 21-13, 21-19

Finals: Levine/Marsocci d. McKinney/Dehm 21-13, 21-19

Women's Open

Quarters: Ida Hardy d. Shirley Surdam 21-2, 21-7; Lorrie Pallas d. Karen Lozier 21-8, 21-15; Karen Schmeider d. Debbie Pallas 21-20, 21-13; Jackie Adler d. Debbie Sloan 21-10, 21-7

Semis: L. Pallas d. Hardy 21-11, 21-3; Adler d. Schmeider 21-8, 21-17

Finals: Adler d. L. Pallas 21-14, 17-21, 11-5

Women's C

Quarters: Deena Cohen d. Midge Dermott 21-11, 20-21, 11-3; Phyllis Borow d. Lauren Shechet 21-13, 21-4; Karen Krug d. Maxine Perchuk 21-15, 17-21, 11-4; Gail DiBennardo d. Janie Goodman 21-20, 21-16

Semis: Cohen d. Borow 21-12, 8-21, 11-8; Krug d. DiBennardo 21-18, 21-18

Finals: Krug d. Cohen 21-19, 21-12

New York

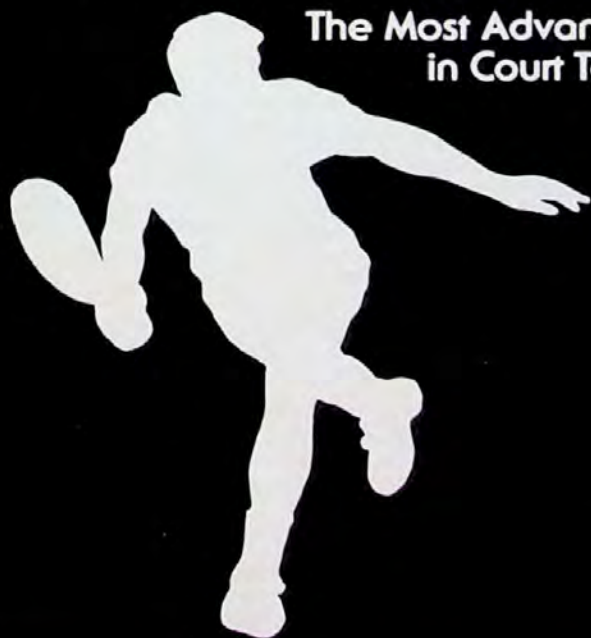
In the finals of the Women's Open at the Northeast Regionals Francine Davis, right, beat Marilyn Miller 21-6, 21-19.



— Bart-La Presti photos

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Leo Marsocci, Men's Open winner of the Northeast Regionals April 6-8 at the Westvale (NY) Clubhouse, gets ready for a shot from John Moshides in the quarters. Marsocci won 21-16, 21-10.

Ohio

Three Memphis players took top Men's Open honors in the Ohio Valley Regionals April 6-8 at the Jefferson Racquetball Club in Louisville. Keith Dunlap was first, John Dunlap second and Gary Stephens was third.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Keith Dunlap d. Bob Dabney 14-21, 21-18, 11-5; Clark Pittman d. Randy Stafford 21-14, 15-21, 11-10; John Dunlap d. Chuck Cooper 18-21, 21-17, 11-6; Gary Stephens d. David Brown 21-5, 21-17

Semis: Dunlap d. Pittman 21-7, 21-12; J. Dunlap d. Stephens 21-17, 21-13

Finals: K. Dunlap d. J. Dunlap 21-6, 17-21, 11-2

Women's Open

Quarters: Camille McCarthy d. Gail Ferguson 21-17, 21-13; Beth Mowery d. Becky Callahan 21-5, 21-7; Holly Rentz d. Julie Selm 21-12, 21-13; Gerri Stoffregen d. Emily Burke 21-4, 21-9

Semis: McCarthy d. Mowery 21-6, 18-21, 11-7; Rentz d. Stoffregen 21-19, 15-21, 11-9

Finals: McCarthy d. Rentz 6-21, 21-16, 11-5

Mens' Seniors

Quarters: Dave Fleischaker d. Chuck Solomon 21-12, 21-12; Len Wilson d. Jim Marsh 21-16, 21-17; Luke St. Onge d. Tom Shivel 21-20, 21-17; Bob Dabney d. Rex Lawler 21-11, 21-10

Semis: Wilson d. Fleischaker 18-21, 21-15, 11-5; Dabney d. St. Onge 21-4, 21-18

Finals: Dabney d. Wilson 21-11, 21-2

Mens' Masters

Quarters: Bill Evans d. Frank Redden 21-8, 21-11; Don Detjen d. Arlen Brown 21-4, 21-8; Leigh Jones d. Ed Lowrance 21-13, 21-18; Ken Mitchell d. Ed Witham 21-16, 21-15

Semis: Evans d. Detjen 21-12, 21-16; Mitchell d. Jones 21-12, 19-21, 11-9

Finals: Evans d. Mitchell 21-5, 21-12

Men's Golden Masters

Quarters: Gene MacDonald d. Ed Witham 11-21, 21-10, 11-10; Irv Zeitman d. Del Daines 21-20, 21-7; Ed Lowrance d. Robert Tresslar 21-8, 21-3; Karl Schmidt d. Alex Guerry 21-14, 21-17

Semis: MacDonald d. Zeitman 21-6, 21-7; Lowrance d. Schmidt 21-14, 21-8

Finals: MacDonald d. Lowrance 21-7, 21-14

Open Doubles

Quarters: Dunlap/Dunlap d. Fleischaker/Fleischaker 21-14, 21-18; Amos/Friesen d. Pittman/Travers 15-21, 21-12, 11-7; Sobles/Sipes d. Michels/Brown 21-7, 21-12; Abrams/Clifford d. Perna/Nash 21-13, 21-9

Semis: Dunlap/Dunlap d. Amos/Friesen 21-7, 21-15; Abrams/Clifford d. Sobles/Sipes 18-21, 21-13, 11-4

Finals: Dunlap/Dunlap d. Abrams/Clifford 21-5, 21-13

Women's Doubles

Quarters: McCarthy/Stoffregen d. Trammell/Gavin, 21-9, 21-6; Copley/Nichopoulos d. Cole/Mucio 21-20, 21-19; Fanning/Ferguson d. Rentz/Sexton 21-2, 21-6; Friedberg/Gifford d. Mowery/Dunham 21-13, 16-21, 11-2

Semis: McCarthy/Stoffregen d. Copley/Nichopoulos 21-8, 21-10; Fanning/Ferguson d. Friedberg/Gifford 15-21, 21-18, 11-6

Finals: McCarthy/Stoffregen d. Fanning/Ferguson 21-21, 21-10

Golden Masters Doubles

Finals: Zeitman/Gumer d. Daines/Craig 21-7, 21-7

Masters Doubles

Semis: Ohlheiser/Cox d. Ray/Jones 21-8, 21-6; Mitchell/Altman d. Karras/Solon 21-8, 21-6

Finals: Mitchell/Altman d. Ohlheiser/Cox 21-12, 21-16

Senior Doubles

Semis: Wilson/St. Onge d. Morris/Constantino 21-7, 21-11; Lawler/Miller d. Stoffregen/Redden 21-16, 21-6

Finals: Wilson/St. Onge d. Lawler/Miller 21-10, 21-19

Men's B

Quarters: Bill Verdeyan d. Tom Marr 21-19, 11-21, 11-6; Shelly Hoffman d. James Gordon 21-10, 21-6; Mike Gora d. Jim Edwards 21-20, 21-19; George Lawson d. James Young 21-5, 21-16

Semis: Hoffman d. Verdeyan 21-11, 21-17; Gora d. Lawson 19-21, 21-8, 11-8

Finals: Gora d. Hoffman 20-21, 21-14, 11-9

Men's C

Quarters: Barry Lutz d. John Adams 21-14, 12-21, 11-3; Bruce Fulkerson d. Roger Schumann 12-21, 21-19, 11-3; Ed Sword d. Bruce Baer 21-8, 21-12; Phil Endicott d. E.T. Leslie 20-21, 21-3, 11-4

Semis: Fulkerson d. Lutz 21-11, 21-18; Sword d. Endicott 21-15, 21-12

Finals: Fulkerson d. Sword 21-9, 21-20

Women's B

Quarters: Shirley Strickland d. Emilie Pinto 21-13, 21-18; Sandra Brickley d. Barbara Brooks 21-5, 21-14; Sue Brody d. Phyllis VanTrease 19-21, 21-13, 11-9; Christie Dunham d. Kathy Bell 21-8, 21-10

Semis: Brickley d. Strickland 21-9, 15-21, 11-10; Dunham d. Brody 21-12, 21-6

Finals: Brickley d. Dunham 21-16, 10-21, 11-0

Women's C

Quarters: Chris Fischer d. Cathy Arvin 21-6, 21-18; Renee Trammell d. Debbie Adams 21-5, 21-18; Candi Gavin d. Kathy Eckle 21-2, 21-9; Janie Goodwin d. Suzanne Mitchell 21-13, 21-9

Semis: Fischer d. Trammell 21-8, 21-10; Goodwin d. Gavin 21-5, 21-4

Finals: Goodwin d. Fischer 21-6, 13-21, 11-3

New York

Jan Hunt was director of the Tinkers Guild Third Annual Racquetball Tournament April 27-29 at the Aurburn YMCA-Wei.

Results

Men's Open: 1st — Leo Marsocci; 2nd — Herman Neumeier; 3rd — Eric Hardy

Men's B: 1st — Bruce Clark; 2nd — Preston Prue; 3rd — Mark Renzi; Consolation — Sandy Goldrich

Men's C: 1st — Renzi; 2nd — Larry Luckwaldt; 3rd — Eddie Rubin; Consolation — Dennis Conroy

Women's Open: 1st — Donna Lahti; 2nd — Lori Nave; 3rd — Ida Hardy

Women's B: 1st — Fern Crenshaw; 2nd — Nancy Egan; 3rd — Louise Von Hahmann; Consolation — Marion Crawford

Louisiana

Hank Stram's Racquetball & Health Club in Kenner hosted the Louisiana Seniors, Masters and Golden Masters Championships March 16-18.

Results

Men's Senior A

Quarters: Larry Bobbitt d. Don Gunther 21-2, 21-2; Jerry Winsberg d. Joe Hero 21-11, 21-17; Warren Reuther d. Fred Guillot 21-16, 20-21, 11-8; Wallace Hardy d. Otto Schoenfeld 14-21, 21-7, 11-5

Semis: Bobbitt d. Winsberg 21-10, 7-21, 11-7; Hardy d. Reuther 21-13, 21-16

Finals: Bobbitt d. Hardy 21-16, 21-2

Men's Senior B

Quarters: Don Gunther d. A.J. Krail 21-10, 21-15; Steve Stevenson d. Steve Stonebreaker 21-15, 21-16; Charlie Pfister d. Nick Marino 21-10, 21-10; Leonard Lewis d. Paul Baum 21-17, 7-21, 11-3

Semis: Stevenson d. Gunther 21-14, 16-21, 11-4; Lewis d. Pfister 21-15, 21-9

Finals: Stevenson d. Lewis 21-20, 21-11

Men's Masters

Semis: Gene Ferris d. Al Irwin 21-6, 21-7; Milton Aucoin d. Fred Hartstein 21-19, 21-19

Finals: Gene Ferris d. Milton Aucoin 21-12, 21-13

Women's Seniors

Semis: Renee Hebert d. Gay Peacock; Kathleen Morgan d. Connie Tiliakos

Finals: Renee Hebert d. Kathleen Morgan 21-8, 21-11

Colorado

Rocky Mountain Regional competitors played at the Executive Park Athletic Club, Colorado Springs, April 6-8.

Results

Men's Open Singles

Quarters: Jack O'Connor d. Dirk Douglas 21-8, 19-21, 11-7; Dave Glander d. Bruce Brookens 10-21, 21-14, 11-1; Morgan Sayes d. John Vohland 21-7, 21-10; Monty Huber d. Mark Sanford 21-12, 21-17

Semis: O'Connor d. Glander 17-21, 21-12, 11-3; Huber d. Sayes 21-20, 21-19

Finals: O'Connor d. Huber 21-7, 21-10

Women's Open Singles

Quarters: Jamie Abbott d. Nicky Sniezek 21-17, 21-4; Cathy Callahan d. M. Kemp, 12-21, 21-15, 11-6; Katie Beck d. Barb Dallman 21-18, 12-21, 11-5; Barbara Faulkenberry d. Janice Brown 21-8, 21-6

Semis: Abbott d. Callahan, 21-15, 21-8; Faulkenberry d. Beck, 21-15, 21-4

Finals: Abbott d. Faulkenberry, 21-8, 21-17

Men's Senior Singles

Quarters: Ed Creagh d. John Pagliero 21-1, 21-3; Dick Warren d. Bill Goodman 21-17, 8-21, 11-7; Joe Simonetta d. Don Hanna 21-7, 21-17; Dixon Elliott d. Bob McNabb 21-10, 21-16

Semis: Creagh d. Warren, 21-20, 21-11; Simonetta d. Elliott, 21-16, 21-7

Finals: Creagh d. Simonetta 21-12, 21-6

Men's Master Singles

Semis: Frank Leydens d. Bob Kerwald 21-8, 21-15; Lou Smario d. Red Horton 21-19, 21-18

Finals: Leydens over Smario, 21-20, 21-17

Men's Senior Doubles

Semis: Bob McNabb/Don Lenander d. John Mooney/Red Horton 21-8, 21-10; Frank Dwyer/Bob Tinker d. John Pagliero/Jim Thiemann 21-18, 18-21, 11-5

Finals: McNabb/Lenander d. Dwyer/Tinker, 21-14, 21-8

Men's B — Bruce Hunter d. John Parrish 21-18, 21-13

Men's C — Bill McCullough d. Don Weule 21-11, 21-16

Women's B — Peggy Haddon d. Kim Morton 21-16, 21-5

Women's C — Beth Clippinger d. Sue Pittullo 21-18, 21-12

Michigan

The Fourth Annual Capitol City Classic Racquetball Tournament was held at the Lansing YMCA April 27-29. Tournament Director Janet Lee reported that of the 110 total entries, more than half were from outside the Lansing area.

Results

Men's A

Semi-finals: Bernard Thomas d. Bruce Haas 21-11, 15-21, 11-8; Bill Rich d. Len Schwartz 21-18, 14-21, 11-9

Finals: Thomas d. Rich 21-14, 21-10

Men's B

Semi-finals: Ron Henry d. Warren Roost 21-12, 21-13; Brian Chermide d. Mike Kaufman 21-15, 21-16

Finals: Chermide d. Henry 17-21, 21-15, 11-3

Men's C

Semi-finals: Tom Ripmaster d. Brian Donnelly 14-21, 21-10, 11-8; Tyrone Willingham d. Joseph Peacock 21-18, 19-21, 11-9

Finals: Willingham d. Ripmaster

Men's Masters

Semi-finals: Lynn Hahn d. Dave Schaffer 21-8, 21-9; Fred Wiegand d. Gundar Strautnicks 21-6, 21-6

Finals: Lynn Hahn d. Fred Wiegand 21-16, 21-16

Women's B

Semi-finals: Pat Donnelly d. Liza Squires 21-13, 21-9; Beth Eaton d. Linda Wood 21-9, 21-16

Finals: Beth Eaton d. Pat Donnelly 8-21, 21-11, 11-10

Women's C

Semi-finals: Mary Fallon d. Val Davis 21-4, 21-5; Dorothy Allarding d. Dorothy Barnstead 21-1, 18-21, 11-0

Finals: Mary Fallon d. Diane Allarding 21-11, 21-10

Wyoming

The Sheridan County YMCA was the scene of the Rocky Mountain Racquetball Tournament April 20-22.

Results

Women's Open singles

Second Round: Berth Tomita d. Mary Eaglesen 21-3, 21-2; Karen Powers d. Marge Johnston 21-7, 21-11; Missy Mullinax d. Yolanda Hill 21-4, 21-10; Erin Henry d. Kelly Johnston 21-10, 21-15

Semi-Finals: Powers d. Tomita 21-8, 21-13; Mullinax d. Henry 21-10, 17-21, 11-5

Finals: Mullinax d. Powers 21-19, 21-18

Women's B Singles

Second Round: Karen Massena d. Susan Diehl 21-19, 21-8; Patty Jackson d. Kathy Kehrwald 21-19, 13-21, 11-9; Kim Keller d. Bernadette May 21-5, 21-4; Rae Ann Curtis d. Lynn Weaver 21-5, 21-2

Semi-Finals: Massena d. Jackson 21-11, 21-14; Keller d. Curtis 21-8, 21-11

Finals: Keller d. Massena 21-3, 21-2

Women's Doubles

First Round: Tomita/Henry d. Massena/Vicki Saylor 21-5, 21-0; Keller/Rae Ann Curtis d. Eaglesen/Niki Kessinger 21-9, 21-1; Powers/Donna Wilson d. Barb Williams/Kelly Johnston 21-11, 21-20; Mullinax/M. Johnston d. Vicki Jorgenson/Hill 21-5, 21-9

Semi-Finals: Tomita/Henry d. Keller/Curtis 21-5, 21-15; Mullinax/M. Johnston d. Powers/Wilson 21-12, 21-20

Finals: Mullinax/M. Johnston d. Tomita/Henry 21-15, 20-21, 11-6

Men's Open Singles

Third Round: Dan West d. Pat Schoff 21-7, 21-16; Dan Sell d. Jim Heath 21-12, 21-14; Tom McNeely d. Torrey Moody 21-17, 21-4; Charlie Jorgenson d. Mario Ibarra 21-11, 21-4

Semi-Finals: West d. Sell 21-11, 21-6; McNeely d. Jorgenson 21-19, 20-21, 11-9

Finals: McNeely d. West 21-13, 3-21, 11-8

Men's B Singles

Third Round: Richard Proefrock d. John Bouzis 21-9, 21-8; Ev Diehl d. Chuck Welter 21-16, 21-9; Mike Henry d. Jack Wiley 21-19, 21-15; Vince Ruegamer d. Jude Watters 21-5, 21-12

Semi-Finals: Proefrock d. Diehl 21-6, 21-5; Henry d. Ruegamer 21-13, 21-14

Finals: Proefrock d. Henry 21-7, 18-21, 11-5

Men's Masters

First Round: Jim Cole d. Dick Kehrwald 21-16, 21-6; Fred Welter, forfeit over Jack Taylor; Charles McKain d. Ray Coor 21-16, 21-13; Homer Scott Jr. d. Vince Johnston 21-6, 21-13

Semi-Finals: Jim Cole d. Fred Welter 21-18, 21-12; Homer Scott Jr. d. Charles McKain 21-8, 21-20

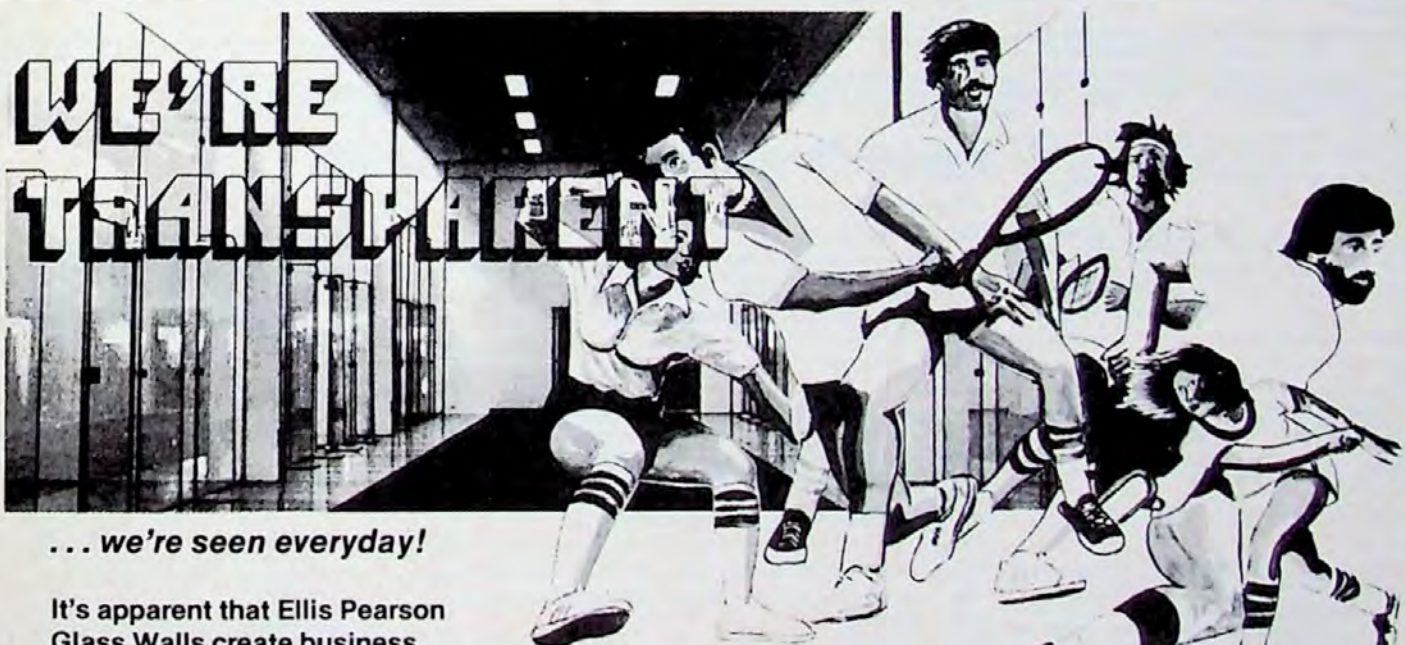
Finals: Jim Cole d. Homer Scott Jr. 21-12, 12-21, 11-2

Men's Doubles

Second Round: Jorgenson/Cole d. Bill Ruegamer/Ron Clark 21-19, 21-2; Scott Frank Rotellini d. Bouzis/Stewart Kath 21-12, 21-6; Brian Duran/Jay McGinnis d. Barry Boulden 21-13, 21-19; West/Heath d. Stuart Healy/Rex Arney 21-13, 21-9

Semi-Finals: Jorgenson/Cole d. Scott/Rotelini 21-3, 21-8; West/Heath d. Duran/McGinnis 21-8, 21-10

Finals: Jorgenson/Cole d. West/Heath 21-6, 17-21, 11-3



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Wyoming

The Wyoming State Racquetball Championships were held at the Rocky Mountain Health Club in Cheyenne March 30-April 1.

At a United States Racquetball Association meeting Saturday afternoon Dan Sell was elected the new Wyoming USRA chairman.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Charlie Jorgenson d. Ted Wiley 21-11, 21-10; Charlie Wicker d. Dan Huber 21-7, 21-9; Mike Hopkins d. Marc Miller 21-10, 21-15; Dean Flock d. Jerry Belfert 21-9, 21-13

Semis: Wicker d. Jorgenson 18-21, 21-16, 11-7; Hopkins d. Flock 21-6, 21-13

Finals: Hopkins d. Wicker 21-18, 17-21, 11-7

Men's B

Quarters: Jerry Greenland d. Robert Knight 21-12, 21-19; Jeff Schreengost d. Rudy Vialpando 20-21, 21-18, 11-9; Blair Trautwein d. Norm Wakerley 21-8, 21-11; Rick Keefer d. Jack Allen 21-12, 21-9

Semis: Greenland d. Schreengost 21-12, 21-19; Keefer d. Trautwein 21-12, 21-9

Finals: Keefer d. Greenland 21-18, 21-20

Men's C

Quarters: Tim Collins d. Robert Reinhardt 21-16, 21-13; Jerry Watson d. Flip Williamson 21-19, 21-12; Bob Jensen d. Bob Hartlep 21-20, 21-14; Bruce Meluson d. Joe Harvey 21-4, 21-12

Semis: Watson d. Collins 17-21, 21-10, 11-9; Meluson d. Jensen 21-9, 21-17

Finals: Meluson d. Watson 21-13, 21-19

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Bill Ruck d. Rex Arney 21-1, 21-10; Jack Allen d. Frank Mendicino 21-5, 21-4; John Hunt d. Ray Coors 21-9, 12-21, 11-6; Joe Benson d. Vince Johnston 21-8, 21-6

Semis: Ruck d. Allen 21-6, 21-15; Benson d. Hunt 21-8, 21-14

Finals: Ruck d. Benson 21-7, 21-12

Men's Doubles

Quarters: Dean Flock/Winston Ho d. Mario Ibarra/Jack Allen 19-21, 21-12, 11-7; Charlie Wicker/Dick O'Gara d. Vince Johnston/Jack Wiley 21-13, 21-5; Dan Sell/Charlie Jorgenson d. Jerry Greenland/Tony Ross 21-3, 21-4; Mike Hopkins/Ted Wiley d. Jerry Belfert/Mike Carshaw 21-11, 20-21, 11-9

Semis: Flock/Ho d. Wicker/O'Gara 21-13, 21-11; Sell/Jorgenson d. Hopkins/Wiley 21-17, 21-18

Finals: Flock/Ho d. Sell/Jorgenson 21-20, 16-21, 11-7

Women's Open

Quarters: Kris Hunter d. Karen Powers 21-7, 21-5; Marcee Mitchum d. Bunny Jones 21-7, 21-3; Jan Lewis d. Kelly Johnston 21-11, 21-11; Missy Mullinax d. Patsy Hopkins 21-19, 21-14

Semis: Hunter d. Mitchum 21-4, 21-4; Lewis d. Mullinax 21-18, 21-19

Finals: Hunter d. Lewis 21-7, 21-11

Women's B

Quarters: Linda Dobler d. Phyllis Flock 21-6, 21-5; Loris Sherman d. Scarlet Toon 21-8, 21-13; Cheryl Henderson d. Susan Craig 21-9, 21-6; Tonya Grunder d. Brenda Ruckman 21-3, 21-8

Semis: Sherman d. Dobler 20-21, 21-15, 11-2; Grunder d. Henderson 21-19, 21-17

Finals: Sherman d. Grunder 21-11, 21-13

Women's C

Quarters: Susan Diehl d. Lynn Maxwell 21-11, 21-3; Anne Hayes d. Chris Hall 21-9, 21-3; Peggy Hoag d. Terry Draine 10-21, 21-16, 11-8; Melody Gonnian d. Cathy Green 21-15, 21-17

Semis: Hayes d. Diehl 21-11, 21-3; Hoag d. Gonnian 21-16, 21-15

Finals: Hayes d. Hoag 21-6, 21-9

Women's Doubles

Quarters: Missy Mullinax/Marje Johnston, bye; Patsy Hopkins/Jan Lewis d. Karen Powers/Vicki Jorgenson 21-20, 21-10; Phyllis Flock/Kelly Johnston d. Dorothy Heil/Mary Rizzuto 21-6, 21-3; Kris Hunter/Linda Dobler d. Scarlet Toon/Loris Sherman 21-16, 21-10

Semis: Mullinax/Johnston d. Lewis/Hopkins 21-12, 7-21, 11-10; Hunter/Dobler d. Flock/Johnston 21-6, 21-6

Finals: Mullinax/Johnston d. Hunter/Dobler 21-9, 21-19

Rhode Island

The 1979 Rhode Island State Singles Championships were held at the Playoff Racquetball Club in East Providence on March 9-11.

The tournament, run by Bill Hanson and Fred Miller, was so successful, the R. I. Racquetball Association doubled its membership.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Fred Miller d. John Rosato 21-15, 21-7; Dennis Culberson d. Al Lavallee 21-6, 21-10; Dave Brown d. Carl Picerno 21-2, 21-7; Ed McGovern d. Mike DiPardo 12-21, 21-3, 11-10

Semis: Miller d. Culberson 21-14, 21-11; Brown d. McGovern 21-15, 21-6

Finals: Brown d. Miller 21-3, 21-11

Men's B

Quarters: Al Lavallee d. Bill Hanson 21-20, 18-21, 11-4; Bob Fiset d. John Ruggerio 21-8, 21-18; Karl Krikorian d. John Hole 21-8, 21-11; Rich Adams d. Rick Haynes 21-12, 21-10

Semis: Fiset d. Lavallee 7-21, 21-15, 11-3; Krikorian d. Adams 21-11, 8-21, 11-4

Finals: Krikorian d. Fiset 21-14, 21-13

Men's C

Quarters: Steve Marks d. Michael McCartin 21-12, 21-18; Mike Chabot d. Peter Razza 21-13, 21-3; Sam Havens d. Joe Chabot 21-12, 21-8; Bob Fiset d. Bill Bradley 21-17, 21-10

Semis: Chabot d. Marks 21-6, 21-1; Fiset d. Havens 21-17, 21-7

Finals: Chabot d. Fiset 21-15, 12-21, 11-7

Women's Open

Quarters: Bea Lufkin d. Debbie Bustin 21-4, 21-7; Dee Nordstrom d. Claire Garabrant 21-7, 21-12; Norma Taylor d. Marilyn Hartley 21-11, 21-17; Sharon Culberson d. Helene Dolce-White 21-8, 21-16

Semis: Lufkin d. Nordstrom 21-7, 21-5; Taylor d. Culberson 21-0, 21-7

Finals: Taylor d. Lufkin 21-18, 21-19

Women's B

Quarters: Mary Paul d. Gerrie Bilotta 21-3, 21-1; Linda Sherrod d. Phyllis Pariseau 21-0, 21-0; Karen Mignone d. Lauren Richardson 21-7, 19-21, 11-2; Melba Campbell d. Gail Ray 21-2, 21-4

Semis: Sherrod d. Paul 21-5, 21-17; Campbell d. Mignone 21-8, 21-3

Finals: Sherrod d. Campbell 21-11, 12-21, 11-8

Masters

Quarters: Dick Zotti d. S. H. Golden 21-1, 21-8; Paul Cote d. Dave Louro 21-18, 21-5; Dave Wehr d. Joseph Karas 21-6, 21-18; Howard Schacter d. Bernie Kramer 21-20, 21-16

Semis: Zotti d. Cote 21-2, 21-1; Wehr d. Schacter 21-19, 20-21, 11-0

Finals: Zotti d. Wehr 21-11, 21-9

Seniors

Quarters: Jay Roberts d. Bill Bradley 21-9, 21-13; John Rosato d. Don Krasko 16-21, 21-9, 11-3; Fred Miller d. Tony Pierannunzi 20-21, 21-4, 11-6; Jack Robillard d. Tony Fonseca 21-10, 21-6

Semis: Roberts d. Rosato 21-15, 21-17; Miller d. Robillard 21-6, 21-6

Finals: Miller d. Roberts 21-10, 17-21, 11-5

Juniors

(round robin)

1st — Paul Ferioli; 2nd — Scott Kent; 3rd — Tommy DeRoche; 4th — Brian Ferioli

Nevada

The Nevada State Championships took place March 8-11 at the Las Vegas Racquet Ball Club.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Tom Petersen d. Bret Harnett 21-15, 21-14; Chris Barnbeck d. Keith Kubik 21-5, 21-8; Don Norquist d. Ray Anderson 21-18, 21-3; Frank Mitcham d. Bob Adams 19-21, 21-16, 11-9

Semis: Petersen d. Barnbeck 21-18, 18-21, 11-8; Norquist d. Mitcham 21-6, 21-4

Finals: Petersen d. Norquist 21-10, 10-21, 11-10

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Anderson/Mitcham d. Seaton/Barnbeck 21-14, 21-10; Kubik/Schacker d. Borromeo/Rugge 21-13, 21-17; Zeitman/Lewis d. Suhaldonick/LaPorta 21-19, 21-16

Semis: Norquist/Petersen d. Anderson/Mitcham 21-3, 21-6; Zeitman/Lewis d. Kubik/Schacker 21-16, 21-18

Finals: Norquist/Petersen d. Zeitman/Lewis 21-20, 21-17

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Ted Schacker d. Phil Waldman 21-5, 21-11; Dan Hartnett d. Al DiGeorge 21-17, 21-12; Dan Seaton d. Jack Hurd 21-13, 21-10; Tom Bishop d. Ron Eckoff 21-20, 5-21, 11-3

Semis: Schacker d. Hartnett 21-6, 21-8; Bishop d. Seaton 10-21, 21-18, 11-3

Finals: Schacker d. Bishop 21-11, 21-15

Men's B

Quarters: Richard Clark d. Rocky Hanson 21-8, 21-12; Chris Hybarger d. Jack Godfrey, forfeit; Mike Arnold d. Jim Vincent 16-21, 21-15, 11-8; Eric Haguewood d. Don Chism 20-21, 21-6, 11-5

Semis: Clark d. Hybarger 20-21, 21-3, 11-0; Arnold d. Haguewood 21-8, 21-11

Finals: Clark d. Arnold 21-10, 5-21, 11-6

Men's B Doubles

1st — Rocky Hanson/Bill Monahan, 2nd — Rich Clark/Cal Smith

Men's C Singles

Quarters: Bill Gasper d. Brit Lockier 21-10, 21-18; John Denning d. Gary Zicker 20-21, 21-9, 11-6; Joel Stelzner d. Peter LaPorta 21-19, 21-5; Ben Portillo d. Spider Byers, forfeit

Semis: Denning d. Gasper 21-16, 21-6; Portillo d. Stelzner 21-14, 15-21, 11-4

Finals: Portillo d. Denning 15-21, 21-13, 11-3

Men's C Doubles

Semis: Jack Holmes/Lenny Robinson d. Phil Butler/Art Besser 21-19, 21-12; Ben Portillo/Clyde Horner d. Roy Armentrout/Steve Barber 20-21, 21-7, 11-4

Finals: Portillo/Horner d. Holmes/Robinson

Men's Novice

Quarters: Randy Bune d. Bobby Smith 21-7, 21-8; Don Hunter d. Gerry Alesia 21-19, 21-18; Bob Johns d. Eddie Mahn 21-20, 21-16; Miles Wetsman d. Ted Guthrie 21-15, 21-4

Semis: Bune d. Hunter 21-10, 21-3; Johns d. Wetsman, forfeit

Finals: Bune d. Johns 21-12, 21-7

Junior Boys 15-17

1st — Bret Harnett, 2nd — Chris Hybarger, 3rd — Eric Haguewood

Junior Boys 12-14

1st — James Macias, 2nd — Mike Arnold, 3rd — Pat Robinson

Women's Open Singles

Semis: Ann Young d. Teresa Dunne 21-8, 21-5; Kathy Jones d. Sue Bradley 21-4, 21-12

Finals: Young d. Jones 21-18, 14-21, 11-8

Women's Open Doubles

Semis: Kathy Jones/Ann Young d. Teresa Dunne/Kathi Martin 21-11, 21-8; Sue Bradley/Cleo Schacker d. Teresa Dunne/Kathi Martin 21-19, 21-12

Finals: Jones/Young d. Bradley/Schacker 21-9, 14-21, 11-5

Women's B Singles

Semis: Kate Corrigan d. Karen Foresberg 21-14, 19-21, 11-3; Teri D'Amora d. Kathi Martin 21-18, 21-13

Finals: D'Amora d. Corrigan 21-1, 18-21, 11-7

Women's Novice

Semis: Susie Rapp d. Teri Anthony 21-12, 21-14; Leslie Abell d. Susie Tack 21-13, 15-21, 11-8

Finals: Rapp d. Abell 21-19, 21-19

Women's C Doubles

1st — Marley Hurd/Darbi Hurd, 2nd — Cori Robinson/Connie Armentrout

New Jersey

The Adidas-Courthouse North Jersey Intercollegiate Racquetball Championships were held April 27-29.

Results

Men's 1st Singles: Winner — John Bierman, Rutgers-Newark; Runner-up — Wayne Shuster, William Paterson

Men's 2nd Singles: Winner — Jim Vandenheuvel, Rutgers-Newark; Runner-up — Brad Yates, Rockland Community College

Men's 3rd Singles: Winner — Alex Foulds, N.J.I.T.; Runner-up — Terry Rettig, William Paterson

Women's 1st Singles: Winner — Marta Riker, Rockland Community College; Runner-up — MaryAnn Taormina, William Paterson

Women's 2nd Singles: Winner — Sherry Rabinowitz, Rockland Community; Runner-up — Sue Lutzie, William Paterson

In the overall team scoring, William Paterson finished first, Rockland Community College finished second, and Rutgers-Newark finished third.

Nebraska

For the third consecutive year the USRA Midwest Regional Championships were held at Sports Courts of Bellevue. The 1979 event took place April 6-8 and, according to Sports Courts Manager Bob Downey, tournament director, "no one came close to Doug Cohen in this tournament."

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Doug Cohen d. Gary Davidson; Terry Pett d. Irvin Rodin; Tony Upkes d. John Klearman; Roger Mazurak d. Ted Podgorny

Semi-finals: Cohen d. Pett; Upkes d. Mazurak

Finals: Cohen d. Upkes

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Dave McEwen/Ron Frick d. Craig Olsen/Dale Beckman; Cliff Dawson/Monty Dreyer d. Bob Sheldon/Monte McCunniff; Rick Newcomer/Ron York d. Tracy Frank/Jim Woolcock; Mark Domangue/Tony Upkes d. Terry Elgethun/Dave Kramer

Semi-finals: Frick/McEwen d. Dawson/Dreyer; Domangue/Upkes d. York/Newcomer

Finals: Domangue/Upkes d. York/Newcomer

Men's Upper B

Quarters: Chuck Feltz d. Hal Smith; Art Marolis d. Wayne Nelson; John MacLean d. Tom Peterson; Maury Damkroger d. Dave Evans

Semi-finals: Feltz d. Marolis; Damkroger d. MacLean

Finals: Damkroger d. Feltz

Men's Lower B

Quarters: Bill Lytle d. Jeff Koenig; Dave Jordan d. Ron Flock; Jim Webb d. Dennis Slausen; Glen Bohls d. Bruce Greenbaum

Semi-finals: Jordan d. Lytle; Webb d. Bohls

Finals: Jordan d. Webb

Men's B Doubles

Quarters: Art Marolis/Jim Roberts d. Lee Hansen/Sterling Barker; Bob Downey/Joe Sacco d. Cornie Bibb/Gene Kidder; Tom Sorley/Kevin Clark d. Wayne Nelson/Al Peterson; Tom Peterson/Randy Rose d. John Baratta/Joe Vodicka

Semi-finals: Downey and Sacco d. Marolis and Roberts; Clark and Sorley d. Peterson and Rose

Finals: Downey and Sacco d. Clark and Sorley

Doug Cohen, left, did not lose a single game on the way to his Men's Open Championship at the Midwest Regionals. Cohen's consistent serves and power shooting down the lines defeated every opponent, including Tony Upkes shown in the finals.



— Gary Sutton photo

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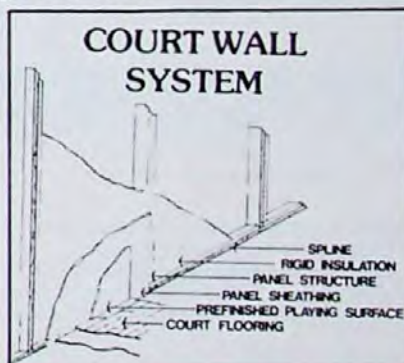


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Men's Upper C

Quarters: Mike Berkland d. Bob Dozier; Steve Pines d. Al Herrera; Ron Foelgner d. Bob Brisby; Sid Spelts d. Roger Eggen
Semi-finals: Berkland d. Herrera; Spelts d. Foelgner
Finals: Berkland d. Spelts

Men's Lower C

Quarters: Dennis Doty d. Ron Barte; John Tomjack d. Tom Kahn; Don McNulte d. John Peterson; Dennis McGranahan d. Bob Wieck
Semi-finals: Doty d. Tomjack; McGranahan d. McNulte
Finals: McGranahan d. Doty

Men's C Doubles

Quarters: Dennis McGranahan/Alan Arnold d. Sid Spelts/Steve Harding; Ron Foelgner/Terry Loftis d. Leslie Potts Sr./Leslie Potts Jr.; Al Campbell/Brad Hansen d. Don Livonius/Tim Ord; Jim Nolloth/Ron Barte d. Bill Minier/Lynn Trimpey
Semi-finals: Foelgner/Loftis d. McGranahan/Arnold; Campbell/Hansen d. Nolloth/Barte
Finals: Foelgner and Loftis d. Campbell and Hansen

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Bernie Nielson d. Rick Harley; Jay Lerner d. Vic Dyck; Lee Humphrey d. Wayne Shelton; Obed Oas d. Don Glanzer
Semi-finals: Nielson d. Lerner; Humphrey d. Oas
Finals: Humphrey d. Nielson

Men's Senior Doubles

Semi-finals: Bob Sheldon/Monte McCunniff d. Don Glanzer/Al Peterson; Wayne Shelton/Kerry Fosse d. Rick Harley/Gary Chunks
Finals: Sheldon/McCunniff d. Shelton/Fosse

Arizona

Many new winners turned up at the 1979 Arizona Racquetball Association State Doubles April 20-22 at the Tucson Athletic Club.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Garrigus/Fleming d. Burns/Spiegel 21-13, 21-3; Lankford/Siegel d. Reil/Hirko 21-11, 21-16; Aubrey/Grisz d. Hartnett/Ball 21-16, 21-9; Michael/Bolan d. McAvin/Nolan 21-8, 21-10
Semi-Finals: Garrigus/Fleming d. Lankford/Siegel 21-7, 21-10; Michael/Bolan d. Aubrey/Grisz 21-8, 21-11
Final: Garrigus/Fleming d. Michael/Bolan 15-21, 21-15, 11-3

Women's Open

Quarters: Darroch/Goldman d. Leffler/Loeper 21-5, 21-4; Blum/DiGiacinto d. Foster/Jamack 21-2, 21-19; Lankford/Curt d. Hutchings/Martin 21-13, 21-19; Wojcik/Wojcik d. Zanucchi/Wasley 21-1, 21-5
Semi-Finals: Darroch/Goldman d. Blum/DiGiacinto 21-5, 21-20; Wojcik/Wojcik d. Lankford/Curt 21-19, 21-5
Final: Darroch/Goldman d. Wojcik/Wojcik 21-12, 21-20

Men's B

Quarters: Ochoa/Rice d. Katz/Henry 21-2, 21-6; Koehlmoos/Wester d. Lewis/Howe 21-20, 21-20; Barrett/Morris d. Blitt/Daley 21-13, 21-11; Chiakmakis/Campbell d. Thompson/Faltin 11-21, 21-17, 11-3
Semi-Finals: Ochoa/Rice d. Koehlmoos/Wester 21-5, 21-13; Barrett/Morris d. Chiakmakis/Campbell 21-6, 18-21, 11-3
Final: Barrett/Morris d. Ochoa/Rice 9-21, 21-18, 11-9

Men's C

Prelim. round: Wells/Bond d. Randolph/Randolph; Ettinger/Siry d. Griffin/Swartz; Ericsson/Einstein d. Corcoran/Coombs
1st round: Bruce/Fick d. Reynolds/Snitzer 21-2, 21-2; Wells/Bond d. Rush/Koehlmoos 21-10, 21-9; Ettinger/Siry d. Lee/Hallock 21-7, 21-8; Ericsson/Einstein d. Walker/Arias 21-15, 21-13
Semi-Finals: Bruce/Fick d. Wells/Bond 21-11, 21-14; Ettinger/Siry d. Ericsson/Einstein 21-5, 21-8
Final: Ettinger/Siry d. Bruce/Fick 14-21, 21-4, 11-5

Idaho

The Idaho USRA State Championship March 30-April 1, was co-sponsored by Leach, with Leach giving two men's racquets and two women's racquets out as prizes in the Saturday night drawing. Over \$250.00 in prizes were given out, ranging from Seamco 600's, shirts, bags, eyeguards, and racquets. All 97 entrants came away with something, even if it was only a lesson in how to play next time.

Results

Men's Open: 1st — Robert Rankin, 2nd — Dirk Burgard, 3rd — Ron Shipley, 1st consolation: Al Clausen

Men's B: 1st — Tom Resse, 2nd — Paul Badnerosky, 3rd — Bill Skinner, 1st consolation: Al Clausen

Men's C: 1st — Dave Valdes, 2nd — Sam Weber, 3rd — Terry Elnyre, 1st consolation: Jim Underwood

Men's Novice: 1st — Jack Rowberry, 2nd — Randy Nielsen, 3rd — Jerry Foss, 1st consolation: Dan Bosley

Men's Seniors: 1st — Tom Jones, 2nd — Paul Badnerosky, 3rd — Earl Burdick, 1st consolation: Donald Skitt

Women's Open: 1st — Barbara Seff, 2nd — Bitsy Ray, 3rd — Allison Hays, 1st consolation: Sue Madden

Women's C: 1st — Elisa Poston, 2nd — Jenni Moore, 3rd — Carol Coonts, 1st consolation: Barbara Smith

Men's Open Doubles: 1st — Burgard/Wold, 2nd — Lothrop/Shipley, 3rd — Cooper/Skinner, 1st consolation: Boozer/Schreder

Women's Open Doubles: 1st — Hays/Ray, 2nd — Poston/Seff, 3rd — Madden/Trainer, 1st consolation: Coonts/Smith

Connecticut

More than 300 entries from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia competed in the New England Regionals April 6-8 at the Lakewood Racquetball Club in Waterbury, CT.

Results

Men's Open: 1st — Bruce Christensen, Runner-up — Rob McKinney

Women's Open: 1st — Bonnie Stoll, Runner-up — Monique Parente

Men's Open Doubles: 1st — Eugene Fitzpatrick/Steve Larabee, Runners-up — Steve Meltzner/Bill Risley

Women's Open Doubles: 1st — Jackie Adler/Margo Chase Wells, Runners-up — Bonnie Stoll/Elaine Ehrlich

Men's B: 1st — Archie Rupp, Runner-up — Nick Caruso

Men's Seniors: 1st — Jim Reushel, Runner-up — Ed Castillo

Men's Masters: 1st — Pat Columbo, Runner-up — Tom Waltz

Women's B: 1st — Ann Rothberg, Runner-up — Suzanne Roberts

Women's C: 1st — Linda Fitzpatrick, runner-up — Debbie Amiot

Women's Novice: 1st — Joyce Compton, Runner-up — Pat Cronin



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Racquetball Around the Mediterranean

by Glenn R. Allen, C.D.R. U. S. Navy

Planning a European vacation? A cruise in the friendly Mediterranean? A visit to sunny Napoli, or mysterious Izmir? If so, there is no need to stop indulging in your favorite leisure time activity. Racquetball is now a truly international sport as a result of the far flung influence of the United States Armed Forces.

During a six month Mediterranean cruise as the executive officer of the tank landing ship USS SUMTER (LST-1181) I managed to play good, competitive racquetball on excellent courts in just about all these countries with other hard core racquetball enthusiasts who reside overseas.

Most American racquetball players travel to Europe in jets, but the author made his trip as executive officer of this 500 foot warship that made port calls in Italy, France, Spain and Turkey and took part in at sea operations with foreign Navies.

- U.S.N.



C.D.R. Allen is now stationed in Okinawa, where he's a zealous member of the Okinawa Racquetball Association.



Servicemen in bases marked on this map are looking for competition from stateside players.



Turkey

Our first port of call was Izmir, second largest port city in Turkey. It has a population of three million and a moderate climate because it's near the Aegean Sea. When USS Sumter visited this old port after 32 days at sea, we discovered that racquetball is played by just about all the Army and Air Force personnel assigned to the NATO Base in Izmir and by a few local Turks. Facilities consist of one standard sized court with a spectator gallery located on the base recreation facility near the gym. The top player in Izmir is Capt. Tom McCarthy, U.S. Army. There are many less experienced players on the base, however, who would welcome the opportunity to play visiting racquetballers. Turkey has other fine racquetball courts located throughout the country at U.S. military bases. The premier facility is located at the Military Assistance Group Headquarters in the capital city, Ankara. This facility consists of two hardwood courts which are utilized by both U.S. military and American Embassy personnel in the Turkish capital. Ankara is about 150 miles east of the Black Sea in the interior of this small country. There are

also additional racquetball courts at Incirlik on the Turkish/Syria border and Karansuel in the mountains west of Izmir. Visitors to Turkey who desire to play racquetball at any of these bases must be invited as a guest of an active duty serviceman stationed in country, but a call to the base athletic director at any of the facilities should result in a contact with the top players who always welcome "outside competition."

Italy

Another Sumter port of call was Naples, Italy, a cosmopolitan city with beautiful beaches, historic sights, fine food, three excellent courts at and near the NATO base and some of the top players in the Southern Mediterranean. All of these courts are standard size and utilized by Americans, Italians and military personnel from Britain and other NATO countries. Some of these competitors are A class tournament level players who actively search for visiting racquetballers to maintain their high levels of competition.

Sumter also visited Brindisi, a small Adriatic Coastal city on Italy's "heel of the boot" and site of the Air Force Security Base of San Vito. San Vito is a relatively small base with excellent facilities for its 800 to 1,000 military

personnel. Included in these facilities are two of the best racquetball courts anywhere in the Mediterranean. Both courts are new, have excellent lighting and spacious viewing galleries. They are tournament calibre and remain open 24 hours each day, seven days a week to facilitate the intense racquetball interest generated by San Vito military personnel. One of the better racquetball players on the base who is also responsible for much of the racquetball interest is Col. Don Moore, the base commander. Col. Moore plays every day along with a good percentage of the remainder of the San Vito military residents.

Other U.S. bases in Italy with racquetball courts are Camp Darby, located on the Tyrrhenian Sea near Livorno, and Signonella on the eastern coast of Sicily.

Spain

During the Christmas season USS Sumter made a special visit to one of the most interesting and exciting ports in the Mediterranean — Barcelona, Spain, where I found department stores selling racquetball racquets and balls for the local populace that does play a form of racquetball on one wall outdoor courts and in the numerous large neighborhood pelota (Jai Alai)

Writing Ahead for a Racquetball Game

You can simply call the base when you get to a city Allen lists in his story, or you can write to Base Athletic Director in care of the following addresses if you want to let players know you'll be asking for a game.

U.S. Naval Air Facility
(Italy)
Signonella, Catania, Sicily
FPO New York 09523

San Vito Air Force Base
(Brindisi, Italy)
APO New York 09240

U. S. Naval Support Activity
(Italy)
Naples, Italy
FPO New York 09521

Torrejon Air Force Base
(Spain)
APO New York 09283

Naval Station Rota Spain
(Spain)
FPO New York 09540

Izmir
(Turkey)
APO New York 09118

Ankara
(Turkey)
APO New York 09324

Incirk Air Base
(Turkey)
APO New York 09289

courts. These same courts are also utilized by local businessmen during the day and a form of racquetball is played utilizing American or Japanese made racquets and balls. There are regulation racquetball courts in Spain. However they are located only at the two primary U.S. military bases — Rota Naval Base on the Atlantic near Cadiz and Torrejon Air Force Base in the capital city of Madrid.

Sumter's final port visit was Rota, located just to the northeast of the Straits of Gibraltar. Rota has two 22 x 22 x 44 foot courts and it is a hotbed of racquetball players, both military and Spanish. The courts are in use 24 hours a day with doubles challenge the local rule because of the hundreds of players of various skills waiting to play. There are plans to build two additional standard size courts which are badly needed, as the demand for court time far exceeds the available supply. The top racquetball player in Rota — Ken Scott, a young sailor with pin point control and excellent speed — was anxious to find A players in preparation for his return to the states.

There are A, B and C class players at Rota, including several excellent

women players, who can always be challenged to a game. Just like all Southern European armed force facilities there are players in Rota who are friendly and welcome outside competition. As two more courts are added, Rota becomes the largest racquetball facility in southern Europe with the highest numbers of interested players at all competitive levels.

The USS Sumter returned to its Little Creek, VA, base after six months of cruising the Mediterranean and visiting some of the most interesting cities in the world — cities made more interesting to a racquetball player because of the facilities and the men and women in the U.S. Military services who are looking for good competition.

So don't think you have to miss your racquetball game if you plan to visit southern Europe or cruise the sunny Mediterranean. Bring your racquet with you. You may have the chance to use it. ●

The author, a U.S. Navy Racquetball commissioner from 1975 to 1977, has won many tournaments and is part owner of the Cardinal Court Club in Virginia Beach, VA.

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Racquetball Raises "Employee Wellness" Levels

Company Builds Sport into Fitness Program

by Mort Leve

Sentry Insurance, one of the nation's biggies, with world headquarters in Stevens Point, WI, and regional headquarters in Concord, MA; Atlanta and Scottsdale, AZ, is firmly convinced that an employee physical fitness program has a job performance bottom line payoff.

Ron Cook, national physical fitness manager for Sentry who holds a Ph.D. in health education from the University of Illinois, says *"The Sentry Physical Fitness Program is one aspect of our overall design to make it easier for our employees to achieve higher levels of wellness. We feel that just as there are varying levels of illness, there are also varying levels of health."*

There is no effort to force feed exercise programming. And that's where racquetball proves the point that gaining physical well being the fun way is the way most people want to go.

At the West headquarters in Scottsdale, sprawled over ample acres of desert landscaping, with 700 employees, two outdoor racquetball courts were used up to this year. The popularity of the game and maximum use prompted the company to enclose those two and add two more, one with a glass back wall. Within a month after opening the indoor courts full league play was established, clinics given in racquetball became a favorite activity for employees. The Scottsdale "employees' dream fringe benefit club" also has a gymnasium with Nautilus machines, treadmills, bicycle, rowing machine, situp boards and jump rope station. Outdoor amenities are two tennis courts, basketball court and a large play field for soccer, softball, volleyball and jogging.



When you work for Sentry (the photo is of the Stevens Point, WI, headquarters) you can sign up for the in-plant fitness program that includes swimming, Nautilus workouts and one of the most popular choices - racquetball. Fitness National Manager Ron Cook demonstrates the facilities.



who does engage in regular physical activity, get the proper rest, is knowledgeable in practicing nutrition and who works on reducing undesirable stress factors in life.

More than Executives

There are no doubts that the availability of racquetball courts affords ample "fun play" for the employees. Many industrial firms aim a particular fitness program toward executives. Sentry's program is not only offered to the employees, but also to their dependents and in the case of unattached employees, to a guest of that employee's choice. This is a unique aspect of the program. "We feel that it is wise to encourage family participation for its own sake," Cook says. "This is much more likely to get the employee involved. Further it sets an example for the children that speaks louder than any spoken or written word ever could."

Sentry's goal is to promote fitness — Cook's "employee wellness" — by combining physical exercise and fun. Physical fitness is a condition emphasizing a strong heart, lung and circulatory system; without these you are not fit.

The key is personalization. Each participant is afforded a personal fitness program to suit his or her level of fitness and fitness goals. If the individual wants a leisurely dip in the pool rather than a rigorous training program, or a friendly basketball scrimmage, jogging, or perhaps a weight reduction class — these are all available, and racquetball too!

Lynn Pettit, with a master's in physical education, heads up the Scottsdale Sentry adult employee fitness program. She is a better-than-average racquetballer and shows a real enthusiasm in programming the four courts. "I thought the glass back walled court would really hamper our class of players but by emphasizing that they keep their eye on the ball we find they are not bothered by anyone looking in on the play."

Lynn likes to set up challenge court sessions with 11-point games and a fast moving number of matches. This gives the participants a variety of competition and keeps the interest at a peak. (This reporter suggested an "everything counts scoring" and moving the challenge games to 21-pointers. Lynn asked, "Do you

mean each player would go in for five serves as in table tennis?" Yes, this is one way to work it. Another is to use the conventional form of earning the serve but counting points as in tennis, whether in service or receiving.)

John W. Joanis, Sentry chairman of the board and chief executive officer, tells the employees "All of us at Sentry know the effects of long hours behind a desk. Business can be hectic and mentally fatiguing, yet at the same time, sedentary. Our 'design for people' provides the opportunity to counteract the effects of physical inactivity. The Physical Fitness Center allows all employees to exercise before, between and after work hours. Our system of flex-time gives each employee the opportunity to use this fully equipped fitness facility and to improve the general health at Sentry."

On the Circuit

The gymnasium gets people into fitness training under the tab "Circuit Interval Stress Training." The program combines activities designed to strengthen the heart and lungs as well as improve muscle tone and flexibility. And it is in gaining better flexibility that the player can attain higher plateaus of skills in racquetball.

In addition to the physical fitness facilities there is a "quiet room." This special room is in a quiet section of the building designed for the employee to seek refuge, to get it all back together or for meditation or prayer in his or her own way. Materials on stress reduction methods, including directions on "how to relax," are also available.

Programs on weight control are conducted at regular intervals and at all times Sentry provides information on general dietary principles. An attempt is made to make the employee aware of the importance of fat levels in blood (triglyceride, cholesterol and high density lipoproteins).

Periodically during the year, a "Five-day Stop Smoking" clinic is conducted.

Safety precautions are taken at the center with attendants trained in basic CPR and there is a plan whereby other individuals are trained in advanced life support. Practice emergency response is regularly practiced in many different points in the building. This is a joint effort between the Medical Department, Security Division and the Personnel Office.



Lynn Pettit is in charge of racquetball at Sentry's Scottsdale offices.

Sentry, well known to TV viewers for its "Minute Man" commercials, is convinced that the treatment of illness and accidents and rehabilitation is very properly in the domain of health professionals — doctors and nurses. However the attainment of wellness, Sentry feels, is largely the result of the individual's effort and will only come about if the individual, in fact, really wants this. It follows that it may not be effective to try to force life style changes on anyone. As Cook put it "We merely provide the information, the facilities and the encouragement. When the person has made a decision on his or her own to pursue higher levels of wellness, we are ready to help."

An example is a person who is absent of the traditional signs of illness but is overweight, smokes and drinks too much alcohol and is not aware of good nutrition (or does not practice it). This individual does not rest or relax properly, does not exercise and is at an entirely different level of wellness than the person who also is absent of traditional illness measurements, but

Clearly Sentry feels that the more physically fit the employee is the more satisfied he or she will feel with life. This leads to higher morale, clearer thinking and the end result in doing a better job for the company and the customers being served. Studies in the past indicate that absenteeism is greatly reduced.

An individual who wants to come to the Sentry center first fills out a form. Employees over age 35 and those under 35 who have any coronary risk factors, such as overweight, smoking or elevated blood levels, are given stress tests. Once screened they are urged to report to the physical fitness center where they see one of the specialists for an individualized exercise program.

Prior to significant exercise Cook points out "We indicate to people it is important to warm up and stretch. We also indicate that it is important to have a cool down period.

"Finally in the exercise program, we recognize that one has to maintain a minimum amount of activity for a minimum period of time in order for it to be effective in cardiovascular conditioning. We teach our employees that their age adjusted heart rate is derived by subtracting their age in years from the number 220. This, then, is their maximum level of heart rate in their exercise, and we usually urge them to maintain 70 to 85 per cent of the maximum during a 20 to 30 minute period for no less frequently than three times weekly. Actually we strongly urge the 35 minutes five times a week."

For many Sentry people that time is spent at racquetball the fun way to maintain physical well being and the aerobic type exercise — that is most significant in improving the health of the heart, lung and circulatory system.

Industrial recreation thus becomes another area which is attracting people to racquetball. To get the maximum number of employees physically active — racquetball is the answer. ●

Author's note: Dr. Cook is an excellent racquetball player, and he gave me a thorough drubbing when we took to the court. After absorbing three straight setbacks I asked Ron if he had ever played handball. "Oh yes, I played in college," he told me, so immediately I dug out a pair of gloves and the little black pellet, and my revenge was sweet.

Safety Seminars in San Diego

Tom Stofko (with hand raised), Ektelon player advisory staff manager, narrates an eye protection and court safety clinic for the employees of RJ Software Systems in San Diego with the help of players Hope Weisbach, on court at left, and Marci Greer. This was one of three seminars held to show RJ employees how to protect themselves from serious injury through the use of eyeguards and advanced playing techniques.



RJ Software Systems President Robert Jacobson wants employees to play safe, especially with their eyes, when they compete on the courts he built at his San Diego company.

So Jacobson put together a series of seminars with the help of a local ophthalmologist, the Sports Injury Clinic of San Diego and Ektelon, which manufactures racquetball equipment, including eyeguards.

Jacobson built two well appointed courts and two weight training rooms for his employees about a year and a half ago to help them relax from the stress of what is primarily mental work.

"I'm a real advocate of physical fitness and feel that it definitely has a benefit on mental as well as physical prowess," says Jacobson, a racquetball player himself.

It soon became apparent, though, that something needed to be done to protect the company's players against injury.

"We had some minor skirmishes between people and racquetballs" Jacobson explains, "as well as a few accidents involving people getting hit by racquets."

"A guest got hit in the eye with a racquet and required 25 stitches, but he's doing well now."

Catching a ball in the eye isn't the only way to get injured on a racquetball court and RJ Software set out to cover all the bases.

In the first seminar Ophthalmologist Robert L. Dyer presented a slide show on eye injuries which graphically portrayed their seriousness and conducted a follow up discussion about emergency treatment. RJ Software now provides eye protection for guests, while encouraging employees to purchase their own.

Then with Ektelon Player Advisory Staff Member Tom Stofko narrating, third ranked pro, Marci Greer, and top amateur, Hope Weisbach, demonstrated common court accidents and advanced playing techniques which help players avoid accidents at the same time they improve their games.

Finally a registered physical therapist and a certified athletic trainer from the Sports Injury Clinic of San Diego came out to show employees proper stretching and training techniques.

"These seminars take time and money," Jacobson says, "but I think the value to the employees makes it worthwhile." ●

National Racquetball

EXTRA!

Guarding Your Eyes — and Your Teeth

Player safety got a boost in Maine and Wisconsin as Optometrist Dr. Larry Ritter and Dentist Dr. Vernon A. Larsen put their expertise to work for the game. Ritter, shown with Jerry Ehrlich in prescription lens eyeguards, set up a seminar for members of the Downeast (Falmouth) and Maine Mall clubs (South Portland) on "Ocular Hazards while Playing Racquetball." In Menasha, WI, Vernon A. Larsen, D.D.S., has built mouthguards for himself and other players who believe that "The racquet is a vicious weapon — even a slight click of a racquet against a beautiful strong tooth can cause the tooth to break off leaving a painful, ugly injury." Larsen says "The best mouthguards are made by dentists . . . your teeth will show through the mouthguards when you smile, keeping up your appearance. Many people will not realize you're wearing them." Larsen's picture proves his point.



Put Your Ailments in a Book

Has racquetball ever caused you elbow, wrist or shoulder problems which were more than mere fatigue? How about ankle, knee or hip pain?

What did you do about your pain? Did you take anti-inflammatory drugs, have steroid injections or submit to surgery? Perhaps you tried massage, ultrasound, manipulation or acupuncture. Or maybe you have a "home remedy" which worked.

Dr. Rob Roy McGregor, podiatrist and sportsmedicine expert, wants to hear your story of racquetball aches and pains for a book about exercise ailments — *SPORTACHES: Managing The Pains Of Fitness* — to be published in 1980 by Random House, Inc.

Write to:
Dr. Rob Roy McGregor
307 Main Street
Concord, Ma. 01742

1,432 Shots Prove You Should Practice Your Serve

Yvan Girardin and Claude Alain, of the University of Montreal PE department, broke down 1,432 shots in a Montreal Open racquetball tournament to figure out how different levels of players made their points and how competitors should practice. Their report in a recent *Canadian Journal of Applied Sports Sciences* noted the most rallies among the B players, the most successful backhands among the A players and the most pass shots among the C players. After analyzing the matches the experts came up with no surprises. Girardin and Alain suggest practicing serves, serve returns and backhand shots; using the low drive serve most in play, and hitting serves to the opponent's backhand.



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Hot Athletes Do Better Without a Grain of Salt

by Frances Sheridan Goulart

The average American takes almost everything he eats these days with a grain of salt, and the average American racquetball player is no exception.

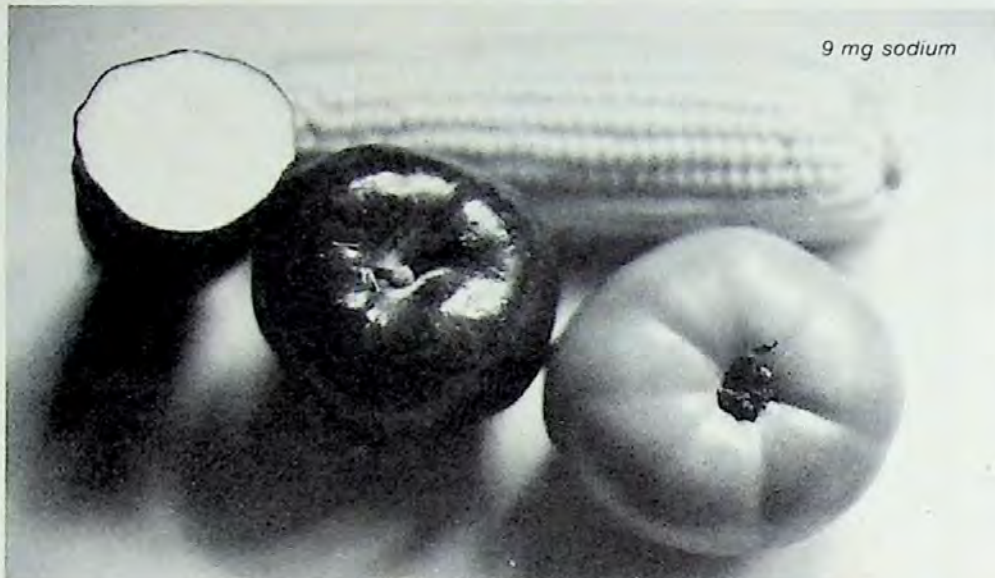
Last year we put away 275,000 tons of table salt (which is five times more than is used by any other nation in the world). Even though there is no substance that deserves to be sent to the salt mines more than sodium chloride, erroneously known to us as plain ordinary "table salt," salt in truth is neither plain nor ordinary and it certainly does not deserve such prominence on anyone's training table.

Salt is a stimulant, a snow job, a junk food, a killer. The salt tablets so widely used in sporting circles, for instance, in the opinion of Dr. John Marr, head of the Bureau of Preventable Disease Control of the N.Y. Dept. of Health, are not advisable, even in extreme heat because they can pass out from taking too many ordinary salt tablets, and they can even lead to death.

In fact salt at levels comprising only 2.8 percent of the diets of rats, according to The National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, has been described as "frankly life-shortening" although this 2.8 is the level at which salt is found in the "normal" American diet.

Ordinarily salt supplementation is necessary only when you are near collapse from heat prostration at which critical point plain water is in fact useless. What you need if you reach that point during a racquetball match is a three percent salt solution since water alone will further dilute your rapidly escaping electrolytes (minerals). But anything short of this near heat prostration is probably worsened by salt, despite the folk tales.

Replacement of sodium reserves in such extreme circumstances is probably best accomplished by means of "timed-release" sodium tablets, such as those which were used to advantage by the British Football Team in periods of intense heat at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico. You would take one of these before a match if you anticipate heat problems.



But ordinary salt tablets are another story. According to the Dairy Council of Metropolitan New York, "Salt tablets do not help an athlete when he sweats because more water is needed from his blood-stream to dissolve the salt tablet."

Moreover if athletic injuries like sprained ankles, toes and feet aren't actually caused by salt abuse, eliminating salt seems to be one of the best cures. Why? Because, says the *American Family Physician Magazine's* Dr. Adam G. N. Moore, a low or no salt diet rids the body of

excess body fluids which is what causes all that swelling and pain at the site of injury in the first place.

The main electrolytes lost when you're overheated during physical exertion, according to the Aerobics Institute — and their conclusions match those arrived at by the other respected studies — are potassium and magnesium, not sodium. Furthermore a high salt intake contributes to low blood sugar and lower energy reserves by causing a dip in blood potassium levels, thus setting the stage for stress and for the retention of more salt and water.

In addition to everything else ordinary table salt is just as much a junk food as the junk foods it goes into.

According to George Crane, author of the book *The Oceans 44 Trace Minerals* salt is almost totally lacking in the many life supporting trace minerals found in natural unrefined salt.

In short this is how it happens: sea salt is produced by evaporating sea water in large ponds. The sun begins to concentrate the brine and the first salt to crystallize out is sodium chloride. This is what is scraped off the top by refiners, then washed and dried by a nutrient damaging heat process, leaving, of course, all the good stuff behind as is the story with most food processing.

This refined salt, according to other concerned researchers like Frank Wetz, now lacks potassium which when in proper balance with sodium in the body helps to regulate the heartbeat. But when unaligned with this mineral in a diet high in refined salt there is a serious risk of muscle damage, and high blood pressure.

It has additives added, too. It is usually "enriched" with iodine (synthetic) plus dextrose (sugar) to stabilize it, sodium bicarbonate to keep it white and a chemical anticaking agent to keep it free flowing. (Kosher salt is just as treated, just as refined.)

What makes "whole salt" or "sea" salt of value is the fact that it has almost the same balance of sodium chloride to minerals as that found in sea water. This corresponds to the ratio of sodium chloride and minerals found in human blood.

So salt has its good side. It stimulates the production of hydrochloric acid in the stomach and in that respect is of some value to the aging athlete. But for most racquetball players, since the body under ordinary conditions needs only one gram or less and probably gets twice that amount just from natural unsalted foods, salt is a habit worth shaking.

According to the USDA *Compositions of Foods Book*, 100 grams of potato chips, for instance (that's only three and a half ounces) yield as much as 1,000 mg of sodium!

Even though any carrot worth its salt (there are 47 grams of healthy *naturally* occurring sodium in one large raw one) doesn't need salt to come alive, the sad fact is that most racquetball players seldom run into an unsalted peanut, celery stick or un-sodium doctored hard boiled egg on or off the training table.

If there's been a whole lot of shakin' going on in your sporting life up til now (see the charts below to determine your sodium intake), you may want to try a few of the painless sodium free substitutes that follow.

Low-Salt Foods

Food	Amount	Sodium (mg)
Apple	1 (3/lb.)	1
Asparagus	4 spears	1
Bran, raw	1/4 cup	1
Corn	1 ear	trace
Cornmeal	1 cup	2
Cucumber	6 slices	2
Eggs	1	1
Orange Juice	1 cup	3
Peanuts	1 cup	8
Tomatoes	1	6
Wheat Flour	1 cup	4

High-Salt Foods

Food	Amount	Sodium (mg)
Bacon	2 sls.	153
Beans, lima, canned	1 cup	401
Beef, corned	3 oz.	1491
Chicken pot pie	1 pie	932
Corn flakes	1 cup	251
Frankfurter	1	499
Pizza	1 sl.	525
Potato Chips	3 oz.	840
Soup, chicken veg., onion, from dry mix	1 cup	1030
Ketchup	1 Tbs.	156
Baking powder phosphate	1 Tbs.	1230
SAS	1 Tbs.	1198
tartate	1 Tbs.	874
Mustard, brown	1 Tbs.	352

Sport Salt

(no sodium or low sodium)

parsley flakes • onion flakes • garlic flakes* • bell pepper flakes • cumin seed* • celery seed • kelp powder** • sea salt • black peppercorns* • assorted dehydrated garden vegetable flakes* • brewer's (or any nutritional) yeast flakes* •

Optional: sea salt

Put 1 tsp. of all the starred ingredients into your seed mill or blender and pulverize. Pour into a cup and blend 1/2 tsp. of the remaining ingredients to a pulver. Combine the two powdered blends and decant (via a small funnel) into empty spice/herb jars. Note: Make in small quantities and reformulate when necessary. ** Kelp, which is a seaweed, is a superfood in itself. Containing one-tenth the sodium of real sodium chloride it nevertheless substitutes nicely for table salt (even though what it most resembles is black pepper). Available in shakers at all health food stores it is also one of the richest of all known sources of all the sports-specific minerals known as electrolytes.

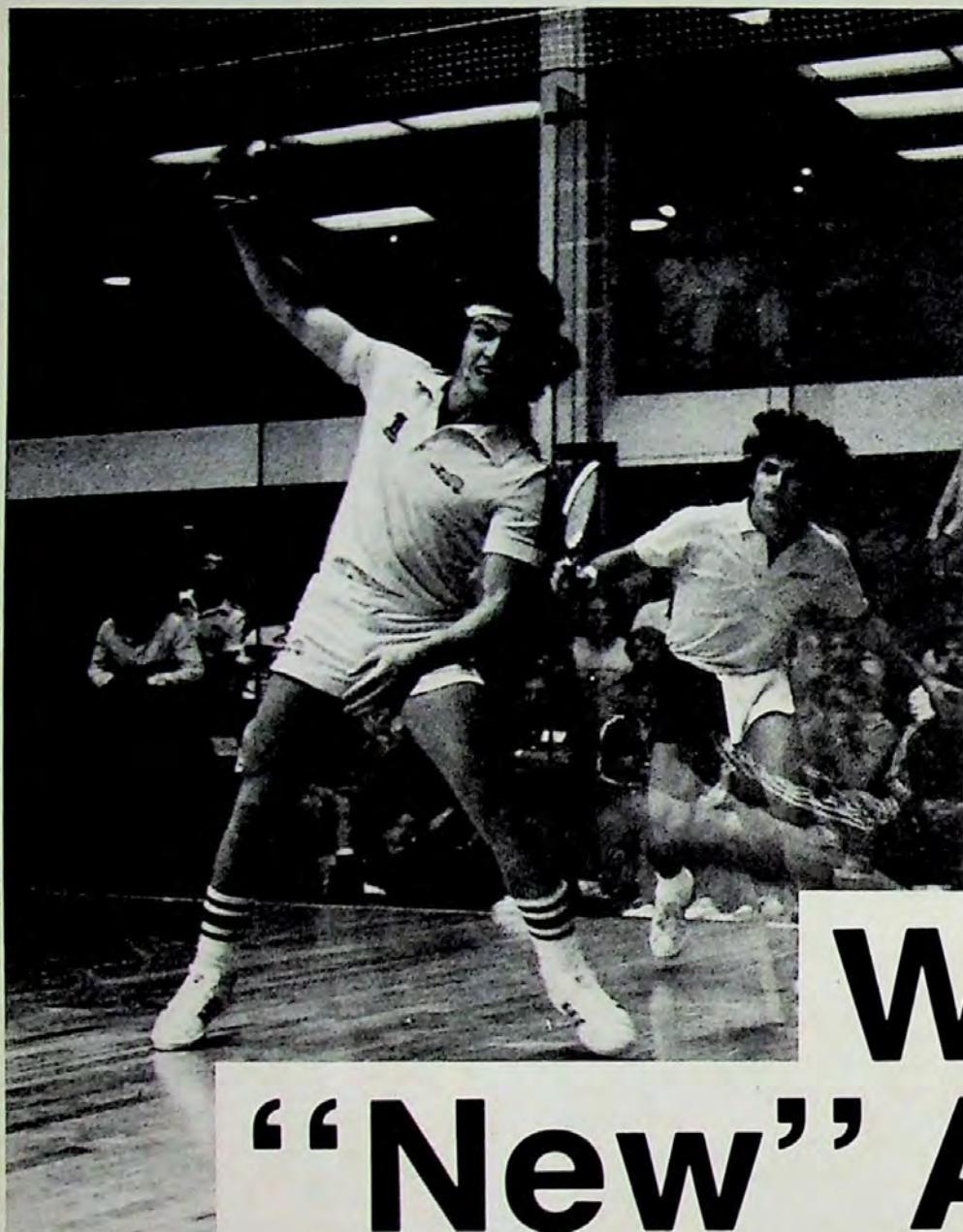
What'll you sprinkle it on to keep your electrolyte levels high? Try a raw tomato which provides 80 times as much potassium as it does sodium (and say thumbs down not bottoms up to canned tomato juice which has 391 more mgs of sodium than the unseasoned kind).

And a salt-free snackin' cracker is as easy as this:

Unsaltines

- 2 c. whole wheat flour
- 1 tsp. kelp powder
- 1/2 c. sesame seeds
- 1/4 c. raw wheat germ
- 1/4 c. vegetable oil
- 3/4 c. cold water
1. Blend dry ingredients
2. Then add all wet ingredients together and mix thoroughly.
3. Spread dough out on two 10" x 16" cooky sheets using your fingers and a pizza roller. Mark into squares, prick with a fork.
4. Bake at 400° for 15 minutes.
5. Cool and store in a tightly closed cannister.

Frances Sheridan Goulart's latest book is *Eating to Win: Food Psyching for the Athlete*, published by Stein and Day.



New Haven. New club.
New tournament.
New faces. New outlook.
New court. But veteran
winners — Marty Hogan
and Shannon Wright.

The smack of Hogan's ball echoes through the bleachers as he trounces David Fleetwood, right, in the finals.

What's “New” About Racquetball?

by Dick Squires

As of April 25, 1979, many *new* elements infiltrated into the sport of racquetball. What were they?

The City of *New Haven* hosted the *first* annual Robert W. Kendler Classic, which was the sixth stop on the Colgate Pro/Am tour co-sponsored by Seamco/Leach. It was held at the *new*

(five months old) Downtown Racquet Club, which is located in a *novel* setting — atop a municipally-owned parking garage. Seeing the game played at such a level of excellence was, indeed, *new* to the hundreds of spectators who viewed the matches as this was the *first* time the tour had come to Connecticut.

New Haven photos by David White



Shannon Wright, right, leans into her forehand in her semi-final win against Marci Greer.

A few *new* names wreaked havoc in the professional men's draw. Twenty-two-year-old David Peck toppled second seed Jerry Hilecher in the 16's, eighth seeded Steve Strandemo in the quarters and was barely beaten by David Fleetwood in the tie-breaking (heart-breaking?) semi-finals.

Fleetwood was celebrating his 22nd birthday by slashing his way into his *first* finals over the likes of Bledsoe and a below-par Charlie Brumfield, prior to his three-game thriller over Peck. Mike Yellen, 19, had an excellent victory over the stylist, Richard Wagner, to reach the penultimate round before bowing to The Supreme One, Marty Hogan. So by the round of four the second, third, fourth, fifth and eighth-seeded pros had been eliminated. This, too, was a *new* and rather rare happening!

The women's pro division had a couple of rousing surprises as well. Linda Prefontaine, from Oregon, shocked Rita Hoff in the first round 21-20, 9-21, 11-10. The loss, combined with Sarah Green's upending of number two seeded Janell Marriot in the quarter-finals, cost Rita dearly — a \$1,500 share of the Colgate Bonus Pool.

On Wednesday evening the Club threw a Spring Racquet Ball in honor of the visiting professionals. The cocktail/dinner/dance, which was partially underwritten by the NRC, Seamco and Leach, was highly successful and proved that there certainly is time and room for some off-the-court conviviality and fun at these athletic events. Such a planned social activity was *new* to the players and certainly well-received.

Overlooking the four glass backwalled courts is a bar/restaurant called "Peeper's." Saturday night the owners, Roger Kirwood and Dan Yacuzzo, staged a lively party with disco dancing down on the Championship Court. Some pretty fancy footwork took place 'til the wee hours of the morning. This, too, was a somewhat *novel* idea.

The media coverage was superb! As a matter of fact, one of New Haven's most popular daytime shows, Channel 8's "12 O'Clock Live," emanated right from the Club. The entire one-hour telecast was focused on racquetball, which featured a fashion show, exhibition and interviews with Rita Hoff and, none other than, Charlie Brumfield. Several radio stations reported up-to-the-minute results and the 6 and 11 o'clock television news covered racquetball nightly on their sports reports. Such continuing, widespread exposure is exactly what the sport needs and deserves.

I, frankly, developed an entirely new attitude and respect toward both the touring pros as well as the sport *per se*. Having once been a ranking squash racquets player, I held a somewhat narrow minded and distorted view of racquetball and its participants. I was wrong. The "*kids*" off the court are friendly and fun. (I still believe their on-court demeanor, however, could and should be improved!) The speed of the ball, accuracy, consistent shot making and lightning-like reflexes are wondrous traits to behold. The proximity of the opponents to each other, the court coverage and unbelievable retrievals make the frenetic action in that tiny cubicle as exciting as a Pier Six brawl. (Some of the language was pier-like!) Of course we were watching the best players in the world, but the array of shot execution was both awesome and exhilarating. I have a *new*, lasting and favorable outlook for this, the youngest of all the popular racquet and ball sports.



Marty Hogan – the poised performer with an invisible line of contact with the gallery.

Wednesday, April 25. This was qualifying day and there were some electrifying matches. The aspiring "rabbits" battled their hearts out to enter into the draw with the established, ranking professionals. Janell Marriot played an interesting exhibition against racquetball's leading, *non-tour* money winner, Randy Vataha. It was close for about three-quarters of a game when Janell's superior stroke execution and youth prevailed. The libbers roared their approval!

At the Ball Bob Kendler spoke of the development of "white glass" and the potential commercial implications this seemingly revolutionary product could have on the further growth and spread of the sport. It rather boggles the mind.

Thursday, April 26. Some close encounters in the initial round of the men's draw of 32 were sixth seeded Ben Koltun's squeaker over Cincinnati's Larry Fox (who went on to win the Open Crown), Mike Zeitman's 21-18, 21-18 victory over veteran

player/author Steve Keeley and Brumfield's cliff-hanger (21-19, 21-20) over the hard-hitting Canadian, Lindsay Myers. Bill Schmidtke proved he still has it by playing a pair of 18 games with top seed, Marty Hogan.

Later in the day Peck took the measure of the number two ranked but rather flat Hilecher 21-9, 21-13, and that seemed to herald further devastations. Fleetwood's 11-8 tie-breaker win over former National Champion Davey Bledsoe and Brumfield's "psyche" conquest of fifth seeded Craig McCoy, 11-10 in the deciding game, were preludes of further upsets to come the following day.

Friday, April 27. Marty Hogan continued his effortless and relentless trek toward the garland with a 21-18, 21-18 triumph over Koltun and Yellen spiked Wagner in three stimulating games which set up a semi-final round repeat of the Hogan-Yellen Los Angeles contest a few weeks before when Mike led 8-0 in the tie-breaker before losing.

Fleetwood sustained his string of upsets by soundly trouncing an amazingly and incongruously subdued Brumfield, 10 and 14. The contest between the cherubic Peck and one of the game's fiercest combatants, Strandemo, had the overflowing gallery oohing and aahing. The first game especially was a beauty. Dave held Steve off at game point for 11 (!) different exchanges before relinquishing it. Undaunted he stormed back to take a tasty triumph 21-17, 11-4.

Saturday, April 28. The eagerly anticipated semi-final matchup between Hogan and Yellen merely proved that today Marty is just about 10 per cent better than his nearest competitors. When he falters and gets behind, it is not so much because of his opponent's skills as it is to his own looseness. He seems to become bored with his own perfection and perceptibly lets up. Then he has to regain his concentration and control. Many of his adversaries, therefore, seem to be playing awfully well until they reach 18 or 19 points, but winning those last two or three is just about as difficult as extracting impacted wisdom teeth. Hogan put Yellen nicely in place 21-18, 21-14 and was to face an unseeded player in the finals, equally curly-haired David Fleetwood who had defeated Peck in the match of the tournament.

After splitting the first two games it was impossible to forecast the outcome of this superb contest. No one dared or wanted to. Everyone hoped that *both* of these fine, personable, young men would win. When Peck had match point at 10 to 9 in the final stanza, it seemed that he was destined to be Hogan's sparring mate in the title round. The other David had other ideas. The difference in ability between these two "comers" is as infinitesimal as the score indicates. They will be around for a long time.



Ben Koltun scoops a backhand return in the quarter-finals he lost to Hogan.



David Fleetwood's backhand pirouette baffles Davey Bledsoe, who lost the tie-breaker in the round of 16's.

Sunday, April 29. The final was a classic matchup between the underdog, David, and the overwhelming giant, Goliath. In this instance, however, the giant Hogan was so magnificent that the spectators in the bulging bleachers could only applaud his arsenal of varied, merciless weaponry. He is the absolute epitome of excellence. He plays with the supreme confidence of a complete champion who *knows* he is capable of slashing down his opponent as effortlessly as a machete-wielder in a sugar cane field.

Fleetwood quickly overcame his nervousness and played well — very well. But as superb as his talent, natural ability and all-around courtmanship are, they were quite inadequate when up against the precedence established by Marty Hogan. There isn't anything he can't do on that 20 x 40 foot court. His ground strokes are literally a blur. He smacks the ball with such blinding speed that a crackling echo can be heard in the back tier of the bleachers. His change-ups and corner shots, on the other hand, are executed with the same full, flowing stroke as his kills, but come off his racquet with a softness and subtlety that are deceptive — almost magical.

He administered a brutal lesson to Fleetwood in the first game, then, as he so often does, allowed the opposition to leap six or seven points ahead in the second. Although he admonishes himself for such laxity, I suspect he needs that self-imposed handicap to get back into the game.

Slowly but inexorably he started to creep up on his prey with the icy cold, calculative determination and singleness of purpose of a stalking hunter. You could feel he was not to be denied. No matter what the score you sense he would be able to rev up his game just enough to win. 21 to 20 could have been 21 to 6.



Dick Squires hosted a players' banquet at the New Haven stop.

It is also rather incongruous to see females playing such a violent, power-oriented sport. Setting aside the possibility that I will be accused of being a "kinky, old man," I have to admit that women's racquetball really "turns me on." Maybe it is because these dainty damsels become so turned on themselves when they enter that white room. A transformation takes place that is something to behold. They fight, yell, scream, grunt, lunge, slam into walls, slug the ball as if it was an enemy, sweat and seem totally oblivious to such feminine details their makeup, hairdos or soaked clothing. They don't even grimace when a hard-driven ball is laced into the back of their bare legs. Wright's 11 to 9 tie-breaker triumph over Harding was no less tintillating than a Navratilova win over Chris Evert (Lloyd) 7-6 in the third on clay.

Four amateur events took place in conjunction with the pros. Players from 25 states migrated to New Haven to compete for trophies and recognition. There were many closely-fought games and some bright, new prospects were seen in the Open events. **The results were: Men's Open** — Larry Fox d. Scott Hawkins 21-13, 15-21, 11-10. **Women's Open** — Elaine Lee d. Francine Davis 14-21, 21-20, 11-6. **Men's B** — Ken Strong d. Lior Schmelson 21-15, 15-21, 11-10. **Women's B** — Karen Kimmerling d. Judy Katz 15-21, 21-9, 11-0.

So, while there were many new factors in evidence during those five days (and nights) in New Haven, the same old champions, Hogan and Wright, emerged once again on top of the pack. But even the reigning King and Queen are as young and refreshing as the sport they presently dominate — racquetball. Long live the King! Long live the Queen! Long live the sport! ●

Marty Hogan is a rare athlete — alone at the top and almost a "freak" in his sport of racquetball. I cannot imagine how anyone will ever play the sport any better. He is also a poised performer who possesses that invisible line of contact with the gallery. A scowl can just as quickly be erased by an ear to ear grin. He intimidates officials and adversaries alike. His antics are as theatrical and amusing as the feigned dramatics seen in the wrestling ring of Sunday morning television.

His winning his sixth consecutive stop on the tour was as expected as his counterpart's victory in the women's draw. Shannon Wright, like Hogan, is the cream of her division, and cream quite predictably rises to the top of the bottle. She is a dedicated athlete who

plays her game with fervid concentration and that all-important killer instinct. After dropping the first game to a fired up Jennifer Harding, she returned to the court and won an unbelievable 23 points in a row! Most of them were outright winners.

Much credit must be given to Harding for hanging in there after having been subjected to the humiliation of a "donut." The final game was women's racquetball at its best, and at its best women's racquetball can be very entertaining. In some ways it is more enjoyable and believable than men's. For one thing you can see the ball.

Men Pro Results

(Qualifiers): Schmidke, Fox, Handley, Niederhoffer, Christensen, McAuliffe, Hawkins, Rish.

(First Round): Hogan d. Schmidke 21-18, 21-18; Jones d. Meyers 21-11, 20-21, 11-8; Zuckerman d. Thomas 21-9, 21-13; Koltun d. Fox 21-18, 21-17; Yellen d. Mondry 21-10, 21-6; Handley d. Chase 21-8, 21-16; Zeitman d. Keeley 21-18, 21-18; Wagner d. Niederhoffer 21-9, 21-13; Bledsoe d. Christensen 21-13, 21-14; Fleetwood d. McDowell 21-13, 21-10; Brumfield d. Myers 21-19, 21-20; McCoy d. McAuliffe 21-12, 21-15; Strandemo d. Stephens 21-9, 21-10; Morrow d. Hawkins 21-7, 21-12; Peck d. Rish 21-5, 21-6; Hilecher d. Serot 21-10, 21-10.

(Second Round): Hogan d. Jones 21-19, 21-14; Koltun d. Zuckerman 19-21, 21-16, 11-4; Yellen d. Handley 21-7, 21-14; Wagner d. Zeitman 21-15, 21-10; Fleetwood d. Bledsoe 14-21, 21-15, 11-8; Brumfield d. McCoy 21-9, 16-21, 11-10; Strandemo d. Morrow 18-21, 21-20, 11-10; Peck d. Hilecher 21-9, 21-13.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Koltun 21-18, 21-18; Yellen d. Wagner 21-6, 16-21, 11-6; Fleetwood d. Brumfield 21-10, 21-14; Peck d. Strandemo 19-21, 21-17, 11-4.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Yellen 21-18, 21-14; Fleetwood d. Peck 17-21, 21-18, 11-10.

(Finals): Hogan d. Fleetwood 21-13, 21-20.

Women Pro Results

(Qualifiers): Dugan, Davis, McKay, Dee.

(First Round): Wright d. Dugan 21-6, 21-3; Sauser d. Williams 21-17, 21-3; Steding d. Walton 6-21, 21-19, 11-4; Greer d. Davis 14-21, 21-16, 11-5; Harding d. McKay 21-7, 21-16; Prefontaine d. Hoff 21-20, 9-21, 11-10; Green d. McDonald 21-6, 21-5; Marriott d. Dee 21-19, 21-16.

(Quarter-finals): Wright d. Sauser 21-8, 21-7; Greer d. Steding 21-13, 21-17; Harding d. Prefontaine 21-13, 21-5; Green d. Marriott 21-11, 21-16.

(Semi-finals): Wright d. Greer 21-10, 21-8; Harding d. Green 21-12, 21-18.

(Finals): Wright d. Harding 12-21, 21-0, 11-9.

Racquetball History Makers



Joseph G. Sobek, the creator of racquetball, and Robert W. Kendler, the man who made it the popular game of today, shared the dais for the second time in their lives during the Colgate Pro/Am tournament in New Haven.

They had neither seen nor talked to one another since 1966, when they were the featured speakers at a racquetball/handball exhibition at the Downtown Leslie Stratton Y.M.C.A. in Memphis.

Sobek, former New York and Connecticut tennis and squash teaching professional, developed the first racquet prototype for a game he called "paddle rackets." The forerunner of the modern racquet went into limited production (25 of them) in 1950.

Kendler, president of the USRA/NRC, has been the

acknowledged leader of organized racquetball since he established the first national association in 1969.

The New Haven meeting was like a college reunion. The men laughed and hugged each other and appeared to revel in the tremendous success of their "baby."

When Sobek came to the speaker's podium, he spoke of his deep admiration for the marvelous job Bob Kendler had done in organization and promoting his invention. Kendler, in turn, confirmed his high regard for Joe Sobek's early pioneering efforts. Both of them agreed that the other was a "great guy."

It was, indeed, a tender and memorable moment in racquetball's brief history. ●

—Dick Squires

Squires, director of the host Downtown Racquet Club and author of the recently published book, *The Other Racquet Sports*, is our newest writer who will make regular contributions to *National Racquetball* magazine.

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Shannon Wright

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Designed by Wilson for Davey Bledsoe, Men's National Racquetball Champion, 1977.

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Women In Racquetball



Carol Brusslan

A Jury of Eight

It would be challenging to feel like a lobbyist for women's rights in racquetball, but that opportunity rarely presents itself here at USRA headquarters.

The except-for-this-department male staff members don't behave like chauvinists (at least face to face) even when baited.

The bait dangled low a few months ago when a player from Texas blasted off two Mailgrams protesting lack of a senior women's division in the southwest regionals. She threatened to sue if she couldn't compete with players her own age the way men could in the same tournament.

Unruffled — but not uncaring — the staff agreed it was a mistake to list more men's age categories than women's — an honest mistake that grew out of the method the USRA has always used in adding categories to tournaments. The method? Add brackets to meet proven player demand. When the entries were printed, there'd been no requests for regional women's senior divisions, while there *had* been indications that there were men wanting to play in older age categories.

South Central Regional Director Bruce Hendin said he wanted senior women to have a chance to compete against each other in the tournament, but "*since the category wasn't listed in the entry, all the women who might have wanted to play in it weren't able to sign up.*"

If Dora Mitchell wants to round up seven others in her age group she can compete in a women's 70 and over division.



Future regional entries will correct the mistake. The women's divisions will be there in print next to the men's. And so will the words "*Categories require eight player minimum.*"

Without eight players a division win has no meaning, of course, and it would be too costly for tournament sponsors to award trophies or plaques to a player — male or female — who defeated fewer than three opponents.

So from now on women will have an equal go at all age divisions in the USRA regionals. And the answer to the bottom line question — Will the division be played? — will be in the hands of the eight women who step forward to compete.



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Bette Weed Owns Her Club

She Got It in Her Decree

by Carole Chafauros

February's "Women in Racquetball" section described how females were succeeding in every phase of the racquetball business — except club ownership. Here is a report on a woman who has moved from co-owner to sole owner of her California club.

Helix Court House is your average six court racquetball facility, located in Spring Valley, CA, and average country like suburb. The people who come in to play are just average everyday hackers who want to have some fun and get some exercise at the same time. The one thing about Helix Court House that is far from average is its owner . . . Bette Weed.

The most obvious thing that sets Bette apart from most club owners is that she's a woman. In fact — as of now — Bette may be the only woman who solely owns a club.

Unlike most racquetball club owners Bette was a player first, before she became a businessperson. When Helix Court House was first built, Bette was a nationally ranked player. Most club owners are ranked Beginning Novice.

Bette Weed could also be considered a pioneer in racquetball club ownership. When Helix Court House opened in 1974, there were only two or three racquetball clubs in San Diego County. Today there are 35 and more under construction.

Even with all the new clubs Helix Court House is still one of the most respected in the county. The two tournaments Bette holds each year always draw 300 or more entrants, "I guess because mine were one of the first tournaments and everybody got used to coming to them," she adds humbly.

The members of HCH enjoy the most casual atmosphere. It's probably the only club in town where the employees play racquetball on the glass court and watch the desk at the same time (during non-prime time, that is). The members help themselves to drinks and candy and leave the money on the counter. All

of the dozens of kids who play regularly know how to answer the phone and take reservations.

Sometimes Bette wishes she had a bigger club, but she's happy owning just one. "This way I can go to tournaments and have a life of my own. I can make a decent living off of just one club anyway, so why would I want more?"

Helix Court House is Bette's only source of income since she and her husband, Chuck, split up last year after 22 years of marriage. "Chuck got the house, the boat, and the condo in Utah (which explains why Bette doesn't water ski, scuba dive, or snow ski as much anymore). All I got was the club," she adds, faking regret.

Now that the club is hers alone, Bette realizes how much Chuck did around HCH. While she did the bookkeeping, managing, and PR work, he did everything behind the scenes: maintenance, repairs, cleaning, screening T shirts and trophies. "Chuck used to say that since we bought the club he moved up in life from an engineer to a janitor," Bette laughs.

Pointing out What Needs Fixing

Luckily the members of HCH include a carpenter, a roofer, an air-conditioning repairman and an electrician. "I probably owe them dues for the next two years . . . Of course everytime Chuck comes in to play racquetball he always points out what needs cleaning or fixing and I do it."

The Weeds were married 23 years ago when Bette was 17 and still in high school. (For all you non-mathematicians, that makes her 41 years old, but you'd never

In 1971, when all players had to wear dress whites, "it was kinda nice," Bette Weed recalls. "We'd all wear our grubbies to practice in and then we'd dress up for tournaments."



guess it by looking at her, or getting on the court with her.) They have two sons: Mike, 21, and Darryl, 19. Darryl started playing racquetball seriously when he was 14 and HCH first opened.

"Darryl and I were probably the only mother-son racquetball doubles team ever. We'd enter Men's C Doubles when Darryl first started playing and entered mixed doubles, too. I used to carry him when he was crummy, but now that he's better than I am, he won't play with me anymore."

Bette has always competed against men and used to think nothing of entering men's divisions in tournaments . . . until recently. That was when her son had to play against the Women's National Champion Shannon Wright in the Men's Open.

"Darryl beat her," Bette recalls, "but he had trouble beating her. Half of it was psychological because she's a girl and half of it was because she's not fast enough to get out of the way. He did everything to keep from hitting her. He knew that the crowd would blast him if he hit a girl."

"It was a good match. They went three close games and everyone loved it, but I think even the best women (and Shannon is the best) should not compete against men in a tournament. It's not fair to the men."

The men at the Helix Court House get a good game against the owner, even though she's a woman.



—Carole Chalmers photos

Before playing the national champ Darryl used to wonder why his mother didn't win the Nationals. Now he realizes that the girls are better than he thought.

At one time, however, Bette Weed came very close to winning the Nationals, before there was any money in racquetball. It was 1971, just a year and a half after Bette began playing paddleball and just a few months after she started racquetball.

"I belonged to a swim club that had two outdoor handball courts. The owner handed me a rule book and a wooden paddle and told me she'd pay me to teach the other members.

"Then I started playing out at Grossmont College, trying to get a decent game. I beat every guy and even the coach in my class and they were using racquets against my paddle. When Mel Gorham opened the first club in San Diego, I taught clinics to be able to play there. Charlie Drake (now president of Leach Industries) was the best player around then."

After beating nearly all the men she played Bette assumed there weren't any girls she couldn't beat. She won her first tournament, the regionals, by beating Kimberly Hill, who had taken second in the Nationals the year before.

Getting by on Determination

"I think I got as far as I did on pure confidence and determination. I really didn't even know what I was doing." Jan Pasternak, who still plays professionally, beat Bette in the finals that year. Jennifer Harding, Kathy Williams, Jan Campbell (now Jan Matthews), and Janell Marriott were all in it, but lost earlier in the tournament.

"The girls were only low B players at that time. I think I play much better now, but the caliber of women's players has just gotten so good that I'm not even nationally ranked now."

In the 1972 Nationals Pasternak won again. Bette lost first round, but won the consolation with little challenge. Two years in a row Bette had a good chance of winning, but choked it. This is how Chuck Leve now *National Racquetball* editor, summed up her chances of winning the Nationals in Las Vegas:

"Bette Weed is as strong as any of the women. She's got all the good shots, but she can never keep her head together during the Nationals. She will win the locals and regionals with no problem and then choke the big one."

"You know, I never realized I had a head problem until he wrote that," Bette says. Now it really bothers me."

The one national title that Bette could have won (unless Peggy Steding entered) she decided not to try for. "I never entered Seniors because all it was was a title. The girls who won it were only C players. This year in Detroit, though, I heard that Sue Carow, who plays on the pro tour, got beat in the

Seniors. The girl who beat her finished fourth in the Open Amateurs. I don't think I could have won it. I think I'll enter Seniors next year . . . Now that I can't win it, I'll enter it," laughs Bette.

Bette won the three-wall championship in 1974, "only because Diane Heims, the former champ, was having a baby." Bette took second to Heims in 1965 and second to Martha Byrd McDonald in 1976.

Lately though Bette hasn't been playing as much. Being a club owner takes a lot of her time. Bette even joined the Atlas Health Club (site of the 1976 and 1977 Nationals) so she would have a place to play where nobody would bother her. "If I'm here, a salesman come in, the phone rings, someone wants to talk to me. I'm always looking out to see what's happening at the desk." With all the demands on her time as the club owner and manager, she eventually dropped her membership at Atlas because she rarely got a chance to play there.

Now Bette plays all the guys at her club and tries to find games with girls by playing in the Women's A/B League

"I play so much better against guys than girls. You can never choke against a guy because you're expected to lose anyway. If you're winning, the crowd's all for you. Meanwhile the guy tries to act like he's not even trying. I try to get a big lead in the beginning before he realizes he's going to have to put out in order to beat me. By then it's usually too late for him to come back.

"Young guys are easily psyched out when they play me, but older guys sometimes respect me as a player, go all out, and make it a good game."

In the future — as women gain respect both as athletes and as business people — Bette Weed will know she led the way.

Behind This Successful Club

There Are Five Friendly Women

Dear National Racquetball:

After reading your article on women who build careers in racquetball (February, 1979) I want to tell you about our facility which is run entirely by women. Our membership is over 50 percent women, and in only one year we've doubled the number of members and the court usage.

Kings Court Racquetball Club is owned by a small group of private investors and with the exception of a few part time pros and maintenance staff workers is operated by:

Darlene Yost, 22, the executive secretary to the president, who acts as liaison between the staff and owners. She started her career in management four years ago at the Billie Jean King Tennis Center.

Darlene Yost



Jean Scheffner, 23, club manager, who oversees and schedules desk and maintenance personnel, handles the payroll and helps with promotions and programs.

Jean Scheffner



Shari Liebel, 27, fulltime daytime desk person, who answers the phone, takes court and contract bookings, sells merchandise from the pro shop and generally does her best to make all our guests feel welcome.

Shari Liebel



Tammi Booser, 20, Health Spa manager, sets up programs for members and conducts exercise classes.

Tammi Booser



June Stubbe — I'm 27 and I'm racquetball director. I organize and instruct all lessons, clinics and leagues, supervise part time pros and organize and run tournaments and parties. I've been playing racquetball for 10 years and competed actively in college, but I'm content now to concentrate on helping others get the most out of their games.

June Stubbe



Chuck Morgan, president of Kings Court, says "women do a good job in operations, management and promotion because they are — as a group — more open and friendly than men, more conscientious and they're devoted to their work."

I agree. I feel our great success as a club and a business is directly related to the way the five of us run our organization.

June Stubbe
Erie, PA

Shannon Wright Swings the Longer Racquet

Shannon Wright's kill shots were out of bounds and Barbara Maltby's racquet struck air as the number one women's racquetball and squash players tried each other's games May 3 and 4 in Philadelphia at the National Battle of the Racquets.

The results in the exhibition events sponsored by racquet sports manufacturer, Slazengers, Inc., were predictable. Maltby racked up 15-5, 15-5, 15-4 victories at Center City Philadelphia's Squashcon and Wright evened up the score the following night 21-8, 21-4 at King of Prussia Racquetball Courts.

Wright, 22, who played some squash in college, had most trouble holding back on her kill shot, which has beaten dozens of opponents on the racquetball court. Wright's powerful low shots landed in the squash court's out-of-bounds area which extends 17 inches from the floor on the front wall.

At one point the longer handle of the squash racquet made Wright misjudge her distance, connect with the floor and snap the racquet midshaft. The difference between the 27 inch long squash racket and racquetball's 19 inches also caused problems for Maltby, when she whiffed the ball on Wright's familiar turf.

Wright has been playing racquetball for almost seven years, the same amount of time that 29-year-old Maltby's been a squash competitor. Maltby got ready for the May event with two weeks' lessons from Sue Kirk at the King of Prussia club.

Barbara Maltby (headband), top ranked women's national squash player, and Shannon Wright, top racquetball pro, square off in Slazengers' "Battle of the Racquets" at Philadelphia's Squashcon. Round One was the squash match, which Maltby predictably won in straight sets.



Barbara Maltby bats it out with Shannon Wright in Round Two, racquetball, which Wright won handily.

Who's Playing Racquetball?

Lizbeth Guerrina: Racquetball's in Her Picture

Five years ago Lizbeth Guerrina started her second life. She left her job as a medical technician to spend time at home with her four children and started taking their pictures — just for fun. The photos were so good they ended up in an exhibit at a local bank, and people started calling her to take shots of their children.

Now — three years later — Lizbeth has her own studio in Poughkeepsie, NY, a bookkeeper, a manager and numerous photo awards on her walls, including recognition from the 1977 and 1978 National Loan Collection. Her approach to photography — *"getting to know my subjects, so I can show their personalities"* — wins her evergrowing clientele.

How did Lizbeth get involved in racquetball?

"I visited my 75-year-old father-in-law in Arizona and watched him give the pro a good game. I take everything as a challenge. Photography is very competitive, so's racquetball — it fits my style."

Lizbeth often finds it difficult to run her business, play racquetball and still spend a lot of time with her children. But racquetball keeps her in touch with her 18-year-old son, Mario. *"Since this was his last year at home before college, I wanted to spend time with him and enjoy something together — something we could share when he comes home to visit next year."*

Racquetball filled all the qualifications. Lizbeth and her son are constant partners and play mostly in the late evening when they have the time to spend together. Lizbeth's husband, Mario senior — her other favorite partner — often joins them, and Lizbeth values this time spent with her family.

"When you have a demanding career, you never waste time — your time is precious and outside activities have to fulfill a lot."



Lizbeth Guerrina's racquetball break from her portrait photo business gives her a chance to spend time with her oldest son, Mario.



Relieving frustration, excitement of competition and sharing some fun with her family are the main reasons Lizbeth likes racquetball, but she also enjoys her post-game sauna and whirlpool at the Allsport Health and Racquet Club in Poughkeepsie. Her second career, her second sport (she'd played tennis before) make Lizbeth the enthusiastic person she is today. *"When you go around the second time, personal satisfaction is what you look for . . . you tend to do things to make yourself happy."*

—Jill Goldberg



If you know a woman who plays racquetball and whose job or hobby would make her a good subject for this series, send her name, address and phone number to Carol Brusslan, National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.



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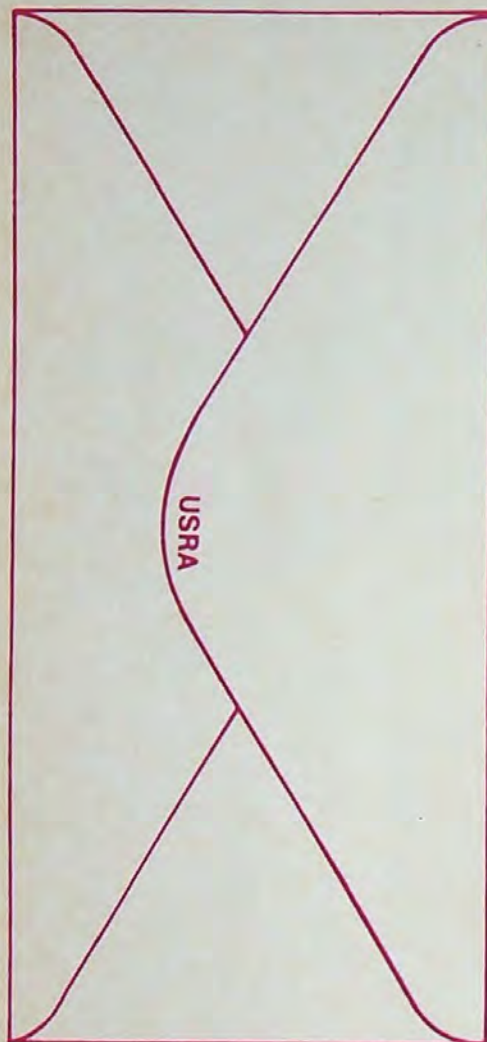
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SPALDING

Letters



Flat Balls Still Round Enough for Children

Dear Editor:

I just had a thought the other day while buying some new balls to replace some that had gone dead. Those balls still have plenty of life for a child's use. It would be great if someone at each club in the country would take a little bit of trouble to put a notice on the bulletin board, collect these "flat" balls and then get them to needy children.

Name Withheld on Request

Cover Photo Quiz . . .

You're right. Tony and Christy took off their eyeguards for the cover shot. For safety's sake National Racquetball urges all players to wear eye protection whenever they're in the court.

Super Manners

Dear United States Racquetball Association:

Thank you so much for printing that nice article about me in your magazine and for sending me those extra copies.

Naomi Super
Las Vegas, NV

Racquetball Sacrifice

Dear National Racquetball:

Best of luck to Steve Mondry who apparently does without food, socializing and much more for his one love — racquetball. [Described in National Racquetball's April story: "San Diego: Is It Worth a Trek to Mecca?"] I find this dedication admirable.

My husband and I both play and spend all of our extra saving money playing — and we thought that was a sacrifice, but we both love the game and have no intention of giving it up.

Your article makes me wonder at the people who say "I can't take the time to play." Racquetball may require some small sacrifices, but the rewards are well worth it.

Shelly Pedersen
Champlin, MN

Where to Play in Holland

Dear Editor:

I'm going to be in Holland this summer and would like to play at the courts John Parry wrote about in "The Dutch Like Racquetball" in your May issue. What's their address or phone?

Peter Meyer
Englewood, NJ

The only private courts in Europe (so far): Racketcenter Westvliet, 55 W. Vlietweg, 2267 AC Leidschendam, Holland. Phone - 07086 44 40. You might also look at the story in this issue on racquetball at U.S. bases around the Mediterranean, where a serviceman — or woman — might ask you to play if you phone the installation. ED

Public Thanks In Order in Delaware

Dear Sir:

Congratulations are in order to Russ, manager Greenville Racquetball Club; John Chelucci, pro at Greenville, and Paul Murio, (DRA President), and all the people working with assigning the courts for doing a super job in running the Delaware State Racquetball Tournament March 29-April 1. Also deserving a pat on the back were the people who kept the containers full of

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Gatorade, orange slices, raisins, etc., and for the Sunday buffet, which was delicious with plenty for everyone. Although racquetball is relatively new to Delaware, compared to the other mid-Atlantic states, there were 240 entries as compared to 64 in last year's tourney. This increase is primarily due to the opening of two new 13-court clubs in the Wilmington area. The manner in which the divisions were established was an important factor contributing to the success of the tournament. Qualifying rounds were played to establish C, B, and Open Divisions, thereby eliminating the possibilities of Open and B players entering the B and C divisions respectively.

Also not to be forgotten were the "Ultimate" trophies awarded. Thanks to John's selection, they were fantastic or should I say the "Ultimate." Imagine winning the Open, Don Little, and receiving a trophy that took up the whole back seat of your car.

Thanks are also deserving to the USRA and it's Delaware rep, Eric Faddis, for the tournament shirts and balls.

Anyone wanting information on how to efficiently run a state tournament, especially the first, contact the "Professionals" at the Greenville Racquetball Club, Wilmington, DE.

Thanks again, Russ, John, Paul and everyone involved for a fine tourney.

Robert R. Drouin
Dover, DE

Off Campus Games

Dear Editor:

Last fall's stories on college racquetball in your magazine came to my attention recently. While students at those schools play on their own courts, we at Richard J. Daley College in Chicago meet once a week at a nearby club — Evergreen Bath and Tennis — to get in our lessons and games. Our two-year-old program has been very

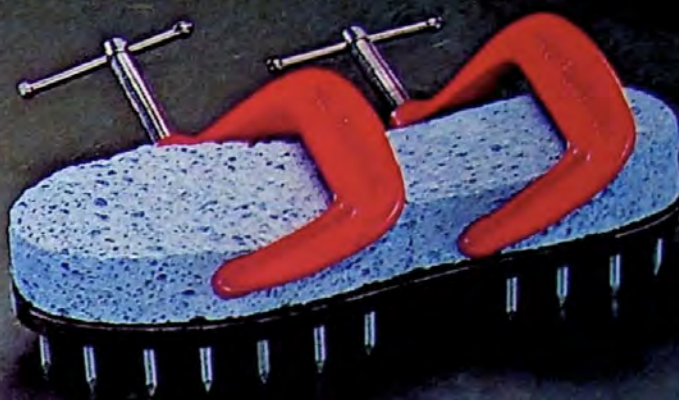


successful since Ron Kosinski, Daley College student and our racquetball club president, first approached the Evergreen club.

I'd recommend this tie-in with local clubs for other community colleges.

Robert L. Engler
Chicago, IL

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White Glass Beginning to Excite Pros

None of them are counting their chickens, but most of the professional racquetball players are crossing their fingers in anticipation of the USRA's new "white glass" system. In fact the ramifications of this new product and the effect it might have on the sport are only now beginning to be realized.

With the first installation currently being constructed in a new facility in Chattanooga, TN, (thanks to our long time friend there — Alex Guerry) the pros are eagerly awaiting their opportunity to play the court.

That opportunity will come this December when Guerry's club will host an eight player invitational tournament, including the biggest names in the game. There will be a modest \$13,000 prize money purse, but the big interest will be on the court.

Guerry chose, for a number of reasons, to install the white glass in the two side walls, leaving the front wall solid masonry and the back wall conventional glass. This, we feel, was the correct and advisable decision.

We have all been concerned about what effect an entire court of white glass would have on players — not so much in the actual playing of the rallies, but more importantly in the interaction between players and spectators as well as between players and referee.

The important thing is to be sure that the white glass be installed at those places in the court where glare and reflection cause greatest problems, i.e. the side walls. At those side walls players will see a white wall, but behind those side walls the spectators will see directly into the court without distraction.

However to fully enclose the court with white glass would cut off much of the entertainment and crowd pleasing "gamesmanship" for which so many professionals have become known. In fact it would be a trifle eerie to hear 350 hootin' and hollerin' fans going wild and look up and see nothing but white walls.

To solve that problem as well as the problem of the referee (he would sound like Big Brother himself with a baritone reverberation, leaving the players with nothing but wall with which to argue) Guerry decided to leave the rear wall conventional glass, allowing visibility out by the players.

The back wall has historically been the least difficult glass surface to play off, so the players will not be bothered by the back wall.

But what will happen? How will the play change? Who will benefit? Will control come back? Is the big serve dead? Is white glass the equalizer so many have long awaited?

The answers to these questions are, of course, still to be determined. We have only guesswork and opinions, and here are mine.

The first effect will be a general improvement in the quality of play. Few will notice this effect except the players, whose rallies will undoubtedly take longer, whose reaction time and court coverage will be better, and whose serve return capabilities enhanced.



The big serve will always be a vaunted weapon, whether wielded by Hogan, Hilecher or yet unborn racquetballers. Any offensive tool so technically superior will prevail. However at least the receiver will be able to see the serve, particularly the drives toward the crack and the surprise hard Z's. A decent serve return will allow the receiver a fair chance at the rally.

I do believe that the control players will benefit in the sense that all players are control players (they all aim for a spot and try to hit it). Since all players will have a better view of the ball, they all should be able to hit their shots more effectively.

If a player today believes that the primary reason he or she no longer has a top rank is because of visibility problems on glass, well — white glass will remove that alibi. If those same players believe that now with white glass they will be able to better cope with power players, then they have immediately improved their confidence levels and therefore their games.

Most pros are not making any special preparation for white glass, instead taking a wait and see attitude. They still are not convinced 100 percent that it will work (it does, gang, or you wouldn't be reading it here). After December, however, you can be sure that the pros will begin to formulate a game plan to include white glass, because as racquetball grows, more and more professional events will be played on the stuff.

Progress beckons. A pro will either step along with us into the future, or stand aside as we go forward. ●

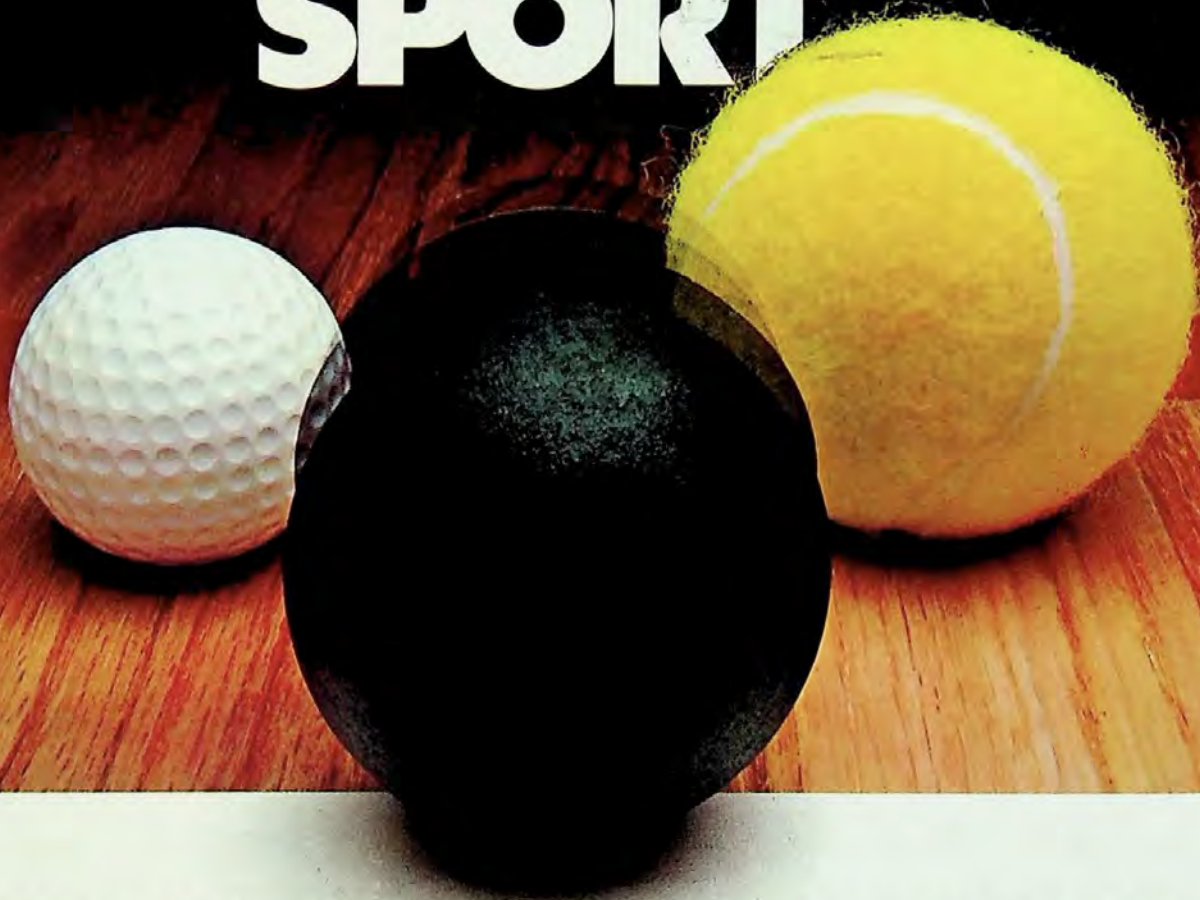


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