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Official Publication of the American Amateur Racquetball Association
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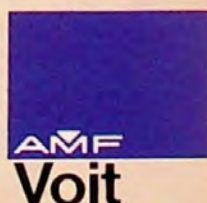
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RECEIVING LINE

Letters To The Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was first sent to the editor of National Racquetball, the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association [USRA]. We received a copy via the offices of the AARA, and we reprint the letter here because it concerns a subject which may be of interest to Racquetball readers.

We noted with interest the article which appeared in the October issue of *National Racquetball* magazine concerning the establishment of a Japanese Racquetball Association/Corporation, which lists Mr. K. Akai and Mr. Robert Kendler as directors, along with others.

We do wish the new group success. However, for the benefit of readers who

have been members of both the USRA and the AARA, we feel it necessary to point out that the article contains some errors, which we would like to correct.

First, we would like to point out that there are [already] two major groups which represent racquetball in Japan. These are the Japan Racquetball Federation and the Japan Amateur Racquetball Association. Acronyms for these groups are JRF and JARA, respectively. The latter group is a charter member, along with 12 other countries, in the new International Amateur Racquetball Federation (IARF), while the former group is the major governing body at all levels in Japan. Both of these groups not only have sound organizational structures and top level support, but are active in player development, rules development, court construction planning and other areas.

It is therefore important to understand that the new group which has recently become affiliated with the USRA is *not* the national headquarters for racquetball in Japan, nor is it involved in determining the rules for the sport here. Leadership in both of those areas is being

provided by JRF and JARA, along with many other functions.

Next, we would like to point out that although the JARA may be the first true international affiliate of the USRA, it is not the first true international affiliate for Japan. The JARA is, since it is a charter member of the new International Amateur Racquetball Federation.

We realize that communication over vast distances is still a difficult matter, even in today's technologically advanced world. This makes it even more important for those interested in healthy progress to communicate an accurate picture. Misrepresentation of facts will serve only to hinder any potential for orderly growth. ■

Hitoshi Tamari
Asst. Board Chairman
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Deputy Director, Planning
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Milton L. Radmilovich
Executive Committee Officer
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NEW DIRECTIONS

Dear Members,

In a recent Board of Directors' meeting of the American Amateur Racquetball Association, the Board voted to raise the annual membership dues by \$5 per year (coming to a total of \$15 per year). There were many reasons behind this decision, but the overriding factor, beyond inflation, is the loss of royalty revenue due to our adoption of the "open ball" policy.

When the AARA (formerly the IRA) reorganized in June of 1978, placing the association back in the hands of the players, there was an overwhelming mandate from the membership to adopt this policy of "open ball" usage. We adopted the policy in May of 1979 and thus succeeded in making our association totally independent of any manufacturer or special interest group. Since then, the new policy has been well received. Your reaction in the field tells us we are indeed heading in the right direction. However, in order to continue to expand services to our members at the same rate and quality provided in the past, we must face real economic facts—therefore, the necessary increase in membership dues.

On page 44 of this issue, we have shown over 40 advantages of being a member of the AARA. In recent months, for example, we have made available to you Hertz discounts and a special insurance program. Additional similar programs will soon be announced.

Your association's leadership does not take this increase in dues lightly, but we recognize that without it our programming will be seriously threatened. The American Amateur Racquetball Association is your association, run by you, the amateur player. It needs your continued support now through expanded membership. For, only through expanded membership can the 10.5 million amateur players have a voice in the direction and future of our great game.

Regards,

Luke St. Onge

Luke St. Onge
Executive Director

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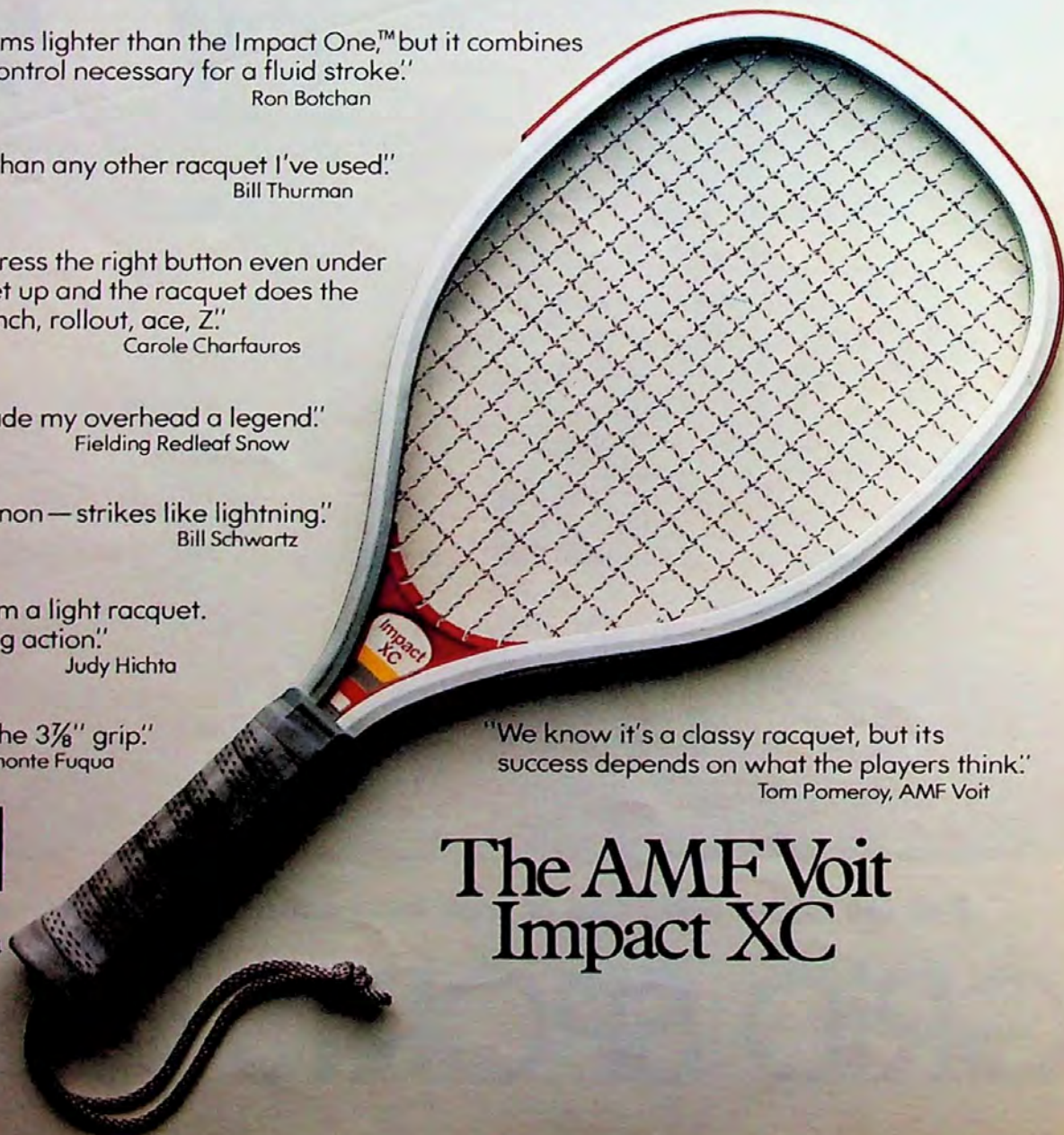
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RACQUETBALL IN JAPAN

EDITOR'S NOTE: *More and more of late, racquetball is becoming a truly international sport. Witness, for example, the recent formation of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation [IARF], which is designed to serve as the governing body for the sport on a world-wide basis. One of the charter members of that organization hails from the island nation of Japan. What follows is a report on the state of racquetball in Japan from Milton Radmilovich, one of the key movers in the development of the sport in this nation of earthquakes, cherry blossoms and—increasingly—racquetball. [For more on this subject, see "Receiving Line," page 6.]*

Japan, a country which is able to skillfully blend the best of ancient and modern worlds, has found racquetball to be a sport with great possibilities for its sports-minded people. With the establishment of both the Japan Racquetball Federation (JRF) and the Japan Amateur Racquetball Association (JARA), the country has entered the development stage in racquetball growth. Proponents hope that the game will soon be popular throughout the nation.

The JRF, which was founded nearly a year ago to serve as the governing body for racquetball in Japan, laid the groundwork for development and has provided the sport with its leadership and organizational framework. The JARA, meanwhile, was established recently to serve as the country's amateur arm, and it immediately joined 12 other countries as a charter member of the newly incorporated International Amateur Racquetball Federation.

Both the JRF and the JARA are active in player development and in many other functions, and players and officials of both groups meet monthly to develop skills in the game. Business meetings are conducted several times a week. Members of both groups, with a variety of sports backgrounds, have demonstrated that sports-minded individuals of all ages and sexes can learn to enjoy the game quickly, with very little in the way of formal instruction. Progress in the quality of play, however, is at present

limited by the lack of court facilities.

Contrary to reports which may have circulated elsewhere, there are as yet no public racquetball courts in Japan. The only courts available are those at U.S. military installations and two handball courts at YMCA facilities in Tokyo and Kobe. The JRF and the JARA have used the courts located at Yokota Air Base, Japan (on the outskirts of Tokyo), when space is available. In the meantime, both groups are hard at work developing Japanese courts which will eventually serve the needs of players.



Koto Natsuyagi, 8-year-old daughter of Japanese movie star

The groundwork laid by the JRF and the JARA has been substantial, since the game is not known widely in Japan and its development is taking place in the shadow of an immense boom in tennis throughout the country. "We think that this is not a matter of large concern," states Toshiharu Fukazawa, a key official in both the JRF and the JARA. "Both sports should be able to coexist nicely, but racquetball should show remarkable growth within the next few years."

As an example of the work already accomplished by the two groups, the official rules of racquetball have already been translated into Japanese through the assistance of members and supporters. Additionally, players have begun receiving racquetball instruction under the tutelage of the JRF and JARA's American advisor Milton Radmilovich, who works for the U.S. government in Japan and who is also on the executive committee of the IARF.

Neither the JRF nor the JARA at present have any salaried employees, and all work is done on a voluntary basis. "This may change later," says Hitoshi Tamari, assistant board chairman of the JRF and the JARA. "However, for the

time being, we think that our voluntary system will work, pending full emergence of the game on the national sports scene."

Both the JRF and the JARA have introduced racquetball successfully to Japanese athletes and sports devotees with a variety of backgrounds, including amateur wrestlers, swimming instructors, squash and tennis players, and judo, karate and kendo (a form of fencing with bamboo staves) athletes. Additionally, the groups' membership includes sports-minded movie and television stars who welcome new frontiers.

"My eight-year-old daughter and my wife both enjoyed their first exposure to the game," says Japanese film star Isao Natsuyagi, who has starred in a number of movie and television productions. "And I hope to be the first player to hit a racquetball at the South Pole, when I travel there for location shooting of scenes for the movie, *Virus*." The movie features an international cast including George Kennedy, Chuck Connors, Robert Vaughan and others.

Although they began with only two people, the JRF and the JARA have now grown to include supporting groups of at least one major company, two large health centers and several people well known in sports circles in Japan. And from the U.S., both Dr. Bud Muehleisen and AARA executive director Luke St. Onge have provided moral support. (Muehleisen is an old high school friend of Radmilovich's; racquets he provided helped get many of the Japanese players started.)

Indeed, neither JRF nor JARA officials are given to "flash-in-the-pan" approaches, although they could very easily fall prey to such tactics. "Our people are very competitive and sports-conscious," says Tamari, who is also a judo aficionado. "We think that the sport of racquetball will one day be very popular here, but we don't want it to develop in a haphazard way which will limit its potential. That's why we believe in building on a broad-based foundation and doing things right."

In a country prone to severe damage and destruction by earthquakes, and where even the heralded cherry blossoms are blown away by winds in a few short days, it appears that the JRF and the JARA have chosen the proper course of action. Before long, the results of their work could be reflected on the international racquetball scene in general, and in Japan in particular. ■



Ektelon Carries The Torch; Borg Sings for Strings

Ektelon has set fire to its old logo design. If you've noticed the sleek, new three-lined design accompanying the Ektelon name (see above illustration), you may have wondered just what it signifies. According to Ektelon, it is the "flame of excellence," derived from the meaning of the company's Greek name. The word Ektelon comes from the Greek words *ektein*—meaning "to stretch out," and *telon*—meaning "perfection." As Bud Held, president of Ektelon, puts it: "We have long searched for a symbol that represents our... philosophy of continually seeking out the ultimate in racquetball equipment design and manufacturing."

In other developments at Ektelon, four-time Wimbledon champion, Bjorn Borg, has personally endorsed the Ektelon stringing machines. In a July 4 letter to Bud Held, Borg maintained that the Ektelon stringing machine is the only machine that can string his racquets to the high tension he prefers with consistency and accuracy.

"The speed and simplicity of your machine offers the accuracy I need to fine-tune my [racquets] for world class tournament competition," Borg wrote.

The Ektelon stringing machines, according to the manufacturer, can be used to string all tennis, squash and racquetball racquets on the market.

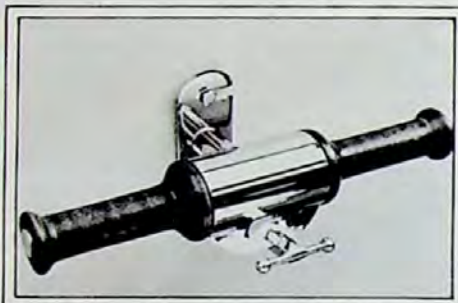
Moving Up

Ted Steinmeyer has been named sales and marketing director for Vittert Sports, an Ashland, Ohio-based manufacturer of racquetball racquets and equipment.

In his new position, Steinmeyer assumes responsibility for Vittert's total marketing program. He will direct the national sales effort and supervise new product development.

Steinmeyer comes to Vittert from Maritz Motivation Co. of St. Louis,

Mo., where he was an account manager. Formerly associated with IBM in office equipment sales, Steinmeyer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from Southeast Missouri State University.



Get Crankin'

In racquetball, a flick of the wrist can make the difference between a winner and a loser. That's why strengthening your wrist and forearm can be as important to improving your game as practicing kill shots.

Now there is a device which, according to the manufacturers, is designed specifically to build strength and flexibility in all parts of the arm. "The Cranker," as this new training tool is called, was designed by Cranker Enterprises' Chuck Carlson and functions on the principle of resistance. It is a mahogany and chrome-plated cylinder with adjustable tension, and can be used to exercise the wrist and forearm.

To use "The Cranker," the manufacturers recommend gripping it with both hands, but turning the handle in a clockwise direction with only one hand at a time. Initially, they say, the tension should be set so there is little resistance. One turn of the handle with each hand is called a "rep," and Cranker Enterprises suggests doing at least 50 reps a day.

"The Cranker," is portable, but can also be permanently mounted on a wall. It retails for \$37.95 and may be ordered, with complete instructions, from:

Chuck Carlson, Cranker Enterprises, 1152 11th Street, Manhattan Beach, Calif., 90266, or call 213-376-6129. If not completely satisfied within 30 days, Cranker Enterprises promises a full refund.

Don't Sweat It

There's good news for all you slippery fingered racquetballers out there; now you don't have to worry about flying off the handle every time you enter the court. Squid, a new company marketing racquetball products, has introduced a special "Racquetball Leash," ostensibly designed to secure your racquet to your wrist.

This lightweight nylon band is fully adjustable with a wide velcro closing. The racquet is attached to the "leash" via a short cord which, according to the manufacturer, facilitates quicker gain of control if the racquet should slip from your grip.

One size fits all, due to the adjustable band, and the "leash" can be worn over, or in addition to, a regular wrist band. Available in a variety of combinations of the colors yellow, red and blue, the band sells for a suggested retail price of \$5.50. For information, contact: Squid Athletic Designs, P.O. Box 692, Lake Arrowhead, Calif., 92352, or phone 714-337-4236. ■



Descriptions of new products are as according to information provided by the manufacturer; products have not been tested by Racquetball magazine.

SHORT LINES



True Wit

If wit is not one of your strong points, and you're prone to stealing lines from others, *The Book of Sports Quotes* presents a gold mine of opportunity for you.

This recently published book was compiled by Bert Randolph Sugar who, according to the publisher, "has been at various times, a boxer, a radio quiz kid, an ad agency executive and a lawyer." It includes such lines as this quip from Mark Twain: "It's good sportsmanship not to pick up lost golf balls while they are still rolling." These quotes, as characterized by the publisher, have been selected "for their earthy, witty, poignant contributions to the world of athletics," and were collected from a variety of sources, including sports-writers, players, coaches, judges and even Presidents.

The Book of Sports Quotes sells for \$5.95 (paperback), and is available from Quick Fox, 33 West 60th, New York, N.Y. 10023. Phone: 212-246-0325.

Southpaws Unite

There are two sides to every issue, even when it comes to playing racquetball. And that's why graduate student Charlene Grafton has formed the National Left-Handers Racquet Sports Association. (No kidding; she's serious.) According to Grafton, who's currently working on her master's degree in Sports Science at the University of West Florida, there's already a similar organization for golfers, and their mailing list exceeds 6,000. Grafton is hoping for the same type of response from racquet sports enthusiasts.

Why join? Well, Grafton says southpaws who play racquet sports will benefit from the newsletter of the organization, which is slated to make its debut early this year. As the articles will be written with the left-hander in mind, Grafton

believes members will "obtain the necessary information for learning the game more easily."

To join the organization and obtain what Grafton describes as "periodic" newsletters, send a \$3 check or money order plus name, mailing address, phone number and other pertinent information (such as your tennis rating, whether you're ambidextrous, etc.) to: National Left-Handers Racquet Sports Association, 3042 Rosa del Villa, Gulf Breeze, Fla., 35261. Or, for more information, call 904-932-3948, or 904-932-9602.

Fitness Programs Get A Lift

Dedicated fitness fanatics are always searching for that perfect training program, the most efficient means by which they can get in shape and stay in shape. Every athlete has his own favorite method, from jogging to swimming to yoga. And now comes circuit weight training: a fitness program designed around the use of weight lifting machines.

Dr. Douglas Garfield, of the Fitness Research Institute of Syracuse University in New York, recently conducted a study of circuit weight training programs using Dynamics and Dyna Cam health and fitness machines. The machines are designed and manufactured by Dynamics Health Equipment Manufacturing Co., Inc. of South Houston, Tex.

The program involved 15 different exercises conducted on a periodic basis, which were performed on a variety of weight lifting machines. In this 12-week study, Dr. Garfield observed 40 male and female subjects exercising three days a week. The subjects worked out for 30 minutes, using 15 different stations on Dynamics weight machines.

After careful evaluation of the physical changes in the subjects, the results of

this study indicate: "Circuit weight training is a well-balanced exercise program that positively affects the three basic components of total physical fitness—cardiovascular respiratory endurance, body composition and body strength."

Some of the advantages of such a program, according to Dr. Garfield's report, are that it can produce the same increase in breathing capacity as running without the accompanying stress, it is not very time-consuming (three 30 minute sessions per week is a recommended program), it contributes to total fitness by being applicable to both the upper and lower body (rather than stressing just the legs, for instance), and it is not subject to weather conditions because it is an indoor training method.

All in all, the concept of a weight machine has changed drastically in the past few years. As studies such as this one show, lifting weights can be used for more than just making larger muscles. In fact, a total, well-balanced weight program can be equally beneficial to male and female, pro and amateur alike. And it sure beats the heck out of being sideswiped by a car while jogging.

For a complete report summarizing Dr. Garfield's research, contact Dynamics Health Equipment Mfg. Co., Inc., 1538 College, South Houston, Tx. 77587, or call toll free: 1-800-231-4245.

Management Seminar Scheduled

Court Management Company, Inc., is scheduled to conduct a full-day seminar February 9 on "Developing Player Involvement Through Daytime and Instructional Programs." The seminar will be held at the company's training center in Dayton, Ohio.

Seminar content will focus on instruction as a marketing tool and filling non-prime time court hours. Instructors for the seminar are Rosie Kidd, Jim Brytus and Jim Marsh, all of whom are involved with the seven Dayton area Circuit Courts racquetball clubs. The seminar is designed for club managers, assistant managers, social directors, activity coordinators and head instructors/club pros. For registration information, contact: Rosie Kidd, Court Management Company, Inc., 10460 Miamisburg-Springboro Pike, Miamisburg, Ohio 45342, 513/885-5260.

As in the past, the February 9th seminar will be limited to 25 participants. ■

We Have Answers To Your Racquetball Questions

How long have you been playing racquetball? When was the first time you played racquetball? Is racquetball your primary sport? Other than racquetball, what is (or was) your primary sport? How often do you usually play racquetball? When you play racquetball, for how long a period do you usually play? When was the last time you played racquetball in a tournament, excluding internal club tournaments? Where do you usually play racquetball? Where would you prefer to play? If you play in a private court, about how much in membership fees do you pay each year? On the average, about how many dollars per hour do you pay for court costs when you play racquetball? What is the brand name of the racquet you use most frequently when you play racquetball? Which brand ball do you usually use when you play racquetball? What color ball do you prefer to play with most often when you play racquetball? Are the shoes you usually wear to play racquetball special racquetball shoes or other shoes? What is the brand of shoes you usually wear when you play racquetball? What is the brand of gloves, if any, that you usually wear when you play racquetball?

Plus complete player demographic profile.

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Data gathered from a mailing to 3,000 racquetball players. Inquiries for customized questions on future surveys are welcome.

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It's estimated that over 42 million American men, women, and children will be enjoying the recreational benefits of racquetball and rollerskating in the year 1980. It is no coincidence that these are the two fastest-growing sports for all ages and the fastest-growing investment return opportunity. Americans in the 80's will have more leisure time than ever before, so sports and recreation facilities will be very attractive investment packages.

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• People • To • Watch • In •

O kay, so we know we're asking for trouble. We know that anytime anybody makes a list about anything—restaurants, movies, baseball players, whatever—somebody or some place or something *won't* be included. Which means that somebody else, somewhere, will be upset because his favorite person or place or thing wasn't on the list. We know that. But after weeks of interviews, research, phone calls, evaluation, reevaluations, listing and more listing, not to mention a few heated "discussions" among the staff,

'80

the people shown here seemed to stand out from the rest. On these six pages are the people with the plans, the talent, the money, the records, the

power and the ideas that we think will be of particular interest to racquetballers during the coming year. Did we leave anybody out? Sure. But there's only so much room, and besides, in the final analysis compiling any kind of list is largely a matter of playing your hunches. So that's what we did. Some of the faces here are familiar, others completely unknown. But all are worth keeping an eye on this year, and in each case we tell you why. Herewith, then, is our list of People To Watch In '80. It promises to be an interesting year for racquetball, the start of an even more interesting decade.



Bob Kendler is arguably the most controversial figure in racquetball. His autocratic rule over the United States Racquetball Association (USRA) and the National Racquetball Club (NRC) has made him a saint in some quarters and a pariah in others, depending on whom you talk to. Well, sports fans, guess what? Things aren't likely to change much this year. Kendler is still liable to be *the* man to reckon with in the rough-and-tumble world of racquetball politics, and as such he could continue to have a significant impact on the direction and development of the sport. Kendler also has a penchant for finding the nearest fight, and he's already got some real

doozies lined up for 1980. The most immediate skirmish figures to be over rival professional tours now being planned by both the men and women pros, while a more long-range and potentially more serious battle is shaping up in the form of a lawsuit filed against Kendler and the NRC by Dr. Bud Muehleisen. Either way, you can be sure that Bob Kendler will get in his licks, and the resulting fracas should make for an interesting spectacle—that is, if you go in for that kind of thing. Popcorn, anyone?

"At first I was really skeptical that the women would travel," says Maureen Boulette, tournament director for the Women '80 Tournament, "that they would come to Boston and stay overnight." Boulette needn't have worried; fully 200 women racquetball players from throughout New England are expected to converge upon the Boston Tennis Club February 8-10 for this premier women's event. And as tournament director for possibly the largest women-only tournament in the country and also AARA state director for Massachusetts, Boulette could have both a regional and national impact on the development of women's racquetball. Her goals for this year: eliminating vestiges of discrimination in prizes and seeding for women in tournaments in Massachusetts; making the Women '80 Tournament as independent as possible, so that "the women run their own tournament;" and attracting new players—both men and women—to the game. All laudable

New Year's resolutions.



When Charles S. 'Chuck' Leve left his position as national director of the USRA to become executive director of the National Court Clubs Association (NCCA), it's safe to say that more than a few eyebrows were raised. After all, the USRA/NRC was ostensibly where the "action" was, and Leve is a man who likes to be in the thick of things. But those who expected Leve to quietly fade into the sunset at the NCCA had better think again. Because Leve has big plans for the NCCA, not the least of which is making the organization much more visible—and vocal—in the



racquetball world. The NCCA's opinions should be heeded in determining the future direction of the sport, Leve says, "and I'll tell you one thing, we will be saying them." Other plans in the works for 1980: a national NCCA trade show and convention scheduled for January 18-22, with some 400 court club owners, operators and managers expected to attend; a new deal with the Avis Rent A Car company providing for a 25 per cent discount for NCCA members and members of NCCA clubs; and increasing NCCA membership from about 300 to at least 500 by the end of the year. Obviously, Chuck Leve isn't taking this "quiet man" stuff seriously.

Some people think *Luke St. Onge* is a monomaniac—just because he lives and breathes racquetball 24 hours a day. But, this admittedly somewhat single-minded executive director of the AARA has proven to be more than just talk. In the 18 months that he has headed the AARA, St. Onge has restored the vital signs of what was an almost lifeless amateur organization and set it back on its feet. And he's not through yet. St. Onge still has a number of tricks up the sleeves of his warm-up, and 1980 looks to be the year a few of them will materialize. For example, St. Onge expects to see the International Amateur Racquetball Federation expand this year from its

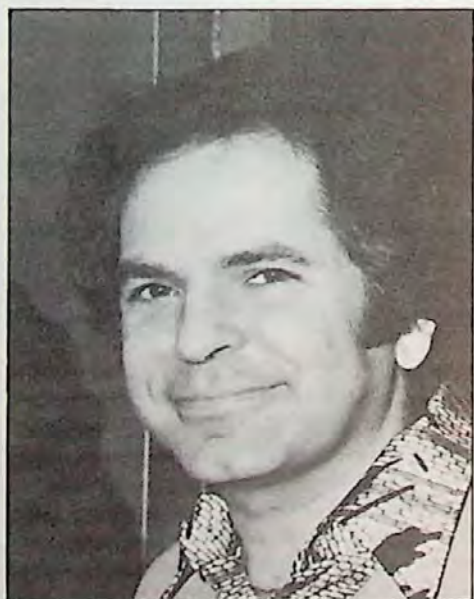
present membership of 13 countries to 19. He's also "working diligently to see racquetball become part of the Olympic movement." St. Onge further predicts a "dramatic and rapid increase in AARA membership [in 1980], which will include not just tournament players, but everyday and beginning players as well." And he'll continue to promote the sport at the grass roots level, by working on programs in elementary and high schools, thus setting up a "feeder" system of younger players that will insure the future security of the sport. With all of this activity planned, St. Onge should be a good person to watch in 1980, that is, if you can keep up with him.



Any list about practically anything in racquetball has to include *Marty Hogan*. Beginning his sixth year on the pro tour, Hogan is, quite simply, the best there is. Top money winner on the pro circuit, National Champion for the second straight year and the most recognizable figure in racquetball, Hogan will clearly be the player to beat this year. Oh, sure, he's lost a couple of matches lately (most recently, a semifinal loss to Davey Bledsoe in the Tanner/Coca Cola Racquetball Classic; see page 37), and there is hopeful talk among some of the other men pros that perhaps the *enfant terrible* is beginning to mellow and thus become more susceptible to defeat. But don't you believe it. The reason Hogan hasn't seemed to possess his usual fire of late is probably due more to boredom than to any serious deterioration in his game. (Let's face it, even winning can get kind of "old" after a while.) Hogan's



serve-and-shoot power game is still the way to win on the pro circuit, and Hogan still plays it better than anybody. So look for more of the same this year. Also, look for Hogan in the finals of ABC-TV's World Superstars competition, scheduled for February 5-7 in the Grand Bahama Islands.



Ray Mitchell must feel a little like Daniel in the lion's den. As head of the Racquetball Association of Illinois (RAI) and the AARA's (formerly the IRA) state director in Illinois, Mitchell operates literally in the backyard of Bob Kendler's rival United States Racquetball Association. But if

Mitchell is worried about being enveloped by the shadow of the Kendler forces, he's not letting on. Instead, Mitchell continues to forge new ground for the AARA in a state where it was once virtually dormant. In February, for example, he has scheduled the first AARA state doubles championships in Illinois, to be followed in March by only the second AARA Illinois state singles championships. Plus, in his new role as AARA Midwest regional commissioner, Mitchell plans an AARA membership drive in 1980 promoted through his monthly newspaper, *Racquetball Everyone*. And, perhaps even more significant, Mitchell plans to meet this month with representatives of the USRA to coordinate the USRA and RAI tournament schedules, thus ostensibly avoiding scheduling conflicts. Now how's that for starting off the New Year right?



LARRY KUZNEWSKI

Heather McKay—the name has dogged the thoughts of women squash players for almost two decades. And now, after 17 years of squash, in which she won 20 world amateur championships, lost only four games and never dropped a match, McKay is spreading her wings a little. Nowadays, the 38-year-old wonder woman is proving herself a contender to be reckoned with on the racquetball court as well. In fact, many observers of the pro scene pick McKay as the heir apparent on the women's pro circuit. Witness, for example, the testimony of fourth-ranked pro, Sarah Green, who recently defeated McKay in the finals of the Tanner/Coca Cola Pro/Am: "When Heather incorporates more 'kill' shots into her game, and she'll

have to force herself to learn to do it, we're all in trouble. It took the rest of us a long time to do what she's done in a couple of years. . . By the end of the year she may be the best player around." Need we say more?

Keith Calkins may have one of the toughest jobs in racquetball. As AARA national rules commissioner, Calkins has the unenviable task of trying to bring a sense of order and uniformity to a sport that has long been noticeably lacking in both qualities. After all, the quickest way to pick a fight with a racquetball player is to dispute his interpretation of the rules. Calkins hopes to help alleviate this situation in 1980, with the development of a case book for interpretation of AARA rules. The case book would serve as a supplement to the official rule book, containing examples of various situations that might arise during a match and a guide as to how to interpret the rules in those situations. Calkins says his committee will also be working to "clean up" the AARA rule book this year, so that a player can "play the same game in Florida that he plays in California." Oh, yes, there's one other thing. Calkins has expressed an interest in a "leadership role" with the AARA in 1980. By that, he means no less than the AARA presidency, which will come up for grabs again in May when the association's board of directors meets in Miami during the national singles championships. There may be other candidates for the top job, of course, so that Florida meeting figures to be especially important for both Calkins and for the future direction of the AARA.



When it comes to women's racquetball, Dan Seaton isn't just another pretty face. Seaton is commissioner of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA), a newly-formed organization which hopes to really get off the ground in 1980. According to Seaton, this rival of the current pro tour plans to "do for women in racquetball what has already been done for women in golf and tennis,"—that is, provide prize money and publicity equivalent to that already enjoyed by their male counterparts. And it looks like they're off to an auspicious start, with two tournaments already scheduled for early this year and a good chance of securing sponsors for several more. The WPRA already boasts most of the top women pros among its members, and Seaton hopes it will soon have something to offer amateurs as well. With plans for a network of women's clinics, qualifying schools where women can learn to teach, coach and referee, and a full circuit of tournaments for women, Seaton expects to see a whole new job market created, a sort of mini economic boom.

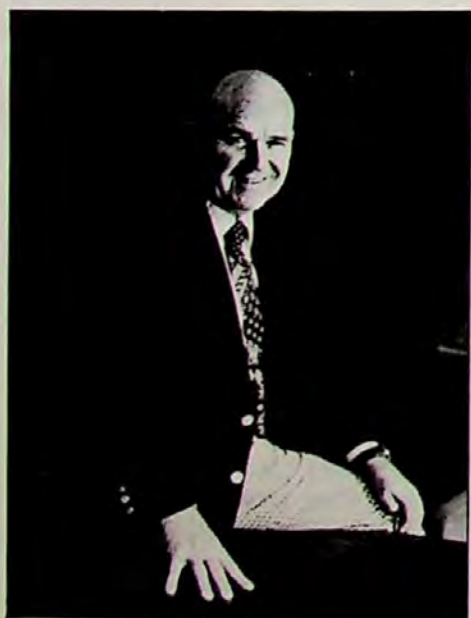
(Also worthy of note is the possibility that the WPRA tour will be joined this year by a new men's pro tour as well. It's called "spreading the wealth.")

To the casual observer, Sheryl Ambler often gives the impression of being a relaxed, laid-back kind of athlete who doesn't really care about winning. But, whether she cares or not, Ambler *does* win. For once she gets on the court, her apparent apathy is transformed into a fierce com-

CAROLE CHARF AURIOS

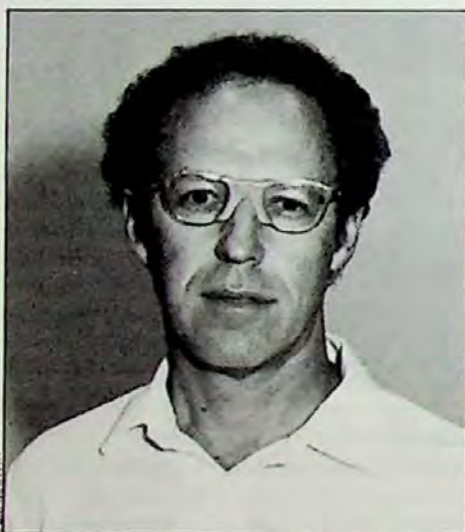


petitiveness, which probably accounts in part at least for her surprising win in the Women's Open division of last year's AARA National Singles Championships. Oddly enough, Ambler just happened upon racquetball, much as one happens upon a good book—she started it and couldn't quit. Most of her competitors on the women's amateur circuit, though, probably wish it actually had been a book, instead of a racquet, that Ambler picked up during an idle moment a year or so ago. And now, after her first taste of national victory last year, Ambler appears ready to add another chapter to her racquetball diary for 1980. Chances are, it will be a winning entry.



Charles A. 'Chuck' Spaulding can

manage. To be specific, Spaulding's burgeoning Spaulding Racquetball Clubs, Inc., currently manages 22 racquetball clubs, located in six different states. And 1980 looks to be another vintage year for this organization, one of the largest racquet sports chains in the country. Spaulding says he will "proceed cautiously" this year—which means he will avoid the high costs of construction by not building any new clubs. However, he admits he's not adverse to the thought of expanding by incorporating a few more existing clubs. To what does Spaulding attribute his success? Two things—clubs that offer a wide variety of fitness programs and managers who know how to promote the business. So, while this may be a lean year for many, look for rosy cheeks and bulging wallets in the Spaulding organization.



It's tough to be a living legend, but it's even tougher to beat one. At least that's what Eugene Fred 'Dr. Bud' Muehleisen has proven. Muehleisen's 10-year involvement with racquetball has certainly been extraordinary—including everything from racquet designing to coaching to promoting to formulating rules for the sport—but his ability to play the game stands out above all else. Muehleisen holds an unprecedented record of 41 national titles that is not likely to be threatened in 1980. In fact, at the age of 48, Muehleisen won five national titles last year. So, unless the retired dentist plans to retire from racquetball as well, we expect him to continue to reign as master of the Masters.



Raetke Mueller may be destined to become the Luke St. Onge of European racquetball. Mueller is president of the European Racquetball Federation (ERF), which is based in Geneva, Switzerland, where he spends only half of his time. The rest of the time Mueller is traveling, either in Europe or the U.S., promoting racquetball to everyone who'll listen. The listeners include investors and promoters as well as players. A shrewd businessman, Mueller knows he can learn from the mistakes Americans made when the sport was just beginning to grow in this country. So, he's also asking a lot of questions during his travels. And, in order to start things right, he's seeking American investors to begin building court facilities in Europe, encouraging Americans to teach the sport to Europeans and he also intends to make the ERF's guidelines for rules, court sizes and equipment the same as those in America. Although there are few courts in Europe (four in Holland, two in France), outside of those on American military bases, Mueller believes there's a great deal of interest in the sport. Witness, for example, the scheduled opening of a new 10-court facility in Hamburg, Germany this year. And, in addition to Mueller's work in Europe, another overseas racquetballer, Milton Radmilovich, is finding similar success in his promotion of the sport in Japan. (See page 11.) Looks like international travelers of the '80s will be packing their racquets...

KIP BRUNDAGE



Every sport has its eccentrics, those unorthodox free spirits who make the game just a bit more interesting. And in racquetball, *Steve Keeley* comes about as close as anybody to qualifying as the game's reigning crazy. Not that Keeley is really crazy. On the contrary, he's a qualified veterinarian, a shrewd businessman, a published author and a tough competitor on the men's pro circuit. It's just that Keeley has been known to do some... well, *unusual* things. Like the time he rode his bicycle from Michigan to Tennessee just to compete in a tournament. Or like living in an unheated garage. Or like sleeping in his clothes. Or like taking down notes on his arm. Or like... well, you get the idea. So, for those poor misguided souls out there who still think racquetball is boring, here's a word to the wise: Keep a close eye on Steve Keeley this year; then think again.

Ed Martin is a man who likes to get to the root of things. And that's why his new position as national junior commissioner for the AARA is so appropriate. In this position, Martin will be able to work at the grass roots level to improve the lot of junior racquetballers everywhere. He'll be working with nine regional commissioners under the auspices of the AARA to make some definite changes this year. First, he's planning an organized circuit of tournaments for

juniors throughout the country. To encourage court clubs to hold these tournaments, Martin will make available a knowledgeable team of people who will assist in the planning and implementation of the tournaments. And that's not all; come summer, Martin says there will be a whole slew of clinics available to instruct juniors. Any "promising" juniors will be assisted in securing good professional coaching and publicity, he adds. Finally, although juniors will continue to be just another division in state tournaments, Martin plans to hold both regional and national tournaments for juniors only. So, as far as Ed Martin is concerned, after 1980 junior racquetball will no longer be just child's play.



This is the year *Mike Levine* will turn 16. Anyone who's faced him on the racquetball court over this past year knows it won't be "sweet sixteen," unless, of course, "sweet" refers to the sweet taste of victory. Last year, at 15, Mike Levine was the AARA Boys 15-and-under national champion, the New York state Men's Open champion, and the youngest player to ever win the Men's Open division of the Nittany Lion Open tournament. So, what will Levine be doing in 1980? No doubt, adding a few more trophies to his collection. As a junior in high school, Levine should be well on his way to reaching his long-standing goal of becoming a professional athlete.

LARRY KUZNEWSKI



With a serve-and-shoot style of play that is remarkably similar to Marty Hogan's, we expect Levine to continue to discourage potential foes from trying to derail his climb to the top of the amateur ladder, as he recently "discouraged" tough challenger Brett Harnett in the semifinals of the Tanner/Coca Cola Classic, by scores of 21-8, 21-2. Happy birthday, Mike.

Bob Petersen is quickly becoming the Fred Silverman of racquetball. His efforts at getting the game national television exposure, while not exactly dominating the Nielsen ratings, nevertheless represent a considerable advance for a sport rarely seen on the home screen. First, there was Peter-



[cont. on p. 36]



RACQUETBALL 2000

A FANTASY

January 1, 2000 A.D. It's a beautiful day, crisp and cold, not a cloud in the sky. A great day to kick off the new century. But for Robert Martin, it's just another work day. Martin is chief tour guide at the famed Museum of Racquetball History, and New Year's Day is always one of the museum's busiest times. "Where do they all come from," Martin wonders as he prepares to conduct his fifteenth tour of the day. Pausing a moment to make sure he has everyone's attention, Martin begins his monologue—slowly, measuredly, confidently. It's a familiar spiel, one he has done many times before. . . .

"Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the Museum of Racquetball History. Are we all wearing our two-ply radial racquetball shoes—courtesy of the House of Henri, the last word in racquetball apparel? Good. You might well ask why the museum requires you to wear these shoes during your tour. The reason is simple. The floors of our galleries are very special: they're made of wood. Yes, wood—the very same material from which the earliest

racquetball court floors were fashioned. Wood—which since the Oil Apocalypse of '88 has been forbidden for building purposes and is now available only as a fuel.

"Thanks to a special dispensation steered through the U.S. Congress in 1994 by then-Senator Milton 'Kill Shot' Meeker, the builders of our museum were allowed to use this precious material in the interests of authenticity. Other than the museum's full-scale replica of an ancient right-angled court—which we shall see later—there is only one other wooden-floored court in the country: the one President Meeker installed four years ago in the rec room at the White House. As we tour the museum, think what it must have been like for the early greats of our national pastime to have played the game on a surface cut from living trees. Those of us accustomed to modern day silicoid courts might well shake our heads in wonder.

"Speaking of the greats of racquetball history, let me now draw your attention to the ceiling of this, our entry-way rotunda. The painting you see far above us is titled 'The Roll-Out of Creation.' The main figure of the painting—the one whose right hand is reaching out to inspire new life into the reclining athlete

and whose left hand cradles an ancient racquet—is of course the Father of the Game, Joe Sobek. A moment of silence is traditional among those who view the painting, for it was Sobek who saved us from the tyranny of that barbaric sport which but for him might have flourished in the land. I am speaking, as you know, of handball, which is now outlawed in civilized nations. Note the swollen palms of the reclining player, the agony as he extends his bruised fingers for healing and inspiration. Surely, 'Holy Joe' Sobek is worthy of such a memorial.

"The more astute among you, by the way, might recognize the painting as the work of the game's most renowned artist: Pablo 'Off the Wall' Warhol. Pardon me, sir? Yes, that's right, the same Warhol who first conceived—and so brilliantly executed—the notion that the walls of a racquetball court could be done in pastels. His genius lay in perceiving that turquoise walls, or pink, or plum purple, or any combination of colors, would add immeasurably to the pleasures of what was fast becoming a stuffy sport. Imagine being denied the challenge of playing on a purple court with a purple ball. How far our sport has come, so far in fact that the latest Nielsen ratings show that the 'Friday

BY ED WEATHERS

Night Shoot-Out' is TV's top-rated show. Now that's progress!

"But let us move on, into the first of the museum's two main galleries: 'The Hall of Celebrities.' Please feel free to ask questions at any time. . .

"This is 'The Hall of Celebrities,' funded by a grant from *People* magazine. Behind the glass of each exhibit is depicted in wax a scene featuring a major figure in the history of the sport.

"Here, for example, is shown Bob 'Call-Me-Godfather' Kendler, the undisputed patriarch of the racquetball world, as he gives audience to a line of the racquetball faithful who have come forward to kiss his white glove in exchange for his sanctioning their tournaments. It is said—though it is just rumor, mind you—that Kendler finally consolidated his power in the racquetball world on a January weekend way back in 1982, when he invited the heads of the 13 rival racquetball associations to his mansion for a 'Summit Tournament' and then arranged a round-robin, quadruple-elimination event that so wore down the competitors, none of whom could summon the courage to quit in mid-tournament, that all but one collapsed from exhaustion and gave up the game for life. Kendler himself, pleading that *someone* had to officiate, did not play, and was left to pick up the pieces.

"Our next exhibit shows the one man who continues to challenge Kendler's rule: Luke St. Onge, who has for all these years remained executive director of the now outlawed American Amateur Racquetball Association. Periodically, 'St. Luke' and his hardy band of followers emerge from obscurity to challenge the very principles upon which the game is now founded. They believe, for example, that 12-year-olds should not accept \$500,000-per-year endorsement contracts from equipment companies, that silver plaques and a love of competition alone would induce a racquetballer to spend a weekend playing in a tournament, and—believe it or not—that some people would actually pursue the sport if no prizes of any kind were involved. What's that? No, son, I'm not making this up; some of the more radical of the sect actually believe such things. Here we see St. Luke spray-painting a court wall with the famous amateur underground slogan: 'Down With Money!' Shall we move on?

"Here is depicted 'The Greatest Sportsman the Game Has Ever Known.' That's right—Marty Hogan. Legend has it that in his younger days Hogan was a hot-headed kid whose matches were best played in opaque courts, lest his gestures offend the spectators. It is also said that he won by simply creaming the ball.

Perhaps there is some small hint of truth in the legends. But today, of course, Hogan, the crafty veteran, is known as a master of the ceiling ball who is so addicted to fair play that on the final point of the 1986 World Championships, he called a skip on his own apparent roll-out winner. There was some question at the time about whether this was a proper precedent to set for the younger players in the crowd, the media being especially concerned that the sport would lose its 'color' if everyone adopted such behavior. As we have seen since, of course, they needn't have been con-



At the dawn of the 21st Century, Bob 'Call-Me-Godfather' Kendler is the undisputed patriarch of the racquetball world, Luke 'St. Luke' St. Onge is the rebel leader of the banned AARA and Marty Hogan is the game's most well-mannered player.



cerned. Here we see Hogan smiling graciously as he extends a hand to congratulate his victorious opponent.

"I suggest you take a few minutes to wander around 'The Hall of Celebrities.' Among the greats you will see are:

"Charlie Brumfield, still playing at the age of 50 and ranked fifth for the twentieth consecutive year. . .

"Fletcher X Nevers, whose California court club enjoyed notoriety in the late '80s for developing a version of the sport that was played without balls and with unstrung racquets. 'Gutless' Nevers preached that racquetball in its purest form was 'all in your mind. . .'

"And Hall of Famer Bud Muehleisen, shown here holding a copy of his degree from dentistry school.

Muehleisen, you will recall, was a dentist by training, and he carried his degree around with him to racquetball tournaments to remind everybody to call him 'Dr. Bud. . .'

"Not to mention 'Shotgun' Shelley Killroy, who in 1990, unbeknownst to the tournament's sponsors, entered herself in the U.S. Men's Racquetball Championships. Her treachery was not discovered until she stepped up to the victory stand to collect her first place check for \$1.2 million. There she proceeded to thank all those who had helped her, including her husband Lavell, who, she explained, had watched the kids while she practiced. She was of course banned from the game for life.

"Enjoy a few minutes on your own. We will meet back here in five minutes to go into the 'Hall of Artifacts. . .'



"This, ladies and gentlemen, is the 'Hall of Artifacts.' Here we find examples of the earliest racquetball equipment and clothing, preserved intact for posterity.

"This display, for example, tells the history of the racquetball ball. This black, mushy, tangerine-sized object is a sample of the earliest racquetballs. For nearly 20 years, this was standard equipment for the sport. One wonders how the game survived during an era which showed so little imagination.

"Next is this group of balls, which emerged in the late '70s. The same size and compression as the first balls, they suggest the sport's first tentative gropings toward color. A cautious blue here, a blushing plum there. Hardly daring.

"The first major attempt to revolutionize the game came with this next ball. You will notice that it is much smaller than the others—no bigger than a lemon—and that it is pure white. By 1983, adherents of the game had grown so proficient that they killed virtually every shot they got their racquets on. This ball was developed to make the game challenging again. Here, bounce it. Whoops! See? Drop it from your head and it bounces back up to your nose. Because of its action on sidewall shots, it was known as the ZZZZZZ-Ball. Its brief vogue ended, though, in 1987 with the Supreme Court case of *Bushy vs. Kangaroo Courts*, when the Justices ruled that the club was indeed liable for multiple contusions suffered by one of its patrons in a fastest-serve contest.

"But racquetballs were never again the same. Here is the famous Seamco Square Ball, for example; when it hit the corner, it stayed there—hence the term 'stuck shot.' Here, the Fosdick

Phosphorous Ball, developed in the late '80s when the Energy Apocalypse was at its worst and the game was often played in the dark. And here, the 10-pound Macho Ball, popular with professional football players, weight lifters, Japanese sumo wrestlers and other such hair-on-the-chest types.

"The history of racquets is likewise shown in our exhibits here—from the primitive, club-like wooden weapon of the sport's early days to the elegant lines of the \$52,000 Steuben Double-Swan All-Glass Tempered model that is the latest fashion today. Look around for yourselves, though I suggest you pay particular attention to those instruments which reflect the interface of technology and sport: the IBM-Polaroid Spock I model, a sonar-directed, computerized racquet which so simplified the sport that even Charlie Garfinkel could play; Leach Industries' Razor's Edge model, a nifty little racquet with super sharp edges designed to discourage opponents from hindering; and the racquet of the future—Spalding's Lodestone I, which employs a strict magnetic field instead of strings, thereby, it is said, increasing the size of the 'sweet spot' by as much as 50 per cent.

"Elsewhere in this gallery are a variety of other racquetball equipment and assorted paraphernalia. In this case, for example, are the original laboratory notes of Professor Earl Dunnin, the inventor of 'Oh Wow!', the high-potassium drink with the secret ingredient that made cramps a thing of the past. Like thousands before you, you might wish to puzzle over the last page of those notes—never deciphered—which is believed to contain the antidote to the bizarre side effects of the drink when taken in excessive doses. Professor Dunnin himself is thought to have died of such an overdose. He was discovered one morning sprawled on the floor of his private court, racquet in hand, a smile on his face. His invention is now strictly regulated and dispensed in small quantities to competitors before each tournament match. It is said a cult has grown up around the drink in Malibu, where glassy-eyed zealots are periodically found running through the streets wearing inner tubes from the tires of a 1954 Desoto and shouting, 'Side out! Side out!'

"There are other interesting exhibits here. So take a few moments to look around if you like; there's no hurry. When you're finished, we'll move on to the high point of the tour—'The Authentic Right-Angled Court. . .'

time. Follow me. . .

"Around this corner and. . .voila! What you see through this glass wall, ladies and gentlemen, is an exact replica of an original racquetball court. Don't crowd, now. You'll all get your chance. Excuse me, sir? Oh! Ha ha! Yes, it is a bit like seeing a log cabin, isn't it? Notice the primitive shape, the bland coloring,—but, ah, the exquisite wooden floor! That little door in the back court? Why, son, that's how they entered! In their naivete, the pioneers of



In 1983, a pentagon-shaped court was introduced. It was followed by circular courts, square courts, trapezoidal courts and a booming courts-made-to-order business.



the sport believed that it was impossible to design a full-size door that could provide an even bounce. Consequently, that little door was responsible for millions of claustrophobics never even trying the game and is said to have retarded the development of racquetball by at least 20 years. However, it was certainly the *shape* of the court that most demanded reform. That elongated cube gave rise to the saying, 'The only thing worse than being stuck in concrete shoes is being stuck in a concrete-shoebbox racquetball court!'

"But in 1983, Euclid K. A. Kopernak developed a pentagon-shaped court that began a revolution in court designs. This

pioneering effort was followed by a number of spin-offs (the Trollop Trapezoid and the Gonzo Circle, to name just a couple), until today we have adjustable courts which can be shaped to suit any player's fancy. This year, for example, the National Championships will be played on three differently shaped courts—each player getting a chance to choose one of the courts for the first two games of a match, while the tiebreaker will be played on a court chosen at random by the tournament director. Compare this with the situation that prevailed in the sport's early days, when *all* matches were played on courts that were virtual duplicates of the one you see before you now. The modern mind boggles at our forefathers' capacity to endure such regimentation. Let us reflect for a moment on our good fortune in living in the flexible, exciting world of the 21st Century. . .

"It is time now to end our tour. Please feel free to wander about the museum at your leisure. As you leave, you may pick up your street shoes at the back counter. And before you go, please check out our gift shop and newsstand. There you will find the latest in racquetball memorabilia, including postcards showing action photos of last month's U.S.-Iranian racquetball exhibition, as well as recent issues of the 56 different racquetball publications. (My employer has requested that I draw your attention to two publications in particular. First, please note the latest copy of *Racquetball Illustrated*, which features as its cover story an interview with Fidel Castro, part of the magazine's special 'Racquetball In the Third World' issue. Then there's *Racquetball*, the most prestigious of the sports magazines, which this month features such timely and relevant articles as 'Why Breathing Is Bad for Your Game,' 'Racquetball in Mongolia,' and an *exclusive* interview with John R. Slabovsky, a Brooklyn delicatessen owner who has never played the game but would like to. What's that, sir? Oh, yes, there was once a magazine like the one you described. I think it was called... *National Racquetball*. But it evolved many years ago into a combination beauty guide-cookbook-religious primer and consequently no longer covers the sport, something which its competitors claimed it never did, anyway.)

"Thank you for your kind attention. If you have enjoyed today's tour, please tell your friends. Remember, it's people like you who have made our national pastime what it is today. You know what they say, 'A Racquet A Day Keeps the Blues Away.' Ha, ha.

"Thank you again for your attention. Gratuities will be accepted."

"Back so soon? Then let's not waste

RACQUETBALL

JANUARY 4-6

Auburn Open Regional (3)
Auburn University
Auburn, AL
Tournament Director:
John Jordan or Gary Bell
205-895-6144

Northern California Junior
Racquetball
Championship (2)
Sun Oaks Racquet Club
3452 Argyle
Redding, CA 96001
Ed Martin
916-221-4405

JANUARY 11-13
9th Annual Cowboy Open (3)
O.K. State University
Colvin Center
Stillwater, OK
Bill Wallace
405-624-7406

For Seniors Only
30+, 35+, 40+, & 45+
Sun Oaks Racquet Club
3452 Argyle
Redding, CA 96001
Tournament Director:
Ed Martin
916-221-4405

Mason Dixon Invitational
Greenville Racquetball Club
3700 Kennett Pike
Greenville, DE 19807
Tournament Director:
D.C. Lantz or
John Chelucci
302-654-2473

Maine State
Championship (2)

JANUARY 25-27

ORT Open (3)
Racquetball & Handball
Center
9651 Glenfield Ct.
Houston, TX 77096
Bruce Hendon
512-340-0364

Pepsi Challenge (3)
Worcester Court Club
Worcester, MA
Tricia Nosek
617-852-8209

2nd Annual Winter Warm-Up
Heart Fund Benefit (3)
Jacksonville Racquetball
Club
Jacksonville, FL
Ray Ashworth
904-724-6994

Rockville Courts Royal
Maryland State Doubles
Tournament Director:
Tom Whipple

World's Best Racquetball
Tournament (3)
Capitol Courts
Sterling, VA
Tournament Director:
Sue Graham
703-430-0666

FEBRUARY 1-3

6th Annual Big Orange
Racquetball Tournament (1)
University of Tennessee
Memphis, TN
Tournament Director:
Dave Mullinax
901-528-5613

FEBRUARY 15-17

The Bentley Club Winter
Classic (3)
The Bentley Club Courts
Harrisburg, PA
Tournament Director:
John Friend
717-545-4231

9th Connecticut Open (3)
Site to be announced
Tournament Director:
Phil Panarella
203-229-0526

Washington Birthday
Open (3)
Merry Meeting Racquetball
Club
Topsham, ME 04086
Tournament Director:
Bruce Lewis
207-773-6438

Muscular Dystrophy Charity
Open (3)
Co-sponsored by WJAR and
Coca Cola
Playoff Racquetball Club
East Providence, RI
Dennis Culberson
401-434-3600

Club House Open (3)
Dodge City Club
House, Inc.
Comanche & Ave. F
Dodge City, KS 67801
Steve Westphal
316-225-0206

FEBRUARY 22-24
Racquetball Northeast Grand
Prix (3)
Racquetball International
Tournament Director:

Pennsylvania State
Championship
Singles and Doubles (2)
Allentown Racquetball Club
Allentown, PA
Bernie Howard
717-667-2209
John Brinson 215-821-1300

FEBRUARY 29-MARCH 2
Indiana State
Championship (2)
Racquetball of Greenbrier
1275 West 86th
Indianapolis, IN 46260
Dana Cornblath
317-257-3261

Utah State Championship (2)
Town & Country Racquetball
Club
2250 S. 800 West
Woodcross, Utah 84087
Paul Bowman
801-298-3231

MARCH 7-9
March of Dimes Benefit (3)
Downtown Racquet Club
230 George St.
New Haven, CT 06510
Wayne Bruno
203-787-6501

Florida State
Championship (2)
Quadrangle Racquetball
Complex
2160 University Ave.
Coral Springs, FL 33065
Fred White
305-473-3912
Van Dubolsky
904-372-2120

Colorado State
Championship (2)
International Athletic Center
1630 Welton
Denver, CO 80202
Dan Isacson & Steve Krum
303-623-2100

MARCH 8-9
New Hampshire State
Championship (2)
Off The Wall Racquet Club
596 West Hollis St.
Nashua, NH 03060
Ina Ivarson
603-889-5520

MARCH 14-16
Bay State Open (3)
Worcester Court Club
Worcester, MA
Tournament Director:
Howie Coleman
617-852-8209

Holabird Club
Maryland Racquetball
Association Sanctioned
Open
Tournament Director:
Tom Whipple

March of Dimes Benefit
Tournament (3)
Greenfield Racquetball Club
Lancaster, PA
Elaine Lee
717-392-4194

North Carolina State
Championship (2)
Sports Illustrated Court
Clubs
Charlotte, NC
Tony Giordano
704-370-1946

Oklahoma State
Championship (2)
Doubles in March
Singles in December
Contact Sid Shupack
918-749-5757

MARCH 27-30
AARA Maine Open (3)
For further details contact
Bruce Lewis
AARA State Director
207-773-6438

MARCH 28-30
Racquetball Northeast Grand
Prix (3)
Racquettime
Tournament Director:
Rich Derby
21 Blandin Ave.
Framingham, MA 01701
617-872-4240

APRIL 11-13
Meadeville Racquet Club
Open (3)
Racquet Club of Meadeville
Meadeville, PA
Shirley Smith
814-724-3524

Intercollegiate
Championships
Site to be announced

APRIL 25-27
AARA Regionals (5)
Sites to be announced

MAY 2-4
Hemophilia Benefit (3)
Kessinger's
June Road
Memphis, TN 38117
Don Kessinger

Club
Lewiston, ME
Bruce Lewis
207-865-4536

JANUARY 18-20
Racquetball Northeast Grand
Prix (3)
Playoff-East Providence
Tournament Director:
Stan Gosselin
15 Catamore Blvd.
Providence, RI
401-434-3600

March of Dimes Benefit
Tournament (3)
Alpha Racquetball Club
Old Gettysburg Pike
Camp Hill, PA
Tournament Director:
Jim Diebold
717-697-1100

JANUARY 19-20
Johnson City Racquetball
Club Winter Warm Up (3)
Johnson City Racquetball
Club
309 Spring Brook Dr.
Johnson City, TN 37601
Tournament Director:
Steve Miller
615-282-3091

Capitol Courts
Carson City, Nevada
Rich Bennett
702-882-9566

Miller Lite Heart Fund
Open (3)
Supreme Courts
West Springfield, MA
Tom Economidy
413-781-0181

FEBRUARY 7-11
Open AARA State Men and
Women Singles (4)
Central YMCA
401 Atkinson Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96814
Tournament Director:
Phyllis Gomes

FEBRUARY 8-10
Illinois Doubles (2)
DuPage Racquet Club
475 Grace St.
Addison, IL
Ray Mitchell
312-745-9400

Women '80 Tournament (3)
Boston Tennis Club
Tournament Director:
Maureen Boulette
617-754-6073

Jim Power
45 Vanderbilt Ave.
Norwood, MA 02062
617-769-2340

Masters Singles Invitational
Tournament 45+ (4)
The Atlas Health Club
901 Hotel Circle South
San Diego, CA 92138
Tournament Director:
Dr. Bud Muehleisen
714-298-9321

Central Florida Outdoor
Racquetball Championships
(2)
Susan St. Complex
Leesburg, FL
Steve Burton
904-357-7340 (home)

FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 2
Racquetball Week

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2
Missouri State
Championship (2)
Westport Spaulding
Racquetball Club
St. Louis, MO
Bob Hardcastle
314-532-0484

Alabama State
Championship (2)
Racquet Club
Auburn, AL
John Jordan & Jim Hawkins
205-887-9591

New Jersey State
Championship (2)
Mercerville Racquetball Club
Young Road
Mercerville, NJ 08619
609-890-8200

Massachusetts State
Championship (2)
Contact state director for
details

California State
Championship (2)
Rocky's Racquet World
North Hollywood, CA
Mike Hunter
408-373-8455

Kansas State
Championship (2)
Supreme Courts West
3725 West 13th St.
Wichita, KS 67203
Dewane Grimes
316-945-8331

MARCH 21-23
Johnstown Open (3)
Holiday Racquet Spa
Johnstown, PA
Joyce Romani
814-266-9689

2nd Annual St. Joseph's
Hospital Charity Event
Woonsocket Racquetball &
Health Club
595 Social St.
Woonsocket, RI
Normand Laliberte
401-762-2996

North Dakota State
Championship (2)
T A C
1401 Dyke Ave.
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Craig Harding
701-746-4486

Illinois State
Championship (2)
Chalet Sports Core
8300 S. Wolf Rd.
Willow Springs, IL 60480
Ray Mitchell
312-745-9400

Nevada State
Championship (2)
Supreme Courts
Las Vegas, Nevada
Bob Justice
702-873-5660

901-682-6661

New Mexico State
Championship (2)
Early May, contact
Clay Childs for details
505-247-9536

MAY 9-11
Racquetball Northeast Grand
Prix (3)
Shrewsbury Racquet Club
Tournament Director:
Paul Henrickson
Tennis Drive
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
617-845-1001

MAY 10-11
Downtown Racquet Club
Contact Tom Whipple
for details

MAY 22-26
AARA National Singles
The Sportrooms
Coral Gables, FL

State Championships not
listed were not available by
press time, please contact
your local state director for
details (see p. 26)

AARA sanctioned tournaments in bold
(1) - 1st level tournament
(2) - 2nd level tournament
(3) - 3rd level tournament
(4) - 4th level tournament
(5) - 5th level tournament
(6) - 6th level tournament

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Redding, CA 96001

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Memphis, TN 38117

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Mitaka-shi JAPAN

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c/o College of Minerals
Dhahran, S.A.

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ASSOCIATION
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Director of Recreation Studies
Institutes of Physical Education
Box 378
Beer-sheva, Mt. Washington
Israel
Telephone: 78217

VENEZUELAN RACQUETBALL

ASSOCIATION
John Diaz
INDICE S.R.L.
Attn: Sport Division
Apartado Postal 1046
Valencia, Venezuela

MEXICAN RACQUETBALL

ASSOCIATION
John White
La Posada de Yochiquetzal
Leyva No. 200
Cuernavaca, Morelos Mexico

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FEDERATION
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Sekretariat
Hadlaubstrasse
56, 8006 Zurich
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Switzerland
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Great Britain
Spain

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GOVERNING BODIES

CANADIAN RACQUETBALL

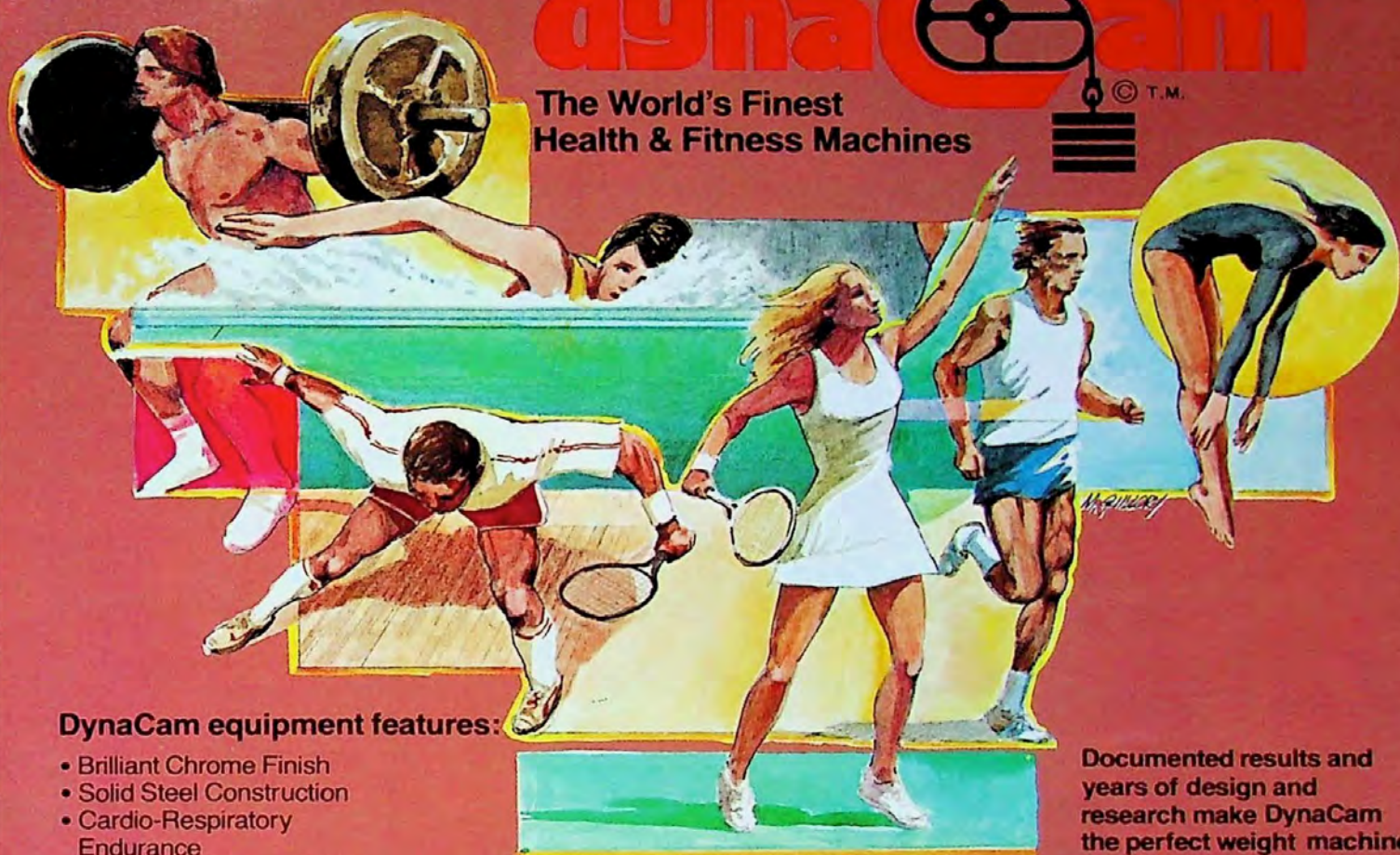
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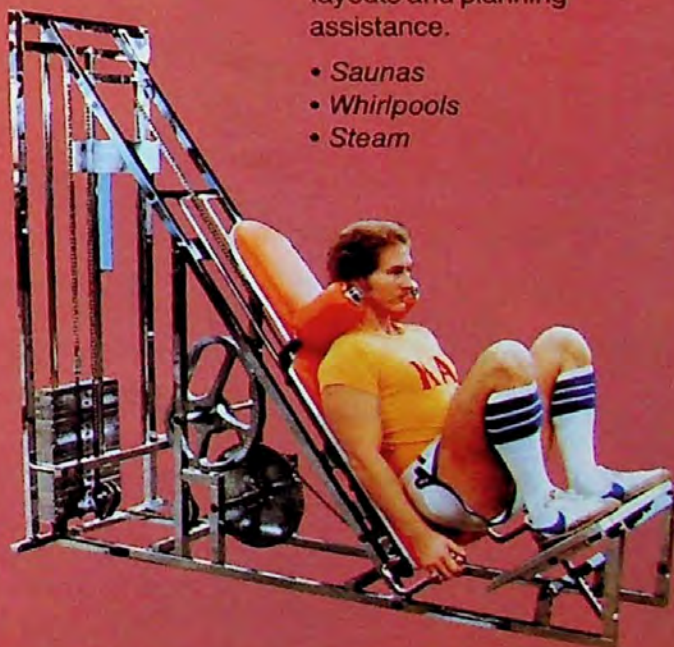
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- Steam



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THE OTHER HOGAN



LARRY KUTNEWSKI

She's You-Know-Who's Sister, And She's Starting To Make A Name For Herself • By Susan Turley

Down a back staircase, behind the racquetball courts at the Jewish Community Center in St. Louis, someone has posted an old newspaper clipping about the Hogans. The clipping occupies a place of honor on the bulletin board, here in this most hallowed hall of racquetball fame. The J.C.C., the "J," has been the breeding ground for some of the biggest names in

racquetball: Hilecher, Serot, Koltun, Zuckerman, Cohen. But by far the brightest star to emerge from the "J" is Marty Hogan, the number one moneymaker in professional racquetball and the player to beat on the pro circuit. Needless to say, then, the Hogan name commands a lot of respect at the "J."

In the newspaper photograph, Marty is embracing his coach-mother, Goldie Hogan, who some say is the driving

force behind his game, and his kid sister, Linda, then barely a teenager, boyish in her close-cropped hair. But the photograph must be at least two years old. For Marty has since left the J.C.C. for San Diego and the big leagues, and it is Linda who now trains on these courts—under her mother's watchful eye. It is Linda, with her now shoulder-length hair, faded jeans and battered sneakers, who works out at the J.C.C.



Linda and Marty share more than a name. They also share the pure driving ambition that comes from Goldie Hogan -- their mother, coach and chief promoter all rolled into one.

every day. For Linda, too, is being groomed for the pros. And if Goldie Hogan has her way, Linda will be the next standard bearer for the family name, the vehicle through which the name "Hogan" will continue to mean dominance in racquetball.

She might do it, too. Because Linda Hogan is certainly a player to be reckoned with. Last July, she won the championship of the girl's 17-and-under division at the AARA national juniors tournament, adding to her list of three previous national junior titles. The next month, she made it to the finals of the USRA junior nationals, losing in a close 11-9 tiebreaker to Wisconsin's Sheryl Krause. She's ranked number one on the women's ladder in St. Louis, and she's consistently ranked among the top junior players nationwide. Like her brother, Linda is a power hitter, and she's also perhaps the most aggressive woman player on the amateur circuit. With these qualities, there are those who believe (Goldie Hogan among them) that Linda's dynamic style could revolutionize women's professional racquetball, as Marty revolutionized the men's game.

Many observers, however, don't buy this scenario. These observers claim that Linda doesn't stand head and shoulders above her competition, the way Marty does over his. They insist that the reason Linda gets so much attention is simply because she's a Hogan.

But Linda and Marty share more than a name. They also share the coaching expertise, the style, the strokes and the

pure driving ambition that comes from Goldie Hogan. And that could be Linda's hole card, the deciding factor that could tip the scales of success in her favor. Because, according to those who know her, Goldie Hogan is a veritable, one-woman success machine. She knows what it takes to make a winner.

Every morning, Mama Hogan can be found at the J.C.C., sitting on the fringes of the racquetball courts. It is her job to screen the passersby for membership cards, and to schedule court time at the J.C.C. For while court time is free at the "J," it is free to members only. And nobody, but *nobody*, gets by Mrs. Hogan without showing a pass.

This is Goldie Hogan's work; playing racquetball is her love. She has been playing racquet sports at the "J" for 15 years. Thirteen years ago, she started teaching her eight-year-old son Marty how to hold a racquet. You know the rest of the story. Now, for two hours every day, she hits the ball around with Linda. Not just for fun, of course, because this is serious business. Since Linda lost the USRA junior finals match in August, the workouts have gotten tougher and more frequent. More kill shots, one after another; ceiling shot upon ceiling shot, drive shot after drive shot. Says Mrs. Hogan: "Linda knows what kind of dedication it takes to win." And if Linda doesn't know, she's learning. Goldie Hogan, remember, is a feisty lady, and having raised four children virtually alone, she knows that it's a tough world. And she knows that to make it in such a world takes guts, determination, talent and lots of hard

work. The Hogan children understand this, because Goldie Hogan sees to it that they do.

And so, every day, Linda puts in her time on the courts at the "J." And every Saturday and Sunday, she reports for work there, too. She's on staff at the J.C.C.'s Women's Health Club, a cinderblock world of leotards and saunas, lockers and hairdryers. She makes enough money at her part-time job there to buy the gas that keeps her new Pontiac Firebird running between home, school and the J.C.C. The car was a gift from brother Marty last March, when Linda turned 16, and *he* pays the insurance.

Linda lives with her mother, grandmother and an older sister in a house that's only a few miles from the J.C.C. The house is jammed with Marty memorabilia—reproductions of the Leroy Neimann painting of Marty and the Wayland Moore poster of Marty; trophies and plaques crowd the kitchen counters, the living room tables, the walls of Linda's room. On the floor of that room sits a stereo with 20 dials, another of Marty's gifts. His picture is everywhere.

But being Marty Hogan's sister is not all Firebirds and fame. When Linda walks on the court, she's as likely to be booed as cheered. The crowd wants to see her lose. It's not only because she's easily the most aggressive woman in the junior amateurs. Or because she's apt to confront a referee over a "bad" call. Or even because she's won almost every national junior singles match she's ever

Like Marty, Linda is a winner. She's won several national junior titles and is consistently ranked among the top junior players nationwide.



played. It's also because she's Marty Hogan's sister. And she makes no attempt to hide it. Stamped across the back of her shirt during finals play in last year's AARA junior nationals, in bold-face, shoulder to shoulder capital letters, the message came across loud and clear: HOGAN.

But one hardly needs a reminder; Linda plays Hogan-style. Her brother, at 21, is the best male player in the world. He's well known for his on-court swagger, his bravado, his temperamental outbursts. He's also known for a unique style of play. A power hitter who really gets behind the ball, his unorthodox strokes are being copied at court clubs across the country. Linda, too, has developed that on-the-court cockiness that begs a crowd to root for her underdog opponents—even if they aren't underdogs. Like Marty, she uses a grip that doesn't shift between backhand and forehand strokes, and she hits harder than any girl in her age division. And now Linda claims she's ready to take on the pros. It is that kind of determination, some say, rather than consistency or strategy, that makes Linda a winner.

And she is under a lot of pressure to perform. The kind of pressure that reduces her to tears when she loses a match. The kind of pressure that runs in the Hogan family, and perhaps makes her a little uncomfortable talking with a reporter from a national magazine. Sitting with her feet propped up, in a borrowed office at the J.C.C., this Linda Hogan seems worlds away from the tough, sometimes frantic player who appears on the racquetball court. She is

soft-spoken, almost shy. And she is hesitant, less-than-confident answering questions about her brother, her game and herself.

Surprisingly, Linda doesn't have much to say about playing in Marty's shadow, about living up to (or living down to) his image. "It doesn't bother me to be compared to Marty," she admits after some prodding. "I'm glad he's going ahead of me. If someone says to me, 'You play like your brother,' all I can say is I wish I *could* play like that." Indeed, it is Linda's mother who later claims that Marty's image makes it a little harder for Linda to win over tournament crowds, that being Marty's sister can make life harder for Linda.

Marty gets a lot of bad press for racquet smashing, yelling and other outbursts on court. Linda is reluctant to even talk about such things, saying only that "whoever called him a 'killer dog' is way off." And she also has an answer for those people who claim that she, too, is subject to her own brand of temper tantrums. "I'll tell you this," she says. "After the first round [of the AARA junior nationals], I was losing and I was getting really mad, and I started screaming. It was 14-2; I came back and won. And afterwards, this man came up to me and said, 'Hey, you play a really good psyche game.' Well, I'm just out there to play. I'm not there to psyche someone out. I've got to get *myself* up, because I'm doing something wrong. And if that psyches you out, then that's your problem."

But Linda's life doesn't just revolve

around racquetball, national tournaments and training for the pro tour. Because in many ways she's still just a kid. On the subject of keeping training, for example, she includes among her priorities no longer eating "ding-dongs, potato chips and orange soda," habits she picked up while she was in junior high school. And like millions of other kids her age, she has a special pet, a dog she received as a reward from her mother for winning a tournament last year. Every morning, Linda and her dog jog around the block of her neat suburban neighborhood in the Olivette district of St. Louis.

Linda's still uncertain about what she wants to do with her future, besides, of course, play professional racquetball. She talks about maybe becoming a veterinarian, about going to school and playing on the pro tour at the same time. And like any 16-year-old, she giggles self-consciously when asked to describe her strengths and weaknesses as a player. "I have no weaknesses," she replies at first, thinking for a moment and then reversing her judgment with, "My mother would know that."

Indeed, Goldie Hogan does know. And while Linda can't remember when she started playing racquetball or who she played in the finals of the AARA junior nationals, Mrs. Hogan can. She also remembers Linda losing during the USRA junior nationals, and she remembers *why* Linda lost. "The only reason Linda lost that match was because she wasn't putting in enough time and enthusiasm," Mrs. Hogan says matter-of-factly. So now Linda doesn't miss a

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It has become almost trite in certain racquetball circles to label Goldie Hogan as a pushy mother. "I'd rather be called a motivator than pushy," she says easily, neither surprised nor offended when the subject comes up. Having coached and coaxed Marty through his early years, Mrs. Hogan has more than once been compared to tennis star Jimmy Connors' strong-willed mother. "I don't know her," says Mrs. Hogan, "but we seem to have the same things in common, as far as our heart, soul and love of a sport are concerned." Besides, Goldie Hogan seems to care little about what people think; she has hit upon a formula for success for her children, and that's what counts. (There are, incidentally, two older Hogan daughters who play racquetball just for the fun of it. But, claims Mrs. Hogan, "I wasn't playing racquetball when they were growing up.")

Mama Hogan's strategy for success is simple: practice, practice, practice. "The only thing you can plan before you get on the court is how to play," she says. "It has to be a motor reflex. You practice kill shots and ceiling shots until you see how many you can do, until you have total control. You can know exactly *what* to do, but if you can't execute it at any given time, you're going to lose." So after the USRA loss, Linda spent hours with her mother, going over the same shots, analysing the flaws in her game, repetitiously working day after day. The results: both mother and daughter claim she's improved 100 per cent.

Linda is hardly a pawn in this achievement game. She not only shares her mother's goals, but she claims to be her own motivator. "I made the decision to go into racquetball," she says. "I could have just gone to school and done nothing with my life. I made the decision; I decided to play racquetball." She also wants a sponsor of her own on the pro tour, not Marty's sponsor, Leach Industries. And she wants to make a name for herself. "I want to hit a hard ball," she says. "And when I get in there, I want to be something new and different, not just another girl playing racquetball." Adds Mama Hogan: "There's room for more color in women's sports, and there will be more color when Linda gets into the pros." Will she make it? Linda grins, nods and matter-of-factly announces, "I'll make it." Her tone is dead serious; no more giggles. Make it out of St. Louis. Make it into the pros. Make it beyond the "J." Make it into the big time—the way a Hogan should. ■

T

TOURNAMENT

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REPORT

Eastern Star

THE NITTANY LION OPEN • BY CHARLIE GARFINKEL

Many 15-year-old boys on the east coast spend their autumn Saturday afternoons either watching or playing football. Mike Levine isn't like most 15-year-olds, though. Levine spends his Saturdays playing racquetball. And as his unfortunate challengers in the Eighth Annual Nittany Lion Open found out, Levine's practice has paid off.

Being the youngest player to ever win the prestigious tournament at Penn State University is impressive in itself. But the spectators who watched Mike Levine perform at the Nittany Lion Open witnessed an aggressive style of play that is reminiscent of another racquetball great—namely, Marty Hogan. Levine's hauntingly accurate rendition of the Hogan power game certainly demands attention.

Levine is the reigning AARA Boys' 15-and-under national singles champion and the AARA's national doubles 17-and-under champion (along with Brett Harnett of Las Vegas). He is also the youngest racquetball star to rise in the East and will, no doubt, see his fame increase soon in the ranks of the pros.

In the finals of the Men's Open Levine defeated second seeded Tom Ranker of York, Penn., by scores of 21-8, 21-16. Levine, who hails from Rochester, N.Y., thus became the third player from his area to win this tournament. [Previous winners were Leo Marsocci in 1974 and Charlie Garfinkel in 1972, 1975 and 1976.]

Mike Levine, who stands 5'9" tall and weighs 150 pounds, has been clocked hitting the ball at 125 miles per hour. Not bad for a 15-year-old kid. His hard serves are so deceptive that his opponents frequently move in the wrong direction to return them. Tom Ranker found this out the hard way.

In the first game against Ranker, Levine was leading by a score of only 10-8. Then, he got hot—so hot you could almost see scorch marks on the wall

where his kill shots hit. His serves were deadly, and Ranker was thrown completely off balance. When the serve wasn't an ace, Ranker managed only a weak return, enabling Levine to either kill the ball or place a pinch shot. Levine ran off the last 11 points in rapid succession to win by a score of 21-8.



Mike Levine

In game two, Levine's kill shots were off. Ranker, who is a hard hitter in his own right, took advantage of Levine's mistakes to kill the ball himself. He was leading 9-8 when Levine changed his strategy and aimed for the ceiling. This ceiling game, combined with consistently accurate serves, allowed Levine to turn the score around to 19-9, his favor. Then, the original match ball broke.

The replacement ball was a little slower and this seemed to help Ranker's game—but two good serves, followed by two accurately placed kill shots, made Levine the Nittany Lion Open Men's

Singles champion. He hadn't lost a game in five matches.

Levine's awesome performance in the finals, as well as throughout the entire tournament, clearly gives him claim to the label of outstanding player in the East. Not many who've either watched him, or faced him on the court, will argue this point.

It's not surprising that Levine's biggest booster is his father. In speaking of Mike, Levine's dad said: "Mike has grown almost three inches in a year and he has put on 30 pounds. His game is basically serve and shoot. His serves are hit hard and low. His percentage on his kill shots and pinches is extremely high. Naturally, this is very discouraging to his opponent." Naturally.

As if that weren't enough, Levine's father added that, "Mike's defensive game is strong, too. He is exceptionally smart on the court and has a tremendous ceiling game. Each tournament that Mike plays in he seems to get better and better."

And what does Mike Levine have to say for himself? It may sound boastful to some, but there are plenty of players who watched him take the Nittany Lion tournament who won't doubt the sincerity of what he says: "I want to become number one in the world. I love the game, but I put a tremendous amount of time and effort into it. I wouldn't do it if I didn't feel that I could become the best. I'm only a sophomore [in high school] now, but I hope to go to as many pro stops this year and my junior year as I can. I'll turn pro my senior year."

Clark Pittman of Mansfield, Ohio, probably feels that Levine could turn pro now. In the semifinals of the Nittany Lion Open, Levine defeated Pittman, the defending champion, by scores of 21-7, 21-13. Pittman, who plays a superb control game, was never allowed to play his type of game, and thus succumbed to



(Left to Right) Jerry Davis and Tom Travers.



(Left to Right) Mary Musewicz and Cindy Baxter.



(Left to Right) Kevin Pillion and Chris Buickie.

the power of the young Levine. Levine's booming serves, his exacting kill shots and the sheer pace of his game kept him a step ahead of Pittman throughout the match.

In addition to being a fine player, Clark Pittman is a gentleman both on and off the court. Pittman said, after his defeat: "I don't have any excuses. Levine just outplayed me. That doesn't mean I'm going to quit racquetball. If you lose a match, so what? I'll just try harder next time." Such is the philosophy of a truly "good sport" in any competition.

Pittman's friends from Ohio repeatedly commented during the tournament that he wasn't playing as well as he could. These were the same remarks that Tom Ranker's and Leo Marsocci's friends made during their respective matches against Levine. And that was the point: Levine played so well throughout the tournament that he never let his opponents play their own game.

In the other semifinal match, Tom Ranker came from behind to defeat Al Plummer by the scores of 10-21, 21-19, 15-4. After losing the first game, and falling behind 10-1 in the second, Ranker turned things around to pull out a victory. Plummer had been hitting hard-to-return serves and was shooting his right sidewall kill shots unerringly. Ranker wasn't moving well; he was almost sluggish on the court. But then he started serving and hitting the ball with the power and skill that he is known for.

Plummer's early sharpness dissipated. Ranker barely eked out the 21-19 second game victory. But game three was all Ranker. As Ranker continued to regain control of his game, Plummer's pace dropped off considerably. And so, Ranker dominated the match.

Perhaps the reason Plummer was unable to maintain his pace in the semifinals lies in the kind of match he played in the quarterfinals against Craig Guinter. Guinter, who is one of the northeast's top players, has never won

the Nittany Lion Open, although he has defeated many top players in recent years, such as Mark Hegg and Jeff Larson. Paradoxically, Plummer, who doesn't particularly shine during the rest of the year, always seems to play his best in the Nittany Lion Open.

And so, Plummer defeated Guinter 21-15, 21-18, in two hard fought games. Plummer's quickness, power and control proved to be too much for the usually crafty Guinter, who, by the way, is nicknamed "The Assassin."

In other quarterfinal matches, Levine defeated his doubles partner, Leo Marsocci, by scores of 21-5, 21-14. Although Marsocci is a tough player, and a particularly agile doubles player, he never seemed to be really in the match. Of course, he had just finished a grueling doubles match with Levine as his partner. It's difficult to face off against someone when you've been working together just a moment before.

Also in the quarterfinals, Clark Pittman defeated Ron York of Kansas City, Mo., by scores of 21-13, 21-15, in a well played match. And in the last quarterfinal, Tom Ranker defeated Mark Rapoport 21-11, 21-12. (Rapoport had previously scored a major upset by defeating seventh seeded Tom Travers of Cleveland, Ohio 7-21, 21-18, 15-14 in the round of 16.)

Men's Open Doubles

The team of Tom Travers and Jerry Davis of Ohio emerged victorious in their contest with Pennsylvanians Mitch Buckler and Al "Rip" Miller to win the Open Doubles by scores of 21-16, 21-8.

The 26-year-old Travers and his intimidating partner, Davis, played superbly. The combination of Davis' automatic right corner pinch shot and Travers' consistent court coverage rightfully earned them the championship. They were ideal complements for each other and both played an intelligent match.

But as well as they played, the Travers-Davis combo almost didn't make it to the finals. Their semifinal match with Chris Mathewson and Joe McAndrews of Pennsylvania was a heart stopper. The final scores were 21-14, 20-21 and 15-13. The other semifinal match was equally exciting, as Buckler and Miller defeated Pittman-Stern by scores of 21-14, 20-21 and 15-4.

Earlier in the tournament, the winning team of Travers-Davis had proven their play to be of championship caliber when, in the quarterfinals, they

defeated the top seeded Mike Levine-Leo Marsocci combo 21-18, 21-17.

Women's Singles

Cindy Baxter, age 25, won the Women's Singles division in a well-earned 21-18, 21-14 victory over top seeded Lucy Zarfes. The match was a classic—a clash between Baxter's power and aggressiveness and Zarfes' control and placement.

In game one Baxter was seemingly headed for an easy victory, leading 7-0, when Zarfes changed her pace. Zarfes, a quick thinking strategist, slowed the game down considerably. She began hitting soft serves and her ploy paid off—Baxter's timing went kaput. Baxter reacted by trying to blast her returns of serve, but hit the ball too high. Zarfes took advantage of the situation and meticulously hit soft pinches until she had succeeded in turning the match around. She came back to 18-20, but there she was stopped cold. One hard serve to the left by Baxter, followed by a kill shot off Zarfes' service return, ended the first game.

Game two followed a similar pattern, but Zarfes didn't fare quite as well. Baxter won 21-14.

In the semifinals, Baxter defeated her doubles partner, Mary Musewicz, 21-10, 21-10. And in the other semis, Zarfes beat Marilyn Miller of Pittsburgh by scores of 21-16, 21-13.

In the quarterfinals, both Baxter and Miller had relatively easy wins. Zarfes and Musewicz, on the other hand, were hard-pressed in defeating Kathy Witzig of Buffalo, N.Y., and Kathy Stapf of Pennsylvania, respectively. Both matches went to three games.

Men's Senior Singles

It is hard to write about an event that you have won. I find it very difficult to say that, "My forehand was incredible; my backhand was unbelievable; my serves were like meteors; and I was moving like Spectacular Bid." I would sound very immodest and I don't want to do that.

In the finals I defeated Joe Jackman 21-11, 1-0 by injury default. Jackman cramped up and claimed that he had tripped on my tongue. Actually, Jackman had already played an extremely tough match against Tony Gentile in the semifinals, winning by the scores of 15-21, 21-16, 15-12. I defeated Junior Powell in the semifinals by the scores of 21-2, 21-7.



Junior Singles (10 and under) (Left to Right) Chandler Papas (2nd), Kirsten Wiley (5th), L. Michael St. Onge (3rd), Alex Millar (1st), Paige Willey (6th), and Bradley Garfinkel.



Cindy Baxter



Charlie and Bradley Garfinkel



Lucy Zarfes

Even though Jackman was visibly tired from his semifinal match, he quickly jumped out to a 6-0 lead with some fine serves and a deadly forehand. But, when he started missing, I was content to keep the ball in play until I got my shot. It was evident that Jackman was tiring badly. At 1-0 in the second game we had a long rally. Jackman pulled up lame, and that was it.

Missed at the tournament due to an injury was the winner of the Seniors division for the past three years, Herman Neumeier.

Women's Doubles

In the finals Cindy Baxter and Mary Musewicz proved to be the class of the field as they defeated Marilyn Miller and Marilyn Ross 21-14, 21-12. Neither team had lost a game until the finals.

Juniors Singles

In the finals hard hitting Chris Buickie defeated defending champion Kevin Pillion 11-21, 21-7, 15-11. Buickie,

who plays very aggressively, combines his power with clever strategy. Pillion played well, but he couldn't quite cope with Buickie's overall game.

Juniors Singles (10-and-under)

In the round robin format of six players, Alex Millar of State College, Penn., won all five of his matches to win the event. He displayed a remarkable array of shots and surprising court sense for a youngster of his age.

This event also marked the Singles debut of 10-year-old Bradley Garfinkel. Another player remarked to Bradley that he reminded him a lot of his father. (Namely, me.) Bradley replied, "You mean my sidewall shots?" The other player remarked, "No, you never shut up!!"

Women's Seniors

Donna Lahti proved to be too steady for her other opponents as she captured the round robin event that involved six players. ■

• P e o p l e • T o • W a t c h • I n • 8 0 •

sen's successful promotion of last year's Idaho Open Pro/Am, which was held last February at the Court House in Boise, where Petersen is manager and part owner. The program was originally produced by the public television station in Boise and later picked up by most of the major Public Broadcasting System (PBS) stations across the country. And Petersen has other television promotions in the works for 1980. The 1979 \$25,000 Boise/Cascade Charity Pro/Am, held last October 12-15, was taped by public television and is scheduled to be telecast over PBS February 17. There's also a chance that this year's Boise/Cascade tournament, scheduled for the weekend of November 1, could be telecast *live* on public television. And Petersen is still negotiating another major national television venture that he is reluctant to talk about, for fear of botching the deal. What all this adds up to, then, is that while Bob Petersen will be watching the tube closely this year, a lot of people will be watching *him*, too.



Liz Alvarado

sions, winning both the AARA 15-and-under and the USRA 17-and-under divisions last year. The 16-year-old Odessa, Tex., native has also won the USRA and AARA regionals in her age bracket for the past two years. Together, this pair of western shooters represents two of the most promising young stars on the racquetball horizon this year.

A lot of people are concerned about the future of racquetball as a viable sport. Sam Ligon of Jokari, US, Inc., is one of them. Ligon is working to make certain racquetball doesn't go the way of hula hoops, pet rocks and other notable fads this country has seen. Just what Ligon is doing is this—establishing a nationwide racquetball program through high school and college physical education departments. The program utilizes Jokari's "Racquetball Without the Walls" racquetball trainer to introduce the sport to students of all ages. Ligon is working to get "Racquetball Without the Walls" played on an inter- and intramural basis throughout the U.S. The program is being endorsed by the AARA and qualifies for the "Racquetball" Presidential Sports Award under the President's Council for Physical Fitness. With that seal of approval, the program can hardly miss during this election year.

[Photo not available at press time.]



Lori Burke

Lori Burke and Liz Alvarado are both indicative of the new breed of junior women players: dedicated, highly competitive and not the least bit shy about speaking their minds, whether it's in questioning a referee's call or confronting the what's-a-nice-girl-like-you-doing-on-a-racquetball-court stereotype. Burke, 17, from Auburn, Calif., forced Linda Hogan, another top junior player (see page 29), into a tiebreaker before losing in the finals of the girls 17-and-under division of the AARA junior nationals last summer. Alvarado, meanwhile, has been tearing up the competition in her age divi-



Standing, left to right: Kittle Baier, assistant to the executive vice president; Mark J. Seftman, executive vice president; Jill Fazakerly, promotion director; Murry Keith, art director. Seated, left to right: Nancy K. Crowell, editorial assistant; Larry Conley, editor.

We were a little doubtful about this one. After all, including ourselves among the ranks of people worth watching in 1980 could seem a bit... well, boastful to some folks. But we honestly believe we'll be doing some things at *Racquetball* in 1980 that will be exciting, innovative and worthy of your attention. To wit: Our super, \$100,000 Sweepstakes swings into full gear this year, with the lucky first-prize winner winging his way to Mexico City on an all-expenses paid trip for two, and there will be 1,000 other prizes as well; we will also be involved in a special promotional venture this year, along with the Jokari company of Dallas, Tex., that is designed to introduce racquetball to tens of thousands of high school and college students across the country; and of course, there'll be our usual mix of interesting editorial offerings in 1980, including a special fashion survey, more pages per issue and on-the-scene coverage of AARA national tournaments. All this, and some of our really *big* plans for the year we can't even talk about yet. Oh, modesty, hide thy face! ■

PRO PAGE



Dave Peck (left) defeated Davey Bledsoe (right) in the men's pro finals.

Peck, Green Win in Memphis; Hogan Loses Again

Dave Peck secured the first tournament win of his pro career when he emerged as the final victor in the Tanner/Coca Cola Racquetball Classic, held last month at Memphis State University.

Peck defeated Davey Bledsoe in the finals 21-10, 7-21, 11-4. His only comment after the match was an exuberant, "It feels just great!"

Bledsoe made it to the finals by handing top-ranked Marty Hogan his second defeat in recent months. Hogan went down in only two games during the semifinals, by scores of 21-18, 21-11. Meanwhile, Dave Peck began clearing the path to his victory by defeating Jerry Hilecher in the semifinals 21-16, 21-10.

Quarterfinal scores: Marty Hogan over Larry Meyers 21-2, 21-13; Davey Bledsoe over David Fleetwood 21-16, 18-21, 11-1; Jerry Hilecher over Steve

Strandemo 21-10, 7-21, 11-5; Dave Peck over Don Thomas 21-14, 21-20.

In the women's division, the home courts proved lucky for Memphian Sarah Green, who also won the first tournament of her professional racquetball career. Green defeated 20-time world amateur squash champion Heather McKay in the finals by scores of 7-21, 21-17, 11-7. The groundwork for Green's victory began in the semifinals when she claimed a victory over Nationals champion Karin Walton, 15-21, 21-18, 11-6. Also in the semis, Heather McKay defeated Peggy Steding 21-18, 21-19.

Quarterfinal scores: Peggy Steding over Jean Sauser 21-20, 21-17; Heather McKay over Jennifer Harding 21-5, 21-9; Sarah Green over Rita Hoff 12-21, 21-9, 11-2; Karin Walton over Linda Prefontaine 21-14, 21-14.

Peck claimed \$4,500 for his victory, while Green took home \$1,500 for her win in the women's division. ■



Sarah Green (right) captured the women's pro division by defeating Heather McKay (left) in the division finals.

LARRY KUZNEWSKI

WINNING POINTS

IT'S A SNAP

DEVELOPING PROPER WRIST ACTION

By Mike Yellen

Mike Yellen, ranked third on the pro circuit, is a member of Ektelon's professional player advisory staff.

One of the ironies of racquetball is that a stringbean like Jerry Hilecher can generate tremendous power in his strokes. In most racquet sports, it's the guys with the thigh-sized biceps who represent the more powerful aspects of the game. However, a cursory examination of the big hitters in racquetball reveals hardly an ounce of fat and, with some notable exceptions, scarcely more muscle.

Clearly, power racquetball is a product of more than just size and strength. Those elements play a part, of course, as well as body positioning, coordination of footwork and body rotation. The focal point of power in a racquetball stroke, though, is the wrist. The wrist is the mechanism through which all these elements are translated to the racquet face. You may be able to get by without proper footwork or body rotation, but no wrist snap, no juice.

Not a particularly difficult requirement, you say? Well, it's harder than it seems—especially for that segment of the racquetball population which came into the sport from tennis. Tennis players are taught to keep the wrist joint stiff and to swing from the shoulder, as though the arm was a gate opening or closing. Even many racquetball players who've never played tennis use this swinging gate approach during their backhand strokes.

If you're not an advanced player, you can probably catch yourself doing this the next time you play. You'll never be able to generate any power off your backhand this way. And, this inability to send the ball straight and hard into the front wall can impair your accuracy as well.

The first step to improving your wrist snap is to have a good grip on your racquet. Everyone is familiar with the forehand "pistol" grip, but it's not

uncommon to forget about using the proper grip during the heat of a game. Therefore, it will be helpful to review here.

Lay the racquet handle diagonally across your palm with the butt of the racquet at the heel of your hand. Grasp the handle as though you were going to shake hands with it, but extend your forefinger beneath the handle as though you are going to pull an imaginary trigger. Line up the "V" made by your thumb and forefinger directly along the

backhand stroke. So, it helps to adjust the way you hold the racquet.

To correct the angle during the backstroke, simply drop the handle of the racquet a little more into your fingers instead of your palm and line the "V" up a half-inch to the left of center (to the right of center if you are left-handed). It isn't as complicated as it sounds. You can make these alterations quickly and easily during a rally and, if you like, use your free hand to steady the racquet while you do it.

Be careful not to get a racquet handle that's too large for you to grasp firmly. Grip sizes range from 3-11/16" to 4-1/2" and, generally, it is better to get one slightly smaller than you need rather than one too large. In addition, a glove, wrist band or both can be used to reduce the problem of the racquet handle becoming slippery, due to perspiration, during play. (For more on the subject of proper grip, see *Racquetball*, December 1979.)

So, now let's assume that you have a



As the racquet begins descent on the backhand stroke, an exploded view of a practice swing shows that the wrist is "bent forward."

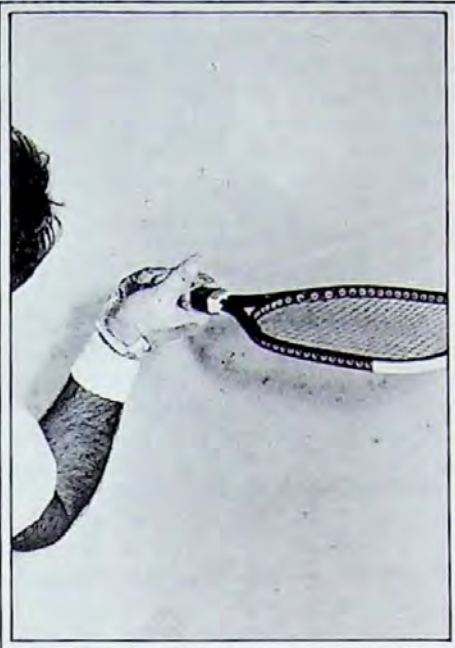


At the point of impact with the ball on the backhand stroke (the ball has been left out to prevent racquet vibration for the illustration), the wrist has straightened, the elbow has straightened and the racquet face is parallel to the front wall.

middle of the handle on top. Don't choke up or let the heel of your hand slip off the end of the racquet. Grasp it tightly during a shot, but relax your grip at other times during the rally.

Although many advanced players can get by using only one grip, most players below that level should use a separate backhand grip. (There are, of course, conflicting opinions on this point.) The reason is simple; the racquet comes down at a different angle during the

good grip on your racquet. Begin the forehand stroke by getting the racquet up over your head with your wrist "cocked." On the forehand, that means bending it back slightly to provide room so that you can snap it forward when the ball is contacted. During the stroke, the elbow leads down into the ball, the arm is straightened and, as the ball is contacted, the wrist snaps. Naturally, you never take your eyes off the ball before, during or after your stroke.



In the forehand stroke, the wrist is "bent back" to achieve its cocked position.

All the other components of the stroke must be properly executed as well. That is, bend your knees, contact the ball as close to the floor as you dare with your racquet face parallel to the front wall and your foot positioning and body rotation all synchronized with ball contact. Also, always follow through with your stroke. You will find that, if you stop your stroke short, you will be interfering with your wrist snap, too.

For the backhand stroke the procedure is the same with a couple of exceptions. First of all, cock your wrist forward for the backhand, instead of back, as with the forehand. A lot more attention needs to be paid to cocking your wrist during the backhand because, as I mentioned earlier, many people tend to use the swinging gate stroke on the backhand instead of snapping the wrist.

There are two types of backhands: the pendulum stroke in which the racquet head starts high above the player's head and swings down like the pendulum of a clock, and what I call a beginner's backhand, which is more of a sidearm stroke. The pendulum is the more powerful of the two, while the sidearm is slightly easier to execute. Regardless of which one you choose, the important point is to snap your wrist during the stroke.

You may have to remind yourself about these things until they become second nature. A little practice, though, and you can become a racquetball iron man. ■

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS: **Racquetball** magazine is seeking freelance photographers to cover AARA sanctioned tournaments throughout the country. If you are interested in representing your area, please send samples of black and white sports photos (preferably racquetball) to: P.O. Box 16566, Memphis, Tn. 38116, ATTN. MURRY KEITH. Photos will not be returned unless self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

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ABOUT FACE

PLAYING THE BACK WALL

By Michael Mjehovich

Probably the most difficult skill to master for the beginning racquetball player is playing the ball as it comes off the back wall. If you have attempted this shot, you know the problem it presents. And it's easy to see why this is such a difficult shot. After all, how many sports have you participated in that give you a chance, once the ball is past you, to stay in the game? In tennis, for example, once the ball has passed you, you might as well forget it. It takes a while to realize that in racquetball you always have a chance to hit the ball—even after a mistake.

For most beginners, it is considered a triumph just to be able to return a ball as it comes off the back wall. As an intermediate player, the concept of the back wall return becomes easier to understand, but the physical skill and timing are often still lacking. An advanced player, though, has learned the proper way to play a ball as it comes off the back wall. This is, for him, the most powerful shot in the game. The advanced player loves to see his opponent hit the ball so hard and high that it will rebound off the back wall. Mastering the proper back wall approach will add a feeling of confidence to your game. At any rate, a proper understanding of this shot is fundamental to making you a better overall player.

Practice Drill 1:

The first step in developing a good back wall return shot is done without the use of the racquet. If you are right-handed, stand facing the right sidewall in the middle of the court, about five feet from the back wall. (This is for the forehand return.) Left-handers are in the same position, only facing the left sidewall. Hold the ball in your non-racquet hand. Toss it against the back wall using an underhand motion. It should be tossed to hit the back wall directly behind you; this will make it return in front of your body as it goes towards the front wall. It should be tossed at head height, hard enough so it will bounce near your feet. Your racquet arm is held back in the practice forehand position, that is, perpendicular to the body and comfortably extended. This

will allow the ball to pass near your body without interference.

The idea here is to slide your feet (not cross over) towards the front wall as the ball rebounds past you. You want to time your movement with that of the ball's descent after it has bounced, so you can catch it with your non-racquet hand just as it reaches knee height, slightly out in front of you. This position is the position in which you want to catch the ball each and every time. It is the same position in which you should strike all your practice forehand strokes. As you slide towards the front wall you will learn to judge the speed and bounce of the rebounding ball. Thus, you will be practicing the proper movement needed to strike the back wall return.

You must feel comfortable moving in this manner. Concentrate also on the ball as it hits the back wall, bounces and starts its descent to the floor the second time. This requires a good sense of timing and judgement on your part. That is why you don't need your racquet when practicing this part of the skill.

Not until you can toss the ball to the back wall, slide with balance and accurately anticipate the descent of the ball after it has bounced, should you feel that you have mastered this skill. Likewise, you must also be able to bend your knees and upper body, as in the forehand stroke, and catch the ball with your non-racquet hand at the desired height (waist high for beginners—lower for intermediate and advanced players).

You may encounter problems, at first, in tossing the ball so that it allows you to move and thus obtain the desired results of the practice. Stay with it and you will eventually get it right. Also, make sure your sliding motion is smooth, not rigid or straight-legged. Let the ball rebound before you slide with it. Notice your position when you catch the ball; it should be the same as a practice forehand position.

Practice Drill 2:

Assuming you know how to time the ball as it rebounds and bounces, you are now ready for the next step. Using your racquet, follow the same procedures as before, only this time,

instead of catching the ball, strike it. If you have done this properly, the ball should hit the front wall directly in a straight line with your body. Do not worry about how high the ball hits the front wall, at least for the time being.

The questions you must ask yourself now are:

1. Did I have my balance?
2. Was the ball out in front of me when I hit it?
3. Am I being patient enough to allow the ball to drop to the desired height?
4. Am I starting with my racquet arm back in the cocked position?

If you can answer "yes" to these four questions, then you can consider your back wall return a successful one. The ball should react the same as when you strike a regular forehand shot. It should hit the front wall at about the same height as when you made contact with it. It should also rebound within an arm's distance of you on either side.

If you're having problems with this drill, such as having the ball slice to the right or hook to the left, chances are the problem is associated with the position the ball was in when it was hit. Remember that the ball travels in the same direction in which it is hit. So, it must be slightly out in front of you when hit, for a proper return.

Practice Drill 3:

This is a more difficult drill, for the intermediate and advanced player. Stand in the return of serve area. Use an overhand stroke to hit the ball to the front wall hard enough so that it will take one bounce and rebound off the back wall. This drill is more difficult, but also more like actual game conditions. As the ball rebounds off the back wall, move into position and strike it before it bounces again. This requires more movement, therefore there is more room for error. The beginning player should move to this drill only after mastering the first two drills. You can practice this drill using both the forehand and backhand.

As the ball rebounds off the front wall towards the back wall, line yourself up in position for the return. Your body should be in a direct line with the ball as it rebounds off the back wall. As the ball rebounds away from the back wall, you must judge its speed as it descends to the floor. The object here is to time your movement and swing so that you contact the ball in the same position as you did in the other drills.

This drill is the final step in learning the proper back wall return. Because of



Watch the ball and wait for it to come off the back wall.



Make sure your racquet is in the "cocked" position as you begin your swing.



Contact with the ball should be made at the same point as the regular forehand.

the extra movement required, you may find yourself making the same mistakes now as you did when attempting the first practice drill. Be patient, however, and repeat this drill until you feel comfortable moving to the ball, following it away from the back wall and finally making contact, all while maintaining good balance.

The back wall return is difficult, but

broken down into these three basic drills, you should gradually acquire the skills needed to execute it properly. Once the basic back wall return is learned, you will be able to add different dimensions to your returns—pinch shots, passing shots and even ceiling shots. Once you have added all of these shots to your game, it will be more difficult for your opponent to defend against your back wall return.

And if you can keep your opponent off balance with the use of a wide variety of back wall returns, your game will be far more effective. ■

If you would like your own copy of Michael Mjehovich's book, send \$2.95 to: *Racquetball Step-by-Step*, 4633 Trousdale Dr., Nashville, Tenn., 37204.

LARRY KUTNIEWSKI

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FIRST SERVICE

New Court Club Openings

New Philadelphia, Ohio

Racquetball has made its way to New Philadelphia, Ohio, with the opening of the area's first club. Front Court Racquetball Club is located on State Route 416 South. The new facility has eight racquetball courts, including two which feature glass rear walls. Other amenities of the club include: an exercise area with a 15-station Universal Machine, saunas and whirlpools in each locker room, a supervised nursery and a lounge and party area, which can be rented for private parties.

Membership rates are \$40 per year for an individual and \$55 per year for a family. Hourly court rental is \$5 per hour, non-prime time and \$6 per hour, prime time.

For further information, call Tom Police at 216-339-2750.

Miami, Florida

A new racquetball/handball facility

called the Miami Court Club opened recently at 9395 Bird Road, Miami, Fla., 33165. The club features 10 fully air-conditioned courts, whirlpools, saunas and steam rooms, as well as a supervised nursery, a lounge and viewing area with a wide screen TV. In addition, there is an exercise area.

Annual fees are \$50 for singles, \$75 for a family of two (\$5 extra per child), and membership applications are still being accepted. The club does plan to provide reciprocal court time for out-of-town visitors who are members of other NCCA (National Court Clubs Association) clubs. For further information, call 305-226-4014.

Plymouth, Massachusetts

The Game Point Racquetball and Health Club opened last month at the Plymouth Industrial Park, Aldrin Road, in Plymouth.

The club features 11 regular courts, several exhibition courts (all official AARA sized), a full health club for men and a separate club for women, whirlpools, saunas, steam rooms, a supervised nursery, a lounge and

viewing area with a full service snack bar and a large-screen TV.

Each of the men's and women's gyms have Olympic weights, dumbbells, Nautilus equipment and a professional staff for supervising individual programs. Various types of memberships are available, including family, single, junior, combination and separate health and racquetball only. For further details, call 617-746-7448.

Dayton, Ohio

Court Management Company, Inc., opened two new franchises in the Dayton area last month. The Congress Park Circuit Courts franchise is located in Washington Township, a suburb south of Dayton. Huber Heights Circuit Courts, the other unit, is located in an area northeast of Dayton.

Both clubs include all standard Circuit Courts amenities such as a pro shop, a nursery, saunas and a lounge. A membership in any of the Circuit Courts clubs is valid at all of their seven locations. For more information, contact: Bill Henderson, 513-885-5260. ■

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The following is an excerpt from a letter to a questioning potential member.

THE AARA

1. Is a not-for-profit, charitable, educational, membership organization incorporated under the laws of Illinois and Tennessee since 1968;
2. Has been a viable force in the promotion of the sport from 50,000 participants in 1968 to 10.5 million in 1979 - (Neilsen ratings, 1979);
3. Conducts local, state, regional and national championships in both singles and doubles since 1968;
4. Conducts local, state, regional, and national championships in both singles and doubles for men and women in the following age categories: 10 and under, 13 and under, 15 and under, 17 and under, open, 30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+;
5. Has crowned over 250 National Champions;
6. Has complied with all requirements to become a National Governing Body under the Amateur Athletic Act of 1978 including the 20% active players clause, equal rights clause, definition of amateurism and the players' right to grievance;
7. Has over 20,000 dues paying members; projected 1980 membership to exceed 60,000;
9. Is a membership organization with 90% operating funds derived from yearly membership dues;
10. Publishes a monthly communications magazine;
11. Embraces the Olympic ideals and movement;
12. Charter member in the International Amateur Racquetball Federation along with twelve other countries' national governing bodies. The IARF has applied for membership in GAIF and soon to the IOC;
13. Has local, state, and regional representatives and organizations throughout the United States with a paid National Staff located in Memphis, Tennessee;
14. Will participate in the World Racquetball Championships slated in the United States for the Fall of 1980;
15. Has and actively conducts a Junior development program - since 1972;
16. Has and actively conducts an Intercollegiate program - since 1972;
17. Has applied for tax deductible status under (510-C) of the Internal Revenue Code;
18. Plans a European tour of American National Amateur Champions to Europe under the auspices of the European Racquetball Federation in the Summer of 1980;
19. Will supply a clinician and team to the Organization of American States Sports Development project for touring North and South America;
20. Will conduct National Team and Metro Championships in the Summer of 1980;
21. Have been instrumental in the following major developments in racquetball:
 - A. Drafting and acceptance of a players' Bill of Rights;
 - B. Is an open and free market place for manufacturers;
 - C. Has established a Junior Council patterned after the USTA's Council;
 - D. Required safety equipment for players;
 - E. Conducts open business meetings;
 - F. Is strictly an amateur organization having no contact with professional players;
 - G. Has a duly elected Board of Directors;
 - H. Has an open financial statement;
 - I. Has been instrumental in organizing and founding the newly created International Amateur Racquetball Federation;
 - J. Lobbied for the 1978 Amateur Sports Act;
 - K. Is the chief clinician for the President's Council on Physical Fitness; conducted five clinics reaching over 20,000 people;
 - L. Developed and is presently participating in "Racquetball without the Walls" project which will bring racquetball to over 1,000,000 elementary and high school children in 1979. Projections of this program are to reach an excess of 3,000,000 children in 1980.

I hope that the information included in this letter will be of interest to you and will influence you in your decision to become a member of the AARA. Your dues support these and other programs.

Regards,

Luke St. Onge

Luke St. Onge
Executive Director

Scorecard

RACQUETBALL welcomes all tournaments to report their results. Please list all rounds of each event. Scorecard will report as many rounds of each tournament as space allows.

For reasons of space and clarity, tournament results submitted for listing in "Scorecard" should be arranged as shown in the example below. Entries using this format stand a better chance of being included in the "Scorecard" section.

Men's Open:
Semifinals: John Smith over Peter Smith 21-7, 21-15; John Doe over Peter Doe 21-20, 21-13.
Finals: John Smith over John Doe 21-20, 13-21, 21-16.



(Left to right): Pat Casper-WOOLCO, Fred L'Esperance-1st place Men's Seniors, Jim Larala-2nd place Men's Seniors, Carl Gibeau, co-tournament director.

OCEAN STATE CLASSIC Playoff Racquetball Club East Providence, Rhode Island November 9-11, 1979

Men's Open:

Quarterfinals: Mike McDonough over Pat Brennan; Fred L'Esperance over Dennis Aceto; Randy Vataha over Rene Depot; George Vierra over Al Manditch.

Semifinals: McDonough over L'Esperance; Vierra over Vataha.

Finals: Vierra over McDonough.

Consolation: Al Manditch.

Men's B:

Quarterfinals: Harry Burgess over Mike McCartin; Mike Chabot over Mike Stone; Al Lavalle over Rich Adams; Manny Pita over Pat Cleary.

Semifinals: Burgess over Chabot; Pita over Lavalle.

Finals: Pita over Burgess.

Consolation: Joe Chabot.

Men's C:

Quarterfinals: Jack Robillard over John Hole; Jim Swartz over Sonny Nelson; Brian Couture over Bob Vitti; Mugger McGuire over Howard Galitsky.

Semifinals: Swartz over Couture.

Consolation: Tom McKeever.

Men's Novice:

Quarterfinals: Howard Davine over Ken Francis; David Izzo over Bill Calvin; Larry Roberti over Cliff Smith; Mike Rainone over Joe Penza.

Semifinals: Davine over Izzo; Rainone over Roberti.

Finals: Rainone over Davine.

Consolation: William Corbeille.

Men's Seniors 35+:

Quarterfinals: Fred L'Esperance over Ken Calvagne; Howard Peele over Karl Krikorian; Jim Larala over Marc Gardner; Jay Roberts over Rene Depot.

Semifinals: L'Esperance over Peele; Larala over Roberts.

Finals: L'Esperance over Larala.

Consolation: Gary Northcutt.

Women's Open:

Semifinals: Eileen Ehrlich over Maureen Boulette; Norma Taylor over Marilyn Ellis.

Finals: Ehrlich over Taylor.

Women's B:

Quarterfinals: Barbara Lovejoy over Cindy Jewett; Nina Hahn over Judy Bryant; Sharon Belanger over Joni Wade; Jean Carlson over Sharon Culbertson.

Semifinals: Hahn over Lovejoy; Belanger over Carlson.

Finals: Belanger over Hahn.

Consolation: Cindy Jewett.

Women's C:

Quarterfinals: Allison Carr over Janet Kelleher; Betty Anderson over Diane Perry; Joan Hebert over Margaret Donovan; Lynn Ruddy over Sue Reavy.

Semifinals: Carr over Anderson; Ruddy over Hebert.

Finals: Carr over Ruddy.

Consolation: Wendy Boothan.

Women's Novice:

Quarterfinals: Debby Briault over Debby Sodderlund; Dayle Augusto over Liz Fields; Patricia Watkins over Rita Mellor; Mary Carr over Barbara Sardinha.

Semifinals: Briault over Augusto; Carr over Watkins.

Finals: Briault over Carr.

Consolation: Vicki Temple.

LABOR DAY OPEN

September 1-3

Racquetball Five-0

Boston, Massachusetts

Women's Open: 1st: Martha Callahan; 2nd: Cindy Alba; 3rd: Eileen Ehrlich; 4th: Janet Simon.

Men's Open: 1st: George Vierra; 2nd: Fred Lesperance; 3rd: Gerry Cassidy; 4th: Pat Beeman.

Men's C: 1st: Ron Hyman; 2nd: Dave Williams; 3rd: Bob Armantrout; 4th: Ron Taber.

Men's B: 1st: David Spear; 2nd: John Yoh; 3rd: Kevin Clark; 4th: Mike Chabot.

Women's Novice: 1st: Linda Ksieniewicz; 2nd: Carin Grillone; 3rd: Kathy Franklin; 4th: Jo Ann Negro.

Junior Boys' 15 & Under: 1st: Peter Hawkesworth; 2nd: Ralph Grillone; 3rd: Drek Freda; 4th: Paul Ferioli.

Men's Novice: 1st: George Weigle; 2nd: Bill Abeley; 3rd: Jack Benaway; 4th: Howard Davine.

Women's B: 1st: Jo Ann Johnson; 2nd: Hidi Lieberman; 3rd: Maureen Boulette; 4th: Debbie Williams.

Women's C: 1st: Cindy Jewett; 2nd: Dorothy Benoit; 3rd: Paula Savage; 4th: Margaret Tabar.

Men's Senior: 1st: Warren Pierce; 2nd: Howie Coleman; 3rd: Peter Crummey; 4th: David Cahill.

1st ANNUAL APPLE WEEK OPEN

October 12-14

B and R Racquetball Club

Feasterville, Pennsylvania

Men's Semi-Pro: 1st: Tom Ranker; 2nd: Russ Montague; 3rd: Jack Chellucci; 4th: Dan Brannan.

Women's C: 1st: Cheryl Goefuss; 2nd: Marie Gentile; 3rd: Joyce Lynam; 4th: Barbe Kolb.

Women's B: 1st: Jamie Skirboll; 2nd: Robin Swayze; 3rd: Star Fischer; 4th: Clea Ching.

Juniors' 17 and Under: 1st: Dan McGill; 2nd: Mike Cataldo; 3rd: Ken Rosenfeld; 4th: Forest Hunsberger.

Women's A: 1st: Beth Latini; 2nd: Elaine Brubaker; 3rd: Jamie Skirboll; 4th: Alison Kingsley.

Men's Seniors: 1st: Dario Mas; 2nd: Jack Burke; 3rd: Bill Fluor; 4th: Joe Borcich.

Men's C: 1st: Dave Darrah; 2nd: Walt Reichart; 3rd: Gray Hamada; 4th: Fred Bernhard.

Men's B: 1st: Bill Welaj; 2nd: Ron Wright; 3rd: Dan Mancari; 4th: Morrie Olsen.

Men's A Open: 1st: Orville Foraker; 2nd: Chris Buickie; 3rd: Bill Welaj; 4th: Dave Hottenstein.

MCDONALD'S/SUPREME COURT

WEST JUNIOR OPEN

August 25-26

Supreme Courts of Wichita

Wichita, Kansas

Girl's 15 & Under: 1st: Linda Webber; 2nd: Missy Porter; Consolation: Lisa Dando.



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AARA State Director working in the capacity of a multi-club management person seeks employment as national or regional promotions director or sales manager for Racquetball or related manufacturer. Would also consider executive position with court club chain.

Extensive background in Radio-TV broadcasting and media work, National and International music productions and promotional experience, Sports promotions, 10 years Racquetball teaching professional, multi-club court club management background, 4 years AARA State Director. Good references.

For complete resume and further information write: RACQUETBALL Magazine, P.O. Box 16566, Memphis, TN. 38116.

Boy's 10 & Under: 1st: John Hennessy; 2nd: Jason Perry.
Boy's 13 & Under: 1st: Darin Grimes; 2nd: Jordan Hatch; 3rd: Steve Brewer; 4th: Jeff Duncan.
Boy's 17 & Under: 1st: Scott Perry; 2nd: Rusty Jones; 3rd: Tim Ryan; 4th: John Creed; Consolation: Doug Jones.

3rd ANNUAL BENTLEY CLASSIC August 24-26

Bentley Club
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Men's B: 1st: Mark Rapoport; 2nd: Tom Bevelock; 3rd: Dave Hernjack; 4th: George Martinez.
Men's Open: 1st: Eric Foley; 2nd: Chris Mathewson; 3rd: Harold Powell; 4th: D. Mackelcan.
Women's B: 1st: Pat Dorsheimer; 2nd: Barb Yospe; 3rd: Jamie Skirboll; 4th: D. Miller.
Women's Open: 1st: Patti Mattson; 2nd: Cindy Baxter; 3rd: Cindy Dalton; 4th: Tammy Hajjar.

NATURAL LITE OPEN

October 12-14
Supreme Courts
West Springfield, Massachusetts

Women's C: 1st: Linda Ksiewiewicz; 2nd: Alice Lajoie; 3rd: Frances Foulton; 4th: Deb Janelle.
Women's Novice: 1st: Joan Hebert; 2nd: Laurie Dewey; 3rd: Sue Rhiev; 4th: Terry Glazier.
Men's Open: 1st: Phil Panarella; 2nd: David Janelle; 3rd: Pete Silvano; 4th: Ron St. Marie.
Men's B: 1st: Steve Emma; 2nd: Ed Chandler; 3rd: Ted Jez; 4th: Fred Aschenbach.
Men's C: 1st: John Wilson; 2nd: Bob Strycharz; 3rd: Mike Parent; 4th: Richard Mendonsa.
Men's Novice: 1st: Greg Boulanger; 2nd: Howard Davine; 3rd: Sam Robinson; 4th: Frank Langone.
Men's Masters: 1st: Wolfgang Schmidt; 2nd: Carl Buschner; 3rd: Tom Edonemidy; 4th: Gus ChrisanAhpaulas.

JUNIOR GOBLIN TOURNAMENT

November 3-4
The Racquet Club
of Meadville
Meadville, Pennsylvania

Boys' 13 & Under Round Robin: 1st: Mike Kirberger; 2nd: Vic Camasi; 3rd: Dan Smith; 4th: Darby Boston.
Boys' 10 & Under Round Robin: 1st: Vic Camasi; 2nd: Todd Waid; 3rd: Alan Smith; 4th: Scott Smith.
Girls' 13 & Under Round Robin: 1st: Michele Smith; 2nd: Melanie Ordinario; 3rd: Patty Stevens; 4th: Shelly Rickert.
Boys' 15 & Under: 1st: Kevin Hickey; 2nd: Marty Smith; 3rd: Mark Wrigley; 4th: Jim Rodgers.
Boys' 17 & Under: 1st: Kevin Hickey; 2nd: Marty Smith; 3rd: Dave Bradick; 4th: Jim Rodgers.

MEMPHIS STATE/JACK FULTON OPEN October 12-14

Memphis State University
Memphis, Tennessee

Men's Open Singles: 1st: John Dunlap; 2nd: Jim Cullen; 3rd: Dan Cohen; 4th: Randy Stafford.
Women's Open Singles: 1st: Gail Ferguson; 2nd: Marie Copley; 3rd: Janet Marshall;

4th: Sharon Fanning.
Master's Singles: 1st: Bailey Pritchard; 2nd: Ed Lowrance; 3rd: Stan Starr; 4th: Ray De Pue.
Women's C Singles: 1st: Keiren Lange; 2nd: Sandy Newsome; 3rd: Marge Bell; 4th: Helen Wright.
Men's B Singles: 1st: Terry McRae; 2nd: Danny Phillips; 3rd: Quinn Roberts; 4th: Tom Long.
Men's Open Doubles: 1st: John Dunlap-Larry Liles; 2nd: Jim Cullen-Wayne Vincent; 3rd: Mike Gora-Dan Cohen; 4th: Jim Thoni-Mike Fleming.
Women's A Doubles: 1st: Janet Marshall-McKinney; 2nd: Gail Ferguson-Sharon Fanning; 3rd: Patsy Ingle-Marie Copley; 4th: Blanton-Debbie Isbell.
Men's Senior Singles: 1st: Bill Tanner; 2nd: Jack Ebbitt; 3rd: Frank Menendez; 4th: Leonard Hines.
Men's Junior Vets Singles: 1st: Larry Liles; 2nd: Jim Thoni; 3rd: Emile Catignani; 4th: Wayne Vincent.
Senior Masters' Doubles: 1st: Ron Leonard-Leonard Hines; 2nd: Danny Weiss-Pete Singer; 3rd: Luke St. Onge-Jack Ebbitt; 4th: Wm. B. Tanner-Bailey Pritchard.
Women's B: 1st: Nancy McCluskey; 2nd: Vicky Daily; 3rd: Debbie Isbell; 4th: Mary Ann Aquadro.
Women's Novice: 1st: Ingrid Karn; 2nd: Lane Wheeler; 3rd: Barbara Allen; 4th: Sharon Word.
Men's C: 1st: Jack Roberts; 2nd: Robbie Robinson; 3rd: Tom Jortner; 4th: Larry Price.
Men's Novice: 1st: John Capers; 2nd: Jimmy Nelson; 3rd: Russ Smiltneiks; 4th: Paul Vieron.

1979 CONNECTICUT AARA CLOSED
October 26-28
Lakewood Racquetball Club
Waterbury, Connecticut

Men's Open: 1st: Rob McKinney; 2nd: Phil Panarella, Jr.; 3rd: Brian Dehm; 4th: Ron Mirek.
Men's B: 1st: Gregg London; 2nd: Stan Borawski; 3rd: Larry Skaff; 4th: Harvey Adler.
Men's C: 1st: Bob Palmer; 2nd: Scott Eliasson; 3rd: Harry Webski; 4th: Marc Levesque.
Men's Novice: 1st: Jake Hurwitz; 2nd: Bob Nocera; 3rd: Bruce Dubois; 4th: Charlie Good.
Women's Open: 1st: Jackie Adler; 2nd: Margo Chase Wells; 3rd: Susan Hurwitz; 4th: Sondra DiNicola.
Women's B: 1st: Lynn Petrowski; 2nd: Deborah Billington; 3rd: Karen Van Kampen; 4th: Kathy Tyler.
Women's C: 1st: Donna Kelly; 2nd: Judy Lauder; 3rd: Michelle Poirier; 4th: Debbie Gentile.
Women's Novice: 1st: Lori Wartonick; 2nd: Fiona Mackay; 3rd: Kip Palmer; 4th: Bet Sutton.
Men's Seniors: 1st: Tom Waltz; 2nd: Jack Nocera; 3rd: Phil Panarella, Sr.; 4th: Ed Castillo.
Juniors-17 & Under: 1st: Keith Donegan; 2nd: Rudi St. Jean; 3rd: John Haslett; 4th: Mike Veilleux.
Open Doubles: 1st: Phil Panarella, Jr.-Dave Maturah; 2nd: Tom Waltz-Ed Castillo; 3rd: Ron Mirek-Deniz Fonseca; 4th: Jack Nocera-Howard Packer.
B Doubles: 1st: Jeff Rosenblatt-John Haslett; 2nd: John Uliano-Leonard Corfigiano; 3rd: Gil Copeland-Keith Donegan; 4th: Paul Konopaske-Jim Wartonick. ■

AARA BALL APPROVAL

As of press time the following ball manufacturers have received tentative approval of their products in AARA sanctioned tournaments.

Final contracts and authorization are forthcoming and will be announced in a future issue of RACQUETBALL Magazine. For tournament sponsorship contact these manufacturers, your AARA state director, or national headquarters.

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Penn	Seamco	Vittert
Point West	Sportcraft	Voit

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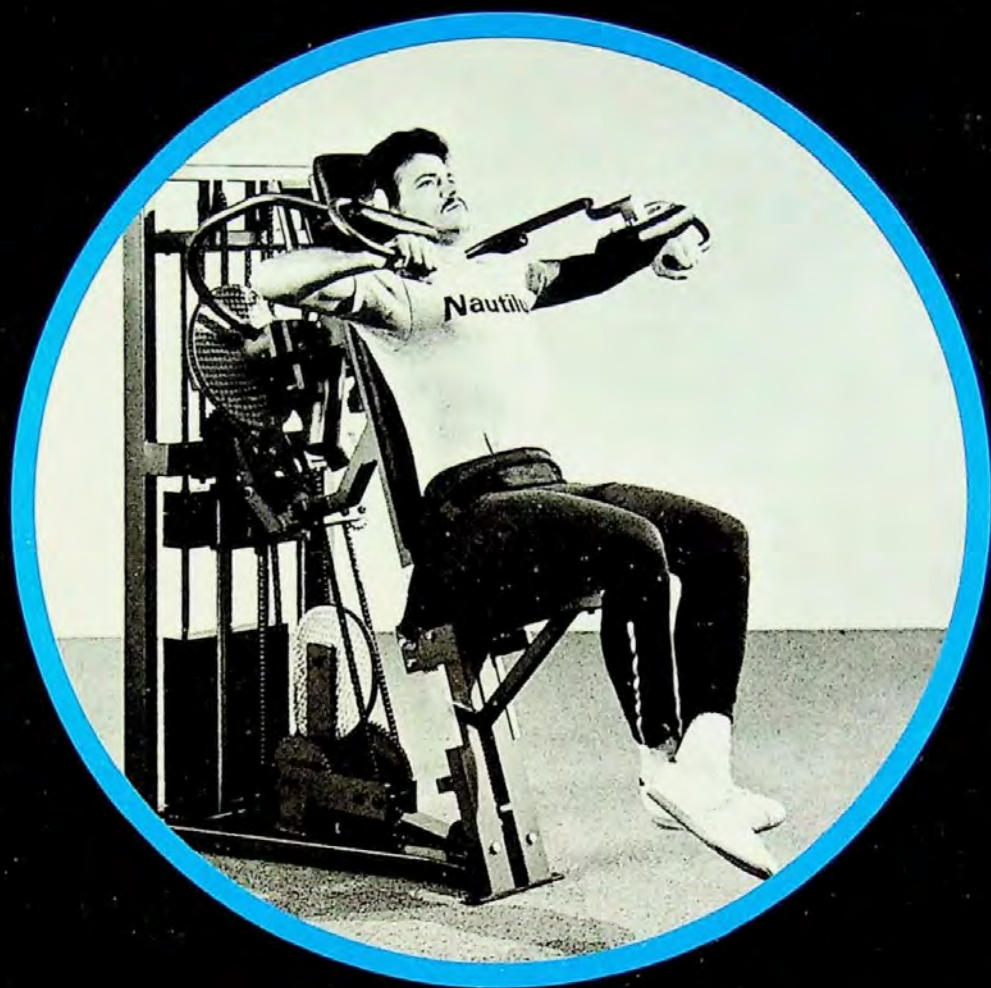
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Men's Singles

Open*

B

C

Novice

Senior (35+)*

Master (45+)

Major Prizes for local winners including Hitachi audio products and Nike racquetball shoes.

Women's Singles

Open*

B

C

Novice

Senior (35+)*

Doubles

Open*

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Regional Tournaments:

Regional tournaments will be held from February 20 thru April 20, 1980.

Contact local court club for tournament dates.

Atlanta, Courtsouth
Baltimore, Holabird Racquet Club
Boston, Playoff Racquetball/Handball Club
Chicago, The Glass Court
Cleveland, Off The Wall Racquetball Club
Denver, Denver Sporting Club
Detroit, Rose Shores East Racquetball
Houston, Chancellors Racquet Club
Kansas City, Dale's Courts
Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, The Courtrooms
Milwaukee, Brookfield Racquetball Club
Minneapolis/St. Paul, Roseville Racquet Club
New York Metro (New Jersey), Racquetime
Orange County (California), Racquetball World
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