

National Racquetball[®]

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 5 • \$1.00 • SEPTEMBER, 1977

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION



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NATIONAL
JUNIORS**



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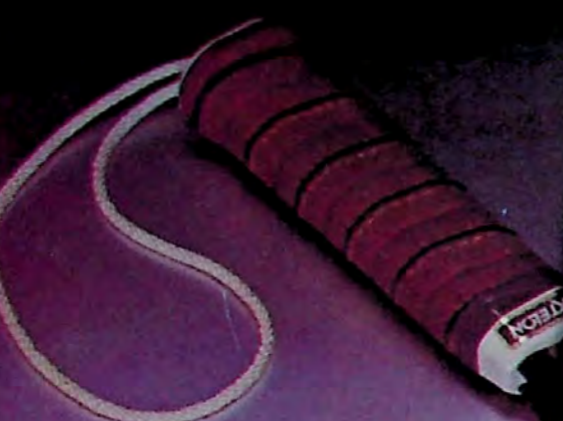
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National Racquetball

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 5 • \$1.00 • SEPTEMBER, 1977

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On The Cover . . .

Our unusual cover this issue brings forth a few of the recent stories in racquetball, actor Wayne Rogers involvement in the court club business; the superb National Juniors Championships (that's 17-and-Under winner Larry Meyers); and the announcement of Sports Illustrated Court Clubs featuring president Craig Hall.

—Photos by Ulvis Alberts, Junebug Clark and Dick Shay

National Racquetball Magazine is the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association and is published bi-monthly by the National Racquetball Club, Inc.

4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076, (312) 673-4000.

President and Publisher • Robert W. Kendler

National Director and Editor • Charles S. Leve

National Commissioner and Business Manager • Joseph Ardito

National Coordinator • Terry Fancher

Associate Editor • Carol Brusslan

Contributing Editor • Nick Longhurst

Circulation Manager • Evie Kendler

Circulation Administrator • Jack Kendler

Photographic Consultant • Arthur Shay

National Racquetball Magazine is produced by Coporate Graphics, 330 West Frontage Road, Northfield, Illinois 60093, (312) 441-7250.

Executive Coordinator • Joseph M. Patten

Design Director • Milton W. Presler

Art/Production • Rand K. Kingston

Advertising Representatives are Patten Publications, 330 West Frontage Road, Northfield, Illinois 60093, (312) 441-7250, Joseph M. Patten, President/Account Supervisor.

All editorial communications should be addressed to The Editor, National Racquetball Magazine, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076. Manuscripts must be typewritten and double spaced. Color and black and white photographs are welcomed.

Subscriptions are \$5.00 for one (1) year and \$12.00 for three (3) years. Rates are for U.S., possessions, military and Canada. Foreign subscriptions add \$5.00 per year for postage. Second class postage paid at Skokie, Illinois and at additional mailing office. Postmaster send form 3579 to National Racquetball magazine, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076.

Your Concerns Are My Concerns

Dear Mr. Kendler:

I am writing this letter to you to see if you will help the women racquetball players. I have just heard the proposals for the pro tour next season and am deeply disappointed. The proposal of only four tournaments for the women pros is a grievous setback for us and the promotion of racquetball. Also, separating the pro tour at this time could hurt racquetball. You are our only hope. You have defended and praised the women in your past editorials and kept us on the pro tour last year when certain sponsors wanted us dropped. Again this year, we need your help to defend us and keep a strong women's pro tour.

The new proposals for next season provide the men with four times as much money and twice as many tournaments. This is not fair, equitable or justified. I don't believe that the women must have the same amount of money but it should be a fair amount. As it stands now we would have almost \$5000.00 per tournament which is fine. But we only would have four tournaments. This is wrong. We should have the same number of tournaments as the men and with reasonable prize money. With eight tournaments (same number as the men) the women's pro tour would continue to grow and prosper. Four tournaments a year would only serve to set the women back and can hardly be considered a "pro tour".

I don't believe that the time is right for separating the pro tours now. Tennis separated the men's and women's tours a few years ago and it almost broke both tours. Tennis was a strong and well known sport that had been

around for dozens of years at that time. Yet the separation of the tours of this well known sport almost was a catastrophe. Racquetball is a growing sport but is still not very well known. There are many areas in the U.S. that have never heard of racquetball and it hasn't even started to become a world class sport. The racquetball tour should be extremely strong and popular before it separates, in order to retain its strength. With both men and women the pro tour has a strong base to grow on. Now might be a good time to experiment with the tours. Hold the majority of tournaments together and have one or two separate to see the response.

Even though I believe the tours should remain together the women can draw the crowds and provide a good exciting tournament alone. This is evident in the Women's Invitational Tournament. This tournament has had standing room only each year it is played. This past year the tournament was held at an exclusive tennis and golf country club. The people at this club as well as town had never had much exposure to racquetball. Yet when the people saw the women play they were overwhelmed. The galleries were packed to the limit. The club was so impressed with the quality and caliber of the women, that they immediately invited us back and are raising their own prize money to see to it we do come back. What better advertisement can racquetball have?

The women's quality and superior play are a valuable advertising and promotional tool for racquetball and the N.R.C. We are never pampered at tournaments and I have yet to see a tournament where the women have caused problems of any kind. We have had little promotion, usually play on

back courts at odd hours, with little prize money. Yet the women have gained strength in spite of this. A greater number of tournaments has been one of the big reasons for our growth. The men demand all the attention and favors at host clubs. Their sportsmanship is poor on and off the court. These antics of the men often leave bad feelings at the host club after the tournament. The women players help to keep the quality and reputation of racquetball high.

To keep new players coming into the sport the old image of racquetball — the smelly, dingy sweatboxes, and men only — must and is changing. The women pros have shown people that racquetball is a fun and exciting sport everyone can play. Racquetball has moved from dingy old gyms to posh new clubs. And who is keeping these clubs in business? Women players who fill up those empty daytime hours. Women are fast becoming the majority of players. These women need to be able to see the top women racquetballers play. They learn from these women pros and the excitement and top skills of racquetball are promoted.

The women are the people who will promote junior players as well. Mothers who enjoy racquetball will see to it that the kids play. They are the ones who cart the kids around and see to it that they play and practice. Look at our most skillful player right now — Marty Hogan. Who helped him develop and enjoy racquetball? Mother — Goldie Hogan. Women pros help encourage women players and in turn women help the kids.

Women sports are booming and the in thing now. This is the time to push



continued on page 6

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continued from page 4

harder and increase the women's participation. This will keep or bring women into racquetball instead of other sports. The women pros do nothing but good for racquetball. To continue our growth and the growth of racquetball we must have a strong pro tour. This means having a fair amount of prize money for the women and having at least eight tournaments. The pro tour is one of the best advertisements for new players. So a strong tour of both men and women is needed.

Mr. Kendler you have done so much for racquetball and the women and we really appreciate it. We now need your help again. The women are a strong asset to the pro tour. Please help us to continue to grow and stay that way.

Best wishes,
Janell Marriott

Dear Janell:

Thank you for writing my editorial. I thoroughly agree with the women's point of view. Maybe I should tell you I am madly in love with a gal named Evie, so it's not surprising that I welcome our ladies ideas.

So that the record will ever be clear, I have never initiated any program that did not take into total consideration the women players. From time to time our sponsors suggest ideas for our consideration and it is up to me to determine which ones have merit.

A new sponsor suggested the four women only pro tour stops and offered a limited amount of prize money. I

rebelled. For one thing I felt the number of women's tour stops should remain the same, — also the prize money increased.

The sponsor felt otherwise, but indicated we could add two more combined events provided it was at our own expense. This was just fine with me. As long as that was the only problem, I decided to add four instead of two, making everything nearly the same as before.

That means there would be four joint tour stops and four separate. I like this idea, Janell for the following reasons.

One day soon, I hope the women's pro tour will be a distinctly separate event completely capable of standing on its own merit. I know the gals can do it and if you are willing, — I'll help. I think you deserve a glory all your own, not wallowing in the shadows of men.

On the other hand, I don't think we should abruptly alter our present program until we have had more promotion. So think about four separate stops this year, perhaps six next year and go for broke the following year. I think we'll be ready then, Janell.

Perhaps the four separate tour stops next season will surprise us, — we just might want to take the plunge sooner. But we'll never know unless we try.

One of my favorite sayings is, "God hates a coward." I know the girls are not cowards. Everyone knows I admire

them more than the men. I think it's harder for the female than it is for the male in every facet of life. So don't worry about any man talking down your ideas.

Simply put, — I'll do whatever is best for the sport, and that includes the women professionals. I honestly believe we should move toward an independent tour, a step I feel would show progress.

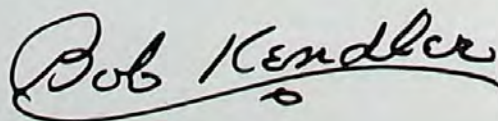
Doing it under a gradual system would enable us to weigh the program carefully as we go along and allow us to retain our options as we plan the years ahead.

One last thought. Don't ever let anything keep you from communicating directly with me, you or any other lady. You said you need my help, what you should have said is that I need your help. And I need your faith. Just tell me what's the most good for the players and I'll be at your side as I always have.

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." ●

John 15:10, 11

Lovingly,
Bob Kendler



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Television: The Last Hurdle

As we begin the 1977-78 season it appears that racquetball has only one more frontier to conquer, that of television. That frontier is like an uncivilized jungle to those not experienced in the ways and means of the T.V. world. Yet despite our lack of experience in such matters, the brash, little sport of racquetball, 5.5 million participants at latest count, is making a major push in this direction.

The initial indications of our readiness to entertain television has come through the court clubs. More and more facilities are erecting glass walls and the true visionists have put in or are capable of putting in glass port holes in the front wall.

The ability to shoot cameras into the players without the problem of reflection makes televising racquetball an entirely new game. The use of slow motion, instant replay and expert analysis makes the action move from sport to poetry and back to sport again.

Mission Cable 2, the independent station in San Diego, televised much of the National Championships live over their network and videotaped many of the matches as well, for editing and distribution.

This was step one in our quest for full national coverage for major events. Mission Cable 2 proved to our organization and to the television industry that racquetball, despite the doubts, certainly is a sport that can be effectively televised.

Step two, then is to erect a "television court," so that when complete coverage is desired by the networks we

have the necessary, professionally designed arena in which to showcase our sport.

This step has been completed now at the King's Racquetball Court in Westminster, California, a 19-court facility. King's will be the site of the third pro tour stop this season, November 10-13.

What owner E. O. Rodeffer and manager Chuck Hohl did at King's Court was go to Public Broadcasting Station KOCE in Huntington, California for some expert design advice. Based on this information, Rodeffer spent approximately \$20,000 of additional funds to make the spectator court at his facility virtually ideal for television.

Three full glass walls, (both sides and back) with permanent bleachers make viewing by almost 700 persons perfect. A port hole in the front wall makes additional television coverage excellent. And more than that, King's Racquetball Court has already installed the necessary television trunk lines and hook ups, making the court ready-made for television.

"All the T.V. crew has to do is pull up the truck and plug in," said Rodeffer. *"We have already absorbed the bulk of their cost."*

To make the court even more desirable, King's is the first major facility to install the new Hawkeye Electronic system, to aid referees in making kill shot, foot fault and short serve calls.



That brings us to step three, the actual coverage of an event. The N.R.C. has been in contact with station WTTW, the Chicago P.B.S. outlet. WTTW has seen a 27 minute prepared videotape of the Nationals (done by Mission Cable 2) and based on that showing has expressed a desire to cover live, whatever Chicago area stop there might be on the pro tour.

However, before that might happen, KOCE in Huntington has already agreed to cover the pro tour stop at King's Racquetball Court live. That means then, that the first live broadcast of racquetball will occur this November.

The work of the N.R.C. now begins. Our job, we feel, is to convince WTTW in Chicago and any other P.B.S. stations to pick up the pro stop from KOCE in Huntington. If that can be done in just a few markets, with encouraging results, the televising of the Nationals this season, and perhaps the entire tour next year would be that much closer.

I won't predict that this time next year you and I will be sitting in our living rooms enjoying Hogan, Bledsoe, Brumfield, et. al. doing their thing.

The reason I won't predict that is because I know I won't see it. I'll be in the referee's chair. ●



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What A Ball We Had!!!

You know, I'll never get over the thrill of seeing kids have a good time. The longer I live, the better it makes me feel. Well I sure felt good at the National Juniors.

The task of taking in, caring for, and getting back 223 kids from 30 states and Canada is a job in itself. But managing to run a national championship tournament, make two trips (four bus loads) to Great America Theme Park, give top professional instruction and exhibitions, plus a banquet, souvenir shirts, free gym bags, eye guards, all meals paid for was a real task.

The point is that for five days 223 kids had nothing but fun, racquetball and camaraderie. I was proud and privileged to be in charge of this tournament, and although it was no easy matter, it was certainly a job worth doing.

The behavior of our kids, staying at a beautiful Sheraton Hotel four and sometimes five in a room was exemplary. The Sheraton people told me that our group was well behaved, courteous and caused no damage. I couldn't believe my ears, at first. But after thinking about it a while I realized that these kids had taken to heart what we had been telling them.

"Any one of you can ruin this fantastic tournament," I preached the first day. "Maybe not for those already here, but for all those who haven't been here yet. The future years of this tournament depend on you."

I guess my point came across. The kids were super. And talk about new faces, — they were all over the place.

The ability of these kids is astounding, almost frightening. The style, fluidity, backhands and command of shots that

I witnessed truly was remarkable. Today's juniors have at least a three to five year advantage over today's top pros and I predict that by the time these kids reach their early 20's they will make everybody forget about the heroes of the current tour.

I enjoyed virtually all the matches but I was especially glad to see a tremendous young man like Larry Meyers win the Boys 17-and-Under division. Here is a kid who was seeded low (10th) and didn't complain. He just went out and beat the numbers seven, two and three seeds to reach the finals and then stopped number one for the title.

His on the court behavior was superb. He never once complained about a call, and there were plenty that went against him. He never once stalled. He never once tried to pick up an illegal get. He was a perfect gentleman.

This is the kind of court conduct that must begin with the juniors and continue as they progress into the open, pro and other age categories. The fact that almost all of the kids showed great sportsmanship, fine etiquette and genuine respect for each other's ability, proves that the future for our sport is glowing.

I might add that there was not one single injury in this tournament, despite the great variety in skill levels. There were plenty of safety hinders, and a multitude of close plays, but never once did any player take a shot that could injure another with racquet or ball.

Well done, everybody!



I can't say enough kind things about John Bartolomeo, the owner of the host Evergreen Park Bath and Tennis Club and his superb manager, Vern Roberts. These two guys were in our corner the entire week and actually months before as we worked out the logistics of the event.

Their staff, combined with ours and the loyal Illinois State Racquetball Association proved to be the perfect combination of teamwork to get the job done.

Imagine having over 200 kids running around your facility for five days. And Evergreen Park has eight tennis courts that were booked as usual during the week as well. It was a fantastic gesture on the part of the club owner and manager to open his facility to us.

I certainly hope that John and Vern feel as good about their part in making this event such a success as I know I feel about ours.

And now we head into the 1977-78 season full force. It promises to be the biggest year in our history, as we continue to grow by giant leaps.

I know we at the U.S.R.A. have our work cut out for us. We'll be needing your help throughout the year as we do our utmost to pave the way for racquetball, — which will truly become the sport of the 80's. ●

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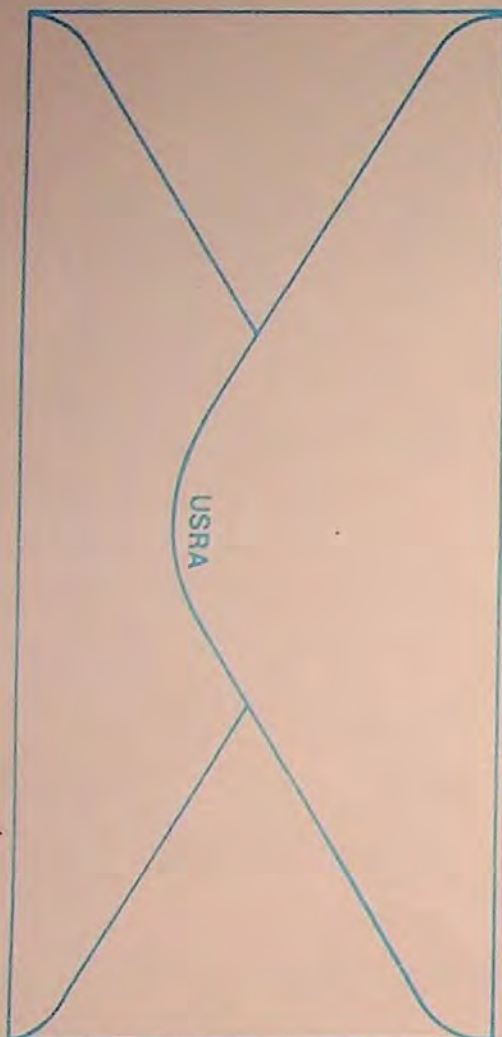
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LETTERS



Dear Mr. Kendler:

I cannot thank you enough for the book, magazine, bumper sticker and racquetballs that you sent. I played racquetball for the first time last Monday. It was so enjoyable that I returned to the courts Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, as well. Already it is apparent that my backhand needs much work.

Racquetball is certainly going to become a regular part of my weekly schedule. Mr. Kendler, it is because of you that I became introduced to this great game.

John Pastryk
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Joe, Chuck and Terry:

Just a short note to congratulate your efforts for the finest Junior Event in the history of Racquetball. The coordination and efficiency of every aspect of the tournament was outstanding and we feel the kids really enjoyed themselves and appreciated your efforts.

On behalf of the Leach players involved, I would like to thank you for your gracious hospitality and hopefully we will become a part of this event in the years to come.

I would like to point out the fact that without Dan Bertolucci the tournament would not have been a success. Dan was an integral cog in the machinery that made the tournament run and should be congratulated for his hard work behind the scenes.

Once again, congratulations on a fine tournament.

John R. Weaver
National Racquetball Clinic, Inc.

Dear Joe:

This letter is addressed to you because some of us know how hard you worked for the National Junior tournament. The standing ovation that you received at the banquet sent tears to the eyes of some of the parents that suddenly realized what people like you and Mr. Kendler are doing for racquetballers of all ages.

As parents and racquetball players, both my wife and I thank you, the USRA, Chuck Leve, Tom Street and the Illinois State Racquetball Association for not only running a fine tournament, but for making it available to so many fine young men and women.

Continued success in your endeavors. Let's make racquetball the number one sport in America.

Armando and Miriam Armengol
Champaign, Ill.

Dear Joe:

I would like to thank the U.S.R.A. and in particular Terry Fancher, Joe Ardito and Dan Bertolucci for their gracious hospitality and help during the National Juniors. It was a super job and a fantastic tournament.

The winners were the boys and girls, all 223 of them.

Thanks again.

Jim Winterton
President
Upstate N.Y.R.B. Assn.

Dear Mr. Ardito:

I wanted to tell you of my appreciation along with the rest of the juniors for putting on such a fine racquetball tournament. My thanks to you especially, Joe, for having the patience and giving up your time to put up with us.

It was an experience that I myself will not forget for the rest of my life. Without people who care like you, Chuck Leve, Bob Kendler and Terry Fancher, the juniors would never had the opportunity to meet with other kids and make new friends.

Thanks again to you and the U.S.R.A. for doing this for us.

Larry Meyers
Oceanside, Cal.



Wedding bells were ringing July 10, when Barbara Lynn Turcot and Chuck Leve, the N.R.C.'s national director, were married in a garden ceremony at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Newton Turcot. Our newest doubles team honeymooned in London.

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Understanding Fatigue - (an alternate view)

Editor's Note:

From time to time in virtually all phases of life, well meaning and educated people have differences of opinion on the same subject. The editors of *National Racquetball* are not health experts, and those articles submitted for this section are sent to respected persons whose opinion we value. We therefore present the following comment and article by a previous author, Dr. Victor I. Spear. The reader should compare this article with the article "Understanding Fatigue" in the May, 1977 issue and draw his own conclusions.

Open Letter to National Racquetball

Dear Chuck:

Your magazine is much too good to allow Kenneth Carlson's *Understanding Fatigue* to slide through unchallenged. It demands rebuttal. Please consider the following for publication.

Victor I. Spear, M.D.

Having carefully read *Understanding Fatigue* by Kenneth Carlson in the May, 1977 issue, my conclusion is that Mr. Carlson doesn't!

No less than six times he focuses on the disposal of "wastes" as the critical problem in fatigue. He equates the fatigue factor with the "concentration of waste in the body tissues," which the "muscular system will have more difficulty dealing with." He then compounds the error by going on to say: "Oxygen is the key to delaying fatigue because it acts as an agent to reduce the buildup of waste in the body tissues."

The last quote is at least a half-truth. Oxygen is the key, but Mr. Carlson blows the whole message with his "because" and onward. It seems so dramatic for the anti-fatigue battalions to be faced with the crucial task of eliminating all those noxious poisons, toxins, ugly by-products, and various other wastes like some intricate dispose-all — but, alas, that's not where the problem lies. If it were, we'd be researching for a muscular equivalent of a laxative. (Could it be that George Blanda and Gordie Howe are about to reveal that their secret is milk of magnesia?)

Of course not.

Understanding Action

Consider the nature of a physical act, whether it be hitting a shot or taking a step. What happens to produce this minor miracle? Think of it as the end

result of a chain of events according to the following sequence:

air → lungs → blood → muscle → action

Now let's analyze each step in detail:

1. Inhalation
 - of air, with oxygen, into the lungs
2. Transfer
 - of oxygen through the membranes of the pulmonary alveoli (lung mini-sacs) into the capillary blood vessels.
3. Circulation
 - of the oxygen-saturated blood, powered by the pumping action of the heart, to the muscles.
4. Transfer
 - of oxygen from the blood into the muscle cells.
5. Utilization (Conversion)
 - by the muscle cells - a chemical reaction with the oxygen, causing the muscle fiber to twitch, or contract, and thereby perform the act.

Understanding Reserve

Where do conditioning and fatigue fit into this maze? To answer this we must digress briefly into a discussion of the fundamental physiologic principle of RESERVE.

The human body, and life systems in general, function quite well at a level far below operating capacity. In other words, our output rarely comes close to our potential in any of our systems, whether it be heart, lungs, kidneys, muscles or brain. Take the kidneys for example: Under normal conditions, only 10% of the action potential is utilized, and 90% is held in reserve.

The ratio may not be quite as staggering for muscle tissue, but the principle is the same. The ability to handle an increased load is inherent in every step of the above chain. Ability. But in order to have *performance* measure up to ability, we must face a

few painful facts of life. The efficiency of the response to the challenge is proportional to the demands *regularly* put on the system. Each can be increased dramatically - the lungs can be inspired (couldn't resist) to take in more units of air, the alveoli can transfer more units of oxygen to the blood, the heart can be stressed to pump faster and more forcefully, the capillaries can transfer more units to the muscle cells, and finally the muscle can convert more units into work. The capability is there.

BUT.

It is there only in theory, and can't be fully realized until adaptation has taken place - adaptation to a progressive series of greater and greater stimuli - putting demands on all parts of the chain.

That's the meaning of conditioning.

Understanding Conditioning

It simply has nothing to do with the handling of wastes. Fatigue occurs with the breakdown, or falling behind, in any or all parts of the chain. We quickly get the message when the lungs, heart or muscle reach the current threshold of inability to handle the increased load put on the system. But waste disposal occurs *after* the fact, and is not an important part of the chain. Carlson: *"A well-conditioned player is able to deal with fatigue since his muscles have the ability to dissipate waste at a faster rate."*

NOT TRUE.

The conditioned athlete differs in that he is able to *deliver* the potential energy to the muscle better, and *utilize* it more efficiently. DELIVERY and UTILIZATION - not disposal.

Let's examine the chain in reverse. In the process of conditioning, the muscle cells "learn" to function better, putting out more work on demand. This puts less pressure on the capillaries for

oxygen transfer, which in turn puts less stress on the heart to get the blood there in the first place. Backing up another step, there is less need for the lungs to gulp air for oxygen transfer to the blood stream. Conditioning increases the efficiency of the whole machine. We take fewer breaths, fewer heart beats, and fewer muscle contractions to perform the same task.

Goodbye, fatigue! Hello, fluid motion!

As his final insult, Mr. Carlson uses Dr. Kenneth Cooper, of *Aerobics* fame, as a reference. The irony is that the selected quote is a direct refutation of Carlson's own thesis. (Cooper):

"During an exhausting match a conditioned player may process nearly twice as much air per minute as an unconditioned player, providing the body with the extra oxygen necessary for the energy producing process."

Note that Dr. Cooper refers to oxygen for *energy producing* rather than *waste disposing*.

The poorly conditioned "athlete," sucking wind, heart pounding, muscles failing, hardly has a problem with waste disposal. He may be wasted, but waste isn't his problem. His body isn't putting out much work, so there is comparatively *less* metabolic waste resulting.

In summary, I have no quarrel with the need for conditioning in racquetball. Indeed, it can hardly be overemphasized. Fatigue is the greatest potential obstacle to the aspiring racquetball player. But we make progress only through understanding - and the better we understand the ways and means of fatigue - the better we will be able to cope *sensibly* with the problem.

UNDERSTAND. ●

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How 223 Players Won The Juniors

The National Juniors Championships are over. Thirty kids in five age groups took home trophies. But the real winners were all the players, 223 from 30 states and Canada, who enjoyed the thrills, fun, excitement and competition of their own National Championship tournament.

At the eight glass courts, including one with a full glass side and back wall, at the Evergreen Park Bath and Tennis Club in suburban Chicago, play went on everyday July 27-31, showcasing the best young racquetball talent ever assembled.

The tournament, which cost over \$30,000, was exceptional in the amenities and benefits, most of them unheard of in modern tournament play.

Each participant was met at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago and once he or she stepped off a plane, they were taken care of — transportation, meals, accommodations hotel, and entertainment.

And perhaps the entertainment is what should have been at the top of the list. For two days, bus loads of racquetball juniors were taken to Marriott's Great America Theme Park in Gurnee, Illinois. There they enjoyed the rides, games and outdoor attractions that millions experience annually.

"I've never seen a bunch of kids have so much fun," said Joe Ardito, the U.S.R.A.'s National Commissioner, who headed the tournament. "They came from all corners of the continent, with one thought in mind, — to have a good time. We did our best to give it to them."

With some of the players traveling thousands of miles from home, the U.S.R.A., with the tremendous help of the Illinois Racquetball Association,

managed to house them all, four or five in a room, at the Sheraton Towers just a few miles from the club.

"They had a ball," said Ardito. "And after talking to the hotel management, we found out that virtually all of our players were well behaved."

The Great America trips, half the kids on Thursday, the other half Friday, was the entertainment highlight, but by no means all that the players received. Another big part of the tournament was the participation of a group of touring professionals.

Led by number one ranked Marty Hogan, four Leach pros conducted clinics and daily exhibitions for the players as well as acting as chaperones. Richard Wagner, Steve Serot, and Ben Koltun were the other pros, who were in turn chaperoned by John Weaver, the director of National Racquetball Clinics, Inc.

"The tournament was meant to be a learning process," said U.S.R.A. National Coordinator Terry Fancher. "The help provided by the pros was of great importance."

Leach, along with Seamco Sporting Goods, each donated \$10,000 toward the tournament, with the U.S.R.A.'s president Bob Kendler, picking up the remainder of the tab.

"There's no question that this was the finest junior's tournament ever held," said Kendler. "It may have been the finest tournament of any kind."

Along with all this, the players also received beautiful souvenir shirts, gym bags, eye guards, bumper stickers, and copies of Steve Keeley's *The Complete Book of Racquetball*.

Saturday night, following a banquet, The Great Lester, well known ventriloquist and puppeteer performed for the crowd, including parents and guests.

On the court there were some fantastic matches, a great number of upsets, and superb play. Based on this tournament, today's pros better stay in shape, because tomorrow's pros are not that far behind them.

The surprise winner in the 17-and-Under Boys division was Larry Meyers, an Oceanside, California native, who came through the super-tough bottom bracket to take the coveted title from Mike Yellen. Yellen, from Southfield, Michigan, was the division's top seeded player.

In the Girls 17-and-Under number one ranked Jamie Abbott, Great Falls, Montana captured the title, stopping Laura Martino, Fountain Valley, California in the finals.

To show the growth of racquetball among young ladies, a full round of 17 players in this bracket, plus the 16 in Girls 14-and-Under made 33 girls competing, — compared to three in last year's tournament.

Perhaps the best racquetball play comparatively, was in the Boys 15-and-Under finals, where Craig Davidson, another Oceanside, California racquetballer, stopped St. Louis' Doug Cohen, in an exciting three game battle.

The Girls 14-and-Under was won by a familiar racquetball name, Hogan, — Linda that is, who captured the championship over Bobbi Brennan, Frankfort, Kentucky. Now that Linda has a national title to her credit she will no longer be known as Marty's sister.

In the Boys-13-and-Under top seeded John Klearman took the title, stopping St. Paul's Hart Johnson in the championship match. Klearman was one of three St. Louis finalists.

Consolation play was a big part of the tournament, ensuring every participant



With Yellen behind him, Meyers drops down to go for the bottom board.

Yellen follows through with a backhand in the Boys 17-and-under finals. Note the ball on Meyer's forehand.



of at least two matches. In tournaments such as the Juniors, where abilities are sometimes an unknown quantity, consolation play allows those players who may have received poor draws a chance to continue play.

So it was here, as some fine players wound up winning the consolation divisions.

New Hampshire's only entry in the tournament, Bruce Christensen from Amherst stopped Steve Elia, Hawthorne, New Jersey 21-12, 21-14 for the Boys 17-and-Under consolation championship.

The only local winner, Highland Park, Illinois' Bret Carl took the Boys 15-and-Under consolation title, defeating Bill Gamble, Cordova, Tennessee 21-12, 17-21, 11-3.

Another Cordovan, Steve Gregg captured the Boys 13-and-Under consolation by knocking off Milwaukee's Mike Manning in the finals 21-10, 21-11.

Janet Johnson, South Burlington, Vermont took the Girls 17-and-Under consolation victory stopping Sheryl Slazas, Park Ridge, Illinois 21-11, 21-6.

And in the Girls 14-and-Under consolation, Virginia Waldron, Sheboygan, Wisconsin defeated Debbie Loicano, Morton Grove, Illinois 21-6, 21-1.

The prestigious Boys 17-and-Under bracket, which annually graduates its winner to the pro tour, may have more than one graduate this time. Against overwhelming odds, Meyers grabbed the title 11-21, 21-13, 11-8.

In a match which was expected to be all Yellen, especially with Mike's pro tour experience last season, the first game gave no indication that anything was amiss.

Breaking from an early 5-all tie, Yellen ran five points, primarily on Meyers errors to take a 10-5 lead, which he held to 15-10. Meyers, whose forte is soft kills into both corners, was not able to mount a serious offensive threat. Yellen was successful in keeping Larry deep with series of cross court and V passes, especially to the forehand side.

Finally Yellen cranked up his highly touted offensive game and took a 15-11 advantage to 21, scoring the last six points of the game without losing service.

But a funny thing happened to Yellen in the second game, — he got cocky. Pretending he was on the pro tour, Mike began playing games within the game, — excessive floor wiping, delays of game, crowding, stares and grimaces, and playing the prima donna role perfectly. Except Meyers ignored it.

The key to the second game was early, when Meyers, holding an 8-5 lead, was unable to score four times at 8. But Larry did the next best thing, — he held

Yellen scoreless during the same period, until he broke further ahead tallying four times in the ninth inning to take the big 12-5 lead.

Although Yellen closed to 8-12, Meyers jumped back out to a 14-8 advantage and Mike never got closer to within six the rest of the way.

So into the tie-breaker the two youngsters went, Yellen driving the ball cross court and down the line, Meyers going to the ceiling and shooting the corners.

Yellen continued to attempt the psyching maneuvers on Meyers, who was totally unpsychable. With the serve at 3-2, Larry hit a perfect backhand soft pinch kill into the left corner for his fourth point, and with Yellen leaning backward followed it with a deep court backhand kill off a ceiling ball. A few seconds later Larry hit another backhand soft kill for his sixth point, and an unnerved Yellen skipped in a serve for the seventh.

Two innings later at 7-3, Meyers made a run for 11. A surprise drive serve to

The right got him an ace and 8. A forehand right corner re-kill made 9 and forced Yellen's first time out. A Yellen backhand skip off the serve made it 10-3 and with momentum now pulling Meyers toward 11 like a huge magnet, — he almost blew the match.

He called a time out.

"I don't know what I was doing," said Larry later. "I thought I'd let Mike think about it. I suppose it was a mistake."

It was, as Yellen used the time to re-group and forced a Meyers backhand error to re-gain the serve at 3-10.

But still he couldn't score, but then neither could Meyers as they traded serves twice at 10-3. Yellen got one back for 10-4 and continued to hold as the highly pro-Meyers crowd murmured nervously.

Soon it was 5-10 as Meyers skipped a forehand, then 6-10 as Yellen killed a deep court backhand off a ceiling ball. When Larry shot and missed a back wall set up off a serve for 7-10, he wisely called his last time out.

Still serving, Yellen caught a break, hitting a crack in the side wall on a front wall-right side wall kill to make it 8-10. Meyers finally got the serve back with a backhand three-quarters court kill.

It seemed like ages ago that Larry had been serving at 10-3 with the match barely in doubt. Now here he was six serves later, knowing that he'd better get that last one now, for he might never get the chance again. He did.

It was Yellen who gambled, taking a ceiling ball that came off the back wall and going for broke, a kill attempt into the right corner with his forehand. The

kill wasn't there, however, and the ball stayed up long enough for Meyers to hit his forehand re-kill, another soft shot into the right corner to take the match and title 11-8.

"His antics didn't bother me," said Meyers. "In fact I think they took away his concentration."

In the 17-and-Under Boys semi-finals, Meyers, who had upset number two seed Jeff Larson in the quarters, met Bobby Bolan, the thin Tempe, Arizonan another of the pre-tournament favorites.

Bolan is a hard-hitting serve and shooter, who rides his hot streaks and tries to overcome his cold ones. Meyers, on the other hand, plays a steady, if not flashy game.

Bolan raced to an early first game lead, taking a 7-0 advantage after four

The Pied Piper of Rochester

Rochester, New York's A racquetball players all had a part in the National Juniors, though only one of them traveled the 587 miles to the tournament.

The city's top players rallied round the cause last spring when Jim Winterton, newly named chairman of the Upstate Racquetball Association, announced that the Rochester Juniors wanted to pay their own way to the Evergreen Park matches. The group decided on a raffle, charged one dollar a chance on two racquets and a gym bag, and raised \$520 by selling tickets.

"We sold them mostly to A players who are friends of mine," said Winterton.

That money, plus the U.S.R.A.'s travel allowances bought the round trip plane tickets for Winterton and six Rochester boys, ages ranging from 12 to 16.

Winterton could be called the Pied Piper of Rochester racquetball. The kids he leads onto a court end up hooked on the game—many become daily players.

Thirty-year-old Winterton, now head pro at Rochester's new Winton Racquetball Club, had instructed racquetball in his town's Jewish Community Center and YMCA the last four years. That's how long he's been teaching seventh grade English at the French Road Middle School.

The two occupations go hand in hand for Winterton, third ranking player in the state of New York.

"If I have any kids with problems in class, I bring them to the racquetball courts," he said. "They see me in another role—they see me pay my own money for a guest

pass—they know I care. Every kid I've played racquetball with has improved in class."

Winterton's stint last year as Brighton High School's freshman football coach also produced some fine racquetball players. Like quarterback Steve Rosenbloom, part of the Rochester contingent to the Junior Nationals.

Steve, 15, and fellow-players Brian Goldstein, 16, and Mark Levine, 13, call Winterton "a tough teacher who never yells." And, like seasoned pros, they add "we owe all our success to Mr. Winterton."

To prepare the boys for the National Juniors Winterton set up a training program that included running and individual practice on shots. At least once a week each junior got to play with Winterton or with another A player.

innings. Meyers came back to 3-8, but another Bolan burst made it 12-3, seemingly in total control.

But as hot as Bobby was, he turned freezer cold in a matter of seconds. Meyers ran 12 points in the next inning to totally overcome the 9 point deficit, and then three innings later added three more, making it 18-12.

Nine times Bolan served at 12 without scoring. Finally he hit the board with two in the 21st inning, but it was 19-12 by then and Meyers went out with two kills to take the game.

Game two was the opposite. It was Meyers who jumped ahead early, 4-1, 7-2, 10-2 and Bolan who came back, 4-12, 7-12, 11-14 until finally tying the match at 17-all.

But two kills and an unforced error on a ceiling ball gave Meyers the 20-17

lead, and Bolan was able to tally only one in his half inning, on a pass left.

Finally the match went to Meyers on a V-pass to the left, a perfect winner.

In the upper bracket semi-final Yellen encountered the gutty Scot Davidson, another Oceanside, Californian. In the first game Davidson played tough, and actually held a lead during the middle of the game, when Yellen caught him at 18 and took command with his brilliant passing game to score a 21-18 win.

Having put everything he had into the first game, Scot couldn't generate the momentum at all in the second, and Yellen took an easy 21-15 victory.

Two of the quarter-final matches went three games, including Meyers surprising victory over Larson, the power-hitter from Vancouver, Washington. Again, it was Meyers

patience and cool that spelled victory, taking game one 21-14, dropping the second by the same score and then blasting his way in the tie-breaker to an 11-0 win.

Davidson had a super match with another Californian, Santa Clara's Scott Hawkins. That one was 21-20, 17-21, 11-6 as both players pushed themselves to the limit.

The other two quarters were routine, Yellen's 21-13, 21-11 victory over Beaver Wickham, again Oceanside, California and Bolan's 21-17, 21-14 decision over Cincinnati's Larry Fox, a match which was closer than even the scores indicate.

In the Girls 17-and-Under, Abbott, the expected winner did so, although it was ironic that the only three game match in this entire bracket was her quarter-final

Before the first match Jim Winterton gives a verbal warm-up to his Rochester, N.Y., crew (l. to r.) Jack Dollinger, 15; Steve Rosenbloom, 15; Peter Bluestone, 12; Brian Goldstein, 16; Mark Levine, 13, and John DiNardo, 14.



"Mark McCarthy, who was a club pro, and Laverne Dickinson, who teaches high school math, put in a lot of hours playing with the boys," Winterton says.

Married and the father of a three-year-old son, Rochester's most devoted racquetball player learned the game in its early days—"in the Air Force in 1968, playing with the original blue Joe Sobek ball." As the sport continues to grow, Winterton hopes to draw more juniors into the game.

"At the 1978 Nationals I hope we'll be bringing along some new faces. We're trying to get more kids involved and I'm encouraging three or four girls who are good in gymnastics. Just like the boys—when I put them on the court, they can't get enough of the game." ●



Abbott drives one cross court with her forehand in the Girls 17-and-Under finals. Martino prepares to cover.

win against Barbara Faulkenberry, Clearwater, Florida.

"I was a little bit scared," said Abbott, a smooth southpaw, "but I maintained my composure in the next two games."

That she did coming from her first game 18-21 loss and taking the next two 21-7, 11-0.

The championship match against Martino was close in the first game with ties at 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9. Then a five point inning, three Martino errors, an Abbott kill and pass made it 13-9 for Jamie, a lead which was closed two innings later to 13-11.

But that was the last point Laura tallied as Abbott kept the pressure on, forcing

errors and shooting well when she got the chance, for a 21-11 first game win.

Game two was similar in pattern as Abbott took a 7-all tie and ran to 14-7 by holding Laura scoreless over eight consecutive innings.

When Martino closed to within 10-16, Jamie called time out to re-group and proceed to score four unanswered points and coast home 21-14. Match point came on a backhand kill into the left corner, the result of a strong drive serve, weak return and set-up at center court.

The boys 15-and-Under was a superb match with both Davidson and Cohen

displaying the serve and shoot style that has come into vogue recently. The trace of the Hogan style was not accidental in the swings of both players.

After taking a relatively easy 21-10 first game victory, Davidson ran into a determined effort by Cohen. It would have been easy for this 15-year-old to get down on himself, - instead, he came back harder.

The two battled through the first half of game two even, deadlocked at 10-all, and trading points all the way to 16-all. At this juncture Cohen hit two straight backhand kills, the second a beautiful back wall roll out to take an 18-16 advantage. But Doug went to the well once too often and skipped in the next opportunity to lose the serve.

But Davidson committed the cardinal sin of racquetball, hitting a three-wall serve and then a short, to double fault.

Obviously shook up by the turn of events, Craig then skipped Cohen's first serve making it 19-16. An inning later Doug took the game 21-17, point 20 in another Davidson error, and game point on a forehand back wall kill.

The fourth inning of the tie-breaker was a back breaker for Cohen, as Davidson got his power and retrieving game into high gear. Coming in to serve at 4-3, Craig forced two Cohen errors, both with his backhand, and followed with two kills, one forehand the other backhand to take an 8-3 lead and force a Cohen time out. Despite the call, Cohen erred again making it 9-3 before regaining the serve himself.

Doug managed only one, a pass down the right wall, and Davidson, after the serve hit an ace to the left on a drive for 10-4.

Cohen killed the serve each of the next three times Davidson came in, holding off match point each time. But Doug

Cohen and Davidson played the fastest paced final. Here Cohen goes for a winner, but it was Davidson who took the match in the 15-and-Under.



couldn't dent the scoreboard more than once and on his fourth attempt, Davidson drove a serve to the right, surprising Cohen for an ace and the match 11-5.

Neither player had much trouble in the semi-finals, with Davidson stopping Mark Comeaux, Lafayette, Louisiana 21-1, 21-8 in the bottom bracket and Cohen eliminating unheralded Mike George, Great Falls, Montana 21-12, 21-14 in the upper bracket.

The Boys 13-and-Under finals between Klearman and Johnson was just a matter of too much power overcoming good shoot-making and control.

After taking a fairly tough first game 21-16, Klearman had his hands full early in game two struggling from 3-6 to 7-all and 8-all ties before he got going. But when John finally got his name on target, there was nothing Hart could do to stop the momentum.

The killer was the ninth inning, when Klearman, leading 10-9 scored seven unanswered points, four on kill shots, two passes and only one Johnson error. When your opponent is hitting that well all you can hope to do is slow his momentum. Johnson tried that with a time out mid-way through the inning, but nothing cooled Klearman.

Johnson got three more serves but couldn't dent the point column and Klearman took the title going away 21-9.

The semi-finals found Klearman stopping Rochester, New York's Mike Levine 21-12, 21-6 in the top bracket while Johnson defeated David Gross, St. Louis, thereby stopping the chances of an all St. Louis final. Scores of that match were 21-12, 21-19.

Klearman drives one cross court as Johnson decides where to cover in their championship match in Boys 13-and-Under, won by Klearman.



The girls 14-and-Under final was between the obvious cream of the division's crop. Neither Hogan nor Brennan, the two top seeds had difficulties along the way, although Sheryl Krause, Sheboygan, Wisconsin gave Linda a pretty good battle in the quarters before bowing 21-11, 21-19.

Hogan demolished Krista Fox in the semi's 21-4, 21-2 and on the up side Brennan stopped Ellen Kurland, Rochester, Minnesota 21-14, 21-13 in her semi-final encounter.

Thus the championship match was set. Hogan, who looks, but doesn't act like her famous older brother, showed all the movements and strokes that have earned Marty the top spot in racquetball.

The first game was nip and tuck throughout finally culminating in an 18-all tie. Both players were shooting well at times, yet both were making mistakes that one might expect from their youth.

At 18-all Hogan put together her final run, three straight, coincidentally immediately after huddling with brother Marty.

The second game was dominated more by Hogan, who grabbed a five

The newest champion Hogan shows her form in topping Brennan in the Girls 14-and-Under final.



point margin early and held it throughout the contest. With both players so evenly matched a five point margin is difficult to overcome. Brennan couldn't and the result was a 21-14 match win for Hogan.

Third place matches were played in all events. In the boys 17-and-Under Bolan topped Davidson 21-8, 21-9; Ernst beat Muenzenberger 21-12, 21-11 in the Girls 17-and-Under; George defeated Comeaux in the Boys 15-and-Under 21-8, 21-15; in the Girls 14-and-Under Kurland stopped Fox 21-1, 21-3; and in the Boys 13-and-Under Levine defeated Gross 21-12, 21-17. ●

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

What a super job was done by Vern Roberts, manager of the Evergreen Park Bath and Tennis Club, his lovely wife Tini and their entire staff. Biggest thanks goes to owner John Bartolomeo, who opened his facility to the juniors, and even entered his son in the tournament. . . . The Illinois State Racquetball Association was actively involved in the tournament, with president Tom Street, secretary-treasurer Alan Shetzer, Dan Bertolucci, Bob Van Tuyle, Tim Terrance and many others doing a whale of a job . . . Thanks as well to all the parents and chaperones who aided at the tournament . . . The kids all had a super time, and should be talking about this tournament for a long, long while.



One of the highlights of the week was revenge, - the revenge of the tournament staff on Marty Hogan, for inciting the kids to rebel. Here Tom Street, president of the Illinois Racquetball Association gives Hogan a well deserved pie in the face. Marty was so surprised he never moved. Note Hogan's buddy Serot (2nd from l.) who was in on the secret . . .

. . . A better look at a better looking Hogan.

Boys 17-and-Under (Preliminary Round): Andre Stewart, Fayetteville, N.C. d. Paul Bartell, Appleton, Wis. 21-15, 21-13; Oscar Calzada, El Paso, Tex. d. David Frame, Anderson, Ind. 21-8, 21-9; Rob Simmons, Falmouth, Me. d. Karl Kovach, Livonia, Mich. 21-20, 21-17; Jack Nolan, Tempe, Ariz. d. Lon Hill, Palatine, Ill. 21-3, 21-1; Rich Ruffu, Aubrey, Tex. d. Anthony Di Paolo, Chicago, forfeit; Dan Dawson, Lafayette, La. d. Marty Peters, Lincolnshire, Ill. 21-14, 20-21, 11-9; Gary Berz, San Bernardino, Cal. d. Charles Horton, Port Chester, N.Y. 21-15, 21-19; Chris Waring, Frankfort, Ill. d. Brian Bevak, Livonia, Mich., forfeit; John Derdyn, Tucker, Ga. d. Mike Kelleher, Evergreen Park, Ill. 21-16, 21-11; Boris Carvallo, Oak Park, Ill. d. James McGuirt, Lafayette, La. 21-11, 21-5.

(Second Round): Mike Yellen, Southfield, Mich. d. David Lind, Frankfort, Ill. 21-0, 21-0; Andy Witt, Glen Ellyn, Ill. d. Dennis Corrigan, Westlake, Oh. 21-10, 21-15; Dan Battershell, North Platte, Neb. d. Rick Taylor, Orlando, Fla. 21-15, 21-15; Mark Pasche, Dallas d. Stewart 21-17, 21-13; Ken Kaihlanen, San Antonio d. Calzada 21-12, 21-5; Steve Peck, Milwaukee d. Steve Elia, Hawthorne, N.J. 21-3, 21-6; Brian Kimball, Clearwater, Fla. d. Gerry Cassidy, Brockton, Mass. 21-8, 21-16; Beaver Wickham, Oceanside, Cal. d. Rudy Ramirez, Tucson, Ariz. 21-10, 21-0; Scott Hawkins, Santa Clara, Cal. d. Roy Olson, Palatine, Ill. 21-2, 21-7; Simmons d. Dave Erling, Appleton, Wis. 21-11, 21-6; Richard Samson, Skokie, Ill. d. Brian Goldstein, Rochester, N.Y. 21-7, 21-9; Mark Richardson, Livonia, Mich., bye; Scott Davidson, Oceanside, Cal. d. Nolan 21-20, 21-11; David Baccus, Houston d. John Brown, White River Jct., Vt. 21-6, 21-14; Ruffu d. Bob Troller, Madison, Wis. 21-6, 21-6; Danny Phillips, Macon, Ga. d. David Kinberg, St. Louis, forfeit; Larry Fox, Cincinnati d. Steve Lindenau, Madison, Wis. 21-2, 21-4; Mark Martino, Fountain Valley, Cal. d. Dawson 21-5, 21-8; Dan Constable, Palatine, Ill. d. Bruce Christensen, Amherst, N.H. 21-17, 21-4; Dan Ferris, St. Cloud, Minn. d. Berz 21-8, 21-14; Larry Nitishin, Houston d. Waring 21-5, 21-5; Kevin Van Trease, Findlay, Oh. d. Pete Balerno, North Platte, Neb. 21-14, 21-12; Robert Phillipy, Clearwater, Fla. d. Warren Jones, San Diego 21-10, 21-6; Bob Bolan, Tempe, Ariz., bye; Dave Doehr, Livonia, Mich. d. Bob Davies, Cupertino, Cal. 21-18, 21-16; Eugene Fitzpatrick, Falmouth, Me. d. Ron Nutting, Wausau, Wis. 21-12, 21-7; Scott Schaefer, Pella, Ia. d. Tony Scarlati, Clarendon Hills, Ill. 21-5, 21-6; Larry Meyers, Oceanside, Cal. d. Derdyn 21-16, 21-3; Danny Cohen, St. Louis d. Carvallo 21-11, 21-14; Bobby Stone, San Antonio d. Tom Phillips, Madison, Wis.; Craig Harrison, Niles, Ill. d. Nick O'Shea, Livonia, Mich., forfeit; Jeff Larson, Vancouver, Wash. d. Tim Wesley, Hutchinson, Kans. 21-3, 21-4.

(Third Round): Yellen d. Witt 21-2, 21-1; Pasche d. Battershell 21-16, 21-19; Kaihlanen d. Peck 21-16, 21-13; Wickham d. Kimball 21-8, 21-14; Hawkins d. Simmons 21-5, 21-3; Richardson d. Samson 21-16, 21-14; Davidson d. Baccus 21-16, 21-14; Phillips d. Ruffu 21-10, 21-18; Fox d. Martino 21-3, 21-1; Ferris d. Constable 16-21, 21-3, 11-3; Nitishin d. Van Trease 21-19, 21-13; Bolan d. Phillipy 21-9, 21-16; Doehr d. Fitzpatrick 21-13, 21-7; Meyers d. Schaefer 21-17, 21-12; Cohen d. Stone 21-15, 21-9; Larson d. Harrison 21-4, 21-8.

(Fourth Round): Yellen d. Pasche 21-7, 21-12; Wickham d. Kaihlanen 21-7, 17-21, 11-9; Hawkins d. Richardson 21-18, 21-13; Davidson d. Phillips 21-1, 21-0; Fox d. Ferris 15-21, 21-11, 11-5; Bolan d. Nitishin 21-8, 21-9; Meyers d. Doehr 16-21, 21-6, 11-2; Larson d. Cohen 21-16, 21-4.

(Quarter-finals): Yellen d. Wickham 21-13, 21-11; Davidson d. Hawkins 21-20, 17-21, 11-6; Bolan d. Fox 21-17, 21-14; Meyers d. Larson 21-14, 14-21, 11-0.

(Semi-finals): Yellen d. Davidson 21-18, 21-5; Meyers d. Bolan 21-15, 21-18.

(Championship): Meyers d. Yellen 11-21, 21-13, 11-8.

(Third): Bolan d. Davidson 21-8, 21-9. **(Consolation):** Christensen d. Elia 21-12, 21-14.

Boys 15-and-Under (First Round): Bob Kahn, Omaha, Jeff Yellen, Southfield, Mich. byes. Chris Biuckie, Valparaiso, Ind. d. Colby Basham, Elgin, Ill. 21-8, 21-4; Charles Horton, Port Chester, N.Y. d. Leonard Berz, San Bernardino, Cal. 21-9, 21-7; Mike George, Great Falls, Mont. d. Bill Gamble, Cordova, Tenn. 16-21, 21-16, 11-6; Scott Mornill, Cumberland, Me. d. Mike Ardito, Lincolnwood, Ill. 21-13, 21-8; Steve Lerner, Highland, Cal. d. Don Mann, Hinsdale, Ill. 21-3, 21-4; Sean Moskwa, Downers Grove, Ill. d. Perry Neal, Livonia, Mich. 21-2, 18-21, 11-3; Steve Rosenbloom, Rochester, N.Y. d. John Slazas, Park Ridge, Ill. 21-1, 21-4; Rick Lewis, Fountain Valley, Cal. d. John Dollinger, Rochester, N.Y. 21-19, 21-15; Steve Veilleux, Waterville, Me. d. Rick Ward, Carmichael, Cal. 21-6, 21-14; Paul Bakken, Fergus Falls, Minn. d. Steven Rapp, Willowdale, Ont. 21-1, 21-3; Barry Chaplik, Glenview, Ill. d. Scott Wicks, Hutchinson, Kans. 21-9, 21-15; Carl LeBlanc, Lafayette, La. d. Kevin Stirtz, Burnsville, Minn. 21-0, 21-0; Mike Corrigan, Westlake, Oh. d. John Ruffa, Aubrey, Tex. 15-21, 21-19,





Fun was the order of the day, when the racquetballers took on Great America Theme Park in Gurnee, Illinois. Here the juniors taste some of the plums at the amusement park: rides, rides, rides, and games.

11-9; Butch Hawkey, Vancouver, Wash. d. Gary Sanchez, Albuquerque 21-8, 21-18; Doug Cohen, St. Louis d. Kent Bailey, Topeka, Kans., forfeit.

Craig Davidson, Oceanside, Cal. d. Craig Stirtz, Burnsville, Minn., forfeit; Doug Weisman, St. Louis d. Mark Darling, Elgin, Ill. 21-7, 21-10; Greg Boland, Great Falls, Mont. d. Bret Carl, Highland Park, Ill. 19-21, 21-11, 11-4; Leslie Horenfeldt, Toronto d. Mike Santen, Lombard, Ill., forfeit; Dan Murray, Janesville, Wis. d. Ray Cherney, Des Plaines, Ill. 21-12, 21-4; John Eggerman, Boise, Id. d. Mark Cohen, Portland, Ore. 21-1, 21-8; Gary Provost, Burlington, Vt., d. Arnie Valera, Berwyn, Ill. 21-7, 21-4; Gordon Gallagher, Evanston, Ill. d. Peter Ruffu, Aubrey, Tex. 21-1, 21-1; Bob Clar, Northbrook, Ill. d. Dix Wellington, St. Louis 21-19, 21-15; Roger Donner, San Pedro, Cal. d. Robert Kohl, Milwaukee 17-21, 21-5, 11-5; Mark Adelson, St. Louis, d. John Di Nardo, Rochester, N.Y. 21-7, 21-6; Jim Skinner, Memphis d. Mark Burleigh, Elgin, Ill. 21-5, 21-4; Mark O'Donnell, Janesville, Wis. d. Osvaldo Laso, Miami, default; Mark Comeaux, Lafayette, La. d. Andrew Wilson, Barrington, Ill. 21-4, 21-2; Mark Pincki, Highland Park, Ill. d. Steve Larabee, Waterville, Me., forfeit.

(Second Round): Biukie d. Kahn 19-21, 21-14, 11-2; George d. Horton 21-2, 21-15; Lerner d. Morrill 21-1, 21-9; Rosenbloom d. Moskwa 21-0, 21-2; Lewis d. Veilleux 21-12, 12-21, 11-9; Bakken d. Chaplik 21-4, 21-0; LeBlanc d. Corrigan 21-7, 21-5; Cohen d. Hawkey 21-2, 21-5; Davidson d. Weisman 21-9, 20-21, 11-6; Boland d. Horenfeldt 21-11, 21-2; Eggerman d. Murray 21-7, 21-12; Gallagher d. Provost 21-7, 21-12; Donner d. Clar 21-4, 21-4; Skinner d. Adelson 21-20, 17-21, 11-10; Comeaux d. O'Donnell 21-6, 21-4; Yellen d. Pincki 21-2, 21-7.

(Third Round): George d. Biukie 21-7, 21-17; Rosenbloom d. Lerner 21-19, 21-9; Bakken d. Lewis 21-13, 17-21, 11-6; Cohen d. LeBlanc 21-9, 21-10; Davidson d. Boland 21-12, 21-7; Eggerman d. Gallagher 21-13, 21-13; Donner d. Skinner 21-18, 21-18; Comeaux d. Yellen 18-21, 21-12, 11-10; **(Quarter-finals):** George d. Rosenbloom 13-21, 21-4, 11-2; Cohen d. Bakken 21-18, 14-21, 11-4; Davidson d. Eggerman 21-17, 21-2; Comeaux d. Donner 21-17, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Cohen d. George 21-12, 21-14; Davidson d. Comeaux 21-1, 21-8.

(Championship): Davidson d. Cohen 21-10, 17-21, 11-5. **(Third):** George d. Comeaux 21-8, 21-15. **(Consolation):** Carl d. Gamble 21-12, 17-21, 11-3.

Boys 13-and-Under (First Round): John Klearman, Chesterfield, Mo., Tom Bartolomeo, Chicago, Chris Carow, Glenview, Ill., Andy Gross, Creve Coeur, Mo., John Bechard, Waukesha, Wis., David Barkens, Skokie, Ill., Eric Ruffu, Aubrey, Tex., Mark Lerille, Lafayette, La., John Carow, Glenview, Ill., David Gross, Creve Coeur, Mo., Clifford Ira, Jacksonville, Fla., Hart Johnson, St. Paul, Greg Peck, El Paso, Tex., byes.

Peter Bluestone, Rochester, N.Y. d. Vincent Del Giudice, Evergreen Park, Ill. 21-17, 21-20; John Amatulli, Highland, Ind. d. Norman Brownstein, Willowdale, Ont. 21-4, 21-0;

Fred Lewerenz, Detroit d. John Fisk, Leawood, Kans. 21-20, 21-7; Shawn Brown, White River Jct., Vt. d. Steve Gregg, Cordova, Tenn. 21-12, 21-10; Ted Lane, Carol Stream, Ill. d. Matt Lombardi, Kansas City 21-11, 21-12; Mike Levine, Rochester, N.Y. d. Kyle Holder, Champaign, Ill. 21-3, 21-6; Wes Marshall, Carmel, Ind. d. Frank Thomas, Cicero, Ill. 21-13, 14-21, 11-4; Armando Armengol, Champaign, Ill. d. Tom Poulin, Waterville, Me., forfeit; Tom Quoyeser, Lafayette, La. d. Jack Dahm, Morton Grove, Ill. 21-4, 21-3; Barry Koran, Miami Beach, Fla. d. Bobby Halperin, Lincolnwood, Ill. 21-0, 21-3; Joe Ardito, Libertyville, Ill. d. Kevin Holder, Urbana, Ill. 21-8, 21-19; John Breckenridge, Palatine, Ill. d. Mike Manning, Milwaukee 21-17, 21-15; David Trautman, Rochester, Minn. d. Jamie Shetzer, Elk Grove Village, Ill. 21-0, 21-6; Jack Newman, Morton Grove, Ill. d. Richard Potter, Jacksonville, Fla., forfeit; Jeff Plazak, Brookfield, Wis. d. Marty Karlin, Glenview, Ill. 21-11, 21-7; Nathan Martin, Mercer Island, Wash. d. Jamie Lane, Carol Stream, Ill. 21-0, 21-6; George Brumis, Palos Hills, Ill. d. David Berger, Shawnee Mission, Kans. 21-7, 20-21, 11-0; Mike Dahm, Morton Grove, Ill. d. Mark Yellen, Southfield, Mich. 21-9, 21-4; Bill Parodi, Topeka, Kans. d. Alan Singer, Morton Grove, Ill. 21-17, 21-6.

(Second Round): Klearman d. Bluestone 21-12, 21-2; Amatulli d. Lewerenz 21-2, 21-1; Brown d. Bartolomeo 21-6, 21-16; C. Carow d. Lane 21-15, 21-17; Levine d. A. Gross 21-11, 21-3; Bechard d. Marshall 21-14, 21-17; Armengol d. Barkens 21-1, 21-0; Quoyeser d. Ruffu 21-4, 21-8; Lerille d. Koran 13-21, 21-8, 11-6; Breckenridge d. Ardito 21-1, 21-9; Trautman d. J. Carow 21-7, 21-12; D. Gross d. Newman 21-12, 21-0; Ira d. Plazak 16-21, 21-4, 11-0; Johnson d. Martin 21-11, 21-5; Brumis d. Dahm 21-19, 21-19; Parodi d. Peck 21-3, 21-8.

(Third Round): Klearman d. Amatulli 21-12, 21-6; Brown d. C. Carow 21-7, 21-6; Levine d. Bechard 21-5, 21-1; Quoyeser d. Armengol 21-4, 21-6; Lerille d. Breckenridge 21-4, 21-9; D. Gross d. Trautman 21-8, 21-18; Johnson d. Ira 21-3, 21-4; Parodi d. Brumis 21-16, 21-1.

(Quarter-finals): Klearman d. Brown 21-3, 21-6; Levine d. Quoyeser 21-17, 21-10; D. Gross d. Lerille 21-16, 21-16; Johnson d. Parodi 21-17, 21-8.

(Semi-finals): Klearman d. Levine 21-12, 21-6; Johnson d. D. Gross 21-12, 21-19.

(Championship): Klearman d. Johnson 21-16, 21-9.

(Third): Levine d. D. Gross 21-12, 21-17. **(Consolation):** Gregg d. Manning 21-10, 21-11.

Girls 17-and-Under (Preliminary Round): Lori Muenzenberger, LaCross, Wis. d. Cindy Kasik, Morton Grove, Ill. 21-9, 21-3.

(Second Round): Jamie Abbott, Great Falls, Mont. d. Tammy Totland, Hutchinson, Kans. 21-7, 21-5; Barbara Faulkenberry, Clearwater, Fla. d. Janet Johnson, South Burlington, Vt. 21-7, 21-7; Muenzenberger d. Trudy Girard, Lafayette, La. 21-19, 21-9; Fran Kenck, Oak Park, Ill. d. Lisa Ann Bechard, Waukesha, Wis. 21-5, 15-21, 11-0; Laura Martino, Fountain Valley, Cal. d. Jean Carow, Glenview, Ill. 21-0, 21-0; Julie Sak, Southfield, Mich. d. Maurisa Sommerfeld, Lincolnwood, Ill. 21-0, 21-1; Janice Doyle, Scarborough, Ont. d. Vrsulla Quoyeser, Lafayette, La., forfeit; Eileen Ernst, Frankfort, Ky. d. Sheryl Slazas, Park Ridge, Ill. 21-3, 21-3.

(Quarter-finals): Abbott d. Faulkenberry 18-21, 21-7, 11-0; Muenzenberger d. Kenck 21-14, 21-9; Martino d. Sak 21-3, 21-7; Ernst d. Doyle 21-12, 21-5.

(Semi-finals): Abbott d. Muenzenberger 21-4, 21-3; Martino d. Ernst 21-4, 21-4.

(Championship): Abbott d. Martino 21-11, 21-14. **(Third):** Ernst d. Muenzenberger 21-12, 21-11. **(Consolation):** Johnson d. Slazas 21-11, 21-6.

Girls 14-and-Under (First Round): Bobbi Brennan, Frankfort, Ky. d. Jane Cikanek, Springfield, Ill. 21-0, 21-0; Stacey Fletcher, Warren, Mich. d. Kay Dahm, Morton Grove, Ill. 21-1, 21-0; Ellen Kurland, Rochester, Minn. d. Virginia Waldron, Sheboygan, Wis. 21-6, 21-10; Sherri Gross, St. Louis d. Michelle Moss 21-1, 21-2; Kindra Stirtz, Burnsville, Minn. d. Jamie Karlin, Glenview, Ill. 21-1, 21-0; Krista Fox, Springfield, Ill. d. Aleza Martin, Mercer Island, Wash. 21-7, 21-10; Sheryl Krause, Sheboygan, Wis. d. Debbie Loiacano, Morton Grove, Ill. 21-3, 21-4; Linda Hogan, St. Louis d. Betsy Koza, Lake Forest, Ill. 21-1, 21-2.

(Quarter-finals): Brennan d. Fletcher 21-5, 21-7; Kurland d. Gross 21-0, 21-4; Fox d. Stirtz 20-21, 21-17, 11-7; Hogan d. Krause 21-11, 21-19.

(Semi-finals): Brennan d. Kurland 21-14, 21-13; Hogan d. Fox 21-4, 21-2.

(Championship): Hogan d. Brennan 21-18, 21-14. **(Third):** Kurland d. Fox 21-1, 21-3. **(Consolation):** Waldron d. Loiacano 21-6, 21-1.

Juniors Over All

(Note: U.S.R.A. president Bob Kendler addressed the 223 players and about 100 parents and friends at the Saturday night banquet at the National Juniors Championships. His remarks concerning junior racquetball follow.)

Thank you ladies and gentlemen. It is indeed my pleasure to be able to speak to the largest and finest junior racquetball talent ever assembled. The skill and sportsmanship you displayed this week were evidence that the future of racquetball is in exceptionally capable hands.

You know, a few months ago, I was discussing this tournament with our staff and I made the statement that the National Juniors would probably end up costing close to \$30,000. I received stares of amazement and words of concern.

"How can you spend so much on one tournament?" I was asked. *"Where will the money come from?"* *"Why should we pay so much in travel allowances?"* *"How will you possibly handle 225 kids in one hotel?"* And on and on the doubters went.

My response was immediate and direct: If I had my choice between any other tournament of the year, pros, amateurs, or anybody, and the National Juniors, I would spend double the \$30,000 if necessary, to ensure the kids have the best possible tournament for their National Championships.

The juniors today are tomorrow's seniors. Today's youth is the base of the pyramid from which we will build racquetball into the greatest amateur sport this nation has ever seen.

And more than all that, - the kids deserve a National Championship event all their own. We would never squeeze the Junior National title in among 10 or 12 other brackets of play at an Open Nationals.

We have *never* done that and never will. We've seen others try, and all the kids get are the last courts, the poorest referees, the least recognition and no publicity. Does that sound like a National Tournament? Well, it doesn't to me and *that's* why we have gone out and spent over \$30,000 on this tournament.

Is it worth it? I'm not sure I can answer that question. I didn't go to Great America, I didn't get a beautiful Leach-Seamco shirt, I didn't eat free this week, and like the rest of you, I've never seen Lester the Great. So let me ask you, - did you all have a good time?

If any of you didn't, please let me know what it was that you didn't like and you can be sure I will remedy the problem by next year's tournament. The U.S.R.A. is totally dedicated to the National Juniors and I intend to continue even stronger efforts to build this program.

We look for an entire Juniors program, possibly ready by next year, with Regional Juniors, separate and distinct from any other tournament. Our state affiliates will be instructed that to continue receiving our support they will have to initiate a Juniors division within their state for both boys and girls.

Racquetball is booming now; we all know that. But to be sure that racquetball will continue to grow, well into the 21st century, we must further our promotion of the younger age groups.

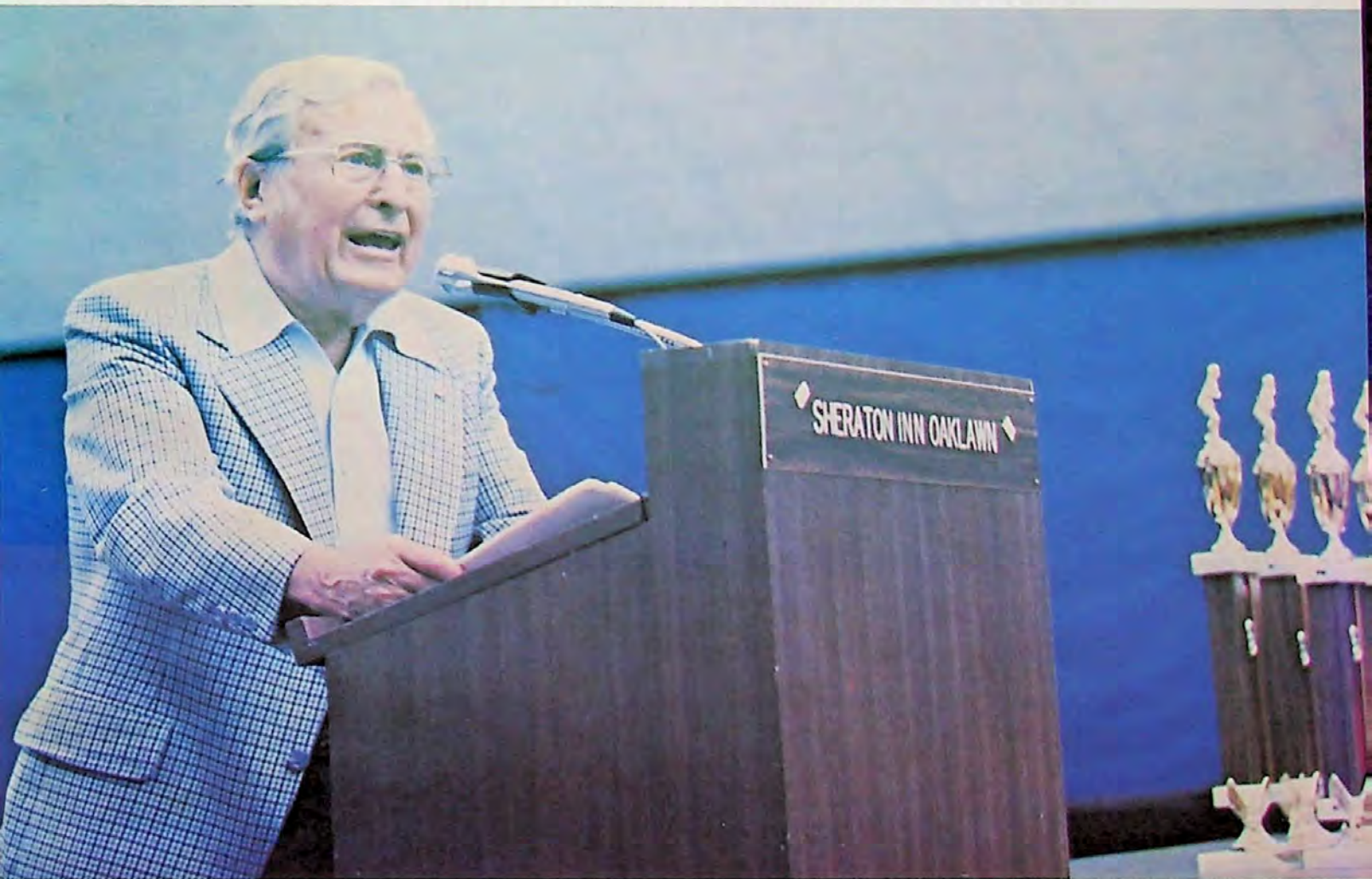
All of you out there, I wonder what you think of yourself, a racquetball player, perhaps hundreds or thousands of miles from home. When you go back home, when you walk through the halls of your school next month, you should be proud, proud to be a part of something that will bring health and well-being to people all over the world during your entire lifetime.

I know I feel proud, standing here, knowing that in some small way, I have made your life a little more enjoyable, your youth a little more fun, your experiences a little more worldly.

And do you know how you can thank me? Keep at it, that's all. Continue to play, and play with the values that good sportsmanship and healthy competition give you.

In my youth there was no racquetball, but I took up racquetball's Daddy, Handball. While I was sitting at the beautiful Evergreen Park Club

U.S.R.A. president Bob Kendler urges the junior racquetball players to stay with it, to help build the foundation of the future.



watching some of the play, I felt a soft, warm glow inside me. It was that same feeling I had over 50 years ago when I first stepped onto the handball court. It's a good feeling and one that I promise you will carry with you for the rest of your lives!

Now a word to the mothers and fathers. If you have seen previous Junior Championships you certainly must have noticed the tremendous progress we are making. This is by design, - not by accident. Satisfied that our professional programs have been solidly launched over the past few years, we now turn our attention to the amateur program, with emphasis on the Juniors. That is why you have so

many more little goodies this year than ever before. And this is by no means the end of our efforts, - on the contrary, it is just the beginning.

We think our most important duty is to make Junior racquetball the most popular sport in town. We want our winners to be admired and respected just as much as the football and baseball heroes. We can accomplish this only with the total cooperation of Mom and Dad. Through our widely expanded State program, there will be many more local and regional tournaments. This will be made possible through our financial assistance to the State Associations. From the Regionals, these youngsters will be assisted to the Nationals with the kind of supervision you see here.

We would like to see every youngster so involved in racquetball that he plays his heart out, - so that when the day is done, *he* is done, - and ready for bed. We'd like to have him expend all his energy in the court and not in the alley. We'd like him so tired out when the sun sets that he will have no interest in mischief. We would like him to make a career in racquetball that is so important to him that his lust for excitement will be suffocated by the desire for a better body, mind and soul.

We need all the encouragement the parents can give. And if you have an unusually bright athlete, - just remember, we have been known to

The players and parents rise to give Joe Ardito, the man in charge at the juniors a standing ovation of appreciation for his monumental efforts at the tournament.



arrange scholarships where there is a genuine need. If we can work together there is much more for your child to win than a trophy. It could be both a racquetball career and a business career.

If you are curious about our generosity I should tell you that virtually every one of the top pro's today were helped by us in one form or another. And I couldn't be more proud of them. Not one has ever made me regret the fact that racquetball requires more than staging tournaments. To build the character of the sport, we must build the character of the players and there is no better place to start than in the National Juniors. We feel that our future lies with our juniors and for this reason we will do anything we can to mold their career and character.

We have no doubt that you are doing the same thing at home but we hope

you will encourage them, when we cannot. There is no doubt that the end result will be a fine citizen both of us can be proud of. The interests of childhood and youth are the interests of mankind. Childhood shows the man as morning shows the day.

Many years ago I met a father who devoted a great deal of his time teaching his sons how to play handball. Soon he was also teaching their friends. And before long he had a wonderful junior program under way at the neighborhood Y. This father was not the only one working on the kids in this neighborhood; the mother worked just as hard. She won her victories feeding these kids as they slowly began winning every tournament in our area. And it wasn't long before they began winning national championships.

One of these youngsters, Johnny Sloan, shared the national open

doubles championship at the age of 17. Later on, nearly every one of these kids came home with some kind of national title. Even the father managed to come home a winner one day.

Now I was never impressed by all the winners as I was by this Mom and Dad who devoted half their lives to Junior Handball. He not only had a tremendous affection for youngsters, but he could do miracles with them. They just seemed to sense the genuine love he had for all young people. No one I know has ever been so successful with the cares of the kids. He could put out fires without a loud word being spoken. I always thought he missed his profession, - he should have been the neighborhood priest.

Do you have any idea who I am talking about? It's Joe and Inez Ardito, and as long as I live, I will never believe that any human being can have so much

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patience and understanding. I wanted you all to know this because Joe is doing the exact same thing in racquetball as he did in handball (although I don't expect him to win any national racquetball championships).

He is the quarterback of our team and if you had a great time, thank Joe. He already knows how I feel, - now let him know how you feel.

Along with Joe we are all indebted to Chuck Leve, Terry Fancher, Danny Bertolucci, all of whom have put in long hours planning and running this event. Our hats are off to John Bartolomeo, Joan Andrews and Jack McGann, the three owners of the Evergreen Park Bath and Tennis Club. Their manager Vern Roberts, himself a former national juniors handball champion, was able to convince his owners that this event would be good for the club, and it was these people who made this wonderful facility available.

Realizing the size and logistics that would be necessary, we then requested and received the services of the Illinois State Racquetball Association, our local affiliate. Tom Street, Alan Shetzer and so many, many more people have done nothing but work for months on this tournament.

You can also thank Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods. Each of them put up \$10,000 to give you an outstanding holiday. When you realize that they graciously volunteered \$20,000 for this event, you just might want to write a thank-you note to Mr. Al Mackie at Seamco in LaGrange, Georgia . . . and to Mr. Charlie Drake at Leach Industries in San Diego, California.

And now, I know you are waiting for the rest of the program, and without further delay, let me thank you all for participating. Until we meet again, I hope you win every tournament you enter, until then, go with God! ●



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Sports Illustrated Plans 75-100 New R.B. Clubs

Sports Illustrated, the mighty magazine, respected by sports fans all over America, is going into the racquetball business as a part owner of what may become the biggest chain of court clubs in the world.

The magazine, a part of Time, Inc., is buying its way into the court club end of the business with a million dollar stake in a projected hundred-strong group of luxuriously appointed clubs.

The futuristic design of the 15 court buildings—which will be the same for all the construction—even contains a single “shop window” open to the street to give passers-by a taste of the action.

The Time, Inc. parent company has joined forces with Standard Court Players Corporation, a Southfield, Michigan group which already has two clubs in operation, three more scheduled to open this fall, and four more in the early days of next year.

The Time investment of one million dollars doesn't go far in the court business, especially when the company, which has been re-named Sports Illustrated Court Clubs, Inc., expects to spend over \$1.15 million on each club.

But with adventurous financing programs based on a sale-lease back arrangement the new company expects to have between 75 and 100 clubs open within four years.

They hope by that time there will be around 200,000 new recruits to the racquetball ranks, for the paramount plan is that the new clubs will be built well away from the racquetball hotbeds of Detroit, Chicago, and San Diego.

The first cities to benefit from the building boom are Lansing, Kalamazoo, Flint, Saginaw, and



Henry Luce III, president of Time, Inc. makes a statement at the press conference.

(L to r.) Luce, Craig Hall, and Marty Ramm.



Belleville, Michigan, and also South Bend, Indiana.

Head of the new company is 27-year-old Craig Hall, a real estate turn-around wunderkind, who has up til now specialized in buying up bankrupt real estate properties and making them profitable. He is now general partner in companies which own and operate more than 70 million dollars worth of real estate.

Time, Inc.'s involvement in the clubs, which Hall called "working men's country clubs," came only after a thorough investigation of the sport.

Henry Luce III, vice president of Time, Inc., launched the new project in Detroit recently by saying, "We gathered all the statistics one could possibly find, then we talked to Sports Illustrated's huge network of inside sports contacts. They told us what Craig Hall had been saying, that racquetball is the greatest newly developing sports trend.

It is now the nation's fastest growing participation sport. The number of players has approximately doubled every year since 1970 and is conservatively projected to reach 5.5 million this year. And we believe that the demand for court facilities will be prodigious."

To meet that demand the new clubs will be open 24 hours a day, with the owners planning to reap in both sweat and money from night people like hospital and industrial shift workers.

Members fees range from \$20 for a student - although officials say it is only coincidence that clubs projected for upcoming construction are near University campuses - through \$45 for a single membership and only \$10 extra for a family.

In addition, there will be court fees ranging from \$4 to \$10 dollars depending on the time slots.

And any of the estimated 2,000-2,500 members of each club who have the urge to travel with their racquets will have an extra bonus . . . they will be able to reciprocate and play in any of the other clubs in the chain.

One of the key factors in the new clubs will be service.

Explained Mr. Luce, "Racquetball is in a sense a major new direction for us because it characterizes service rather than journalism. But the quality of the Sports Illustrated name is a significant endorsement of the service members will come to expect.

Craig Hall, who heads the new company, got interested in racquetball two and one-half years ago when he and his partners were looking around for a different type of business which they hoped would be suitable for a chain store type operation.

He said, "After looking at various businesses we found racquetball to be

Bill Poore (l.) executive vice president of Sports Illustrated Court Clubs, and Chuck Leve, national director of the U.S.R.A. listen in at the conference.



the most promising and opened our first club in October of last year.

The type of facility we are designing is very deluxe-something which is synonymous with Sports Illustrated."

The racquetball carrying enthusiast taking his first trip to the new clubs will get an indication of Sports Illustrated's involvement long before he sets foot in the lobby.

The company logo will be superimposed on a 30 foot long window-on-the-world which will turn one court play into something more than just spectator sport for insiders.

Then there will be *Sports Illustrated's* high-action, quality posters hanging from the walls which will even be painted with a decor using the magazine's blue color.

"The clubs are not just going to be places to go hit a ball off the wall," explained Hall. "But a pleasant place

where a whole family can go to spend an evening."

High on his list of priorities are expanded nursery areas and television sets. "We want our clubs to go further than just racquetball. We want them to be very enjoyable social places."

In fact, there will be a lot of un-Hogan-like antics on the main court, which will do double time as a disco.

One of the unavoidable hinders in attracting the megabucks from institutional investment lenders into the sport has so far been a serious lack of adequate management in a lot of clubs.

Hall and company plan to circumvent this problem with a new training concept called the "Off the Wall U."

He explained, "Our training facility will train the managers and associate

managers as well as other club personnel in the finer aspects of controlling expenditures. Top management specialists will also be on hand to give instruction to students of the University as well as helping us develop a series of cassettes and slide film programs for further on-site training."

When each new club opens, experienced ground breaking teams of managers will be on hand for the first few weeks to cope with the behind-the-scenes teething problems. Up front interest in the clubs will be generated by personal appearances of some of the stars who week after week fill the pages of *Sports Illustrated*.

And pledged Hall, "Players all over the country will be able to count on a uniform, predictable standard of racquetball operations and this will help to sustain interest in the sport and promote its growth. ●

M★A★S★H Star Wayne Rogers— His New Role Is R.B. Clubs



Rogers and partner Lewis Wolff in front of the Van Nuys Supreme Court club. Three up and more to go.

Everytime there was a temporary truce on the make believe war taking place weekly in the concrete confines of Stage Nine at the Twentieth Century Fox studios in Hollywood, old Trapper John would sneak away to talk a different strategy.

To while away the long waits between takes, actor Wayne Rogers would abandon his role in the hit TV-series M*A*S*H and talk real estate deals with studio executive Lewis Wolff.

For Wayne, the six foot three inch star of the series, was just as interested in making money from his investments as he was from his career as a successful film and TV actor.

Then finally, the easy-going Alabaman eased his way out of the show and just as smoothly eased his way into racquetball.

As an investor.

In true military style, he wanted to make sure of victory in his new venture... so he took Lewis with him and the pair mounted a double attack at the growing sport.

That was three years ago. Now among the real estate and financial dealings of their joint venture company are three court clubs, two in California and one in Florida.

And there are plans for more in the close future.

Few people realize that Wayne Rogers is a man who enjoys the wide open financial field as much as he does the business end of a film script. And so good is he at the money making end of things that he also serves as business manager for several of his Hollywood colleagues, including the rain coated super sleuth Peter Falk, and two of his other close friends Jimmy Caan and Jack Webb.

He started out in his business life with a firm belief in real estate—probably generated by a year-long hitch in the U.S. Navy as a navigator aboard a leaky, converted Liberty ship.

While the boat was docked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Wayne slipped away to watch the rehearsal of a play a friend of his was directing.

Then it was only a short step from his narrow Navy bunk to acting lessons in New York and a half share in a run down apartment on 14th Street.

Tricia Condon is his foe as the two battle at the The Supreme Court, Van Nuys.



The other half of the odd and extremely penniless couple was Peter Falk.

After paying New York rents and his dues as an off Broadway actor, Wayne hit the big time with a starring part in a day-time soap opera—"Edge of Night".

It was soon after that he launched into real estate borrowing a down payment from a bank to buy a foreclosed building. That turned out to be a copy book turn around creative financing situation which shot him into a world of multi-million dollar real estate ventures, a vineyard near Paso Robles, California, oil wells, Canadian forest land, a computer company and three court clubs.

The myriad rows of computer printout financial figures are still much more understandable to him than the on-court maneuvers of competitive racquetball, but Wayne believes in getting close to his investments... even when it comes to taking the occasional beating from some of his own club members.

"Three years ago, when Lew and I used to have those off duty chats about business, we were already interested in the investment potential

of racquetball," explained Wayne as he took time out from a strenuous workout with pretty pilot Tricia Condon at his club, the "Supreme Court", in Van Nuys, California.

"And the potential looked about as good to us as the game did," he added. "Lew is a keen player and he convinced me that we could do a lot worse than to sink some of our investment finances into building court clubs."

"That was the start. Right now we have three, one here in Van Nuys, one in San Jose, California and a third one in Fort Lauderdale, Florida."

And their future plans demonstrate just how much faith they have in the game—"We have plans for two more clubs, in the Los Angeles area," he grinned.

Even so, things were not all that easy when they started their racquetball projects.

"We quickly found that financing lenders don't look with great relish on sports facilities but when we finally leased our building in Van Nuys, built the club and started operating we proved that it could be done," he added.



The often less than astute business dealings of some of the managers who take care of celebrity finances in Hollywood make almost as much newspaper copy as the stars do themselves.

But the clients of the actor tycoon are spared those ignominies.

"A lot of the business managers in this town don't do their homework too well. As soon as one celebrity or another back some sort of deal with money, a lot more of them follow suit without even much more than a cursory check. And sometimes they end up losing a great deal of money."

"Peter Falk lost \$200,000 through the dealings of one of his managers—and it's not uncommon. In the recent Homestake Oil Scandal, a whole covey of stars lost money."

"But Lew and I really do investigate our projects. And racquetball looks so good we are even going to make Peter Falk a partner in this club . . . raincoat and all."

It's not all high finance for Wayne, he still has to act, this time he is preparing a Christmas special movie with Marlo Thomas, Cloris Leachman and Orson Welles on ABC-TV.

"But I still try to find time to look in at the club and play a little racquetball—maybe I will even find my form and beat a few people soon," he added. ●



A common pose for Rogers. Why couldn't the court be 37 feet long?

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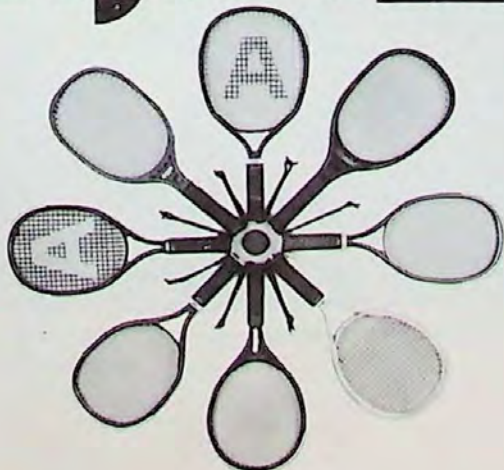


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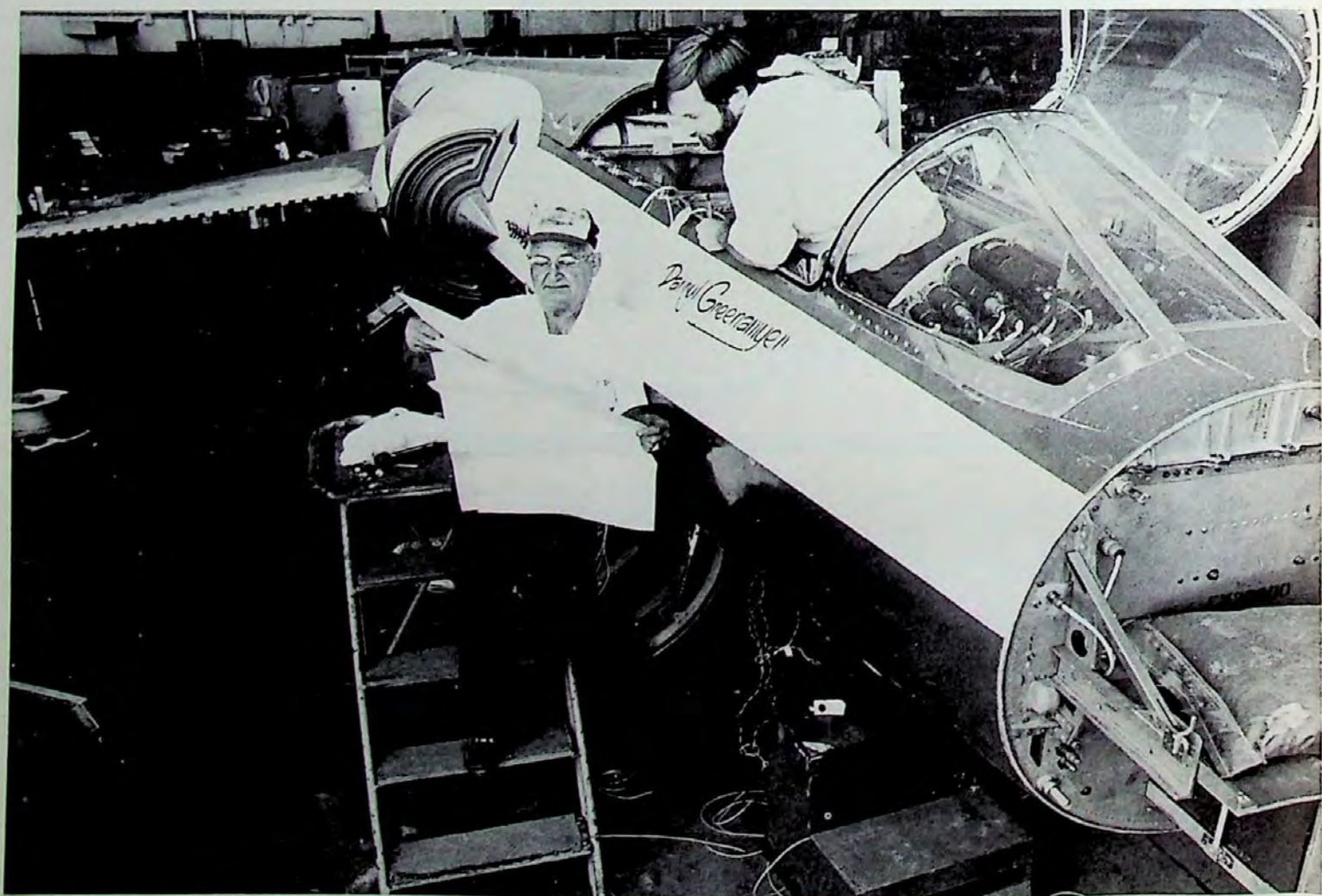
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Darryl Greenamyre - The Fastest Man In Racquetball



Greenamyre checks out the detailed drawings as he makes some adjustments on his flying speed machine.

Forty-year-old Californian Darryl Greenamyre just has to be the fastest man in racquetball.

And that doesn't mean he has a zinging serve which could knock Marty Hogan's delivery into second place, nor fancy flying footwork to shame Steve Serot. But when it comes to getting places in a hurry, Darryl . . . hurries.

This class C racquetball fanatic spends most of his life zipping along on the other side of the sound barrier, for he flies supersonic about as often as most racquetballers buy new balls.

The bearded test pilot, who made the transition from squash to racquetball three years ago, is the only man in the world to own his own personal jet fighter.

And not just any airplane either, for when he blasts into the California skies, it is at the controls of a \$3 million Lockheed Starfighter — just 12,000 pounds of needle nosed meanness.

The single seat jet — which widows of German Luftwaffe pilots call the

"widow maker" due to its propensity to crash in German hands — cost him around \$250,000 of his own money, and 12 years hard labor.

Now it is completed and flying, the racquetballer plans to capture a handful of aviation's toughest records from their present holders — the Russians.

He shows the same doggedness and determination in his racquetball game as he does when talking about his personal project which he hopes will soon carry him into the record books as the fastest man in the world.

In just a few months, he will retract the landing gear of the powerful engine plane — which he built entirely from scrap and surplus parts against a lot of opposition from the government and the constructors — and head for a special rendezvous above a mud lake at Tonopah on the California-Nevada border.

When he gets close to a specially marked out three kilometer course he will settle the plane into level flight, one hundred and fifty feet above the ground and scream four times over the route flat out.

Each time there will be a thunderous boom as he leaves the sound barrier behind on his way to a maximum speed of 1,010 miles per hour — which he says will allow him to beat the existing record by a healthy margin.

Then after some hot rod "Time to Climb" attempts, where he shackles the plane to a runway, revs up the engine to full power and zaps off to 35,000 feet in just a couple of minutes, after firing an explosive release bolt on the cable leash, - he is going to go for the big one, an all-out 1,600 mile an hour zoom skywards.

He wants to wrestle the world altitude record away from the Russians, who set it a few years back with their Foxbat fighter. And to secure that title he is going to have to fly almost 25 miles high, where the sky is dark and the air so thin the point will come where the engine quits on him. There he just keeps on going with the velocity built up

by a starting dive at a speed of Mach. 2.6 — even faster than the plane was ever designed to fly.

Getting down from up there is no less of a feat — he has to go into a special computer-calculated dive. Too shallow and he will go into a powerless tail spin, too steep and he could burn up the aluminum plane with the heat generated by a too-fast re-entry.

But if everything goes to plan he will re-ignite the monster engine at 25,000 feet and head home for a special victory celebration.

Honing his reflexes to the knife edge needed to stay on top of his testing task presented problems to the former test pilot.

But Darryl, who has logged 200 hours of flying time at speeds over 2,000 miles per hour while testing top secret government spy planes, found just what he needed in racquetball.

"Like a lot of Californians, I hate to work out in a gym. Pushing weights around is too repetitious for me, and tennis just too slow."

"I needed something which needed co-ordination, intense physical and mental effort and which didn't eat into my tight time schedule too much," he explained.

"Then three years ago I discovered racquetball. A friend built himself a court, and I went along to take a look."

The flyer, who graduated from the prestigious test pilot school at Edwards Air Force Base, still remembers his first attempt.

"In my business, you have to be fit and also have pretty good reflexes so I figured I was in for an easy time."

"But after 15 or 20 minutes, I was sweating so much — most of it from chasing that elusive ball all over the court," he laughed.

"If I had flown an airplane like I played that day . . . any spectators would have been treated to some of the craziest stunt flying of their lives."

"But as I began to watch and get into the game, I just got bitten by it. I found out what a lot of racquetballers had



On the racquetball court, Darryl shows the form that has not yet broken any records.

Back on the plane, Darryl checks out one of the engines, the danger of his work clearly etched on his face.



been telling me – it becomes an obsession.

"That was three years ago, and now racquetball gives me just what I need, a fast competitive game which allows me to use a bit of everything – energy, agility, reflexes, and it keeps my brain racing all the time."

As his record attempt draws near, Darryl plans to be playing more and more racquetball between long hours working on his projectile.

"On those flights, especially the time to climb ones, if I wait for something to happen before I react . . . it will be too late.

"It's like winning in racquetball, you have to have a special sixth sense to combine fast reactions with an even faster moving brain . . . and maybe a little luck." ●



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COURT CLUBS • MADEIRA, OHIO

A bi-level Racquetball/Handball and platform tennis facility called Court House East is now under construction at Madeira, Ohio. The club is located at 8229 Camargo Road next to the Camargo Racquet Club. The facility will be completed this fall.

Eight championship racquetball/handball courts, as well as two outdoor platform tennis courts, are planned along with a health spa, workout rooms, nursery, locker rooms and lounge. The club will be completely air conditioned. In addition a full line of pro shop equipment is featured, including the latest in racquetball, handball and platform tennis equipment.

There will be a series of exhibition matches featuring some of the outstanding nationally ranked players, with free clinics open to all members. Two of the courts will be exhibition courts with glass enclosed observation areas.



Charter memberships are now being accepted. Membership fees are: Family - \$75.00; Individual - \$40.00; Juniors - \$25.00. Corporate or business memberships will also be available. Local interest in racquet sports has been growing steadily in the past few years, with women in increasing numbers flocking to the racquet sports for fun and physique.

Commerce Industries, Inc. will be the Managing Agent for the club. The design is by Endeco Associates, and the Construction Manager is Endeco Corporation. Endeco has done studies for clubs in other cities including Albany, Buffalo and Syracuse, New York; Louisville, Kentucky; Anderson, Indiana and Detroit, Michigan.

WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK

Dick Fischer, Administrative Director of the Racquet Club of Eastern Hills Inc., proudly announces the appointment of Charlie Garfinkel as head professional. Garfinkel, who is better known as The Gar, will be in charge of organizing the teaching program at Fischer's beautiful facility which is located in the Eastern Hills Mall on Transit Road, Williamsville, N.Y.

As for The Gar, he has a tremendous background as a teacher — racquetball, squash, and tennis — and as a writer. The racquetball background of The Gar is second to none. The Racquet Club feels that they are extremely fortunate to have a pro of The Gar's calibre.

The Gar feels that racquetball is the fastest growing sport in the country. It is very easy to play, provides a tremendous workout in a relatively short time, and is inexpensive.

As The Gar himself says, quoting from his soon to be released instructional handbook, "Racquetball can be played by anyone. Even my two children, Adina age 6, and Bradley, almost 8, are playing well. Of course, they have the advantage of both being over six feet four inches tall. I suppose

that their height is unusual for their age."

As The Gar himself says, "Even in high school, I knew that I wanted to be a teacher. That is what I put down on our class prophecy. Out of 423 graduates, only seven are doing what they wrote down. I am one of the seven. I was born to teach."

In fact, The Gar estimates that he has taught over 500 students in racquetball through private and group lessons. "Seeing students at all levels progress and having fun is very important to me. Racquetball is the best game in the world for providing this."

The Gar, who is presently a Reading Resource teacher at School 80, graduated from Bennett High School. He then received his Bachelor of Science and Masters Degree in School Administration from Buffalo State. He has been a tennis and racquetball professional for 18 years. His wife, the former Leslie Kwasman, has been a tremendous help.

The Gar's ability to work with people, his patience when teaching, and most important of all, his ability to transmit knowledge and make the game easy for anyone, will find him in constant

demand. His "Henny Youngman" style of humor doesn't hurt either.

The Gar, Buffalo's only playing racquetball professional ever, feels the proudest of his following accomplishments. There have been nine National Championships held, with five different winners. The Gar has defeated four of them in national competition.

Assisting Garfinkel will be Bud Stange. Bud is one of the city's finest players, and has assisted The Gar in many clinics. He will be a welcome addition to the teaching staff.

The 12, beautifully constructed courts at the Racquet Club will be completed in the near future. Besides racquetball-handball and paddleball will be offered. There will be instruction in both.

Already leagues and a challenge ladder are in the formative stages. In fact, Garfinkel says, "I'm completely flabbergasted. I've been challenged by two new members already."

The Gar, who stands six feet six inches, guarantees one thing. "All of my students will look up to me."

WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

Co-owners John Bergman and Bob Keenan are proud to announce that construction has begun on the Brookfield Racquetball Club with planned completion in early fall.

The BRC is located in the Town of Brookfield, Wi., near Waukesha, in Waukesha County, which is one of the fastest growing counties in Wisconsin and the Midwest.

This central location, just off Interstate I-94 and Hwy 18 is just minutes from West Milwaukee, Elm Grove, New Berlin, Pewaukee and Sussex.

The BRC will feature a unique design, utilizing advanced construction techniques to allow for more than ample parking and ease of future expansion. Initially, 9 courts will be constructed with a 10 court addition planned in the near future.

The Brookfield Racquetball Club will be a private club for the health conscious community. A "players" facility, combining a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for men, women, and families is assured.

Other features include glass walled spectator courts, three lounges including a very special private womens lounge situated within the ladies locker room. Additional

John Bergman (l.) and Bob Keenan pose in front of the construction site of their new racquetball club in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Keenan is U.S.R.A. Wisconsin state chairman.



amenities include, for both men and women, an exercise room with the most modern exercise equipment available, spacious locker rooms with extra large lockers, whirlpools, steam and sauna's. The large pro shop will offer up to date racquetball and handball equipment and appropriate attire.

As an added extra, for BRC's traveling members, arrangements have already

been made to allow BRC members court privileges at other clubs in cities throughout Wisconsin and neighboring states.

Special Charter, Individual and Corporate Memberships are now being offered at reduced rates. Inquiries can be made by calling (414) 544-4457 or writing to BRC, 711 Moorland Blvd., Waukesha, Wi. 53186.

MUNCIE, INDIANA



Construction has begun on the Full Court Club, located at 3501 North Chadam Lane, Muncie, Indiana. Completion is slated for September, 1977.

General partners Alan Marsh, Boyd Franklin and John Primmer announced the 10 court racquetball/handball facility which will in addition, house men and women locker rooms containing saunas, whirlpools and exercise areas, nursery facilities, complete pro-shop, game room and a health food/refreshment lounge area. In addition, an outdoor swimming pool is planned for the first summer season.

Early in the planning stages by the three partners and architect, Fred Simmons, a goal was established to create a unique identity both in club name and logo, and building design. In addition, major objectives were to

insure energy control and conservation, possess pleasing aesthetics and to provide a recreational facility which combines social enjoyment as well as to fulfill members desires for physical fitness and competition. It is felt that the goal and objectives have been met.

The facility is within view of Ball State University, which currently has an enrollment of over 15,000 students. In addition, by being located on a major city thoroughfare, Full Court Club is easily accessible to university and community members alike. Early introductions, promotions, etc., have met with outstanding favoritism among both students and adults. It is now a major operating goal to Full Court Club to combine this enthusiasm and provide a refreshing new attraction to the community of Muncie, Indiana.



ARIZONA ATHLETIC CLUB – nearing completion in Tempe, Arizona. A 50,000 sq. ft. facility on 5 acres in the HoHoKam Business Park. The club is a private, limited membership, athletic health club, with 6 tennis courts, 14 indoor racquetball or handball courts, a 25 yd. swimming pool, jogging track, gymnasium, Nautilus Fitness Center, health spas, cocktail lounge, snack bar, pro shop, hair styling & barber shop, and a child care center. The club will be open seven days per week for men and women.

Walt Flood, Membership Director, announced: "The pre-opening membership drive has thus far resulted in over 750 Charter Members, with the Grand Opening just days away!

"Response to our announcements", according to Walt, "has been overwhelming. In excess of 2,500 sports and physical fitness enthusiasts have called or visited the Membership Office at the site over these past four months. We're getting 20-30 phone calls per day," continues Flood, "and

at the current rate of people and companies taking out memberships, we could be 'sold-out' within 30 days after the June opening."

The Arizona Athletic Club is a private total fitness facility, located in the HoHoKam Business Park, with 14 indoor racquetball courts, including a glass enclosed exhibition court with gallery seating for over 1,200 spectators; 6 night lighted tennis courts, a 25 yard swimming pool, indoor gymnasium for basketball and volleyball; body building and exercise

room with Olympic and Nautilus equipment; a 1/8 mile running track; separate Health Spas for men & women with Jacuzzi whirlpools, cold plunges, steam and sauna rooms, massage, and a snack bar with health foods. Plus, a cocktail lounge with a Disco and live entertainment; card room, billiard, table tennis and conference rooms; a hair styling barber shop, pro shop, and a child care center. All facilities will be open seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. til 11:00 p.m., for both men and women.

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PHILADELPHIA, PA

Northeast Racquet Club announces the opening of its 7 new regulation racquetball courts. Already one of the areas most successful tennis clubs, NERC has entered the racquetball market in a typically first class way.

Located at Grant Avenue and Krewstown Road in Northeast Philadelphia, NERC will have a viewing mezzanine exclusively for the air-conditioned racquetball courts. The courts will be within easy access to other facilities. These include saunas, steam room, whirlpool, locker rooms (permanent lockers), indoor pool, outdoor pool, fully equipped health spa, pro shop, nursery and fireplace lounge.

NERC will offer a full schedule of racquetball activities including professional instruction, parties, challenge ladders, leagues, and tournaments for all ability levels.

For further information please call area code (215) 671-9220.

PORTLAND, OREGON

Construction of Western Racquet Club is under way, with a planned completion date of September, 1977. The new facility is located at 8785 S.W. Beaverton Hillsdale Highway, Portland, Oregon. The Club offers eight racquetball courts (one glass-walled tournament court), four indoor tennis courts, and tennis alleys.

Other amenities are sauna, steam room, jacuzzi, weight rooms, and lockers. A pro shop and lounge with fire place will also be featured, as well as viewing areas, juice bar. Racquetball instruction will be offered and possibly exercise classes. The possibility of a day care room is under consideration.

The Old West decor and relaxed atmosphere provide a unique facility for members and drop-in players.

Ron More and Ron Gomez are the owners and managers of this club and have indicated that additional facilities are planned in the Portland area.

For information, write Western Racquet Club, 8785 S.W. Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy., Portland, Oregon 97225; phone 503-297-3723.

MARIETTA, GEORGIA

In the Atlanta, Georgia, area three frustrated racquetball players with no place to play ball, Rich Boggs, Norm Cates and Ray Irwin opened the first racquetball club in the metro Atlanta area—Court House 1. The club is located at 1990 Delk Industrial Boulevard, Marietta, Georgia 30067.

The club has 10 regulation courts—two of which have glass-back walls opening into the lounge viewing area—sauna, steam room and jacuzzi

for both men and women; weight room complete with Nautilus weight equipment; snack bar; pro shop and nursery.

The club, which opened only in April of this year, has 1400 members who pay an annual fee plus court time fee, or on an unlimited-play basis.

When in the Atlanta area, visit Court House 1.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

Credit for the idea and concept of the Aspen Hill Racquet Club in Washington, D.C. goes to one man, Stanley Hoffberger. Twelve years ago, when Hoffberger started playing tennis for recreation and exercise, a racquet sports country club was far from his mind.

He became a pupil of Allie Ritzenberg, the director and professional at St. Alban's Tennis Club, who is also the originator of some of the first tennis clubs in Washington. He convinced Hoffberger as far back as 1968, that the time was right for the building of an indoor tennis club in the area.

During the time that the plans for the Aspen Hill Racquet Club were being developed, Ritzenberg introduced Hoffberger to Pauline Betz Addie, Wimbledon and Forest Hills champion, a member of the Tennis Hall-of-Fame, head of the Sidwell-Friends Tennis Club and co-owner of the Betz-Taylor Tennis Camp. Addie shared their interest in an indoor facility and joined Hoffberger and Ritzenberg to build the Cabin John Tennis Courts in 1971.

Hoffberger was responsible for the

design, financing and construction of Cabin John, and became involved with the general management of the facility. From the vantage point of club operator, Hoffberger was able to listen to and analyze the needs and wants of members and these were considered in the development of the Aspen Hill Racquet Club concept. Sympathetic to the needs of his patrons, Hoffberger realized that most tennis enthusiasts would have to belong to at least two clubs, an indoor and separate outdoor club, to satisfy their seasonal needs.

Aspen Hill Racquet club is to be one of the finest club facilities in the area, with all the physical amenities of a country club except a golf course and full kitchen.

The physical setting is park-like — lots of foliage and natural landscaping. It was essential to have a large site in order to provide enough indoor and outdoor courts for seasonal reservations and spot reservations all year round for impromptu games with family, friends and business associates. Unique to the club are the three courts set aside especially for

"spot" reservations. There are nine indoor courts, 13 outdoor (11 Har-tru) courts planned, as well as four racquetball and three platform tennis courts.

The club will have challenge ladders, league play and tournaments for the competitive player. There will also be programs designed for the recreational player.

Saunas, whirlpools and equipped exercise rooms are available for the members' relaxation, as well as special exercise programs. There is also a snack bar and a lounge.

In the Washington area, there was a need for a club that would offer a variety of activities to involve the entire family. Three different racquet sports are offered: indoor/outdoor tennis, platform tennis and racquetball.

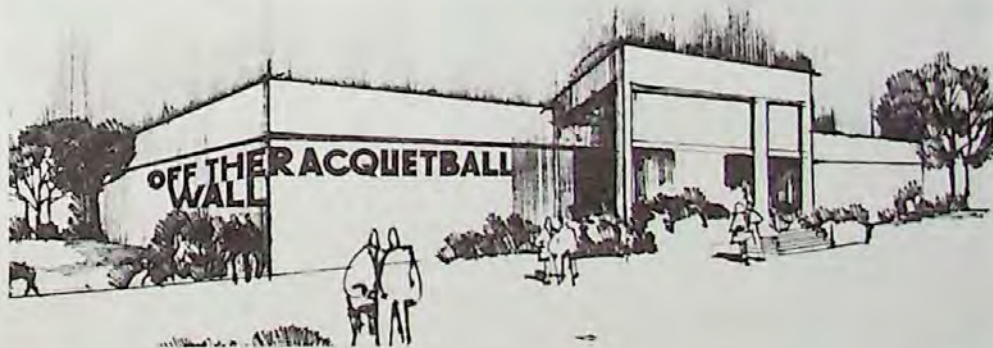
Hoffberger added, *"Our purpose is to create a club where the members will be comfortable and want to come and stay. At Aspen Hill Racquet Club members will know that they are getting first rate facilities and service."*

BETHEL PARK, PENNSYLVANIA

Racquetball, the fastest growing all-family sport in America, will be introduced in Bethel Park this fall with the opening of Off-The-Wall Racquetball at 3100 Industrial Boulevard, in Bethel Park, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Pittsburgh.

The building will contain 12,000 square feet and be constructed of masonry fluted block with a stucco finish. The permanent and construction financing is being provided by Suburban Savings Association, 2801 Brownsville Road. The General Contractor will be Jenel Construction Company of Bethel Park.

The club, first of a chain to be built in the Eastern United States, will offer the ultimate in racquetball/handball facilities. Off-The-Wall Racquetball will have eight air conditioned courts, sparkling clean and comfortable surroundings and professional, courteous service at attractive prices. In addition, there will be a comfortable lounge, a refreshment center and a well stocked pro shop.



Both mens and womens locker rooms will be fully carpeted and each will house exercise areas and saunas.

Because women represent a large percentage of racquetball players, Off-The-Wall Racquetball will offer a free, professionally supervised nursery.

Another special Off-The-Wall Racquetball feature will be an area in the lower level devoted to racquetball preparations. Here, experienced instructors will present a complete lesson program directed towards

players of all ages and abilities. The instructors will also hold free slimnastic classes for women and racquetball instruction for the children.

Racquetball is the fastest growing indoor sport in America, mushrooming from only 170,000 players and two court clubs in 1972 to five million players and over 600 court clubs today, according to the United States Racquetball Association, the sport's governing body.

For information call (412) 833-7600.

Sorry We Forgot You

Below is an additional list of racquetball facilities that we unintentionally omitted from the Directory of Court Clubs published in the March issue.

Vernon Racquet & Squash Centre
#2 2917 31st Ave.
Vernon, B.C., Canada V1T 2G5

Court Rooms of America
1404 Kenway Court
Ft. Wayne, IN 41605

Jefferson Court Club
2702 Metairie Lawn Dr.
Metairie, LA 70002

Ann Arbor Court Club
P.O. Box 1286
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Cherokee Golf & Tennis Club
5000 N. Sherman Ave.
Madison, WI 53704

Kearney Racquetball and Health Club
12th Street and 1st Ave.
Kearney, NE 68847

If we have omitted your club from our Directory, please drop us a line so we can publish the club's name and address for all the racquetball world to see. That's *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076.

Nation R.B., Tennis Golf Show

The weekend of September 18 will be the National Racquetball, Tennis and Golf Show in Las Vegas. Along with the show will be a free racquetball tournament on the 18th sponsored by Sunset Racquets. The tourney is open to court club managers, owners, sporting goods dealers and seminar attendees.

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Write, or better, call. Talk with us about the court club you are planning. Let us send you a free informative booklet on the Sports Unlimited Panel system.



Women In Racquetball



Carol Brusslan

Assertive, Yes; Aggressive, No

Subtleties seem unrelated to hitting a racquetball hard and square, but women players should consider the difference between aggressive and assertive behavior, and how it's demonstrated on a racquetball court.

It's time for contemplation because the style of tournament racquetball play is changing, and the changes are sure to affect the playing approach of the average woman player, even if her competition is limited to intra-club leagues.

The switch that tournament players are making is from a defensive to an offensive style. Last year top men players started using that style — hitting power serves, and going for the first kill opportunity.

Now our best women players are taking the offensive approach. The change has made women play faster and harder. And, in general, better.

But offensive is *not* better if it wipes out the principles of good sportsmanship that, up to now, have characterized women's racquetball competition. Especially if to play offensively means to be ruthless. To win at all costs.

And that's where the difference between aggressiveness and assertiveness enters the racquetball court. According to Webster "aggressiveness implies the disposition to dominate, sometimes by indifference to others' rights," while "assertiveness stresses self-confidence and boldness."

Here's how the two definitions would apply to a mythical match: Judy and Janet are in the middle of a rally. As the ball rebounds off the back wall for an easy set-up, Judy deliberately steps in front of Janet, who is getting ready to stroke the ball. No doubt about that one — Judy's aggressive.

To act assertively Judy would hit her ball and immediately return to strong, center court position while giving Janet just enough room to take her shot. (Note that Judy is *not* moving the way many beginning women do — racing to the wall to give her opponent the entire court.)

Recently, after a real-life tournament, a male racquetball buff complained about the cut-throat conduct he'd observed in some women competitors. "That's a laugh," a woman replied. "They weren't one-tenth as unsportsmanlike as the men pros. Even compared to men who can't get past the first round, they're angels."

Which is just the point. If men who play racquetball are discourteous to each other, must women be, too? Must consideration be alien to racquetball? Can't a woman's basic sense of fair play set the tone for our young sport? It's better to watch, and more enjoyable to play, a game in which skill — not ruthlessness — produces a winner.

Let's hope women players, on the pro tour or playing in a local ladder, can be confident and bold, but never indifferent to the rights of others.

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How to Form a League— and Keep it Alive



by Sandy Coffman

Sandy Coffman shared her winning formula for women's racquetball programs at an August seminar at the Racquetball Club in West Allis, Wis., where she's gotten hundreds of women into the game. In this article she gives National Racquetball readers some basic tips about starting a league. At her seminars Coffman details her techniques for attracting women players to racquetball, and she tackles individual problems faced by owners, managers, pros and players. Sandy's second seminar will be November 12, 1977. See the application form on the next page for details.

My experience with women's leagues has led me to two conclusions. First, I think players should take on as much responsibility as possible. Second, I can't count on every player assuming that responsibility, so I have to be willing to put my time and effort into making the league work.

Forming a league starts with phone calls. That's how you **get your players**. Besides the women who already play, call those who have family memberships but haven't started playing themselves. Get the women into a series of lessons.

After a few weeks of lessons you can separate the women into class players, probably starting with just two leagues — A and B in one, C and D in the other. We have 12 courts at our club, so I like to work with 24 in each group, filling all the courts. When more than 24 join the original two groups, I start arranging the players in separate A, B, C and D leagues.

Assign a number to each player. Let's say you've broken 24 A players into four groups of six. The first week 1 plays 2, 3 plays 4 and 5 plays 6. The next week rotate the women by leaving one player stationary and bringing the other numbers around in a clockwise direction. That would give you, for the second week, 1

playing 3; 5 playing 2; and 6 playing 4. The third week's pattern would be 1 vs. 5; 6 vs. 3; and 4 vs. 2. the pattern is easy to see in column-style:

First week 1-2

3-4

5-6

Second week 1-3

5-2

6-4

With six players you have a five-week pattern that works well with a 15-week season. Then players meet each other three times. As people get better, they like to have a third crack at the player who beat them the first two times.

To get the women into competition **separate them into round robins**. After you've formed a round robin **give each player a schedule** listing match times, opponents names and assigned courts.

At the same time **give players a list of rules**. Try to put everything in writing — at least everything you can think of. (Don't worry, league rules are meant to be added to.) Here are some of the questions your rules should answer:

- (1) Will there be entry fees to pay for trophies and how much will the fees be?
- (2) What's the play of the league? (how many points per game, how many games per match, any tie-breakers, etc.)
- (3) How do players determine the first to serve?
- (4) How are league points determined and who records match results?
- (5) If a game is interrupted, who's the winner?
- (6) What happens if a player doesn't show up?
- (7) What are the penalties for breaking the rules?

More Women Manager/ Pros

Sarah Messier, Courts
Royal, Alexandria, Va. Liza
Aneer, Racquet Time, San
Marcos, Cal.

Ladies Sunshine League 1977

Here's a sample of the rules Sandy Coffman gave to each of the 150 women in a summer league.

I'm not giving you specifics here because rules differ with each club and facility. Naturally general club rules govern league rules, and so does the nature of the players (housewives have more flexible time than secretaries do for arranging a game.)

Set up a large board for standings. Have it in a prominent spot and have players fill in names and results across from dates you've posted.

Determine the length of league competition by the number of women in the league (it's simple math - 10 women play a nine-week cycle, and so on.) At the end celebrate with a luncheon and award prizes — trophies, pro shop merchandise or court time.

Now you're ready to start again with a new league and probably a larger one because everybody's heard how great the first one was.

As I said earlier leagues are not something that you can set up and then sit back and observe.

Somebody has to take charge. First do that all-important phoning. I've found that one phone call to a guy is all it takes to get him into the league routine. But a woman isn't used to an outside commitment. If it rains or if she has a pile of ironing, she'll stay home. And if she stays home once, she'll stay home again.

But remember that it's because everything is done for them that the ladies like leagues. The convenience of having someone else arrange a match, a time and court is what keeps a woman coming to a league, which in turn, beefs up her game and leaves her wanting to play more racquetball.

1. Play will begin the week of June 20.
2. All matches must be played at scheduled times. Courts will be reserved for you and each player is responsible for her court time.
3. If any player cannot make her match time. (a) She must call her opponent and arrange to play the match *before* that following league day. (b) She must cancel her court reservation or be billed for the court time. (c) A change of schedule should only be made if absolutely necessary.
4. A player wins 1 point for her team for each game won, and a bonus point if she wins all three games. (A possible 4 points per player)
5. After every match, fill out a "match result slip" and turn it in at the crib. The winner of the match is to fill in her points (accumulating them each week) on the Evening Sunshine League Board.
6. Good luck to everyone - get to know the girls on your team and enjoy the spirit of team play.
7. You must know your team *and* your position number in order to read your schedule. Please circle your match information to avoid mistakes. (First position player plays the first position player, second position player plays the second position player, etc.)
8. I gave each team a color - you may want to coordinate socks, headbands, wristbands, t-shirts, etc., for fun.
9. There will be a \$1.00 entry fee to cover the cost of awards at the end of the league.
10. The last scheduled league day - There will be no make-up games for that match. All play ends on the last league day.

HAVE FUN!!

Reservation Request

"How To Successfully Develop a Women's Racquetball Program"

Seminar by Sandra Coffman
The Racquet Ball Club
1939 South 108th St.
West Allis, Wis. 53227
Tel. - 414-321-2500

Please accept my reservation at The Racquet Ball Club for seminar Saturday, November 12, 1977., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ Club _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home phone _____ Business phone _____
I am bringing _____ family members with me.
(number)

Make checks for \$115 payable to The Racquet Ball Club (or \$150 for two from same club).

Reservations must be in by November 4. No refunds after that date. You will receive a reservation confirmation and directions for getting to the club.

Return this portion with your check.

Playing Tip #3

You may recognize yourself in these first two photos, especially if you've just moved up from a beginning to an intermediate level of play.

Our September Playing Tip is another in our series of excerpts from *Inside Racquetball for Women*, a book by Art Shay and Jean Sauser. Shay, whose photos appear frequently on the pages and cover of *Time*, collaborated with Sauser, a top-ranking pro who uses her mistake/correction teaching technique at SkyHarbor Court Clubs in Northbrook and Highland Park, Ill.

Inside Racquetball for Women, published by Contemporary Books, will be available later this month in stores around the country.

MISTAKE: Facing the Back wall after serve

Intermediate players who have learned how to study their opponents to get a clue as to where the next shot is coming from—and get a jump on it if possible—often fall into the bad habit of serving, then turning around to watch their opponent return the serve.

At this point they often swing **too far around**, and end up as “spectators” rather than participant in the volley. They are hopelessly out of position for the next shot.



CORRECTION:

It **is** important to sneak a glance at your opponent as she receives your serve. But this swift, turn-of-the neck look shouldn't involve a change of foot position. And it certainly shouldn't involve a “pose”, as shown in the second picture.

Ideally you should serve, and back into the center court position (a foot or two behind the short line in the center of the court is the best defensive position).

Now you are ready to observe your opponent's shot, and can indeed get the jump on her. Get in the habit of swivelling your head back and forth, from opponent as she hits, to the ball, which you should follow incessantly. The ball is where the game is at.

In Praise of a Racquetball Teacher

Here's the first reply to our request that readers write us about their pros. If you have comments about your teacher, let us know.



It is with great pleasure that I can take this opportunity to give recognition to "THE BEST" female teaching pro. Her name is Sue Morgan from Arlington Tennis and Racquetball Club in Arlington Heights, Illinois. I am not the best judge of her talent as a racquetball player in competition, but her teaching capabilities and enthusiasm are surpassed by no one.

I am not athletically inclined and have never competed in physical sports, but under instruction from Sue, my confidence and command of the sport are growing. She can associate with each individual and each problem. She is the first to give praise and can systematically correct any faults with her phenomenal way of communicating with people.

She recently suffered a racquetball injury and is just recovering; yet, this did not take her away from her pupils. She continued to instruct and assist us while wearing a cast on her foot.

Yes, if possible, this female racquetball pro deserves recognition for all her efforts in helping to promote racquetball.

—Judy Sziel



Fix a Ball for Eating

The ball. You can toss it, roll it, squeeze it, kick it, bounce it, knock it, juggle it, whack it. It is often cooperative and sometimes resistant. But it never talks back and has proven to be the most versatile play-object in the history of mankind.

The ball has been used for pastime and sport since ancient times, dating from early Egyptian agricultural or fertility ceremonies. Later the use of the ball in games moved eastward to Persia and westward to Greece and Rome. According to Homer and other early writers ball-play was extremely popular among the Greeks and came to be greatly valued as a means of conditioning the body for more rigorous athletic contests. And although the Romans were not as eager to participate in games, they, too, engaged in ball-play. Many Roman baths contained apartments designed specifically for ball sports, and some of the wealthier citizens had ball courts in their villas.

Historians have written that a number of today's popular ball games can trace their recreational heritage back to Western Europe

and the middle ages. In the 13th century, the French played a game called *la soule* which somewhat resembled modern-day croquet. Variations of this game drifted across the channel to England and emerged in the form of stoolball eventually evolving into cricket. Golf is a descendent of the 15th century Scottish game of shinty, and football is believed to have started with 11th century soccer. Baseball slowly evolved from the English game of rounders, and court tennis, the great-great-granddaddy of racquetball, was conceived in the 12th century in the cloistered courtyards of France.

The ball has not only been important to sports' enthusiasts as an object of recreation and games, but also served as an inspiration to those cooks who have created delicious and visually appetizing ball-shaped dishes. Like the ball used in sports, its culinary counterpart knows no ethnic boundaries.

On the following page, we are offering four ethnic versions of the edible ball. Bon appetit!

—Judith Neisser

Swedish Meat Balls (Köttbullar)

30 to 40 small meat balls

- 1 pound chuck
- ½ pound lean pork
- 2 pieces white bread, cubed
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup finely chopped onions
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon finely minced parsley
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- ¼ teaspoon allspice
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons bacon fat
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 cups beef bouillon
- 2 tablespoons sherry
- ¾ cup sour cream

Combine the chuck and pork and put through a food grinder twice. Or have the meats ground together three times by a butcher.

Saute the onions in butter until soft. Soak the bread cubes in the milk until liquid is absorbed. Place meats in a mixing bowl. Add bread mixture, onions, egg, parsley, salt, pepper, allspice, and lemon juice. Blend together lightly with a fork. Gently shape mixture into small meat balls.

Heat the bacon fat in a large skillet and slowly brown the meat balls on all sides. Transfer to a heated baking dish.

Remove all but 2 tablespoons of fat from the skillet and add 2 tablespoons flour, blending well over medium heat. Gradually add the bouillon and sherry, stirring constantly. Cook until sauce is thickened and smooth.

Return meat balls to skillet. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Uncover. Gently fold in the sour cream and heat but DO NOT LET BOIL. Serve piping hot, with boiled potatoes or buttered noodles.



Chinese Shrimp Balls

An hors d'oeuvre for six people

- 1 pound raw shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 2 tablespoons pork fat
- 1 slice white bread
- 2 tablespoons sherry
- 1 egg separated
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 8 to 10 finely minced water chestnuts
- a dash of powdered ginger
- 3 cups of peanut oil

Combine the shrimp and pork fat and put mixture through a food grinder twice, making a smooth paste.

Soak the bread in sherry until liquid is absorbed. In a bowl, combine shrimp paste, bread, egg yolk, salt, water chestnuts, and ginger, mixing well with a fork. Beat the egg whites until foamy and fold into the mixture.

Heat oil in a deep fry pan or wok to 375 degrees. Form the shrimp mixture into balls about 1 inch in diameter, using two teaspoons which have been dipped in cold water. Remoisten spoons before forming each ball. With a slotted spoon, lower shrimp balls, individually, into the hot oil, turning them gently for 3 to 4 minutes. **ONLY COOK 8 TO 10 BALLS AT ONE TIME.**

Remove cooked shrimp balls to a colander and drain. Spread in a single layer on a paper-towel-lined cookie sheet and keep warm in a preheated 300 degree oven. Spear with a toothpick and serve plain, or with a sweet and sour sauce.

Gnocchi Verde Toscana

Serves 4

- 2 packages frozen chopped spinach, cooked and squeezed dry
- 1 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup finely grated breadcumbs
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup ricotta cheese, well-drained of its liquid
- 2 eggs slightly beaten
- salt and pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon butter
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sifted flour
- 2 cups tomato sauce

In a bowl, combine spinach, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup parmesan, breadcumbs, ricotta, eggs, and nutmeg. Mix well with your hands and salt and pepper to taste. Take about one-half teaspoon of the gnocchi mixture and form it into a small ball. Roll lightly in flour. Test gnocchi in *gently* boiling water. If it disintegrates on cooking, add another 2 tablespoons breadcumbs to the mixture.

Form the rest of the mixture into small balls, the size of a cherry, and roll lightly in flour. Bring four quarts of water to a *gentle* boil. Add the salt, then drop in the gnocchi, one at a time. **DO NOT COOK MORE THAN 8 TO 10 GNOCCHI AT ONE TIME.** When the gnocchi rises to the surface, remove it with a slotted spoon and place in a buttered, oven-proof dish. Cover generously with tomato sauce. Sprinkle with the remaining parmesan, dot with butter, and place in a preheated 350 degree oven for 20 minutes or until sauce is hot and cheese is melted. Serve with additional grated cheese on the side.

Matzo Balls

Serves 4

- 2 tablespoons chicken fat, chilled
- 2 eggs well beaten
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup matzo meal
- 1 teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon chopped parsley

Cream the fat. Add the eggs, salt, nutmeg, and enough matzo meal to make a soft dough. Fold in the parsley. Chill thoroughly.

Form a little of the mixture into a small ball. Test in boiling water. If it does not hold together, add more meal.

Form the rest of the mixture into balls about the size of a marble. Drop into boiling chicken soup, reduced to a gentle roll, and cook covered for 15 minutes. Serve immediately.

Who's Playing Racquetball?

Alice Kelleher: Pistol Packing Police Sergeant

Every 28 days Sergeant Alice Kelleher changes shifts. She also changes sleeping habits and meal schedules and racquetball court times. Kelleher, the first and only female sergeant in the Cook County (Ill.) Sheriff's Department, plays racquetball three to four times a week.

Equipped with a stainless steel .357 magnum and statewide radio, Kelleher supervises five to nine men for seven hours at a time in Burbank, Ill. population 32,000. A sergeant for over seven years, the native Chicagoan encounters few sexist difficulties in her role of authority.

"There was resentment at first," she said, "but as in anything else you just have to prove yourself."

Enlisting as a "patrolman" in the late fifties, Kelleher spent 14 weeks at the Chicago Police Academy and moved on to a seven year stint in the vice control unit. Attired in plain clothes she investigated gambling, prostitution and narcotics. After working for several years in the fugitive warrant section of the department, Kelleher was promoted to sergeant and transferred to the patrol.

Since working on the street Kelleher began to realize the importance of

good physical condition. She started playing tennis but quickly discovered racquetball gave her a better workout. (She has lost 12 lbs.)

"I get into fights," she said. "I've been involved in everything from shootings to births to bank robberies, and I find racquetball a nice diversion from the things I have to see every day."

But for the Cook County sergeant racquetball is no longer just strenuous exercise and a release from a high pressure job. She is getting good.

For the past two years Kelleher has won the womens' tournaments at the Evergreen Park Bath and Tennis Club. Last March at the Illinois state tournament she came in fourth in the B category. She also plays mixed doubles competitively.

Kelleher plays with a few women but more often with men. Many of her partners are people she has met at her club.

"Sure, men have faster reflexes and hit the ball harder," she admits, "but there is no reason a woman can't be really good."

"I'm 41 and I feel great and that's saying something!"

— Jennifer Alter

Car 1428 where are you? Going to play racquetball, where else?



Photos by Kathy Richland

Packing the pistol, preparing to play.



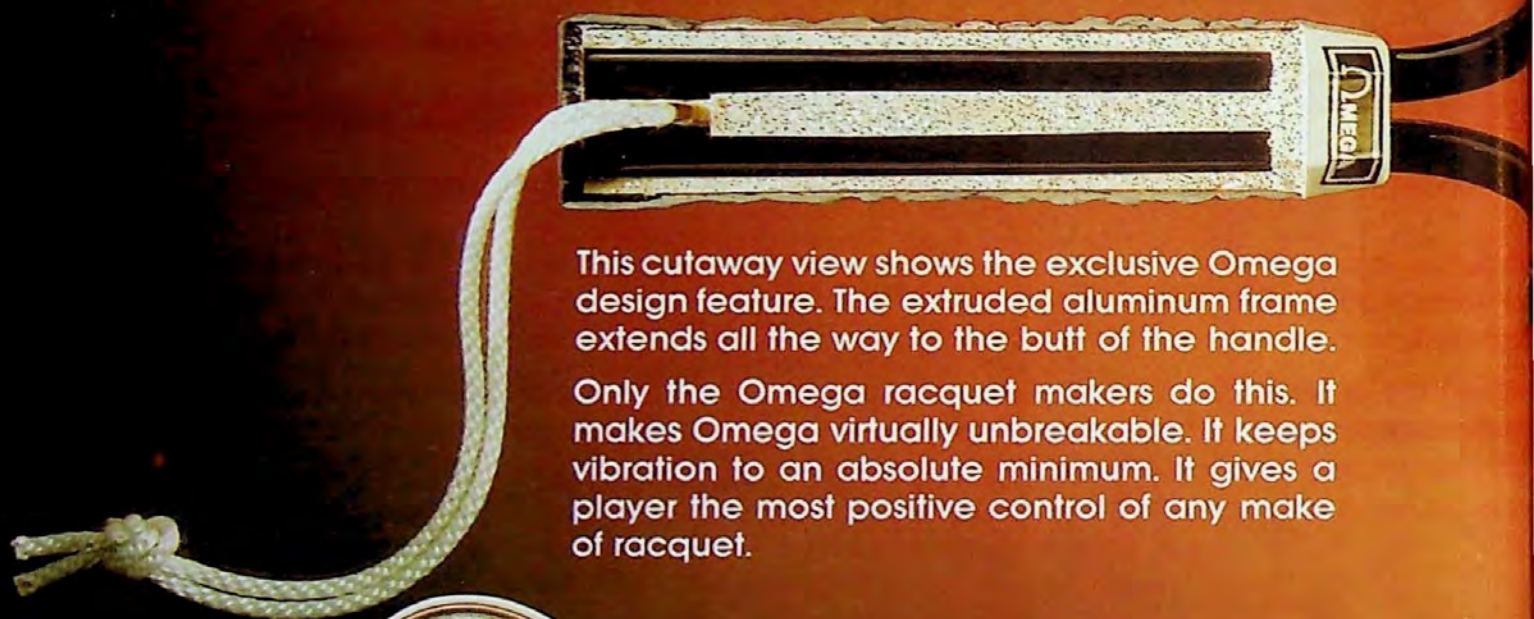
Alice Kelleher on the court at Evergreen Bath & Tennis Club. A release from the pressures of police work.

We invite you to submit names of women racquetball players with notable off-the-court lives — either unusual careers or other newsworthy interests. Send suggestions to Carol Brusslan; National Racquetball; 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Illinois 60076.



Chicago's Chuck Schlesinger's piece of art depicts the strain and drama of tough racquetball. Anyone interested in Chuck's work can contact him at 5441 N. Magnet, Chicago, IL 60630.

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pride of owning Omega. So if you're not playing with an Omega...you just might not be playing your best game. Try

an Omega racquet...its feel ...its responsiveness. Ask your dealer or club for Omega by name. If it's not in stock, call or write: Omega, a Division of Prandur Corporation, 2366 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63141 (314) 872-9007.



The WIN-DESIGNED Racquets

*Shannon
Wright*



NATIONAL RACQUETBALL INTERVIEW

Three weeks after Shannon Wright starting playing racquetball, she stopped playing for fun.

From then on, Wright says, *"it was with the idea of being the best,"* a goal she reached on June 11, in San Diego when she de-throned the reigning champion, Peggy Steding. It took Wright less than four years to become number one, though she believed she was the best long before she gained the title.

In 1976 Wright took second in the National Championships. Her current winning streak began in Chattanooga on March 27, after she and Steding had exchanged victories in four tournaments following Wright's first victory over Steding in Ft. Lauderdale last December. After Chattanooga Shannon stacked up a series of wins against the 41-year-old Steding — Southfield in April, Lombard and Newport Beach in May. At the Nationals in June, when she beat the fellow Texan (Steding is from Odessa; Wright grew up in Ft. Worth) it was official: Shannon Wright was the best woman racquetball player in the world.

The current champion, whose 21st birthday is September 11, walked onto a court for the first time on a date with Pete Wright, a man she calls *"one of the top instructors in the country."*

The two met while they were enrolled at Texas Christian University, where Pete was an upperclassman and Shannon a precocious 16-year-old summer student. They got married two years later and were divorced in another two years because *"racquetball became a monster that devoured our marriage,"* she explains with a tinge of regret coloring her southwestern drawl.

Some fellow players and other Wright observers would agree that the woman at the top's will to win at racquetball can get in the way of her regard for people. All who watch her play (or play against her) admire her skill (*"she's the best"*), but opinions differ over her personality. Some call her the Muhammad Ali of woman's racquetball — arrogant and cocky. Some say *"she's really a nice kid"* and that her *"total winning attitude is something we all could use."* Others tag her *"downright mean"* and raise doubts about her on-the-court ethics.

In a long-distance phone interview with Shannon Wright, *National Racquetball's* Carol Brusslan learned that Wright is eager to give women's racquetball an appealing image that will attract new players and spectators. She admits that in the past she might have been *"nasty"* — that her conduct might even have been construed as *"vicious."* But she says she's reformed now that she's champ.

What kind of on and off the court person is our new women's champion? Read her frank, thoughtful and sometimes surprising answers. Then decide for yourself.

Brusslan: *Would you say you've always excelled in sports? Are you a natural athlete?*

Wright: Well, I played sports all my life. We would come home from school and everybody in the neighborhood — boys and girls — would have a big football game. I played tennis for 10 years from the time I was four to 14. I won the city championship when I was 14 and then I went into high school, playing softball, field hockey and basketball.

Brusslan: *You've been called a true competitor.*

Wright: You'd better believe it.

Brusslan: *And I wondered if you can remember even as a child always being competitive?*

Wright: Well, the main place I was competitive was not in sports — it was in school. One reason is that — and I don't say this to sound smart or anything, all the girls I played sports with in high school and other places — they were such pathetic athletes. There just wasn't any competition.

Brusslan: *How did your academic competition turn out?*

Wright: I did very well. I went to what is probably one of the best private schools in Texas — Ft. Worth Country Day School. I skipped the eighth grade and I made the high honor roll several times. I always made the regular honor roll. I graduated in the top five people in the class — even though there were only 36 of us.

Brusslan: *Did you go on to college?*

Wright: Yes, well right now, I'm on a leave of absence from college. I've got a year and a half to finish. I attended Texas Christian University and I also attended Texas Woman's University in Denton. I was pursuing a health degree. And because of the travel that I do right now and clinics that I put on, I just don't have the time.

Brusslan: *Do you want to do anything in the health field?*

Wright: No, if I go back I'm sure that I will change my major to one of the pure sciences like physics or astronomy — I enjoyed them both.

Brusslan: *If you go back, you'd do it for learning for its own sake?*

Wright: Yes, because I'm sure not going to make any more money with a college degree. In the future I'm sure that I'll make my money in racquetball.

Brusslan: *What else do you think you might get into?*

Wright: Well, business myself. Maybe in the gold business. I'm a little bit interested in that right now. I might be apprenticing for a gal who sells gold jewelry. I might do it for a while or I might go into some other kind of little business — oh, I don't know, I've got so many things going right now. Just about a month more and I'll have my pilot's license. I've got to get that finished.

Brusslan: *What do you want to do with your pilot's license?*

Wright: Well, I'll get my private license and then I'll probably go into my instrument rating, and after that I don't want to fly any — you know — big airliners or anything like that. I'm taking my lessons in a small Cessna 150.

But the main thing that I'm into right now, outside of racquetball, is long distance running. Next December I'm going to be running in the Honolulu marathon, which is 26.2 miles.

Brusslan: *What are you doing to get ready for the marathon?*

Wright: The way I've been training lately is running — oh seven or eight miles a day. And I play racquetball just about every day.

Brusslan: *Who taught you to play racquetball, who got you involved in the sport?*

Wright: My ex-husband, Pete Wright. He still lives in Dallas. He's one of the top instructors in the country and he taught me from the very beginning. I played the first two or three weeks for fun and then it was with the idea of being the best.

Brusslan: *Right from the beginning?*

Wright: Right after I started. He told me that I could be the best and I didn't have any ideas — I took his word for it.

Brusslan: *So you're saying he took*

"The single thing that kept me from number one was that I smoked cigarettes for five years. I quit smoking about five months ago — and that's the main reason I reached number one."



you into a court, started you playing and said to you — almost immediately — "you have the ability to be the best woman player."

Wright: That's right.

Brusslan: *When you decided to become the best, what did you do?*

Wright: We played together, we did hours upon hours of drills and practice and running and so forth — but probably the single thing that kept me from number one was that I smoked cigarettes for five years. I quit smoking about five months ago — and that's the main reason I reached number one.

Brusslan: *How did you stop?*

Wright: I went to the Schick Center of Controlled Smoking. I paid \$450 but it's a fabulous program. I've done a commercial for them and hopefully it will air nationally.

Brusslan: *You'd be a good testimonial.*

Wright: You'd better believe it.

Brusslan: *Were you a heavy smoker?*

Wright: No, just a pack a day. But it's amazing. I just feel so great now. I just never have a problem with conditioning. The main reason I was number two for so long was conditioning. Now I'm in fabulous shape. I never get tired playing racquetball.

Brusslan: *Why did you move to San Diego?*

Wright: Because I got divorced. I needed more competition and also Leach Industries, located here, employed me. This just seemed to be the only logical place to move.

Brusslan: *Would you say your divorce was a case of career over marriage?*

Wright: That's exactly right. We made one fatal mistake, and that was putting racquetball and business ahead of our marriage. We just made a wrong choice, deciding on the goal that I would be number one. We didn't really know what we

were getting into and it was like a big monster that devoured us.

Brusslan: *Now that you're on your own, in San Diego, what is your training routine?*

Wright: Well, like I said, I'm running about eight miles a day.

Brusslan: *When you run, do you run on a soft surface?*

Wright: No, not necessarily. I run on pavement sometimes.

Brusslan: *Do you ever worry about what the hard surface might do to your legs?*

Wright: Yes, but I wear real good Pony running shoes. They're padded real well, and they've got good support. Jogging on hard pavement could be bad for your legs. When you run you just barely bring your feet off the ground. There's really not that much pressure on the knees. I found if I put my heel down first and kind of float along that my legs never bother me. I've never had any kind of shin splints, I've never had a pulled muscle. I've really never had an injury.

Brusslan: *Does running condition you for racquetball?*

Wright: In a way it's probably bad. It's good for me from the standpoint of endurance. But it's bad from the standpoint of speed: The long distance running that I'm doing now develops the slow twitch muscles and that means I don't have as much spring as I possibly could. But the thing that saves me on the racquetball court in women's competition is I know where all the gals are going to hit their shots. There's not one time, hardly, that they hit a shot that surprises me.

Brusslan: *So by anticipating you make up for any speed long distance running might cost you?*

Wright: That's right. And another thing is that there are absolutely no girls in racquetball right now that are fast. Everybody is pathetically slow. I'm slow but I look a little bit quicker than most of the gals because I've got good anticipation.

Brusslan: *How else do you train, besides running?*

Wright: I get into a court and I hit by myself quite a bit.

Brusslan: *Does your training get more intense before a tournament?*

Wright: Well, this is the way of life that I've decided on, O.K.? It's a completely different type of life based around health. I've gotten to the point where I don't see what I'm doing as training. I'm having a good time.

When I first started playing racquetball it was very intense. I had to really concentrate on doing the drills properly and going out and running my distance every day and all that. And now — you know, I look forward to running. I just enjoy it so much, I look forward to getting on the racquetball court. I like being able to place the ball where I want it as hard as I want it or hit it as soft as I want it. And so I do this as enjoyment. I'd much rather go in the racquetball court and hit balls just by myself for an hour than go to a movie.

Brusslan: *Before the Nationals — did you still practice for only an hour a day?*

Wright: Maybe not that much. One thing that you don't want to do before a tournament is play so much that you burn out and you're not excited about it. Like Davey Bledsoe. God, the worse thing for him to do is train before a tournament or play hard before a tournament. You tend to burn out.

Brusslan: *What do you do when you practice by yourself?*

Wright: Well, I work on all of my different shots. I used to do very precise pattern drills. I'd hit 50 forehand kill shots down the wall. Something like that. And then I'd do the backhand. And then I'd do a ceiling ball drill and so on and so forth. But now I get in the court and practice just doing stuff that I enjoy.

Brusslan: *And that is all you need for your game?*

Wright: Oh yeah, exactly.

Brusslan: *When you practice with another person, who is it?*

Wright: Well I play with Bledsoe an awful lot. And right before the Nationals Marty Hogan and I worked out about three or four times a week for several weeks.

Brusslan: *How did the scores run?*

Wright: In practice with Bledsoe and Hogan I'll usually get 15 to 19 points.

Brusslan: *I understand you're 5' 5" and weigh 125. Obviously you're not as big and strong as the men you practice with. How do you compensate for less strength when you play with a man?*

Wright: Well, first of all I hit the ball very hard.

Brusslan: *Compared to the men?*

Wright: I'm very strong from running, and from playing racquetball my upper body's developed pretty well. There's no other woman on the tour who's as strong as I am.

Brusslan: *But you're not as strong as the men.*

Wright: In racquetball strength doesn't make a difference. I think most women can compete with most men in racquetball. I don't think power has all that much to do with it. A man may be powerful, but that doesn't mean that he can hit the ball very hard. Power comes from timing. That's where it comes from, for sure. I can hit the ball as hard as Charlie Brumfield most of the time.

Brusslan: *Would this apply to any woman? If she works on her timing, she doesn't have to worry about strength?*

Wright: That's right. Though you can't be a skinny little thing. The important thing is to get your timing down.

Brusslan: *And what about speed? Aren't most men faster than most women players?*

Wright: Yes, men have about twice the percentage of muscle in their bodies — so they have more power and speed.

Brusslan: *Specifically, how do you get ready for an important match?*

Wright: I do an hour and a half of stretches before a match. I stretch my arms, my back, my legs to make sure that I don't pull anything.

Brusslan: *Do you try to get a lot of sleep before an important match?*

"A tournament is a complete letdown to me. I could play a whole tournament in one day and still not be tired."



Wright: No, this is a way of life and so you try to do everything the same every day. That way you don't shock your body. Sometimes, if you sleep too long you'll get up and feel drowsy. You want to get a normal amount of sleep—six, seven, eight hours.

I don't need more sleep during a tournament because a tournament is a complete letdown to me. I could play a whole tournament in one day and still not be tired. I play one match a day, and it's not even half of what I do normally. During the Nationals I was running seven, eight miles a day.

Brusslan: Do you pay special attention to what you eat?

Wright: I try to stay away from junk foods. Right now my weakness is waffles.

Brusslan: What do you eat before a match?

Wright: I prefer to play on an empty stomach. Most of the time we play

our finals around noon, so I get up early and eat breakfast no later than seven.

Brusslan: A big breakfast?

Wright: Not really — bacon, eggs, toast — or bacon, eggs, waffle.

Brusslan: Is there anything you do to get yourself mentally ready for a match?

Wright: The only time I do, really, is during the finals because all the other matches I don't really have to work. I just go in and have fun. I don't have to put out all that much. But when I play in the finals, that's a little bit tougher, there's more mental pressure to win. So what I did before the Nationals this year was all day — I don't know how I do it — I just go around in a daze thinking about not a whole lot, but about winning, about what I need to do. I think back about how I've prepared for other tournaments. I'm just really kind of quiet. I prefer listening to music and being by myself.

Brusslan: Do you stay away from the courts until you have to be there?

Wright: No and that's one thing that's really different between me and any of the other gals. Before a big match I might go in and play racquetball for an hour or so with the men and I always make sure that I'm warmed up. Because of the way I'm built, I have a good chance of pulling a muscle if I don't warm up properly. I like to make sure that all my shots are "on." During the Nationals my serve wasn't on — it was so pathetic. I couldn't hit a good serve at all. I had to play a much more control game.

Brusslan: Why do you think that was true?

Wright: It was just the pressure of the National tournament. Steding and I said to each other right before the match. "Well, here we are again." I said "Yeh, this one's for all the marbles." And when it's for all the marbles, it's a tougher situation.

Brusslan: In a National Racquetball interview Charlie Brumfield said he develops an artificial hatred toward his opponent. Do you find that kind of mental frame helpful?

Wright: Not any more. I used to for a while, but that's really a loser. When I'm out on a court playing a big match, I don't need hatred because that's not the reason I'm out there. I'm out there to demonstrate my racquetball skills to myself and to the audience watching. Also to demonstrate good sportsmanship, appreciate when my opponent hits a good shot — that's what racquetball is about. There's no point to develop this hatred kind of stuff.

Brusslan: Does that hate attitude get in the way of the game?

Wright: No, it doesn't. But I don't think that's what racquetball is all about. Right now I'm definitely a notch better than the rest of the gals. It's probably because I've had an opportunity to play some of the best players. I've got more physical ability, I'm in much better shape, and I've put more time into it than anybody else.

And so right now — because I'm winning — I can afford to be really

nice. When it starts to get tough, next year or the year after, whenever someone else tough gets in and gives me a rough game, I might have to prepare for it differently.

Brusslan: *When you went into the finals did you have a particular game plan in mind?*

Wright: My strategy when I play Peggy — it's been developed over the last several years — is to hit a good stroke, force her to make a weak return (generally she does), shoot and I put it away. The reason I lost for a long time was because I'd miss those set ups. I just don't miss like I used to. Peggy hits balls off the back wall quite a bit, so I just kind of wait for her to set me up. You know, I can hit ceiling balls with her until she sets me up off the back wall. And she always does.

Brusslan: *So you didn't have to change your game plan at all? Everything went just about the way you thought it would?*

Wright: Yeah, except I gave her a few more gifts than she actually deserved.

Brusslan: *What about earlier this year — when she beat you?*

Wright: In Las Vegas I was tired — I'd been out to the shows all night. It was the first time I'd been to Vegas and I absolutely had a blast. That was one of the more fun tournaments. She just beat me in the tie-breaker.

In Denver I made a mistake that I learned an awful big lesson from. I played the most fabulous game of my life the first game. I only made one error and beat her 21-4 or 5. When you beat somebody that bad you expend so much energy mentally and physically, it's very, very tough to come back and play well in the second game. In the second game she played even with me and right at the end, she got hot. She beat me 21 to 18 or 16, but it was close all the way. In the tie-breaker it was pretty close, I choked up a little bit, and she won. But if I'd been smart I would have eased off in that first game.

Brusslan: *Have you done that ever since?*

Wright: Yes. Yes.

"I will always let somebody get double figures in the first game. The second game, if I really want to crunch 'em, I'll go ahead."



Brusslan: *So it's just a matter of experience?*

Wright: That's exactly right. Now I will always let somebody get double figures in the first game. The second game, if I really want to crunch 'em, I'll go ahead. But that first game you have to make somebody feel like they put out some energy too.

Brusslan: *Do you analyze any games afterwards?*

Wright: No, not really. Denver's the one I analyzed most. It's hard for me to remember the games I've played.

Brusslan: *Does anyone help you — do your friends tell you what they think you should have done?*

Wright: Everybody wants to give you advice. Charlie Drake's been a help. When I first came out here to California he was the one who encouraged me to shoot a lot more and play much more offensively. That's what's helped my game, that piece of advice: "Just shoot the ball." But I've also got the ability to

play good control too. That's what I played in the Nationals.

Brusslan: *Getting back to the National finals I understand you asked Peggy Steding to change the shirt that she was wearing that said "Oldie but Goodie." Why did you do that?*

Wright: I didn't ask her to change it. I thought it was a cute shirt. But somebody else didn't think so. Peggy and I don't talk an awful lot. We're not very close friends. I'm not close friends with anybody on the tour. I don't think that's a very good idea — being friends with the people you're competing against. It's not that they're not nice gals, because most of them are. One thing I'll always say about Steding is that she's the most phenomenal woman athlete I've ever seen. For her age she is very good. But, you know, she can't compete against me.

Brusslan: *Because of the age difference?*

Wright: Yeah, and also I have the

feeling that if she was my age right now, I'd beat her because I'm so much smarter than she is.

Brusslan: So you think it's your smart game that wins?

Wright: And also I'm far superior to her. I'm quicker than she is. I'm more powerful. I've got more endurance than she has now. But — a year ago — that wasn't true.

Brusslan: Even though you were still the same number of years apart?

Wright: That's right. But now I've quit smoking. I've gotten into good shape. Now I don't think there's any contest.

Brusslan: What was going through your mind when you realized you were about to be number one?

Wright: Routine. That's really what it was. Because in the Nationals — while there was a little more pressure — I'd been winning all the tournaments since March.

Brusslan: What was the first time you realized you would be number one?

Wright: Well, I thought I was number one for several years now.

Brusslan: But wasn't there a turning point when you could see you were a little closer?

Wright: At Ft. Lauderdale, when I won my second pro tournament, I just knew the time had come.

Brusslan: And what did you feel? Relief? Joy?

Wright: I just felt good because I knew in my mind that I was the best.

Brusslan: That was a big achievement at San Diego. Being number one had been your goal for four years.

Wright: That's what I told the newspapers after the match. I said "Well, I've worked four years for this."

Brusslan: Was that your most satisfying match?

Wright: My most satisfying match will be when there's somebody, really a superb athlete, and a good racquetball player and we both play an outstanding game — you know, 11-10 in a tie-breaker and I'll know the match was tough and I deserved

"I have the feeling that if Steding was my age right now, I'd beat her because I'm so much smarter than she is."



to win it. In Lombard Janell Marriott had me 10 to 4 in the tie-breaker and I beat her. When I came off the court, I said to myself, "If that's not achievement, I don't know what is."

Brusslan: Because you really had been challenged?

Wright: Oh, yeah! I made a mistake in that tournament. I went on a zero carbohydrate diet, and when I played in the finals, I'd been on the diet for a week and I had absolutely no energy.

Brusslan: Why did you win anyway?

Wright: Smart-thinking and guts was all it was.

Brusslan: Are you very conscious of the crowd response during a match?

Wright: I'm conscious of it. But it doesn't affect me any more.

Brusslan: At one time did it affect you?

Wright: Well, the funny thing is that

when you're on your way up, the crowd always roots for you. Golly, when you get to the top the crowds root for the other gal. They clap when I make a mistake. They're against me and they boo. That's a bunch of crud.

Brusslan: But it still doesn't bother you?

Wright: No.

Brusslan: So the crowd isn't with you anymore?

Wright: No, they're not. But I get out there and I try to play a good game of racquetball and I try to be a good sport and I try to be nice — I would like the crowd to like me.

Brusslan: Speaking of being nice, someone has said that you deliver dirty looks and that you smirk. One opponent said that she was so mad she couldn't see the ball to hit it. And then someone else said that during a match you talked to yourself and you said, "What are you doing, messing up with this rookie?"

"I don't call anything against myself. Can you imagine a basketball player going up to a ref and saying, 'Oh, I fouled this guy?'"



Wright: No, no, no, no. I don't ever say anything like that. I don't say smart remarks to anybody. Except, you know, I might say, "Thanks for the gift," if they hit a shot in the floor. Or I'll talk to myself on the court sometimes and I'll say "Oh, that's good." The only time that I might have done the smirking was with Jan Campbell in the Nationals this year. I was up to serve most of the time and so I'd look back at her and kind of give her a smirk and everybody could see me. She'd give me a smirk right back, but nobody could see her do it.

Brusslan: You'd say generally, then, that you don't try to psych out an opponent by being nasty?

Wright: Oh, I don't want to psych out anybody and I really try not to be nasty. Some gals might say that I might not be a good sport because I cheat or something like that. But the only time that I would say I even come close is one policy — just like Brumfield — I don't call anything

against myself. Can you imagine a basketball player going up to a ref and saying "Oh, I fouled this guy." Nobody ever does that. And people in tennis don't call things — it's always the line judges. They are the ones who are calling the ball. That's their job. My job is on the court, hitting the ball.

Brusslan: Does it bother you that some people say you cheat?

Wright: No. Because I have to live with myself. Oh there were a couple of times when I felt bad. But I'm sure there were a couple of times when some other people felt bad.

Brusslan: Have you ever seen a ball bounce twice and not called it during a game?

Wright: Yes.

Brusslan: You feel that's immaterial?

Wright: That's immaterial. That's the referee's job and that's why he's getting paid. That's why there are linesmen, too. The other gal can

always appeal. Those kind of calls always even out in a match. And there aren't really that many close women's matches. There haven't been any matches that have been made or broken by calls.

Brusslan: Someone said that your opponents have to watch you constantly so they know what to appeal. Do you think people playing you are afraid you'll try something illegal.

Wright: Not necessarily.

Brusslan: You don't give opponents the feeling that they'd better watch you closely?

Wright: I watch everybody else closely. It's like business, you watch your inventory closely.

Brusslan: So it's part of the game?

Wright: Definitely. It's like taking care of the racquets at a club so someone doesn't step out of the door with them.

Brusslan: How do you feel about the quality of refereeing?

Wright: I think Chuck Leve and Terry Fancher do a good job for my matches. They have refereed all of my major matches and I know how they're going to call a ball and they are generally consistent.

Brusslan: What about refereeing in the preliminary rounds?

Wright: Before that it doesn't make any difference. I tell my opponent she can have anything she wants. Because the referee's not going to be that good, and I can afford to do that. Maybe two years from now we'll have great referees all the way through.

Brusslan: Should a player be allowed to reverse a referee's decision?

Wright: If they want to, but I think it's dumb. That's not the player's area. He's playing the game. The referee's area is making the calls, judging the game. But if somebody hits a ball right into the floor and the referee calls it good and so does the linesman and you know that was a skip, sometimes you just can't help but say "that ball really skipped in." On the close ones my point is that the referee is going to call some for you and some for your opponent.

"When people get to be a racquetball nut . . . they become more aware of their health and their body and how good it feels just to be alive."



And in the end they even out. I don't think the player should say anything.

Brusslan: Then you don't think players should talk back to the referee?

Wright: Well, you know, racquetball is a very intense game. We'll be playing along and the referee will say "skip ball" and you'll turn around immediately and say "oh, that was not." But I think people should try not to talk back to the referee.

Brusslan: You said you don't let it bother you if someone says you cheat . . .

Wright: Absolutely not, because I don't think that I do.

Brusslan: Do you think that now that you're champion, you have some special responsibilities about your image? Would it change the way you play as far as double bounces and that sort of thing goes?

Wright: Absolutely not. That's the

referee's job. But in the early rounds I'll call everything on myself. I give them a hinder any time they want it. But when it gets down to the nitty gritty, in the semis and finals, that's when I go to work. Racquetball is my business and I play it that way — seriously. I've come to some conclusions in my own mind about what I think a player's responsibility is and what the referee's and linesman's responsibilities are, and I do not overstep those. Ever.

Brusslan: Now every young woman racquetball player is looking to you as number one. Do you think you're going to be an asset to the game?

Wright: I definitely do. I want to encourage good sportsmanship, encourage good athletes to come into the game, and encourage a camaraderie among the girls at the amateur level. Like I said I am not good friends with any of the gals on the pro tour because the pro tour is my business. But in amateur ranks friendship's important to having fun.

Brusslan: How can you help establish that spirit of sportsmanship?

Wright: In my clinics, all over the country, but especially at the ones we have four times a year at the Atlas Racquetball Camp here in San Diego.

Brusslan: What ages do you teach at the camp?

Wright: All — men, women, kids. Charlie Brumfield, Davey Bledsoe, Rich Wagner and I run this one. I generally teach the women and kids. So I try to encourage good sportsmanship, especially among the kids. During the last camp we had a 10-year-old boy in the group and he lost in the finals of the women's division. He came off crying and saying his parents wouldn't love him. I felt so bad. I tried to let him know that racquetball — until you get into it as a pro when it's business — should be fun and you can't take it that seriously. I want kids to have a good time playing racquetball. I've seen racquetball help many people in their personal lives.

Brusslan: In what way?

Wright: It's made them happier. When people get to be a racquetball nut, they change their whole life style — to a healthier type of lifestyle. They realize they have to get in better shape. They're becoming more aware of their health and their body and how good it feels just to be alive. What I'd eventually like to do after I step out of racquetball is go into the health area where I could use what I've learned through racquetball and more running, to help other people.

Brusslan: What would you do?

Wright: I might want to lecture or to organize a camp or become a doctor. I don't know.

Brusslan: In the program for the Nationals you wrote that fans would notice the good sportsmanship in women's matches. And in a June 7 story in a San Diego paper you said, "I'm vicious." Do those two statements seem at odds?

Wright: They do a little bit. But viciousness is inside. I never let anything come out. Like some of the

men — ready to punch each other they get so violent and angry. Nothing like that ever happens to me. It's just a perseverance — a tenaciousness. It's not vicious. It's not hostile. It's very competitive, very aggressive, ready to go out and give your all. My top priority is to go in there and win.

Brusslan: *Do you think there's a conflict between being a good sport and winning?*

Wright: No, I don't think so. Where that would really come out would be in a close match. And I think when you see me in a close match in the future, you'll see the sportsmanship dominate.

Brusslan: *You said "in the future". Does that mean you'll change?*

Wright: No. My point is the only time that you're really ever going to get to see what a person's really like — unsportsmanlike vs. sportsmanlike — is when it gets down to the nitty gritty for a long time.

Brusslan: *Has it gotten down to the nitty gritty in the past?*

Wright: No it hasn't yet because I just really haven't played that many close matches in my entire career. For years I was getting beat by Peggy. Gosh, in Sacramento, the first tournament of the last year I got beat 10 and 9. Then I came out to San Diego, played a couple weeks and my game improved so much that I went back and I was winning. I've never won a three game match with Peggy — every time it goes to three, she wins. As I say, my matches have never been that close. My matches in all the tournaments I have won have been two straight.

Brusslan: *So that wouldn't give you a chance to demonstrate . . .*

Wright: My sportsmanship. That's what I'm talking about. And the only thing that I can think of is that when somebody's on top and somebody's good, everybody down below is out to get you, and they don't like you because you're where they want to be.

Brusslan: *Do you think that in racquetball — more than other sports — an aggressive personality is necessary?*

"When somebody's on top and somebody's good, everybody down below is out to get you, and they don't like you because you're where they want to be."



Wright: No. But I don't think you can be very, very mild. I think you have to stand up for your position on the court. Brumfield can push people around like you wouldn't believe. Because of his size and knowledge he's intimidating. One thing in racquetball is you don't want to be intimidated. I intimidate a lot of the girls. That upsets them but that's part of the game. You know it frustrates me to death when I play Charlie Brumfield — when I practice with him — because he intimidates me, or I let him intimidate me.

Brusslan: *Do you think you purposely intimidate women you play?*

Wright: Sometimes I do it purposely, but . . .

Brusslan: *How do you do it?*

Wright: Just be out there. What you're saying is "here I am." You're here on the court, you're covering your opponent's shots real close, and what you're actually saying to your opponent is "O.K., you go

ahead and shoot that ball and if you don't roll it, I've got it and it's going to be dead after that." You make them think that they have to absolutely roll the ball out flat or they're just not going to get the point. And that's the way most of the gals feel against me.

Brusslan: *So it's your skill, not your personality, that intimidates them.*

Wright: I would say that.

Brusslan: *Chris Evert says she can't allow herself to get emotionally involved with her opponent. Do you agree?*

Wright: Yes. When I'm on the court playing racquetball, I don't even know who my opponent is. It's just me out there playing with that ball, O.K.! Like I said, one of my preparations for a match is to go into a daze, or whatever, and that's the way I stay until after the match is over. Like in *The Inner Game of Tennis* I try to let my body do it.

Brusslan: *Did you do anything different after you read the book, or*

did it confirm the way you'd already been playing?

Wright: I discovered that's what I was doing. One thing I think is bad is to say "Oh, you're so stupid," or "How did you miss that?" Don't put yourself down. I consciously avoid criticizing myself on a court. After every point I try to forget the previous one. You don't want to lose one point and then while you're criticizing yourself give four more points away.

Brusslan: *Do you think racquetball is more brains than brawn?*

Wright: That's true. But brawn can beat brains every once in a while.

Brusslan: *Do you have both?*

Wright: Yes and it's because my ex-husband, who taught me how to play racquetball, played a control game and got me to play a control game also. It wasn't until I got to San Diego that I was encouraged to be a shooter, which I am, I guess, naturally. And that's the way I enjoy playing. Because I have this excellent control background, it forced me to think at first.

Brusslan: *So you'd describe your present style as "shooting?"*

Wright: But I can play a good control game, too.

Brusslan: *Was it this change from control to shooting that got you where you are?*

Wright: Exactly, from control to shooting.

Brusslan: *Or, to put it another way, from a defensive to an offensive game?*

Wright: Well, even when I'm playing a shooter's style of racquetball, I'm still playing my individual percentages.

Brusslan: *Do you play differently against women than men?*

Wright: I generally tend to play more control with the gals. They hit shots that I'm not used to seeing, and they hit a lot softer than I'm used to. Women's games throw my timing off, so I have to go back to a control game.

Brusslan: *Is this true with all women you play?*

Wright: Except maybe for Janell Marriott.

Brusslan: *You think she comes closest to the speed of the ball you have?*

Wright: To my mind, Janell Marriott is the number two player in the country. She just had a couple of bad days in the last couple of tournaments.

Brusslan: *Do you think that she might beat you some time?*

Wright: No. Not any more. That one 11-10 loss in Lombard did it. She won't ever beat me. I've got a large psychological edge over her now.

Brusslan: *The Nationals program listed your strengths as "deep court kills, ceiling game, determination to win and power," but said you had "no glaring weaknesses." Is that true?*

Wright: The gals I played against in the Nationals knew my weaknesses. They kept serving to my forehand. My forehand is my weakness, but I've still got a very good forehand. And I gave away points like mad, because I'm a shooter and I'll keep shooting 'til I get hot.

Brusslan: *What advice would you give all the young women who are playing well and want to get better? Would you tell them to play with men?*

Wright: Not necessarily. You don't want to get creamed all the time. I'd say try to play with anybody who's a little bit better than you. You have to practice by yourself an awful lot — to get execution of your shots. I think you do need instruction. And enter tournaments because they are fun.

Brusslan: *Do you enjoy tournaments?*

Wright: No, cause they're boring. I play so many, we're traveling around, and we keep seeing the same people, so we might as well be in one city. Tournaments — that's my business, like going to work in the morning.

Brusslan: *Do you get along with the other women on the tour?*

Wright: Yes. I have acquaintances on the tour — not friends. They're pleasant when we get together, but that's as far as it goes.

Brusslan: *You don't try to belittle other pros on the tour? Cast doubts on their ability?*

Wright: Have you heard that I do?

Brusslan: *On occasion.*

Wright: On occasion, that's true, but that was a long time ago. Now I think the gals are getting much better in their ability.

Brusslan: *Are you making a living at racquetball?*

Wright: I'm making a great living from prize money, endorsements, clinics.

Brusslan: *Does it bother you that there's more money in other sports?*

Wright: No because it'll come.

Brusslan: *What do you think about Brumfield's statement that developing women's racquetball should wait until men's is more established?*

Wright: He says it facetiously. He knows that when women's racquetball gets bigger, it means more money for everybody in the sport. What I've been noticing the last six months is that the spectators have been turning out for the women's quarters, semis and finals as much as they have for the men's.

Brusslan: *Why do fans like to watch women's games?*

Wright: The style most guys play is great to watch but the average person can't relate to it because the men hit the ball so hard and do so many phenomenal things. Most people can't do those things. People can relate to women's racquetball because we're hitting shots you can identify with.

Brusslan: *Do you look at yourself as a great champion, or don't you think you've arrived at that point yet?*

Wright: I think I'm a champion. I don't know if it would be "great."

Brusslan: *Do you think Peggy Steding was a great champion?*

Wright: I think that when I have to step down, I hope I can do it as gracefully and as thoughtfully as she did. I think she plays hard and she's a good sport all the time. She's a great athlete.

Brusslan: *How long do you think you'll be champion?*

Wright: Years.

Brusslan: *Who will be your major threats in the coming season?*

Wright: I don't see any gals who are coming up. With the current crop I'm not worried. I don't think, today somebody can just pop up, the way Peggy Steding did in 1973 and take everybody by surprise. They're going to have to work their way up. There's no way for anybody to get better than I am without my knowing it.

Brusslan: *Why?*

Wright: If somebody gets that good, I'm going to hear about it because the communication in racquetball has gotten so much better. There's no way that somebody can just sneak in out of the clear blue sky. If someone is just absolutely fabulous, I'll hear about them.

Brusslan: *If you heard about someone who was outstanding, would you make it your business to see them play?*

Wright: You betcha.

Brusslan: *Do you think the competition is getting tougher?*

Wright: I think it is. I've forced myself to get better. I think all the other girls have come along. They're playing harder, too. The quality of play in women's racquetball has improved 100 per cent in the last year.

Brusslan: *Do you think it's important for you to combat cockiness now that you're number one?*

Wright: A year ago I would say "I'm going to win this tournament and I'm going to beat the crud out of so and so," and I'd go in and I'd choke. That's what a cocky attitude does. But I don't have that anymore. My personality has changed. I've decided on a different way of life. Sometimes I come across as cocky. I get asked a question that I've heard a million times and it'll irritate me when it really shouldn't. But I don't feel cocky.

Brusslan: *So you nip your first impulse to sound cocky?*

"I don't want to be offensive to anybody, I really don't. If I could get along with everybody, that would be just great."



Wright: I don't want to be offensive to anybody, I really don't. If I could get along with everybody, that would be just great. It was a lot of fun getting to the top, but now that I'm here, it's rough work staying up here. You know, everybody's out gunning for you, they say bad things about you, the crowd will go against you, and it's not all that exciting. When you get to the Nationals, they'll root against you because they want the underdog to win. That's kind of hard to take sometimes.

Brusslan: *Do you think there's a danger in being overconfident?*

Wright: When someone asks me two hours before a match, sure I'll say I'm going to win. If someone says "Are you going to beat Steding?" I'll say "of course, of course." But when I am preparing myself mentally, I say to myself "If she wasn't very good, she wouldn't be in the finals with me." I take my opponents seriously because that's my business.

Brusslan: *The classic question: What's the future of women's racquetball?*

Wright: It's going to be a big deal. It's going to grow mainly because people have so much fun playing racquetball. They get exercise. They get healthier. They're with people they like. And they're getting away from the kids for a while.

Brusslan: *And what about Shannon Wright's future? Do you plan to marry again, and to have children - is that part of your life plan?*

Wright: No.

Brusslan: *In other words you see yourself as being a career person the rest of your life?*

Wright: Yes. I'll be doing my own thing the rest of my life. Whatever that is. I'll have relationships with people, but I don't anticipate getting married or having children. But one thing I don't say is "never."

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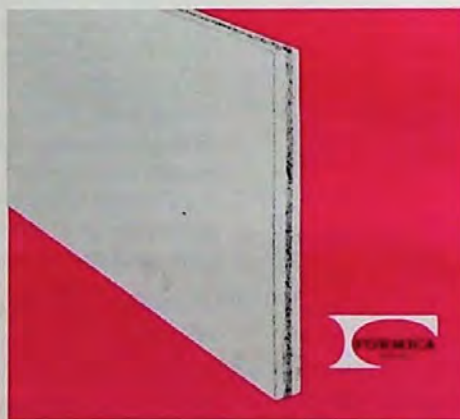


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If you possess or are capable of writing any of the above, *National Racquetball* will be happy to accept contributions from our readers. Payment will be made, on publication at the following rates:

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Cardiovascular Fitness (March, 1976)

is a good example. Minimum length: 750 words.

\$50 for pictures, cartoons or drawings. The material may be dramatic, humorous, or singularly interesting. It must be original and unpublished. Regular tournament photos, unless containing an unusually high degree of originality will not be considered. All photos must be black-and-white glossy, and any cartoons or drawings must be camera ready.

The contributor's name and address and the date the contribution is sent should be on all items. Compositions must be type-written, double spaced, and are subject to revision, alteration, correction or rejection by the editor. CONTRIBUTIONS CANNOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED OR RETURNED.

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STATE Racquetball



Terry Fancher

Bright Outlook For Amateurs

After a highly successful National Juniors Championships, my faith in our amateur programs is at an all-time peak. Aspiring young players and proud parents had a wonderful five days at the Evergreen Bath and Tennis Club where the competition between the boys and girls was terrific but in the spirit of good, clean fun.

Our amateur state associations this year will have a banner season. Seamco Sporting Goods and Leach Industries are busy preparing for the tremendous volume of balls and shirt orders from the U.S.R.A. affiliates to host and run what should prove to be the largest number and finest season of racquetball events ever. All indications are that the 1977-78 season will have more racquetball activity by far than any previous year, thus keeping the amazing growth of our sport on its upward curve.

For all of you who participate in any of our U.S.R.A. sanctioned events this coming season, remember the people responsible for the balls and shirts. Al Mackie of Seamco and Charles Drake of Leach Industries made the programs possible. They are carried out by Art Orloski, John Cone, and Bob Coate of Seamco and John Weaver and Patty Reid at Leach. These key people along with countless others get the tournament materials to host clubs.

Send In Results!

This brings me to my next topic, sending in tournament results to our headquarters. We at the U.S.R.A. want to put your tournament results in *National Racquetball*! In order to do this, we must have the results sent to us immediately after the event is concluded. To expedite this I have

included our outline that is sent to tournament sites. It makes our job of printing the results easier and gives credit where it is due.

To send in tournament results, please use the following guidelines:

Writing Up Tournament Results

1. Every score for every game, winners score first, i.e. John Smith, Miami def. Joe Jones, Orlando 21-17, 21-17, divided by round.
2. Written summary of key matches
 - a. Championship matches
 - b. 3rd place matches, (if held)
 - c. Semi-finals
 - d. Quarter-finals
 - e. Any major upsets in earlier rounds
3. Include match details
 - a. Why did the winner win
 - b. Give credit to good losing efforts
4. Acknowledge tournament workers
 - a. Committee chairman & workers
 - b. Floor managers & referees
5. Photos
 - a. Black & white glossy prints, preferably 8x10
 - b. Send only action shots or posed action
 - c. Do not send trophy shots unless the photo is of a highly unusual nature
6. Be sure to submit tournament results as soon as possible to ensure timely publication.

Welcome New Affiliates

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new state association chairmen and members. Our newest member is the 500-man-strong Ohio

Racquetball Association. After a year of negotiations and correspondence, the O.R.A.'s board of Directors recently voted to affiliate with the U.S.R.A. My thanks go to all members of the Board and especially to Ron Akins.

A newly rejuvenated Colorado Racquetball Association, under the leadership of John Mooney has also come on board with a large committee to actively promote the sport. The C.R.A. plans to host a number of events this season and bolster their membership and activities to an all-time high.

As of this writing, the Arizona Racquetball Association is deciding on final voting for affiliation with the U.S.R.A. Due largely to the efforts of U.S.R.A. representative Chuck Hallock and past president Woody Woodman, word of our programs created an interest in the Southwest. I am sure that an affirmative vote will be made to join our amateur group.

Hats Off To the ISRA

A close association with a state racquetball Association, particularly if it is located in the same city with the national headquarters, is a tremendous advantage for a state association due to the close proximity.

However, in the case of the Illinois State Racquetball Association the (ISRA) has provided just as many benefits to the U.S.R.A. It was through the enthusiasm of Tom Street, president, and Alan Shetzer, secretary-treasurer, that many of the existing programs were offered nationwide. Free balls for sanctioned tournaments, shirts for sanctioned tournaments, and most recently, computerized membership recording

Innovative Cal Tourney Rated Tops By Players

On May 24, 1977, one of the more interesting experiments in California amateur racquetball was tried with overwhelming success. The premise was that the basis for all the enjoyment was that there were many amateur racquetball players in San Diego County who would probably like to enter a real tournament—but for many reasons had not. Lack of confidence—pressure too great—not able to spend three or four successive days involving racquetball—job commitments—etc. So when Joe Bannan and Mike Blackburn, acting on behalf of the San Diego Medical Service Society, asked yours truly if we could think of a format together that would get a number of doctors, dentists, and pharmacists together for some racquetball, it put the wheels in motion.

A one day format was decided upon. It would be held at the Muehleisen Courts in Del Mar, very central to all in San Diego County. It would be a doubles affair, as it would help to make acquaintances and friendships much easier—for both the day at hand plus for future game scheduling if desired.

A master schedule was made up that included each player playing in four matches. The game would be for a half hour only, usually all completed to 21 points. One half played on the hour, the other half at 30 minutes past. The flickering of the over head lights signalled the ending of each match. For being on a winning team earned a player a two point value. The losing team multiplied their point totals by a factor of .09. The highest eight players in total points were awarded Charlie Brumfield Signature Racquets, graciously donated by Leach Industries of San Diego. Very few people know of the great help they provide to the amateur players in racquetball, and those of us behind the scenes immensely appreciate all their

efforts. (All the amateur state chairmen can get free T-Shirts for any state sanctioned tournament from Leach Industries per a great program worked out by Terry Fancher at U.S.R.A. Headquarters.)

Each player received a number upon checking in. This enabled him to find his court, his partner and opponents. The master schedule enabled each player to not only play with a different "blind draw partner", but he also played against two different opponents each time, and the players all loved it. The racquetball played was spirited but not overly competitive or demanding. Trophies were awarded also for such diverse items as "Most Welts", "Most Mediocre Player", "Best sweater", "Best Sport", "Worst Dressed Player", "Most Whiffs", etc. The Deli across from the Courts provided a super lunch. Various liquids were available for the group—from Gatorade to Coors.

The T-shirts were well received. A caricature of the three professions was emblazoned on the front, and the event publicized on the back. Ron and Fay Hall of the famous "Screen Machine Co." (doing nearly all the racquetball tournament shirts for major events here now) did a superb job as usual. They are "real nice folk" as we used to say back home!

The entry fee of \$12.00 earned each player four matches at a fine facility, a great meal, raffle chances, challenge matches for two hours after the scheduled matches were over, a memorable souvenir T-Shirt, unlimited beverages, and a welcomed chance to meet some new people—the best kind—those that play our great and increasingly popular game. What a deal!! A fitting end to "How To Run a Fun Tourney in One Day."

Dr. Chuck Hanna

and subscription service were all gems that Tom and Alan originated. In return, the ISRA membership rolls which registered 200 people a year ago now show over a 1000 and its treasury now contains a surplus.

Everyone Participate

We invite and encourage all readers who have never participated in one of our sanctioned events to do so this coming year. Our efforts are now reaching down to all levels of players, not just tournament competition. Our state associations are beginning to sponsor city ladder play for rankings, leagues, seniors, women's brackets of play, increased junior competition, and many other offerings.

Our Pro-Am tournaments this year are tailor made for anyone wanting to witness the finest racquetball in the world plus competition for those amateurs who wish to participate. What else could you ask for from a sport? There are the pros to watch and even compete against as well as competition at your own level and age bracket. Come watch us this year on the N.R.C. tour.

In conclusion, for our state affiliates, please encourage and foster good junior's programs and championships in your state tournaments this season. Remember, we are building for the future and strengthening our present programs. Lets get everyone involved in racquetball.

USRA State Affiliates

If your state is not represented in the list of affiliates in this issue, and you wish to become involved, please contact Terry Fancher at U.S.R.A. headquarters.

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Omaha 68106

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215-265-8350

Rhode Island

Jerry Melaragno
363 Academy Ave.
Providence 02908
401-272-8378

Texas

Dewey Strickland
201 Vanderpool
Houston 77024
713-868-3340

Vermont

Cliff Johnson
70 Farrell Rd.
S. Burlington 05401
802-864-4770

Virginia

Ed Remen
32 Penny Lane
Sterling 22170
703-430-2552

Washington

Douglas A. Wilson
5817 57 Ave., N.E.
Seattle 98105
206-623-4320 Ext. 31

West Virginia

Dave Taylor
Rec.-Intramural Sports Off.
Stansbury Hall-W.V.U.
Morgantown, WV 26506
304-293-5221

Wisconsin

Bob Keenan
P.O. Box 203
Wales 53183
414-646-3607

Wyoming

Barbara Williams
YMCA-417 N. Jefferson
Sheridan 82801
307-674-7488

Germany

Viktor Mazurkiewicz
LobsienstraBe 25
2800 Bremen
West Germany

State Associations: The Solid Foundation

Early last spring, Governor James Thompson of Illinois proclaimed the week of March 21-28 as "Racquetball Week" in Illinois. This event was just an example of the amazing accomplishments made by the Illinois State Racquetball Association within the past year.

Led by their two main officers, president Tom Street and secretary/treasurer Alan Shetzer, the people within the I.S.R.A. have made this U.S.R.A. affiliate a true success story.

Working with Tom and Alan this past year has been a great joy for the staff of the U.S.R.A. because not only has amateur racquetball in the state of Illinois been the beneficiary, but the U.S.R.A. has arranged some national programs through their effort.

A state association with over 1,000 registered members is a viable force in any sport. By working a reciprocal agreement with the U.S.R.A. in memberships, not only has the I.S.R.A. procured new players through sanctioned tournaments by requiring membership, but in turn, the U.S.R.A. sends 40% of the funds from all Illinois subscriptions to *National Racquetball* back to the state program. This funding program has been set into motion this past year in all of our state affiliates.

To keep accurate records and to alleviate the bookkeeping problem for such a large group, the membership of the I.S.R.A. have been formalized on a computer system. This service was generously provided by Zahn Data Service, Inc., the largest company for racquet club customer billing service in the country. Prior to this, Tom and Alan used one of their secretaries from their own company, the S & S Insurance Agency. The new computer system will allow the I.S.R.A. to maintain better control over membership records and magazine subscriptions.

Sound state programs can only be financed by a healthy budget. That is now a reality in Illinois.

"The financial condition of the Illinois State Racquetball Association is excellent and as the membership rolls continue to grow, so will we continue to get stronger," said Street. *"Greater financial strength will allow us to expand our programs into additional*

areas that will be beneficial to our members and racquetball in general."

As an indicator of a rapid growth, the I.S.R.A. last year started with a bank balance of \$69.71 and even had to borrow money to put out the summer newsletter. From that humble beginning, the net profit for the fiscal year turned out to be almost \$1,000. Quite an increase for one short year.

"Our affiliation with the U.S.R.A. has tripled our membership which is now over 1000 members," said Shetzer.

"The fee sharing program, which was originally developed by our association and subsequently adopted countrywide added substantially to our bank account."

Along with the affiliation, the I.S.R.A. was able to negotiate the current ball policy with Seamco during the 1976 National Championships during conversation with Seamco's president, Al Mackie. This program was also put into effect nationally and has been a terrific boost to the state amateur associations. Last year, thousands of dozens of balls were contributed free to state sanctioned tournaments at a tremendous savings for these events and the volunteers who administer them. It is the best means by which a sponsor can reciprocally serve those who support him.

Coupling the free balls with Leach Industries' shirt program for the I.S.R.A. and U.S.R.A. sanctioned tournaments, they were able to acquire sanctioning fees of almost \$300.00. The state association charges the host tournament site a small fee per entrant in return for floor managing and general tournament administration. This, of course, provides the host with experienced floor management for the event and therefore adds to its success.

The Illinois State Racquetball Association has not only assisted in state sanctioned tournaments, but with several national events this past season. A great many officers and members helped in all phases of the Lombard Pro-Am, making the tournament run smoothly throughout.

In the National Championships, Jim Stotz, Street, and Shetzer all played big roles in the tournament administration.

A 300-man state tournament was no problem for the I.S.R.A. Board of Directors and officers as they ably ran a Saturday thru Tuesday schedule for the players, along with a banquet.

Tom and Alan were also very helpful in our National Juniors this past July and Alan's son, Jamie, participated in the tournament even though he is only eight-years-old. Tim Terance even picked players up at the airport as early as five o'clock in the morning prior to the tournament.

This summer, the S & S Insurance Agency (Street & Shetzer) is sponsoring their own event with 13 divisions of play, including men, women, and juniors categories. It promises to be an excellent event.

The newest development in the Chicago area is that of a Metropolitan Challenge Ladder for all levels of play, both men and women's divisions. There are 15 players in each category and they challenge other players in their own ladder. This idea should create even more activity among all the players in the area. The standings are published in *Racquetball Everyone*, a local newspaper devoted entirely to the sport of racquetball.

In order not to leave out anyone who so diligently works in behalf of the Illinois State Racquetball Association, below is a list of officers and helpers who all do a terrific job in their own areas of responsibility:

Officers

President -

Tom Street

Vice President -

Don Webb

Secretary/Treasurer -

Alan Shetzer

Director of Leagues -

Art Michaely

Directors

Dan Bertolucci

Terry Fancher

Leo Goss

Sue Carow

Bill Feigan

Jim Stotz

Jim Harper

Ohio R.B. State League

The 1977 Ohio Racquetball Association State League Team Champion is the Mansfield YMCA defeating the team from Cincinnati, the Jewish Community Center 8 and 4.

The ORA League is in its 7th year. The state is divided into 3 geographical areas with each District participating in league play with each team playing approximately 8-10 matches starting in October and ending approximately in March. A play-off is then held and a State Team Champion is determined by play-offs between the winners of the districts and completed in May.

Team play consists of 6 players ranked 1 thru 6. The number 1 player plays the other number 1 player two games of 21 points. Subsequently, the number 2 thru number 6 players play their counterpart two games of 21 points

also. This provides a total of 12 team points in singles. Each team then selects 3 doubles teams ranking 1-2-3. This provides a total of 3 team points in the doubles play. The total match then consists of 15 team points. The winner of the League for the season is the team with the best winning percentage. In play-off action the team that reaches 8 points first is the winner of the particular play-off match.

The Champion of district 1 was Toledo YMCA with Tom Perna as Captain. The Champion of District 2 was the Mansfield YMCA with Clark Pittman as Captain and the runner-up in District 2 was the Brooklyn YMCA with Reed Gungelman as Captain. The Champion of District 3 was the Cincinnati JCC, with Rob Abrams as Captain. These four teams comprised the final four in the state play-offs. Cincinnati defeated

Brooklyn YMCA and Mansfield defeated Toledo YMCA to achieve the final match.

The men's League had 30 teams representing the various facilities in the state that play racquetball. Next year the number is expected to expand to around 38-40 men's teams.

The Women's League had their first state team champion the Massillon YMCA defeating the Lima YMCA 10-0. The women's league is run identical to the men's except there are only 4 team members rather than 6. This year there were 8 women's teams from across the state participating in an 8 game schedule with the Champion of the East Division meeting the Champion of the West Division for the State Team Champion. Next year an increase to 12 teams is expected.

Meet Your State Chairmen

Jerry Monell - California



Assisting our California State Racquetball Association chairman, Dr. Chuck Hanna, is the very able and enthusiastic Jerry Monell. Jerry is our CSRA Southern California chairman and he does quite a job. He has assisted as co-chairman of the referee's table in both the 1976 and 1977 National Championships in his home town of San Diego.

Close association with handball and paddleball about 1970 and even further back with badminton was the way that Jerry got involved in the court sports originally. *"All of these games, like racquetball, require being in shape, and hand-eye coordination,"* says Jerry, *"Racquetball gives you the fulfillment of working out and is mentally refreshing."*

Always an innovator for racquetball, Jerry has experimented in a new scoring system with co-workers Lee Hinricks and Ken Davidson of the popular Atlas Health Club in San Diego recently at their "Spring Clinic," using a 3-out-of-5, 11-point game. This system, in effect, required a "tie-breaker" for every game and the reaction was *"spectacular and exciting"* according to the participants and added a new dimension to the sport.

Jerry's specialty is refereeing and he would like to see professional referees. *"There is a great need for a pooling of well qualified referees for tournament play,"* he feels, *"Professional referees will be a requirement for the future, I believe."*

A graduate of San Diego State University and the American Institute

for Foreign Trade, Jerry also earned a Masters degree in Business Administration. His wife Carol is also an avid racquetball fan and often accompanies her husband to the tournaments.

Future plans for U.S.R.A. events include a CSRA sanctioned tournament to be featured next season in the fall, probably in November. Chuck Hanna feels that a state tournament should include winners of the three state regions of California: Southern, Central (Dave Gleason, chairman) and Northern, all playing off in one final championship tournament. This would be the first playoff of this magnitude and definitely essential due to the size and number of players in California.

"If I can be of any help to the readers of National Racquetball, please write me for further information concerning the organization in Southern California. Thus far, the area and local organizations (SDRA/LARA) are running smoothly but there is the need for consolidated planning and organization when tournament dates conflict regionally."

Sanford Comeaux - Louisiana



Our U.S.R.A. state chairmen often become involved in our state association programs by direct tournament involvement. This certainly applies to our Louisiana Racquetball Association chairman, Sanford Comeaux, Jr. (pronounced "Como").

Sanford helped chaperone at the first U.S.R.A. National Juniors Championships in 1975 in Orlando, Florida. His son Mark was a participant then as he was this past July, where he placed fourth in the 15-and-under boys division.

When searching for a qualified and interested chairman to represent us in Louisiana, we naturally thought of Sanford Comeaux.

"Racquetball is the best sport to come along in a long time. I feel it will continue to grow in the future. Mainly, because it attracts both sexes of all ages," says Sanford.

Sanford is married and he and his wife, Peggy, have two children, Mark, age 14 and Margaret, age 7. As mentioned earlier, Mark is an avid junior player. Our Louisiana state chairman is a Certified Public Accountant and is employed by the firm of Broussard, Poche, Lewis and Breau. He is a 1964 graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

"When our local club built two courts, I tried racquetball and found I loved to play," says Comeaux. *"I continued to play because it helped me keep in condition."*

This statement echoes the sentiments of nearly every one of our state

representatives. They became interested in racquetball for health and physical fitness purposes, then got more deeply involved in the organizational and leadership aspects of the sport.

Since assuming the post as state chairman, the L.R.A. has elected officers and established the date for the first state association tournament, September 9-11 of this year.

Citing a desire to see racquetball grow in his hometown of Lafayette, Louisiana as an incentive to become a leader in the state, our affable chairman states, *"I feel I owe the sport this time; it has done a lot for me."*

Jerry Melaragno - Rhode Island



About a year ago at the Vermont Pro-Am, we met Jerry Melaragno and John Rosato from Rhode Island. The U.S.R.A. was looking for someone interested in organizing a amateur association in the state and Jerry and John proved to be very capable in doing just that. After being most instrumental in establishing the Rhode Island Racquetball Association, Rosato resigned and turned over the leadership to Jerry, but John's interest in the game has not fallen off in the least.

"His ability to relate to the players and create interest in helping everyone at the courts is a very key factor in any success our organization has had and

will have in the future," said the new chairman.

Our state chairmen come from a wide variety of occupations, but all share a common interest in promoting racquetball. Melaragno (pronounced "Mel-ar-ano") graduated from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania in 1968 and has since continued his education, earning a Ph.D. in 1974 from the University of Pittsburgh in biology. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Biology Department at Rhode Island college. Jerry is married and his wife's name is Dee.

He became involved in racquetball while enrolled in graduate school, being introduced to the game by a fellow student.

"It has great appeal to a large segment of the population," he said. *"People are becoming disillusioned by spectating, and more interested in sport participation. Racquetball will fill their needs."*

After a taste of tournament competition (Vermont Pro-Am), Jerry wanted to bring similar experiences to local players in Providence. Upon his return from the tournament, Jerry and John founded the state association in January, 1977. They have now held two tournaments, published a newsletter and are currently making plans for hosting their first open tournament in the fall of 1977.

Other key members of the R.I.R.A. besides John Rosato, who serves in all public relation matters and acts as good will ambassador, are Fred Miller who serves as a program director, and Howie Hawkins who is the secretary/treasurer handling memberships. According to Jerry, *"their assistance is invaluable."*



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Minnesota

The Minnesota State Racquetball Championships were held on April 29, 30 and May 1, 1977, at the Rochester YMCA for the fifth consecutive year. This year was marked by upsets and near upsets. In Singles, a former champion, Steve Singer, Minneapolis, was recrowned, while the defending champion, Bob Adam, Jr., Edina, was upset in the round of eight by unseeded 16-year-old Dan Ferris, St. Cloud 16-21, 21-15, 11-0! Ferris then rolled by fourth seeded Mike Gorman, Rochester 21-10, 21-15. In the finals, young Dan jumped to 10-0 lead with a series of flat rollouts. Singer finally got going but lost the first game 21-14. Steve then borrowed a page from the book of Charles Brumfield, using psychological warfare to turn the match around 21-9, 11-5.

Adam achieved some revenge by teaming with Pat Page to upset the "unbeatable" defending champions, Jim Bryan and Larry Neilsen, Minneapolis, 21-12, 21-20 in the Doubles. Senior action was highlighted by Bob Adam, Sr. rolling out Bob McNamara 21-10, 21-5. McNamara and Haskivitz were challenged by Tom Keyes and Bill Hall, Edina in the Senior Doubles final but they successfully defended their title 21-15, 21-15. Masters action saw both defending champion George Sladky, Edina and second seeded Ralph Stillman, Minnetonka upset in the semi-finals by John Brandrup, Rochester and Bill Colclough, Winona respectively. Brandrup was crowned the victor 12-21, 21-15, 11-6.

Third place Singles was a replay of last year, with Tom Gonser, Minneapolis defeating Mike Gorman 21-15, 21-11. Consolation winners were Mike Sladky and Bob Adam, Jr. Greg Johnson and Gary Peterson won third place in the Open Doubles with consolation honors to Mike Weum and Barry "Consolation" Gerr.

The B Singles victor was Paul Johnson of Winona over Tim Sabin, Minneapolis 21-11, 7-21, 11-9. Ron Zeise, Winona took third from Chuck Pappas, Mankato. Consolation victors in B were Bill Olson, Redwood Falls, Earl Olmstead, St. Paul and Jerry Ulwelling, Austin. Senior Singles third went to Bill Hall over doubles partner Tom Keyes, while consolation victors were Malin Greenberg, Minneapolis and Dr. Charles Schaefer, Winona. Senior Doubles third went to Dr. Fred Banfield and Dick Carpenter, Rochester with Greenberg and Dick Lurie winning the consolation. Masters third went to Ralph Stillman with Ted Wilson, Minneapolis winning the consolation.

The tournament was again a huge success. It was a treat to be able to run it with eight courts. We had one new wrinkle this year which included separate consolation awards for each round of losers. Hence, first round losers played for one trophy as did second and third round losers. This was especially designed to enable round of eight losers to play one another, an opportunity which they infrequently have. We are looking forward to 1978 and the Sixth Annual Minnesota State Championships.

The Third Annual Northwest Racquetball Invitational was held May 20-22 at the Northwest Tennis and Swim Club, in St. Louis Park. Players from the upper Midwest and Canada make up the 150 competitors.

"The competition was fierce not only on the courts," said Ron Strom. "but also on the dance floor." Strom is Head Racquetball Pro at the Northwest Club.

Dean Constantine, a local Twin Cities dance instructor, headed the festivities Saturday night. He aided players in learning new dance steps while others enjoyed chicken dinners.

A drawing was held and several players received prizes, compliments of Northwest Tennis and Swim Club, Leach, Ektelon, and Munsingwear.

In Men's Open Singles, Ron Haskivitz, Minneapolis, beat Mike Sladky, Edina 21-16, 14-21, 11-3.

Men's B Singles was won by Jim Collin, Mankato, who beat John Hinz, Excelsior 21-13, 21-9.

Bernie Nielsen, Marshalltown, Iowa, took the Senior Men's Singles title in straight games over Bernie McNamara 21-10, 21-8.

In Women's Open Singles, Liz Dow, St. Paul, beat Martha Corwin, Golden Valley 21-17, 21-8.

Women's B Singles was captured by Prudy Harrison over Jenny Hawley 21-20, 14-21, 11-9.

Kathy Moore, New Hope took the Women's C Singles over Kindra Stirtz, Burnsville 21-15, 21-5.

In Men's Open Doubles Jim Bryan, Edina, and Larry Nielson, St. Paul, beat Strom, and Pat Page, Edina 21-11, 21-17.

Art Hodges and Tim Sabin, St. Paul won the Men's B Doubles event over Jim Buckley and Jim Collins.

In Senior Doubles, Bob Sheldon and Bernie Nielson beat Bob McNamara and Amos Rosenbloom 21-7, 18-21, 11-3.

The Junior players participated in a round robin event. Paul Bakken, Fergus Falls, took first place; Hart Johnson, St. Paul, took second, and Craig Stirtz took third.

Strom says he's looking forward to next years tournament with the addition of five more courts, totaling 15, two of which will have glass walls.

Virginia

The First Annual Mid-Atlantic Military Regional Racquetball Championships were held at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia on 15-17 April. The tournament attracted over 70 participants including the top military players in the region.

The Open Singles was dominated by Air Force Staff Sergeant Don Little from Dover AFB. After Roger Luque extended Little to three games in an early round, Little won all of his remaining matches in two games. LCdr Glenn Allen beat Marine Capt Larry Grandy in one semi final match while Little knocked off Marine Capt Bill Graham in the other. Little beat Allen in a close two game match for the championship. Graham then beat Grandy in one of their traditional hard fought matches for third place.

The Senior Singles bracket was loaded with talent and provided some of the best matches of the tournament. Glenn Allen emerged the victor over LCdr Pat Drennon in a "marathon match" final. Allen had beaten Marine Major Bill Major (playing in his first tournament) in one semi-final while Drennon beat Chief Tom Madison in the other semi-final. Major beat Madison for third place.

The Open Doubles division competition saw the unseeded Luque-Martinez team defeat the third-seeded Young-Major team in an early round. There were no other upsets until the finals when the second-seeded team of Buzz Parker and Kevin Dorr beat first seeded Graham-Grandy in three long games. Parker and Dorr were hungry for this win as Grandy and Graham had upset them individually in the Open Singles. Luque-Martinez beat Brown-Madison for third place.

Eleven women entered the Women's Singles event, and for most of them it was their first tournament. The play was hot and heavy, but when the smoke cleared, Barbara Leavitt, the number one seed, found herself facing Linda Elliott. Linda played the best racquetball of her eight-month career and decisively defeated Barbara in two games. Cheryl Drennon defeated Linda Grandy for third place, and Robin Titus beat Carolyn Wittman for the Consolation Championship.

The B Singles was the largest of all categories with over 32 participants joining the action. The final match was a case of older vs. younger with LTC Don Williams matched against 2d Lt Jim Elliott. Williams excellent court presence and pinch shots proved to be too much for the aggressive Elliott who was defeated in two games. Al Worthington captured third place and Mike Tennent took the Consolation first place.

The tournament was considered to be a huge success by all the participants and many are looking forward to next year for the second annual. A special thanks goes to Linda Grandy, Robin Titus, and Becky Graham for keeping the food and drink well stocked.

California

On May 19-22 Santana Courts Racquetball Club, in South Santa Ana near the Newport and San Diego Freeways, held a highly successful Wamp-Um Racquetball Tournament. The net proceeds will benefit the Santa Ana-Tustin YMCA's Camp program.

The "Send a Child to Camp" theme sparked enthusiasm in all 275 men and women participants and over 750 viewers over the four day tournament. The tournament was a success in every way; handsome tournament shirts, great food, exciting and on time matches, and fun for all was the talk of the entire tournament.

The competition varied from racquetball novices to some of the best open men and women players in Southern California. Mike Maddocks, a rising 18-year-old from San Diego, won the Open Men's Division in an exciting tie-breaker over R.O. Carson, Tustin with scores of 7-21, 21-18, 11-7.

Other scores included: Carl Crown over Tom Malone in B Singles 21-10, 21-12. John Woodard over Bill Oswalt in C Singles 21-11, 21-12. Bill Kristinat over Pat Flanagan in Novice Singles 21-19, 21-6. Karin Walton over Donna Noguchi in

the Women's Open. Susan Hunt over Jeanette Mendoza in the Women's B-C Singles. Linda Kobus over Paula Pizzifred in women's novice singles 21-20, 12-21, 11-8. Al Portune and Ron Starkman over Bill Fearing and Cliff Schonert in Open Doubles 21-6, 15-21, 11-5. Ron Starkman and Cathy Schriollo over Mike and Ruth McGovern in Mixed Upper Division Doubles 21-10, 15-21, 11-5. Pat Perryman and Betsy Staub over Carl and Linda Crown in Mixed Doubles Lower Division 21-10, 21-13. Gary Frolenko and Jim Rossman over Don Delany and Bill Chadwick in Men's B Doubles 18-21, 21-5, 11-8. Corky Ewing and Mark Hill over Delbert Moreno and John Paul Vasquez 21-9, 21-11 in Men's C Doubles.

That sums it up. All who participated were winners. Santana Courts thanks the Golden Eagle Nation Y-Indian Guides for their help in running the tournament and all the referees that volunteered their time for the 375 matches. The biggest winner of all was the Santa Ana-Tustin YMCA which received more than \$700 toward their camp program.

Chris Chase

Winning form displayed by Mike Maddocks in his Open Singles victory over R.O. Carson in the Santana Wamp-Um Tourney.



Ohio

Ohio State Tourney

The Ohio Racquetball Association held its Third Annual State Championships on the weekend of May 20-22 at the host club, the Back Wall Racquetball Club in Bath, Ohio.

There were over 195 entrants to participate in the 10 different divisions of the tournament. The players came from all sections of the state to be part of Ohio's most prestigious racquetball event.

Although the calibre of the players in the 71-man Open event was extremely good, one player was clearly the best in the entire field. He was Clark Pittman, a 26-year-old computer engineer from Mansfield, Ohio. Clark, who has played racquetball for six years, won the Ohio Men's Singles Championship for the second straight year defending his No. 1 seed position. He did it not only with a strong power game but with an excellent array of soft shots. Not only did Clark win all of his matches in two straight games but none of his opponents scored in the double figures.

The runner-up in the Open Singles was a 17-year-old Ohio State student from Cincinnati, Larry Fox. In the lower bracket Larry had progressed through the field winning all matches in two games until the semi-finals on Sunday morning. He met a very tough and determined Jerry Davis from Cleveland, Ohio with the scores being 18-21, 21-13, 11-8. It appeared that Fox was in deep trouble during the second game except that during the time out he performed his now famous "Fox Trot" which consists of a rapid pace in a circle in front of the servers line during any time outs or delays. This "Fox Trot"

apparently put the right ingredients together as Larry then went on to win the second game and the close tie-breaker. This tough match obviously extended Larry and hampered his showing in the final match with Pittman. During the other semi-final match Pittman was having a relative easy time with Jack Soble of Cleveland winning 21-1, 21-7. Clark was able to finish his match up in time to sit and watch the difficult match between Davis and Fox. As both Fox and Davis were going through extremely long rallies with diving gets and impossible returns Clark was seen smiling, with an extremely large grin, and commenting to himself how "he loved it, love it".

In the Women's Singles competition a new entrant in the final four was Dana Cornblath from Columbus, Ohio. Dana, a left hander, showed the same skill as she did in winning a recent tournament in Columbus by defeating Pat Martin of Cleveland 21-6, 21-9.

Each year the top Ohio State Doubles Team of Soble and Davis seem to improve with each tournament. Since all the teams who play them are keyed up, their maturity and teamwork always rise to match their opponents attempt to overthrow them. It is tougher every year but they thrive on it. It was difficult tournament for both Soble and Davis as they both made it to the semi-finals in the Open Singles as well of course as winning the Doubles. They defeated Danny Clifford and Ed Reinhart of Cincinnati in the Open Doubles 21-19, 21-11.

The Women's Doubles champs were Elaine Robinson and Cookie Wachtel from Massillon, Ohio defeating Barbara Joe Beal and Danielle Morgan 21-17, 21-6.

Rod McKinley and Ted Shacker displayed exceptional teamwork as they won their first Senior Men's Doubles championship in Ohio defeating Mike Stern and Joel Feld from the Cleveland area 21-14, 21-17.

This year an additional age category of 14-and-under was added. Tim Deighan, 13-years-old, of the racquetball Deighan family of Painesville was the champion.

Another new category was Masters Doubles with champions Jim Herron and Nick Marsh of Warren defeating Dr. Pat Deighan and Jack Stones 20-21, 21-16, 21-14.

Due to the extreme heat and high humidity with the breakdown of the cooling system at the Back Wall huge quantities of liquids and food were consumed by the hungry and thirsty players. A great deal of thanks and appreciation must go out to the Hospitality Director, Jim Lance and his young son Craig who worked hard throughout the entire three day tournament to keep these appetites satisfied.

Other men in helping Tournament Director, Dennis Boatman in handling the floor were Ron Akins of North Canton, Art Payne of Columbus, Tom Perna of Toledo, Jerry Davis of Cleveland, and Pat Cosiano of Cleveland. These men spent many hours during Friday and early Saturday insuring that the matches went off on time.

Jim Pribble
Dennis Boatman

Michigan

Seventeen-year-old Mike Yellen and partner Tom Brownlee from the Southfield Athletic Club beat Gil Schmitt and Dan McLaughlin representing Court Players Club-Ann Arbor in the finals for first place in Michigan State Doubles Racquetball Tournament.

Competition was held in six events for doubles and singles for both men and women. Court Players Club in Portage, Michigan hosted 62 players in Men's Doubles A & B level play as well as a Women's Doubles A bracket. There were also divisions for Juniors, Seniors, and Masters.

Yellen demonstrated those skills that promise to make him a future contender on the pro circuit. He easily won the Junior Division defeating Mike Kaufman 21-3, 21-3. He then coupled with his partner Brownlee, who has helped develop Mike's game for two years, and scored a 21-9, 21-5 victory in the Men's A competition. Yellen found his doubles victory particularly pleasing because his opponents were Schmitt, current singles State Champion, and McLaughlin who won an open tournament the week prior in Grand Rapids. Yellen was unable to compete in either the Michigan State Singles or the Grand Rapids Tournament.

The Men's B was won by Jim Hosta and Harry Sieplinga, Grand Rapids over Larry Jackson and

Jack Robertson, Battle Creek 21-7, 21-18.

The ladies victors were Judy Huhta and Pat Krise, Ann Arbor over Janis Vander Wel and Pat Stewart, Portage, 21-10, 21-1.

Fred Lewerenz, Southfield defeated John Raducha, Ithaca for the Seniors title 21-18, 21-13.

In the Masters, Fred Wiegand, Lynn Hahn and Pete Del Favero finished in respective order. This is the third consecutive time Wiegand has bested Hahn in the finals play. The scores were 16-21, 21-16, and 11-5.

Detroit Juniors

The finals of the boys 17-and-under division started as scheduled at 8:00 p.m. Thursday. At 12:25 a.m. Friday, the winner had been determined. This four hour and twenty-five minute final was an indication of the caliber of competition found in the RacquetTime Junior Tournament held June 28th, through June 30th, 1977.

Dave Doeher, of Livonia, the ultimate winner of this marathon had defeated Mark Richardson, also of Livonia in the 9:30 a.m. semi-final match in the winner's bracket. Richardson then went on

at 12 o'clock to meet Howard Sher in the semi-finals of the loser's bracket in this double elimination tournament. Richardson won the right to meet Doeher again in the finals.

In the first match, Richardson won in two games, with Doeher scoring 13 and 12 points. The decision to continue with the final match, either that evening or the following evening was made by Richardson. He chose to continue. Richardson went on to win the first game of the final match 21-18. The second game Richardson was leading 20-17 only to lose to Doeher 21-20. The tie-breaker was finally won by Doeher 11-8.

Another more conventional finals, Jeff Yellen of Southfield, defeated Vince Mack of Detroit, 21-6, 21-2, for the boys 15-and-under title. The boys 13-and-under championship was won by Fred Lewerenz of Detroit over Andy Weine, 21-9, 21-15. The girls 17-and-under finals, Julie Sak of Southfield defeated JoAnn Rayburn of Livonia, 21-8, 21-5. In girls 14-and-under, Michelle Moss of Southfield, defeated Madonna McPharlin of West Bloomfield, 21-10, 21-13.

The winners won an expenses paid trip to the United States Racquetball Association National Juniors Championships held July 27th through the 31st, at the Evergreen Park Bath and Tennis Club, Evergreen Park, Illinois.

Kentucky

Invaders from the north ravaged the field of the Lexington Round Robin Invitational Doubles Tournament. Mike Sipes and Larry Fox, Cincinnati, ended the weekend of June 10-12, with a 6-1 record, losing only to the team of Hal Broderson and Doug Gordon, Louisville, 31-25.

Sipes and Fox combined speed, agility, control, and a certain knowledge of one another's whereabouts. They are a fine team, not simply two talented players. The Spring and Fall team of Eric Gilbert and Dave Fleischaker took second place, also with a 6-1 record. They lost to Sipes-Fox, however, 31-20 after leading the winners at 15-7 early. What Gilbert-Fleischaker lacked in speed (and they lacked a lot), they made up in desire (Gilbert's desire to hit the ball harder).

Len Wilson, Louisville, and Tom Shivel, Ashland, were the surprise team of the tourney, coming in third with a 4-3 record. Broderson and Gordon were fourth. They were voted most likely to be unpredictable, alternatively pulling upsets and rolling over to play dead. Kirtley Amos and Ray Sabbatine, Lexington, members of the host RacquetTime of Lexington, displayed a frenzied gourmet approach. Kirtley was frenzied on the court and Ray a gourmet off as he prepared the finest pizza most had ever eaten.

Fred Michels and Alan Hyman, four times Doubles Champs in Kentucky, fared poorly with a 2-5 record. Jim Daopoulos and Bill Emnett, Lexington, teamed together, as did Alan Foster and Russell Travis, also of Lexington.

David Fleischaker

Illinois

Tourney: Chicagoland Men's Open

Host: The Court House, Northbrook, IL

Results Men's A: Kasten d. Donati 21-17, 21-10.

Men's B: Prina d. Dudley 18-21, 21-10, 11-6.

Men's C: Fabbrini d. McGrath 15-7, 15-11.



Rich Donati (right), Chicago, prepares to return one of Jay Kasten's shots during the finals of the A division of the Chicagoland Men's Open racquetball tourney, July 23-24, at the Northbrook Court House.

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Racquetball Association held its first annual State Tournament May 11-14 at the Providence Central Y.M.C.A. Tournament director Fred Miller became the Men's Open Singles champion by defeating Dennis Culberson in the finals 21-7, 21-19.

En route to the title Miller defeated Jerome Ivy 21-2, 21-6, Ed McGovern 21-11, 21-6, and Bill Neri 21-15, 21-10. Culberson knocked off John Rosato 21-8, 21-18 and Cal Steere 21-19, 21-14.

Bee Lufkin won the Women's one game round robin event with Bonnie Miller placing second. Lufkin was undefeated and gave up a total of one point in the tournament!

R.B. Fontaine won the Senior Singles by upsetting Joe Fenster 14-21, 21-16, 11-6 in the finals.

Pete Halle took first and Marshall Ritch second in the Masters Singles round robin.

The Open Doubles crown went to Culberson and Fontaine as they topped Rosato and McGovern in the finals 21-14, 14-21, 11-6.

In B Singles Harry McGee bested John Kutys 21-9, 21-14 for the championship.

C Singles was won by Charles Batchner 21-16, 21-19 over Bill Hanson.

Third place trophies went to Bill Neri (Open Singles and Senior Singles), Bruce Fairweather (B Singles), and Bee Lufkin (C Singles).

Consolation winners were Jerry Melaragno (Open Singles), Rick Haynes (B Singles), Dennis Drolet (C Singles), and Bruce Fairweather (Senior Singles).

New York

Auburn, New York was the scene of the first annual New York State Open Racquetball Tournament May 13-15 sponsored by the Upstate New York Racquetball Association and Tinker's Guild, a local "spirits" establishment. Free drinks were supplied by Tinker's Guild and the Upstate New York Racquetball Association supplied the drinkers.

In the Women's division, Donna Lahti from Binghamton, New York took first place. Second place was held by Margo Rood, Rochester and third place went to Carol Malikow, Syracuse.

In the B division George Litsky, Rochester lost to Bert Ackerman, Potsdam in an exciting final 21-18, 21-20. Larry Rubin, Montreal took third place over Dan Babuka, Binghamton. In the A doubles finals Leo Marsocci and Sam Poletta downed Jim Winterton and Danny Waingarten of Rochester by scores of 14-21, 21-8, 11-3. In the A finals Marsocci continued his mastery over arch-city rival and good friend Winterton. Winterton took the first game 21-16 and had a 19-18 lead in the second game but lost 21-19 and succumbed to cramps and Marsocci's drive serve in the tie breaker 11-6.

The B consolation was won by racquetball ambassador at large, Sonny Monroe of Auburn and the A consolation was won by Judd Grosshans, Brockport, New York. The hospitality of Auburnites and Tinker's Guild assured all participants of a good time. We would like to thank Seamco, The Upstate New York Racquetball Association, Tinker's Guild, John Cavanaugh, our hometown photographer and Janice Hunt, Tournament director.

Over 60 entries from Upstate New York converged upon the YMCA courts at 100 Gibbs Street in Rochester, for the first annual Rochester Metro Open May 20-22. This tournament different as there was no A division, just B, C, juniors and Women's division competition. Player reaction was favorable since in other tournaments the pro players and the A players seem to get all of the attention while the other participants go unwatched in the finals. This tournament format also lets all players relax and play while the A players run the tourney.

In the junior division 12-year-old Mike Levine defeated 15-year-old Jack Dollinger in the finals. Sixteen-year-old Steve Rosenbloom took third.

In the C's Joe Letempio defeated Mike Janiak, 21-18 and 21-19. Bert Corcoran, Batavia took third.

In the men's B the old pro, George Litsky defeated Geoff Freary, 21-16 and 21-12.

In the Women's Open Buffalo's Donna Meger defeated Rochester city champion, Margo Rood 21-3, 21-12.

Tournament director Jim Winterton would like to thank the USRA and Terry Fancher for their help. Also Seamco for balls and Ektelon for clinic pamphlets. A special thank-you to Mark Evans of the YMCA for his help is in order also.

On May 8th The Racquetball World, Rochester, New York's newest racquetball club, hosted an exhibition featuring the Rochester City champion, Margo Rood, and her arch-rival, Carol Malikov. Carol is the Syracuse City champion. A good sized crowd was treated to a fine display of racquetball as Rood won a 21-19, 19-21, 11-6 match. The spirited play of the girls gives testimony to the rising popularity of racquetball among the women in upstate New York.

Margo Rood has been promoting racquetball in Rochester for two years. She is currently forming a Women's racquetball league for the fall, and has been giving lessons on an informal basis for the past year. Margo, who is a young 37-years-old, says that she would tell all beginning women players that you are never too old to learn and adds that one of her best pupils is a 45-year-old former tennis buff. Her one regret is that she does not have the high caliber of women players to compete with and so she must compete with men. Margo is quick to add, however, that this is rapidly changing in Rochester, as it is all over the nation. With people like Margo working in upstate New York, racquetball is luring more women to the courts.



Margo Rood in action.

New Mexico

The New Mexico State Racquetball Championships were held May 13-15 in Albuquerque at Tom Young's Court Club. This year's tourney accommodated 110 eager participants in 10 divisions. There were a few surprises but the favorites came through in most brackets.

For the third straight year, Gary Mazaroff won the Men's Open championship. The script was the same as last year as he defeated Earl Badger in the finals.

In Open Doubles Badger sought revenge and succeeded. Along with his partner Dennis Chavez, they manhandled Mazaroff and Clay Childs in the finals.

Perhaps noteworthy in the doubles competition was the presence of some young blood, primarily Bill Vargas and Mike Cullen. They gave a couple of veterans, Francisco Silva and Frank Sandry all they could handle in their first match before giving in to the latter's experience 21-20, 21-8.

The Men's B division saw Bob Rossi defeat Carlsbad's Charles Jurva in the finals 21-20, 16-21, 11-9. These two gentlemen will finally have to do their battling in the Open Division according to state rules.

In the Men's C Rich Hill, Carlsbad stopped Jim Midyett for the top prize 21-6, 21-17. Two surprises marked this bracket, - the strong showing of Midyett, who was playing in his first tournament, and the early elimination of Albuquerque's David Martinez, a co-favorite.

In the Men's Seniors Ernie Nellos easily defeated Bob Light to take the crown. The only surprise was that it was so easy.

Bob Sanchez overcame a tough Masters field to capture that title, getting by Carl Brand in the finals. Joe Goldstein stopped Bill Wixted in the Golden Masters championship match.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the tournament was the crowning of a new Women's Open Champion. After some years of frustration, Wrenne Saunders finally came through. Although her old nemesis Lynn Chirigos was not a participant this year, Saunders deserved the acclaim as she had to play tough matches in this double elimination division.

In the Women's B Cathie Childs finally showed her promise by defeating Roberta Morehouse in the finals 21-10, 11-21, 11-6. Morehouse typifies the sudden appearance of capable women players to the Albuquerque scene, which had been dominated by a few gals the past few years.

Also typical of this change is Carol Branitz, who defeated the favorite, Brenda Robinette to take the Women's C title 21-14, 21-9.

Oklahoma

The U.S.R.A. of Oklahoma would like to announce the results of its 1977 Oklahoma State Doubles Championships. The tournament took place in Tulsa at Benien Courts, June 18th & 19th.

Results: Men's Open: 1. Benien/Linton; 2. Byers/Taylor; 3. Chambliss/Gann.

Men's B: 1. Miller/B. Rudichuk; 2. R. Rudichuk/Shupack; 3. S. McPherson/Carignan.

Men's C: 1. Shaner/Paulk; 2. Kuck/Gonzalez; 3. S. McPherson/Lehr.

Men's Senior: 1. J. McPherson/Linton; 2. Crowley/Trimble; 3. Matheson/Trickett.

Mixed: 1. S. McPherson/J. McPherson; 2. L. Benien/J. Benien; 3. Bernheimer/Eichor.

The tournament was very successful with 82 entries (41 doubles teams). We would like to thank Seamco for donating the balls, Leach, Industries for the souvenir shirts, and Ektelon for a tournament package used for door prizes. We would also like to thank all the participants for their cooperation in refereeing and when an occasional delay of game would occur, with special recognition going to Sandy McPherson. Sandy entered three events and played all of her matches non-stop back to back Saturday starting at 10:15 and finishing around 10:00 that evening. She placed in all three divisions she entered.

We will be looking forward to the second U.S.R.A. Oklahoma State Singles Championships this fall.

Clayton Rahlfs
Tournament Director & State Chairman

Georgia

The first Georgia U.S.R.A. State Tournament was held April 29-May 1 at Court House I in Marietta, a suburb of Atlanta. The enthusiasm and support of the tournament was beyond expectations. Court House I owners and personnel, local businesses, entrants and friends proved to be exciting and worth supporting.

There were five divisions of play.

Results are as follows:

Open (Quarter-finals):

Siegal d. Brown 21-2, 21-8; Rhodes d. Carroll 21-10, 21-14; Matich d. Chamberlain 21-12, 21-12; Wurster d. Vincent 21-8, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Siegal d. Rhodes 21-4, 21-13; Matich d. Wurster 21-12, 21-6.

(Championship): Matich d. Siegal 21-17, 21-17. **(Third):** Wurster d. Rhodes.

Seniors (Semi-finals): Chamberlain d. Scallion 21-15, 10-21, 11-7; Hilliard d. Carroll 21-14, 21-13.

(Championship): Chamberlain d. Hilliard 12-21, 21-12, 11-5.

Men's B (Semi-finals): Tver d. Wickliffe 21-17, 12-21, 11-2; Mayfield d. Huckleba 21-15, 21-19.

(Championship): Tver d. Mayfield 21-12, 12-21, 11-8. **(Third):** Huckleba d. Wickliffe.

Novice (Semi-finals): Lamprey d. Hancock 21-19, 14-21, 11-10; Davids d. Ivey 21-20, 21-16.

(Championship): Davis d. Lamprey 21-13, 21-17. **(Third):** Hancock d. Ivey.

Women's Open (Semi-finals): Crowe d. Guild 21-8, 21-6; McBee d. Tucker 21-15, 21-7.

(Championship): Crowe d. McBee 21-8, 21-2.

Wayne Vincent, Georgia U.S.R.A. Director and Ruth Vincent, Treasurer ran the tournament with the help of Dutch Sears, Referee's Chairman, Dorey Dunkerly, Ginger Vines and Rosie Matich, hospitality and registration.

Racquetball is surging upward in popularity in Georgia and so is the U.S.R.A. Since January, 1977 there has been a 300 per cent increase in membership over a year ago.

Western Regionals

The Western Regional results, unavailable at press time for the July issue, were as follows:

Men's Open Singles: 1. Marcus 2. Krause 3. Lund 4. Baruck.

Women's Open Singles: 1. Moore 2. De Neui 3. Clairmont 4. Murdoch.

Senior Singles: 1. Silverman 2. Pfeiffer 3. Kaski 4. Steinberg.

Junior Singles: 1. Larson 2. Hawkins 3. Brigham 4. Hawkey.

Masters Singles: 1. Pond 2. Burns 3. Miller 4. Brouwer.

Golden Masters Singles: 1. Svensson 2. Bugel 3. Hands 4. Lohr.

Men's Open Doubles: 1. Larsen/Retter 2. Krause/Marcus 3. Kraut/Baruck 4. Lund/Carley.

Women's Open Doubles: 1. Clairmont/Murdoch 2. Melton/Edwards 3. DeNeui/Hawkey 4. Martin/Van Dyke.

Senior Doubles: 1. Pfeiffer/Redford 2. Pond/Concha 3. Poppino/Adams 4. Gause/Kaski.

Masters Doubles: 1. Miller/Pond 2. Svensson/Bugel 3. Brouwer/Pratt 4. Coyner/Paul.

Golden Masters Doubles: 1. Bugel/Svensson 2. Ireland/Hands 3. Duncan/Vanelli.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 14-16

Janesville Fall Open, YMCA, 54 S. Franklin St., Janesville, Wisconsin. Call Tom Bier for entries 608-754-6654.

October 21-24

Connecticut State Closed, Rollout Racquetball Club, Rock Hill, Connecticut. Call Jeff Coyle for entries 203-563-7999.

October 21-23

Wortec Open, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact David Fleishaker, 628 Fincastle Bldg., Louisville 40202 or call 502-585-5369.

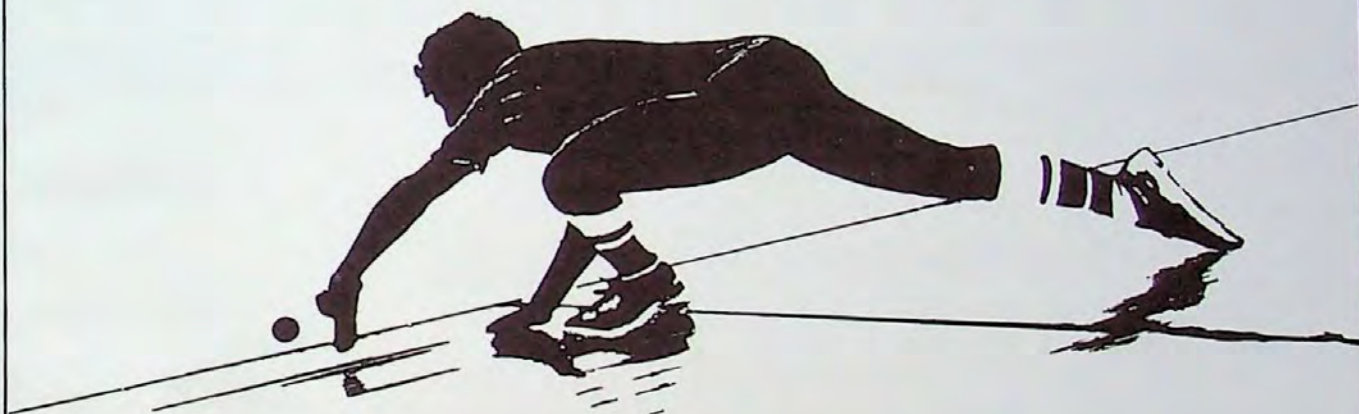
November 4-5-6

Scottish Open, Ithaca, Michigan. **Events:** Men's A, B, C; Women's A, B; Men's Senior, Men's Masters (all singles); Open Doubles. **Deadline:** October 26. **For entries contact:** John Raducha, Ithaca community Education, 530 N. Union St., Ithaca, MI 48847.

November 18-19-20

Turkey Tournament, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. **Events:** All Divisions, Men, Women and Novice. **For Entries call:** Howie Coleman at 617-754-7888.

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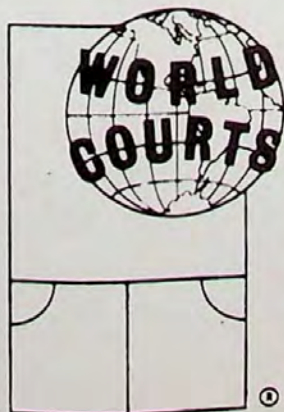
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General News

N.R.C. To Use New Draw System

Due to the increasingly large number of entries in the professional divisions, the N.R.C. has decided to limit the professional rounds of each tournament to 32 players. However, since our policy of allowing anybody to play who desires to do so is still of importance, there will be qualifying rounds the day prior to the tournament for these players.

The N.R.C. will continue to rank pro players on the same basis as last season. The five criteria, (total points earned, average points earned, percentage of wins vs. losses, prize money, and total for season), will continue to be used.

Based on that ranking system, the top 20 players will be given an "exempt" status, i.e., exempt from qualifying. These 20 players, plus four additional "at-large" exemptions chosen by the N.R.C.

will automatically be placed in the round of 32, once an entry is received from that player.

The remaining entrants will play off Wednesday for the final eight spots in the round of 32, which will be played Thursday along with the second round. The quarter-finals will follow Friday, the semi's Saturday and the finals Sunday.

In tournaments where both men and women professional divisions are held, the women's draw will be limited to 16 players, with 10 "exempt" based on the ranking system, and two "at-large" exemptions chosen by the N.R.C. A qualifying tournament on Wednesday will decide the remaining four players to fill the 16 bracket.

The Draw

Based on the N.R.C.'s ranking system, the top ranked player will be placed on at the top of the draw; the number two ranked player will be placed at the bottom of the draw.

The third and fourth ranked players will have a coin flip to decide which bracket (top or bottom) they will play in.

The fifth through eighth ranked players will have their names drawn from a hat to determine which quarter they will play in.

The ninth through 16th ranked players will have their names drawn from a hat to determine which bracket they will play in.

The remaining 16 players (8 exempt and 8 qualifiers) will be drawn from a hat to determine which bracket they will play in.

In this way we intend to eliminate the problem of repetitive match ups. It will also be fairer to lower seeds and qualifiers, yet still place the top ranked players to ensure the better matches later in the tournament.

The "three time rule" will still apply, i.e., if the same match up occurs twice in a row, on the third consecutive time the lower seed will be flopped with the next seed beneath him.

The draw, since it involves picking out of a hat, will be a public draw, conducted the Monday prior to the tournament. Any player earning exempt status may witness the draw if he so desires.

Footballer Foley Joins R.B. Club Group

Tim Foley, number 25 of the Miami Dolphins announced his association with the SPORTROOMS, the new million dollar Racquetball Handball Health Club now under construction in Sabal Chase across from the Miami-Dade Community College south campus.

Foley will serve as a Vice President and during his off-season will be in charge of membership programs.

Tim, like many of his teammates, plays racquetball to keep reflexes sharp and physical condition in peak form. Tim said, "the opening date is set for November 1977 and I sincerely urge anyone who wants to lose weight, firm up and for once, really have fun getting in shape to play racquetball."

The SPORTROOMS will have 14 indoor air-conditioned racquetball hand-

Tim Foley



ball courts, complete health spa, saunas, whirlpools, 7 foot T.V., lounge serving delicious health foods and refreshing beverages, children's nursery, pro shop, leagues, lessons and parties. The SPORTROOMS will be a place for the whole family to get together and enjoy a healthy active life.

Seamco Names New Eastern Regional Manager

Donald F. McAuliffe is the new sales manager for Seamco Sporting Goods in the eastern U.S. area.

McAuliffe most recently was a regional sales manager for Borden, Inc., and will continue to make his home in Southport, Conn.

A native of Chicago he is a graduate of Michigan State and also attended both Notre Dame and the Naval Academy.

McAuliffe was a 1952 runner-up in voting for the Heisman Trophy and was named to the All-American football team.

His appointment as Eastern Regional Sales Manager was announced by Bob Coate, National Sales Manager of

Donald F. McAuliffe



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Skipin' that crotch shot,
Sure play mean.

You be a Racquetballer:
Mebbe play awful,
Dumpin' them chicken shots,
Face like a waffle.

You be a Racquetballer:
Shootin' that photon,
Wallpaper bullets,

Donuts you can gloat on.

How to be a Racquetballer?
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Haul off and whack it!

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Please make check payable to The American Jewish Committee

Basics For Beginners: Watching The Ball

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



—photos by Arthur Shay

Fig. 3



One of the most frequent errors for beginners in racquetball happens to be one of the most important aspects of the game. That is, *watching the ball*.

Probably the most obvious mistake for a novice player to make is to simply stare at the front wall while his opponent returns the shot from somewhere behind him (see Fig. 1-3). By not watching the ball as your opponent strikes it, the player is vulnerable to almost any return whether it be ceiling shot, down-the-line pass, cross-court pass, or kill shot.

To greatly increase your anticipation of your opponent's return shot, simply watch the ball until he is about to

Figures #1-3

If the player who is not hitting the ball blindly faces the front wall, he will not be watching his opponent as the ball is returned. This will cause him to react too late to his opponent's shot.

Figures #4-6

If the player turns toward his opponent with his racquet up to protect his face, and watches his partner return the ball, he will then be able to anticipate in time to return the next shot.

Fig. 4

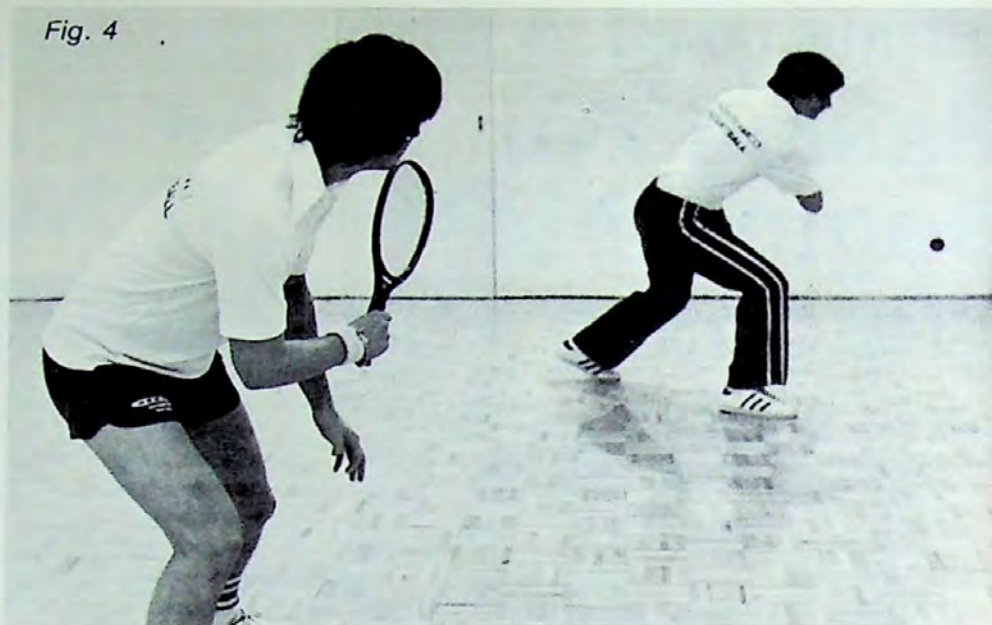


Fig. 5



Fig. 6



actually stroke it. Then turn your head just before contact to the area on the front wall where your partner is aiming the ball (see Fig. 4-6). By doing this, you will be able to move to the correct area on the court to retrieve each shot.

To protect yourself from eye or facial injury you may do one of several things. You may actually look through the strings of the racquet to shield yourself and at the same time get a good view of the return shot (see Fig. 5). Also, you can place your hand with the fingers spread between your opponent and your face and still get an adequate view. You should also raise your elbow in front of your face and peer underneath it to get a protected view of the ball as it struck. All of these measures will give you adequate protection.

There is always the argument raised that if you watch the ball you are more likely to get struck by it. This is quite

Fig. 7



Figures #7-9

If the player does not watch the path and flight of the ball as it bounces on the floor and rebounds off the back wall, he will have to refocus on the ball before making contact. This causes a quick adjustment in the stroke and an uncertain swing.

untrue. After giving hundreds of hours of instruction to beginners, it is my opinion that *not* watching the ball is more hazardous than watching it.

For example, most players who simply gaze at the front wall waiting for the return have no idea where the ball is when it is behind them. Therefore, if they are in the path of a return shot, they cannot move to one side to avoid being struck. This means not only avoiding being hit by the ball but also avoiding being struck by the racquet as the opponent swings and follows through. After a few months of playing racquetball, however, most players get a feeling for where their partner is on the court and can usually avoid hitting him.

The most crucial time to be clear of the opponent's swing is when he returns a back wall shot, because the ball often rebounds directly to center court where the player who just struck it is standing. If he does not move to one side, he could be injured unintentionally by his partner returning the ball.



Fig. 8

Fig. 9

Back Wall Shots

Another very common mistake in keeping eye contact with the ball is during back wall shots. Probably the most noticeable error is not watching the ball during its entire flight as it strikes the front wall, floor, back wall and drops in position to be stroked. Notice in Figures 7-9 how the player looks directly into the back wall before the ball has even reached that point. This causes him to have to refocus on the ball again before making contact. In this sequence, notice how the ball then rebounds too close to the body and drops out of range to be returned effectively.



Figures #10-12

When the player focuses his eyes intently on the ball as it strikes the front wall, bounces on the floor, rebounds off the back wall and drops into position to be hit, he should never take his eyes off the ball. This will make a smooth retrieval and stroke possible along with an effective return.

Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Note Figures 10-12 where eye contact is maintained intently on the ball as it strikes the front wall, bounces on the floor, rebounds off the back wall and begins its descent into the contact zone. The eyes should never release sight of the ball. Tracking the ball in this manner will make for a smoother retrieval and a chance at a more effective return.

Fig. 13

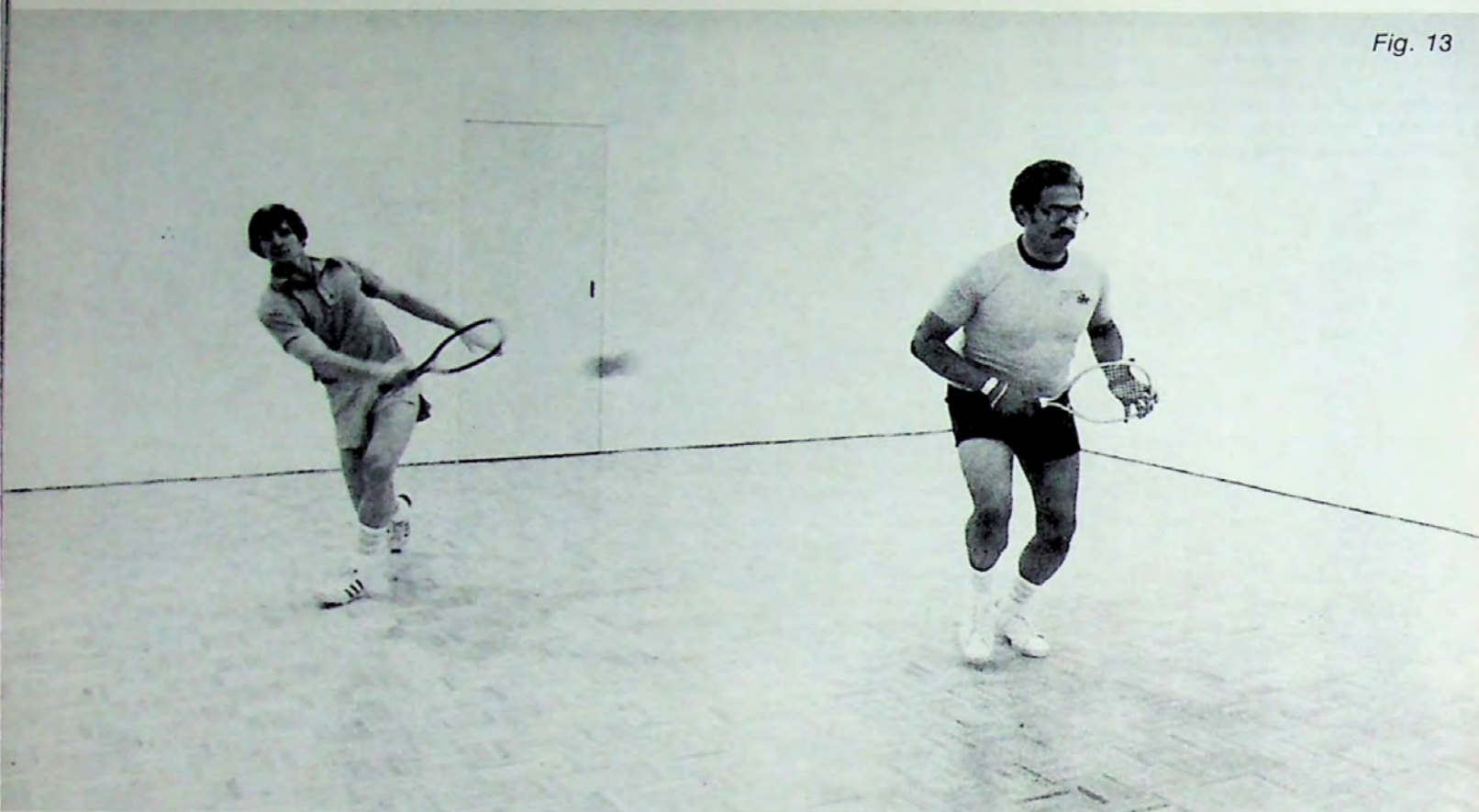


Fig. 14



Figures #13-16

If a player moves to center court position after returning the opponent's shot, without watching his opponent strike the ball, he may get passed by the next shot. This will leave him stranded helplessly as the ball shoots by.



Fig. 15

Watching The Ball And Court Coverage

The ability to cover the court and keep the ball in play depends greatly on a player's ability to recognize where the opponent's next shot is going. Again, in order to anticipate correctly, one must watch his opponent as he prepares to strike the ball. In Figures 13-16 notice how the player not hitting the ball moves toward center court without watching his opponent hit the ball. The result is a cross-court pass to his left. Not watching the ball leaves one stranded helplessly out of position as the ball shoots by.

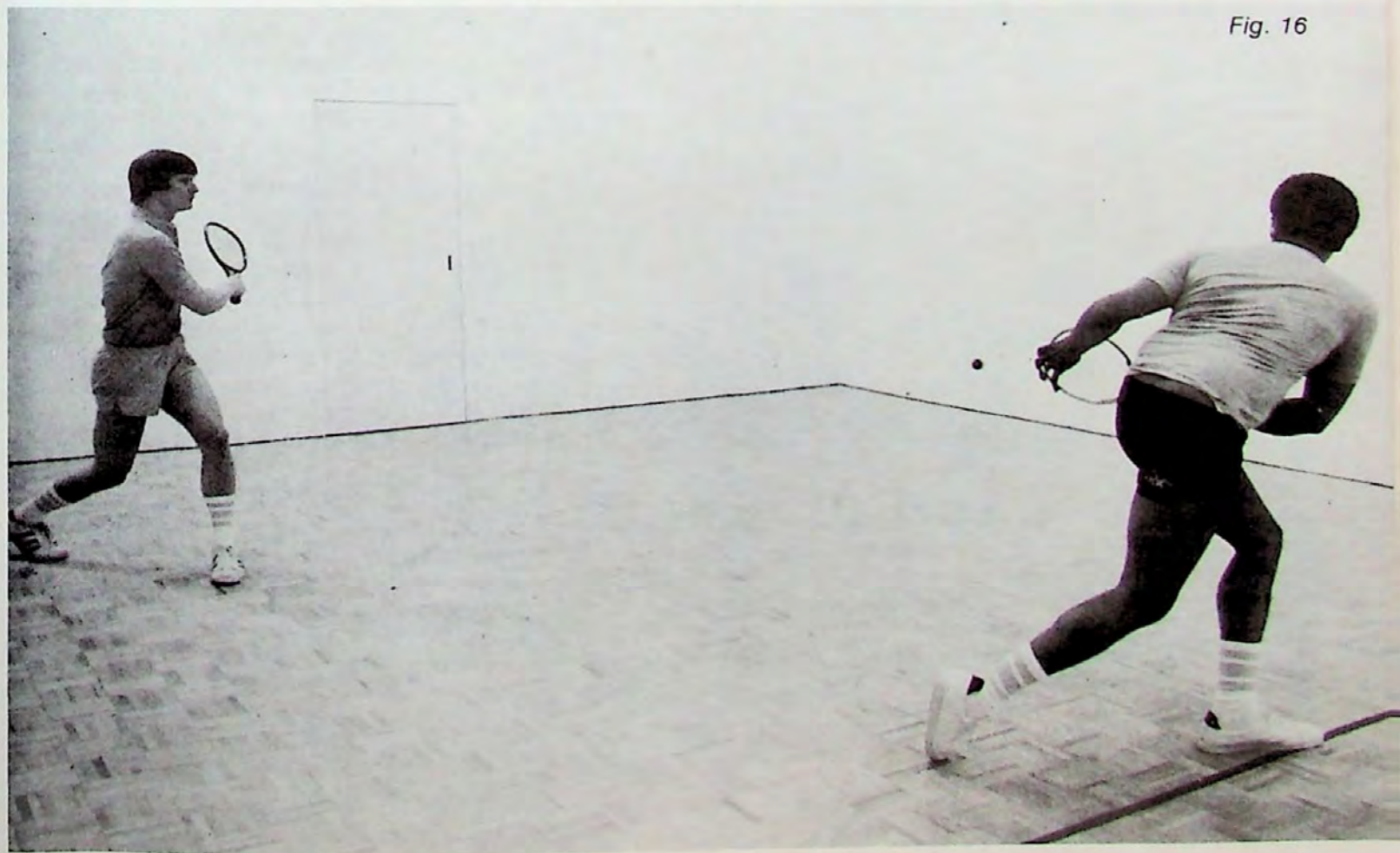
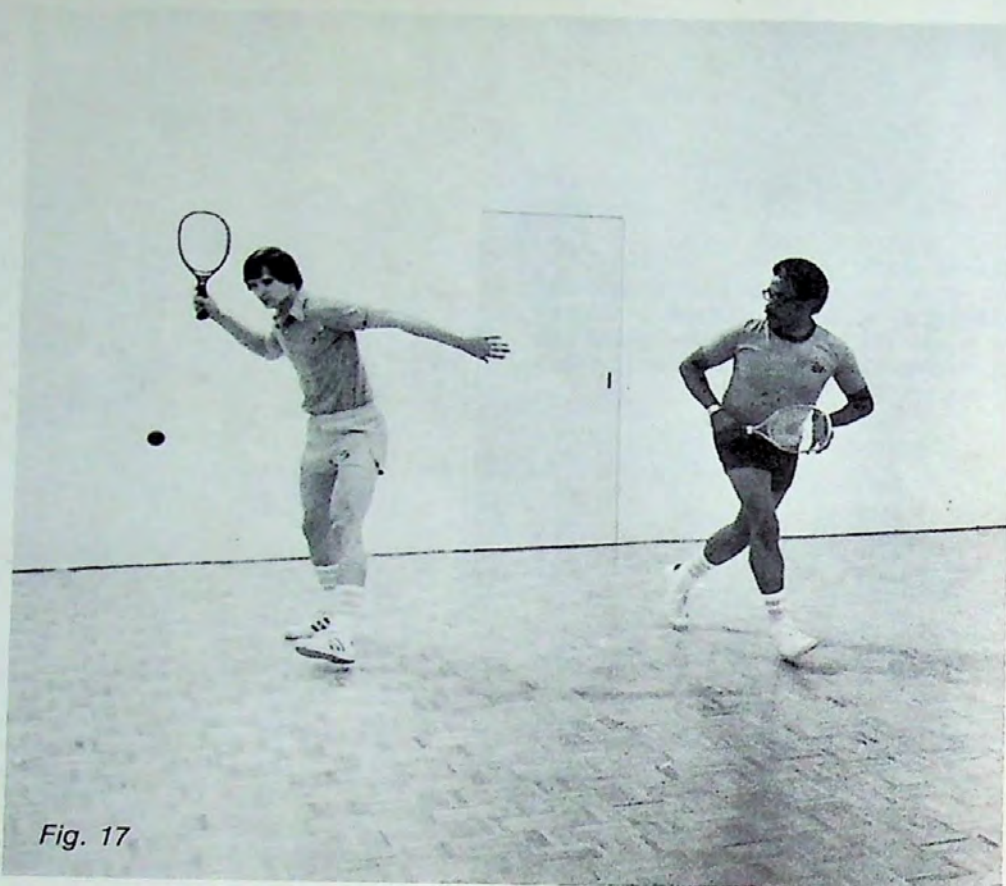


Fig. 16



*Figures #17-20
When the player flows toward center court position just as his opponent begins to strike the ball, he gives himself the ability to cut off the pass shot without losing the rally. Note that his eyes are focused on the ball making it easy to follow.*

Fig. 17

Fig. 18





Fig. 19

In the next sequence (Fig. 17-20) the player not hitting the ball is intently watching his opponent as he prepares to stroke the ball. As he flows toward the center of the court, see how he anticipates the shoot this time. He therefore is able to cut off the cross-court pass, keeping the ball in play and possibly even winning the rally. The ball is much easier to follow when the eyes are focused on it during the rally.

Fig. 20

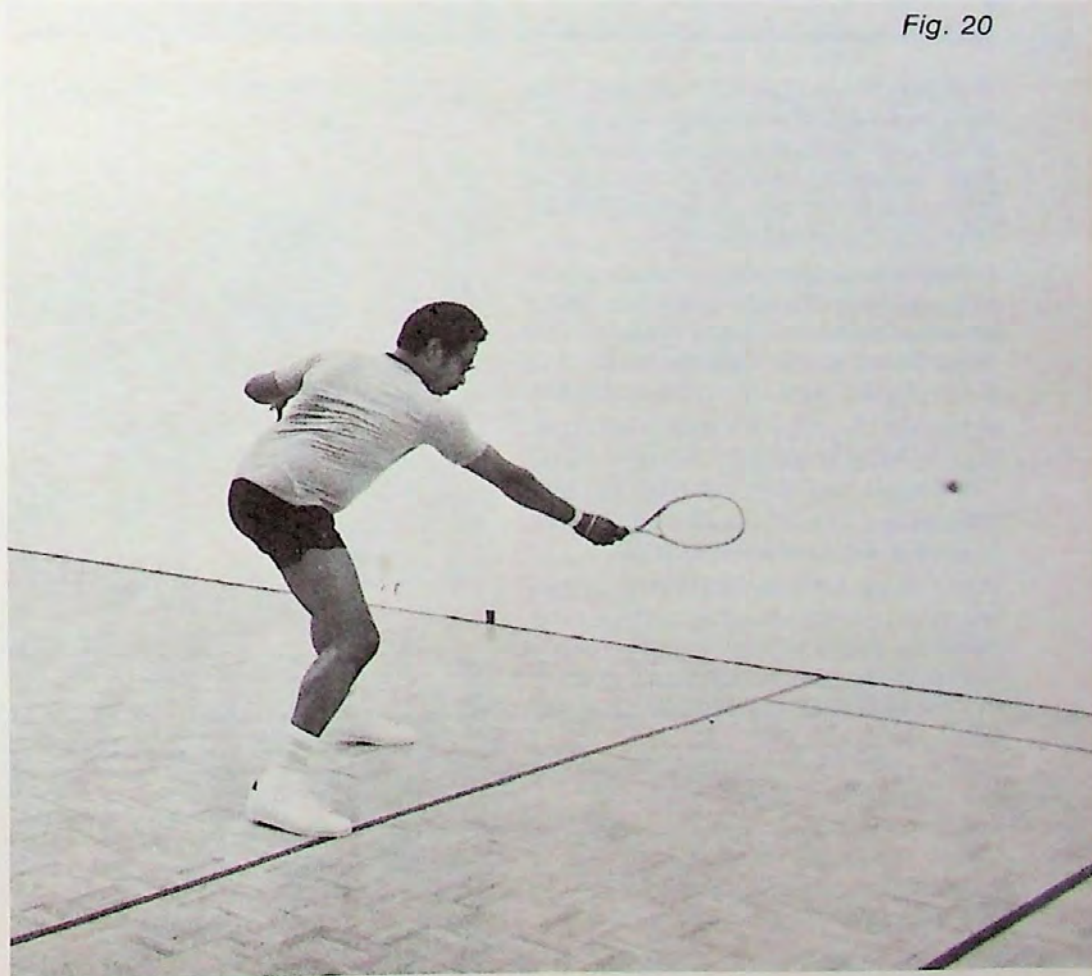


Diagram 1. Pinch shot.

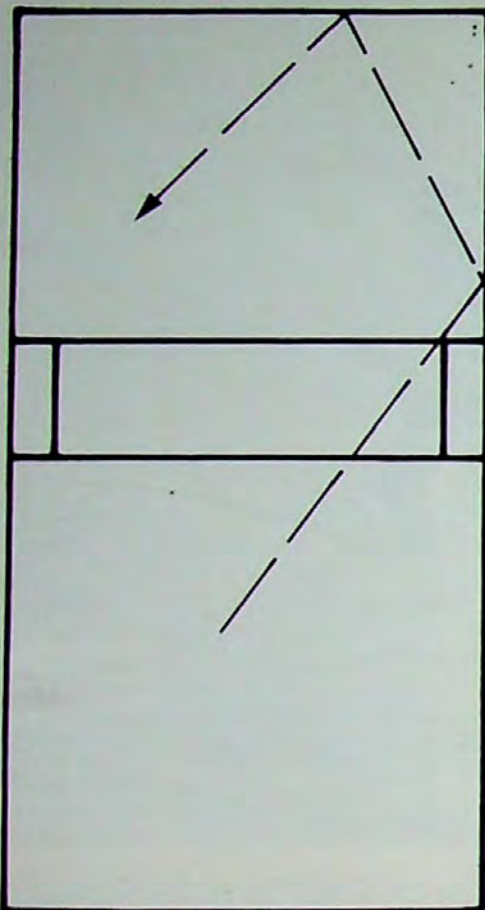


Diagram 2. Player A's first reaction is to his right.

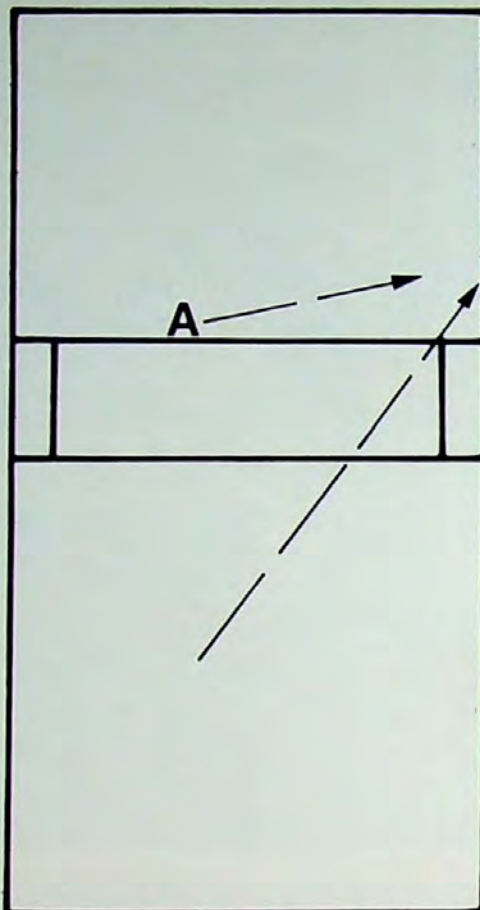
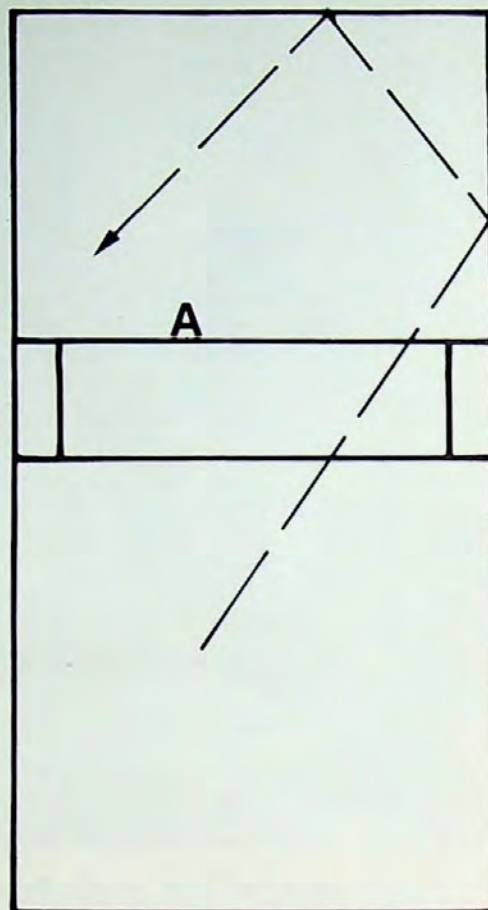


Diagram 3. When in reality he should be moving to his left.



Perhaps the best example of watching the ball for anticipation is on the "pinch" shots, kill shots that hit side wall-front wall. As can be seen in Diagram 1, the path of a pinch shot at first is directly opposite the eventual path.

If Player A is standing at center court, not watching the ball behind him, his normal reaction will be to move toward the side wall that the pinch shot first hits (Diagram 2). Instinctively he does this.

However, the true retrieving position for this shot is actually *the other way*. For the pinch will rebound off the side wall, strike the front wall and rebound toward the *opposite* side wall.

Had this player been watching the ball, he would have been able to detect the pinch by the positioning and stroke of his opponent and immediately gone to the correct retrieving position (Diagram 3).

Fig. 21



Figures #21-23



Fig. 22



Fig. 23

The Ceiling Shot Rally

It is much easier for a player to keep control during a ceiling shot rally by watching his opponent hit the ball. In Figures 21-23 notice how both players watch the ball as the other makes the overhand stroke. By closely watching the ball, you can actually anticipate where the next shot will end up and move into position well in advance. This will allow for a return shot that is not hurried and therefore will be more accurate. Remember, a ceiling shot return that you can lean into is much more powerful than one you have to reach behind you for. In the former you can make use of the legs, hips, trunk and shoulders, and in the latter you only use the arm and trunk.

In summary, watching the ball is a necessity for effective play. Anyone who feels at all squeamish about following the ball closely should wear eye guards. However, if you simply use one of the protective measures suggested earlier in this article and make a habit of it you should be safe. Remember, if you feel that looking too closely at the ball jeopardizes your safety, then by all means don't look at it. This is especially true when your opponent is returning the ball in the fly from directly behind you.

The majority of the time, however, watching the ball will improve your play and not be dangerous. ●

Keys To Winning Amateur Matches

Many articles in *National Racquetball* deal with one of three main themes: professional instruction, tournament results, or pro-player interviews. However, I am going to write on a topic which has never been covered before — winning amateur racquetball matches. I will reveal some of the techniques I've used this year in becoming one of the most successful amateur players in the country. I have won tournaments all over the United States (California, Vermont, Florida, Michigan, etc.) and have played against the top amateurs in their respective regions. I have played against a wider variety of playing styles than most people ever knew existed.

If you're tired of losing and you want to start winning, don't go out and pay \$10 to \$50 an hour for a lesson from a pro, because he doesn't know what shots are being hit in amateur racquetball play. Just sit back and read this article, which is an exclusive for all the amateur players in the country. The old saying "You have to be one to know one" couldn't be truer.

Amateur racquetball has different levels of play: A, B, C, and Novice. Certain techniques, (which will be discussed later) can be used at all levels, but the seasoned A or B player will find the article easier to follow because he or she will have experience under his belt. I recommend to those just beginning in racquetball to read this article with a friend who is a little more experienced, (in racquetball, that is).

Before going on the court we have to ask ourselves three questions and answer them honestly. These questions can be thought about and answered up to a week before the tournament or anytime thereafter. I will list the questions and then give a detailed explanation of each. One - Am I in shape? Two - What are my best serves? Three - What are my strengths?

Am I In Shape!

This question is very important because it will strongly influence the style in which you will play your match. What is the determining factor in considering oneself in shape? At one time I could do 100 situps in a row without stopping - does that mean I'm in shape! Or, I could run two miles every day for a month - does that mean I'm in shape? Who knows or really cares anyway! The only way to get in shape for racquetball is - you guessed it - play racquetball. If you can play racquetball an hour straight, give 100%, and still come off the court and have a little extra, then I would consider you to be in shape.

With this in mind you can run "Fat Freddie" into the ground in 15-20 minutes and the match is easily yours. However, if the roles are reversed and your opponent is "Sam the Stud" and you're "Ben the Blimp" - your tournament will be a short-lived one. Very simple, right? Wrong!

As the saying goes "every rule must have an exception" and this rule is no exception. Many times I have seen my opponent just before our match eating sandwiches, donuts, drinking pop, and smoking a cigarette. We enter the court and the guy plays great, and sometimes beats me. Everything he hits he rolls out. Sound familiar? All I'm saying is, *don't judge a book by its cover*. Rollie-pollie-Rob may actually be Rollie-pollie-rollout-Rob in disguise! Be prepared at all times.

What Are My Best Serves?

Every racquetball player has a few serves which he can hit better than others. These we call our bread-and-butter-serves. At the beginning of a match, I go straight to my bread-and-butter serves and attack my opponent's weakness, usually his backhand. From point one on, I stay with the serve(s) that is giving my opponent the most trouble. I don't change serves just for the sake of changing them. The most important point of serving effectively is: Get your

first serve in, (don't serve a long or short). If you don't get your first serve in, you have to ease up and make sure you get the second serve in. This results in an easily returned shot for your opponent.

It's very important to understand that your serves enter your opponent's hitting area in two zones. A high zone and a low zone. By knowing what type of return shot each zone will elicit, I can control the tempo of the rally better. A serve from the high zone gives primarily a defensive return, (i.e. ceiling ball, around-the-wall ball, etc.), because the serve is received by the opponent at his shoulders, and is extremely difficult to kill.

Conversely, if I serve from the low zone I can expect an offensive return, i.e. kill shot, cross court drive, etc., because the ball is received low, which is the ideal hitting zone for an offensive shot. So, if I'm tired and want a slower tempo, I serve from the high zone; when I'm fresh and I want to score points quickly, I serve from the low zone.

To further explain this important point, here are the typical rallies resulting from each specific zone serve. *High Zone*-lob serve, ceiling ball return, ceiling ball rally until one of us mis-hits, and the other shoots the pumpkin for bottom board. *Low Zone*-low drive serve, cross court drive return, shoot the back wall setup for bottom board.

What Are My Strengths?

Every racquetball player has those favorite shots which he can hit with his eyes closed. We call these routine shots. We must realize our individual limitations in our stroke and shot executions, and work around those limitations. For example, if I can't shoot a ceiling ball that falls short of the back wall, (let's say at 36 feet) for a winner in practice, then I don't care what anyone else does with that shot. In a tournament I will return that ball safely to the ceiling and wait for a routine shot, possibly the same shot, but with my forehand.

Fig. 1
Everything on the right side of the line take with your forehand. Everything on the left side of the line take with your backhand.

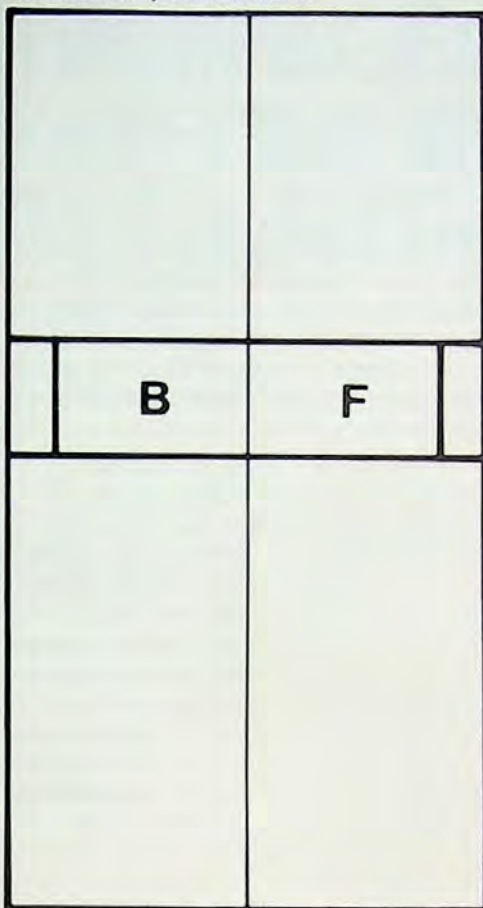


Fig. 2
Everything on the right side of the line take with your forehand. Everything on the left side of the line take with your backhand.

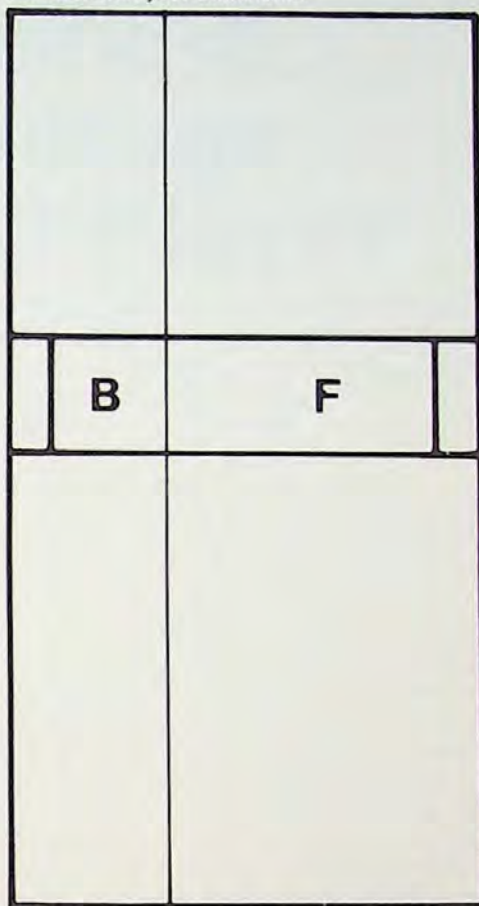
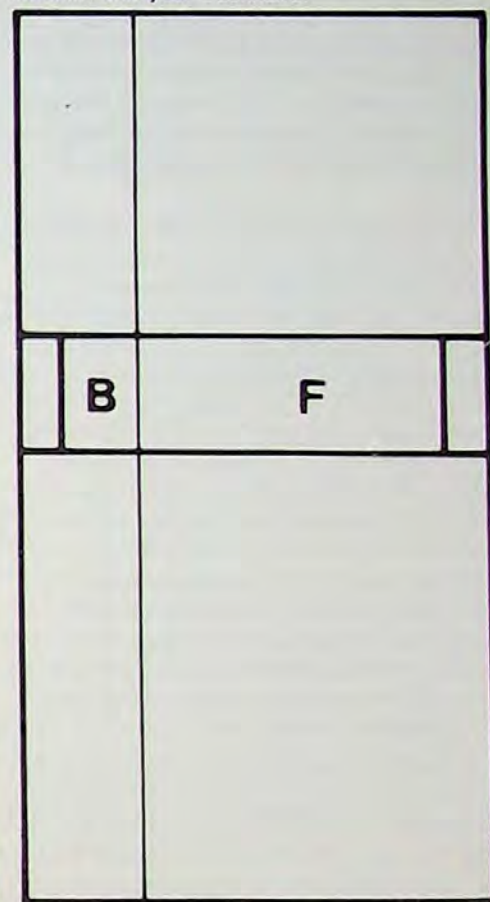


Fig. 3
Everything on the right side of the line take with your forehand. Everything on the left side of the line take with your backhand.



This brings us to a very important aspect of the game: moving around the ball for a shot or stroke preference. I will explain the three variations with the thought that my forehand is stronger than my backhand and I'm right handed.

The first variation is the 50/50 cut, which is almost self-explanatory. Draw a line vertically down the center of the court (Fig. 1).

Here you have equal confidence in both forehand and backhand strokes. This is the most idealistic of the three variations and is therefore also the most difficult to attain.

Next is the $\frac{1}{3}$ cut (Fig. 2): Draw a line vertically down the court, approximately 7 feet from the left side wall.

Here you have slightly more confidence in your forehand stroke.

Thirdly, the last variation is which I call the "rump" cut (Fig. 3) because we frequently find ourselves with our rumps against the side wall in order to use our forehand stroke. Draw a line vertically down the court about 5 feet from the left side wall.

This last variation, is for those of us who feel about as confident in attempting a backhand shot as we would swimming in the ocean with Jaws next to us. But remember, eventually you will have to develop your backhand to at least cuts 50/50 or $\frac{1}{3}$.

All three of these variations should be employed depending on your own situation. Give up the court position by wheeling around and taking a good rip at the ball, because no court position in the world will help when you fan the shot with your backhand. In other words, it is ridiculous to try and shoot a shot with your erratic backhand when you have the option of shooting with your devastating forehand. If your backhand is stronger than your forehand or if you're left handed with a stronger forehand, reverse the diagrams. Those amateurs trying to play professionally should strive for the development of equal ability in their strokes. As I stated before these questions can be answered up to a week before the tournament.

To keep the answers to these three questions in mind, before every match I write down on an index card what I want to do during the match. My card has something like this written on it:

- 1) Shoot all forehand shots straight in the right corner.
- 2) Hit backhand shots to the ceiling from the deep court.
- 3) Get your first serves in.
- 4) Concentrate and remain calm.

I keep the card in my gym bag, directly outside the court. When a time-out is called I re-read what I've told myself before the match.

Mr. Mo

This brings us to another important question, "When do I call a time out?" I have heard answers to this question range from - "Only call a time out when you're tired," to "Call a time out every seven points." (That way you will have used all three time outs when the game is over.

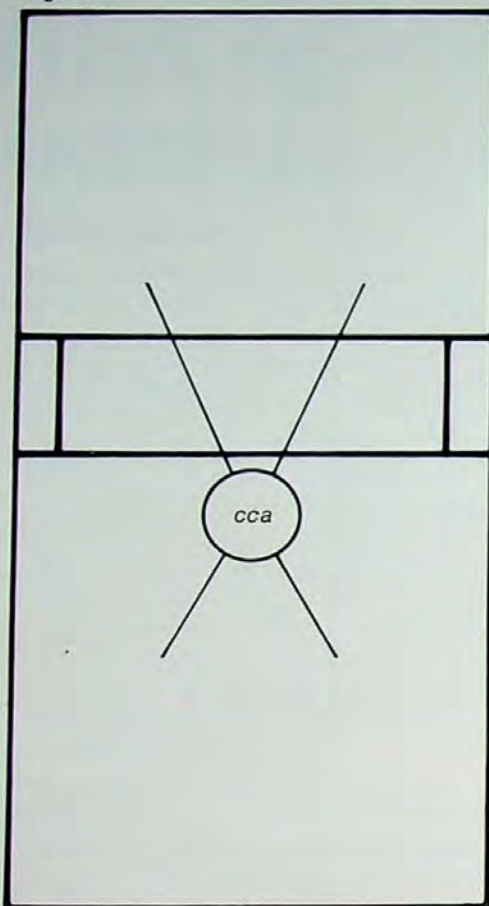
I feel the main task of a time out is to bring Mr. Mo back to your side. Perhaps you know Mr. Mo by another name - MO-mentum. He is the guy who gets us moving in the right direction

when things aren't going just right. I automatically call a time out whenever my opponent has scored four points in a row against me. That way Mr. Mo still can decide to come back and help out before things get completely out of hand.

My final thoughts deal with the theory concerning the control of center court area. Note the word area is used. Center court is not a set spot on the court. It is approximately a three foot radius just behind the service zone. First, we should all agree that c.c.a. is the place to be (Fig. 4). The reason is we are the shortest distance to all four corners of the court. Control c.c.a. and percentages are that you will return more shots than from anywhere else on the court. Which also means percentages are you will win more rallies because of it. Racquetball is a game of percentages, and anytime we can get percentages on our side, we're in the driver's seat.

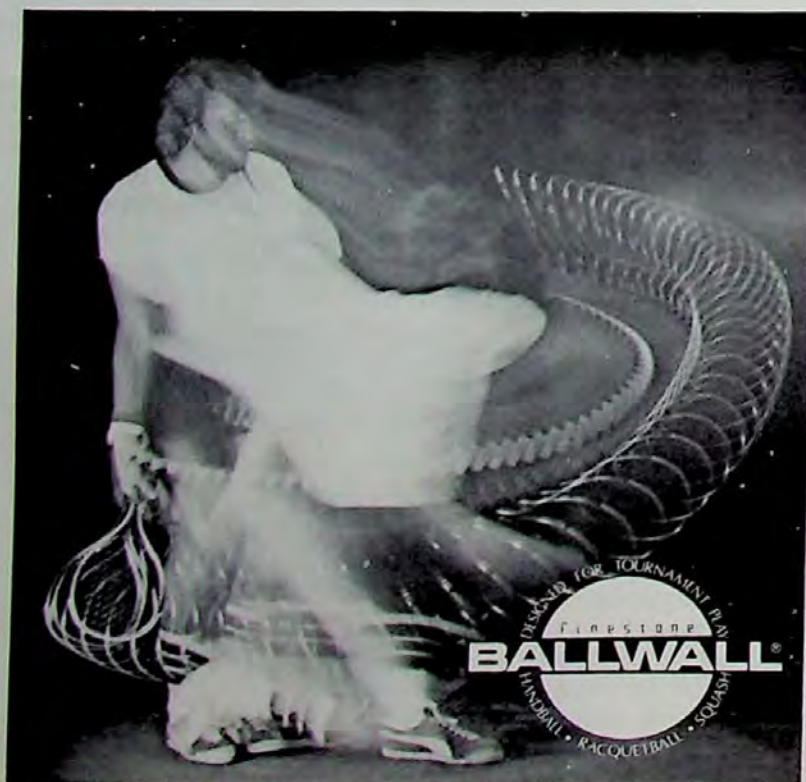
Coverage of center court area depends on two variables. (1) myself and (2) my opponent. If I am slow, I want to be in the rear portion of c.c.a. because I will be practically impossible to pass. If my

Fig. 4



opponent shoots the ball and hangs it up, I still have a chance to recover the shot. If he shoots the ball and rolls it, I couldn't have gotten it anyway. Secondly, if my opponent shoots everything, I have to adjust and gamble a little by playing c.c.a. up closer to the front. If he passes me or mis-hits the ball, he won't have the control, and the ball should come rebounding off the back wall. All I do is run for the back wall and wait for a routine shot. Sounds simple, huh? It is. Just think out there, and you would be surprised how easy the game really is.

I've tried to explain some of the different gimmicks I've employed enroute to victory of many amateur tournaments. I broke down my strategy in two separate areas: Things to be done before you enter the court, (the questions and answers, and the index card routine), and things to be done once on the court (moving around the ball, time outs, and court positioning). I hope these hints prove helpful and that some of your questions about amateur racquetball have been answered. ●



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Interval Training For The Average Racquetball Player

Do you run out of energy toward the end of your racquetball games? Does your play become less aggressive during the last 15 to 20 minutes of play? Does the opponent that you defeated the first game overcome you as the hour of play comes to an end? If you answer "yes" to the above questions then perhaps you can benefit from the following information regarding off-court training and conditioning.

The type of training program any athlete engages in is dependent upon the specific sport, e.g. a marathon runner's training regime differs from the sprinter's program. When initiating any training program one of the first tasks is to analyze the sport or activity to determine the particular demands it places upon the body. To do this you must determine the major energy source required to perform that activity and then analyze the specific neuro-muscular skills that contribute to a successful performance.

Many instructional books and articles are available to aid the racquetball player develop the specific neuro-muscular skills involved in the game but little information has been directed toward a player's off-court conditioning program. The following material should provide the serious racquetball player with some basic physiological information that will guide his or her off-court training.

All energy for muscular contraction comes directly from the splitting of a substance called ATP or adenosinetriphosphate (see Figure 1.)

All muscles, including the heart, have small amounts of stored ATP ready for use, however this amount is quite small (enough for about 2-3 seconds of activity) so the ATP has to be replaced as rapidly as possible. Three methods of ATP replacement are possible. Two of these methods are classified as anaerobic, literally meaning "without oxygen" and the third method is aerobic or "with oxygen." The intensity and duration of the muscular activity are the factors which determine which method of ATP formation is employed. It should be noted that neither the aerobic or anaerobic energy pathway is used exclusively as illustrated in Figure 2.

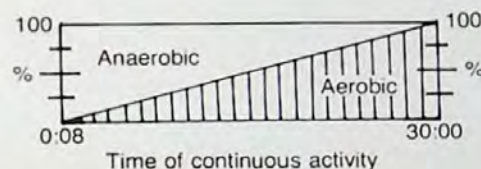


Figure 2. Relationship between the time of continuous muscular effort and the source of energy.

The fastest method of ATP formation comes from Phospho-Creatine (PC) which, like ATP, is stored in limited amounts in the muscles. This stored PC can be rapidly converted to ATP in the absence of oxygen. Together the stored ATP and PC can supply sufficient energy for about 10 seconds of maximal activity.

The second method of anaerobic ATP formation can be called the Lactic Acid system (LA). This process involves numerous chemical steps which break down glycogen (stored carbohydrates) and forms ATP and Lactic Acid. An excess Lactic Acid formation can result in the fatigue and pain which are limiting factors in muscular activity.

The third method of ATP production requires sufficient oxygen thus it is classified as aerobic. The term aerobics was made popular in the Sixties by Dr. Kenneth Cooper¹ who promoted aerobic exercises to the general population for cardiovascular fitness. This oxygen pathway uses both fats and carbohydrates and is the most efficient means of ATP production in the body. This is the

¹Cooper, K. *Aerobics*. New York: Bantam Books Inc., 1968.

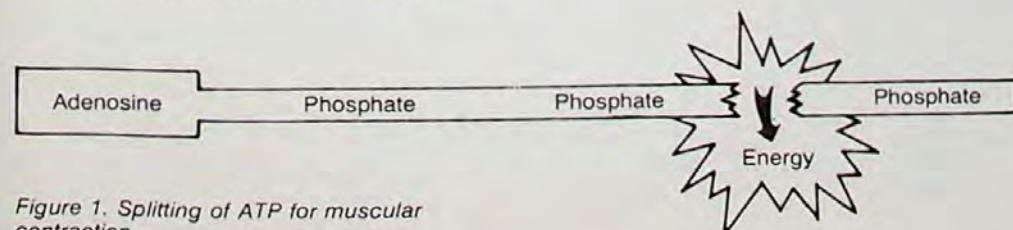


Figure 1. Splitting of ATP for muscular contraction.

means of ATP production in most daily activities including the energy requirements necessary to read this article. Aerobic activities are generally continuous, low intensity and long duration events that allow an adequate oxygen intake and little or no Lactic Acid formation, e.g. jogging.

Where does racquetball fit into this energy scheme? To answer this question an informal study was conducted to determine the average playing time of racquetball games. This study revealed an average game between moderately skilled players lasted approximately 21 minutes. However, the actual playing time (ball in play) was slightly over half the total game time with each play lasting an average of 6.87 seconds (98 plays.) On the basis of this information racquetball can be considered to be an anaerobic activity. Furthermore, since the actual playing time is less than 10 seconds the ATP-PC portion of the anaerobic process is used the most. Thus off-court training should emphasize activities that develop the ATP-PC energy pathway.

Although jogging is probably the most common off-court training exercise racquetball players utilize its major contribution is to the aerobic, not the anaerobic energy pathway required in racquetball. NOTE: for overall cardiovascular fitness and general health, aerobic activities are considered to be the most beneficial but this article is directed toward improvement in racquetball.

The greatest stimulus to improve any physiological system is to use it. The more you call upon the ATP-PC energy pathway the greater its capacity becomes, e.g. increased stores of ATP and PC. Furthermore, by increasing the capacity of the ATP-PC system the

less you need to use the LA system and fatigue is delayed. Research has shown that one of the best methods of training the ATP-PC system is through an interval training program. The interval training method involves work at a set pace and distance, rest and then repeating the work-rest activity as set number of times. Due to wide variations in age, sex, motivation, fitness levels etc. the specifics of the work-rest interval, length of rest and the number of repetitions and sets differ from individual to individual. Keeping in mind that the ATP-PC energy pathway is enhanced the most when the work is of high intensity and short duration the following are two examples of exercises that would be beneficial to a racquetball player.

Routine 1:

A ————— x ————— B
20'

Place two marks (A and B) 20 feet apart which represents the width of a racquetball court. Starting in the center (X) move as rapidly as possible to touch A then back to B etc. 5 times in 15 seconds. An "average" routine might be: 3 sets, 10 x 5 at 0:15(0:40). This means one set equals 10 repetitions of the 5 A to B movements in a period of 15 seconds with 40 seconds rest between the repetitions.

Routine 2:

Squat Thrusts - From a standing position bend your knees and assume a squatting position with your hands on the floor in front of your feet. Shift your weight to your hands and with a jumping motion extend your legs backward. From this extended position return to the squatting position then back to the original stance. This is usually done in 4 counts: (1) squat, (2) legs back, (3) squat and (4) stand. An "average" routine might be: 3 sets of 10 x 5 at 0:20 (0:40).

The number of repetitions and time elements in the above examples may not be appropriate for your age, fitness level etc. and can be modified. Also, as you progress through the various routines you should alter any one or combination of the following components of the routine:

- (1) decrease the duration of the work interval (same number of

repetitions in a shorter time period).

- (2) decrease the duration of the rest interval (same work but shorter time between repetitions).
- (3) increase the number of repetitions (same work-rest times but more repetitions per set).
- (4) increase the number of sets (same work-rest and repetitions but more sets).

Keep in mind that to stress the ATP-PC energy system the work interval should be less than 30 seconds and the rest interval 2-3 times longer than the work. With this basic information use your imagination to design appropriate routines that involve either movements typically used in racquetball play (routine 1) or routines involving the muscles required for skill execution (routine 2). For example modify routine 1 by using 40 feet to represent the length of the court and increase the time for 5 cycles or keep the time the same but reduce the number of movements.

It should be pointed out that this type of high intensity training should be strenuous and it is recommended that you do some general warm ups prior to these activities. Just as you do not walk onto the racquetball court and immediately start playing a game you should not walk into the gym and start these routines. Suggested warm ups include slow jogging, stretching exercises etc.

Although the interval training procedures presented above will aid the serious racquetball player he or she does not have to forego other exercises such as jogging or weight training exercises like those suggested by Strandemo². The interval training method adds variation to workouts that may help motivate an individual to exercise more frequently when court time is not available. (For more detailed information about designing an interval training program consult Fox and Mathews' *Interval Training*³.) ●

²Strandemo, S. "Training Your Forehand," *National Racquetball*, November, 1976, pp. 22-26.

³Fox, E.L. and D.K. Mathews. *Interval Training, Conditioning for Sports and General Fitness*. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Company, 1974.

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