

RACQUETBALL HANDBALL NEWS

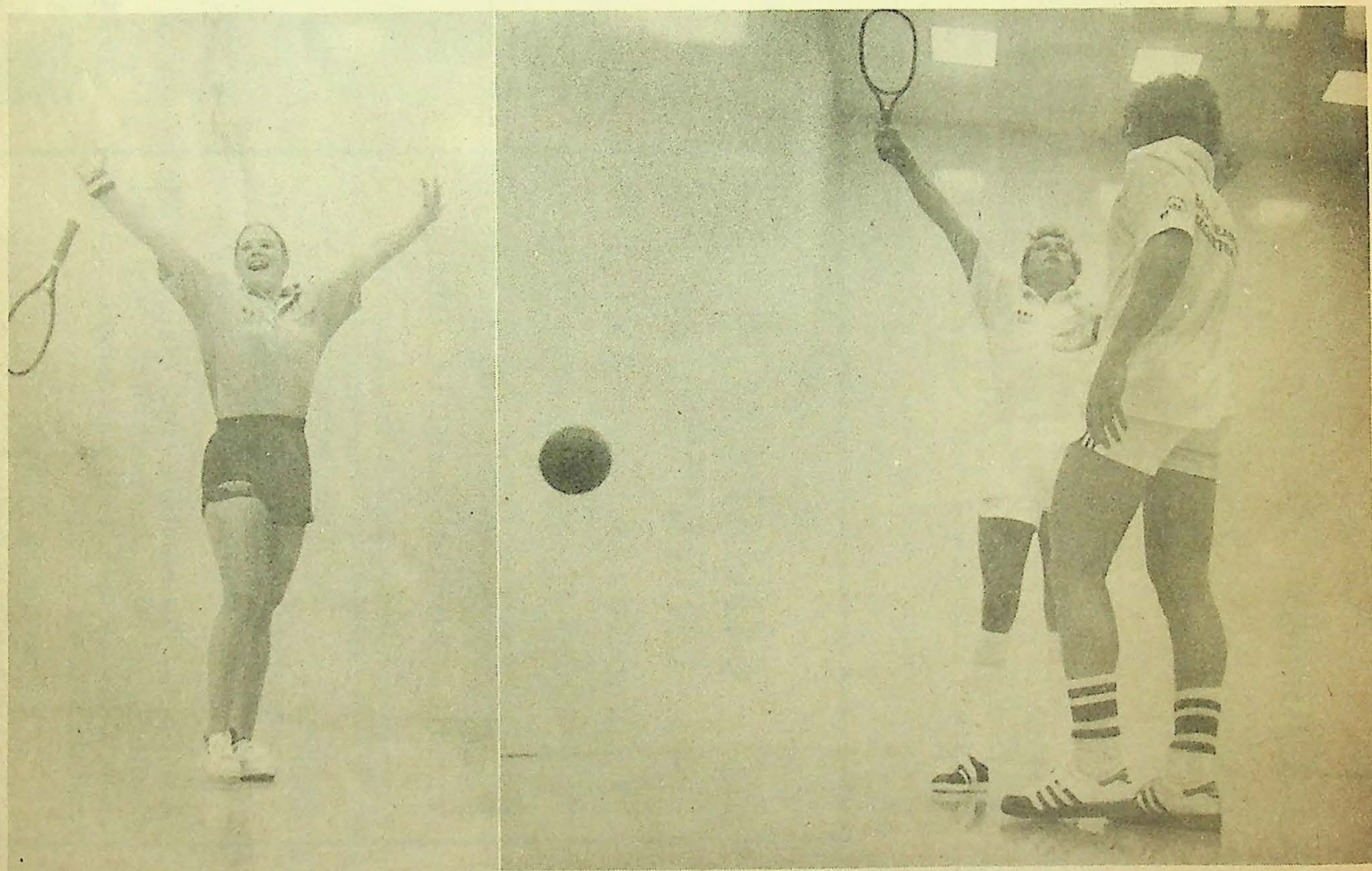
Vol. II No. 6

Racquetball's most comprehensive publication

June 1977

THE NATIONALS!

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Singer Stops Alvarado in North Carolina-Page 2

Hilecher Gets Hitched-Page 2

Shannon Wright Teaches-Page 3



Jim Feeler sets up as David Northcutt watches for his return.

Atlas Holds Tourney For Media People

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — To help generate more knowledge on the fastest growing sport in the nation the Atlas Health Club held its first annual Media Racquetball Tournament, May 7th and 8th.

Local newspapers and radio stations were represented by two of their staff members, as

well as several television stations including the NBC television network.

It was a family win as Kathy and Jim Feeler, of Tennis and Racquet News, won in both divisions. Mrs. Feeler defeated Kim Montour of Channel 10 and Jim defeated David Northcutt of Racquetball Handball News.

Village Results

Results of Fiesta Village Spring Invitational Tournament in Riverside, California.

SINGLES — Men's Open, Mike Alderson def. Stan Wright 21-11, 21-17; **Men's B,** Gary Stovall def. Phil Trust 11-21, 21-7, 11-4; **Men's C,** Ray Hanks def. Dave Buchholz 21-19, 21-11; **Men's Novice,** Danny Carrillo def. Randy Melton 21-12, 21-18; **Men's Senior,** Vance Lerner def. Gene Mac Donald 21-13, 21-16; **Men's Golden Master,** Gene MacDonald def. Bill Brierty

21-14, 21-9; **Women's Novice,** Suzanne Gilbert def. Paula Pizzifred 11-21, 21-20, 11-7; **Junior (15-17),** Keith Mullin def. Steve Lerner 21-11, 21-15; **Junior (14 & under),** Lenny Berz def. Bryan Barrad 21-10, 21-13. **DOUBLES — Open,** Stan Wright/Mike Maddocks def. Jerry Conine/Charlie Hauser 16-21, 21-15, 11-0. **Senior —** Jerry Conine/Vance Lerner def. Cary Walker/Ron Ryneal 21-10, 21-15. **"C",** Dennis Rodriguz/Rich Bocanegra def. Clint Robbins/Randy Melton 18-21, 21-5, 11-5.

HILECHER WEDS

SAN DIEGO, CA — Professional racquetball player Jerry Hilecher, 22 will marry Deborah Jean Natoli on June 25 in ceremonies to be held at the Temple Israel in St. Louis Missouri.

Natoli, 23, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Camello Natoli of Ballwin, Missouri, teaches social studies and history at North Callaway High School in Ballwin.

The couple will honeymoon in Hawaii, where Hilecher will teach a racquetball clinic at the Central Y.M.C.A. on June 26.

Hilecher plays for Ektelon, San Diego-based manufacturer of racquetball

racquets and equipment.

Last year, he won the men's singles national competition sponsored by the International Racquetball Association and was named the I.R.A.'s "Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year" for 1976.

He also is ranked among the top four male racquetball players to compete on the National Racquetball Club circuit. He defeated Charlie Brumfield in quarter-final play during the N.R.C.'s national tournament held in San Diego earlier this month.

The Hilechers will reside in San Diego.

national dateline

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RACQUETBALL

USRA NATIONAL JUNIORS

July 27-31

Evergreen Park Bath and Tennis Club, Chicago, Ill.

Court Club Seminar Draws 100 Participants

CHICAGO, IL — More than 100 were in attendance at the Court Club Enterprises seminar held at the Chicago Marriott Hotel, June 11. Evidence of increased interest in the northeast area of United States was demonstrated by participants from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.

Highlight of the one-day combination of presentations and round table discussions was the introduction of a franchise operation being developed by Bruce Beaman, Greensboro, North Carolina. Under the trade name "Sportime" pre-franchise services will include: consultation service; market analysis, site selection, prospectus, architectural service, management,

membership programs, on going services.

The basic Becosystem building package, furnished and installed: structural frame, all walls, roof deck and surface, partitions, custom cabinets/fixtures and shelving package; furnished; electrical wiring to Utility core, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, court floors, carpet tile and furniture.

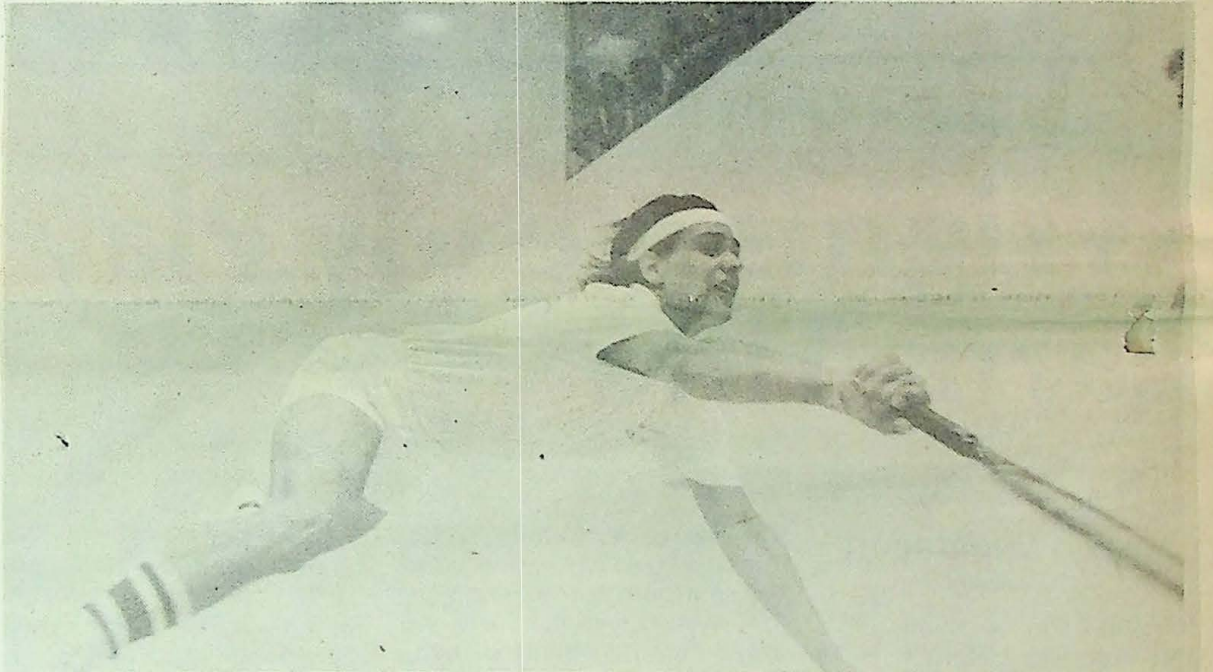
The franchisee is granted exclusive rights to the Sportime Franchise Package in an assigned territory for a period of 20 years.

Dr. Joseph Bannon, head of the Leisure Time Management School at the University of Illinois, gave a presentation on personnel selection and club management. At the followup special "crash course" full day

seminar offered as an option June 26 to the regular previous day seminar in Denver, Dr. Bannon with two university aides, conducted a most worthwhile program aimed toward Court Club management.

The growing trend toward the inclusion of the sophisticated, supervised exercise program is indicated. With increased competition, especially in the larger metro areas, there is expected a "shake down" period in the near future and the "better mousetrap" together with location and solid management will be the healthy survivors.

Upcoming one-day seminars: July 23-SEATTLE Downtown Hilton Hotel; July 30-PHILADELPHIA Sheraton Airport Inn.



Ben Koltun, winner of a \$5000 scholarship from Leach, stretches to get a pass from Jerry Hilecher.

Koltun Earns \$5000 Scholarship From Leach

A St. Louis area resident has been named racquetball's "player of the year" and received the inaugural \$5000 Leach-Seamco scholarship award.

Ben Koltun, 19, a resident of Olivette, Missouri, was given the award at the Nationals this month in San Diego.

A sophomore at Meramec College, Koltun is the former Missouri Open racquetball champion who this year completed his first professional season. He won the national men's amateur championship last June and two years ago took the national junior title.

He lost in the quarterfinals in this year's Nationals, but this season had the best overall tournament record of any first year professional.

Charles Drake, president of Leach Industries, the nation's largest manufacturer of racquetball racquets, said that the selection of the scholarship recipient was based on quality of play, good sportsmanship and educational need.

"It is our hope that the scholarship will provide outstanding young racquetball players with added incentive to develop their scholastic programs and

thereby take full advantage of the opportunities beyond athletics that a full education allows," said Drake.

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National 3-Wall Slated for July

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Orange Coast College will again be the host of the 4th Annual National 3-Wall Racquetball Championships, to be held July 1, 2, and 3.

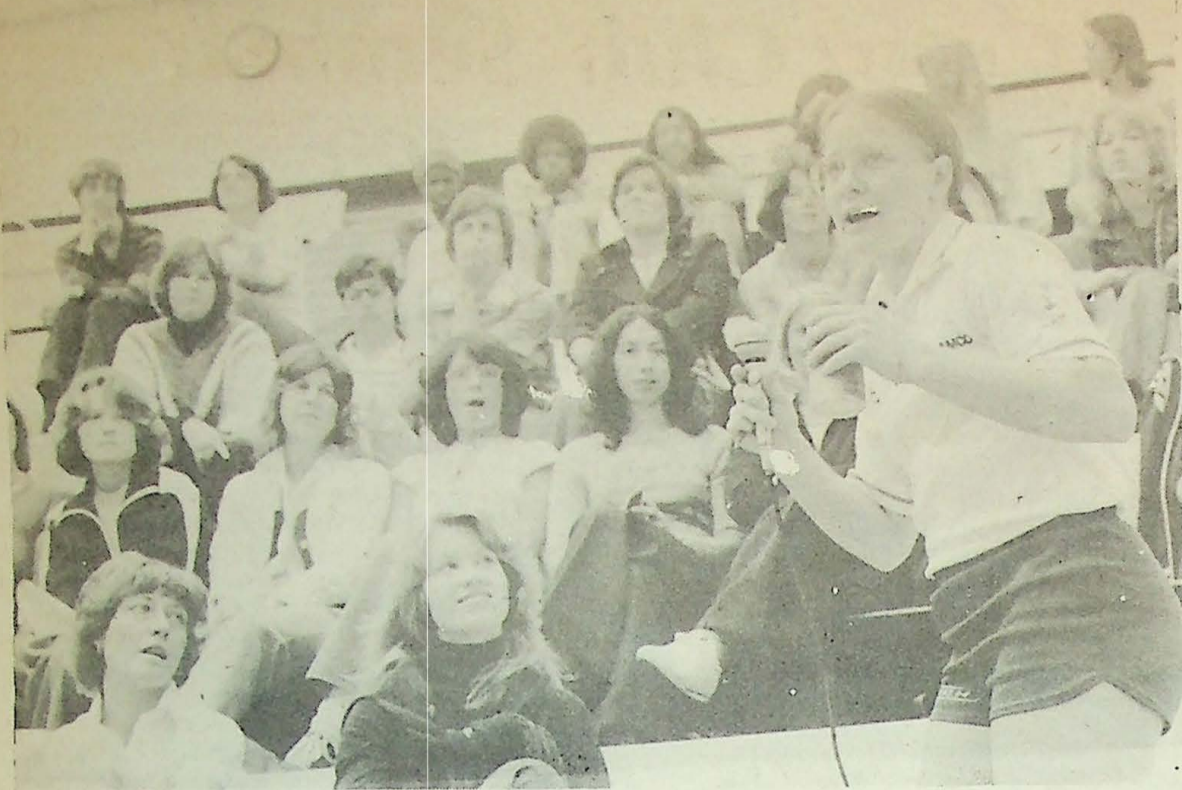
Last year Barry Wallace of Costa Mesa defeated top indoor professional Davey Bledsoe of San Diego to capture the men's open title. Martha Byrd of Florida defeated Bette Weed of San Diego for the women's title.

There is a \$15 entry fee with a two event limit. Divisions include: Open Singles, Open

B Doubles, B singles, B Doubles, C Singles, Senior Singles, Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and Junior Singles (16 and under).

Make check payable to: O.C.C. Racquetball Club. Mail to: Barry Wallace OCC, 2701 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa, Ca 92626.

Starting times may be checked during the week of June 27-30, by contacting the Tournament Director, Dale Wonacott at (714) 556-5892 (OCC) or (714) 551-1413 (Res.)



Shannon Wright speaks to a group of women racquetball enthusiasts at a seminar held at the Atlas Health Club.

(photo by Carole Charfavros)

Wright Teaches Women To Make "Wright" Calls

By CAROLE CHARFAUROS

"Hinderball! That's a screen serve. Let's play it again. Jill, you have two serves. The score is still 19 serving 20."

Anyone who has had to referee a racquetball match knows how hard it is to make the right calls and then stick to your opinion with everyone breathing down your neck. Indecision and lack of confidence are women's greatest problems in refereeing, according to the world's number one female racquetball competitor, Shannon Wright. Shannon gave a refereeing clinic for the members of the San Diego Women's Racquetball League, Tuesday, May 10th at the Atlas Health Club in Mission Valley, San Diego.

The clinic was the brainchild of John Weaver from Leach Industries and Sandy Atherton, the public relations manager for the women's league. Sandy and many other players felt that the quality of the refereeing was "hindering" the league. Hopefully, after two hours of instruction and demonstration by Ms. Wright, the ladies will now be able to make more accurate calls.

The evening began with a question and answer period.

Topics ranged from foot faults to avoidable hinders to foul language penalties. Ms. Wright pointed out that all avoidable hinders are not intentional. A player who dives for the ball and consequently prevents his opponent from putting away a "plum" is penalized. More common in the women's league is the player who doesn't watch the ball. This player positions her posterior in center court and pretends to be contemplating the front wall. Little does she know the ball she just hit has ricocheted off the side wall and is now an easy set-up directly behind her. Intentional or not, this constitutes an avoidable.

Technical fouls can be called and points subtracted if a player insists on using bad language, interrupting play, slamming the ball at his opponent after the rally has ended, or any unsportsmanlike conduct. The referee should keep warning the unruly player to stop her bad actions or words, but after three technical fouls are called, so is a win for the other player.

What happens when the referee is at fault too often? If both players agree, they can go to the tournament director and demand a new ref. Don't

worry about hurting the ex-referee's feelings. She's probably hurting your game more!

When most of the questions were finally answered Shannon demonstrated how to officiate. Armed with a pencil, a score card, two towels, and a ball she called a singles match between Rene Pascua (North County Racquetball Center) and Jan Sandstrom (Atlas). Rene won the exhibition and unfortunately for the spectators there were few hinder balls to be called. Sandy McLaughlin (Atlas) and Cheryl Sykes (Spring Valley) easily defeated Sandy Atherton and Tarya Riley (both of Poway) in the doubles competition. Although doubles is not currently being played in the women's league it was interesting to watch.

Finally, by popular demand Shannon played a quick exhibition against Gina Villa, 17, an up and coming player from Del Mar. Shannon's power serves and brilliant shots are truly the mark of a champion.

Many thanks to Shannon Wright, John Weaver and Sandy Atherton for a well planned and informative evening. Good call, Ref!

DANA POINT, Calif. — The Dana Point Athletic Club has added an in-house racquetball pro to their staff.

Karin Walton is now available to give instruction on a personal or group basis. Walton is credited with being 1975-76 second ranked woman player and 1975-76 8th ranked men's player in Utah. She has also instructed at the Serot-Keeley Racquetball Camp in San Diego.

CHARITY TOURNEY SUCCESS IN L.A.

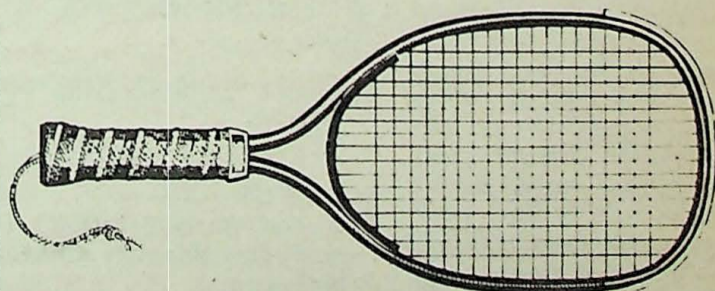
LOS ANGELES, Ca — The Center Courts marked the start of its third year of operation by hosting the Victoria Station Charity Club Tournament in April. From each entry fee \$5.00 was donated to the U.C.L.A. Children's Cancer Research Fund. A total of \$730 was donated as 146 racquetballers signed up for the members only tournament. Throughout the three-day tournament, players and their guests were treated to Victoria Station's famous roast beef, as well as their ham, crisp salads, cold beer and Gatorade. Needless to say, no one went home hungry from the tournament. And many went home winners.

Despite effort by many to upset him, Bruce Radford remained The Center Courts Club Champion for the second year running by besting Kirk Williams in the finals of the Men's Open 12-21, 21-18, 21-8.

The Men's Novice Division was by far the largest class with a full draw of 64 players. Kelly Radford and Sue Strommer, two women opting to play in the Men's Novice, made strong showings by each winning three rounds against men players before blowing out in the quarter finals. Jay Streim eventually won this division with a 21-17, 21-12 win over Mike Fisher.

The Men's Division was captured by Sol Abrevaya 21-12, 21-8 over Al Green. Lee Pretnor, former pro baseball star, defeated Steve Howard 21-14, 21-12 in the Men's Class, and Lauri Gaudin defeated Diane MacIntyre 21-16, 21-14 to win the Women's Class. Kathy Durbin and Tina Alpert played a particularly hard fought match in the Women's Novice Class with Durbin coming out on top 21-13, 18-21, 21-19. Wayne Radford and Don Thompson overcame Chuck Garabedian and Mike Knight to win the B Doubles.

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Front Court Play

By DAVID T. NORTHCUTT

"Be anxious to volley the ball. Don't back up. Hold your position and hit," Steve said, as we were walking onto the court. "There has to be a desire to volley the ball."

That desire is honed and sharpened by learning the pattern of play in the front court area. The basic pattern is: If the ball comes into a certain area, it must be hit. If it goes into the perfect area, which is up and down the walls, then it can't affectively be hit. But it still **can be hit**. Do anything to keep the rally going. The ability to reach both side walls doesn't come for most of us.

"Play the percentages," said Steve. "Many of the shots will be coming back to the center of the court. Expect the ball to come back to you. You should be there and be prepared to attack the ball when it does."

At first, volleying in the front court may cramp you, but practice it. It won't be hard, but it will take some getting used to. In a few weeks you will find it was worth it. You will want to be in center court, controlling the game.

Take some time and practice by yourself. Beginning at the short line, hit the ball to the front wall. Immediately hit it again, before it goes by you. Feel what kind of balls come back to you. Do they come back to you knee high or waist high or, how high? Find out! That's where they'll be when you play a good player or enter a tournament.

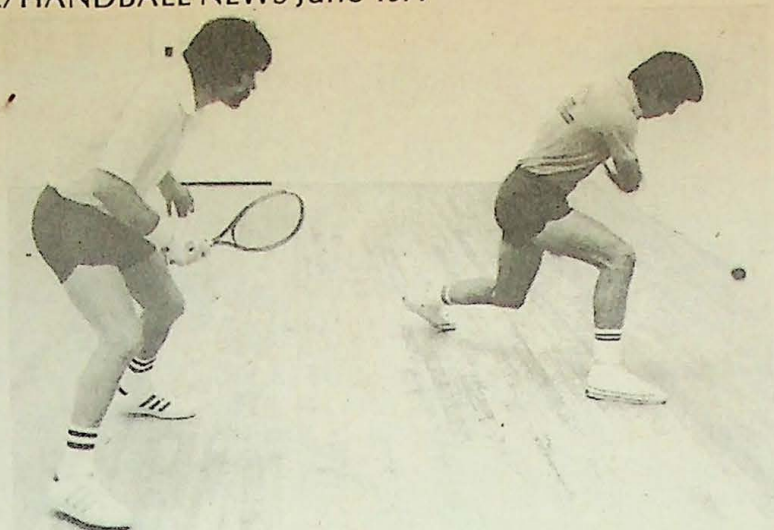
As you become familiar with the shot that comes from one to one and one half feet high, on the bounce or in the air, that's the shot you must first become comfortable with and really want. Until that happens, it will be difficult to beat an aggressive player.

It is essential that you stand in the center court area when volleying in the front court. Any ball that directly comes toward you should be punched down the line or cross court. One step in either direction will extend your reach to encompass over half the width of the court.

"You must be mentally prepared to hit those balls that are only one step away," said Steve.

As the ball goes further from center court, it becomes necessary to take two or more steps in order to reach the ball.

"There isn't any player in the country who can reach both side walls with excellent pass shots," said Steve. You've got to get over to the wall as fast as you can and hit that ball to the ceiling or an around the wall ball or anything to keep the ball in play.

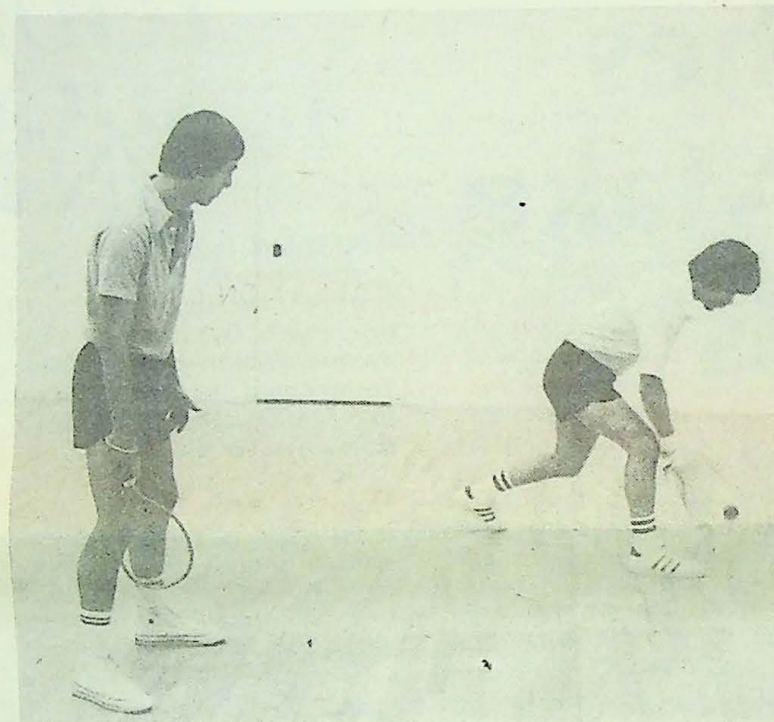


Steve is in a ready position, with the racquet set to retrieve a kill or pass down the left wall, but aware of the cross court possibility.

Because I'm not in a ready position, I'm susceptible to any shot by Steve that doesn't come right back at me.



As Steve shoots, my racquet is not in a ready position, nor are my knees bent.



In the volley, you may find yourself on the opposite side of your opponent. Here I have trapped Steve behind me, giving me a kill in the right corner or a pass down the line. Notice how Steve is watching my movements, anticipation is the key to his move.



Use the following summary as a check list for your front court volley. Work with a RB partner and analyse each others style. It will help tell you which points you can check off and which may still linger.

- I. Proper Positioning and Stroking
 - A. Knees and legs bent.
 - B. Level swing.
 - C. Keep a short swing.
 - D. Follow through about half normal.
 - E. Use a punching movement.
 - F. In instances where time is short, use an open stance. (Don't waste time setting up!)
 - G. Little wrist snap for backhand.
- II. Strategy
 - A. Be anxious to volley the ball.
 - B. Hold position. Maintain center court.
 - C. Play the percentages
 - D. Expect the ball to come to you.

ATTENTION: Racquetball Clubs & Sporting Goods Stores:

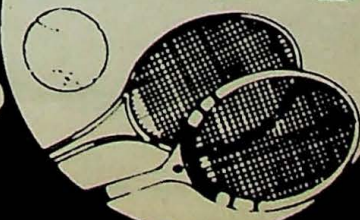
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Another View of Nationals

By Doug Blank

I just want to start off by saying, boy, was I glad I was there!

Working for Mr. Scott on a sister publication which since has been liquified into the company, our mad genius finally let me out of my cage to do some writing at the Leach-Seamco Pro-Am Racquetball Championships. It becomes very envious when you help put together a newspaper and read all about these racquetball players, the Brumfields, the Hogans, the Bledsoes, the Wrights, etc. and answer the phone with these players on the other end, but you never get the opportunity to meet them, or interview them, or best of all, see them play.

The matches were very entertaining and exciting, especially the semi-finals and the finals of both divisions. Being a novice at this rapidly rising sport, much was learned at the tournament.

Much of what happened at the tournament was expected, because of the stories of Dave Northcutt, telling of the excitement both on the court and off during a racquetball tournament. Going home and dreaming about a racquetball tournament made sleeping difficult with the excitement and glamour of the event.

The one aspect of the tournament which could not be understood very well was the crowd reaction to certain games and certain players. I'm sure you see these differences in other sports events, but never had this crowd attitude come to such an obvious level as was the case at the Nationals.

The semi-finals in the men's division was a good example. The first match pitted Jerry Hilecher against Davey Bledsoe and the crowd was going nuts throughout the entire match. It seemed that whoever trailed in the match seemed to get the most applause and encouragement from the audience. One fan in particular changed his allegiance five times during the match.

The second match was the dual between Marty Hogan and Rich Wagner. As the results indicate, Hogan completely dominated the match, and the crowd was very quiet, except when Wagner would make an excellent shot. The crowds all week were generally anti-Hogan, or if you like, pro-his opponent.

The finals found the crowd approximately equally divided for Shannon Wright and Peggy Steding in the Women's final, and generally Davey Bledsoe in the men's final. Probably because of Bledsoe being the underdog. (Remember, everyone likes an underdog). One fan was especially anti-Hogan, shouting things like "Wait until next year Marty" and other

remarks which made many other viewers upset and asking for his removal.

Overall the crowd was good, and all seemed to agree that racquetball is a truly great sport to watch and is here to stay.



Bruce Radford dives to make a shot against Kirk Williams in the finals of the Open Division of the Victoria Station Charity Racquetball Tournament hosted by the Center Courts in West L.A.



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July 5-8

Camp Program Wins With Racquetball

By CHRIS CHASE
Manager Santana Courts

SANTA ANA, Ca — On May 19-22 Santana Courts Racquetball Club, located 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 4 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 of 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). Jon Woodard over Bill Oswalt in C-singles (21-11, 21-12). Bill Kristinat over Pat Flanigan 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 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 McCovern 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.

Special thanks go to Star-master Racquets, AMF Voit, and Seamco for their support for the highly successful Wamp-Um Tournament. Of course, the biggest winner of all was the Santa Ana-Tustin YMCA which received more than \$700 toward their camp program.







Mike Maddocks shoots one in his win over R.O. Carson at the Wamp-Up Tournament.

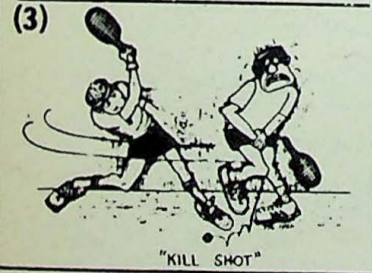
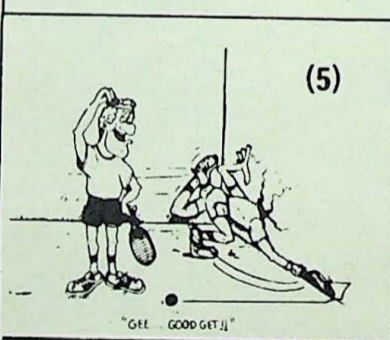
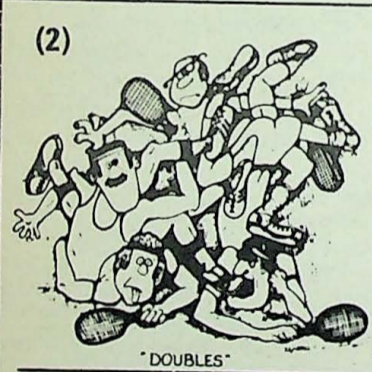
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3/4 Million Club Opens With 1300 Members

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Ca — A reception for members and invited guests formally opened Racquetfun, Inc., a luxurious new private racquetball club in Huntington Beach.

The three-quarters of a million dollar facility has 10 air conditioned racquetball courts, a spacious lounge and a fully-staffed child care center with indoor and outdoor play areas for youngsters through seven years of age.

The already highly successful club has more than

1300 members and applications are still coming in at a rapid rate. New members are presently being accepted on a provisional basis only to assure that facilities remain uncrowded. Court time is usually available even at noon time weekdays when courts at other clubs are often unavailable. Racquetfun intends to keep memberships in numbers that permit nearly full-time access to courts.

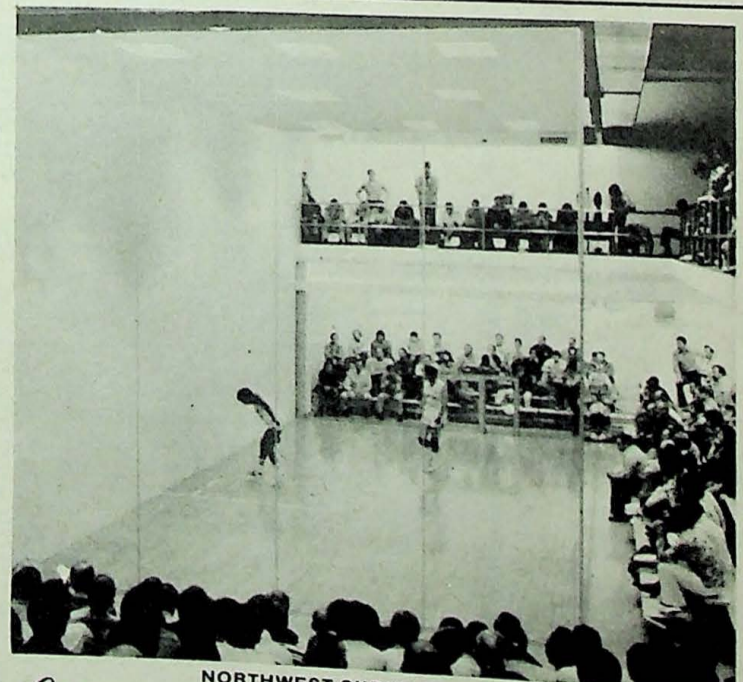
Members of the private club may participate in many active programs including

clinics, tournaments and league play. Private and group instruction is available.

The modest membership fee allows a family unlimited play and use of all the other clubhouse activities. Mothers may play racquetball during the day while their children are supervised in the play areas.

The first of what will be a series of private clubs, the Huntington Beach Racquetfun, Inc. is managed by Mel Amerman, a long time racquetball/handball player and official.

"This is a beautiful club," says Amerman. "It has the atmosphere of an exclusive club and, because membership is limited, at no time has it been overcrowded."



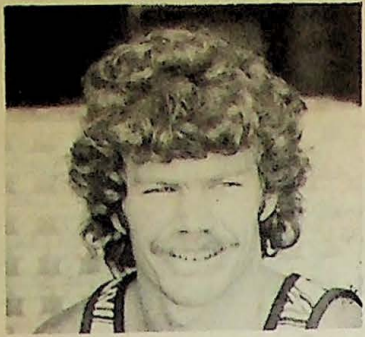
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Bill Stevens

Marty Hogan didn't win, but neither did Brumfield. Davey Bledsoe came out of nowhere to instantly become the very best player in racquetball. And Shannon Wright is the greatest woman to play. Yet, she'd better watch out because she'll get nailed someday with a court etiquette like hers. Needless to say, the 1977 National Championship of RB in San Diego was the most spectacular event ever staged by the racquetball people.

The tourney was outstandingly well coordinated by Ken Davidson, Chuck Leve, Lee Hinrichs and Terry Fancher. The NRC, the Atlas Hotels, and the Cristian Communications Network worked together like they do that sort of thing every week. Congratulations for a job well done.

The television coverage was absolutely first class. Slow motion, instant etc. is the only way to go. National network television is right around the corner, but I feel changes must be made to accomodate the networks.

First, there will have to be 25 seconds allowed to serve the ball. This will allow for instant replays to be shown. All pro sports in the last five years have done this to provide for speeding up games (which RB doesn't need) or for replays.

Second, one minute time-outs to allow for commercials. It would have been nice to have had a television monitor in the grandstand area, so the people watching live wouldn't have missed the replays. I was fortunate enough to sit directly below Brumfield's monitor and had an almost exclusive look at live action and replay action.

Racquetball is so exciting, it almost speaks for itself as witnessed by the standing ovations and constant cheering at eight million decibels by a very enthusiastic

crowd. A crowd that was made up of just as many RBers, as people who came to be part of the excitement. The fast pace of the rallies, the amazing physical prowess of racquetball's finest athletes make RB the most exhilarating of sports to be seen in person or on television.

Chuck Leve did a fine job refereeing the finals between Hogan and Bledsoe, but throughout the rest of the tourney, the refs were far below national television standards. Better get it together quick with professional refs, or suffer some not so pleasant consequences. One possibility is pay more than one dollar per match to bring

out the better players-refs. You (NRC-USRA) tell me if it's worth \$1.00 to spend from one to three hours refereeing a national championship racquetball match. Really now fellas, we're not wetbacks from Mexico.

I wonder if anyone playing in the Nationals got the impression that some of the competitors were obviously in way over their heads. Anyone can play in the Nationals, you know. All it takes is getting an entry in early enough. There were players in this tourney who were novice players in their home club. I think every player should have to qualify somehow, or there will definitely be some injuries that should be avoided.

The crowd at Atlas was electrifying. I can guarantee each and every person had the best time ever experienced at an RB tournament. Eight days of eating, playing, watching, yelling and screaming, sleeping, drinking, swimming, some sunning, and a whole lot of partying with a group of RB players and watchers from all over the world. When in San

Diego, though we were all buddies.

Several parties were arranged by Leach and Ektelon for any person wishing to attend. One party was at George Brown's new house in El Cajon. George reportedly spent around a million dollars to build it. When approaching the house, one imagines it to be a casino-hotel atop a very steep, tall hill overlooking the city below. It's so magnificent, it looks like it came out of a spce age Hollywood flick. Thank you so much, George, you've got class!

Some final notes:

The girls are great competitors and sports. Tennis should be should be so lucky as to have a group of women like racquetball does....Watch out for Sarah Green, she's a hot little racquetballer....Shannon Wright wants to play men's pro, I hope she doesn't get hurt too seriously....Keeley practiced with a dead ball for month's prior. Didn't do any good because they got fast at the last minute. Standardize now, or confusion will be

rampant....Strandemo was very inspirational in the match with Furd Burful, of One Corners, Iowa, AKA Jay Jones, of Hollywood. It's tough to beat someone who has his own line of racquetball attire-exquisite stuff! Stick around Furd (Jay), people are needed in RB with good taste....Jerry Zuckerman won the men's amateur over Stan Wright. If these two don't turn pro, they're nuts! Jerry's from St. Louis, Stan from San Diego....Bledsoe played the best two games of racquetball in the history of the game. Somebody should make that boy rich....Bob Kendler made the biggest boo-boo of the week. When presenting Davey with the \$4000 check, he neglected to congratulate him, instead, said he didn't think anyone could beat Marty. He said he (Kendler) had a lump in his throat and if he was 20 years younger, he would like to court Marty's Mother. Then turning to Marty, kendler told him his Mother is a great woman....Congratulations again to Shannon and Davey for their championships!

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Official NRC Men's Pro Ranking
as of January 1, 1977

- #1 Marty Hogan, LEACH Racquet
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- #7 Mike Zeitman, LEACH Racquet
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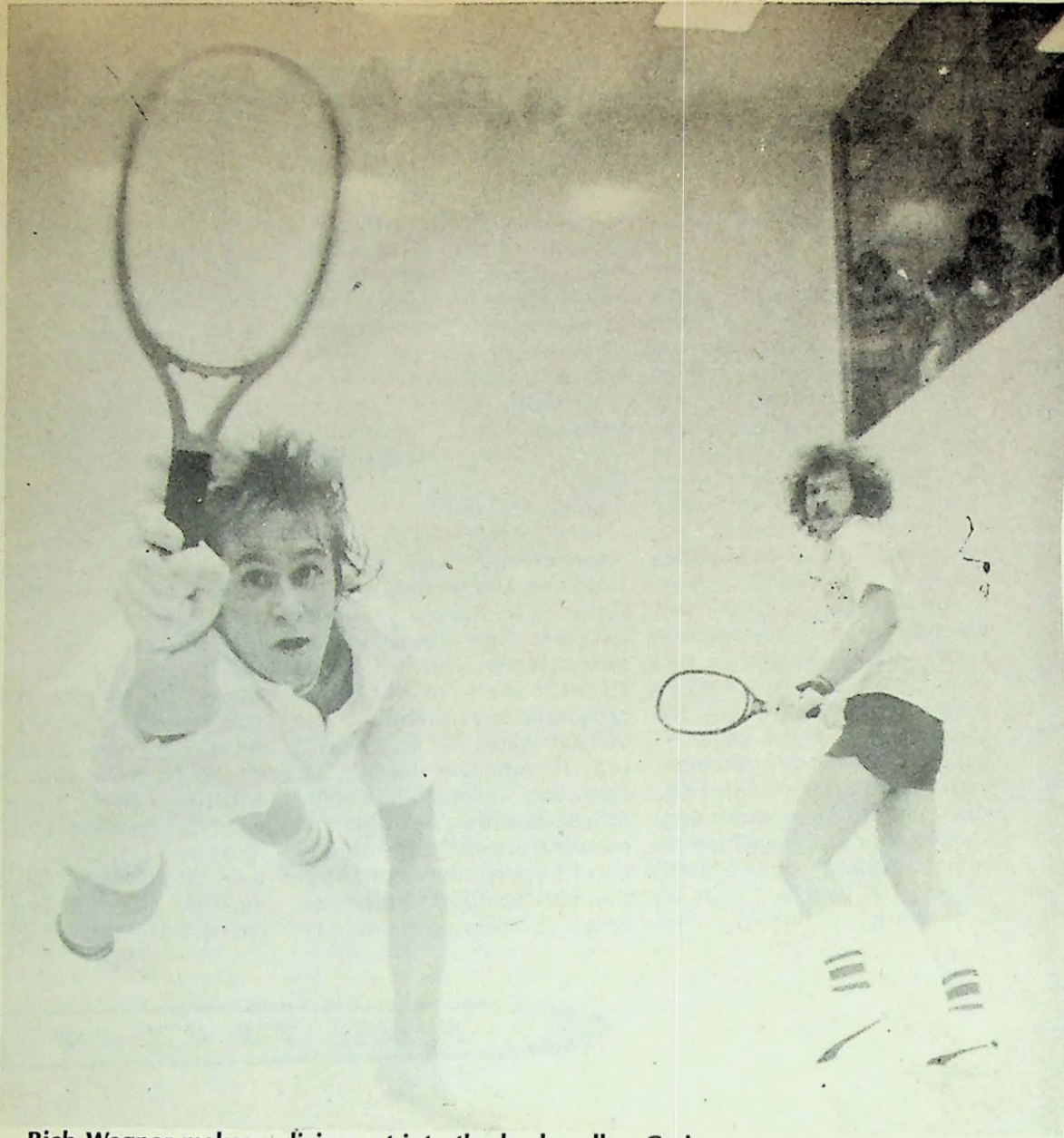
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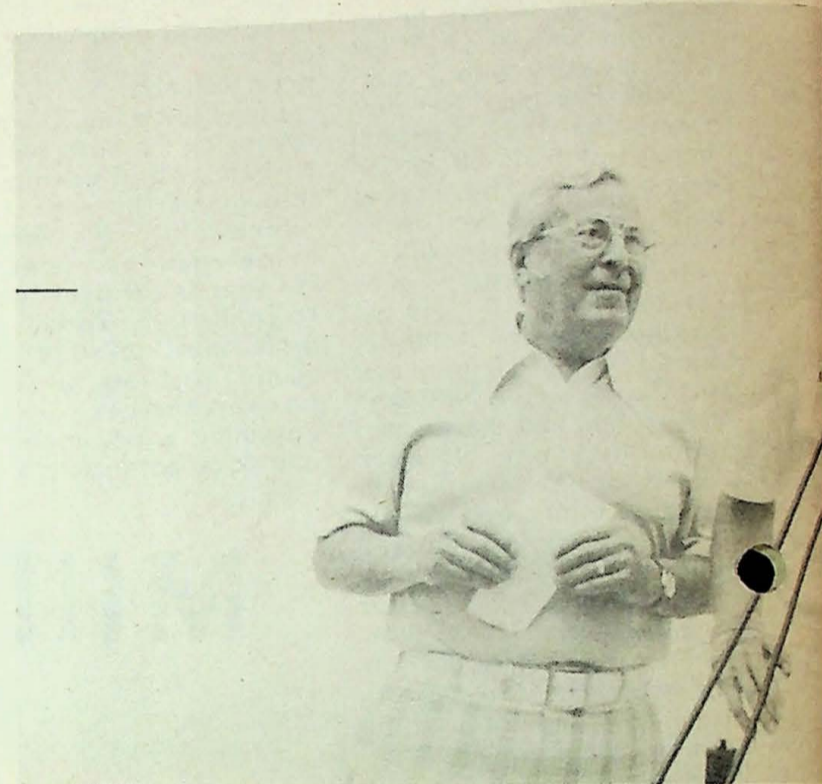
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Highlight The Nation

(All photos by David ...)



Rich Wagner makes a diving get into the back wall as Craig McCoy watches.



Davey Bledsoe speaks to Fred Lewis as (left) Bob Kendler, president of the USRA, awaits to give Bledsoe his check. Bob Coate, (far right) National Sales Manager for Seamco Sporting Goods, applauds Bledsoe's achievement.



Charlie Brumfield exalts after rolling the ball on a diving get.



Marty Hogan makes a diving attempt at a pass.



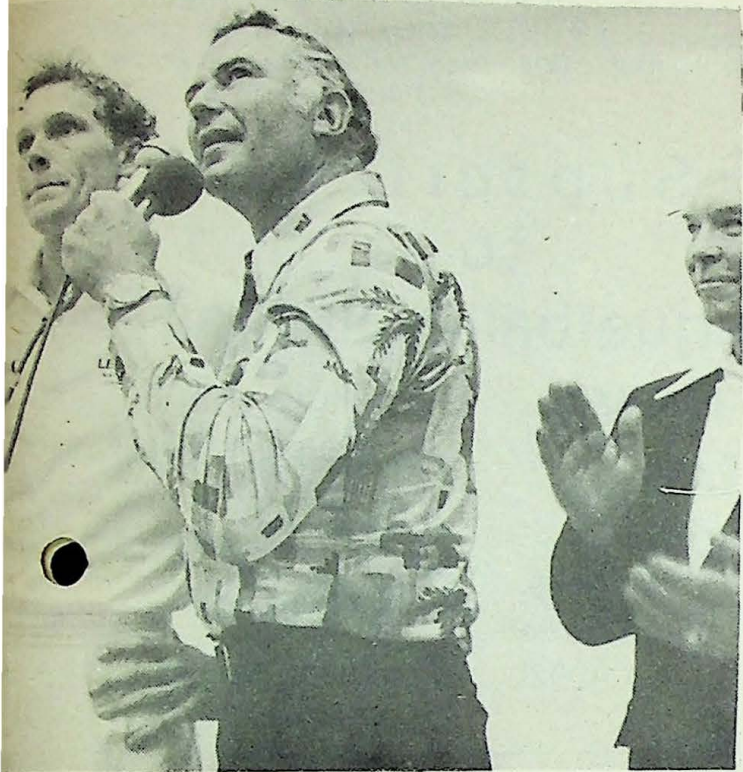
Bill Thurman on the floor after an unsuccessful attempt at a Steve Keeley pass.



Shannon Wright sets up for a shot.

s From nals

(T. Northcutt)



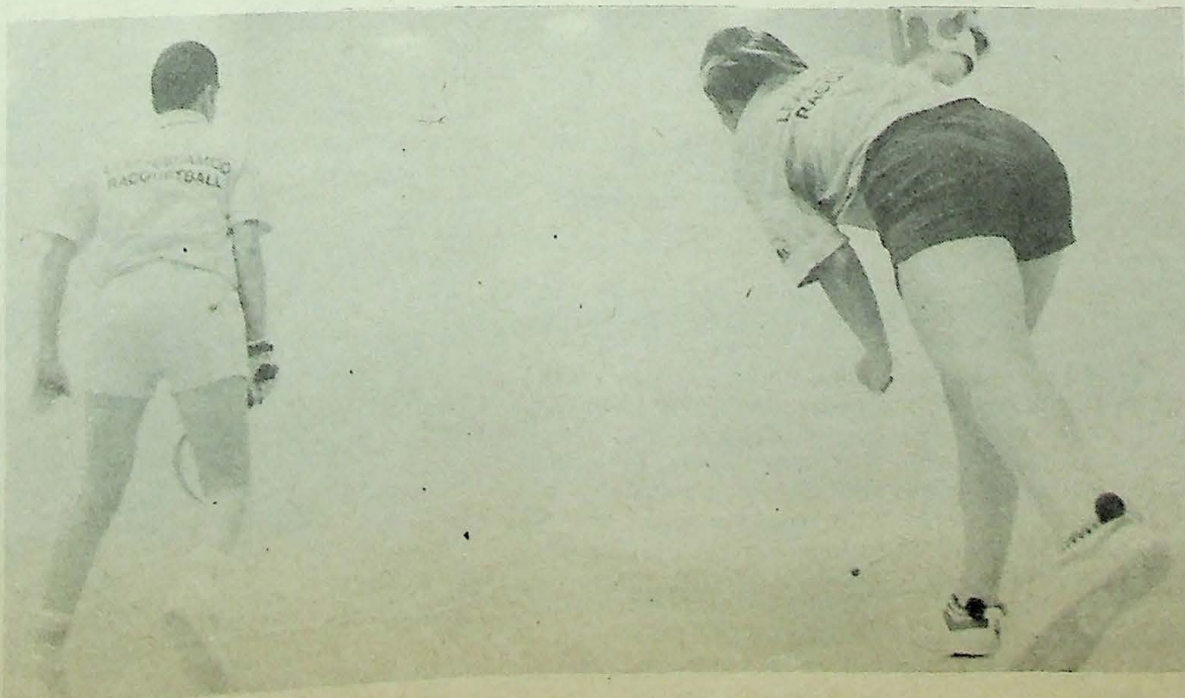
Jerry Hilecher races to the vack wall as Davey Bledsoe patiently awaits his return.



Steve Strandemo completes his shot on a tough pass by Marty Hogan.



against Jennifer Harding.



Peggy Steding moves in on Shannon Wright shot for attempted kill.

Sports Medicine CLINIC

This is the third article contributed by the doctors at the Sports Medicine Clinic of the California Surgery Center and Hospital, 4000 Shafter, Oakland, California 94609. (415) 655-8730.

This series deals with medical problems concerning the athlete. Reader's questions may be sent to this newspaper and will be forwarded to the Sports Medicine Clinic, to be answered by a doctor and printed in a future edition of this paper.

OVERUSE SYNDROME

By Mark E. Wolpa, D.P.M.

Overuse syndrome can be simply described as a condition in which certain parts of the body are used excessively and consequently become overused. In talking about the lower extremities, the most common areas of involvement of overuse syndrome seem to be in the foot, lower leg, and knee.

Some of the common symptoms which develop due to overuse syndrome are knee pains (runner's knee), shin splints, heel spurs, hammer toes, painful calluses, bunions, low back pain, foot

fatigue, Achilles tendonitis and flat feet. These problems may be directly potentiated by abnormal growth in the structure of the low extremities. For instance, someone who has a lack of normal torsional growth of the leg bones (failure of the bone to go through a normal twist in its development) may develop a bunion as a result. The reason for this is that the foot and leg are so interrelated that in abnormalities of the leg, the majority of times compensation will take place in the foot. Hence, foot problems may ensue due to the "overuse" of certain structures of the foot in compensating for a little abnormality.

Common abnormalities that may lead to overuse syndromes are torsional abnormalities in the leg and foot, contracted muscles (hamstring, calf), tibial varum (bow legged), limb length discrepancy (one leg longer than the other) and general pronatory abnormalities (when the foot rolls in excessively).

The Average person who does not engage in athletic endeavor can develop overuse syndrome from just everyday wear and tear compensation. A person who par-

ticipates in sports has a higher chance of developing symptoms due to the simple fact that athletes receive greater stress through the body parts than the non-participant.

What can be done about overuse syndrome? Fortunately there have been studies and research into the area of medicine, which is called biomechanics, with recognized treatments that have proven quite successful. The doctor who is sports medicine oriented will usually perform a complete biomechanical exam in which the different parts of the lower extremity are examined and measured for range of motion as well as flexibility. In addition to this information, the podiatrist will evaluate the patient's gait pattern (walk) and be able to visualize certain compensations taking place in the lower extremity.

At this time, the doctor may feel that orthotic supports are indicated. These devices are shoe inserts that are made by special laboratories from a plaster impression that the doctor has taken of the patient's foot. The orthotic is made from this impression. The removable device can be used in all shoes worn by the patient. The purpose of the orthotic is to help realign the dynamic imbalance of the foot which has taken place due to compensation for overuse syndrome. The orthotic device offers support, protection against additional compensations and a means to help the body "re-adjust".

Along with the inserts, a flexibility routine should be instituted including various

Chase Teaches At Arizona Club

stretching exercises aimed at increasing the flexibility of the joints and muscles which have been in an imbalanced state.

There are times when surgical correction is indicated in order to correct the deformity. Following surgery orthotic devices are used to help prevent the deformity from recurring. In all cases the patient should be education as to why and how the problem developed and the modes of treatment which are available.

Steve Chase joins the Professional Staff at the Arizona Athletic Club as the teaching pro in racquetball.

Steve won the Men's Open Singles Championship in last month's ARA State Singles Tourney. For the second year in a row.

Steve will organize racquetball clinics, group and private lessons, exhibition matches, ladder play, club tournament, league play, inter city club matches, profession tour stops, and on occasion get an opportunity to play.

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Where Is Racquetball Court Construction Going?

Dr. Bud Muehleisen
President, M-M Court Systems
First Player inducted into the Racquetball Hall of Fame, 1977 I.R.A. and U.S.R.A. Masters Champion.



How do you answer people who ask, "How many paneled courts has M-M installed?"

I say, "That's not the right question." The right question is, "What is your expertise?" And expertise has absolutely no relationship to the number of installations. Expertise is associated with people, their skill, knowledge, integrity and experience. Installations are just walls and ceilings. So we say, "Ask us what we know, and how we can help you."

What then is your formula for serving your markets?

It is to do what we do best. Avoid pretending to be something else. Our quality control of the product and proper rapport with the customer offers the best possible service. We're convinced that many problems arise when the installation isn't controlled or supervised effectively. We've solved these problems, and we intend to be in the forefront of this trend.

Why did you choose to be involved with panel?

When you build for yourself, you want to build the finest possible. I not only install courts for the marketplace, I own facilities as well. And, after years of building and operating my own court facilities, I have found that the panel offers the owner the best surface in durability, playability and ease of maintenance. Having built virtually every type of court construction there is, it then becomes an easy decision to utilize the panel. I strongly feel that within 18 months, 85% of all court construction will utilize some form of panel installation. It simply would be foolish not to do so.



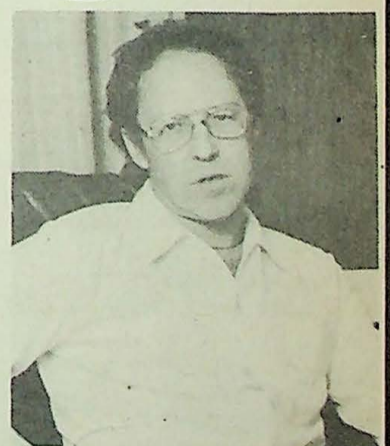
"...we intend to be in the forefront..."

What other benefits does the panel have?

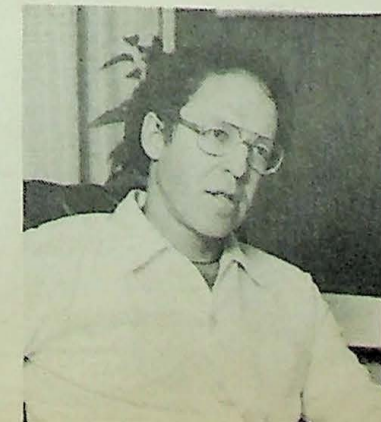
From a business point of view, finance, convertibility, aesthetics and adaptation to existing buildings. With panel courts, the building shell may be converted to a two-story office building or may even become a multi-purpose building. Lenders definitely favor this approach, which is good common sense, and the percentages of acquiring building loans are therefore much greater.

How does M-M differ from the other panel companies?

Besides having the finest technical knowledge and product quality control available, we strive to work in complete communication with our clients at all times, especially pointing out the many pitfalls possible, because we've been there. When it comes time to build your own court, M-M Court Systems takes the time and interest to assist our clients to take the proper steps in completing the project. This saves both time and money. And finally, when my name is involved, I want to be proud of the project, too.



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"...panel offers the owner the best surface..."

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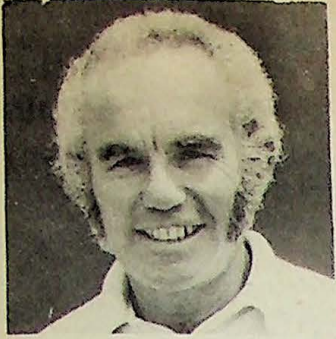
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Ben Press

BALL TOO LIVE

I have been a tennis professional for almost 25 years, and have been playing for an additional 15 years. In that span of time, there have been many changes in equipment- clothes have gone from white to a rainbow of colors, racquets have changed from wood only, to include metal, fiberglass, and graphite. Warm Ups are now part of every player's wardrobe. But the ball has basically stayed the same, in so far as its covers are perhaps longer lasting, but the USTA specifications are the same as when I started playing.

Racquetball is going through some ball dilemmas that I feel could slow the sport's meteoric rise. One of my strongest reasons for recommending so highly is that normally two average or even beginning racquetball players can soon learn to hit enough balls and get a workout. But if the serious ball manufacturers continue to liven the ball more and more, a rally of more than two or three shots will be a rarity. Even the neophyte player, hitting with little power, is finding the jack rabbit ball nearly impossible to control.

At the recent National Championships held here in San Diego, I was in awe of how well the professional and amateur stand outs belted the ball. Now, however, the matches are too often bang, bang affairs with the long, spectacular rallies and gets happening less and less. The live ball is affording many more service aces or weak returns and the "first" shooter will normally end the point. Part of the beauty of racquetball has always been watching a Brumfield or Strandemo make a diving save or return of a seemingly impossible shot. I have long thought that it is unfortunate racquetball has not had any real television exposure, as normally it is such an outstanding spectator sport.

At these Nationals, I didn't quite feel that way. By the same token, I didn't mean to infer that there were not lots of exciting matches and sensational points. Also you have an ever increasing number of new great players. But again, I feel the ball is too fast to exploit racquetball to its fullest.

I played in the Nationals in the Old Men's Division, and I consider myself a fair test to the average player. Not playing enough racquetball, I asked a friend, one of the pros, to work me out a little so I wouldn't be too embarrassed. In the course of the workout, he demonstrated a particular serve that I almost never returned. And when we finished, I was delighted I didn't get hurt and decided

next time I would wear both a helmet and a cup.

All of us involved in racquetball have one common aim to see the sport continue to grow and prosper. To help insure this intent, I feel strongly that the power people should give some serious thought to both slowing the ball down and having more stringent standards. If the pros feel the jack rabbit ball is good for them and the game, let them use it. But for those of us less gifted which is from where racquetball's growth will stem, we need a ball we can control much easier. After all, having fun and getting some exercise is the name of the game!

Over 1,100 pre-opening "License holders" are anxiously awaiting the Grand Opening of King's Racquetball Court scheduled for early July, 1977. Chuck Hohl, General Manager, has indeed created a "showcase" club.

The primary goal of King's Racquetball Court is to provide the most complete racquetball and handball programs in the world!

King's Racquetball Court will have 19 beautiful air-conditioned courts including 2 glass back wall, nightly challenge courts, and our "Royal Court"; an all-glass exhibition court with seated viewing for over 450 people.

The "Hawk-eye" will be installed in our three tourna-

ment glass courts. This electronic system will detect "skip balls" at the front wall, short serves and foot faults. Electronic scoring will also be included for more complete viewing.

The "Instructional Court" complete with actual court markings to indicate specific serve and shot areas. This court is ideal for learning new fundamentals or practicing alone.

The staff will include both men's and ladies' activity directors experienced in instruction and program development. Mike Allen and Joy Koppel, both Open players, have extensive background in both teaching and organizing effective rac-

quetball programs.

Free supervised Child Care Center will provide a healthy, safe, enjoyable atmosphere for children.

Complete locker facilities includes toiletries and hair dryers. These fully carpeted rooms will also include a giant 12 by 15 ft. co-ed jacuzzi, complete with hanging plants and natural skylights.

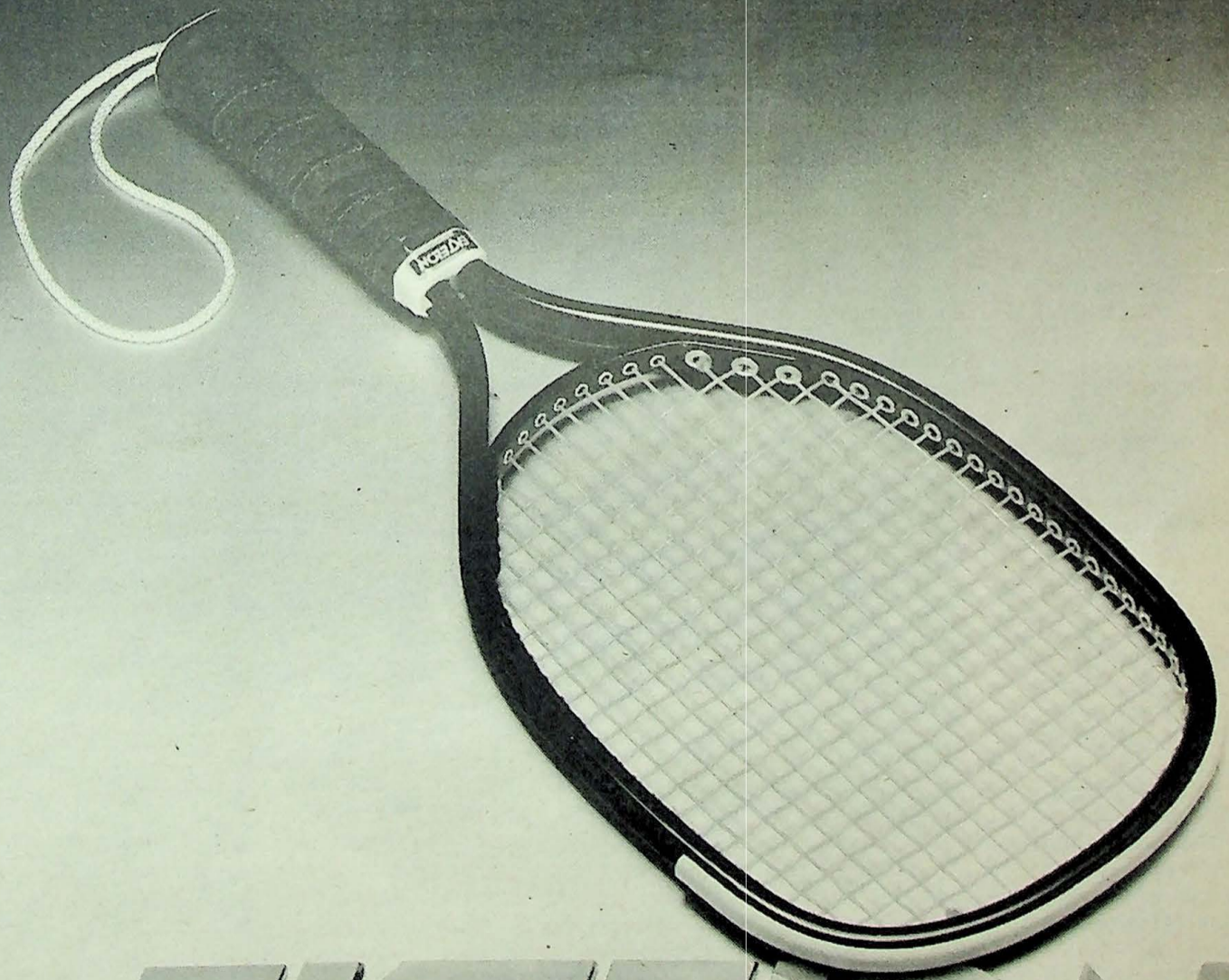
Last but not least is the fully stocked pro-shop and health food bar.

The King's Racquetball Court is located at 14731 Golden West Street, Westminster, Ca. 92683, (714) 898-9841.

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Clay Scott

Charlie Brumfield and Marty Hogan have just signed a contract with Adidas for endorsement of a new line of Racquetball clothes. Because Charlie and Marty are under contract with Leach, Adidas has allowed them to put Leach's name on their personal clothing.

Adidas hand delivered, from France, the first Adidas racquetball shoe to Marty Hogan just prior to the Nationals. This shoe is endorsed by both Brumfield and Hogan and will carry Marty Hogans name on the shoe. More happenings at Leach: Colgate Pamolive has just purchased Leach Industries. Charlie Drake, now marketing director, will move up to president and Bud Leach will stay on in an advisory position.

Ron Cole Appointed Manager of Arizona Club

TEMPE, Az. — Ron Cole, a prominent figure in the field of recreational management, has been elected to the Board of Directors and appointed Manager of the Arizona Athletic Club.

Cole, who resigned his position as Executive Director of the Embarcadero YMCA in San Francisco to assume his new duties as Club Manager, will be responsible for the total operation of the facility.

The 34 year old Cole earned his BS degree in Physical Education at Angelo State University in Texas, where he was a varsity basketball player.

Before moving to San Francisco, Cole was President and General Manager of the Northridge (California) Family Athletic Club, well known for its strong swimming and diving teams - producing several All Americans.

For the YMCA, Cole organized the National Ski Fitness program and helped develop and is Commissioner for the National Basketball Players Association.

Ron's favorite sport, Handball, was highlighted by winning the 1972 Southern California Contenders Open Doubles Championship, with Junior National Champion, Rick Christian.

A highlight of the AAC will be two championship glass-enclosed exhibit racquetball/handball courts, with gallery seating for over 1,200 spectators. And, according to Cole: "in addition to the professional racquetball and handball tours, we're negotiating to bring the National Championships here - to Tempe and the AAC.

Danny Seemiller, Table Tennis; Flemming Delfs, Badminton; and Charlie Brumfield, Racquetball. Each champion could not play his own sport and Charlie ended up playing Sharif Khan for the championship. Second place isn't all that bad with \$6500 prize money. Its good to see someone from racquetball on National T.V.

Racquetball News will, in the near future, discontinue the bulk mailings to the racquetball clubs. If you want to continue reading Racquetball News, you'll have to subscribe.

I had a very enjoyable time at the first showing of the new Hawk-Eye system to control foot faults, short serves and skip balls electronically.

I was invited by owners Niel Gilbert and Manny Berz which was held in Riverside at the La Sierra Racquetball Club.

The electronic system was quite impressive and should be a big help in eliminating problems before they start.

New courts are now installing the devices during construction, but older facilities can also have them installed even now. For more information, contact: Electronic Equipment, P.O. Box 5863, San Bernardino, CA 92412.

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July 1-3

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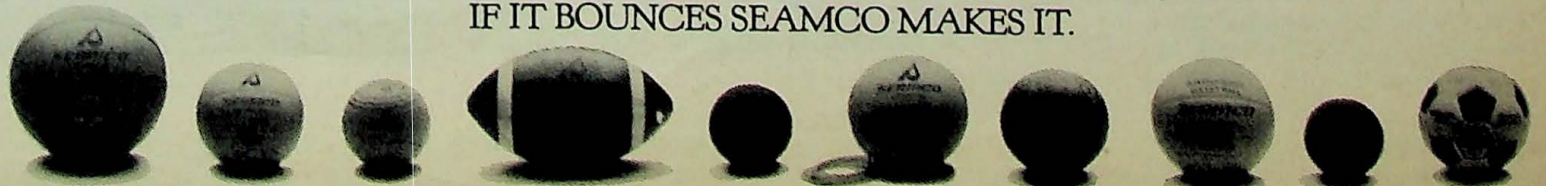
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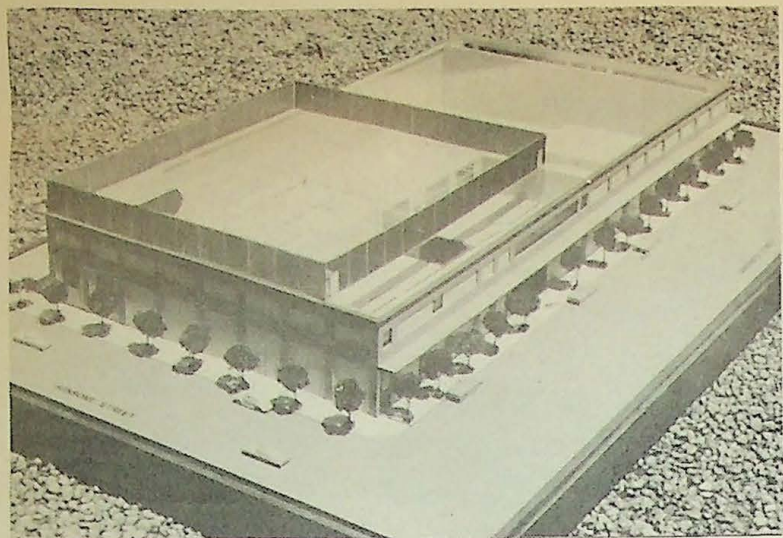
WE JUST BLACKBALLED THE IRA. THEY ASKED FOR IT.



So we gave them what they wanted. A new black racquetball made by Seamco to exacting IRA specifications. The new Seamco #444 will be the only official ball sanctioned by the International Racquetball Association. That's a big job for a small ball. But this one can take it. **SEAMCO**

IF IT BOUNCES SEAMCO MAKES IT.





A \$2 million project, the San Francisco Bay Club, the city's first major athletic club for both men and women, will be opening September 1st. at 150 Greenwich in the city by the bay.

Sept. Opening Set for Bay Area Courts

The San Francisco Bay Club, a \$2 million project dedicated to people who view athletics as a natural extension of an active lifestyle, will open its three levels of sports and recreation facilities on Thursday, September 1st, 1977.

The SF Bay Club is unique in that it is San Francisco's first major athletic club which offers full memberships to both men and women. In breaking with traditional men-women segregation in athletic facilities, the SF Bay Club encourages mutual involvement between the sexes as part of a more human orientation toward exercise and health.

Two years in the planning, construction of the Bay Club began March 7 on Greenwich,

between Battery and Sansome. The Bay Club is designed simply for those who wish to enjoy themselves athletically.

Featured will be eleven regulation-size racquetball courts for enthusiasts of the fastest growing court sport in America. In addition, three squash courts, two outdoor tennis courts and a complete gymnasium for basketball, volleyball and badminton—all without court fees—round out the roster of court sports.

The new club will also provide a complete weight conditioning room, saunas, 105-degree whirlpool spas, dressing areas, locker rooms with both day and storage lockers, laundry services, and, for everyone, a 57-foot long, fourlane, heated indoor

swimming pool.

Recreation and leisure activities will be available in the conference/backgammon room which can be scheduled for business meetings. Also, in keeping with the luxurious motif, the windowed second-story club room will offer light dining and spectator's view of three racquetball courts. The outdoor sundeck overlooking the Bay will not only afford a close-up view of Coit Tower, but, according to Club partner Jim Gerber, promises to become a highly popular mid-day and afternoon relaxation spot.

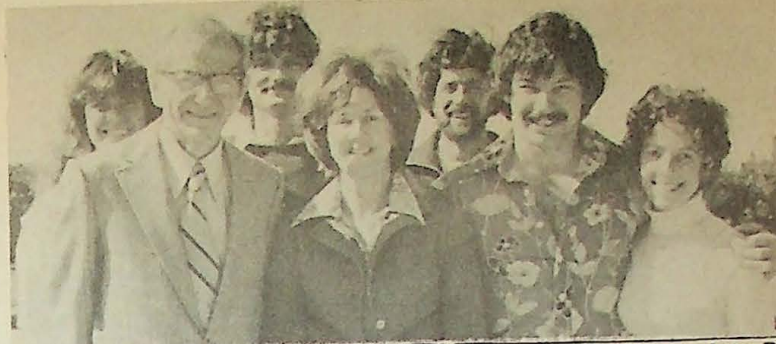
"The San Francisco Bay Club was formed to fill a very specific need. Because most of the established full-service athletic clubs in the City have waiting lists of up to two years or more, there is, of course, great demand for an athletic club with a full range of activities which the public can join immediately," asserts Club president John Melin.

The San Francisco Bay Club will be open for 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekends. The accessibility of The Bay Club to its membership will be enhanced by the operation of a free shuttle bus to and from the Financial District between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Individual, family and group memberships are available. Charter rates are still in effect.

For further membership information, call The San Francisco Bay Club, 150 Greenwich, San Francisco, 94111, at 415/433-2200.

Glass Wall on Racquetfun, Inc. court allows spectators to view other players close-up. According to manager Mel Amerman, players gain confidence by seeing that more experienced players techniques are not too far out of reach of even a novice. Here Bryan Hardwick warms up for a match while spectators watch through the transparent wall.

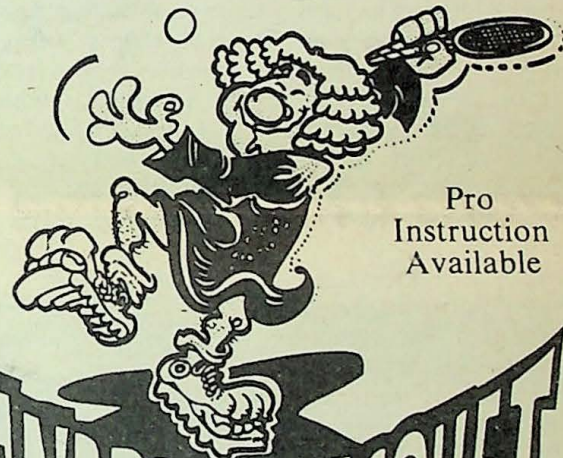


On hand at the dedication of the foundation are (front row, L to R) E.O. Rodeffer-Owner, Westminster Mayor Joy Neuegabauer, Chuck Hohl-Owner and General Manager, Joy Koppel-Women's Activity Coordinator, (second row, L to R) Deb Shubin-Sales, Mike Allen and Jim Carson, resident racquetball instructors.



Dr. Steven Frig (in the middle) accepts a \$730 check to the Children's Cancer Research at U.C.L.A. Medical Center from Dennis Hyder and Kipp Downing of Victoria Station and Gary Gullette and Mike McClelland, owners of The Center Courts. The money was raised at the recent Victoria Station Charity Racquetball Tournament hosted by The Center Courts, West L.A.

The COURTHOUSE



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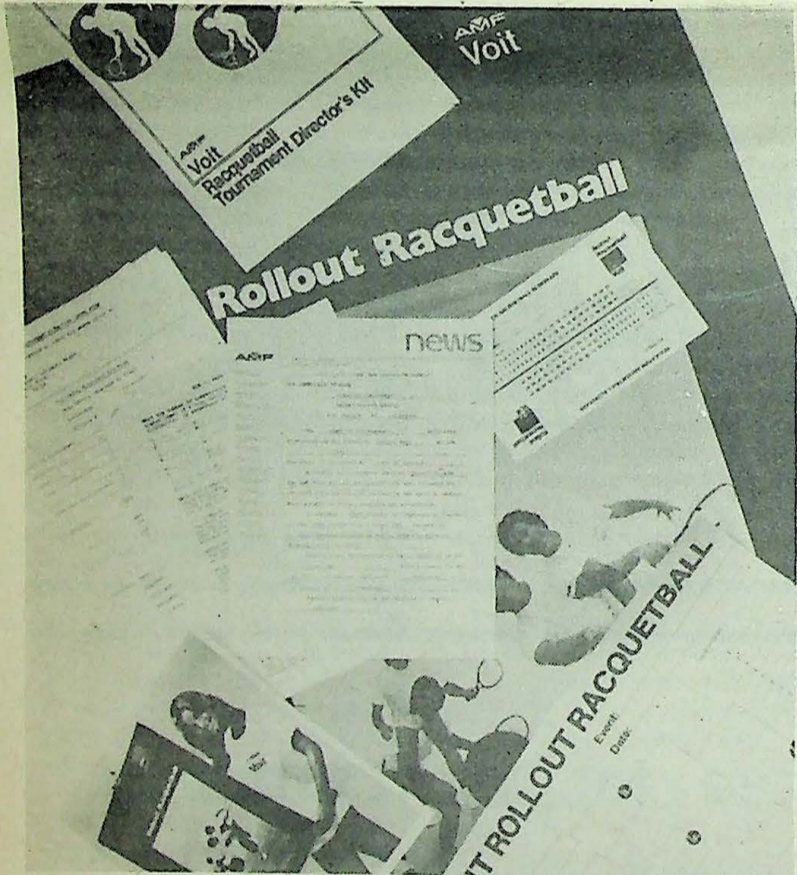
THE OTHER GLOVE by Point West Industries, is made of non-slip deerskin and treated with a process to prevent cracking. The patented crossband improves the fit and the glove is available in brilliant red, white, blue, yellow or green, or with two-tone combination, and with or without mesh backing. According to Dr. Bud Muehleisen, who endorses the glove, perspiration will not cause the glove to slip, but instead will increase control of the player's grip. Retail is approximately \$9.95.



EYE GUARD Designed for maximum eye protection, by Leach, offers full vision and is made of durable plastic. This item features adjustable shock pads and strap, which insures comfortable fit.

TOURNAMENT KIT: A complete racquetball tournament kit is now available free of charge from AMF Voit to all court club directors, recreation and park department directors, athletic directors, intramural directors, schools

for both) and a full-color racquetball action poster. All materials are free to tournament directors from AMF Voit. The poster, which measures 24 inches by 36 inches, may be displayed at courtside to demonstrate the quick pace



and associations involved in organized racquetball competition.

The kit contains instructions on seeding and making the draw, samples of a suggested news release, individual scorecards and tournament draw sheets (plus order forms

of racquetball, the fastest-growing sport in the country.

Tournament directors may obtain their free kits by writing on letterhead to AMF Voit advertising department 3801 South Harbor Boulevard, Santa Ana, Ca. 92704,

PHOTOGRAPHS submitted should be Black & White with a caption written on a piece of paper and taped to the back of the photo. Also include the name of the photographer. Do not write directly on the back of the photo or use paper clips attached to the photo. Include first and last names of all recognizable people in the picture. List the name of the event, date and place.

Photos will be returned only when accompanied by a self-addressed envelope of correct size and with proper postage.

EKTELON BAG The special needs of the racquetball player are incorporated in the "Racquetballer," a new, roomy, roll-style athletic bag. Created by Ektelon, a major manufacturer of racquetball racquets, this is the latest in its growing line of racquetball-related equipment.

The bag is tough, yet soft, and is made of 100 per cent textured vinyl. It is fully lined for scuff-resistant wear. Tailored to hold a racquet and a full assortment of clothing, the "Racquetballer" measures 20" long and 10½" wide. The soft, roll-style construction allows it to be folded down to fit into even small lockers.

A special waterproof compartment with a full-length zipper allows wet clothing to be carried without soiling the other contents of this American-made bag. Side air vents circulate fresh air through the bag. A full-length, heavy duty zipper

RACQUETBALL NEWS

National & Local

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allows easy access to the roomy bag interior.

The "Racquetballer" bag is a rich brown with tan side panels. The Ektelon logo is displayed on its sides.

Suggested retail price of the

"Racquetballer" bag is approximately \$12.95.

For further information, contact: Ektelon, Dept. PR77, 7079 Mission Gorge Rd., San Diego, CA. 92120.

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new court clubs

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To be completed in July. Four paneled courts, two courts with glass back walls. Four outdoor tennis courts with glass back walls. Four outdoor tennis courts. Sunken whirlpool, Sauna bath, lounge and pro shop.

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Opens August 1977. 13 Tournament Courts now under construction featuring sauna, jacuzzi, weight rooms, pro shops. First San Fernando Valley public court house with no membership or initiation fees.

Orlando's First RB Court

ORLANDO, FL — The Racquet Ball, Orlando's first and Florida's finest racquetball and fitness club for men and women will be located near I-4 and Lee Road on Adanson Street in Orlando. Construction began on the new facility April 4th, with completion expected this summer.

THE RACQUET BALL is entered through an open atrium area that is abundantly landscaped with lush greenery and bright flowers, into a two-story reception area. The feeling of space and color is carried throughout the entire club.

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THE RACQUET BALL is a 20,000 square foot facility containing eight racquetball/handball courts, a glass-walled exhibition court with a viewing gallery, a pro shop, and individual health spas and conditioning facilities for both men and women. The separate conditioning facilities will include the finest exercise equipment available, designed to improve all aspects of physical conditioning and development. Spa facilities include steam room, saunas, therapy pools, showers and richly-appointed locker and dressing rooms.

Quotes

The dazzling world of racquetball contains a flock of characters from players to vendors to spectators. Among this consistently increasing group of people from time to time arise comments on the game, the growth of the sport and certain of its personalities. Here are some of the latest quotable from the notables.

Young PEGGY STEDING, who is in her 40's, on why she never takes time outs: "I don't get tired."

CHARLIE BRUMFIELD on Steve Strandemo's participation in the recent National Racquetball Championship: "If Steve's skill is going in, he will be impressive; if not, there's always the clinic."

DAVEY BLEDSOE, new NRC Champion, on his future: "Next year it's going to be easy to make a good living."

STEVE KEELEY, who lost in the quarterfinals to Bledsoe, regarding his comments on Michigan: "I like it better

back there. My friends and family are back there, and now there's racquetball back there, so there's no reason to come here (San Diego)."

SHANNON WRIGHT, new NRC women's champion, on living in San Diego: "My game must have improved 300 per cent since I came here."

JAMES NORRIS, AMF-Voit executive vice-president: "Racquetball today is where tennis was 12 years ago."

TOM MCKIE, former International Racquetball Association executive

director, on recent complications the IRA has undergone with its respective approved equipment vendors: "I'm disappointed that the IRA is acting in this manner...It's unfortunate they now do not want to live up to their commitments."

BOB COAT, Seamco national sales manager, on the Racquetball and Handball News: "I enjoy your paper and its unbiased reporting...Please send me a rate card..."

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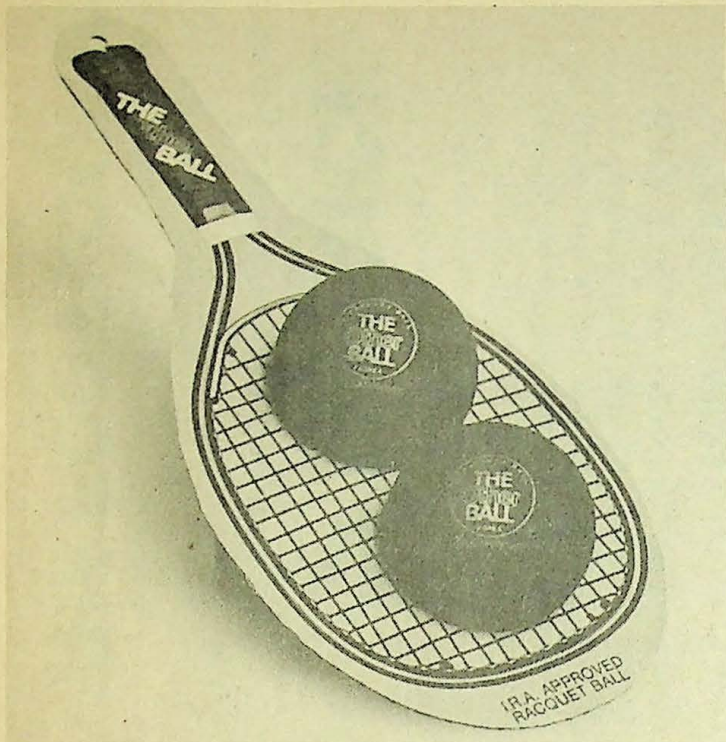
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