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JUNE 1980

# RACQUETBALL TODAY

## Shannon Wright Defeats Simborg

*An exclusive interview*

By PHIL SIMBORG

When Shannon Wright was in Chicago last month, I was fortunate to catch her on one of her rare "free" days and we arranged to spend the day together playing our favorite sport and doing an interview.

It was an exciting opportunity for me! I'm a pretty fair "A" and Senior's player, and I thought it would be fun to have a shot at beating the five-time National Champion, the No. 1 woman player in the sport, and easily the best player the women have ever produced. The only problem with my plan was that I lost. I guess I shouldn't be embarrassed about losing to a player of her caliber, and I did get 19 points (in three games). When I told her that I would put "Wright Defeats Simborg" in headlines in the paper, she laughed and said anyone who reads it will say "Who?" But I assured her she was being too modest; everyone knows who Shannon Wright is!

Well, as surprised as I was by the game (she played a power game, and simply out-powered me; that was, before the match started, going to be my strategy) I was even more amazed by the interview.

SHANNON, who is 23-years-old, grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, and at 14 she began playing racquetball with an older friend who attended TCU. She met, and eventually married an excellent young racquetball pro, Pete Wright, and they moved to Dallas. "We dedicated our marriage to the goal of making me the Number 1 woman in the game," said Shannon. "The goal succeeded but the marriage failed. It really wasn't a very good goal for a marriage." They have since divorced and Shannon now lives tucked away in a log cabin in the heavily-wooded mountains outside of Las Vegas.

Shannon represents Wilson Sporting Goods Company, and, along with Wilson's  
*(Continued on Page 13)*



Shannon Wright

*Inside  
 Racquetball  
 Today*

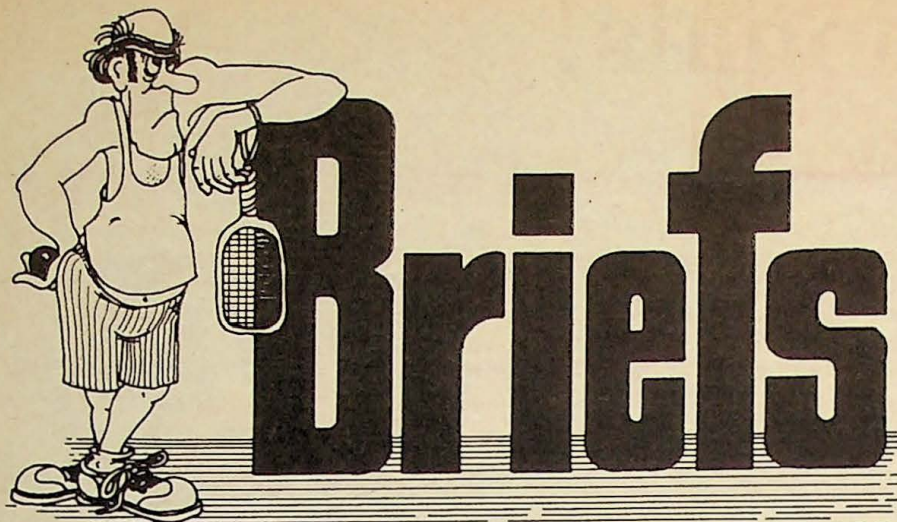
Lite Beer  
 Illinois  
 State Singles



Preview of Nationals

Perspective on Walter Jacobson,  
 TV's Racquetball Ace

The Wright Answer,  
 a new feature by Shannon Wright



**Michaely Honored in Illinois**

Art Michaely was awarded the Third Annual Louis Zahn Memorial award by the ISRA for outstanding contribution and sportsmanship in amateur racquetball in Illinois. Michaely was instrumental in the founding of the ISRA; is a current member of the board, and has been the director of the ISRA's Metro League, the world's largest racquetball league, for the past three years.

He is currently Executive Director of the Park Ridge YMCA, and is the 1980 Illinois Veteran Senior champion. Michaely is well-known for his coaching abilities in volleyball, wrestling, and track and field as well as racquetball. The previous Zahn Award winners are Tom Street and Bob Troyer.

**Mr. Racquetball**

A great debate has developed in the racquetball community as to exactly who is really entitled to be called by the title of "Mr. Racquetball," as no less than 20 people have claimed that title around the country. The claimants include top players, tournament promoters, club developers, a sports photographer, a janitor who specializes in maintaining courts, and a transvestite stripper in San Francisco. According to Peg Snedning (generally known as "Ms. Racquetball"), "I don't know anybody who deserves that title. I know some men who could get away with calling themselves "Mr. Racquet," and a few who deserve to be called "Mr. Balls," but no "Mr. Racquetball!"

**Hands vs. Racquet Rematch**

A rematch of the exciting hands vs. racquet match between 4th-ranked handball pro Vern Roberts, Jr. and 8th-ranked racquetball pro Jennifer Harding has

been set for Friday, June 27, 8 p.m. at Killshot Ltd. in the Chicago suburb of Bloomingdale. Harding won the first encounter in an exciting three-game match (11-7 in the tie breaker). The matches were organized by Gary Danno of Prime Time Promotions "to see if a top women racquetball player could beat a top male handballer." Vern says he was "easy on Jennifer last time and will wipe her all over the court this time." For ticket information, contact Killshot at 312-893-9575.

**Ektelon Sold**

Ektelon, reported as the leading manufacturer and marketer of racquetball racquets and related equipment, has been sold to the Browning Corporation, according to a joint press release by Donald W. Gobel, president of Browning, and Franklin and Almarine Held, owners of Ektelon. Browning is a diversified manufacturer of high quality outdoor sports products with headquarters in Morgan, Utah. Terms of the sale were not disclosed.

**Racquetball reported "Safe"**

According to extensive hospital studies, the incidence of women becoming pregnant while playing racquetball is less than .07 per cent (even less in men). Parents can now feel much better about their daughters who run up large bills at their racquetball clubs.

**Shannon Wright joins S/S/S Productions**

We are proud to announce that Shannon Wright, premier women's racquetball player, has joined the S/S/S team and will represent the racquetball tournament promotional organization throughout the country. In addition to providing exhibitions and clinics at Triple-S tournaments

*(Continued on page 19)*



Pictured above: Some of the 75 participants of the Junior Winter League at Chalet Sports Core, Willow Springs, Illinois. Teacher/pro Jan Sarno expects over 100 children in the summer program (beginning June 18) which offers separate divisions for children age 6 to 16. All participants receive a team shirt, achievement plaque and a shot at a trophy in the final tournament. For the finals, 20 children dressed in matching uniforms and wearing "official" ribbons act as the referee committee.

The Chalet, under Sarno's direction, has been cited by the USRA and the ISRA as having one of the most innovative and effective children's programs in the country.

**We Get Letters . . .**

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY,

I have just seen my first issue of your paper (May 1980) and I congratulate you on being the first nationwide racquetball paper. You have an excellent paper that I found quite interesting and, even fun to read. In particular, being somewhat of a "feminist," I was extremely impressed with your coverage of women. In the particular issue I read, you had as many articles and stories about women, and had almost twice as many pictures of women players . . . I guess that's because you have a woman editor? Anyway, this parity is quite unlike other racquetball publications, and I want you to know it is noticed and appreciated.

Sincerely,  
**Casey Flynn**  
New York

Dear Phil,

It was nice to see a small article and picture on handball in your May issue. Why don't you feature more handball news in the future?

L. Hinds

Dear Mr. Hinds,

We're planning on having full coverage of major handball events and players, just as soon as we see handball magazines give some coverage to racquetball. I've always contended that racquetball has grown into a major sport in spite of handball. In racquetball's infancy, there were places where handball players threatened to quit the Y if they allow racquets on the court; they called racquetball players names that suggested a lack of masculinity, and some even went so far as to physically threaten the racquetballers. Now

that racquetball has far surpassed handball in popularity, you can see many players, like you and I, that still play both sports and have respect for both. Through it all, however, the long-established handball community virtually ignored, even hindered (avoidably) the racquetball community. Someday, maybe, we'll come out with "Handball Today," but in spite of the fact that the two sports share identical courts, similar skills, and similar rules, they have remained distinctly separate communities. I hope, and I think, that will change someday, and I think we'll be seeing many tournaments, newspapers and events in the future.

Phil Simborg

Phil,

I don't think I've ever seen finer sportsmanship all around than was exhibited at your Lite Beer ISRA State Singles tournament. You people are really doing your job.

Les Cooling

Les,

Thanks for the praise; we do our best but it's the players that deserve the credit.

Phil

Dear Editor,

If we could get racquetball people to write letters to our major papers here in Chicago, we might start to see more coverage of tournaments and more articles on racquetball.

So please print this letter and let's get these people moving.

Thank You,  
Ed Heath

**RACQUETBALL TODAY**

Publishers..... Al Shetzer, Phil Simborg, Tom Street  
Editor..... Jan Diengott  
Production..... Williams Press

**COLUMNISTS**

**REFEREE'S CHAIR**  
STRATEGY  
PSYCHING  
TACTICS  
COURT TALK  
THE WRIGHT ANSWER  
TAKE IT FROM A PRO

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Jean Sause  
Marilyn Sterling  
Charles Garfinkel  
Bob Gura  
Shannon Wright  
Dave Peck

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# The Nationals!

## A Preview of the Leading Competitors for the Men's and Women's Crowns

By RALPH MOIL

June is "Nationals Month" for professional racquetball and this year, for the first time, there are separate nationals for men and women.

The men's is the culmination of the NRC/USRA tour, co-sponsored by Leach/Seamco, and takes place at the Las Vegas Sporting House June 1-7.

The women's is the first national championship tournament run by the newly created WPRA (Women's Professional Racquetball Association), and that is set for Killshot, Ltd., in Chicago's suburb of Bloomingdale, June 19-22. The women's event was organized by Gary Danno, president of Prime Time Productions, Inc., and is expected to be the largest women's-only racquetball event, offering both pro and amateur divisions of competition (see entry information on page 8).

The women's tournament will be covered by Associated Press and will be put on their national news wires, and this, according to Danno of Prime Time Promotions, "will be the first time a news wire service has covered any racquetball event." In that regard, Dan Seaton, WPRA commissioner proudly added: "The A.P. coverage will greatly enhance the visibility of our sport, players association, and women's pro tour — it can only set the stage for more and better media coverage in the future."



Marty Hogan

### Who will win?

As for "who will win," there are a lot of similarities between the two championships. In both cases, there is a "superstar" favorite, both of whom have pretty much dominated the past few years: Marty Hogan and Shannon Wright. They are both clearly the "picks" to win, not only because of their ability, but because they both want this one badly. You see, they both have suffered through previous years where they were clearly the top player in the game but had to listen to someone else claim the title of "National Champ" because of an upset win at the nationals: Shannon lost the 1979 title which Karin Walton claimed, and Marty lost the 1977 title to Davey Bledsoe.

IN BOTH CASES, there seems to be two others that are coming on strong: Mike Yellen and Dave Peck for the men, and Lynn Adams and Heather McKay for the women. Yellen, in particular, has come on quite strong of late, beating Hogan in the last two NRC ProStops of the season, and

losing to him 11-10 in the tie breaker the tournament before that. NOBODY has been able to produce a record against Hogan similar to that since Hogan was established as No. 1. Dave Peck has yet to beat Hogan, and for that reason you have to greatly reduce his chances, but he has clearly handled everyone else with ease on this year's NRC tour.

If you read Shannon's interview in this



Mike Yellen

paper, and her column, you'll see what she thinks of Lynn Adams and Heather McKay . . . she's got a lot of respect for both their games and ranks the two of them well ahead of the rest of the field. HOWEVER, neither one has been able to beat Shannon as of this writing, and that's a big factor.

I talked to both Dan Bertolucci (NRC) and Dan Seaton (WPRA) at length about the seeding and format of their respective tournaments. The men will take the 32 players with the most total points accumulated throughout the year and put them into the tournament (there will be no qualifying). The seeding is based on their ranking at the end of the season. The top eight seeds, in order, are Hogan, Yellen, Peck, Jerry Hilecher, Steve Strandemo, Don Thomas, Charlie Brumfield, and Ben Koltun.

Aside from those eight, there are, in my opinion, four other players who would have a serious shot at winning: Davey Bledsoe, Craig McCoy, Rich Wagner and Lindsay Myers. All four are fine players that could get hot and beat anybody, but in particular, Bledsoe is one of the few players that has beaten Hogan this year, and he has proven his ability to "gear up" for a nationals and be a winner.

OF THE OTHER seeded players, I tend to rule out Koltun and Strandemo as seri-

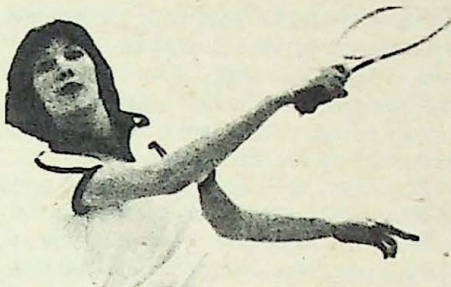


Dave Peck

ous threats to win — they've both played steady all season (or they wouldn't have ranked so high) but neither of them has been able to either win a tournament or beat Hogan of late. Thomas beat Hogan early in the season and has played quite well all year, and Hilecher is always a threat.

According to Dan Bertolucci, "Hogan's a good bet of course, but I also like Yellen. It's largely a matter of who plays most consistently and who can adjust best to front wall glass. That glass gives an advantage to people with a big serve and that will surely tend to help players like Hilecher."

When it comes to ability to concentrate and take "big wins" you certainly cannot



Sarah Green

rule out Charlie Brumfield. Brum's been tough all year and has proven he's still got the physical ability to take the grind of a tournament, and his mental ability is legendary. Further, with 32 players competing with the first round on Monday and the finals on Saturday (2:00 p.m.), I don't think the physical aspect will be anywhere near as important as the mental, and I wouldn't be surprised, therefore, to see the Brum take the whole thing; there are many incentives in addition to the



Lynn Adams

\$30,000 first prize money.

The seeding for the women is a bit more complicated, in that the WPRA has had only a few tournaments, and they employ a point system that makes some tournaments count more than others. As of the date of this writing, which is before the woman's pro stop in Fishkill, N.Y., May 29th, the women's ranking is as follows: Sarah Green, Shannon Wright, Lynn Adams, Heather McKay, Janell Marriott, Rita Hoff, Marci Greer, Jennifer Harding. The next eight places are held by Peggy Steding, Karin Walton, Linda Prefontaine, Jean Sauser, Hope Weisbach, Judy Thompson, Elaine Lee and Cheryl Ambler. These rankings will all be revised after Fishkill and will act as the seeding for the nationals. Further, the top 24 will automatically go into the tournament along with eight qualifiers.

SHANNON LOST in the nationals last year to surprise victor, Karin Walton, and she's going to be very hungry for this one. In the Ektelon/Perrier, May 11, she beat both Lynn Adams and Heather McKay on her road to victory, and, combined with

other recent triumphs she's clearly established herself as a huge favorite.

After Lynn and Heather, the only other players that have really proved that they



Heather McKay

can win a tournament recently are Sarah Green and Marci Greer, and Marci's big win came last September, and Sarah's victories came while Shannon was recovering from a broken ankle last fall.

Looking at the rest of the seeds does, in my opinion, give you a pretty reasonable accounting of who to watch, as Marriott, Hoff and Harding, in particular, certainly have the potential to make it to the finals, and once there, anything can happen.

The women are playing for a first place prize of \$2,500 (compared to the men's \$30,000), and that is low for two reasons: 1) they simply have not yet found spon-



Karin Walton

sors on their newly-established tour that compares with Leach/Seamco's sponsorship, and 2) the women have themselves determined to spread the money throughout the top 32 so that all the pro participants will get something. They are trying to see that more women can make money to give more women a chance to cover travel expenses and participate regularly on the tour.



Jennifer Harding

As both Marty Hogan and Shannon Wright have proven, there's more money to be made as a result of being the best than there is in prize money per se, and in the National Championships, that all-important title and the honors that go with it is what is really on the line.



RITA HOFF

Rita Hoff, one of the top Pros in the country, is Director of Natural Lights Racquetball Program, represents Ektelon, and writes this column exclusively for RACQUETBALL TODAY.

## Tennis Anyone?

With the onset of spring and weather conducive to outdoor activities, one of the most frequently asked questions is, "Can tennis and racquetball be played concurrently?"

With some explanation, I would generally respond to the question by saying that one can participate in both tennis and racquetball without severely hampering the performance of either one. However, some factors that should be considered are the skill level of the player, the similarities of the games and the reasons for participation.

The reasons that we play a sport will have some bearing here. Most of us take part either because we enjoy competition, because we want exercise, for social reasons or because we have fun playing.

FOR THE MOST part, any or all of these motives for playing tennis or racquetball will not be detrimental to the other. If, on the other hand, the individual is striving to be the best player at his or her club, practicing and devoting several hours a day to their game, then a game of tennis could slow down their progress.

This is where the skill level of the particular player may make a difference. If one player is more of a "natural athlete" who acquires motor skills readily, the carry-over of the two racquet sports will not impede their progress, but for the person who has to practice constantly to maintain a particular level of play, then playing a casual game of tennis might really set their racquetball improvement back.

In looking at the two games, there is the

obvious carry-over that both are racquet sports that require eye-hand co-ordination and gross motor skills. From there, the finer details differ in that racquetball, for instance, uses a compact arm swing that generates power through wrist snap.

Generally, the racquetball player tries to hit the racquetball low on the front wall with considerable power. As you know, to keep the ball consistently low on the front wall, you must contact the ball very close to the floor.

THIS IS WHERE playing tennis and racquetball concurrently becomes difficult for some, and I would include myself in those "some." Being a former tennis addict, I still enjoy playing tennis during the summer as a welcome change of scenery. But I often find myself waiting for the tennis ball to drop to my shoe tops, contacting the ball off the throat of the racquet ('cause that is where the strings of my racquetball racquet were), and drilling a perfect kill shot into the bottom of the net.

Of course, in wanting to do better on the next rally, I generally sent the tennis ball rocketing over my opponent's head and the fence behind her. I have also had trouble attempting my ceiling ball and pinch shot on the tennis court. But look out for the overhead!

Tennis and racquetball can be played interchangeably, just recognize your motives for playing and realize that your consistency might suffer a bit. If you are not striving to be Tracy Austin or Marty Hogan, enjoy both sports.

## Sportsman of the Month

In an effort to encourage and reward good sportsmanship, RACQUETBALL TODAY is pleased to announce a new feature: Sportsman of the Month. Each month we will feature a person selected for his/her high sportsmanship demonstrated in and around the racquetball court. The winner will be selected from letters sent in by readers. If you know of someone deserving of recognition for demonstrating good sportsmanship, send us a note about it (a picture, if available, would also be good).

### Jack Moskwa June Sportsman

Next time you're at a major Illinois tournament and it's late Sunday afternoon, and everyone is closely watching the Men's or Women's Open finals, look around in the crowd. You won't see Jack Moskwa watching the match. You'll have to go down the hall to the back courts to find Jack, because he'll likely be reffing

the Men's Senior Consolation championship, or the Men's Novice finals, or one of the other matches we find almost impossible to find a good ref for while the "biggies" are playing. Even when Jack's son, Sean, is on the court and we need help, Jack is always right there.

During the rest of the tournament, you might well see Jack carrying in boxes for us, helping with hospitality, putting up signs, refereeing, and doing a lot of jobs that just have to get done at a tournament, but we rarely can find people to do them. And Jack won't accept anything but our thanks for all his help... we can't even get him to accept a free entry to our tournaments. You see, Jack is one of those rare people that believe that when you get something out of something, you've got to put something back in; you can't just be a "taker." On behalf of the staff of Triple-S, and on behalf of the entire racquetball community, thanks, Jack, for being a true sportsman.



Jim Cooke (standing center) proudly displays his key to the 1980 Chevy Chevette he won in the Beat-the-Pro climax of the Sun-Times/Wendy's/Wilson Shootout. Jim was the Men's Intermediate winner. Men and Women's Advanced winners, Tom Golueke (a tradesman from Chicago Heights), and Barb Allweiss (admitted racquetball hustler) also "beat the pro" but did not win the drawing for the car. The Chicago-area tournament had 1280 entrants and goes down in history as the largest tournament ever.

Pictured: (standing) Len Ziehm, Sun-Times; Jan Troy, tournament director; Jim Cooke, Chevy driver; Davey Bledsoe, highly-ranked professional; Wally Craig, Wilson representative; (kneeling, left to right) Lynne Farmer, tournament; Shannon Wright, top women's pro; Rick Legue, Follett Clubs, and Jim Bronner of the Metro Club.

# John's

the original frozen pizza.  
Nutrition never  
tasted so good.

## THE FUN • DAMENTALS OF RACQUETBALL by R.W. JANOUSEK



# Jacobson — He Plays Hardball on Camera and Off

By BOB GURA

The eyes — they're the first thing you notice. Staring straight ahead they act as a barometer of the man. One moment, bright and laughing, they lend a youthful look to a head of dark curly hair, small nose, wide mouth and pleasant smile. The next they've narrowed into a grill-like slit, the wire rim glasses are more evident, and the forehead has become furrowed. Gleaming darkly they draw attention to the few wisps of gray at the 43-year-old temples.

Echoing suspicion within at whatever's been heard or suspected, the eyes, more than any other feature, convey the toughness of the individual.

To the casual observer of this countenance, and there are nearly one million each weekday night at 10 p.m., the face, and the high-pitched voice accompanying it has become a Chicago hallmark.

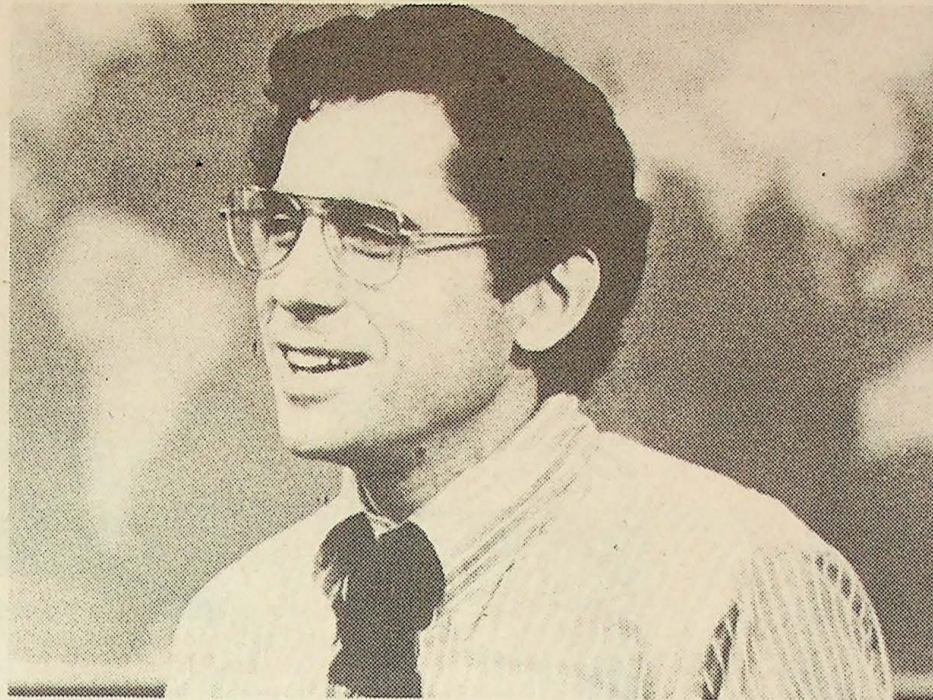
**OPERATING ALONGSIDE** his urbane partner Bill Kurtis, WBBM Channel 2 news anchorman Walter Jacobson has become a local celebrity of the first rank.

Alter, as everyday passersby refer to him, functions for many as the conscience of the guy in the street.

Seated casually on a CBS set which provides more camera visibility than usually afforded a typical news-speaking "talking head" he is a figure in action. Surging forward as if he wished to fly into TV-land, Jacobson is the scourge of local politicians and prominent personages who may have wandered from the righteous path. Using his nightly "Perspective" segment like a club to batter political irregularities into shape Jacobson plays video hardball in the newsroom.

No stranger to the no-holds-barred life-style of television news, he's also a fierce competitor on the racquetball court, a sport he plays wholeheartedly.

"I began playing about six years ago," he stated during the midst of a hectic Alexander Graham Bell-style interview. "I was a convert from handball," he continued, reporting racquetball was to him, much more fun than either tennis or handball.



Walter Jacobson

**FUNCTIONING AS** he does in an intensely pressure-oriented environment, Walter was voluble about his enjoyment of the four-walled, short-handled world. "Oh yes, God it's fun," he refrained, his eyes probably smiling as his voice traveled over the wires.

Pausing for a second in the midst of the workday to think about it he echoed his statement, much as if he were delivering a "Perspective." "It's just so much fun to whack that ball around," he commented. As to the whys and wherefors of his racquetball pleasures the answers came typically straight up and fast. "It's much easier to play than handball or tennis and you don't have to chase the ball around."

The sport also has a cathartic effect, a view he seemed eager to voice. "I'll walk out (of the studio) after a frustrating talk with a politician, head across the street (to the McClurg Court Sports Complex) and have a great time smacking the ball around." Since his tribulations may be triggered by bouts with prominent local

honchos it's amusing to think of his thoughts on such each time he whacks a forehand.

While it's undeniable racquetball can help purge some of the workday worries it also can aid in other areas. As a television personality Jacobson (who also hosts the weekday 5 p.m. news) must keep his video image in shape. Since the small screen tends to add weight to the frame Walter uses racquetball to keep in shape. Regular once a week sessions with a playing partner apparently enable him to keep his weight identical to that of years gone by. "I have a commitment with a close friend, he's 40, I'm 43," he stated. "I really try to let nothing get in the way (of playing racquetball)."

**THE FAMILIAR** voice relaxed a notch as he added, "I weigh 143 pounds. I play (racquetball) real hard and feel just great." Speaking of other physical activity he calmly said, "I do 50-60 pushups daily, and about 70-80 situps twice a week."

There was silence for an instance, then in a what-the-heck-tone, "I was just being modest — I do the pushups in a flash."

Coming as it did after a burst of reflection it was obvious the newshound was thrilled with the physical conditioning racquetball helped attain. Although it would be hard to verify, his proud testimony of fitness seemed to say "I may appear small on TV (he's nowhere near six-foot tall) but I'm tough."

This quality of toughness has been obvious to Chicago television viewers for quite awhile. Emerging from a career as a reporter for the Chicago Daily News, UPI, Time and others, Jacobson began TV work in 1963. He started at WBBM in 1963 as a news writer, and became a reporter in 1968. After emerging as political editor two years later he left CBS for NBC (WMAQ) in 1971.

Keeping in line with the hectic nature of TV news he returned to Channel 2 in 1973 where he's remained since.

**HAVNG ENDURED** the battle-hardened, often cutthroat world of video journalism, curiosity was rampant as to Jacobson's style on the racquetball court. Would he play an all-out aggressive type of game in keeping with his go-get-em approach to reporting? Or would he use a different strategy, and more or less ambush his foes when they displayed a weakness?

"An ambusher, for sure," was the response. "I like to figure out all the angles," he said, drawing an analogy between his professional and racquetball life. "I am on the racquetball court," Walter slowly phrased, "the way I am on TV." Fast, furious, and clever on the court was the way he proceeded to describe his play, with more than a hint of amusement creeping into the conversation.

A good-natured ability to recognize the combativeness in his nature was amplified when he commented how racquetball opponents may feel about him. "I don't have much experience playing with anyone else," he said, but "I think lots of people

(Continued on Page 17)



## Referee's Chair

By JOHN R. GREENE

Why? I don't know. I do know that I beat the chap in question in the first game. In the second, he constantly made his whereabouts known to me by sticking his ugly mug, legs, butt and arms in front of me. It was distracting; it was obvious that it was intentional, and it certainly was avoidable.

When you referee, you must ask yourself two questions regarding hinder calls: 1. Could it have reasonably been avoided?; and 2. Was the shooter's offensive shot taken away? If the answer to both of those questions is "yes," then it surely was an avoidable hinder.

**NOBODY LIKES TO** call an avoidable. I sure don't, but when it occurs you must make the call in order to insure that the match is played fairly and safely. When you see an avoidable, you must call it — that's the rule, and it's a fair and good rule. Not to do so could well result in injury, lost tempers and hard feelings. Usually, you only have to make the call once or twice on the crowder and that will solve the problem — he'll realize he is a crowder (which he sincerely might not have

been aware of before), or at least he'll realized that he won't get away with it.

Keep this in mind: safety is the referee's greatest responsibility. Eliminate unnecessary crowding and you'll probably eliminate the majority of injuries due to physical contact between the players. If you think about it, you'll probably be doing the offender a favor in the long run if you make him aware of his responsibility to move.

Now, if you find yourself in the court, as I did, with a player that crowds and a ref that doesn't call avoidables, if you're at an ISRA Sanctioned tournament, a Triple-S tournament, or a tournament that has a responsible referee's committee and supervision, you should simply, quietly and politely ask for an official to please come over and look into the situation . . . you have that right. (At all Triple-S tournaments the instruction sheet says "Don't get mad, get help!") Then when you explain your problem to the official, he'll see that the match continues . . . fairly and he probably won't have to do anything because that crowder is gonna start thinking twice about getting in the way.

## Crowding Is 'Avoidable'

Recently, I played in a tournament against a very good CROWDER. I'd get set up for a kill attempt (anything within three-feet of the floor is a kill attempt for me) and he'd be there, staring at me, only one to two feet from my face. OR, he'd "just happen" to slide in front of me as I hit the ball. The ball would hit him, of course; but, would the ref give him an avoidable hinder call? Nope.

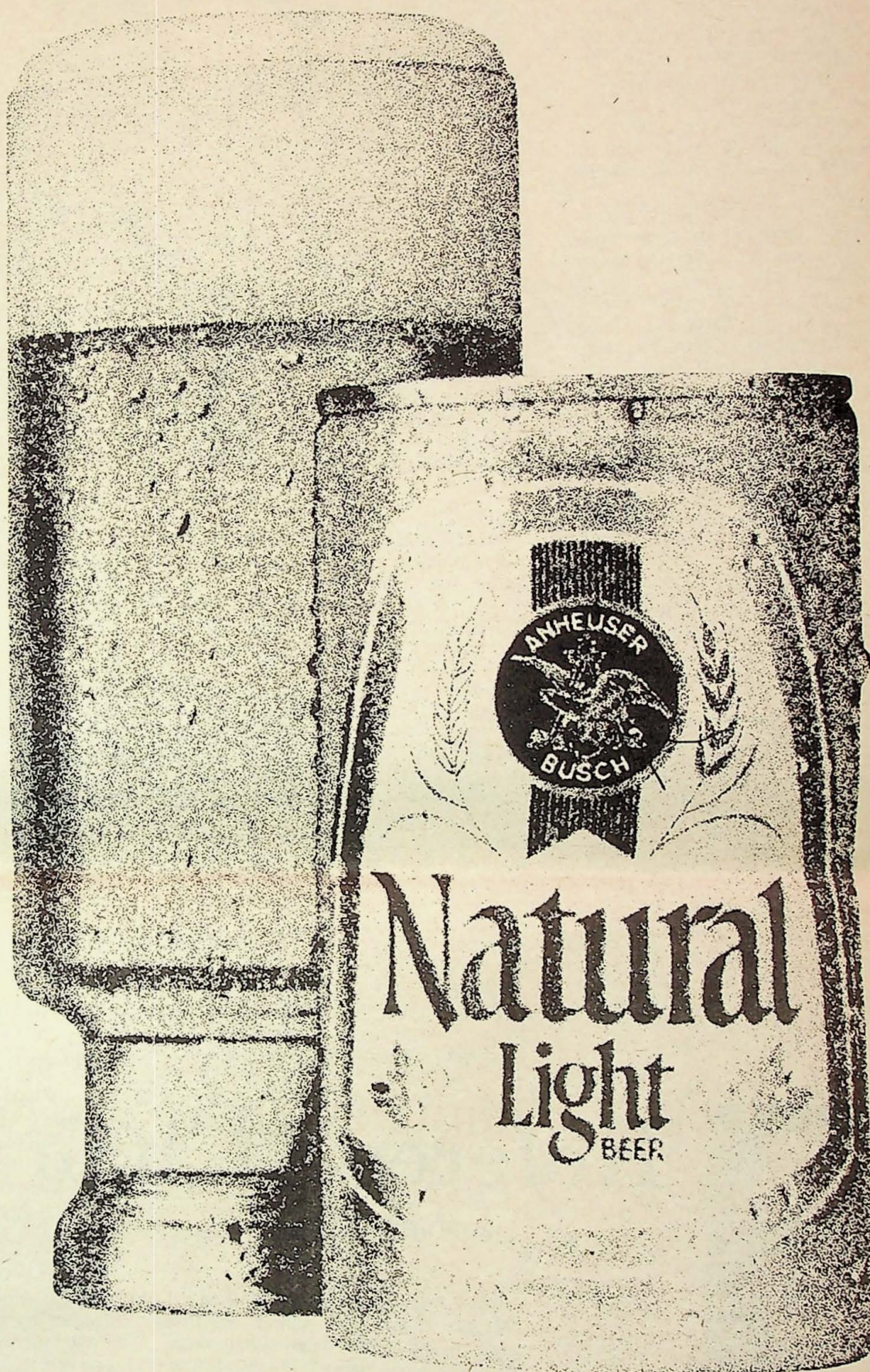
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# TOURNAMENT NEWS

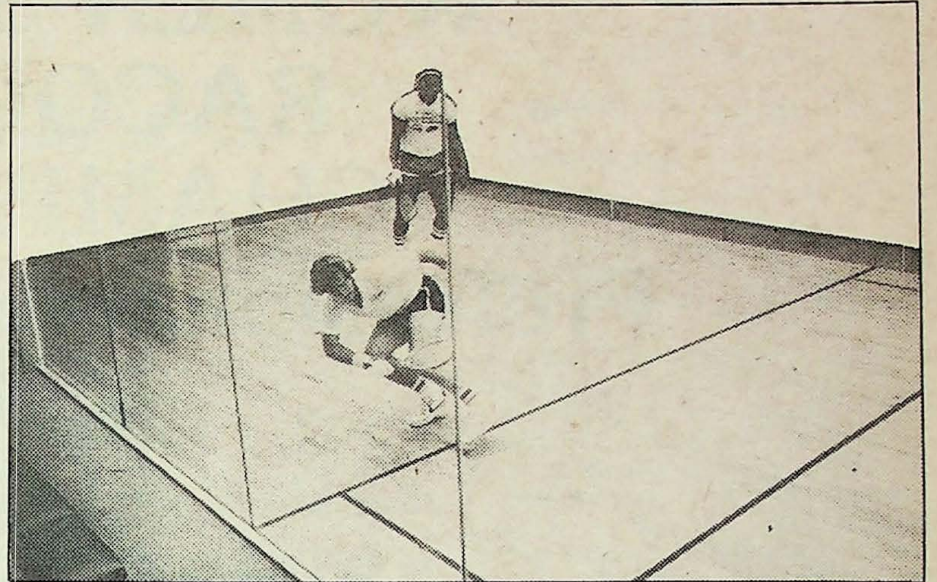
## Viking Grid Stars Dominate Competition

When the Minnesota Vikings, Chicago Bears, Green Bay Packers, Detroit Lions, Cleveland Browns and Cincinnati Bengals all took to the courts at the Glass Court in the Chicago suburb of Lombard last month, it was the two stars of the Vikings that totally dominated play: Stu Voigt and Matt Blair. Voigt beat Tom Darden on his side of the bracket easily in the finals and Blair also had no trouble in his final match against Larry McCarren of Green Bay.

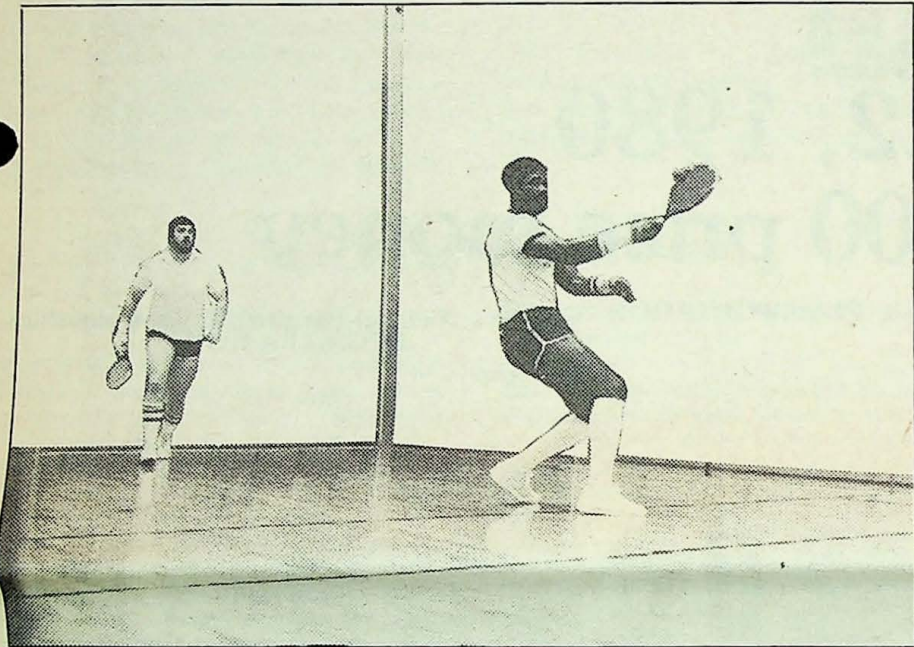
The two winners will go on to the Natural Light/NFLPA finals in St. Louis June 13-15 where they will compete against the winners of four other regionals, representing all the other NFL teams.

In an exhibition match, Natural Light's touring pro Rita Hoff defeated the Bear's Revie Sorey, 15-7. Chris Bahr of the Bengals won the consolation, beating the Bear's Jim Osborne in the finals.

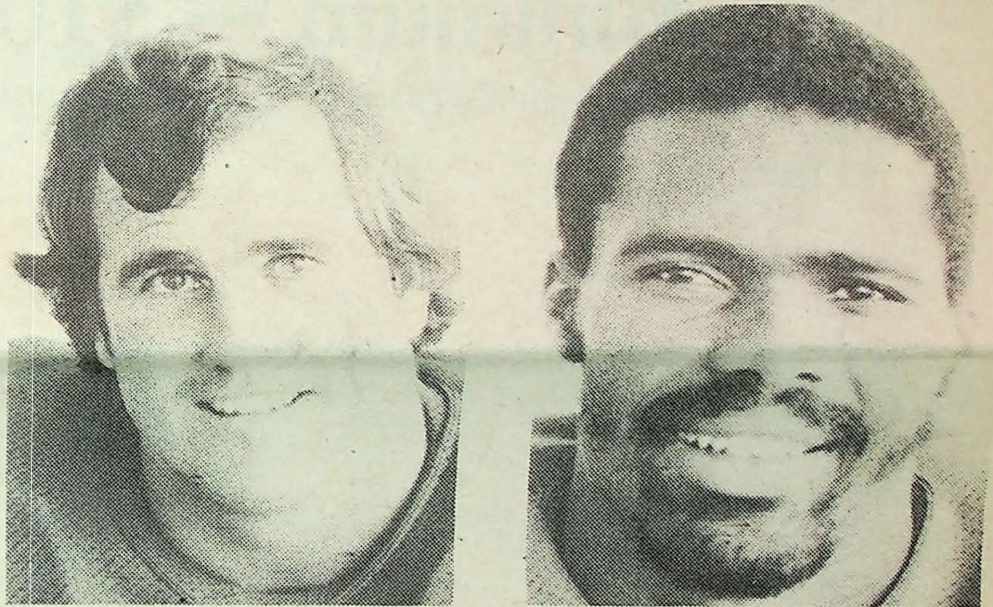
In the amateur division, both the Men's and Women's Open finals went to very close tie breakers, with Andy Witt defeating Tom Golueke, 21-18, 18-21, 11-8, and Judy Sawicki beating Sue Carow, 21-10, 6-21, 11-9. Mike Mason won Men's B; Bruce Lejeck Men's C; Len Gross Men's D; Jane Reed Women's D, and in the Seniors a round robin was played with a three-way tie for first: Ron Johnson, Phil Simborg and Ron Paul.



CONSOLATION WINNER — Chris Bahr of the Cincinnati Bengals (left) battles it out with Jim Osborne of the Chicago Bears in the consolation flight of the Natural Light/NFL Players Association Racquetball Tournament in Chicago.



ON TO THE SUPER BOWL — Matt Blair (right) of the Minnesota Vikings gets ready to put the ball away against Larry McCarren of the Green Bay Packers in the Chicago regional tournament of the Natural Light/NFL Players Association Racquetball Series.



Stu Voigt and Matt Blair of the Minnesota Vikings proved tough on the racquetball court. Their wins entitle them to compete at the Natural Light/NFLPA Finals in St. Louis June 13-15, where they will compete against the winners of four other regionals, representing all the other NFL teams.

## Dave Peck & Shannon Wright Take Ektelon/Perrier

By BOB SHMENDRICK

The climax to Ektelon/Perrier's nationwide tournaments was the \$40,000 Pro/Am held May 8-11 at Rocky's Racquet World in North Hollywood, Calif. The Pro portion of the tournament featured \$7,000 first place prize money for both the men and women victors. In both cases, the sponsors invited the top 13 players on the tour, but failed to get an acceptance from any of the top Leach-sponsored men players. That did not stop the tournament from becoming a "major-media event" as it has been taped for television with viewing planned on independent TV stations across the country the first week in September.

In the men's pro division, the quarter-finals were all straight-game victories as follows: Dave Peck over Doug Cohen; Steve Strandemo over Davey Bledsoe; Jerry Hilecher over Jeff Bowman, and Mike Yellen over Jerry Zuckerman. It was straight game 15 point wins in the semis too, as Hilecher defeated No. 2 seed Mike Yellen, and the No. 1 seed, Dave Peck handled Strandemo easily. Peck dominated the finals as he took Hilecher, 15-3, 15-8.

The women's pro division was, by account of all the scores and most of the

spectators, far more exciting, as this division not only featured virtually all of the top players, but many long volleys and close matches. In the quarters, Lynn Adams had to go three games to beat Rita Hoff; Shannon Wright had to go three with Marci Greer, 3-15, 15-9, 15-11; Heather McKay handled Janell Marriott easily, and Sarah Green took Peggy Steding effortlessly. In the semis, Shannon took care of Lynn Adams, 15-6, 15-6; and Heather McKay went three games with Sarah Green, winning 15-7, 12-15, 15-7. In the finals, Shannon beat Heather, 10-15, 15-7, 15-9 (See Shannon's column elsewhere in this paper for her account of that match).

The amateur winners of the various Ektelon/Perrier regionals competed for one-week vacations for two at Club Med's in the Bahamas, and the winners were:

**MEN'S OPEN:** Ed Andrews (Bonita, Cal.) over Keith Dunlap (Houston), 15-4, 15-13.  
**WOMEN'S OPEN:** Kippi Bishop (Los Alamitos, Cal.) beat Laura Martino, 15-9, 8-15, 15-9.  
**MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES:** Stan Wright and Steve Trent (San Diego) beat Jeff Kwaler and Mark Mallowitz (Houston), 13-15, 15-13, 15-7.  
**MEN'S SENIOR:** Bud Muehleisen (San Diego) defeated Bill Dunn (San Ramon, Cal.), 15-12, 15-12.  
**WOMEN'S SENIOR:** Bev Franks (Northbrook, Ill.) defeated Rene Habert (Metairie, Lou.), 15-12, 15-8.

## Mike Yellen Repeats Hogan Win, Takes NRC/Atlanta Stop

Just in case anyone thought that Mike Yellen's victory over Hogan in the finals of the Leach/Seamco NRC 7th Stop of the year was a fluke, Yellen went out and beat Hogan again at the 8th Stop, held in Atlanta the end of April. Yellen met Hogan in the semis, and beat him 21-15, 19-21, 11-1; then went on to meet Jerry Hilecher in the finals, beating him 18-21, 21-14, 11-5. This additional victory has clearly established Yellen as the No. 2 player on the tour, and that is how he will be ranked at the NRC Nationals in Las Vegas.

To get to the finals, Hilecher met Lindsay Myers in the semis, and took him in two. In the quarters, it was Hogan over Strandemo easily; Yellen over Bowman easily; Hilecher over Don Thomas (11-0 in the tie breaker), and Lindsay Myers getting a very big win over No. 2 seed Dave Peck by scores of 11-21, 21-18, 11-9.

In the 16's it was Hogan over Larry Meyers; Strandemo over Doug Cohen; Bowman over Dennie McDowell; Yellen over Craig McCoy; Hilecher over Ben Koltun (11-7 tie breaker); Thomas over Dave Fleetwood (11-6 tie breaker);

Myers over Ross Harvery (11-8 tie breaker), and Peck over Mark Morrow. Also worthy of mention is Lindsay Myer's first round victory over Davey Bledsoe. Dennie McDowell broke into the 16's due to a forfeit by Charlie Brumfield. Illinois' Dave Negrete made it into the 32's, then lost in a good match to Larry Meyers.

**IN THE "AMATEUR" divisions,** there were some action packed matches, as always. In the Men's Open, Dennie McDowell beat Gregg Peck in the finals, 21-15, 21-15, after beating John Klearman in the semis and George Vierra in the quarters. Peck beat Mike Ray in the semis and Dave Negrete in the quarters.

In the Women's Open, local club pro Caryn McKinney went all the way, beating Dee Lewis in the finals; Debbie Drury in the semis, and Tina Heath in the quarters. Dee Lewis beat Colleen Shields in the semis, and Kathie Jones in the quarters.

Jay Schwartz beat Bob Siegel in the finals of the Men's Veteran Open (30-plus), Jamie Carr took Marshall Chamberlain in the finals of the Men's Seniors, and Buck Shamburger beat George Litsky in the Men's Masters.



# Lite Illinois State Singles Report

By JIM HARPER

Thanks to the sponsorship of Lite Beer for both the ISRA State Singles and Doubles championships of Illinois this year, we again had a super tournament, hosted by The Glass Court, the Schaumburg Court House and the Arlington Court House, and run by Triple-S Promotions. The Singles Championship was held the weekend of May 15-18, and ran as "smooth as clockwork." Thanks to a lot of hard work by volunteers of the ISRA and the staff of Triple-S, I think we can safely say that the racquetball players, and the tournaments in Illinois have "come of age." Not only is the level of play extremely high, but the level of refereeing,

sportsmanship and overall good will and fun exhibited by the players is exemplary.

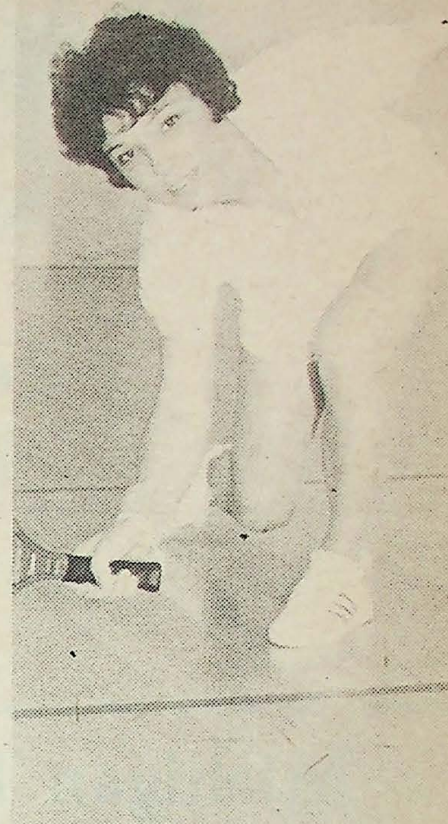
As for the results, no paper accounting could possibly capture the excitement we all shared at this tournament. In the Men's and Women's Open divisions, there wasn't a single player missing in the state with a reasonable chance to win, and that accounted for many great matches as early as the rounds of 16. Though John Lynch's victory over Dennis McDowell in the finals was predictable, it was a very well-played tournament for both.

Not listed in the box scores was the most exciting match of the tournament which virtually filled the stadium of The Glass Court Saturday evening: John

Lynch's 21-20, 18-21, 11-6, quarterfinal victory over No. 8 seed Ric Dern (McDowell's three-game win over No. 7 seed Jim Scheyer, also in the quarters drew big crowds as well).

**AS FOR THE WOMEN**, Sue Carow was never pressed to a tie breaker, which truly surprised us in this star-studded field of talent. And, Barb Allweiss took out Glenda Young with little problem.

Most of the other results speak for themselves, except there are a few special cases I think worthy of extra mention: Harvi Miller's overwhelming dominance of the Veteran Open; Marshall Waldo's complete dominance of the Seniors;



Sue Carow



John Lynch

Jan Troy's vibrant enthusiasm and great improvement in play that won her the Women's B crown; Chris Evon and Tim Dern's emergence from the very tough A divisions (welcome to the Open division!); Allyce Kelleher's dominance in the Women's Seniors, as well as her emergence as one of the truly fine referees around; Al Hanke's continued success in the Golden Masters; Jim Harper's HUGE win over Bob Troyer in the semis of the Masters; and last but not least, Gary Peckler obviously used a lot of guts and determination in winning the Senior B, as all of his matches went to tie breakers and he maintained his "cool" throughout.

I must also congratulate our three fine tournament directors on a fantastic job: Ken Ratini at Arlington, Geoff Peters at Schaumburg, and Diane Gabrisko at The Glass Court . . . three of the most efficient and friendly people in the game.

**RESULTS**  
Lite Beer/ISRA State Singles  
May 15-18, 1980

**MEN'S OPEN**

Finals: John Lynch d. Dennis McDowell, 21-18, 21-19  
Semis: Lynch d. Steve Sulli, 21-6, 21-14; McDowell d. Jack Newman, 21-19, 21-15  
Consolation: Dave Bennett

**VETERAN OPEN**

Finals: Harvi Miller d. Dan Prina, 21-6, 21-9  
Semis: Miller d. Dan Bertolucci, 21-15, 21-9; Prina d. Scott Berry, 21-19, 21-20  
Consolation: Rocky Roberts

**MEN'S A**

Finals: Tim Dern d. Eric Scheyer, 21-17, 21-16  
Semis: Dern d. Dennis Vesce, 21-11, 21-13; Scheyer d. Bill Kane, 21-11, 21-10  
Consolation: Keith VanderVeen

**MEN'S B**

Finals: Doug Peterson d. Rich Donati, 13-21, 21-12, 11-5  
Semis: Peterson d. Jerry Belcaster, 21-15, 12-21, 11-10; Donati d. Larry McDowell, 21-13, 21-18  
Consolation: John D'Amico

**MEN'S C**

Finals: David Young d. Vince DelGuidice, 21-9, 21-15  
Semis: Young d. John Negrete, 21-1, 21-7; DelGuidice d. James Kehoe, 16-21, 21-6, 11-8  
Consolation: Mike O'Connor

**MEN'S D**

Finals: Wayne Simpson d. Ron Zolno, 19-21, 21-19, 11-7  
Semis: Simpson d. Bob Gorski, 21-17, 21-18; Zolno d. Ron Salemm, 19-21, 21-5, 11-9  
Consolation: Tom Dohr

**MEN'S SENIORS**

Finals: Marshall Waldo d. Phil Simborg, 21-13, 21-8  
Semis: Waldo d. John Dolby, 21-17, 21-7; Simborg d. Ron Johnson, 21-20, 17-21, 11-4  
Consolation: Steve Watts

**MEN'S SENIORS B**

Finals: Gary Peckler d. Rich Kamper, 8-21, 21-8, 11-7  
Semis: Peckler d. Richard Pizsa, 21-16, 18-21, 11-4; Kamper d. Gerald Cudar, 17-21, 21-2, 11-8  
Consolation: David Mendenwald

**MEN'S SENIORS C**

Finals: Mike Oester d. Jim Dustan, 17-21, 21-13, 11-4  
Semis: Oester d. Wally Gumm, 21-10, 21-10; Dustan d. Walt Cunningham, 21-7, 17-21, 11-3  
Consolation: Frank Daly

**MEN'S VETERAN SENIORS**

Finals: Art Michaely d. Mike Mason, 21-15, 21-20  
Semis: Michaely d. Richard Gloor, 21-6, 21-20; Mason d. Paul Franks, 21-2, 21-13  
Consolation: Dick Christiansen

**MEN'S MASTERS**

Finals: Saul Sandoval d. Jim Harper, 21-10, 21-20  
Semis: Sandoval d. Dan Day, 21-7, 21-13; Harper d. Bob Troyer, 21-6, 18-21, 11-5  
Consolation: Howard Lipschultz

**MEN'S MASTERS B**

Finals: Dorsey Boulton d. Gino DelGuidice, 21-16, 16-21, 11-6  
Semis: Boulton d. John Gothard (default), DelGuidice d. Jim Fyfe, 21-9, 11-21, 11-2  
Consolation: Alan Hadfield

**MEN'S GOLDEN MASTERS**

Finals: Al Hanke d. Ray Benson, 21-19, 21-15  
Semis: Hanke d. Bob Pleitch, 21-4, 21-3; Benson d. Joe Plestina, 21-10, 21-10  
Consolation: Chuck Gudbrandsen

**WOMEN'S OPEN**

Finals: Sue Carow d. Barb Allweiss, 21-15, 21-10  
Semis: Carow d. Pam Prina, 21-6, 21-10; Allweiss d. Glenda Young, 21-11, 21-19  
Consolation: Colleen Shields

**WOMEN'S VETERAN OPEN**

Finals: Judy Harper d. Diane Gabrisko, 21-14, 21-3  
Semis: Harper d. Grace Toughy, 21-20, 12-21, 11-7; Gabrisko d. Lois Jandris, 21-20, 21-14  
Consolation: Pat Miller

**WOMEN'S SENIOR**

Finals: Allyce Kelleher d. Barb Edelstein, 21-19, 21-17  
Semis: Kelleher d. Joan Pearce, 21-13, 21-4; Edelstein d. Margaret Hoff, 21-8, 16-21, 11-3  
Consolation: Shirley Scheithe

**WOMEN'S A**

Finals: Chris Evon d. Joan Azeka, 21-14, 21-10  
Semis: Evon d. Vicki Carr, 10-21, 21-15, 11-7; Azeka d. Diane Williams, 21-10, 21-6  
Consolation: Dorothy Noto

**WOMEN'S B**

Finals: Jan Troy d. Sherry Isaacson, 21-19, 21-16  
Semis: Troy d. Shirley Priekstas, 18-21, 21-2, 11-4; Isaacson d. Chris Jaksy, 21-12, 21-19  
Consolation: Kim Donahue

**WOMEN'S C**

Finals: Cheryl Cizek d. Celeste Brychek, 10-21, 21-19, 11-3  
Semis: Cizek d. Chris Vorrayer, 21-16, 15-21, 11-9; Brychek d. Pat Dohr, 21-18, 13-21, 11-7  
Consolation: Joan Osborne

**WOMEN'S D**

Finals: Nancy Goldstein d. Wendy Mason, 21-12, 21-6  
Semis: Goldstein d. Cathy Schmitt, 21-3, 21-11; Mason d. Lisa Keiser, 21-16, 21-19  
Consolation: Jenny Pyne

## ILLINOIS CLUB GUIDE

**SPAULDING RACQUETBALL CLUBS:**

- 2699 Skokie Valley Road, Highland Park, Ill. 60035, 433-600.
- 2175 Commercial Avenue, Northbrook, Ill. 60062, 498-9890.
- 220 West North Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60610, 943-2266.

All clubs have 12 air-conditioned racquetball/handball courts, carpeted locker rooms, saunas, whirlpools, free attended nursery, pro shop, racquet rentals, group and private lessons, leagues, programs and parties. Open 7 days a week.

**TREBORSHIRE HEALTH & RACQUET CLUB:** 195th Street and Glenwood Road, Glenwood, Ill. 60425, 754-8400. Four racquetball, 7 tennis regulation courts. Whirlpool, sauna, complete bar and health facilities under construction. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. NO GUEST FEES OR MEMBERSHIP FEES THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 1980. LOWEST COURT RATES IN THE AREA. Charter memberships now available. Tennis and Racquetball Pros. Tom Karras and Frank Johnson, your new owner/manager/racquetball pros.

**CONTINENTAL CLUB:** 1701 Golf Road, Rolling Meadows, Ill. 981-7777. Ten racquetball/handball courts, two squash courts, indoor swimming pool and whirlpool, indoor running track, Nautilus equipment, basketball, volleyball, judo, karate, golf driving. Separate Paramount equipment workout rooms for men and women. Carpeted locker rooms for men and women with sauna, steam, sun rooms. Color TV in lounges, towels & toiletries, massages. Free attended nursery, pro shop, group and private lessons available. Open 7 days a week. This club is built in conjunction with restaurants, Deli, shops and three twelve story office towers. Individual and Corporate memberships available. Charter membership available until June 1; call Debbie Engle, Director of Membership, 312-981-7777. General Manager: Norb Duba.

**THE RIGHT CLUB:** 2330 N. Hammond Drive, Schaumburg, IL 397-3300. 8 racquetball courts featuring 4 new glass backwall courts, complete Nautilus-aerobics fitness center with supervised programs and exercise classes; 5 tennis courts featuring indirect lighting providing the highest ceiling in Chicago; cocktail lounge with viewing gallery; attended nursery, whirlpools, saunas, traveling teams instructional and advanced leagues, sanctioned tournaments, match arranging, social events and parties.

**RIVIERA 400 HEALTH CLUB:** 400 East Randolph (Lake Shore Drive), Chicago. Climate controlled racquetball/handball courts, non-glare lighting and gallery viewing. NO COURT FEES. Landmark geodesic dome, swimming pool and whirlpool. Double tier sundeck with attended jukebar and private cabanas-chaise lounges available. Separate men and women's health clubs carpeted and attended. Saunas, steam room (men's), Roman Spa whirlpool (women's), Universal gym, weightlifting, sunrooms. Professional massage and facial (appointment). Towels, soaps, and toiletries complimentary. Pro Shop, lessons, programs, laundry service. Executive Health Fitness Program, fitness classes, T.V. lounge. For individual or corporate memberships to this plush Spa call (312) 527-2525. Director: Gale Landers.

**PRO RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CENTER:** 1055 Lake Avenue, Woodstock, IL (815) 338-8222. 8 climate controlled racquetball/handball courts. Fully carpeted locker rooms including saunas and whirlpools. Nautilus fitness center for extensive exercise programs. Spacious lounge with championship court viewing. A place for everyone to see.

**SUPREME COURT:** One Virginia Road, Crystal Lake, IL (815) 455-3330. 10 air-conditioned racquetball courts, saunas, whirlpools, carpeted locker rooms, attended nursery, fully equipped pro shop. Manager/Pro: John Isaacson.

**OAK LAWN RACQUET CLUB:** 10444 South Central Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL. 499-3626. 5 racquetball/handball courts, 8 tennis courts, saunas, whirlpools, exercise room, carpeted locker rooms, attended nursery, T.V. lounge.

**KILLSHOT, LTD:** 321 Edgewater Drive, Bloomingdale, IL. 893-9575. 15 climate controlled racquetball/handball courts, fully carpeted locker rooms, large co-ed whirlpool, separate saunas, and massage rooms, extensive exercise room, fully equipped pro shop, attended nursery, spacious lounge with viewing gallery. Horseshoe-shaped bar with 2 way fireplace. Private and group lessons. General Manager/Head Pro: Don Jenkins. Manager/Pro: Sue Sulli.

**CHARLIE CLUB:** 2701 Black Road, Joliet, IL (815) 729-4503. Open 24 hours, 7 days. Restaurant and Disco (open to the public). 8 racquetball/handball courts, 2 indoor tennis courts with special "Sport Sod". Fully equipped men's and women's exercise rooms with Nautilus, Universal and Paramount equipment. Indoor swimming pool and jogging track, one kilometer outdoor parcours, locker rooms include saunas, steam rooms, massage, showers, and private Swedish massage. Supervised nursery. Members over 18 years. Corporate memberships available.

**SILVER LAKE COUNTRY CLUB:** 147th Street and 82nd Avenue, Orland Park, IL. 349-6947. 9 racquetball/handball courts (1 glass walled court for viewing), saunas, free attended nursery, exercise rooms, full length lockers, extensive bar and lounge. Private and group lessons available.

**FOREST VIEW RACQUET CLUB:** 800 East Falcon Drive, Arlington Heights, IL. 640-2574. 8 air-conditioned racquetball/handball courts, 6 indoor tennis courts, 6 outdoor tennis courts. Separate saunas and whirlpools, men's and women's locker rooms, attended nursery. Manager/head pro: Jeff Wilke. Racquetball pros: Georgia Maskalunas, Scott Thurber.

**TINLEY PARK RACQUETBALL CLUB:** 17500 Duvan Drive, Tinley Park, IL. 532-7900. Open 7 days, 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. 15 regulation racquetball/handball courts with unique use of glass for uninterrupted playing and viewing. Luxurious health facilities including saunas, steambath, whirlpools, Universal exercise areas. Free attended nursery. Pro shop, racquet rental, complete lessons program. Temperature controlled for comfortable year-round play. Home of the plush Prime Time Lounge. Managed by Five Stars International Enterprises, Inc.

- THE RACQUET HOUSES**
- O'HARE RACQUET HOUSE: 951 East Touhy Ave., Des Plaines, IL. 296-6144. Club Pro: Shirley Scheithe.
  - THORNDALE RACQUET HOUSE: 1220 Mark St., Bensenville, IL. 595-2020. Club Pro: Colleen Shields.
  - HILLSIDE RACQUET HOUSE: 4401 W. Roosevelt Road, Hillside, IL. 449-2255. Club Pro: Crystal Durdil.
  - HARLEM IRVING RACQUET HOUSE: 4203 North Harlem, Norridge, IL. 457-2040. Club Pro: Sam Rizzio.
  - ELMHURST RACQUET HOUSE: 233 West Grand Avenue, Bensenville, IL. 595-5060. Club Pro: Rose Magliano.

All clubs have racquetball/handball on 8 regulation courts. Carpeted locker rooms, saunas whirlpools, steamrooms, exercise facilities, free attended nursery, pro shop, racquet rental, group and private lessons, instructional and non-instructional leagues. Open 7 days a week. Director of all club operations: Carol Armstrong. Program Director/Public Relations: Mary Lou Burny

# RACQUETBALL TODAY

## 1980

# Tournament Schedule

## Michigan Tournaments

### June, 1980

Second Annual Round Robin  
Racquetball Tournament  
Site: Imperial Court Club  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Contact: Doug Sheperdigian  
313-665-6333

June 7 & 8: C

June 14 & 15: Jr., Sr. & Masters

June 28 & 29: Novice

### June 20, 21 & 22, 1980

March of Dimes First Annual  
Racquetball Classic  
Site: Deer Lake Racquet  
and Country Club  
Clarkston, Michigan

Contact: 313-625-8686  
313-851-8000

### \* June 20, 21 & 22, 1980

Junior State Singles Championship  
Franklin Racquet Club  
Southfield, Michigan  
313-352-8000

### June 27, 28 & 29, 1980

Summer Racquetball Festival  
Racquetball Plus  
40 East Norton  
Muskegon, Michigan 49444  
616-733-1211

### September 5, 6, & 7, 1980

Ektelon/Natural Light Pro/Am  
Davison Racquet Club  
Davison, Michigan  
Contact: Tyrone Minto  
313-653-9602

\* Denotes MRA or USRA Sanctioned  
Tournaments. To add tournaments or to  
get up to date information, contact Jim  
Easterling - 313-352-8004.

## Illinois Tournaments

### \* June 5, 6 & 7, 1980

Second Annual DuPage Open  
Site: Naperville Courts  
Contact: Bob Szczecinski  
312-961-1535

### \* June 13, 14 & 15, 1980

Illinois State Junior Championships  
Singles and Doubles  
Site: Schaumburg Court House  
Contact: 312-882-4636

### June 19, 20, 21 & 22, 1980

Women's National Racquetball  
Championships  
Professional & Amateur Events  
Site: Killshot, Ltd.  
Contact: Sue Sulli  
312-893-9575

### \* July 17, 18, 19 & 20, 1980

USRA Junior Regionals

\*See below

### July 25, 26 & 27, 1980

5th Annual Women's Open  
Site: Northbrook Court House  
Contact: Jim VerHaeghe  
312-498-3626

### \* August 11-16, 1980

USRA Junior Nationals  
Sponsored by: Seamco/Leach  
\*See below

### \* August 22, 23 & 24, 1980

S & S Insurance Agency Open  
Site: To be announced  
Contact: S/S/S Promotions  
312-371-2555

\* Denotes ISRA Sanctioned Tournament.  
To add tournaments or to get up to date  
information, contact Jim Harper - (312)  
875-7045.

## Wisconsin Tournaments

### June 6, 7, & 8, 1980

State Line Open  
Site: Racquetball Club of Kenosha  
Contact: Jim Verhein  
414-694-8922

### June 6, 7 & 8, 1980

\$1000 Summer Smasher  
Tournament for Multiple Sclerosis  
Site: Brookfield Racquetball Club  
Waukesha, Wisconsin  
Contact: John Bergman or Mary Peters  
414-782-6120

### June 13, 14 & 15, 1980

Kettle Moraine Open  
(Men's Open, B, C and Novice only)  
Site: Kettle Moraine Racquetball Club  
Germantown, Wisconsin  
Contact: Kathy Roskopf  
414-255-2390

### June 27, 28 & 29, 1980

First Annual Pabst Summer Open  
(Racquetball and Squash)  
Site: Downtown Athletic Club  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Contact: Sue Otto or Andy Gutierrez  
414-291-0444

### August 15, 16 & 17, 1980

11th Annual Masters  
Invitational Doubles  
Site: Supreme Court  
555 Odana Road  
Madison, Wisconsin  
Contact: Joe Wirkus  
608-274-5080

RACQUETBALL TODAY now has a  
Wisconsin representative and is interest-  
ed in expanding coverage in the state. To  
list tournaments, provide results, place  
ads and for general information, please  
contact Geoffrey E. Peters, 426 Three  
Mile Road, No. C3, Racine, Wisconsin  
53402. Phone 414-639-4719 evenings.

## ELSEWHERE

### June 1-7, 1980

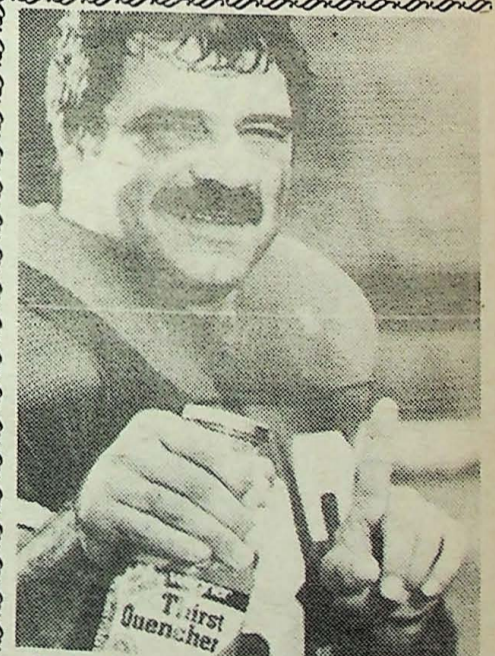
Leach/Seamco Championships  
Site: Las Vegas, Nevada  
Contact: NRC/USRA  
312-673-4000

### \* July 17, 18, 19 & 20, 1980

USRA Junior Regionals  
Sponsored by: Seamco/Leach  
Site: Sport's Core  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
Contact: Dick Kincaid  
402-475-5686

### \* August 11-16, 1980

USRA Junior Nationals  
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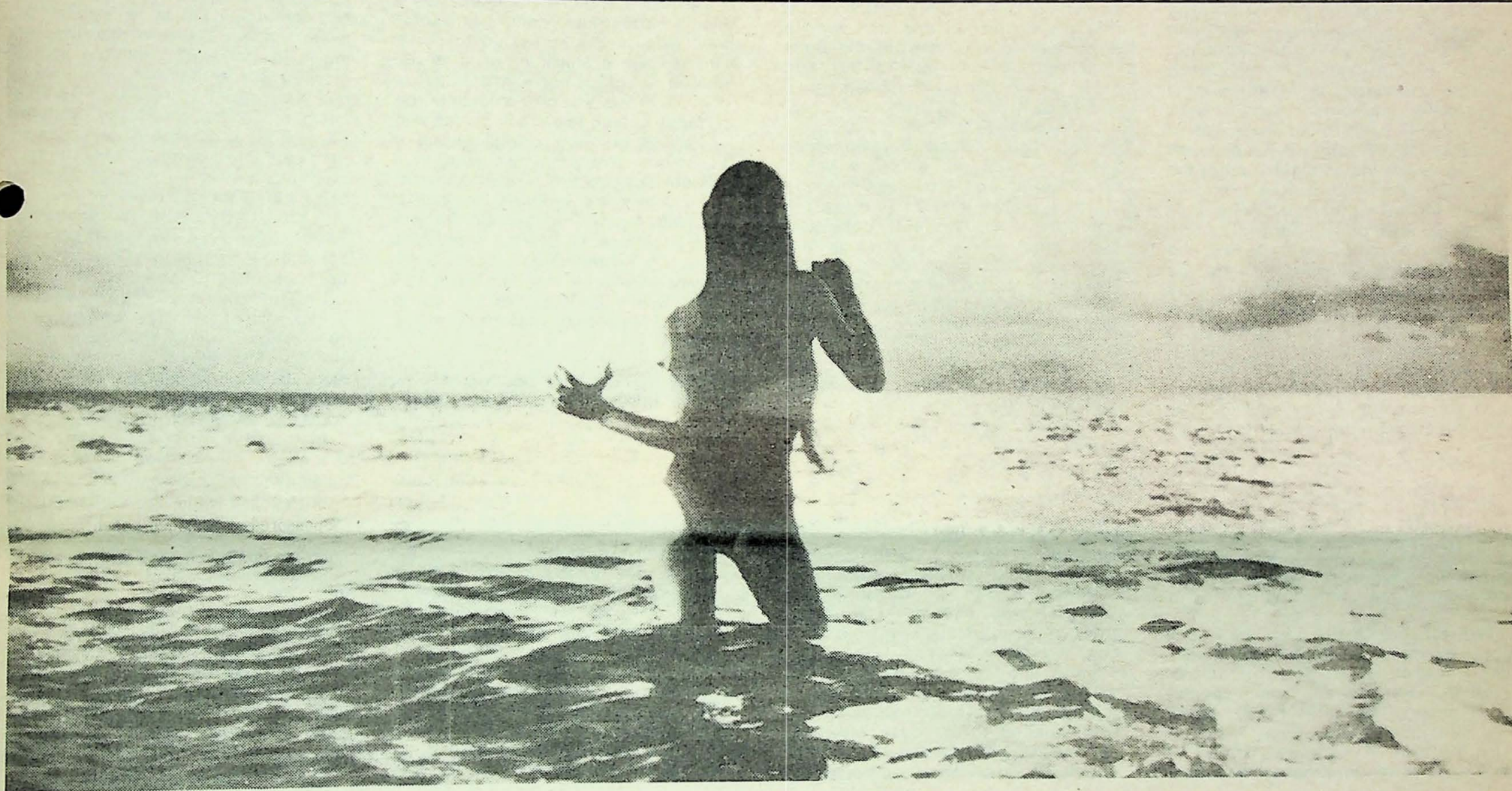
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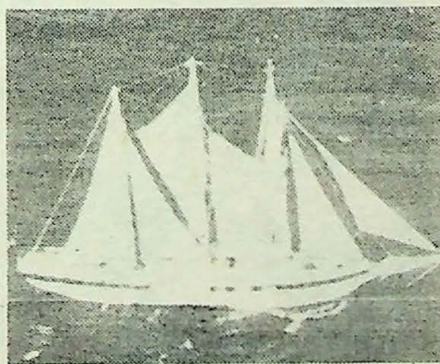
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# MRA Wraps Up 1979/80 Tournament Season

The 1979-80 Michigan Racquetball Association (MRA) State Singles championship tournament was held the weekend of April 18, 19 & 20, bringing to a close (except for the State Juniors tournament in June) the most successful tournament season ever for the MRA and its members. 335 of the possible 355 entrants that qualified for this year's state singles, under the new MRA three-tournament rule, contested for the right to claim one of 14 individual championship medals.

For the second year in a row, the State Singles were hosted by the Michigan Racquetball & Fitness Club (formerly Sports Illustrated), located in Lansing. With the new owners working hard to make sure everyone enjoyed the weekend, and with Match Point Enterprises, Inc., turning in another great job serving as tournament directors, the MRA season ended on a high note.

As could be expected, great matches prevailed throughout the weekend in all divisions. The MRA computer ranking system, and the three-tournament eligibility rule have to be given full credit for providing spectators and players with the most evenly matched and exciting championships ever.

**THE MEN'S OPEN** division was a prime example. Seventeen of the very best racquetball players from across the state took part, and from a spectator's point of view, the results could not have been better. Every match in the top half of the draw, a total of eight, went to tie breaker, including

the finals. Bob Wilhelm of Flint, seeded number one on the strength of two first place finishes and two second place finishes in as many tournaments this year, saw his hopes for the state crown elude him in the quarters as Joe Aguglia of Utica, seeded 9th, upset him 21-11, 19-21, 11-9.

On the other end of the draw, defending champ and number two seed Larry Fox of Ann Arbor was eliminating Clee Melvin in two games for the right to face Roy White of Grand Rapids in the semis. Fox's schedule had prevented him from competing in more than three MRA tournaments this year, two of which he won, and one in which he was forced to forfeit, hence the number two seeding on a point basis, but he was still considered a strong favorite to repeat as state champion.

Sunday morning saw Joe Aguglia pick up where he had left off on Saturday, with another tough, but well earned win over Rick VanderLind of Grand Rapids, 14-21, 21-17, 11-6. Meanwhile, Larry Fox and Roy White were meeting for the second time this season, but the results were the same as Fox posted a 21-15, 21-11 victory.

When Sunday afternoon's final rolled around, everyone had pretty much conceded the state crown to Fox; everyone, that is, except Joe Aguglia. The first game saw Fox jump out to a quick lead and it looked as though the pre-match oddsmakers were headed to the bank. However, Aguglia stayed close and with the help of some good seves and super hustle,

finally caught Fox at 19. Aguglia lost the serve, but quickly regained it on a picture-perfect pass down Fox's forehand side, and stepped up to serve with the score still knotted at 19 all. Just as Aguglia's serve had played a key role in his win over Wilhelm, Joe promptly served two crack serves and walked off the court with game one in his column. As game two started, it was obvious that Fox was all business and in a matter of minutes, had built a 13-0 lead. Aguglia did manage to come back and make the score respectable, but the huge lead was too much for Joe to overcome and Fox cruised home with a 21-12 score and game two. The tie breaker was more of the same.

**FOX'S QUICKNESS**, variety of shots, and experience were simply too much for Aguglia, as Fox took the match 11-4 and his second MRA State Championship in as many years. The Men's Open finals proved that Larry Fox is indeed the premier men's player in the state, and may remain so for some time, unless the pro tour takes him out of the amateur ranks. On the other hand, finishing up in second place against Larry Fox in the state finals isn't all that bad. Congratulations to both Larry and Joe on a great tournament.

The MRA also crowned a repeat champion in the Women's Open division, as 17-year-old Stacey Fletcher of Warren successfully defended her title with a 21-6, 21-9 win over number two seed Donna Henry of Novi. Nei-

ther Fletcher or Henry were really pushed throughout the tournament and the finals set up a rematch between the two, the other meeting coming in the MRA All Women's Tournament earlier in the year, which Henry had won in a tie breaker. This time, however, it was all Stacey, and like Larry Fox, the state crown may be hers until she decides to take the next step into the pros. Congratulations to Stacey and Donna on a great year.

In other divisions, Bryan Smith captured the Men's A after struggling earlier in the year in Men's Open; and will be back in the Open Division come fall. The Men's B crown went to 17-year-old Vince Mack, certainly one of Michigan's most promising young players. Men's C went to unseeded Ron Rzepecki in a tie breaker over John Pfeffer, and the Men's D title went to Dave Johnson.

In the Women's A division, Joey Ancona of Holt claimed her first state championship with a 21-12, 21-8 win over Cathy Thompson. The Women's B went to Denise Freitag, while Valerie Davis won the Women's C and Joanne Sekach took the Women's D title over Dianne Driver of Lansing. In the Women's Seniors, number one seed, Peg Shaw walked away with the honors.

**IN THE MEN'S Seniors A**, number three seed, Robert Lipin upset number one seed, Fred Lewerenz, 15-21, 21-6, 11-8. The Men's Seniors B title was captured by Fred Timmer, and the

(Continued on Page 13)

## Fox & Fletcher Take MRA Championship

Results  
Michigan State Singles  
April 18, 19 & 20, 1980  
Lansing, Michigan

- MEN'S OPEN**
- L. Fox d. J. Aguglia, 19-21, 21-12, 1-4
- MEN'S A**
- B. Smith d. S. Jeziorski, 21-5, 21-14
- MEN'S B**
- V. Mack d. C. Schaner, 21-12, 21-2
- MEN'S C**
- R. Rzepecki d. J. Pfeffer, 21-17, 6-21, 11-6
- MEN'S D**
- D. Johnson d. D. McClellan, 21-9, 21-14
- MEN'S SENIORS A**
- R. Lipin d. F. Lewerenz, 15-21, 21-16, 11-8
- MEN'S SENIORS B**
- F. Timmer d. D. Jaksen, 21-18, 16-21, 11-10
- MEN'S MASTERS**
- R. Pudduck d. L. Hahn, 6-21, 21-16, 11-8
- MEN'S GOLDEN MASTERS**
- D. Wood d. R. Davis, 21-8, 21-5
- WOMEN'S OPEN**
- S. Fletcher d. D. Henry, 21-6, 21-10
- WOMEN'S A**
- J. Ancona d. C. Thompson, 21-7, 21-5
- WOMEN'S B**
- D. Freitag d. P. Hartsoe, 17-21, 21-4, 11-4
- WOMEN'S C**
- V. Davis d. B. Gutowski, 21-17, 21-12
- WOMEN'S D**
- J. Sekach d. D. Driver, 17-21, 21-17, 11-4
- WOMEN'S SENIORS**
- P. Shaw d. M. Gaffke, 21-3, 21-9



Stacey Fletcher

# MICHIGAN CLUB GUIDE

**SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No. 1:** 2111 Golfside Road, Ypsilanti, MI. (313) 434-2111. 10 courts, Nautilus fitness center, free nursery, saunas, lounge, racquetball instruction, pro shop and much more!

**SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No. 2:** G-3237 Beecher Road, Flint, MI. (313) 733-3000. 10 regulation courts (1 glass), 2 saunas, co-ed whirlpool, fully-equipped pro shop, leagues, lessons and parties. Aerobic Dance classes. Group discounts available. Manager: Bruce Gouin. Program director: Terry Graham.

**SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No. 7:** 2717 Schust Road, Saginaw, MI. (517) 790-0150. 15 regulation courts, Swedish sauna, whirlpool, free nursery from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Universal fitness center with jogging area, and pro shop.

**SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No. 12:** 42140 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights, MI. (313) 254-1012. 8 regulation courts, 2 saunas, 2 whirlpools, 1 badminton court. Special women's programs, free nursery, men's and women's traveling leagues. Aerobic dance classes. 2 professional instructors (APRO). Manager: Kathleen Zale. Program director: Debbie Fultz.

**SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No. 21:** G-5219 W. Pierson Road, Flushing, MI. (313) 733-7730. 15 regulation courts, Swedish sauna, whirlpool, free attended nursery from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Universal fitness center with jogging area. Pro shop. Located 1 mile west of I-75 on Pierson Road.

**IMPERIAL COURT CLUB:** 2200 Green Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. (313) 665-6333. Eight regulation courts, one glass back wall. Universal exercise equipment, sauna, free nursery, aerobic fitness classes. Racquetball Pro: Doug Sheperdigian.

# Shannon Wright Defeats Simborg

(Continued from Page 1)

other top representative, Davey Bledsoe, she gives exhibitions and clinics all over the country. In the past 18 months she's lost only two matches. In the past four years, she's won over 25 tournaments, claiming all national singles titles, and with Davey Bledsoe is part of the top mixed doubles team in the country (they're undefeated).

In issues to come, you'll be reading a lot more about Shannon in this paper, so I will not go into too much detail about Shannon's life and opinions at this time, but I would like to share parts of the interview which are particularly timely.

In particular, with the WPRAs Nationals coming up, I was interested in getting Shannon's opinion of the other players. Without the slightest hint of modesty or hesitation, she ranked herself well ahead of the field and doesn't believe anyone can beat her if she's playing her game. She reserved her highest admiration for Lynn Adams: "Lynn Adams is the No. 2 player by far. Heather McKay hasn't been coming to the tournaments recently and I've never played her — but she's got to be in

the top 5 or 6. Sarah Green and Marci Greer have to be ranked up there somewhere too."

**ABOUT LYNN:** "She's a great all-around athlete. She's in excellent shape and she really works on her strokes. Bud Muelheisen is her coach and he's great. And Lynn can think well. Most women don't understand the game of racquetball. Lynn might be the only woman other than myself who really understands the game."

Then we discussed game strategy and her particular style of play:

**SIMBORG:** What thoughts do you keep in mind during a match?

**WRIGHT:** No thoughts at all. I try to empty my mind . . . that makes me more aware of what's going on in the court. The only thinking I have to do is in the decision of which serve to shoot. Outside of that, before I go into a match I already know what shots I'm going to hit. The thinking is in the practice. So when a pass shot comes off the back wall I pretty much automatically hit a kill shot down

the wall, or a cross court kill or a pinch shot.

**SIMBORG:** Don't you ever have to remind yourself to keep your eye on the ball, or move your feet, or some other basic?

**WRIGHT:** No! Because I am watching the ball, and I do move my feet. I've already programmed myself to do those things naturally.

**SIMBORG:** What about specific strategies?

**WRIGHT:** I don't play against an opponent — I play against myself. I always go out and just try to execute to the best of my ability, and when I do that, I normally win.

**SIMBORG:** Who's the most powerful player on the women's tour?

**WRIGHT:** Me.

**SIMBORG:** Who's the best control player?

**WRIGHT:** Me. Pete Wright trained me to play the control type game; but I don't like to hit ceiling shots anymore. Ceiling shots are passe to me — I'm a shooter! I go around the walls or hit overhead kills. I love those overhead kills!

**SIMBORG:** I meant to ask you about that . . . you hit a lot of overhead kills against me today. How can you come out ahead hitting such a low-percentage shot?

**WRIGHT:** It is not a low percentage shot . . . not for me! Not after I practice hitting it hour after hour until I get it right. I practice those overhead kills more than I do ceiling shots; and I practice those a great deal; and that makes the percentages go way up. Just like Marty (Hogan) when he used to hit backhand kill shots from shoulder height from way back in the court and would consistently make them. Everyone would say "that's a low percentage shot" AND IT'S NOT!! The son-of-a-gun practices them all day long. You make your own percentages.

**SIMBORG:** How do you relax?

**WRIGHT:** Well, I like to walk around out in the woods; play with my dogs, cook, play the piano. My boyfriend built a log cabin, pretty secluded, right up in the woods in the Toiyabe National Forest. We've got squirrels and hummingbirds and all kinds of little animals running around and big Ponderosa pines all over. And I read three or four hours a day, everyday.

**SIMBORG:** What do you read?

**WRIGHT:** I read philosophy and metaphysics; mostly the ancient scriptures.

**SIMBORG:** Oh.

**WRIGHT:** I don't read instructional articles and racquetball articles too often. I'm pretty much my own coach.

**SIMBORG:** Are you excited that you beat me?

**WRIGHT:** What!!!!?

**SIMBORG:** Do you think now that you've beaten me that you've added greatly to the prestige of women's racquetball?

**WRIGHT:** You've got to be kidding!

I WAS EXTREMELY impressed by Shannon, but in ways you might not expect. Adding me to her long string of victories was, in retrospect I guess, no great accomplishment. I wasn't even too hurt when, after we finished our three-game match, she spent the next 20 minutes doing wind sprints, just to make sure she got enough exercise. What won me over was her warm and "up" personality. In hours of conversations I never heard her say anything negative about the sport or any individuals connected with the sport (even when the remarks were obviously "off the record"). She constantly reminded me that she "loves the game" and really enjoys just being in the court. In spite of her skill and her accomplishments, and in spite of her confidence in herself, she's a down-to-earth, fun-loving, nice person who's a pleasure to be with. She's quick to laugh, always has a smile on her face, and enjoys being with and talking to people. In her own words, she "loves the crowds and loves to have contact with them during matches and exhibitions."

Shannon's a strong supporter of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association, speaks very highly of Dan Seaton (WPRAs Commissioner) and his efforts on behalf of the players, and supports a system of prize-money distribution that takes money away from the top players and distributes it more evenly (so more women can make enough money to afford to continue on the tour and develop their game).

One of the sport's first representatives to the public, Shannon truly enjoys mixing and being with the people, whether it be through exhibition play or on the court with ordinary hackers like myself. I'm proud to consider her a friend, as well as an associate through this paper.

## Michigan News

(Continued from Page 12)

Men's Masters saw unseeded Ron Pudduck score a major upset over number one seed and defending champion Lynn Hahn. Last but not least, Dan Wood completed a perfect year, having never lost a game in an MRA tournament all season, by defeating Richard Davis in the Men's Golden Masters finals.

Congratulations to all of our new state champions and to all of you who competed and helped to make this state championship tournament and the entire MRA season the best ever.

The State Doubles Championship, scheduled for May 9-11 at the Davison Racquet Club, was postponed until a later, as yet undetermined date. The postponement resulted from a lack of tournament participants. Watch for the date of the doubles tourney in upcoming issues of RACQUETBALL TODAY.

An MRA sanctioned Team tournament will conclude the 1980-81 winter season in late May, following the State Singles championship. The MRA's League committee has been collecting and reviewing the formats and guidelines of interclub leagues competing in the Detroit, Ann Arbor,

Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo-Battle Creek areas.

One common format will be derived from all the available input to be used as the guidelines for the season ending tournament. This same format will be sent to all Michigan racquetball facilities by August as basis for consideration for their own league play. The League committee will also provide assistance to any inquiries regarding league formation procedures or variations to the recommended format.

Anyone having information they would like to contribute, or time and interest to work with the MRA League committee, please contact John VanderWel, 420 West Centre Court, Portage, Michigan 49002.

The Board of Directors of the MRA (Michigan Racquetball Association) has called a special meeting of the members of the association. The purpose of this meeting will be to adopt a new constitution and by-laws.

The meeting will be held August 5, 1980, 7:30 p.m. at the Oak Park Athletic Club, 900 Long Boulevard, Lansing, Michigan.

Copies of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws will be available for inspection preceding the meeting.

## Wisconsin News

Cherokee

Spring Open

By GREGG JOHNSON

The Cherokee Golf and Racquet Club in Madison, Wis., hosted one of the most star-studded mini-pro tour stops on April 25-27. The finals were a repeat of last year with Paul Ikier defeating Don Constable (11-5 in the tie breaker).

To get to the finals, Ikier had to get past Dennis McDowell in the semis. Constable took care of Joe Wirkus in the semis, and McDowell defeated Joe for third place. Illinois' Dave Negrete pulled off a big upset in the early going by defeating San Diego's Steve Mondry (11-8 in tie breaker), but Dave later got beat by Wirkus.

Other winners were: Todd Taylor,

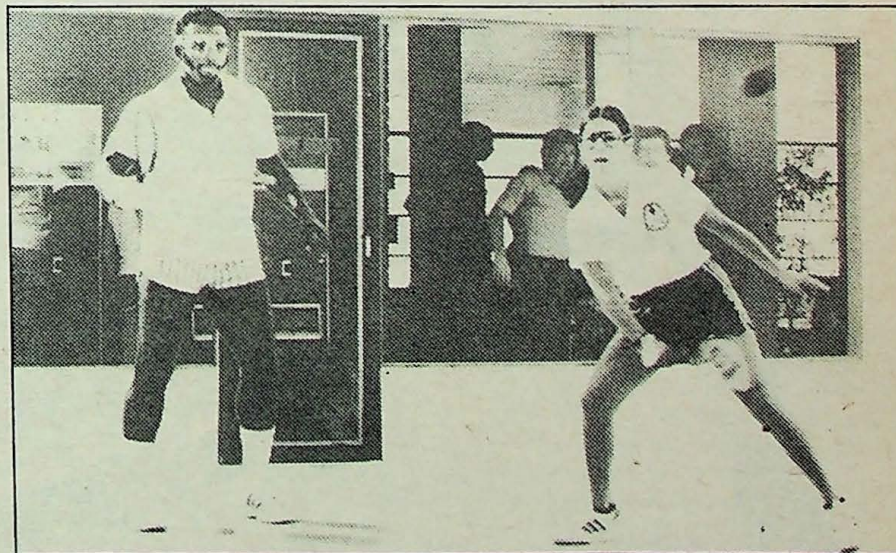
Men's A; Chuck Eldridge, Men's B; Jim Berkvam, Men's C; Jim Fredericks, Men's Novice; Janice Lucht, Women's B; Sandi Farr, Women's C, and Mike Hahm, Juniors.

Wisconsin

State Doubles

Results  
Wisconsin State Doubles Championships  
May 9 & 10, 1980

**MEN'S OPEN:** Ken and Dan Frank d. Bill Bilty and Art Guenther.  
**WOMEN'S OPEN:** Diane Singler & Julie Jacobson d. Laura Sidello & Sue Bechard.  
**MEN'S SENIORS:** Jim White & Joe Bechard d. Dan Trost & Dick Ricco.  
**MEN'S B:** Kim Usher & Steve Lindemann d. Ernie & Louis Acosta.  
**WOMEN'S B:** Mary Martin & Leslie Kuper d. Colleen Coffman & Jane Fisher.  
**MEN'S C:** Elliot Papermaster & Dan White d. Phil Lifford & Ryan Walter.



ON A HOT STREAK — St. Louis racquetball pro Rita Hoff, who began playing football players in matches two years ago against Jim Bakken and Roger Wehrli, now is 6-2 against the NFL. Her latest victory was over Revie Sorey of the Chicago Bears, 15-8, in an exhibition before the start of the Natural Light/NFL Players Association Racquetball tournament in Chicago. The two losses both were to Randy Vataha, former New England Patriot. The national finals of the Natural Light/NFLPA racquetball series is scheduled for June 13-15 at the Town and Country Racquetball Club in St. Louis with the top two players from each of the five regional tournaments involving representatives of all NFL teams.

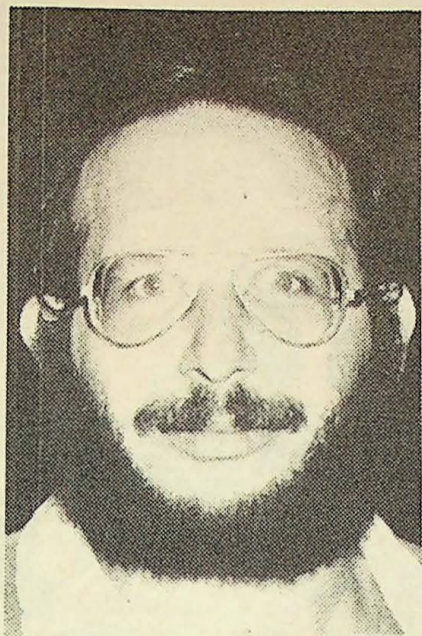
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# Court Talk

## The Games People Play



Bob Gura

I was walking down the lush-carpet of a crowded local racquetball club when it hit me. Like a shot from the proverbial blue, it suddenly became clear. How long had I and probably countless others, been languishing in the dark? Here we were, my doughty and somewhat irascible partner and I trying to get up a twosome for doubles. Having tired of relentlessly battering each other with our mediocrity each week, we thought to allow the pleasure to others.

It wasn't the first time we had asked others to play, either doubles or singles. While there were usually more than enough takers (we aren't that bad, really) none of the regulars were in sight today.

Determined to play doubles we tightened our grips on our racquet handles, firmed up the old resolve, and asked some members of THE GROUP. Now I don't know about your club, but it seems more than a few local facilities have such a group all their own. The size of the gathering will invariably range in number, but our observation, plus reports from other clubs show most to be in the neighborhood of from three to 20 people. Now the amount of members present varies with the time and day, but a prime time hour can generally produce about ten.

TODAY, ROUGHLY six were in evidence around the bar. The low tote could be attributed to the fact it was only 6 p.m.

and not all involved had sufficient time to arrive from work.

Seated before us, decked out in the most elegant of court garb, each of the men present looked fit to kill on court. Varying in age from the early 20s to the bronze-skinned but nonetheless 40s they seemed the epitome of fitness. Nary a glimpse of nerves could be discerned as they turned down our invitation to quaff their drinks and play some. Tossing out off hand disclaimers they made us feel chastened for even asking to play with them. All it took, upon reflection, was a glance at their Adidases and matching Leach shirts and shorts to realize they were big time court-wise. Another peek on the bar and near their feet bore testimony to their fore and backhand virtuosity. Nestled close by

each was a racquet that cried out mucho dollars, encased in impressive looking leather sheaths emblazoned with brand names.

Thinking back we realized this breed of player was racquetball's landed gentry, or the sort Charles Darwin would rave about. Seated casually at the bar, ever aware of his skills, he need only wait to play, then pick the best opponent available. Dueling brilliantly with a vast repertoire of serves, pinch shots and rollouts the conclusion would be inevitable — another win in the King's corner.

But, a thought struck us, how come we never saw most of these guys play at all? Leaning backward for a moment, we simultaneously understood their secret. Why play racquetball and blow a terrific image, when you can have a terrific image by not playing?

NOW OF COURSE, this didn't hold true for all of the group. Some would occasionally be glimpsed toiling on court in the late-evening hours against each other. While the skill level varied, the least that could be said of the play was that it was very competent. For the others however, one foursome in particular, it was hard to locate anyone who'd ever seen them swing a racquet in competition.

A second observation soon brought home the fact that regardless of how little these guys played, they were no fools. While they were in the midst of a cool drink several female racquetballers entered the lounge area. Equally well dressed and physically appealing it was apparent a rendezvous was in the offing. Staggering at the thought of the possibilities my partner and I left to finish our reservation time playing singles.

Emerging tired and sweaty 30 minutes later we witnessed the unfolding of the encounter. Of the non-playing male four-

some, one was showing a lady how to hit a backhand, replete with a breathtaking slow motion run-through. Even though the full speed version had rarely been glimpsed on court, the thought of the powerful stroke could easily boggle the mind of a novice. Another pair of gentlemen were talking court-talk with the women — chatting about the whys and wherefors of their racquets. In order to make allusions to string-tension and grip size more graphic, the leather sheaths had been thrown aside, and the racquets were bared.

The remainder of the men was engaged in a "game" of racquetball with one of the ladies — a gorgeous woman who looked at home in a beautiful racquetball dress (although few women rarely wear dresses on court). Dressed to the maximum the twosome looked more like mannequins in Marshall Field's windows than players, but they did so beautifully. Nary a kill or ceiling ball was hit, but the pair batted setups about magnificently.

WE READIED TO leave as the last of ladies called out her goodbyes to the group and said she couldn't wait until next week to play again.

This puzzled us, but as we were unsure of whether she'd placed a foot on court we let it pass by without further consideration.

Still, as we prepared to exit, we had to pay reluctant homage to the members of the group. Those that chose to play could play like demons when they felt ready. Those who couldn't play a lick could act like court killers when necessary, preferring the social scene to athletics.

Come to think of it, both routes have their virtues, whether one's man or woman. About the only lesson to be learned I guess, is don't go shopping for doubles partners oncourt, when mixed doubles are in action elsewhere.

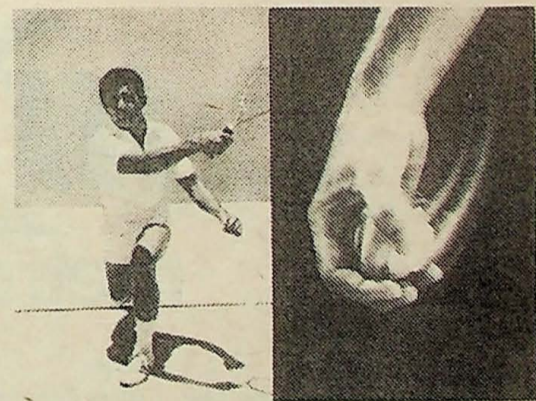
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 T R E N N I W E S W L A E U A E M  
 E A M D T I N U T L O K Q S C L A  
 A C L U N G R E E R B E O R H O T  
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 R O L W R I G H T Q P I K S H O H

The above puzzle contains the racquetball names and terms listed below. See if you can find them all; circle them, and send the puzzle to us with your name and address. You'll go into a drawing for some nice prizes.

Ace, Adams, Assassin, Avoidable, Ball, Bledsoe, Bolan, Bounce, Brum, Carow, Cohen, Davis, Drake, Eketelon, Fault, Fleetwood, Game, Great, Green, Greer, Grobmisi, Harding, Hoff, Hogan, IRA, Jones, Keeley, Kill, Killshot, Kendler, Koltun, Leach, Lob, Loser, Match, McCoy, McKay, Meyers, Moore, Nationals, NRC, Peck, Play, Pros, Rollout, Sauna, Shay, Shot, Splat, Schmidtke, Steding, Strandemo, Strong, Seed, Skip, Tiebreaker, Thomas, USRA, Walton, Wagner, Wiff, Win, Winner, Wright, Zeitman.

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Wright Answer



SHANNON WRIGHT

*Editor's note: RACQUETBALL TODAY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE the addition of Ms. Shannon Wright as an exclusive columnist for this paper. Ms. Wright, who has virtually dominated women's professional racquetball for the past four years, travels around the country giving racquetball clinics and exhibitions, playing in tournaments, and representing Wilson Sporting Goods Company and Triple-S Promotions. Ms. Wright will answer personal and professional questions submitted by our readers and our staff. Please address your questions to Ms. Wright, c/o RACQUETBALL TODAY.*

**QUESTION:** Now that you've finally played Heather McKay, what do you think

of her game? (Ms. Wright defeated Heather McKay in the finals of the Ekelon/Perrier tournament held May 8-11 in North Hollywood, California.)

**ANSWER:** "Heather did surprise me a bit. I've watched her play matches against some of the other top girls and I noticed that many of her passing shots came off the back wall for a setup. Well, when I played her, some of her shots did come off the back wall, but the thing is, she hits the ball very, very hard — EVERY SHOT! That puts a great deal of pressure on you as a player. Because of her squash background, she cuts off a lot of shots that 'racquetball players' don't normally cut off, and that's extremely tough to adjust to.

"But it really doesn't make much difference about the racquet skill. The main thing is she's played competitive racquet sports for over 20 years, and she is really tough mentally. She doesn't really get flustered; she maintains an extremely high level of concentration — she's tough as nails.

"By the third game, I figured out that, like me, Heather's backhand is actually stronger than her forehand . . . so I started serving and playing a lot more to her forehand, and it obviously worked.

Now that I've played her, I definitely have to rank her in the top three, with me and Lynn (Adams)."

## Walter Jacobson

(Continued from Page 5)

ple would like to have a chance to put me in my place." "Like," he laughingly refrained, "they'd like to do on TV but can't."

The thought arises if this notion could be developed and somehow brought to fruition by WBBM executives it would be a boon for the station's ratings. Picture if you will the audience that would tune in to see a five point match featuring the likes of Jacobson versus Mayor Byrne or Alderman Vrydoliak, winner getting the last word in.

**WHILE THE** scenario may be appealing its unlikely to transpire for several reasons. Not the least of which is Jacobson's apparent desire to play in peace. Being mentioned racquetball on the air Channel 2 sportscaster Johnny Morris, and played the game as part of Morris' Sporting Chance, Walter resists the urge to be a celebrity sportsman. "I like to play at my own place (McClurg Court) where no one notices me or makes a big deal," he was quick to add.

Privacy notwithstanding that's not to say he's never taken on a well-known, respected opponent, such as the six-foot-six governor of Illinois. "I've played with Jim Thompson a couple of times," said Walter, but he pointed out, "I feel like I'm on show."

Regardless of his desire to smack Z-serves in comfortable solitude, the anchorman sounded the trumpet of fatherly pride when discussing his racquet-wielding progeny. "Both my kids (a 17-year-old daughter and 15-year-old son) are very good players," he firmly announced.

Turning a last thought to the game, while a chorus of voices called for his presence in the studio, Jacobson offered a final comment. "I think racquetball's terrific" he said, before hurrying off to tasks investigative. As he put down the receiver the notion came across loud and clear. If whatever interview or investigation he was conducting proved difficult, it shouldn't be hard to find him. Even the least of sleuths could probably locate him by trekking over to McClurg Court and listening for the loudest hits on court.

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Dates • June 13, 14, & 15



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**ENTRY DEADLINE:** Friday, June 7, 1980

**ENTRY FEE:** \$12.00 per entry.

**OFFICIAL BALL:** Seamco 600 (blue)

**SANCTIONING:** ISRA, USRA

**RULES OF SANCTION PLAY:** All current USRA-ISRA rules will govern play.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All participants must be current ISRA-USRA members and live in Illinois. Membership applications can be mailed with entry or will be available for an additional \$12.

**AWARDS:** Trophies to first four places and first place consolation in all events.

**PAYMENT:** Make checks payable to ILLINOIS STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION, 570 East Higgins Road, Elk Grove Village, IL. 60007.

**STARTING TIMES:** Friday after 5. Postcards will be sent or call the club.

**CONSOLATION:** All divisions, first round losers must sign up.

**HOSPITALITY PROVIDED** During tournament

**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:** Jeff Oslance

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# PSYCHING

By MARILYN STERLING



Almost every time we step onto the court we begin playing two games at once. The first is objective — the physical challenge of actual play. The second is psychological — the challenge of the egos. In the first game, victory is determined by who has played the most effectively for 21 points. In the second game, victory has been expanded to become a judgement on who is the superior person — “May the best man win.”

Let's take a look at some of these psychological games in the hope that if you can identify yourself in some of them, that this new awareness might lead you to a change of behaviors. Perhaps too if these games are used on you, you will be able to spot them right away for what they are, and their effectiveness will be lost.

First there are ego games, these are self related. They include among other things: self consciousness, venting hostility, wanting to put another player down, striving for recognition, and making your game a measuring stick for self esteem.

**WHEN YOU ARE** aware of these hang ups it should be easy to see how they are a real detriment to your game. If you keep checking to see who is watching you play, you can't be watching the ball very consistently — you lose. If you are venting hostility, you will undoubtedly find yourself tensing up. This causes your timing and swing to be off. Your finesse will suffer and so will your game. The more caught up you are in your own ego games, the more easily you can be psyched out by your opponent. So, you see, any time ego games become as important as the actual physical challenges of the game, you've put alot more pressure on yourself to perform well, and at the same time, created extra distractions for yourself.

The other forms of psychological games which hamper us are the psych-outs. With ego games you're debilitating yourself, with psych-outs you're out to debilitate someone else or vice versa. Thomas Tutko, PhD, co-founder of the Institute of Athletic Motivation and Professor of Psychology at San Jose State University says that typically, psych-out games fall into four categories: “They involve conscious or unconscious attempts at **provocation, intimidation, evoking guilt feelings, and distraction.**”

In the category of provocation we find the **Cold Shoulder**. The person employing this psych-out feigns total lack of interest in what the other player is doing — no matter how great that might be. Good gets, ace serves, roll outs all receive the same response — no response. Since the psycher never reacts to any “proof” of his

# Wipe Out the Psych-Out

opponents skill, the opponent keeps trying harder and harder for recognition and plays worse and worse.

**Cage Rattling.** Here the psych-out artist constantly taunts the victim, many times under the disguise of friendly kidding: “Boy I've been playing well lately, hope you took your vitamins today, you're going to need them;” or, “Hey, I hear you beat so and so Saturday. What was he, hung over or something?” The message is, “You don't scare me, even your best won't be good enough!” The opponent who falls for this is so busy trying to prove otherwise and “show you,” that he loses his concentration.

**TEACHER-TEACHER.** Here the psych-out expert gives the victim gratuitous lessons: “If you'd bend a bit more I think you'd get a better shot. I used to have the same problem myself.” Or he uses condescension — this happens alot between men and women: “I'll try to go easy on you.” Still another method he uses to let you know that he's superior and you are inferior is to point out a weakness in your game: “I'll bet if you stopped trying to kill so often and went to a passing game until you get your kill down your game would improve alot.” Once you start agreeing with him and thanking him, you're hooked.

Under Tutko's category of intimidation we have: **Roaring Lion.** The intimidating psycher tries to impress his opponent with his superiority. Now we hear tales of his latest conquest, who he's beating regularly, the last tournament he's won, etc. We might see alot of razzle-dazzle during warm up periods. The message he's sending is: “Give up now, you don't have a chance.”

The **Secret Weapon** is self explanatory. The psych-out pro has “something” that's going to give him a distinct edge over his opponent. He lets him know he has the latest racquet, or has taken a lesson, or been practicing alot. He distracts his opponent with the nagging unspoken message: “I've got you now chump...you've been surpassed!”

Evoking Guilt Feelings is an interesting category too, here we find **Mr. Nice Guy**. Now, Mr. Nice Guy may or may not be putting on an act, but we seem to respond equally to his message: “You're a rat to want to pulverize a super guy like me!” Always helpful, he never misses the chance to tell you what great shots you have. He also spends alot of time apologizing for his errors. He'll “I'm sorry” you to death, and when you start to apologize for your good shots and lay back just “a little” . . . ha, ha, the psych has worked!

**POOR BABY**, he's a bit like Mr. Nice Guy in that you have to be a rat to really try to beat him. Poor Baby's playing under a handicap of some kind: “Haven't played for weeks;” or, “Boy, am I hung over.” Sometimes he'll use nonverbal communication — he'll come wrapped in ace bandages, and just wince every so often. We all know that there are really times when we're not feeling 100 per cent, and then it's alright to play a less competitive game, but when your opponent begs for sympathy and then goes for your jugular vein, it's most likely a psych-out.

The **Leaner** doesn't care who wins or loses . . . or does he? He says he's not really into competition — “Just here for the exercise,” — however, his actions belie his words. Once you let down your guard he goes for the jugular again.

In the last category we find the distractions, the **Temper Tantrum and Assorted Antic Throwers**. These guys clown around, talk to the ball, the crowd, the ref, anyone who might possibly listen. They

complain about every misfortune, they'll occupy your time with reasons their last shot flubbed, call ridiculous hinders and so on ad nauseum. Their message is: “I'm the star.” Their ability to distract is very obvious.

The final psycher to be able to recognize is the **Praiser**. He psychs out his opponent by making him self conscious. “I've never seen you hit so well, you're out of your mind today!” Or he'll try: “What's the matter with you, you haven't skipped a single shot in . . .” The message is: “You think you're really hot stuff, but I'm watching you . . . I know different.” Now the victim starts thinking consciously about what he's doing, and we all know about paralysis from analysis. The psych has worked.

Quite a rogues' gallery! The big ques-

tion now is how do we avoid psyching games? **AWARENESS IS YOUR BEST DEFENSE** against being psyched out and unintentionally psyching out others. When you realize that one of these tactics is being used, identify it in your head. As well as being able to mentally remove yourself from the game, you can also feel confident in the fact that as long as they are busy communicating with their mouths instead of their equipment, their concentration isn't going to be all that it could be. Sharpen yours and you'll have the edge. Breathe easy, hand loose. Concentrate on the ball and each point as it comes. Let them play their ego games . . . you know what's going on now. Get out there and play the physical game to the best of your ability. Wipe out the Psych-out!!!

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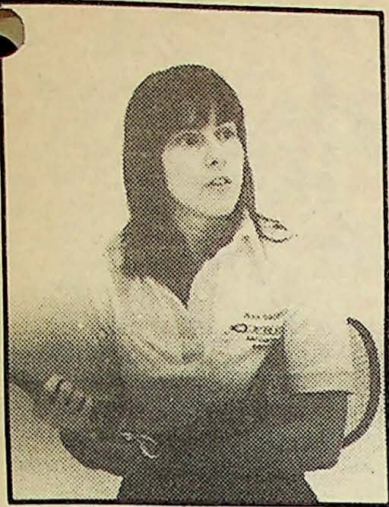
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# Strategy

By JEAN SAUSER

*Editor's Note: Jean Sauser, the sixth ranked women's racquetball pro, and photographer Arthur Shay, are the co-authors of "Racquetball Strategy," a book devoted to those racquetball players who are absolutely determined to get better and better. With permission of the author and publisher, RACQUETBALL TODAY will reprint portions of that book.*



**Situation:**  
Your opponent watches the front wall, not the ball

**Strategy:** Make him make mistakes.

Since your opponent is counting on reacting to the ball as it comes off the front wall, not on anticipation as you hit the ball, you can easily trick this kind of player into making mistakes. Short pass shots and pinches easily throw this player off balance, so use them. Vary your serve from the same stance.

A short pass can easily be played off an opponent who watches the front wall and who is on one side of the court, not in the middle. As he is sliding to the middle of the court watching the front wall, zing a pass shot in the direction he's coming from. He won't be able to react in time and your point will be made. (Diagram 1).

Pinches from behind your opponent work well to force errors. The fact that the ball is hitting the side wall first and not the front wall will throw him off balance. The angle of the ball coming off the front wall will be more difficult for him to react to and he'll stumble into front court, either missing the ball completely or retrieving a set-up for you. (Diagram 2).

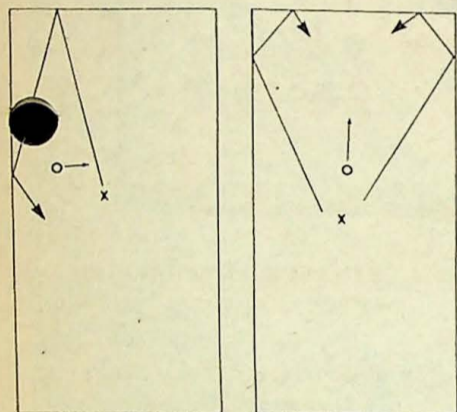


Diagram 1. (Left) Short pass for the opponent who is running to center and watching the front wall — not the ball. Diagram 2. (Right) Low pinch from behind to force errors when your opponent watches the front wall and not the ball.

**Situation:**  
You watch the front wall, not the ball.

This error usually comes from fear of being clobbered by your opponent's racquet or ball

**Strategy:** With eye protection learn to watch the ball.

You must break your fixation with the front wall. Get a pair of eye protectors, be brave, and start watching the ball as much as possible during the volley. Start out by watching your serves. Keep your back to your opponent and watch over the near shoulder, following the ball with your eyes. You can even hold your racquet in front of your face for added protection if your fear persists. At first you may feel a little sluggish in retrieving your opponent's shots but after a few games you'll start to react quickly to your opponent's shots and find yourself playing a better game, because you'll know where the ball is coming from and where to put it when you get your racquet on it.

Get in the habit of taking quick glances back at your opponent when you're in front of him. Try to sneak a quick backward look at the ball. You can gain more than a step if you get an early warning as to where the ball is heading. Remember handball great Paul Haber's statement, "I even watch the ball during the timeouts."

## What You Can Do to Promote Racquetball

When it comes to racquetball YOU can make a difference . . . and that is nice to know. Like all who love the sport of racquetball, we at S/S/S want to do everything we can to help advance and promote our favorite pastime. And because of that we feel responsible to inform you of the various ways that your efforts can make a difference to the sport.

Basically, there are three things we can all do that will help our sport continue to gain in popularity and recognition: buy the products of those companies which "put something back" into the sport; write letters to newspapers, TV, etc., requesting better coverage of racquetball; and in your personal involvement in racquetball tournaments and events, help advance the image of the game by being good sportsmen yourself.

The first one is easy: next time you buy a racquet, ball, glove or other racquetball item, choose a brand name that you have seen putting money back into the game by sponsoring tournaments, players, and supporting racquetball associations. There are other kinds of sponsors too: companies like Natural Light and Lite Beer that put a lot of money into the game of racquetball (while other beer companies have dedicated themselves, thus far, to promoting bowling, tennis, and other sports). When you have a choice, choose their products . . . let them see that they do get a "payoff" for helping our sport.

The second thing you can do is, we know, very tough. It's not easy to get people to write their congressman when there's an important political issue, so we know you're not going to all run out and send letters to your local newspapers and TV networks, but there are other ways to help in this area too. When you're at a tournament and you see news people, let them know that you read their paper for the racquetball information; when racquetball does appear on TV, let that TV station know, even with just a phone call, that you watched and appreciated their coverage.

The third area is perhaps the most important. The number one thing that each of you can do to help make the sport more popular is to help make it more enjoyable for those around you. It's the same principle as littering: each "bad actor" has a snowball effect . . . first one person begins acting up on court and he irritates others, and soon everyone is yelling at the referees and each other. The reverse is also true: good sportsmanship sets an example for others and makes others follow. When you're at a tournament, be considerate to others; don't get totally caught up in the competition, and don't forget that we're mainly out there to have a good time.

Sincerely,  
S/S/S Promotions &  
RACQUETBALL TODAY

## Briefs

(Continued from Page 2)

and aiding in the formulation and structure of tournament "packages," Ms. Wright will be a regular columnist for RACQUETBALL TODAY, a wholly-owned subsidiary of S/S/S. Ms. Wright will continue to also represent Wilson Sporting Goods Company and, of course, will actively participate in the WPRA pro tournaments and events.

### Penn Athletic's Promotions

Penn Athletic Products Company, a leading producer of racquetballs and the nation's largest manufacturer of tennis balls, has named Robert H. Pfaender to

the position of Western Region Promotion Manager. Pfaender was previously the Eastern Region Promotions Manager, and his position will be filled by Larry P. Keating.

### Circulation Doubled

RACQUETBALL TODAY is proud to announce that circulation has doubled in many people who read our paper. Some get angry, some are stimulated in other ways (people have been known to gag while reading our paper), but, whatever the reason, their blood circulation has been known to quicken as much as 100 per cent due to the content of this paper.

### NCCA 1981 Convention/Trade Show Site Selected

The Board of Directors of the National Court Clubs Association has selected Las Vegas for the site of its annual convention/trade show, which will be held January 16-19, 1981. For more information, contact the NCCA at 666 Dundee Road, Suite 1003, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

### Hogan, Brumfield, Hilecher, Shetzer . . . A Lot in Common

What do Marty Hogan, Charlie Brumfield, Jerry Hilecher and Al Shetzer have in common? Recent interviews with all four uncovered that none of their mothers ever played racquetball before they had children. Hogan, Brumfield, and Hilecher had many other things in common, such as being fine racquetball players and being well-known and respected by fans all over the country. ISRA President Al Shetzer, however, says: "I've been all over the country."

### My Friend, the Star

By TOM GROBMISI

*Some people like to bore me with descriptions of their skill,  
And tell me all about their lovely pass shots and their kill.  
And they go on and on about the people they have beaten  
In spite of awesome skill (and the fact that they were cheating)*

*But I have tired of hearing of these victories on the court,  
So after listening carefully, I offer this retort:  
Boy, you're really playing super, and it makes me soooo excited!  
Next time you have a game, won't you please see I'm invited?*

*Would you mind it very much if I say you were my friend?  
Then when you're really famous I could say "I knew him when."  
Will you pose with me for pictures, can I have your autograph?  
When you form a corporation, will you put me on your staff?*

*Who was it that you told me you beat last Tuesday night?  
I want to write it down to be sure I've got it right.  
And PLEASE accept my thanks for just being who you are,  
It's been a thrill, but from now on, I'll admire you from afar.*

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