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Official Journal of the International Racquetball Association
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COVER: Photograph by Larry Kuzniewski

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RECEIVING LINE

Letters To The Editor

We would like to take this opportunity to personally thank those on your staff involved with your most recent issue on racquetball fashions.

Our company takes pride in designing apparel for the racquetball (woman) player exclusively, as we feel there are certain features she needs, particular to her sport. However, we understand there are those who feel differently and we want to commend you for featuring both sides of the coin with such clarity.

In addition, please accept our thanks for using our At Ease outfit in "The Look of Fashion" section. We look forward to receiving *Racquetball* magazine to keep us informed on the sport of the '80s.

Jim and Connie Bowser
At Ease
Chesterfield, Mo.



I am particularly disturbed by a quote in your September, 1979 issue. On page

18, second column, next to last paragraph appears this quote:

"It has emerged from the musty YMCAs, they say, and is now played on clean, well-lighted courts in elegant court club complexes."

Parts of this same quote also appear in bold type on the same page.

That is a pretty powerful put-down for a national magazine to lay on an organization like the YMCA. I wonder how many YMCAs you have been in? Sure we have some musty ones, but we also have just as many YMCAs that would put any court club to shame. The YMCA throughout its history has strived to serve all of its members in as many ways as possible; it has not, like our competitors, built glorified shrines to a sport and charged a fortune to play it. YMCA facilities are better built and more diversified than any of our competitors; our emphasis is on participation and usability, not a fashion show.

You can kindly take the Jordan YMCA off any mailing list you may have us on. I do not wish to receive anymore court club newsletters like

yours. I would have thought that since racquetball grew up in the YMCA, you would not put a knife in the YMCA's back, but instead treat us with more respect.

Richard Moeller
Senior Physical Director
Jordan YMCA
Indianapolis, Ind.



Just a short note to thank you for the excellent coverage you gave Paul Sullivan Sportswear in your September issue. Our Acapulco Warm-Up Suit showing the "Madison Avenue" look reprinted beautifully. We are also grateful for the editorial coverage you gave us in the small insert on page 30.

Should you ever have further interest in our product or company, please don't hesitate to call us. Thank you again for your support.

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Racquetball welcomes correspondence from its readers. Letters are subject to editing for clarity and length.

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NEW DIRECTIONS

Dear Members:

I am most pleased to address you with news that will be of historical significance for our sport.

Over the past year, the IRA has been working towards legitimizing racquetball on the international level within the world organizations of amateur sports federations.

The first major step towards achieving this goal has been taken, through the establishment of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation, with 13 countries as charter members. This newly-formed corporation is a not-for-profit organization made up of the amateur racquetball bodies of: France, United States, Spain, Mexico, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Venezuela, Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain, Holland and Japan. These 13 charter members will operate under the "one country, one vote" concept. They have adopted a constitution and a Federation Bill of Rights, both of which are consistent with international law and concepts followed by other sports federations.

Upon formation of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation, immediate application was made to the General Assembly of Sports Federations (G.A.S.F.), which met in Monte Carlo. Upon obtaining membership in G.A.S.F., application for membership will be made immediately to the International Olympic Committee. This does not guarantee that racquetball will become an Olympic sport, but we are going through the steps necessary to make it an Olympic sport in the future.

OFFICERS: INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RACQUETBALL FEDERATION—President, John Parry, European Racquetball Federation; Vice President, Bob Folsom, American Amateur Racquetball Association; Secretary-Treasurer, Milton Radmilovich, Japan Amateur Racquetball Association; National Commissioner, Uri Lipzin, Israeli Racquetball Association; Board Member, Abdelrahman Abdelrahman, Egyptian Racquetball Association; Executive Director, Luke St. Onge, American Amateur Racquetball Association.

In compliance with requirements necessary for the IRA to become a member of the United States Olympic Committee under the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, the Board of Directors adopted the following major changes in the IRA's constitution:

1. Changed the name of the International Racquetball Association to the American Amateur Racquetball Association.
2. Required that a minimum of 20% of the Board of Directors be active racquetball players.
3. Adopted a players' Bill of Rights.
4. Adopted "Official Rules of Racquetball" as part of the AARA's by-laws.
5. Voted to become charter members in the International Amateur Racquetball Federation.

Upon adoption of these major constitutional changes, we immediately applied for membership in the United States Olympic Committee under the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. We are currently waiting for their decision and will keep you informed as additional exciting events occur.

Regards,

Luke St. Onge
Executive Director

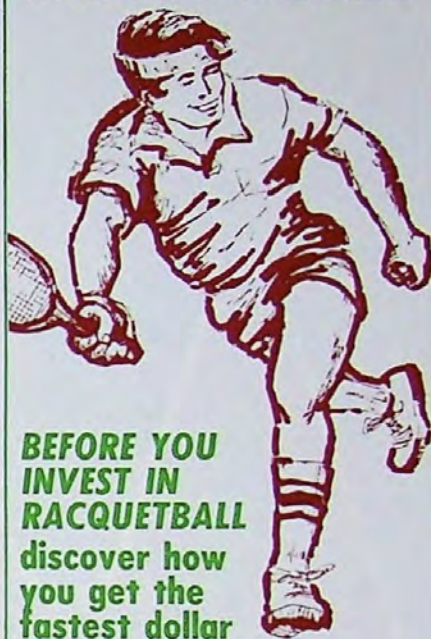
THE PROS ARE COMING !!

Yes, that's right. Beginning next month, *Racquetball* magazine will begin a new feature—a regular Pro Page, devoted to covering all the spills, chills and thrills of the burgeoning pro scene. And that means the *entire* scene, including not only the National Racquet Club (NRC) tour, but also the newly-formed Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) and the National Association of Racquetball Professionals (NARP), an association of men professionals with plans to start their own tour in conjunction with *Playboy* magazine.

Every month, our Pro Page will provide you with the latest tournament results, action photos, inside news and announcements. We'll also take a closer look at the players from time to time, with profiles and interviews. It's all in tune with our goal of keeping you informed and up-to-date on the latest happenings in the racquetball world.

The Pro Page—coming next month. Watch for it!

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At the Board of Directors meeting in Oklahoma City, October 17, 1979, it was decided that the International Racquetball Association will henceforth be known as the American Amateur Racquetball Association.

For details and complete explanation see
New Directions, page 8.

A LOVE EXCHANGE

THE 1979 SPECIAL OLYMPICS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Winterton is a racquetball pro at The Winton Racquetball Club in Rochester, N.Y. This year he participated in the International Special Olympics for the first time. (The Special Olympics are athletic events such as swimming, basketball, etc., held for young people who are mentally and/or physically handicapped.) In four days (August 8-11) over 2,000 special athletes were taught racquetball. This was the first positive step taken in making racquetball a competitive event in the next International Special Olympics (to be held in 1983). Sponsors for the racquetball portion of this event were AMF Voit, Ektelon, Seamco and Omega. The following is Mr. Winterton's personal account of his participation in this very special event.

The 1979 International Special Olympics were held at Brockport State University, near Rochester, N.Y. As the instructor in charge of racquetball clinics, I went to teach for four days, not really understanding what the Special Olympics were all about. I came away from those games, as did the rest of my teaching colleagues, a different person.

It all began Wednesday evening, August 8th, with an exhibition at the courts. The first participants to hit the ball around were Joe Mazzola and Kenny Erickson, from the Work Experience Center in Rochester. Their efforts were cheered by the crowd and afterwards Joe received a trophy; Kenny, a record album.

We spent the entire next day conducting clinics for about 500 young men and women. My day was highlighted by the response of the participants. Several of them come to mind as I reflect upon that day. I particularly enjoyed working with Mr. Shin and Mr. Kim from Korea, who spoke not one word of English. They must have run 100 miles on the court in 20 minutes. But what they lacked in skill, they made up for in enthusiasm.

I also grew fond of Timmy, a Downe

Syndrome child, who had one tenth normal vision. Timmy struggled to hit the ball to the front wall for five minutes. After those first difficult five minutes, he was not only hitting the front wall, but was hitting the ball four or five times in succession. Because of such accomplishments, smiling faces were the order of the day.

Some of the people I worked with on Thursday found such satisfaction on the racquetball court that they returned Friday and Saturday as well. Mr. Spike, a blonde-headed boy from Syracuse, N.Y., was one of those who fell in love with the sport, and he returned each day for more.

"We came to give love and received more than we could possibly have given."

Friday was so full of events and excitement, it seems only a blur in my memory. Sam DiChristina and Joanne PoKorny, both of whom teach at the Towson Court Club in Baltimore, Md., joined us Friday to teach racquetball clinics. They put in many hours of work and Sam was assigned the first wheelchair racquetball player of our clinic. The gallery was packed as Sam played racquetball with his four-wheeled pupil.

Friday is also the day the ABC/TV people came to film. They caught Chuck Wurzer, vice president of the American Professional Racquetball Organization, teaching. They also filmed a Super Star and Special competition, which will be aired at a later date on ABC/TV.

We were pleased to be visited by actress Maureen McCormick (Marcia on the "Brady Bunch") that afternoon. Sam Cianfaranno, from the Upstate New York Racquetball Association, taught

her the rudiments of the game. And, by the way, she has the potential to become a very good racquetball player.

She was but one of many celebrities who went all out to help the kids have a good time. A basketball team from Marshall County in Kentucky stopped by daily to share their athletic skills and talent. Muhammad Ali boxed an exhibition match and was "knocked out." Saturday afternoon Hank Aaron played an exhibition racquetball game. (He has *some* forehand! Remember what a great wrist hitter he was and imagine the racquetball pro he could have been!)

Saturday morning and afternoon were sad. The realization that the weekend would soon be over hit us. Sam, Joanna, Donna and Elena, who had helped all weekend, had to leave that afternoon. Tom Onachuk, Francine Davis and Melanie Taylor drove from Pennsylvania to help us out.

Still, the goodbyes were hard. My buddy Spike came back again, so I gave him my coaching hat and let him teach. He did a darn good job, too. In Special Ed if a kid is offered that kind of responsibility, he will shine. Spike is one of those kids.

The closing ceremonies came all too soon. Saturday evening as we said goodbye to the kids, a few thoughts came to me. I was impressed with Eunice Kennedy Shriver's speech, in which she made the point: "A normal athlete competes and the struggle is over, win or lose. A special athlete competes and even after the event, the struggle is never over."

In a conversation Sam DiChristina and I had with her, she asked us why we thought the Special Olympics were so special. Our reply was that the helpers were volunteers, only people who love children came to help. The atmosphere is that of love.

For four days we taught to the applause of packed galleries. The spectators came to see the kids learn and have fun. The people cheered wildly for a good shot hit by an Olympian. Outside, on the track, special volunteers called "huggers" hugged the kids as they finished their races. In the end, the volunteers felt as though they were the ones who were hugged.

We came to help and were helped. We came to teach and were taught. We came to give joy and received it. Most importantly, we came to give love and received more than we could possibly have given. We were not volunteers, for we were paid more in love than we could ever bank in our lifetime. ■



Curious Curios

Some people are born collectors. You know the type, they collect everything in sight: bits of string, tin foil, even grains of sand. Now comes one of the latest—and certainly one of the most expensive—collectibles: Sports Figurines.

Ten such full-action figurines have been designed by artist Gerhard Skrobek for Goebel of West Germany. Goebel is the manufacturer of famous "M. I. Hummel" figurines, plates and bells, and other fine art collectibles.

These new bisque porcelain figurines on black lacquered bases are available at fine gift, jewelry and department stores in numbered, limited editions. Shown above are "Skier," "Golfer" and "Tennis Player." They range in size from 7 1/4" x 7 1/4" to 8 1/2" x 14 3/4".

Retail price: \$77.50 each.

Spaulding Acquires Chicago Clubs

In a move to expand its existing operation, Spaulding Racquetball Clubs, Inc., of St. Louis, Mo., has acquired two northern Chicago area suburban racquetball clubs. The two clubs (previously operating under the name of SkyHarbor) are located at 3175 Commercial Ave. in Northbrook and 2699 Skokie Valley Rd. in Highland Park.

Both clubs have 12 temperature controlled courts and both contain fully carpeted locker rooms with saunas and whirlpools.

This brings the total number of clubs in the Spaulding chain to 22. There are

nine clubs in the St. Louis area; three in Kansas City; one in Lawrence, Kan.; one each in Springfield, Columbia and St. Joseph, Mo.; one in Little Rock, Ark.; Lexington, Ky.; Houston, Tex.; and Edgewater, N.J.

Charles A. Spaulding, president of Spaulding Racquetball Clubs, said: "We also have a policy of reciprocal membership privileges to all Spaulding clubs in any city." This is a real advantage for the member who travels.

The Spaulding Racquetball Clubs began in 1973 in St. Louis. Besides owning and operating 22 clubs, Spaulding also has a products and services division that sells a complete court-wall-door system, as well as providing management contract services.



Spur of the Moment Relief

If you're sensitive right down to your heels, Calderon Products may have just the thing for you. Their new "Cushi-Heel Pillows" are specially designed to relieve the pain of heel spurs, stone

bruises and other annoying foot conditions.

Easy to use, you simply slip the pillow into the heel of any sports shoe (or dress or work shoe). Sized for both men and women, the pillows are, according to the manufacturer, "exactly the right shape, density and compression to cushion the weight heels must bear as you walk or run."

For more information, contact: Calderon Products Co., P.O. Box 5117, Akron, Ohio 44313.



Allen Sabbag

Moving Up

Standard Court Players Clubs (formerly Sports Illustrated Court Clubs), one of the nation's largest racquet sport chains, recently announced two high level promotions.

Lawrence Levey, formerly comptroller of the Southfield, Mich., based firm, has been named treasurer. Allen Sabbag, who previously served as vice president-operations, has been named president and chief operating officer.

Before joining the court club chain, Sabbag was general manager of retail operations at Midas, Inc. He holds an MBA degree from Loyola University in Chicago.

With the completion of its new Bay City, Mich., club, scheduled for next month, Standard Court Players will operate 17 racquetball clubs with a total of 215 courts. ■

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

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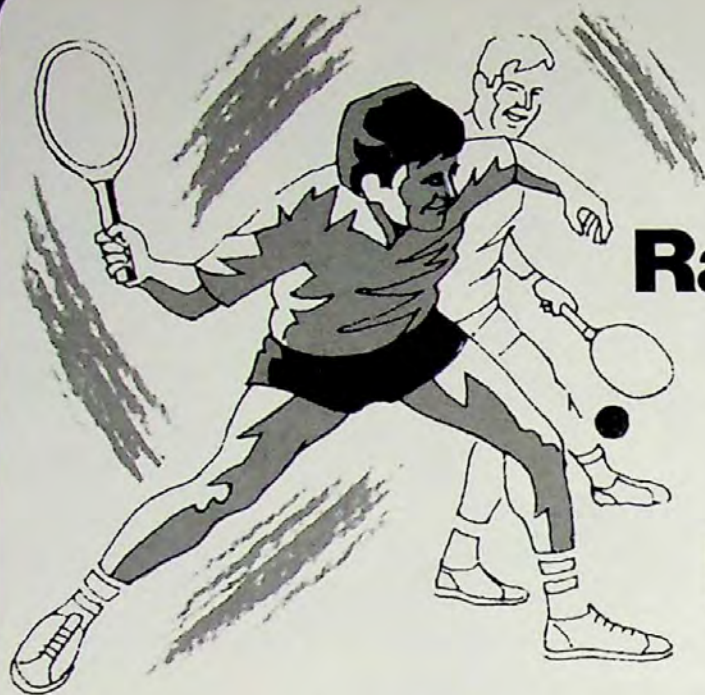
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PLAYING HURT

HOW TO FACE THE MUSIC WHEN IT HURTS TOO MUCH TO DANCE

"At first, I started to get a constant pain like a toothache in my playing elbow. It hurt to grip a racquet. It was there all the time, and I played with it for nine months... I worried when I played. I couldn't practice because I had to save myself for actual matches... After a while you begin to wonder if it's worth it."

— Tony Roche, Australian tennis player once ranked No. 2 in the world.

"Man is an adaptable creature, and one finds out what you can or cannot do... You hurt (your) knee. You're conscious of it. But then you start to play at a different level. You change your run a little bit. Or you dive off a different leg. Maybe you alter your stance."

— Merlin Olsen, former tackle for the Los Angeles Rams.

Athletic injuries are like distant relatives. You don't think about them until they show up. And then they usually end up staying longer than they should. The fact is, we would be much better off to start planning right now for a visit from Aunt Malady, because 9 out of 10 athletes will eventually suffer a major injury or at least a series of debilitating minor ones. Everything from severe bruises and pulled muscles to strains, spasms and tendonitis. That adds up to about 19 to 20 million people a year requiring a physician for so-called "leisure-time" activities.

While sports medicine has progressed far beyond its primitive tape and liniment phase, the physical demands made by modern sport have escalated too. And so an epidemic of sports injuries continues at all levels of competition. All too often, the sports segment of the evening news sounds like a casualty report from the front.

It's no wonder, then, that we've developed an almost obsessive interest in sports injuries. Little wonder, too, that injuries have become a staple ingredient in sports lore. We all have our favorite examples. Willis Reed dragging his useless leg up and down the court during the Knicks' championship series in 1973 against

• BY TOM CARLSON •



Randy Stafford (left) and David Peck.

“Former pro Randy Stafford suffered from nagging shoulder problems. A review of his technique told him why: he was catching ceiling balls too far overhead. A simple adjustment in form cleared up the problem.”

the Lakers; Y.A. Tittle knocked silly time and again by the Bears' defense in the 1963 title game, heading back to the huddle, blood streaming down his bald head into his eyes; Diana Nyad staggering from the water after a marathon swim, her face stung to oatmeal by poisonous jellyfish. The list is endless.

Now, cynics might argue that these are professional athletes, and they play hard and even suffer because they're paid to. It's a simple exchange of values: enduring pain for personal gain.

The problem with such a conclusion, of course, is that there are millions of amateur athletes from college football players to racquetball aficionados who voluntarily enter into training routines every bit as torturous as the pro equivalent. What's more, they play injured, just like the pros, even when they don't have to.

In the end, money is seldom the motive for playing hurt. It goes deeper than that. It may be our Puritan origins speaking, telling us that there is no success without suffering, no gain without pain. More certainly, we play hurt because sports has a great deal of ego-involvement. To a large extent, you are what you play. And to be unable to play anymore, to be told that the sport has unfortunately gotten the best of you, is a blow of the first magnitude to your sense of self worth.

So we tape up and drag ourselves back onto the courts and playing fields when our better judgment and the odds argue against it. Some might call it mindless machismo. Others, perhaps more accurately, would see such gestures as evidence of the indomitable human spirit. The refusal to quit. Grace under pressure. If you take sports injuries into consideration, our national pastime isn't football or baseball. It's gutsball, the one game 9 out of 10 of us will eventually play.

While racquetball isn't nearly as hazardous to your health as football, basketball or hockey, there remains an epic catalogue of injuries common to the sport. According to a recent medical survey, if you play racquetball, the injuries you're most likely to sustain are elbow tendonitis, shoulder injuries, ruptured Achilles tendons, knee and ankle ailments, abdominal muscle pulls or rib-cage strains.

Which injury lurks in your future? It all depends, on chance to a certain extent. We're all playthings of the gods, and when those almighty stage managers feel like it, they indiscriminately tear up knees, crack ribs and slip discs just for the black humor of it all.

Then there's your general body type. Loose and tight may be states of mind, but they're also inherited body configurations. And according to Dr. James Nicholas, founder of the Institute of Sports Medicine and Athletic Trauma at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, your body type has a great deal to do with the kind of injuries you're likely to suffer. "The loose athlete," says Dr. Nicholas, "is flexible and agile, but susceptible to torn ligaments; he has to strengthen himself. The tight type," he continues, "is stronger and has to stretch himself; he tends to fracture an ankle rather than sprain it."

But there's no reason to start feeling sorry for yourself just because your athletic future seems beyond your control. Certainly fate and genetic inheritance play a significant role in determining the injuries awaiting you. But to a far greater extent, things rest squarely in your hands. In the end, you're the captain of your own medical destiny.

Take conditioning and general preparation, for example. If you're among the select few who have bothered to get in shape before playing, your chances of getting hurt are significantly reduced. The same is true for proper warm-ups. Listen to Dr. Ben E. Benjamin, director of the Muscular Therapy Institute and author of *Sports Without Pain*: "In racquetball, it is especially important to be quite warmed up because of the sudden starts and stops that are part of the game. Unfortunately, most people don't warm up properly." And so come

the muscle pulls, tears, strains, sprains and spasms.

Another injury factor over which you have some control is your technique or form. In racquetball, bad form usually spells bad news for the arm, shoulder or back. Larry Liles, coach of the IRA national champion Memphis State University team, has seen his share of chronic elbow and shoulder injuries. And he thinks that part of the problem is that too many players are trying to duplicate the power style of Marty Hogan. "Hogan rolls his wrist at the point of impact and really rips the ball," explains Liles. "That's all well and good for someone like Marty whose wrist is as broad as your knee. But in the less powerfully built player, the tendons of the wrist and elbow take a terrible beating." The result is that a whole host of would-be Hogans wake up to discover that tennis elbow isn't just for tennis anymore.

It's the smart player like former pro Randy Stafford who competes within his physical limitations, and makes adjustments in form when the body sends out distress signals. For some time, Stafford suffered from nagging shoulder problems. A review of his technique soon told him why. He was catching ceiling balls too far overhead—at about 12 o'clock instead of around 10 o'clock where the ball should be struck. Instead of the shock of impact going through the wrist and into the racquet, it was traveling straight down his arm and into his shoulder. A simple adjustment in form cleared up the problem.

Gene Grapes probably knows more than he should—or wants to know—about altering technique to compensate for injuries. The 1978-79 IRA Golden Masters National Champion has suffered more than his share of injury and illness. And that includes a case of chronic arthritis. "I used to love a low, hard serve," recalls Grapes wistfully. "But constant bending over plus the tremendous torsion required to hit that type of serve started giving me everything from sciatica (hip and back pain) to

muscle spasms." The problem became acute during the IRA national singles tournament last spring in Las Vegas. Grapes won anyway. "And I did it without serving one ball below my shoulders," says Grapes proudly. "I changed to a garbage overhead, jamming my opponent when I had to." Moral: A lot of smart pitchers have lost their fastball and managed to stay in the big leagues.

When injury finally does strike, the average racquetball player is pretty much on his own. Prior to most amateur tournaments, officials routinely notify local paramedic and CPR (coronary-pulmonary resuscitation) units. Anything short of a heart attack, however, and the player is left to make his own medical arrangements or to go off and lick his wounds by himself. Elaine Lee, an IRA national doubles champion and a top ranked singles player, speaks for the majority of players: "Short of any serious injury, I'm my own doctor. I have to be. If I've got ankle problems—and I do—then I do a lot of reading and design a conditioning program for myself."

College racquetball teams don't fare much better. Like most other university "club sports"—volleyball, wrestling, karate, etc.—racquetball generally has no money set aside for a team doctor or trainer. The best a club player can hope for is a coach who's got his team's interests at heart. The first order of business for Memphis State coach Larry Liles, for example, is conditioning. "It's the best hedge against injury," he says. And just to make sure all bets are covered, Liles has enlisted a surgeon friend of his to act as team doctor, and has also gained access for his players to the ultrasound, whirlpools and weight equipment of the football team.

When it comes to injury, the pros, too, must fend for themselves. While it's true that the higher the level of play, the lower the incidence of injury, the pros are only human. They get hurt too. And when it's serious, they're faced with the same dilemma that puzzles the lowliest "C" player with a bum knee: who to call for medical attention.

Eye injuries

Shoulder injuries

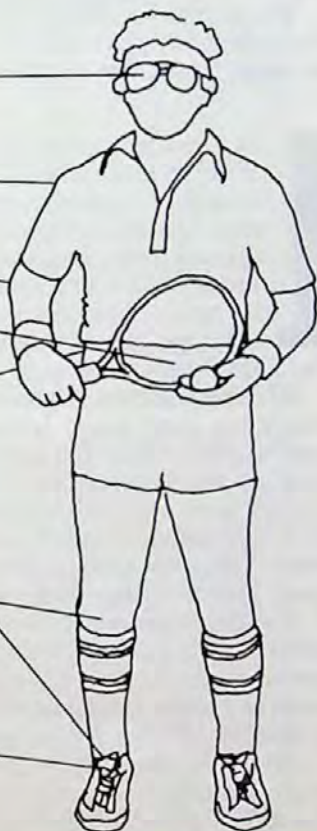
Elbow tendonitis

Abdominal muscle pulls

Lower back pain

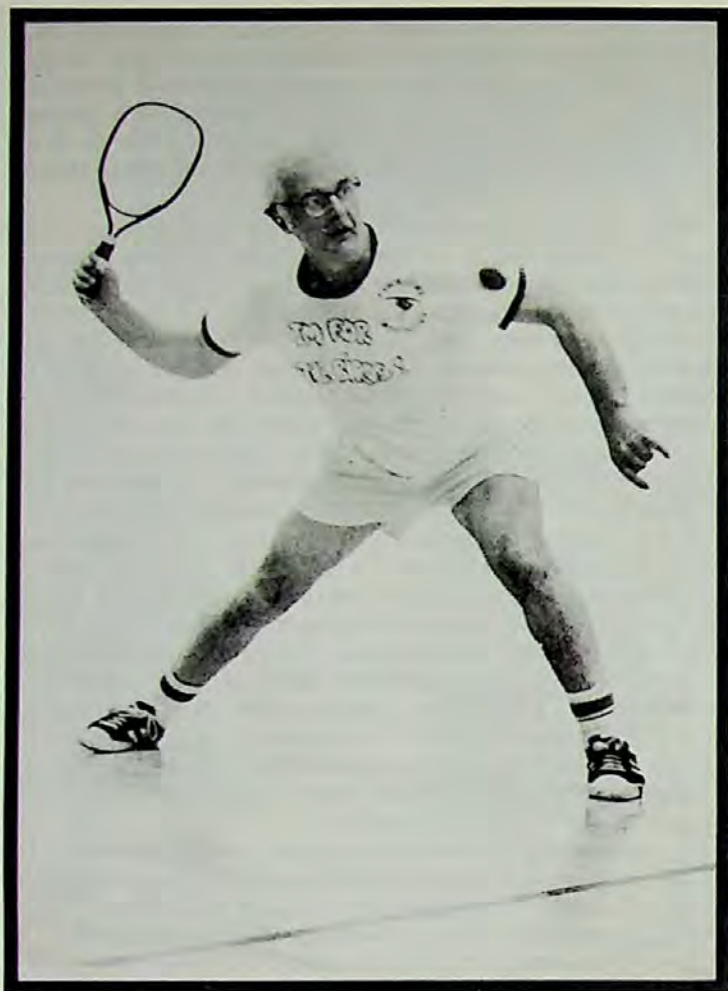
Knee and ankle ailments

Ruptured Achilles tendon



CAUTION: DANGER ZONES AHEAD

All athletic endeavors, from boxing to mountain climbing to football, are potentially hazardous. And, while playing racquetball may not be as dangerous as some sports, regulars of the game know it has its share of woes. The accompanying illustration shows some of the most common areas of racquetball injury. The illustration depicts such problems as ankle ailments and elbow tendonitis, but does not include self-inflicted wounds resulting from clumsiness (i.e. jammed toes, bitten tongue, bruised knees, etc.). When it comes to those kinds of injuries, friend, you're on your own.



“IRA Golden Masters champ Gene Grapes plays with injuries, including everything from sciatica to muscle spasms and chronic arthritis. Luckily, Grapes’ doctor knows about sports medicine. He has to; he’s Grapes’ doubles partner.”

The problem should *not* be resolved by a random stroll through the yellow pages. When it comes to treating athletic injuries, there are two kinds of physicians: those who have training in sports medicine and those who don’t. Doctors in the latter group—from family physicians to traditional orthopedists—have been taught to diagnose and treat all injuries with the goal of getting the patient back to normal, even if that means telling the athlete not to play again.

Chances are, however, that a doctor trained in sports medicine won’t simply tell you not to play anymore. He’ll diagnose your injury and then discuss with you what you can and can’t do; if it’s serious, he’ll probably point out the consequences of continued athletic activity, offer you a limited program for continued play and then let *you* make the decision. Sports medicine specialists are more sensitive to the psychological “addiction” many players, pro and amateur alike, develop for a particular sport. These doctors reason, and probably accurately, that to tell a dedicated athlete he can’t ever play again would do more damage psychologically than further limited playing might do physically. In other words, in the case of the committed athlete, playing hurt, even if it aggravates a chronic condition, is often preferable to not playing at all.

Gene Grapes is one of the lucky players. He has a physician who knows sports medicine. Dr. Al Schattner, director of Columbia Hospital Emergency Room in Pittsburgh, has had long talks with Grapes about his arthritis, his age (57) and the rigors of racquetball. “He began by asking me what I wanted to do,” recalls Grapes. “Then he said, ‘Well, Gene, if you were 20, we might treat this thing differently. But since you’re not a kid anymore, and you obviously want to keep playing, let’s try to keep it in check.’” And so, following a carefully orchestrated conditioning program and a regimen of medication, Grapes began his tournament play.

When a problem arose, medical help was right there. Literally. Al Schattner had become Grapes’ doubles partner, and together, they won the IRA Golden Masters doubles title two years ago in San Diego and repeated last year in Sterling, Va.

You seldom hear people like Gene Grapes complaining. They feel lucky to be playing at all. The pain, which is always there, is simply worn like another piece of clothing.

Like St. Onge wears his pain almost every time he plays. With 38 dislocations of the shoulder and a disintegrating knee that requires more wrapping than Macy’s at Christmas, the executive director of the IRA knows all about playing hurt. Yet, claims St. Onge, it’s nothing to get melodramatic or maudlin about. “With a chronic injury,” he says, “you learn quickly about thresholds of pain. Once you play through the pain and get to the other side, the next time you have to do it, it isn’t so difficult.”

Of course getting beyond the pain doesn’t mean that the injury has gone away. It could be that, through hard play, you’ve traumatized that area of your body, put it into a kind of localized shock so that the pain is hidden. Or it could mean that you’ve been unconsciously compensating by removing stress from the injured area and transferring it to a healthy part of the body. This latter phenomenon is the Catch-22 of playing hurt: favor your bad knee and you injure your good one.

The development of modern chemistry has provided many athletes with another means of staying in the game: drugs, a whole pharmacopoeia of painkilling miracles. Taken in proper doses and under careful supervision, these painkillers have been a blessing for the athlete and non-athlete alike.

All too often, however, athletes, with the tacit approval of team physicians, coaches, and owners, have taken excessive dosages in order to keep playing. The result has often been a more serious injury.

Despite what the TV ads claim, it’s not Wheaties that keeps

the pro footballer going. It's painkillers like butazolidin, Xylocaine, procaine and cortisone. According to Edward Percy, a member of the American College of Sports Medicine, these drugs are used as commonly as aspirin among football players. Without them, team benches would be sparsely populated on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Not all athletes are sold on the quick chemical answer to pain. Bill Walton, the All-Pro former center for the Portland Trail Blazers, made news in August of 1978 when he publicly demanded to be treated. Among other sins, Walton accused the Trail Blazers of misusing painkilling drugs on him, and suggested that one of them, Xylocaine, led to the fracture of his left foot during the NBA playoffs. Walton, of course, was traded, but the issue continues to boil.

Probably even more dramatic than the use of painkilling drugs among athletes have been recent disclosures about the abuse of so-called "addictive" drugs. Best known among the additives are the amphetamines, a group of drugs chemically similar to the adrenaline normally produced in the body. These "pep" drugs include Benzedrine, Dexadrine, Dexamyl and

methamphetamine ("speed"). These are the drugs that have been responsible for the most spectacular revelations in the last few years. In 1974, for example, there was a scandal involving the NFL's San Diego Chargers. Widespread use of speed among team members was admitted by doctors, management and players alike. There were fines, firings and a book, *The Nightmare Season*, by the team physician. Despite the scandal, there is every indication today that the league did not learn its lesson from the Chargers.

Because they allay fatigue and disguise pain, amphetamines have been used widely and for years in endurance sports such as running, bicycling, rowing and so on (as far back as 1939, there were demands that they be banned from these sports).

More important for football, however, speed taken in large doses has a remarkable capacity to bring upon symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. Speed can produce a fearful rage that makes it much easier for the reluctant or tired player to perform.

Whether or not the drug actually enhances reflexes or hand-eye coordination is open to question. Some people obviously

THE WRAP UP

Knee injuries, ranging from torn ligaments to tendonitis, are among the most common maladies of racquetball players. And few players are likely to want to exchange their active sport for something as sedentary as bridge, just because of a bum knee. Therefore, it's best to take precaution against aggravating a chronic knee, which could otherwise force you to give up the game altogether. One way to take precaution is to wrap your knee before playing.

In the accompanying series of photographs, Jerry Carter, licensed athletic trainer for the Memphis Rogues soccer team (N.A.S.L.), demonstrates his technique for a general wrap. Carter points out that this wrap is good for cartilage injuries, as it reduces the chances that the knee will rock back and forth.

Before beginning the process, be sure to place a "raiser" under the heel of the foot. This will ensure a natural bend of the knee. Also, it is advisable to spray the leg with a tape adhesive (there are a variety of brands on the market). This tacky substance will prevent the wrap from slipping during active play.

Step 1. Use a 6" width bandage, and begin the wrap from mid-calf. It is important to wrap *upward*, from the calf, to prevent cutting off the upward flow of blood in your veins.

Step 2. Layer the bandage as you wrap, taking care not to wrinkle it. Wrinkles will make the bandage fit looser, thus decreasing support for the joint.

Step 3. Wrap the bandage all the way up to mid-thigh. This will give your knee the most support.

Step 4. Anchor the bandage at the top by using adhesive tape. Wrap it around the leg several times.

Step 5. Anchor the bandage at the bottom by using the adhesive tape just below the knee (top of the calf area).

Step 6. The finished wrap.

One final note, Carter says, regards serious knee injuries. If you have an injury for which you've undergone surgery, chances are you should (if you haven't already) invest in a knee brace. They can be made to order and will save time. However, some players prefer the wrap, because they say it is more comfortable. Either way, proper support and care for an injured area is essential for any athlete who plays with an injury.



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

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think that it does. In the early 1930s, Don Butcher, British Squash Racquets Champion, was affectionately known as The Benzidine Kid. Today Butcher's beliefs are shared by a good number of disciples in pro baseball and football. Recent tests, however, revealing increased accident rates among "speeding" drivers, seem to indicate that amphetamines might actually impair judgement. The jury is still out, and the game of chemical Russian roulette continues unabated.

Fortunately, the drug controversy has not yet touched racquetball. And it may not, ever. The conditions just don't seem right. Drugs work their way into sports competition only when the pressure mounts—when there are highly paid (or overpaid) athletes, betting lines in Las Vegas, team owners with egos as big as the Ritz and hoards of fans in high priced seats.

Although organized racquetball has drawn increasing attention of late, it has somehow resisted being turned into the kind of big business indicative of, say, football. There's a great deal of money involved to be sure, but in this age of corporate mentality, racquetball remains essentially a game played by relatively independent, self-sufficient individuals.

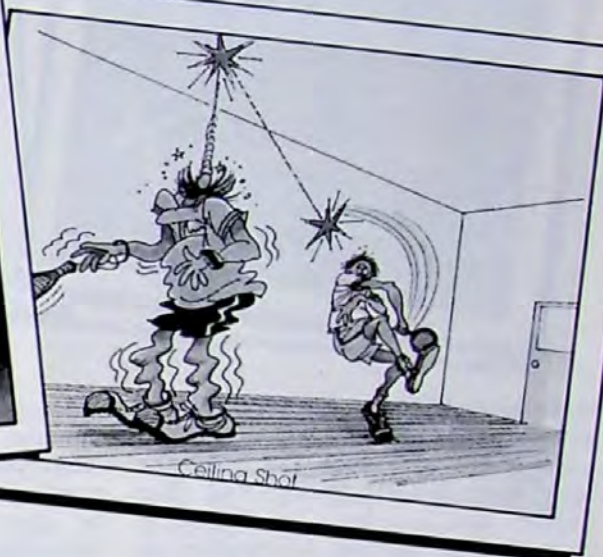
While such purism has kept pro racquetball earnings from going through the ceiling, it has also kept players shielded from some unsavory complications. Says Jerry Hilecher: "It's probably just as well that racquetball isn't so developed that players have to go to team doctors, trainers and so on. These guys traditionally are under a lot of pressure to give athletes some pills and get them back into the game."

This lack of the kind of pressures common to other sports may also explain why most serious racquetball players, pro or amateur, know a great deal about medicine—from varieties of conditioning to diagnosis and treatment of pulls, sprains and so on. It's really not so surprising. After all, they're in a sport without trainers, aides and assorted medical minions to carry them from the court, spray them, give them salts, ice them, rub them down and wrap them up. They're on their own.

And as those who have played the game long enough and played hurt often enough will tell you, racquetball is like a baby gorilla. It's essentially playful and fun, but occasionally it doesn't know its own strength. Under these circumstances, players have found that an ounce of prevention is well worth the effort. Because as anyone who plays with an injury knows, pain isn't redemptive or noble; it just hurts. ■

TINSEL TEASERS

A Smorgasbord of Gift Ideas for the Racquetball Player By Tom McDonough



It's that time of year again! So, get your jollies up and practice your ho, ho, ho's. Christmas is literally just around the corner. To make it easier for all you potential Santas out there who don't have a staff of tiny elves on your payroll, here's our racquetball gift guide: the who, what, when and where of gift shopping for that racquetball fanatic in your life.

First stop: the pro shop at your local court club. Most shops have a wide range of goodies to please any racquetballer. From stocking-stuffers to major items, it's a good place to start your shopping.

Accessories alone—wrist bands, headbands, balls, belt towels, gloves, eyeglass holders, eyeguards—make ideal gifts. Don't fret about duplicating a gift your racquetballer already has. Active players need more than one of everything. In one session on the court, wall bangers may go through three or

four sets of bands and wristlets, not to mention a whole passel of balls.

If there's someone you'd just love to coax onto the court, consider giving him a racquet for starters. They can be purchased for as little as \$10. Then again, if it's someone really special you have in mind, you can pay as much as \$99.95. But watch out. Your racquetballer might want a certain size grip—very important for finesse shots and maximum performance—so maybe a gift certificate for a racquet would be a safer purchase.

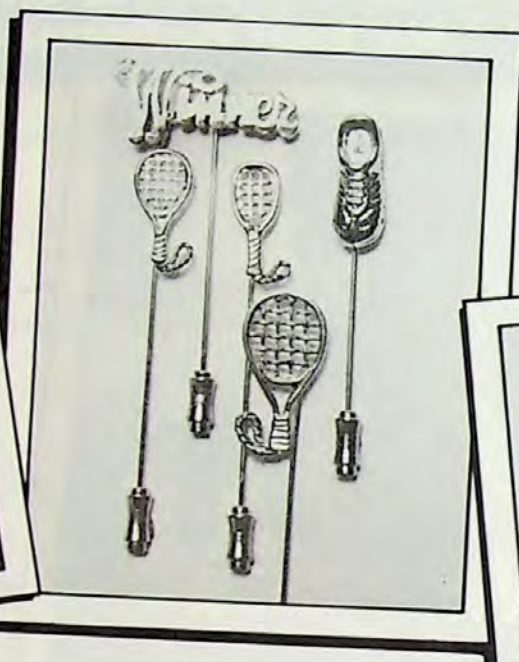
If it's the unusual you seek, Crosswinds Corporation has a series of 12 zany racquetball posters suitable for framing. Artist Billy Vann has created a wacky combination of off-the-wall racquetball situations. You can choose from such titles as "Ceiling Shot," "Z' Ball," "Waffle Face," "Doubles," "Kill Shot," "The Rally," "The Gentle Sex,"—a dozen in all. Your club may sell these. If not, write to Bob

Hennkens, president, Crosswinds Corporation, 1500 Fen Park Drive, Fenton, Mo. 63036. A full set of one dozen costs \$24 plus \$1 for handling. Individual posters sell for \$2 apiece. (If you order less than 12 you still have to pay the \$1 for handling.) On request, Bob Hennkens will send you a list of what's available in the "Racquetball Fanatic" series, as the posters are called.

Crosswinds also handles Sports Illustrated full-color action posters (2' by 3') of Charlie Brumfield and Marty Hogan bending to hit a ball. To order, send \$3 for each poster to Crosswinds Corporation. They make great den or room decorations. Again, add \$1 for handling per order.

For those who travel, there's even a racquetball travel guide. It's called *Racquetball: Where to Play in the U.S.A.*, and was compiled by Susan McShirley. Just as the title implies, the book is a directory of racquetball facilities

TINSEL TEASERS



LARRY KUZNEWSKI

in the United States (over 1300 entries, including Canada and a section on resorts). For \$7.95 you can order the book from S.R.M. Press, P.O. Box 67A78, Los Angeles, Ca. 90067. It provides such helpful information as location of clubs, number of courts, hourly rates and guest fees. It's a perfect gift for the business person who likes to stay in shape while on the road.

Any true athlete is always in the market for another good T-shirt. (The more you have, the less often you have to do laundry, which can interfere with playing time.) So, if you can't find a racquetball T-shirt at your pro shop, you can order one that says: "Racquetball: The No. 2 Indoor Sport." (No, squash isn't No. 1.) The shirt is yellow, all cotton, comes in all sizes and costs \$6.95 (plus \$1 for postage). Order it from Expressions, Dept. RB, 14157 Califa St., Van Nuys, Ca. 91401.

Also in the clothing line: in East Hartford, Connecticut, Sherman's Cravats (formerly Stuart Baldwin) is offering a racquetball necktie. It's 100 per cent polyester and comes in navy, burgundy, green and brown set off by several tiny racquetball players in white. Cost: \$9 plus \$1 for handling. Sherman's Cravats Ltd., 1009 Main Street, East Hartford, Conn. 06108.

Available in December, Sherman's will also have a webb belt for the racquetball player. According to the manufacturer, the belt is "made of 100 per cent cotton in ivory with the racquetball player in white on a navy background." It comes in two styles, ring buckle or leather tab buckle, and is available for men and women in waist sizes up to 44. Both designs retail for \$11, plus \$1 for handling. (According to Leon Darefsky, president of Sherman's Cravats, next on their list will be a racquetball rainhat.)

From high above sea level, courtesy of Rocky Mountain Rackets, P. O. Box 739, Loveland, Co. 80537, comes a guaranteed, battery operated racquetball wall clock. Available in five colors at \$29.95 each.

For the friend who likes to keep records, GB Farms, Box 372-R, Calabasas, California 91302, has a racquetball diary called the "Racquetball Record." In a 7½" by 9" vinyl binder, you can record tournaments entered, partners to remember, data on worthy opponents and times when you have a lesson scheduled. Write to GB Farms for more information.

A gift for racquetball players of all ages comes from the Jokari company. It's called "Racquetball Without the

Walls," and the description is apt. For \$11.99 you can purchase this fun game (a ball attached to a "super-stretch" string and a weight), plus instructions. Or, for \$35 you can buy a complete set including two racquets and a ball. The game serves as a good practice tool for friends who can't make it to the courts as often as they'd like. If you can't find it in a local store, try: Jokari/US Inc., 4715 McEwen, Dallas, Tx. 75234, (214-233-5541).

You may have seen advertisements for racquetball jewelry—necklaces, earrings and such in gold or silver. Tinker and Company, 400 S. Orlando Avenue, Building C., Winter Park, Fl. 32789, sells these popular items by mail order.

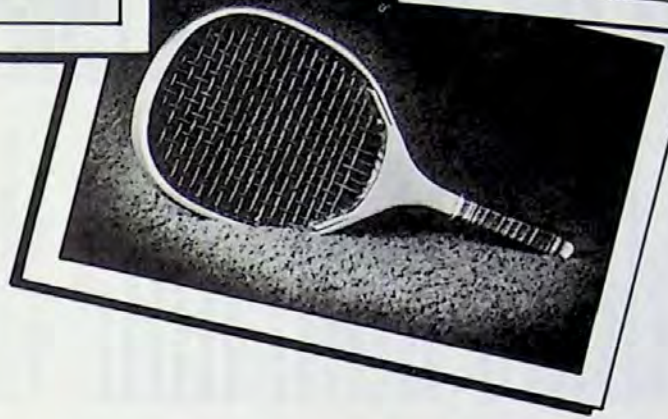
You can call Tinker at 305-645-5212 and expect delivery in 7 to 10 days. Master Charge, VISA, check or money order, COD all accepted. Gold items are 14 karat; 92.5 sterling silver and white gold are also available.

A useful gift that's also unique is to arrange for complimentary court time for a friend at your local club. (This follows the same principle, for example, as giving theater tickets, but is tailored to the racquetball fan.) Or, if you wish to go all out, you can always purchase an entire membership for someone (better be sure they really love racquetball). Such



LARRY KIZNEWSKI

LARRY KIZNEWSKI



arrangements will vary in cost, depending on the club involved.

Of course, one of the best bargains around is a subscription to *Racquetball*. At \$10 a year for 12 issues, you can hardly miss. (Order forms are conveniently provided in this issue.)

While not strictly a gift idea, the thought of a brass door handle in the shape of a racquetball racquet is intriguing. Court clubs often have them. Steve Kay, general manager of Stratford Industries and the distributor of the handles, has a novel use for them. "Mount the handle on a polished piece of walnut and use it as a perpetual trophy in your club. Put a detachable brass plate at the bottom and inscribe the names—year after year—of tournament winners," says Kay. You may order a handle/trophy from Kay by writing to Stratford Industries Co., Inc., 2284 Pargon Road, San Jose, Ca. Cost per handle: \$98.50, plus about \$3 or \$4 for shipping. Kay will send a brochure on request. You can also phone him at 408-263-8686.

Another item for the affluent, particularly those recently recovering from heart complications and advised by their physicians to start an exercise program, is a finger pulse meter. The device is marketed by Universal Resilite Co., Inc.,

20 Terminal Drive So., Plainview, NY 11803 (516-433-8900).

The meter clips on to your thumb—you have a pulse there—and shows how many beats per minute your pump is putting out. "More and more people are becoming conscious of heart preventive maintenance or rehabilitation programs now," says Don Hannington, sales representative for Universal Resilite. "People who have already had heart attacks are strongly advised by cardiologists to go into an exercise program. It could be a combination of fitness and racquetball, of course. In such a program, heart rate becomes vital in determining the limits of your exercise capacity. The player clips the meter on his or her thumb and constantly monitors his or her pulse. Also, people who have not had a heart attack but may have taken up racquetball, or any sport for that matter, have to be cautious, particularly if they are getting on in years. Often a physician will prescribe a range—what we call a 'private area'—maximum pulse rate. This translates to, say, 150 or 160 beats per minute while playing. The pulse meter helps the athlete keep in range." Cost? About \$198.

Don Hannington also suggests a home exercise bike unit from Resilite, which is

"built to last." Universal sells the Monark Starr, a Swedish-made unit of durable design. "Most of the exercise bikes on the market," Hannington cautions, "have a screw-type wheel resistance unit on the front wheel which usually breaks after a few days. The Monark Starr features a nylon belt. The belt—replaceable for \$3 or \$4—lasts for 10,000 or more miles and may be ordered from Universal Resilite." Write to Hannington at Universal Resilite or phone if you are close to Plainview, Long Island. The Monark Starr sells for \$245.

Speaking of gifts, here's a suggestion for the toymakers of America. . . What you did for Farrah Fawcett, you can do for racquetball!

We need one of those mechanical dolls. Let's call it "The Contender." Dress it in shorts and a shirt. It turns red in the face, drops to the floor, thrashes about and beats a tattoo on the floor with its heels. ("Oh, look Mommy! That looks just like Daddy!")

Here's another. Gets red in the face, jaws open wide, emits a shrill howl, then moons the crowd in one motion and flashes the gallery in another. You can call this one the "Charlie's-Not-An-Angel" doll. A perfect gift for the racquetball player of delicate (or is it delinquent?) taste. ■

RACQUETBALL

NOVEMBER 7-11

Omega-Hertz Racquetball Classic (3)
Racquettime of Ballwin
 (formerly Wilson-Coryell Racquetball Club)
 910 Clayton Rd.
 Ballwin, MO 63011
 Tournament Director:
 Sherry Ridings
 314-391-8087

Omega-Hertz Racquetball Classic (3)
Racquetball Centre
 440 Interstate No. Parkway
 Atlanta, GA 30339
 Tournament Director:
 Bobby Siegle
 404-955-5555

NOVEMBER 9-11

Ocean State Open (3)
Playoff Club
 15 Catamore Blvd.
 East Providence, RI 02914
 Tournament Director:
 Dennis Culberson
 401-434-3600

1st Annual Team Racquetball Invitational (2)
Miami Lakes Racquet Club
 5885 N.W. 151st St.
 Miami Lakes, FL
 Tournament Director:
 Dennis Ferentino
 305-822-0160

4th Annual Turkey Classic (2)
Oklahoma State University
 Stillwater, OK
 Tournament Director:
 Mark Fairbairn
 405-372-2874

NOVEMBER 16-18

Turkey Shoot
Supreme Courts (3)
 Nashville, TN
 Tournament Director:
 Mike Mjehovich
 615-832-7529

Turkeyfest Open (3)
University of Southern Maine
 Portland, ME
 Tournament Director:
 Bruce Lewis
 207-773-6438

Salisbury Court Club
Maryland Racquetball Association Open
 Tournament Director:
 Tom Whipple

NOVEMBER 23-25

AMF Head Fall Fishbowl Frolic
Easter Seal Benefit (3)
21st Point Racquetball Club
 721 Boardman-Poland Rd.
 Youngstown, OH 44512
 Tournament Director:
 Gary Walters
 216-758-2334

Easter Seal Benefit (3)
21st Point Racquetball Club
 721 Boardman-Poland Rd.
 Youngstown, OH 44512
 Tournament Director:
 Mary Ann Johnston
 216-758-2334

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 2
Omega-Hertz Racquetball Classic (3)
Franklin Racquet Club
 29350 Northwestern Highway

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2

Chavelier Waterbed Open (3)
 Shrewsbury, MA
 Tournament Director:
 Paul Henrickson
 617-845-1001

Downtown Y Open (3)
 Downtown Y
 605 N. Ervay
 Dallas, TX
 Tournament Director:
 Jim Handley
 214-742-3251

DECEMBER 1-3

Western New England Open (3)
Racquet Club of Bousquet
 Pittsfield, MA
 Tournament Director:
 Mike Meyer
 413-499-4600

DECEMBER 7-9

Melrose Park Insurance
Agency Championships (3)
 17th and Rice St.
 Melrose Park, IL
 Ray Mitchell
 312-745-9400

Towson Court Club
Santa Claus Anonymous
 Tournament Director:
 Tom Whipple

DECEMBER 8-10

Western New England Open (3)
Racquet Club of Bousquet
 Pittsfield, MA
 Tournament Director:
 Mike Meyer

Boston Tennis Club Holiday Festival (3)
 Boston Tennis Club
 Summer St.
 Boston, MA
 Tournament Director:
 John Lepore
 617-269-4300

JANUARY 3-7

I.R.A. Open State Men and Women Doubles (3)
 Central YMCA
 401 Atkinson Dr.
 Honolulu, HI 96814
 Tournament Director:
 Phyllis Gomes

JANUARY 4, 5, 6

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

JANUARY 11-13

Maine Closed (2)
Andy Valley Racquetball Club
 Lewiston, ME
 Tournament Director:
 Bruce Lewis
 207-773-6438

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

JANUARY 18-20

Racquetball Northeast Grand Prix (2)

FEBRUARY 8-10

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

FEBRUARY 15-17

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

FEBRUARY 22-24

Racquetball Northeast Grand Prix (3)
Racquetball International
 Tournament Director:
 Jim Power
 45 Vanderbilt Ave.
 Norwood, MA 02062
 617-769-2340

FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 2

Racquetball Week

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2

I.R.A. State Championships (2)
 Contact local state directors for sites

MARCH 14-16

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

MARCH 21-23

MAY 9-11

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

MAY 10-11

Downtown Racquet Club
 Contact Tom Whipple for details

MAY 22-26

I.R.A. National Singles
 Site to be announced in DECEMBER issue of RACQUETBALL

JUNE 20-22

Racquetball Northeast Grand Prix (3)
Racquettime
 Tournament Director
 Rich Derby
 200 VFW Parkway (Rear)
 Dedham, MA 02026
 617-828-7632

Anapolis Court Club
Maryland State Singles
 Contact Tom Whipple for details

JULY 18-20

Racquetball Northeast Grand Prix (3)
Worcester Court Club
 Tournament Director:
 Dave Forsberg
 Gold Star Blvd.

NOVEMBER 9-12
Heart Association Benefit (3)
Downtown Racquet Club
230 George St.
New Haven, CT 06510
203-787-6501
Tournament Director:
Will Verhoeff

NOVEMBER 10-12
Nittany Lion Open (4)
Penn State University
Contact: Jere Willey
814-865-6588 (work)
814-238-2864 (home)

NOVEMBER 15-18
Omega-Hertz Racquetball
Classic (3)
Aidenlea Racquetball Club
474 Iroquois Shore Rd.
Oakville, Ontario L6H 2Y7
Tournament Director:
Ebbe Marquardsen
416-842-2386

NOVEMBER 16-18
LeBlanc Open (3)
Shrewsbury Racquet Club
Shrewsbury, Mass.
Tournament Director:
Paul Henrickson
617-845-1001

Racquetball Northeast
Grand Prix (3)
Cedardale Racquet Club
Haverhill, MA 01830
Tournament Director:
Debbie Salmon
617-373-1596

NOVEMBER 16-18
Tournament Director:
Jim Easterling
313-352-8000

Peter Cornell Open (3)
Downtown YMCA Fitness
Center
2 W. Franklin St.
Richmond, VA 23220
Tournament Director:
Carter Brook
804-644-4611

NOVEMBER 30
Backwall Holiday Closed
State Tournament (2)
Backwall Racquetball Club
Altoona, PA
Tournament Director:
Chris Kister
814-946-1668

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2
Long Island Open (4)
Universal Racquetball
Massapequa, NY
and
Center Courts
40 Maple Ave.
Rockville Center, NY 11570
Tournament Director:
Al Seitelman
516-288-1448

413-499-4600

DECEMBER 14-16
Maine Closed Doubles
Only (2)
Brunswick Tennis and
Racquetball Club
Harpwell Rd.
Brunswick, ME
Tournament Director:
Jerry Caron
207-773-6438

DECEMBER 18-20
National Health Studio
Open (3)
National Health Studio
3822 Frisco Rd.
Sherman, TX 75090
Tournament Director:
Tom Meadows
214-893-7418

DECEMBER 28-30
Racquetball Northeast Grand
Prix (3)
Boston Tennis Club
Tournament Director:
John Lepore
72 Prospect St.
Melrose, MA 02176
617-662-6791

Playoff-East Providence
Tournament Director:
Stan Gosselin
15 Catamore Blvd.
Providence, RI
401-434-3600

JANUARY 25-27
Rockville Courts Royal
Maryland State Doubles
Tournament Director:
Tom Whipple

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

FEBRUARY
Club House Open (3)
Dodge City Club House, Inc.
Comanche & Ave. F
Box 419
Dodge City, KS 67801
Tournament Director:
Steve Westphal

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

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

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

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

APRIL 25-27
I.R.A. Regionals (5)
sites to be announced

MAY
National Amateur Singles

Worcester, MA
617-852-8209

AUGUST 22-24
Racquetball Northeast Grand
Prix (3)
Playoff-Braintree
Tournament Director:
Jim Daly
288 Wood Road
Braintree, MA
617-848-8080

Ocean City Outdoor Courts
Maryland Outdoor
Championships
Contact Tom Whipple
for details

I.R.A. sanctioned tournament in bold
(1) - 1st level tournament
(2) - 2nd level tournament
(3) - 3rd level tournament
(4) - 4th level tournament
(5) - 5th level tournament
(6) - 6th level tournament

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207-865-4536 (home)

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Where Do Old Ballplayers Go?

SOME, LIKE BASEBALL'S DON KESSINGER, OPEN RACQUETBALL CLUBS

BY KENNETH NEILL

Don Kessinger is thoughtful. A trace of lingering fatigue moves across his face as he reflects upon the 15 years he spent playing major league baseball. "You know, this is the first time in my life, it seems, that I've been home during the month of August. The other day I was out playing golf, and I told the club pro, 'I never knew you people really had green grass out here.'"

Green grass. After all the shouting and adulation, all the good times and bad times, it finally comes down to something as simple as that: a longing for the green grass of home. And so, with almost more relief than disappointment, Don Kessinger, one of the most well-known figures in baseball, ended his illustrious career. The former bubble gum card hero, six-time National League All-Star and one of only two player-managers in the last two decades, has settled down to a quieter life as a businessman and court club entrepreneur. After years on the road, the small-town-boy-made-good has come home—to green grass, his family and racquetball. And he hasn't retired so much as . . . well, shifted gears. Racquetball is Don Kessinger's new game, and true to form, he is playing it to win.

It's been only a few months since Kessinger's surprise resignation from his position as player-manager of the Chicago White Sox, but already baseball seems to have taken a back seat in his life. And while he still looks trim and fit enough to pick up right where he left off as one of the game's premier shortstops, his heart and soul seem very much into his new role as wheeler-dealer and owner of the Don Kessinger Racquetball Clubs, based in his adopted home of Memphis. Kessinger owns one club in Memphis and another in Little Rock, Ark. And he operates the Don Kessinger Baseball Camp in Braggadocio, Mo., which caters to hundreds of adolescent baseball prospects every summer. He and his wife Carolyn also own



three fitness salons in Memphis.

Unlike many other athlete/entrepreneurs, Kessinger is no mere figurehead. While he does have some outside financial backing, the Don Kessinger Racquetball Clubs are his in fact as well as name. There's no question who calls the shots. And while they were not a factor in his decision to quit the White Sox in mid-season, his various business commitments had already convinced Kessinger that 1979 would be his last year in professional baseball. "We've gotten quite a few things going here," he explains, "and absentee ownership is just not my idea of how things should be run. I certainly felt that I needed to be here on top of things at this point."

So, with baseball behind him, Kessinger has hitched his wagon to racquetball's star. Construction is about to begin on a second Don Kessinger Racquetball Club in suburban Memphis. Other avenues for expansion are being explored. Does he think the racquetball boom is here to stay? "If I didn't," he says with a grin, "I wouldn't be putting \$700,000 in each of three facilities. You can bet on that."

....

One of the fascinating aspects of baseball is that, like racquetball, it is designed to be played by human beings of ordinary proportions. One does not have to be 7' 2" or weigh 270 pounds in order to excel. Don Kessinger is fitting proof of that. Sitting behind his office desk in his Memphis club, dressed casually, he could just as easily be a stockbroker or an airline pilot instead of an athlete who played over 2,000 games in the big leagues. All sorts of Mit-tyesque fantasies run through one's head. There are visions of losing 20 pounds, then maybe...

Maybe not. After all, Kessinger was an All-American at the University of

“When I took the job (as player-manager), all the managers in baseball said, 'You're crazy.' I don't agree with that; I think it's tough, but it can be done."

Mississippi before he signed with the Chicago Cubs in 1964. Over the next decade he was the Cubs' regular starting shortstop, and the next best thing to a human vacuum cleaner. In Chicago he teamed up with second baseman Glenn Beckert to give the Cubs what many experts considered the best double-play combo in the business during the late '60s and early '70s.

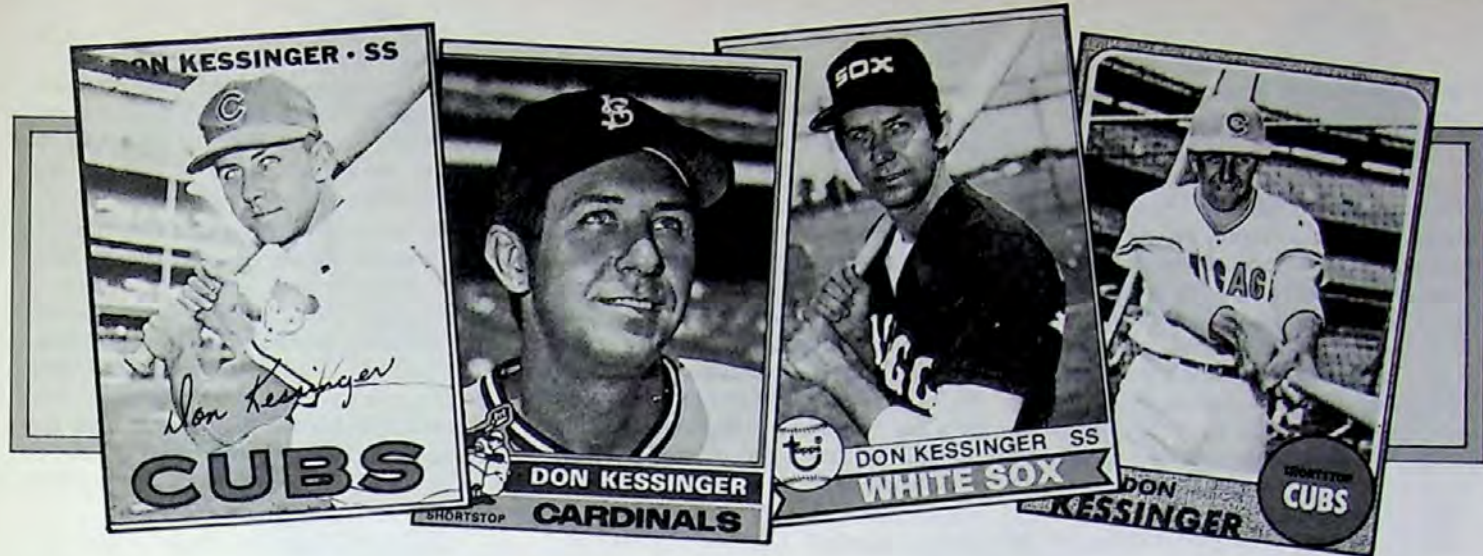
Kessinger was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1975. But after two

seasons, he was back in the Windy City, this time with the White Sox. Over 50,000 fans turned out to give him a rousing welcome in his first game against the Yankees in 1977. It was one of his biggest baseball thrills. "If you had told me when I was growing up in Forrest City, Ark., that I was going to spend most of my baseball career in Chicago, I would have panicked. But the people there treated me with so much respect and love and warmth that, you know, I have nothing but nice things to say about the place."

Chicago fans were naturally delighted when Kessinger was named player-manager of the White Sox last winter. It was a tough assignment; he was undertaking a dual role only one other player (Frank Robinson) had attempted since 1960. "When I took the job, all the managers in baseball said, 'You're crazy.' I don't agree with that; I think it's tough, but it can be done. I think it would be much easier, however, to be a player-manager with a contending ball club, where you have pretty much a set line-up every day as opposed to one where you're constantly having to shuffle your line-up to compete."

The 1979 White Sox were anything but competitive. By early August they were mired in fifth place in the American League West. It was at this point, after the club lost its seventh game in a row, that Kessinger, out of the blue, resigned as both player and manager, and came home to Memphis.

While the Chicago press pointed to a major rift between Kessinger and White Sox owner Bill Veeck, the former manager claims that this was not the case. "I went into a meeting with Mr. Veeck," Kessinger recalls, "to discuss what we could and couldn't do. We were in a little bit of a lethargic period, and being unable to make any major personnel changes at that stage of the season, the only major change really that



could be made was one of managers. So I offered to resign if Bill thought that was what might be needed. He didn't know but he said, 'That's one of the things we can try.' And so that's kind of the way it happened. He said, 'I certainly think you're doing a good job, and I'm sure not going to fire you.' And I said, 'I understand that and appreciate it, but we want to do what's best for the club now, and if a change might loosen things up, well then, let's see.' "

And so Kessinger came back to Memphis, several months ahead of schedule.* He has no regrets, and no plans to get back into the game, as either a player or manager. "I have nothing but positive things to say about the years I spent in baseball," he reflects. "I hope I was able to give back to the game a small portion of what I took from it. But as great as it's been, I'm honestly ready to retire and try something else."

That something else is racquetball. Kessinger first got interested in the game when he was playing with the Cubs. One of the first racquetball clubs in the Chicago area was in Northbrook, Ill., where the Kessingers were living at the time. "My wife and I just started playing, and fell in love with the game," Kessinger recalls.

It was not long before the couple began thinking in terms of making a major investment in the sport. "I took advantage of the fact that I was traveling around the country playing baseball," Kessinger says. "When we'd go into a place to play for three or four days, I'd go out and visit court club owners in the area, to try to find out what I wanted to do and what I didn't want to do, what seemed to work and what didn't work. So

"People come in here during prime-time and they can just visualize how much money is being made. So they think they're going to go out and build (a club) and make a million dollars. It just doesn't work that way."

I'd know what we wanted when we got started."

His future plans focused on Memphis. "I knew there was nothing here at the time, so this would give us a chance to set up a business back in this area where we eventually wanted to live." The ground was broken in December of 1975, and his first club opened the following September. The Little Rock Club was launched two years later in 1977.

Kessinger is delighted with the progress he's made in the Mid-South so far, and faces the future with cautious optimism. "I don't think Memphis at this point needs a lot more clubs than it already has. One thing that scares me a little bit is that people come in during the prime-time hours, when our courts are filled, and they can just visualize how much money is being made. So they think they're going to go out and build one and make a million dollars. It just doesn't work that way. We go through a lot of the daytime hours without much play, and we go through the lean summer months when people are mostly outside. Our bills just keep coming, you know. It's a good business, but it's no gold mine.

"Look at what happened in Chicago," he continues. "It was the thing to do there (build court clubs) a few years ago, and everybody threw up a club. Now a lot of them are in financial trouble, because there's one on every corner. You haven't got a lot of chance if you put three clubs within a mile of each other."

Despite these drawbacks, Kessinger sees a great future for racquetball. "I don't think that the surface has really been scratched here in Memphis. You know, there are so many people who have heard of racquetball, but so many of them have never tried it. I quite frankly believe that our job is to get them in here and put a racquet in their hands and let them try it, because I think the game will sell itself."

That's how the sport won over both of the Kessingers. Husband and wife are exceptional players; Don has been to the finals of the baseball competition of the Coors All-Pro Racquetball Tournament, while Carolyn has been Tennessee State Women's Champion. And both of their sons, Keith, 12, and Kevin, 9, are actively involved. "I love it," says their father simply. "It's a great game for

*The White Sox, incidentally, did not improve dramatically under Tony LaRussa, Kessinger's successor. They finished the 1979 season with a 73-87 record, and buried in fifth place in the American League West—just where manager Kessinger had left them.

physical fitness, and more importantly, it's fun."

How does Kessinger think racquetball has been affected by the split between the IRA and the USRA? "Ever since I've been involved there have been two associations. I don't think it (the split) means a great deal to your average participant. I think it's important to your touring pro and tournament players who travel and play. I think it's good for your everyday player to belong to one group or the other, because he gets the magazines and he sees the new stuff that's coming out. And he can know right away whether we as club owners are on our toes or not with regard to the equipment we're carrying and so forth. But as far as there being two organizations instead of one, I don't see that it's had any major adverse effects."

Kessinger does think, however, that there have been some definite organizational improvements made during the four years he has been intimately connected with the game. "I used to go watch some of the major tournaments and just couldn't stand the behavior, and some of the language that was used. I couldn't stand the fact that these tournaments were being run without discipline and all. Those things have changed; now things are being

done with families in mind. Things are being done to keep this a high-class industry. And that's what it has to be, if we're going to really be good."

Kessinger's own Memphis club is certainly a classy operation. It's clean, with a spacious lounge, whirlpools and saunas. The club also holds regular tournaments. "You know, we're really a major industry now," says Kessinger as we tour the premises. "There are 8,700 of these clubs around the country. It's big business, and finally it's being treated as such by our own people."

When we return to his office, the conversation almost inevitably turns back to baseball. Kessinger speaks softly, with the quiet tones of a Southern accent that has been shaped but not overwhelmed by years of constant travel. He recalls the high points of his career: his 54 consecutive errorless games (a major league record since broken), his two hits in the 1970 All-Star game, and the day he went six-for-six in 1971. And he remembers the low points: the Cubs' incredible collapse in 1969, when they blew a pennant everybody thought they had won, and his own disappointment at never having played in the World Series.

Did the game change much over the 15 years he played it? "The game itself didn't change drastically," he says,

"but the people involved have changed. But change is a part of our society, and something that we have to adjust to, as long as we are not asked to compromise our beliefs and our morals."

He does note one major difference. "I don't know about the free-agent rules and things like that. That's the politics of it I suppose. But it's always bothered me that old-time baseball players say, 'Boy, they just don't play the game like they used to when I played.' Well, I can truthfully say that they don't play the game today like they did when I broke in 15 years ago—they play it a whole lot better."

"Athletes today are bigger, faster and stronger than they've ever been at any time in history. Your basketball players, your football players are all able to do more. Your track men break every conceivable record. Would it stand to reason that baseball athletes were going to go backwards?"

Would young Don Kessinger, then, have made it to the big leagues had he come up in 1979 instead of 1964? "Of course," he says, eyes twinkling. "I'd just have to work a little longer and a little harder." Judging from the way he has proven himself in the racquetball business, Kessinger's confidence somehow seems entirely justified. ■

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Ken Smith (foreground), Mark Malowitz, and Jeff Kwartler in the Men's Open finals.

They were calling it an old-fashioned shoot-out, the kind dime novelists used to write about in the days when the term "Oklahoma Territory" was synonymous with the Wild West. The shooters arrived in pairs, ready to kill—and pinch, pass and roll 'em out, too. The occasion was the 11th Annual IRA National Doubles Championships, held last month at Oklahoma City's O.K. (sound familiar?) Racquetball Club.

Some 300 racquetballers met in 13 divisions of competition, including new

Orin Solloway is a freelance writer and former newspaper reporter. She lives in Norman, Okla., a suburb of Oklahoma City.

Shoot-Out At The O.K....Club?

The IRA Doubles Championships

By Orin Solloway

Photography By John Lepore

IRA age brackets in Men's Seniors and Masters. Twenty-four teams shot it out for the Men's Open trophy, 16 teams vied for the title in the new 30-and-over division of Men's Seniors and there were twice as many women competitors as the 1978 field. The weather was warm and windy, the beer cold and free. And the competition was fierce—friendly, yes—but fierce, complete with the usual arguments over rules and procedures.

At tournament's end, first place trophies traveled in all directions: California, Massachusetts, Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey and Texas. A few trophies even stayed in Oklahoma.

By sundown Sunday, most of the shooters had left town, and the clouds of dust began to settle back over Oklahoma



(Left to right) Chris Chambliss, Bill Schmidtke, Ken Smith, and Jim Austin in the Men's Open semifinals.

City. The shoot-out at the O.K. Racquet Club was over. It had been an eventful weekend.

Men's Open

Defending IRA open doubles champion Jeff Kwartler teamed up with fellow Houston, Tex., resident Mark Malowitz to defeat the Oklahoma team of Ken Smith and Kevin Chambliss 21-13, 21-10 in the final contest of the Men's Open division. For the Oklahoma spectators it was a dream match: the tall bearded Texans versus the local favorites. (Oklahoma Cityan Kevin Chambliss had won the state singles title on the same glass court in March.) An enthusiastic, partisan crowd of over 700 hoped that Smith and Chambliss might avenge Oklahoma's honor against arch rival Texas and do what the beloved Oklahoma University football team could not do the previous week against University of Texas: trounce the Terrible Texans.

The underdog team of Smith-Chambliss had earlier delighted the local

crowd in a three-game semifinal win over the powerhouse combination of Jim Austin (last year's Men's Senior winner with Charlie Garfinkel) and Bill Schmidtke (legendary Minnesota racquetballer and first national IRA singles champion). Smith-Chambliss had also carved out a three-game victory over the polished Massachusetts duo of Mike Romano and Mike Luciw in the Men's Open quarterfinals.

With Smith's dazzling backhand display on the left and Chambliss' go-for-broke aerial antics on the right, local hopes ran high for the finals. But as the match began, the tall Texans quickly dashed such hopes as Kwartler-Malowitz jumped out to an early 8-1 lead, literally rolling out corners left and right. With the left-handed Malowitz on the left and Kwartler's always-dangerous forehand at right, the Texans took early ownership of the corners with deadly accuracy and brutal power; their combination of corner shots and passing shots appeared to neutralize the quickness of Chambliss and Smith.

The Oklahomans hustled and dived,

frequently regaining serve, but they were unable to rack up the needed points and never captured the lead in either game of the match. After some 16 turns at serve in the first game, the Oklahoma team had accumulated only 10 points. At 10-20, Smith-Chambliss took their last serve of the first game, ran the score to 13-20 and then Smith skipped a shot off a Malowitz return for a side-out. Kwartler killed it into the corner for game point, 21-13.

The second game began like the first with an early 7-1 lead for Kwartler-Malowitz. Then Smith and Chambliss seemed to get hot, running the score to a 7-7 tie in one turn at serve. The score stayed close for three side-outs before the Texans broke loose with a dizzying show of power and speed. Taking the serve at 12-10, Kwartler-Malowitz went to the corners for three consecutive pinch-kill winners; then Kwartler served two consecutive aces on Smith. At 17-10, Smith called a time-out to consider the situation: it looked bad. Things didn't get much better, though, after the time-out: Kwartler-Malowitz passed three

times for 20-10, then closed in for a pinch-corner kill by Malowitz to end the match 21-10.

At 21 and 19 respectively, Kwartler and Malowitz have played together for six years, compiling a long string of doubles titles on state and regional levels. On the national level they hold three doubles championships: the IRA National Juniors Championship of 1976, the USRA Open Doubles Championship in 1978 and the National YMCA Doubles, 1978-'79. They left Oklahoma City with one more notch in their belt of national victories.

The Malowitz-Kwartler path to the finals was relatively smooth. Their semifinal match with Kevin Fleming and Kenneth Garrigus of Phoenix was won by forfeit when Garrigus became ill with kidney problems, following a long quarterfinal match in which Fleming-Garrigus tangled for over two hours with John and Keith Dunlap of Memphis. Fleming-Garrigus won out over the Dunlap brothers, 21-11, 18-21, 15-14; but the effort seemed to cut deep into their energy reservoirs. They forfeited to Malowitz-Kwartler after one game of the semifinals.

The Garrigus-Fleming contest with Dunlap-Dunlap had been billed as a toss-up—which proved to be an understatement. By general consensus, this was the toughest match in the Open division. The lanky Phoenix team in lefty-righty combo used blistering power along with uncanny accuracy to overwhelm the Dunlap duo in the first game, 21-11. (Garrigus and Fleming had recently gone all the way to the finals of the USRA doubles championships.) In the second game, with John Dunlap playing the backhand flawlessly and Keith (who posted a recent victory over IRA singles champ John Egerman) playing a brilliant right side, the Memphians gained control at 18-18 and then nailed down a close 21-18 victory.

The Memphis duo, both former national collegiate champs at Memphis State, showed their superb training with a combination of control, fundamentals and teamwork.

The tiebreaker was a "lights out" shooting display with both teams trading side-outs at 11-11 for four consecutive turns. Garrigus finally hit a roll-out to break the deadlock. Then 12-12 was traded three times before Garrigus and John Dunlap collided, causing Garrigus to go down with an injury time-out followed by a regular time-out. The Dunlaps, who were spurred on by a partisan gallery consisting of a heavy Memphis State varsity and alumni delegation, ran the score to 14-13 and were serving. Garrigus responded with a left corner kill and followed with a bullet



Nancy Hamrick in the Women's finals.

to the same spot. Fleming shot the 15th point for the hard-earned victory.

The Smith-Chambliss semifinal victory over Austin-Schmidtke was, not unexpectedly, one of the more well-attended matches of the tournament. The first game saw the local favorites at their sizzling best, using their youth and speed to outrun their older opponents. Austin-Schmidtke seemed to have underestimated the speed of the Oklahoma players, who managed some amazing gets on their opponents' shots. Offensively, Chambliss delivered his best right corner kills and a few aces on service, while Smith performed with brilliant backhand shots from the left. The first game ended with Schmidtke diving to retrieve a right corner roll-out, getting up to dive again at left front court where he miss-hit and landed in front of Austin.

In the second game Austin-Schmidtke

regained control with patience, timing and shot placement, shutting down Smith-Chambliss at 21-7. The tiebreaker was lightning fast, with Smith and Chambliss jumping out ahead at 10-4. Austin was having trouble with the left glass wall and, at 7-14, missed an overhead smash to clinch the match for Smith-Chambliss, 15-7.

Women's Open

In the Women's Open finals, Nancy Hamrick and Diane Green defeated fellow Floridians Debbie Drury and Dee Lewis in two close-fought games, 21-18, 21-15. With a field of nine teams, this year's Women's Open division more than doubled the 1978 competition.

In the first game of the finals match, Hamrick-Green jumped ahead quickly, 9-2, with drive serves, power shooting and one particularly handsome backhand

overhead smash cross-court by Hamrick, playing the left side. But Drury and Lewis dug in their heels and fought back to even the score at 9-9. At that point, there began a nip-and-tuck pattern in which the serve changed often but the scores stayed close. Hamrick-Green shattered this pattern when they took the serve, coming from behind at 16-18 and breaking loose with a pinch, a kill and a re-kill to turn the tide at 19-18.

At game point, with Hamrick serving, Drury failed to receive, calling for more time by a hand signal. The referee refused to replay the point and the game was over.

The second game of the finals moved faster and got scrappier. Drury-Lewis (a lefty-righty team) were hot and hustling; they smoked in serves for aces on the right and aces on the left. But Hamrick-Green stayed cool and played smart; they stayed ahead. Green rolled out a kill shot for a score of 20-15, game and match point. It was then that Drury was lightly grazed by her partner's ball as it came off the back wall. Drury herself made the call, which had gone unnoticed by most spectators. The voluntary call ended the second game, 21-15, and the match was over.

On their way to the finals, Drury and Lewis met another lefty-righty team in their quarterfinal match with twin sisters Jean and Joan Lance of Oklahoma City. The Lance sisters (Jean is co-manager of the tournament hosting O.K. Racquet Club) were off their shooting game but hung in for a three-game match. Drury-Lewis took the match 21-7, 15-21, 15-5. Lance and Lance went on to take first place in the consolation bracket.

Men's Seniors 30-and-over

Making its IRA tournament debut, this recently added age category attracted a field of 16 teams, largest of the Men's Senior classes. Winners Mike Romano and Mike Luciw of Massachusetts, a seasoned pair of 32-year-olds (who also made it to the quarterfinals in the Open division) had a style all their own. Romano, on the left, is smooth, cool and deceptive. Luciw on the right favors the wide right corner pinch, which he hits with amazing regularity. Their patience, control and cunning defeated the feisty Oklahoma team of Kent Taylor and Gary Hinkle (manager and co-owner of the tournament hosting club) in the division finals, 21-8, 21-9.

On their way to the 30-plus finals, the two Mikes survived a tough challenge from the Texas duo of Charles Nieves and Arvil Noel in a grueling three-hour contest, 21-12, 18-21, 15-12. Flying dives, incredible gets from prone position and a battery of backhand kills

by Noel and Nieves pumped up the Texans to come from behind to a 16-16 tie in game two. Then the bearded Nieves (who resembles a shorter Charlie Brumfield) took a ball in the eye which broke his eyeglasses and forced a 15-minute injury time-out. Having lost the first game, Nieves and Noel were not to be denied the second: they returned to the game-two odyssey which ended 21-18 for a split match. The tiebreaker was a dogfight, every point a major battle, fraught with appeals to officials. Nieves-Noel dived, shot and rallied for 45



Mike Luciw, Men's Seniors 30-and-over.



Paul Henrikson, Men's Seniors 30-and-over.

minutes but could not overcome the tournament experience and heady play of Romano-Luciw.

Romano-Luciw arrived in Oklahoma City fresh from their September victory in the Massachusetts Open class doubles. Luciw was also the 1972 IRA Open doubles champion in partnership with George Rudysz.

Men's Seniors 35-and-over

Classic racquetball was the name of the game in the Men's Seniors 35-plus final match, which pitted Bud Muehleisen and Myron Roderick against Jim Austin and Bill Schmidtke. With these four nationally known players on

the court at one time, spectators watched like students in a seminar, to learn how the game should be played. At 48, Muehleisen of California has a list of racquetball credits longer than Charlie Garfinkel's arm. Roderick is a former racquetball pro and an Oklahoma sports celebrity due to his long and winning record as a wrestler and wrestling coach. The Muehleisen-Roderick team has matched up seven or eight times since 1973 and owns an undefeated record in tournament play. Austin-Schmidtke, the younger of the two teams (at 38 and 39 respectively), was matched up for the first time at this event; but each commands an impressive array of individual victories. Austin, who with Charlie Garfinkel, holds the 1978 IRA Men's Seniors doubles titles, is also a former pro, as is Schmidtke.

The stage was set for a lesson from the masters.

Muehleisen-Roderick demonstrated the first principle of racquetball: Play smart, know all the shots and select the most strategically appropriate ones, then execute with perfection. They won the match 21-10, 21-14. In the second game, their perfect placement of passes, judicious use of pinches and kills, changes of pace and lob serves kept their opponents guessing. At 18-14, Muehleisen, playing on the left, shot the perfect cross-court overhead smash to the right corner for 19-14. Schmidtke on the right was troubled by the forehand glass wall. Roderick cashed in with a pass right down the glass for 20-14. The next rally ended the match with a Roderick corner kill from mid-court.

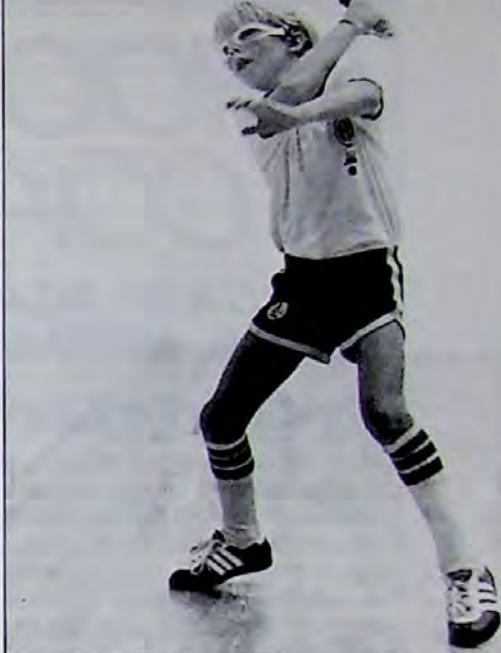
Muehleisen-Roderick also took the Men's Seniors 40-and-over division, defeating Pennsylvanians Herb Meyers and Carmen Felicetti, 21-12, 21-3.

Men's Masters 45-and-over

In one of the hardest fought matches of the tournament, Pennsylvania's Gene Grapes, 57, and Al Schattner, 49, defending Masters doubles champions for two years running, grudgingly relinquished their title during the semifinals to Pete Talbot and Charles Wickham, the eventual winners in this division. Talbot, 46, of New Jersey and Wickham, 45, of North Carolina, met at the Madison, Wis., IRA Masters Invitational Doubles tournament in August. They came to Oklahoma unseeded and unknown as a doubles team. With kill shots, power and drive serves down the middle, they managed to defeat the fourth seeded team of V.Z. Lawton (Okla.) and Bill Tanner (Tenn.) in the quarterfinals, the number one seed Grapes-Schattner in the semifinals, and the second seeded Texas team of Richard



Jeff Lane (left) and Skipper Culotta, Winners of Boys' 10-and-under.



Lloyd Lawton, 10-and-under.

Walker and Bill Sellars.

In their match with Grapes and Schattner, Talbot played a strong backhand and ceiling game while Wickham was shooting brilliant passes to fashion a 17-7 lead. Down 18-0, Grapes started firing his famous Alleghany forehand cannon for two flat roll-outs and a corner kill. Schattner added a pinch roll-out, a wide pinch in right corner, a kill and a pass to capture the lead 19-18, before giving up the serve. But Talbot-Wickham came back to tie it up at 19-19 with a pinch to the left corner by Talbot. Serving again, Grapes-Schattner rebounded with a Schattner pinch, then a kill to end the game 21-19.

In the second game, the score saw-sawed until Grapes smashed a backhand kill for a 16-14 lead. But Talbot-Wickham then began hitting overhand serves down the middle to the confusion of Grapes-Schattner. Trailing 16-20, the defending champs regained one last turn at serve. Refereeing the match, V.Z. Lawton, former IRA commissioner commented, "This is one spot where experience can make the difference." Grapes and Schattner then pulled out all stops to push the score to a 20-20 tie, using their full arsenal of kills, pinches and passes.

After a controversy involving a dislodged shoe (in which a corps of national committee officials was called in for a ruling), side-out was called on Grapes-Schattner. With the score 20-20, Wickham ended the second game with a corner kill shot—21-20, another split match. The tiebreaker saw Talbot make some crowd stunning shots, squash-type

three-wall Z's and service aces. On each of his key scoring shots, Talbot could be heard to cry out, "Roll-Out City!" The tiebreaker and the match went to Talbot-Wickham, 15-13.

The Talbot-Wickham team went on to win the division in a finals match against Richard Walker (the IRA's secretary-treasurer) and Bill Sellars. The Walker-Sellars team had been 1976 winners in the IRA Masters doubles division. The first game of the match was taken convincingly by Talbot-Wickham, 21-12. In the second game, Walker-Sellars managed to capture the lead at 9-7 and later tied the game at 12-12. On their 13th point, Walker-Sellars called time-out and came back into the game to switch sides, with Sellars now left and Walker right. Thus aligned, they made one more point. But it was all for nothing as the game got away from them after that. The match ended with the second game score of 21-14.... and the call of "Roll-Out City!"

Other Results

In the 50-and-over division of Men's Masters—a round-robin with a field of four teams—Walker-Sellars emerged triumphant. Second place went to Reuther and Reece.

In the Golden Masters 55-and-over division, the Louisville tandem of Ike Gummer and Irv Zeitman defeated Irv Cowle and Saal Lesser 21-3, 21-11. In the final game, with the score tied at 11-11, Gummer generated an awesome string of seven extremely accurate corner kills that would have been unreachable by Open division players. On each winner, partner Irv Zeitman could be heard over all other noise in his booming baritone, "Bee-yooo-ti-ful!"

In Golden Masters 60-and-over, Ray Crowley of Oklahoma and his partner Ike

Gummer of Kentucky defeated the California team of Rankin and Smith to win the round-robin championship in the field of three teams.

The Men's B division attracted more entrants than any other division. Twenty-seven teams entered the field, which was dominated by Texans in the final match between Billy Cansler-Marshall Greenman and Mike Kitchens-Buzz Schultz. Cansler and Greenman defeated Kitchens-Schultz 17-21, 21-1, 15-4, in a close and hard-fought match.

In a field of six teams 17-and-under, the boy's Juniors division displayed terrific hustling, scrambling and diving. "Shooting is their game," said one observer. The New York team of Harnett and Levine placed first in the round-robin event. Levine also teamed up with Marsoci in the Men's Open division.

Time Out: Many Thanks

Penn for sponsorship of the 1979 National Doubles. Allen Nagy and Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer for their donation of product. Cal Roberts and Gary Hinkle, owners of the O.K. Racquet Club - the host facility. Fred White and floor managers Curt Lance and Joyce Jackson for their great job and monumental task of scheduling matches and maintaining a timely schedule. Entire staff of the O.K. Racquet Club. The 150 Amateur teams who made the entire event possible.

Note: Under the new IRA rankings system, every first place winner at this year's doubles tournament received the title "Grand Master National Champion," a permanent designation of honor for our national champs.

CHOOSING A COACH

THE CASE AGAINST 'EENIE, MEENIE, MINIE, MO'

By Charlie Garfinkel

In a recent professional national championship tournament, the defending women's champion lost her semifinal match and her title. Her serves didn't have their usual velocity. Her movement on the court was, at best, sluggish. Even her shot selection was poor. Her whole season had been characterized by inconsistency. Indeed, in the first match of the national championship tournament, she barely squeaked by an opponent who was five months pregnant.

The reason? Most experts who speculated on the subject came to the same conclusion: the former champion was the victim of poor coaching. She was a national champion, but she had acquired a coach who was strictly a "B" tournament player. He was incapable of coping with the strategies and skills necessary to win at the professional level.

In contrast, Cheryl Ambler, the current IRA national women's singles champion, is fortunate to have a coach who is highly respected as both a player and a coach. His name is Gene Gibbs. After Ambler's recent win in the IRA Nationals, she said: "Gene has greatly helped me. He knows my game and knows what shots work best for me." That's the kind of recommendation every player should be able to give his coach. If not, it's time to start shopping around.

Two famous examples of a good player/coach relationship involve racquetball's Charlie Brumfield, and in tennis, Bjorn Borg. Borg's coach is Lenart Bergelin, Brumfield's is Carl Loveday. Many tennis players and racquetballers will say that both Borg and Brumfield can defeat their respective coaches easily. That may be true, but it's not the point. Both men are still very good coaches.

Both Bergelin and Loveday are tremendous athletes in their own rights. Bergelin was one of the foremost players on the world tennis tour for years.

Loveday was ranked No. 2 in badminton in the U.S. for almost 10 years. He was known as a master strategist and subsequently used his knowledge of racquet sports to become a national champion in racquetball in the Golden Masters category. Both coaches have played at and coached players of world class ranking.

Borg and Brumfield are known to respect their coaches highly. And the techniques these coaches use are similar. Both coaches make it a practice to be on the sidelines near the playing court during tournaments. Although they

"Look for reliability and efficiency in a coach."

have their own methods of transmitting signals to their pupils during the match, they both use the brief time-out periods ("changeover," in tennis) to discuss the progress of the match with their proteges.

Once the match is over, it is the habit of both coaches to outline the good and bad points of the match for their students. They may even practice with their players after the tournament, or have them practice with other players while they supervise. In fact, I have seen Brumfield go back on the court within an hour of finishing a difficult singles match. He may practice with Loveday, or Jay Jones, or another pro in order to perfect his serve or some other aspect of his game he feels needs adjustment. The point is this: Loveday is attentive to his pupil. He watches closely and offers suggestions for improvement. It is this objective analysis that makes having a good coach a benefit.

If you're fortunate enough to rise to Brumfield's level, there are several additional points to remember when

considering whom to hire as a coach.

First, a person of Brumfield's caliber is constantly being approached for clinics, exhibitions and endorsements. It is important that your coach be able to handle most of these arrangements. Of course, you will have the final okay on which clinics and endorsements you would like to do. However, if you can concentrate fully on your game and leave the business details to your coach, you will do much better.

Other characteristics to look for in your coach are reliability and efficiency. He should know who and when you are playing. It is very important that he keep up with this. I remember a pro tournament six years ago in which two of the top players were defaulted because they hadn't sent in their entry fee. They thought their coach had. The coach thought they had. Be sure that you not only define your coach's responsibilities, but also that he can be relied upon to carry them out.

Although the suggestions I've given so far are vital to the rising young pro in search of a coach, there are also important suggestions for the average player who is seeking assistance to improve his game.

If you're looking for a coach locally, you must make sure that he is genuinely interested in your game and in you as a person. Many coaches are in the game because they want to make a fast buck. Other coaches are hired at clubs because of their looks or their gift of gab. Not surprisingly, these people are often poor coaches.

How do you know who is a good coach and who isn't? First of all, a good coach's reputation travels fast. The players he has coached will tell you that their coach has helped them greatly with their games, he is kind and understanding, but is still able to offer constructive criticism. So, ask the better players in your area who they would recommend. They know who can coach.

Other good sources of information are parents of youngsters who are being coached. Parents are usually very discriminating and will hire the coach that seems to be best suited for their youngster. If you are considering hiring a coach for your son or daughter, you will find other parents' opinions even more comforting.

Remember, the coach you choose doesn't have to be the local champion. However, it does help if he's had tournament experience. Finally, once you've made your decision, you must place your confidence in the coach and

trust his judgement.

Instruction and suggestions from your coach should be on an individual basis. This is far better than a group lesson, as you can concentrate on the main focus of the session: YOU. Each session should last at least an hour, and to insure that you get your money's worth, be prompt; expect your coach to be prompt as well.

Many players feel that they are paying a large amount of money for their coach's help, so they expect him to decide what the hour will entail. This is a big mistake. You should tell your coach what you want to work on. Then, follow his instructions and try to implement everything he tells you. Ideally, you should spend a brief period at the beginning of your practice discussing what will be covered and then work on several areas of your game in the remaining time. (It would be a waste of time to spend the entire hour working on just one or two shots.)

If you've done a good job in selecting your coach, he should be teaching you strategy and imparting knowledge gained from his experience as well as demonstrating strokes and shots. Remember, a

good coach should be able to *do* all of the things that he is telling you to do. If he includes the mental part of the game, you will be able to correlate this knowledge with the physical skills you are learning.

As you progress in your skills, constantly evaluating your successes and failures with your coach, you should begin to simulate tournament situations. And, once your coach feels your skills are good enough, he should encourage you to enter some tournaments.

Because confidence is an extremely important factor, it is a good idea for you to enter tournaments in which the competition is at your level. Even though you may not win, it is important that you're not humiliated by competing above your level. A good coach knows which tournaments and at what level you should compete.

Make arrangements for your coach to be at all your tournament matches, in order to encourage and evaluate you. If it is impossible for him to fit it into his schedule, then set aside time to talk to him before the tournament about which strokes and strategies will be best to use.

Regardless of how you do in the

tournament, the next practice session should be spent working on the skills and strategies that you were deficient in at the tournament.

If your game improves to the point that you reach state or national level competition, you may want to consider changing coaches. This is often a beneficial move, if you secure a coach who has played and taught at such a level.

Good coaches don't come cheap. Expect to spend anywhere from \$50 to \$200 a month, or more. The better you get, the more you will pay for assistance. Some coaches also charge for time spent at tournaments and for discussions that are not part of a regular practice session. If they're good, their time is indeed valuable. In Brumfield's situation, his coach probably gets a salary and a percentage of his winnings.

But whether you're a Charlie Brumfield, or just a player with potential, you're both looking for a competent coach. The suggestions I've made should keep you from making a bad decision based on little more than random chance. Choosing a coach is no time to play Russian roulette. ■

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EYE CONTACT

FOLLOW THE BOUNCING BALL

By Mike Yellen

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

A good piece of advice that is commonly passed on to baseball players is: "Keep your eye on the ball." This can be applied to racquetball players as well. In fact, following the ball with your eyes is equally important, and certainly more difficult, in this indoor game of close quarters and fast balls.

Players like Marty Hogan and Jerry Hilecher send the ball rocketing past opponents at speeds that can range up to 140 m.p.h. Even during matches between players of a lesser caliber, the ball often zings around at 100 m.p.h. It's not only hard to follow, it's a real test of a player's nerves to stand in front of an opponent and watch him while he shoots.

However, that doesn't in any way lessen the importance of keeping your eye on the ball 100 per cent of the time. And, as with any other aspect of the game, there's a right way and a wrong way to do it.

The wrong way, of course, is to turn completely around and face an opponent who is shooting behind you. Few players I know make this mistake, since the consequences are obviously dangerous. Eyeguards can protect your eyes, and I highly recommend their use, but facing your opponent as he hits the ball endangers the rest of your face as well.

A more common error among players is facing the front wall after every shot. While this safeguards sensitive areas from injury by a fast-moving ball, it also reduces your reaction time and thus greatly handicaps your ability to retrieve an opponent's shot.

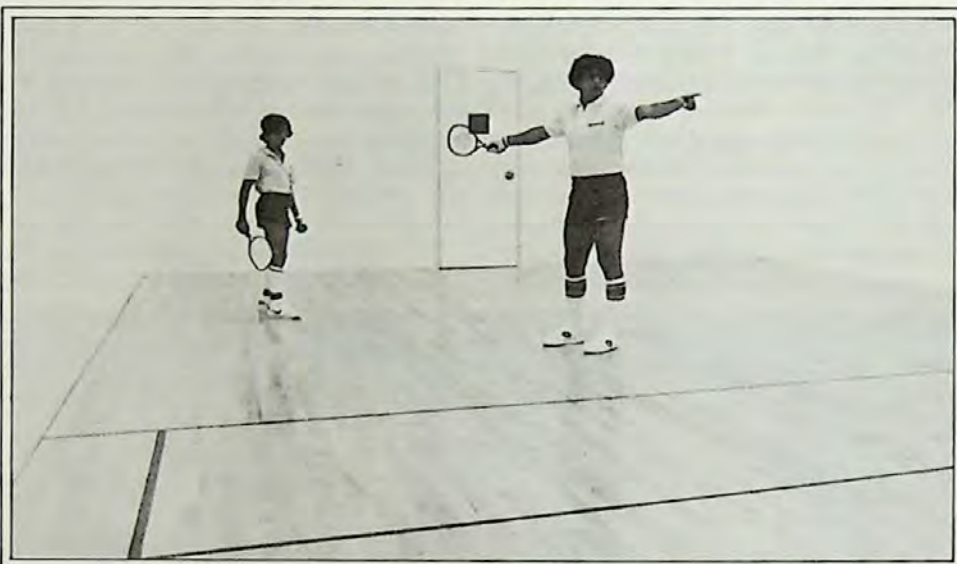
Ideally, you should be able to determine where the ball is going to rebound while it is still on its way to the front wall. To determine that, you must see how the ball comes off your opponent's racquet. Fortunately, there is a

relatively safe way to keep the ball in sight without completely exposing your face to it. (This method is especially useful when you don't have eye protection.)

Obviously, you needn't concern yourself with the ceiling balls, or those

occasions when your opponent is shooting from in front of you. There will be little risk involved in those instances. However, during the more frequent occasions when your opponent is shooting from behind you, the object is to protect yourself from injury and to maintain the offensive advantage on the court. As always, the best position for maintaining the offensive advantage is center court. To do this, you will have to keep your opponent in deep court, preferably in the corners. In terms of shot percentages and keeping your eye on the ball, this is the ideal arrangement.

Next, you align yourself so that your toes are along an imaginary line, that runs from the corner in which your opponent is located, to the opposite front corner. For the sake of simplicity, let's



Mike Yellen illustrates diagonal positioning with the help of his Ektelon teammate Nathan Martin. When Nathan is in the right rear corner shooting, Mike stands in center court with his feet on an imaginary diagonal running from the right to left corner.



This illustrates how the positioning looks in action. Note that Mike is watching Nathan's shot from the corner of his eye and could have snapped his head around if the ball approached him.

assume that your opponent is in the right rear corner and imagine the diagonal from right rear to left front (just reverse everything if your opponent is in the left rear corner). Your toes should be on this imaginary diagonal and your body facing the right wall (see Photo 1). Assume a ready stance, watching your opponent from the corner of your eye, without turning your head around any more than necessary. The ball will whiz by you on its way to the front wall, making it almost impossible to follow. But, the brief interval when eye/ball contact is lost will not be a problem, if you have seen the angle at which it leaves your opponent's racquet.

If you have done this correctly, you will be able to quickly turn to the general area on the front wall where the ball will hit, already armed with the knowledge of whether the shot is a kill, lob, cross court pass or whatever. You will have given yourself an extra second or so to determine the ball's eventual destination, and, in racquetball, every second counts. Any edge you can gain, no matter how small, will make a big difference in your ability to retrieve your opponent's shots.

In the event the ball is headed directly for you, it should be possible for you to snap your head around in time to protect yourself, so that you will be hit in the same place you would have been anyway, if you had been fully facing the front wall. This all happens faster than the time it just took to explain it, of course.

Remember, you should not remain stationary on that imaginary diagonal. In fact, there is no time during a game when you should stop completely. You should be in constant motion, either completing or beginning a movement to another position on the court.

There is one occasion when this diagonal positioning won't work. That occasion, of course, is when your opponent is directly behind you in the middle of the back court. But, you have no business being directly in front of your opponent anyway, because *that* is a hinder.

Still, this is bound to happen, and when it does, don't turn around. Try to move quickly out of the way, keeping your eyes safely averted. Accept your mistake and know you'll pay for it by giving your opponent a clear shot down the middle.

When in doubt, play it safe. It is far better to lose a point than to risk losing an eye. ■

Racquetball Magazine is seeking articles and freelance writers. Articles can cover everything from new developments in the game to interesting racquetball personalities. How-to articles, on improving your backhand, returning serves, etc., are also welcome. Please send manuscripts (along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope) to: P.O. Box 16566, Memphis, Tn. 38116. For further information, call Larry Conley at (901) 345-8000.

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FIRST SERVICE

New Court Club Openings

West Monroe, Louisiana

Racquetball West, a six-court racquetball and handball facility located at 1515 North 7th St., West Monroe, is scheduled to open this month.

The club will feature two courts with glass back walls for convenient viewing from the upper level lounge, a challenge court and a specially marked instructional court.

Other features include saunas, whirlpools and a multi-purpose fitness and exercise area. Future plans include a jogging track. The manager is Rick Cunningham. Call: 318-323-7673.

Greeley, Colorado

The Rocky Mountain Racquet Club recently opened at 2619 West 11th Street Road in Greeley.

In addition to six handball/racquetball courts, club amenities include saunas and Jacuzzi pools in both the men's and

women's locker rooms, and a lounge with a view of the glass-backed exhibition court.

Memberships are available for students at \$9 per month, individuals at \$12 per month and families at \$15 per month, on a yearly basis. Corporate memberships are also available. Contact Tim Larkin: 303-353-4508.

Durango, Colorado

The Court Club of Durango should be ready just in time to meet the needs of Durango area residents who make New Year's resolutions to get in shape. The club has a scheduled December opening.

This facility will center around eight racquetball/handball courts and two tennis courts. Members will enjoy the use of saunas, whirlpools, steamrooms and a private meeting room, as well as a hair salon. There will be running and jogging paths on an adjacent seven acres of land, and managers plan to offer a variety of programs ranging from Yoga to Lamaze (a technique of natural childbirth).

A variety of membership plans are available, for those who wish to use the

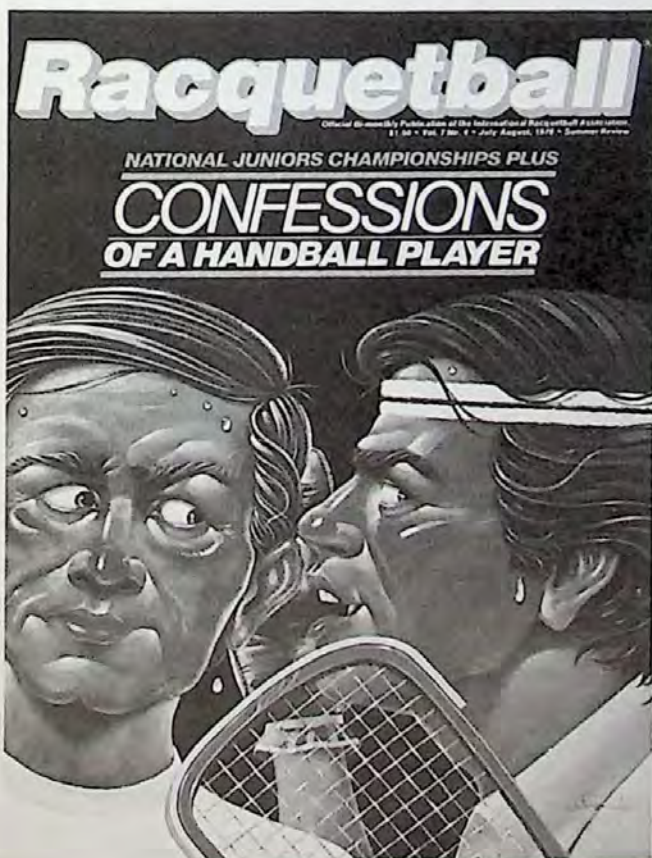
full facility and those who prefer a membership in the health club and spa only. Prices range from a \$350 (one time only) initiation fee, with \$35 monthly dues for a family, full facility membership, to a \$150 (one time only) initiation fee and \$25 monthly dues for a single, health club and spa membership only. Company or group memberships are also available. For more information, call 303-259-2579.

Plymouth, Massachusetts

"The Racqueteer" is a new club located at 15 Long Pond Road in Plymouth which features six indoor and six outdoor regulation racquetball courts.

Memberships are priced at \$55 single and \$95 family, with hourly court rates of \$5, \$6 and \$7. The club has whirlpools, saunas, a lounge and nursery.

Thomas Maroney, president of Racqueteer Corporation, indicates plans are underway to sponsor outdoor tournaments, as the club is interested in promoting outdoor competition in the New England region. ■



Racquetball Magazine is currently gathering data about virtually every aspect of the booming racquetball industry—from racquets to wristlets, from construction materials to club openings. We invite anyone wishing information to call or write to
Racquetball Magazine
Research Dept.
1535 E. Brooks Rd.
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901-345-8000

Scorecard

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

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

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



1st Rhode Island Racquetball Open—Steve Savage (left) and Mike Romano in the Men's Open Finals.

1ST RHODE ISLAND RACQUETBALL OPEN Fore Court II Racquet Club Cumberland, R.I.

Some 210 players competed in 240 divisional entries, and the players walked away with very positive feelings about the tournament. This tournament was sponsored by Anheuser-Busch Natural Life Beer, and this product was distributed throughout the weekend. Anheuser-Busch also donated \$500 to help defray tournament expenses. Vittori balls were used, and Ektelon supplied tournament shirts. Cross Pen Company donated \$600 worth of pens. As the event was held to benefit St. Joseph's Hospital Dept. of Pediatrics, a donation of \$500 was given to the Hospital from Fore Court II Racquet Club.

Men's Open:
Semifinals: Mike Romano over Dave Maturah 21-4, 21-3; Steve Savage over Phil Panarella 21-19, 11-21, 11-1.
Finals: Romano over Savage 21-8, 21-7.
Third: Panarella over Maturah, by flipping a coin.
Consolation: Dennis Aceto over Bob Woods 21-16, 21-14.
Men's B:
Semifinals: Dennis Culberson over Marty Kidder 21-17, 14-21, 11-2; Craig Larsen over Pete Silvano 21-18, 21-13.
Finals: Craig Larsen over Dennis Culberson 21-3, 21-1.

Third: Silvano over Kidder, flipped.
Consolation: Dan Canture over Steve Kidder 21-14, 21-11.
Men's C:
Semifinals: Robert Houle over Craig Dowell; Chuck Stone over Chuck Henzy.
Finals: Chuck Stone over Robert Houle 21-17, 21-16.
Third: Henzy over Dowell, flipped.
Consolation: Veinzil over Louro.
Men's Novice:
Quarterfinals: Vincent DeSanto over Ken Adams; Brian Cature over Earl Buteau; Charles Morrison over Earnie Robillard; Hank Demers over William Corbeille.
Semifinals: Cature over DeSanto; Demers over Morrison.
Finals: Hank Demers over Brian Cature 21-8, 21-17.
Third: Vincent DeSanto over Charles Morrison.
Consolation: Drew over Harrois 20-21, 21-12, 11-4.
Men's Seniors:
Semifinals: Rene Depot over Bill Calvin; John Rosato over William Neri.
Finals: Rene Depot over John Rosato 21-7, 21-4.
Third: William Neri over Bill Calvin 21-10, 21-8.
Consolation: Robillard over Thornly 21-0, 21-4.
Men's Masters:
Semifinals: Phil Staknis over Paul Cote; Ronald Eidimtes over Dave Lauro.
Finals: Staknis over Eidimtes 21-20, 21-10.
Third: Cote over Lauro 21-12, 21-15.

Consolation: Carey over Savage, forfeit.
Women's Open:
Semifinals: Cindy Alba over Karen Schmieder; Janet Simon over Beth Teroah.
Finals: Cindy Alba over Janet Simon 17-21, 21-15, 11-5.
Third: Schmieder over Teroah.
Women's B:
Semifinals: Barbara Savage over Sharon Culberson; Susan Herelemian over Kathleen Manning.
Finals: Susan Herelemian over Barbara Savage 21-19, 19-21, 11-6.
Third: Manning over Culberson 21-4, 21-14.
Consolation: Savage over Paul 9-21, 21-11, 11-2.
Women's C:
Semifinals: Cynthia Jewett over Lisa Picard; Jan Meachman over Tracy Larsen.
Finals: Meachman over Jewett 21-18, 21-5.
Third: Picard over Larsen.
Consolation: Taber over Anderson 17-21, 21-2, 11-6.
Women's Novice:
Semifinals: Debbie LaBrecque over Phyllis Pariseau; Donna Kelly over Linda Chiciove.
Finals: Donna Kelly over Debbie LaBrecque 21-13, 21-1.
Third: Pariseau over Chiciove 21-9, 21-9.
Consolation: Sweet over Cote 5-21, 21-12, 11-10.

1st Rhode Island Racquetball Open—Pete Silvano-3rd Place Men's B, Dennis Culberson-2nd Place Men's B, Craig Larson-1st Place Men's B and Jerry Melaragno, Co-Tournament Director.



FIRST INTRA-CLUB TOURNAMENT Laconia Racquetball Club Laconia, New Hampshire

Men's B Singles: 1st: Lance Bloom (10-5, 15-10, 15-4) over Jim Lyman. **Consolation:** Bob Jesseman.
Men's C Singles: 1st: Claude Richer (15-8, 15-7) over Randy Bean. **Consolation:** Roland LaMorge.
Women's C Singles: 1st: Julie Ryan (15-13, 15-13) over Terry Mooney. **Consolation:** Eileen Culkin.
Men's Masters Singles: 1st: Claude Richer (15-6, 15-8) over Richard Gust. **Consolation:** Robert Billin.

MID SUMMER CLASSIC Gainesville Racquet Club Gainesville, Florida

Men's Open:
Semifinals: Gary Zetrover over Greg McDonald 21-15, 21-18; Steve Jones over Van DuBolsky 21-19, 7-21, 11-8.
Finals: Zetrover over Jones 21-13, 14-21, 11-3.
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Semifinals: DuBolsky - Zetrover over Stevens - Shaak 21-13, 21-10; McDonald - McDonald over Brasington - Black 21-20, 21-18.

Finals: DuBolsky - Zetrover over McDonald - McDonald 21-16, 21-13.

Women's Open:

Semifinals: Meg Rogers over Val Bazarte 21-0, 21-4; Kathy Perez over Sue Goebel 21-3, 21-6.

Finals: Perez over Rogers 21-15, 21-19.

Women's Open Doubles:

Semifinals: Green-Green over Johnson Beecher 21-4, 21-4; Zetrover - Rogers over Dolbier - Weedon 21-20, 12-21, 11-5.

Finals: Green - Green over Zetrover Rogers 21-16, 21-10.

Boy's Juniors:

Semifinals: Pat Decarlis over Chris Buckner 13-21, 21-16, 11-2; Mario Ariet Jr. over Sean McMan 11-21, 21-16, 11-0.

Finals: Ariet over Decarlis 21-6, 21-11.

Men's Seniors:

Semifinals: Graig Shaak over Al Levin 21-8, 21-8; Mario Ariet over Larry Swanson 10-21, 21-20, 11-6.

Finals: Shaak over Ariet 21-13, 21-16.

Men's Masters:

Round Robin: 1st: Ray Waldrop, 2nd Bob Primack, 3rd Jim Glikes, 4th Nat Chudnovsky.

Men's 'B':

Semifinals: Dave Jones over Chuck Donch 21-19, 21-16; Diane Green over Steve Crane 21-14, 21-20.

Finals: Green over Jones 21-15, 15-21, 11-3.

Men's 'C':

Semifinals: Rob Sandow over Ron Roan 21-10, 12-21, 11-10; Steve Dixon over Jacinto Calderin 12-21, 21-19, 11-7.

Finals: Dixon over Sandow 21-20, 21-7.

Women's Junior Vets:

Semifinals: Donna Dolbier over Carol Johnson 21-9, 21-4; Kim Beecher over Barbara Rotundo 21-4, 21-6.

Finals: Kim Beecher over Donna Dolbier 21-8, 16-21, 11-4.

Women's 'B':

Semifinals: Melody Wasson over Barbara Rotundo 21-20, 21-17; Danis DeCarlis over Theresa Norred 21-10, 18-21, 11-7.

Finals: Wasson over DeCarlis 21-6, 21-9.

Women's 'C':

Semifinals: Rebecca Rush over Roxann Colwell 21-3, 21-6; Chris Clifford over Darla Hancock 21-9, 21-16.

Finals: Clifford over Rush 21-20, 21-8.

IRA STATE DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

Pompano Courthouse
Gainesville, Florida

Men's Open: 1st: Randy Hines - Gerry Sherlock; 2nd: Van DuBolsky - Gary Zetrover; 3rd: Jim Adkins - Errol Potter; 4th: Frank Johnson - Steve Sulli

Women's Open: 1st: Audrey Simton - Virginia Morales; 2nd: Donisa Zetrover - Diane Green; 3rd: Kathy Gall - Carrie Montano; 4th: Julia Knight - Karen Powers.

Men's Jr. Vets: 1st: Gary Zetrover - Graig Shaak; 2nd: Frank Johnson - Bill Prescott; 3rd: Van DuBolsky - Brian McClanahan; 4th: Collie Carlton - Larry Swanson.

Seniors: 1st: Fred Blaess - Jeff Leon; 2nd: Collie Carlton - Larry Swanson; 3rd: Graig Shaak - Frank Blackard; 4th: Mike Mojer - Al Sobel.

Masters: 1st: Mike Mojer - Don Donohue; 2nd: Don Keils - Dan McDonald;

3rd: Gordon Ira - Yale Berman; 4th: Fred Koran - Don Sperling.

Men's B:

1st: Koran - Levy; 2nd: Perez - Barillas; 3rd: Stanford - Baines; 4th: Chevas - Adam

Men's C: 1st: Dunn - Quevedo; 2nd: Chevas - Adam; 3rd: Bonnet - Rauscher; 4th: Zamulut - Ramesbotton.

Women's B: 1st: Gall - Montano; 2nd: Knight - Powers; 3rd: McConkie - Kazan; 4th: Zivalich - Zivalich

FIRST ANNUAL SPORTROOMS CLASSIC

August 24-26, 1979
Montgomery, Alabama

Men's Open: 1st, Jim Cullen; 2nd, Wayne Vincent; 3rd, Jay Schwartz.

Men's B: 1st, Terry Cox; 2nd, Ronnie Coleman; 3rd, Dennis McRee.

Men's C: 1st, Neil Campbell; 2nd, Ron Stokes; 3rd, Jorge Morante.

Men's Jr. Vets: 1st, Jay Schwartz; 2nd, Kip Parrish; 3rd, Steve Murata.

Men's Senior: 1st, Jim Jordan; 2nd, Chuck Miner; 3rd, Thomas Cost.

Men's Master: 1st, Gene Brown; 2nd, Jack Sorenson; 3rd, Stoney Akers.

Women's Open: 1st, Babette Burkett; 2nd, Caryn McKinney; 3rd, Vickie Luque.

Women's B: 1st, Toni Clark; 2nd, Phyllis West; 3rd, Beverly Bell.

Women's C: 1st, Marsh Tiller; 2nd, Beverly Bell; 3rd, Linda Funderburk.

USRA OHIO STATE TOURNAMENT

Circuit Courts
Dayton, Ohio

Men's Open Singles: 1st: Clark Pittman; 2nd: Kevin Deighan.

Men's Master Doubles: 1st: Haering-Lapierre; 2nd: Kosicki-Smith.

Men's Senior Doubles: 1st: Soble-Stern; 2nd: McKinley-Helton

Men's Master Singles: 1st: Fred Zitzer; 2nd: Paul Haering.

Men's Senior Singles: 1st: Jack Soble; 2nd: Kent Fusselman.

Men's B Doubles: 1st: Barasch-Schneider; 2nd: Miller-Frees.

Men's Open Doubles: 1st: Abrams-Clifford; 2nd: Sipes-Pittman.

Men's B Singles: 1st: Barry Hart; 2nd: John Lewis.

Men's C Singles: 1st: Matt Rosenblum; 2nd: Ed Schmidt.

Men's C Doubles: 1st: Spence-Rauhoff; 2nd: Lutz-Bates.

Boy's 16 And 17: 1st: David Rosenblum; 2nd: Brian Deighan.

Women's B Singles: 1st: Sally Forristell; 2nd: Robin Blessing.

Women's C Doubles: 1st: Hyre-Wolff; 2nd: Sander-Lavis.

Men's Novice Singles: 1st: Redden; 2nd: Ken Bussell.

Women's Open Singles: 1st: Becky Callahan; 2nd: Julie Selm.

Women's B Doubles: 1st: Sturt-Revenaugh; 2nd: Langenderfer-Wentland

Women's Novice Singles: 1st: Linda Bressi; 2nd: Justina Saxby.

Boy's 13 And Under: 1st: Ken Stern; 2nd: Matt Reed.

Women's Open Doubles: 1st: Strickland-Thomas; 2nd: Wachtel-Robinson.

Women's C Singles: 1st: Claudia Mapes; 2nd: Deb Shartle. ■

IRA BALL APPROVAL

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

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

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Penn	Seamco	Vittert
Point West	Sportcraft	Voit

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