

National Racquetball®

Vol. 10 No. 7
July, 1981
\$1.50

•••JUNIOR POWER

•Junior Nationals Entry

•Summer Resort
Racquetball Guide

•The Art of
the Upset

•Women's
Nationals
in Color



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National Racquetball®

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Contents

On the Cover . . .

A year after his surprise takeover of the 1980 USRA Men's Open title Bret Harnett looks less like a kid as he climbs up the pro ladder. For another view of his finals match against Ed Andrews and to learn how Harnett, 17, emerged from the Juniors turn to page 18.

—Arthur Shay photo

Opinions

From Bob Kendler	6
Guest Fourth of July Editorial	6
From Our Readers	9

Entry

Junior Nationals Palatine, IL Aug. 10-15	12
--	----

Features

Out of the Juniors:

Bret Harnett by Jim Brann	18
Laura Martino by Carole C. George	21
Racquetball in Summer Resorts by Ivan Fuldauer	40

Instruction

Ask the Champ by Marty Hogan	27
The Art of the Upset by Charlie Garfinkel	28
APRO Teaches . . . Scientists' View by Jack Groppel	32
Big Daddy — the Ref by Carole C. George	34
What's the Call? by Dan Bertolucci	38

Who's Playing Racquetball

Kristen Swigart Declares Her Independence	39
---	----

Court Clubs

Sales out of the Dark	42
-----------------------	----

USRA Amateur

Vermont's Chairman Bob Beauchemin	45
-----------------------------------	----

Pro Tour

Hometown Wins on the NRC Circuit:

Hogan in St. Louis by Thomas J. Morrow	60
Peck in El Paso	65

Heather McKay Takes:

Fishkill by Carole C. George	52
Women's Nationals by Nicholas J. Schmitz	55

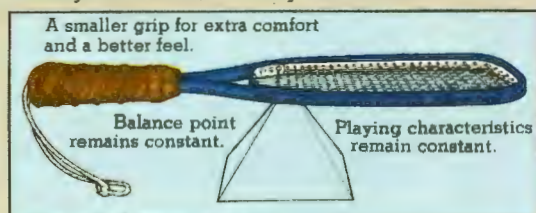


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Opinions

From Bob Kendler



This One Is For America

If we could choose the subject for an inspired Fourth of July speech, the words of Bob Weidrich, *Chicago Tribune* columnist, would certainly be the people's choice! He gave this talk at the Executive's Club, and I was so impressed—I felt I should share it with you.

Now I won't be offended if you tell me you subscribe to *National Racquetball* for instruction only. But when you realize how many of our leaders have been targets for assassins, maybe it's time we put in a word for America, as well as our sport. You cannot read Weidrich's talk without putting our country in its proper perspective . . . and being profoundly grateful for it.

Like you I am saddened by every death, whether it be friend or foe. How I wish I could convince the violent ones that our sport is the alternative for hate! That only in the courts should we attack each other and go home to enjoy a better day. Isn't it curious that not one of the madmen bent on killing has been described as a racquetball player—or a handball player? Not even in Ireland, where handball is a way of life, do we hear that our players kill anything but balls.

This month you won't get an editorial from me, nor from Joe nor Danny. Instead we are bringing you a message far more important than anything any one of us could prepare. This one is for America and we are proud to reprint the message with Bob Weidrich's blessings. I can only add that Col. McCormick would have loved this article! I hope you will, too, because it is only published in the hope that it will keep our young people in affairs of the ball and not of the bullet!

Thank you Bob! America owes you one!

Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

As the happiness of the people is the sole end of government, so the consent of the people is the only foundation of it.

John Adams

Do You Love America Enough?



by Bob Weidrich

Columnist, *Chicago Tribune*

I would like to talk to you today about something very simple, yet so precious as to be cherished. It is called America, and, although it touches each of our lives every day, we pay it little attention because most of us have known little else.

A columnist colleague told me recently—Jack Mabley—that his wife often chides him for always trying to find a bright spot in everything that he writes. Well that's what I propose to do here today. First paint the dark side of the moon and then unveil its bright side.

I warned Jack that if my lifeless form was found dangling from a yardarm atop this hotel tomorrow the prime suspects would be the members of this audience, especially if it bore tar and feathers. For, sadly, talking about upbeat things today is not particularly popular in the United States.

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You, as Americans, representatives of a capitalist system, are entitled to be down in the dumps. The economy stinks. The prime rate is rapacious. The recently departed Carter administration was atrocious if not downright devastating. Our foreign policy is still in a shambles. The United States has lost respect all over the world. Our defense establishment is in a state of disrepair. On Capitol Hill we have an overabundance of free spenders and liberal thinkers to whom the Federal Treasury is a bottomless font. In Illinois the business community often must horsewhip the Legislature to get it to do the right thing.

The moral tone of the country is corrupt. The television and film industries cater to the lowest possible denominator. Crime is on the upswing and the value of the dollar is on the way down.

Have we, as citizens of the greatest, most productive nation in history, permitted ourselves to become victims of negative thinking and self pity?

In short the country is in a hell of a fix.

And yet is it? Are things really as bad as they seem? Or have we, as citizens of the greatest, most productive nation in history, permitted ourselves to become victims of negative thinking and self pity?

Instead of crying in our beer, shouldn't we be thankful for the bountiful blessings we have and be doing positive things to preserve that system, along with our prayers?

I am a firm believer in doing things for myself instead of waiting for someone else, including the good Lord, to take care of my problems.

I'm also a firm believer in appreciating what I've got, and recognizing that many of the things I enjoy as an American are denied millions of others in thousands of other places elsewhere in the world.

So today let's think positive. Let's dwell a moment on the unique freedoms that we so take for granted, then decide if things are still as bad as they seem, or perhaps start thinking whether the depressing environment in which we live is not largely our own fault.

In the first place there are few places anywhere in the world where I could call my just departed national leadership stupid without being slapped into jail. I know because I've been in countries like that. I know the fear under which their citizens live, afraid to express themselves,

victims of tyrannical and dictatorial political systems that deny basic human rights.

I can stand here today and say these things and nobody can throw me in jail. I can talk on the telephone and feel reasonably sure that no official arm of the government is listening, and I can write my column of commentary six days a week which all of you can agree or disagree with and not fear that some secret policeman will be along to handcuff me and haul me away to a dungeon.

A year and a half ago I was in East Berlin after a 35 year absence. I couldn't believe the stark contrast between the life styles and appearance of the residents on either side of the Iron Curtain, that maze of barbed wire and concrete tank traps, designed to deny people the basic freedoms each of us take for granted every day of our lives.

On the West side of the brick wall, away from its snarling police dogs and machine gun toting guards, fashionably dressed people crowded the streets. A block away the faces were suddenly blank, lifeless, drained of animation or inspiration or motivation. Communism had taken its toll.

Thirty-five years of tyranny had destroyed the human spirit. People were listless and lifeless. Worse, they were thoughtless, or if they thought, they kept their thoughts to themselves. They stood in a block long line at eight o'clock in the morning outside of an auto supply store because they had heard that a shipment of auto parts had arrived. Whether they needed the parts or not was incidental. The mere fact that a shipment of consumer goods was available and would not again be available for six months or more drew them to the store.

In that supposedly "classless" society where all men allegedly are equal, they were starved for the staff of modern life: free enterprise, the right to improve their life styles with the fruits of their labor. But they knew in their communist society only the hierarchy was permitted such pleasures while they must wait in line. So they would wait there to buy anything, even if they didn't need it.

For the acquisition of property, any property, was food for their famished souls, souls that cried out for independence, freedom of action, for anything but the regimented dreariness of their lives.

Later that night I watched on East German television a mass youth rally in a stadium behind the Iron Curtain. I listened to the blare of the trumpets and beat of the big bass drums.

I looked at the expressionless faces of thousands and thousands of young East German boys and girls, marching to

martial bands amid fluttering communist banners as the party bosses applauded from a rostrum. The children were like martinets. They were doing what they had been told to do. The movements they executed had been drilled into them, but their hearts were not in the spectacular show they were staging. They were like robots, fresh faced and attractive, but lifeless, without purpose, worse, without hope.

And I thought, God, how I wish American kids and their parents could witness what I'm seeing here tonight. I wish they could recognize what it is like to live out your life in a place where you can neither think nor speak without constant caution, without worrying that the next knock on the door may not be the "thought police," there to explore your mind.

Two years earlier I was in communist Cuba, a place that some Americans admire because criminals are slammed into jail without benefit of trial, there to languish forever. Granted I saw no overt crime on the streets of Havana or any of the little villages into which I wandered while I was there, but one afternoon I did manage to break away from my communist guides and lose myself in an outlying neighborhood.

With several American friends I sat in an outdoor restaurant and began talking with residents of the neighborhood who had gathered to explore the wonders of a Polaroid camera that one of the fellows in the party was carrying.

In that communist society, one long-denied consumer goods, the people literally went ape. They crowded around to have their pictures taken, but it was more than mere earthly goods that motivated them. They wanted to talk to Americans. They genuinely liked them, and they wanted to hear about the free world.

At that moment they didn't even care if the communist agents overheard them. They whispered to us that in each block of the neighborhood there were such agents. So we curbed our tongues, but in lowered voices they told us of the severe housing and food rationing; of the newspapers and other media that preached only the party line and never told the truth; of the need to join the Communist Party in order to obtain anything but menial work; of university professors who had to sell their intellectual honesty and integrity in order to survive in a communist classroom.

One toothless woman, 90 years old, whose father had been the Cuban Consul General in Chicago in the 1920s and who had attended Barat College, clutched my arm and begged me to take her home with me.

Later that day I watched a Cuban teenager, frightened, but determined to improve his life in some little way, offer the equivalent of a hundred dollars in Cuban pesos for a pair of jeans worn by one of the members of my party. The jeans would have been gladly given to him for nothing, but we also were intimidated by tyranny. We were afraid that he might be a communist agent there to entrap us. So we turned a deaf ear to his pleas and felt badly about it later.

That night we saw the first glimpses of prosperity in a communist society. But they were enjoyed only by a few. When it was over, it was the Americans who felt guilty, while Fidel Castro and his friends rubbed their tummies.

The scene was an incredible marble palace on the outskirts of Havana with peacocks roaming the grounds.

The scene was an incredible marble palace on the outskirts of Havana with peacocks roaming the grounds. Castro and his sidekicks arrived in a fleet of Mercedes Benz limousines, while the rest of Havana was struggling along in 1956 Chevrolets held together with bailing wire, from the pre-Castro days. The party bosses and their guests, we Americans, gorged on the finest of foods, and the finest of liquors.

Somehow I couldn't eat, thinking of those poor, threadbare people in an outdoor cafe the previous afternoon. They could live on rationed food and survive. They could suffer crowded living conditions and survive. But they could not bear the denial of the basic human freedoms that had existed in their island nation under other dictators for more than 20 years. That is what was killing them; deprivation of the human spirit, not their stomachs.

The communists searched my rooms at the Oceanside Hotel where I was staying. It's a very luxurious structure, erected by Castro to hoodwink tourists from the United States and Canada.

I've got a little trick I use when I'm in such places. I leave a little piece of matchbook or a little bit of cellophane from a cigar wrapper in my typewriter, in my notebooks and in my luggage, to see if anyone has been rooting through my belongings. And they had.

Of course it was foolish. There was nothing to find. The conversations with the dissident Cubans were locked in my brain, not in my notebooks. But such is the communist mentality, and so they

must search illegally in violation of basic human dignity and rights, just as they had done a year earlier in communist Hungary and two years before that in then communist-infiltrated Laos. For they know no other way.

They remain in power through fear. At the same time they live in fear, because they know if ever the human spirit gets a chance, it is they who will be toppled. That fear drives them to even greater excesses for theirs is the good life, a life style derived by stealing freedom from other human beings.

A lot of Americans today still don't realize that the freedoms they enjoy must be eternally protected. That freedom is not free, that it has a price. That price is the exercise of citizenship, of the sacred ballot, of getting involved, of supporting those institutions that are right for America, and of getting up every morning and thanking God that we are Americans.

Sadly in this negative society today, patriotism has become a cliché. Our courts and our politicians have seriously entertained the suggestion that the Pledge of Allegiance be banned from the classroom. Love of country is ridiculed, and otherwise loyal Americans have become so cynical about the course of events in their country, political, economic and otherwise, they actually think this is a rotten country. They think some other system, even socialism, is preferable to the system under which the nation has prospered for more than 200 years.

To them I say "Hogwash." You ain't seen nothing yet. Try a little socialism or communism or dictatorship, Iddi Amin or Kadhafi or even Khomeini style. Move to one of those many desolate places on the earth where people dare not speak their minds. Get a belly full of newspapers and state controlled television that peddle nothing but the party line, and permit no independent expression. Struggle under a state run economic system that denies free enterprise or even the opportunity to argue your case with the tax man. Try existing in an intellectual desert where truth is branded fiction and lies become truth.

Come back to the United States and feel the fresh air of freedom that invigorates the soul.

Then come back to the United States and feel the fresh air of freedom that invigorates the soul. Know that nowhere else on earth does such a diverse, exciting, productive and prosperous free society exist—except in the hearts and

minds of people who are denied all but the right to struggle without hope of ever bettering their lot.

In Afghanistan two years ago I found a country where illiteracy among women nudges 100 percent and malnutrition is an accepted part of rural life and death is something that many people welcome. I talked with a handful of educated young men in a hidden place, where a Police State could not intrude, for at least that moment. Two dictatorial regimes and one Russian communist invasion later most of those young men are dead. Murdered because of their yearning for freedom. They never attained, except in their hearts, that precious commodity called liberty.

Whenever I think about freedom, and I find myself thinking more of it as I grow older, I think back to a day in 1973. It was the waning days of the Vietnam war in a little town called Ban Houe Sai in western Laos, hard on the banks of the Mekong River, on the Burma border. I think of Oscar, a native born Chinese 83 years old, who had outlived—outlived, not divorced, 13 wives and was now living with his 14th, a young lady of 19 years. By her he had had his 21st and 22nd children. They were tiny, black eyed, raven haired tots, who stumbled around the small restaurant he operated in that town on the edge of communist guerilla country.

The day I was there the North Vietnamese had threatened to take Ban Houe Sai. There was a plane waiting to haul my frightened carcass out, along with that of Congressman Morgan Murphy of Chicago. But we did have time for a delightful lunch of curried shrimp and cold beer made from a Dutch brewer's recipe. As we ate, Oscar, the proprietor of Chez Oscar, talked about his more than 60 year pilgrimage in search of freedom.

Oscar talked about having fled the corrupt Chinese warlords of the 1920s and 30s. He talked about becoming a cook for General Vinegar Joe Stilwell during the Burma campaigns of World War II, when there was hope that America would bring freedom to Mainland China.

He had fled the Japanese oppressors, and he had battled Chinese oppressors. When freedom had faded in his homeland again, he had fled the Chinese communists in 1948, and now he was ready again to flee the Vietnamese communists who were prepared to take over his adopted country of Laos.

Two years later Laos fell to communism. I heard that Oscar had packed up his wife, his two little children, his cast iron stove, and fled across the Mekong into Northern Thailand, again in search of freedom, and again in fear of tyranny. In that 83-year-old heart the thirst for freedom had never been extinguished, although Oscar had known precious little of it in his lifetime.

But pain and suffering never had deterred him. He had sought freedom for all of his adult life, and he would go on searching for it until he died.

I wish that many of my negative thinking, cry baby American friends could have met and talked with Oscar. I wish they could have heard my now murdered friends in Afghanistan. I wish they could have listened to the hopelessness and dejection in the voices of those Cubans recalling happier days. I wish they could have witnessed the frightening implications of those masses of East German youths, marching to the drumbeat of tyranny with no hope of ever experiencing the freedoms so many of us accept as our just due—and for which we believe there is no price to pay.

If this has sounded like a sermon, so be it. Perhaps that's what it is. But I hope that it is a sermon of hope, a reminder that no matter how bleak things may seem in this great country of ours, they never can be as devastating as the situations that prevail in too many other places in the world.

We are free born Americans. We have the laws and the constitutional guarantees to shape this nation in the image that we want. We have the right to make America what we will. Conversely we have to protect those rights. We have to be constantly vigilant against those who would curb or dilute those rights. The price that we must pay for those freedoms is eternal vigilance, pride in citizenship, pride in being Americans and confidence that we can work within the framework of our laws to maintain the system that has benefited all of us so much in so many ways.

We have the best system of government in the world. The fact that we can gather here today without fear of arrest, without subordinating our hopes and dreams and thoughts to a dictatorial state, is evidence of what we enjoy.

So when things get tough, economically or politically, remember: you have got to fight to keep those freedoms whether at the ballot box or by the mere act of speaking your mind, individually or collectively in such a group as here today. Above all you have to remain proud to be Americans, yet humble in accepting the liberties you enjoy.

I don't mean that you have to fly the flag from your roof top or wear a lapel pin unless you want to. But fly it in your hearts. That inner glow will be reflected in your demeanor and that is where it most counts. Complain if you must, but remember, that also is a part of freedom.

From Our Readers



The Best

Dear Mr. Kendler:

I would like to commend you on your fine *National Racquetball* magazine. I have read several other racquetball magazines, and I find your magazine to be the best. It covers the best racquetball—from the amateur level to the professional level. Other magazines tend to take up the main part of their magazine with celebrities. There are other magazines the people can buy if they want to read about the celebrities. I buy the racquetball magazine to read about racquetball. Your magazine is the best I have found thus far.

Mary Blanciak
Lower Burrell, PA

Recovery Help

Dear Mr. Kendler:

I am a racquetball enthusiast and I heard you are in the hospital for a short stay. I am an admirer of you personally, your column in *National Racquetball* and of all you have done for the sport of racquetball. I want to take this opportunity to wish you a speedy recovery.

Ralph Shively
Lake Bluff, IL

Get well wishes like those of Ralph Shively have helped put NRC/USRA President Bob Kendler back on the job.
ED

It Works for Armwrestling, Too

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Your article, "Great New Thought," in your January issue was so good, I read it to the Sunday Bible class I've been teaching for 11 years. I encourage athletics in my church and we support them spiritually and financially as a means of reaching others for God and Jesus Christ. We have an armwrestling team that uses your opening line "Do you give as much thought to spiritual conditioning as you do to physical conditioning?" We have shared that message over the years with athletes from all sports.

Bobby Bible
Long Beach, CA

Looking for More NRC Stops

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Being a *National Racquetball* subscriber who recently had the opportunity to attend the Seamco Pro Am Classic at the Playoff Racquetball Club in Beverly, MA I feel compelled to write and express my thoughts on what was truly an excellent and thoroughly enjoyable five day event. Hats off to the Playoff Racquetball staff and the NRC.

It was a thrill to watch many of the pros whom I've read so much about and who author many of your fine instructional articles. It was an exceptional pleasure to meet and speak with the likes of Joe Ardito, Dan Bertolucci, Larry Lee and many others who came with the tour. Their knowledge of the inner workings of the game coupled with their friendly manner was exceeded only by their obvious love for the game and concern for its present course and future. The game is indeed in good hands!

To fellow *National Racquetball* subscribers and lovers of the game—if you have not attended an NRC pro stop, do yourself a big favor and go! The word tournament does not serve it justice, it's an affair you'll not soon forget.

I eagerly look forward to next year's northeastern swing and until television gets with a great thing, here's hoping the next few years of racquetball feature an expanded NRC tour availing itself to many more racquetballers in all geographic areas.

Frank J. Raucei
Wallingford, CT

Equality for Golden Masters

Dear Editor:

Are the older players given equal consideration when it comes to tournament play? I would like to present my impressions and you can judge for yourself.

At the present time most tournaments do not even have a Golden Masters division—55 years. Some are starting to have Masters divisions (45), but most frequently they stop at Seniors—35. This means the average Golden Masters player must play in a division much too difficult for him, and as a result he doesn't enter the tournament.

Most tournament directors will say they don't get enough entrants in that division, but as in any division, all they need to do is cancel the division category if it doesn't fill up. I feel, though, they should make allowances and run that division even with

fewer players. (A round robin needs only four people.) That will encourage the older player and as time goes on, there will be more of them.

Another aspect of tournament play is the scheduling. The older player is usually considered an afterthought and he is scheduled the last two days of the tournament. If he is fortunate enough to win, he might play four matches and referee three in a 24 to 28 hour period. Also when the matches are scheduled, older players are frequently put in a court in a far corner and given a referee who might be a little less than knowledgeable

Speaking of consideration one year I played in a Nationals, and they had all the older divisions finishing their final matches two days before the rest of the tournament finished and they even gave different trophies to the older players than they did to the other categories. If that isn't being treated as a second class citizen, it will do until something better occurs.

What I suggest is that tournaments treat the older players like everyone else, and maybe even give them a little more encouragement because remember—they started this sport pretty late in their life and can use all the help they can get.

Burt Morrow, D.D.S.
Cerritos, CA

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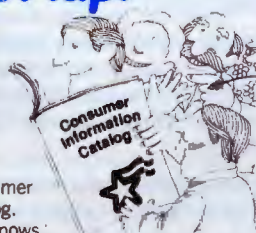
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 General Services Administration



Family Concerns

Dear Editor:

Something is really bothering me about the family sport of racquetball. We are really making it tough for a church going person to participate. First we have all tournaments on Sunday, which make it impossible to attend church. Secondly it seems that a very high percentage of our tournaments are now sponsored by beer companies. I don't want my children around kegs of beer or seeing their dads wearing tournaments shirts advertising beer companies. Let's honor the Sabbath and put the family back in racquetball.

I enjoy your articles Mr. Kendler and I am opposed to a letter printed last month stating you were preaching too much. I don't think it hurts to hear about Jesus, since there is so much strife in the world today.

Robert Boice
Rexburg, ID

Open Players Should Control Sandbaggers

Dear Editor:

Your April, 1981 issue had an article concerning sandbagging and what to do about combating this problem. I recently attended a tournament in Indianapolis and noticed that several people from the state of Indiana had dropped a division and I asked the tournament control desk why this was allowed. I was told that they had no control over this and, therefore, nothing could be done about it. This is a typical response to the problem of sandbagging which obviously only occurs in the divisions below Open. Most tournaments are run and regulated by Open players who, in most cases, mainly care about themselves and their divisions. For some reason Open players seem to forget that at one time most of them were B or C players and had to contend with sandbaggers. I feel that it is the responsibility of anyone hosting a tournament to take the time and exert the energy to research the individuals participating in the tournament by calling their home club and making sure that they are in the proper division by checking with their club pro. Once this is done, and people are reprimanded, this practice will cease. Also the players themselves should correct each other by peer pressure. In the above case I asked a player why he had dropped to B. He said regional competition would be tougher and that I should have dropped to C. I asked him to no avail where C players are supposed to drop...

I agree with the writer of the letter that there is no pride in winning a trophy in a

division you do not belong in. There will always be cheaters and people who try to take advantage of the rules, but it is a responsibility of tournament control and division committees to regulate this problem, and if they are not capable of regulating the problem, they should not host the tournament.

Joseph C. Fowler, Jr.
Logansport, IN

Thanks from Beyond

Dear Carol:

I received the May issue of *National Racquetball* with the "Beyond the Open" story about my wife and me. We both are grateful to you and the magazine for its contents and accuracy. Our family and friends are proud of us.

Jack and Frances Wildman
Elizabeth, NJ

No Tear Contribution

Dear Sirs:

Find enclosed a photocopy of your court club opinion survey. I certainly didn't want to ruin my *National Racquetball* magazine!

I find that this is a super way of contributing to the sport. If I can be of any service, by all means call on me!

Armand F. Girard
Lewiston, ME

Loaded with Instruction

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is my completed reader survey which should be good for a free three month subscription to your fine magazine. I cannot resist your offer, but I wanted you to know that, at the end of the three month term, I will most definitely be a regular subscriber. I have never seen a magazine that was so loaded with informative and instructional material. I was extremely impressed.

Looking forward to a continued and long term relationship.

Willard S. Card
Springville, UT





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Juniors Will Wing It at Great America

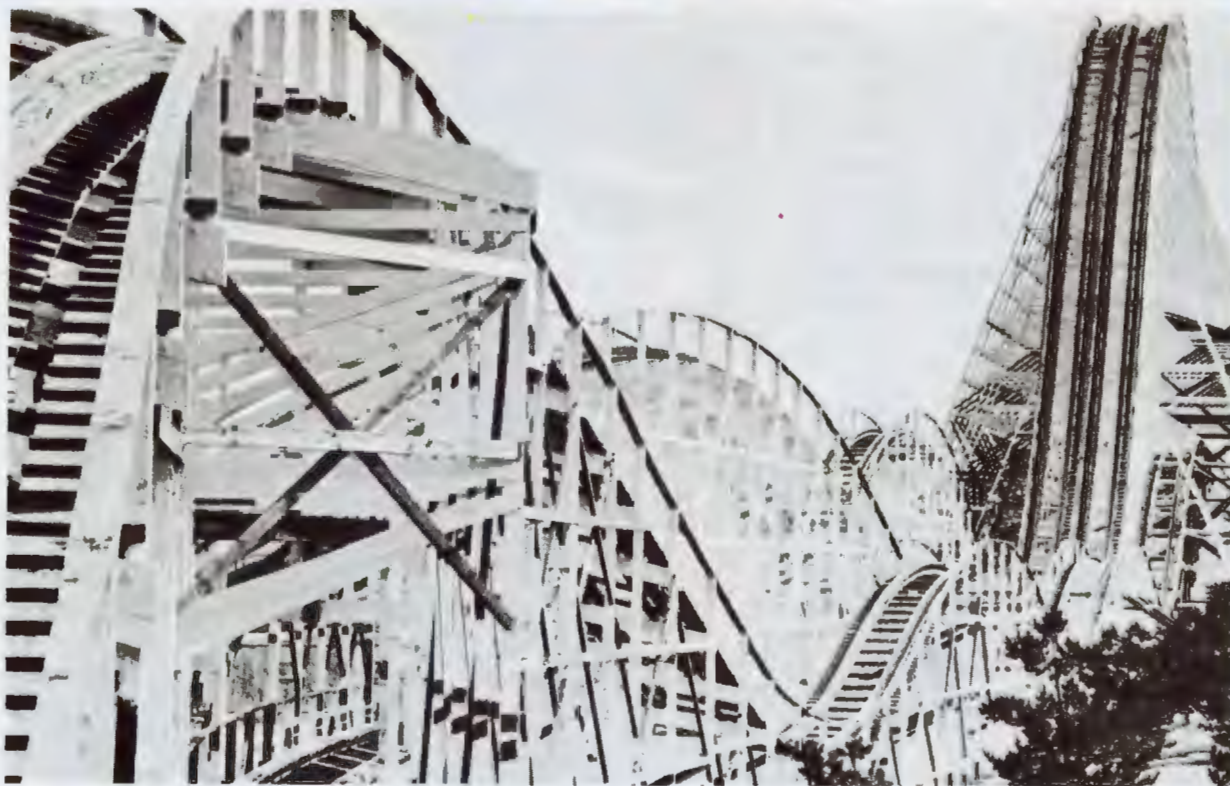
Boys and girls competing in the Aug. 10-15 USRA Junior Nationals can climb aboard the American Eagle for a 147 foot plunge at 66 miles an hour on the world's largest double racing wooden roller coaster.

Premiering this season the American Eagle joins three other Great America roller coasters— The Demon, a steel coaster that takes riders from an initial vertical drop of 100 feet into two vertical loops 70 and 55 feet high, the Tidal Wave, which shoots riders up a steeply banked, 142 foot incline, and Willard's Whizzer, which sends the train on a seven story free fall down the spiraling track.

The park also offers 31 other rides from ferris wheels to carousels, as well as restaurants, shows and movies.

Juniors will travel from tournament headquarters at the Charlie Club in Palatine to the theme park in Gurnee via chartered buses, complete with chaperones.

The Yankee Clipper, a giant water flume ride, is one of Great America's two most popular attractions. (The other is the Logger's Run, another water plunge.)



As the twin trains of the American Eagle come out of the coaster's double helix, the tracks crisscross each other (foreground), and send the trains racing back toward's the Eagle's 15 floor first drop.

Leach/Seamco National Junior Racquetball Championships

EYEGUARDS
RECOMMENDED

August 10-15, 1981

ENTRY DEADLINE: All entry blanks and corresponding entry fees must be in the possession of tournament director by Friday, July 24, 1981.

SITE: Charlie Club Resort Hotel & Fitness Center, 1500 E Dundee Rd., Palatine, IL 60057, Phone: 312-934-4000. 17 regulation courts including one with two wall glass and permanent seating for 350. Complete fitness centers, gymnasium, olympic weight room, indoor swimming pool, lounge and disco, the Training Table Restaurant along with complete spa facilities for men & women.

ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be current USRA members in good standing. Membership applications and renewals should accompany entry fee at time of mailing. Membership fee is \$12. Juniors are required to play in the same age division they were eligible for at the USRA Junior Regionals held July 17-19, 1981.

RULES: Official USRA rules apply. No player having accepted \$1,000 or more in prize money on the NRC sanctioned pro tour within the last 12 months may enter.

AWARDS: Trophies to first four places in all events, plus first two places in consolation rounds.

SANCTION: by United States Racquetball Association (USRA).

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 600

ENTRY FEE: \$20 per event. Limit, one event per player.

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS: Charlie Club/Best Western Hotel & Fitness Center, 1550 E. Dundee Rd., Palatine, IL 60067, Phone: 312-934-4910. Special rates for tournament players. Contact Linda Birn. Be sure to mention you are attending the USRA National Juniors.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: USRA National Juniors

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND CHECK TO: USRA National Juniors, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076, Attn: Dan Bertolucci

NOTE: All players should plan to arrive Sunday, August 9, and play will start on August 10 in all divisions.

PLEASE ENTER ME IN:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Boys 17 and Under | ☐ Girls 17 and Under |
| ☐ Boys 15 and Under | ☐ Girls 15 and Under |
| ☐ Boys 12 and Under | ☐ Girls 12 and Under |
| ☐ Boys 10 and Under | ☐ Girls 10 and Under |

SHIRT SIZE - BOY:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ Small | ☐ Small |
| ☐ Med. | ☐ Med. |
| ☐ Large | ☐ Large |
| ☐ XL | ☐ XL |

GIRL:

WAIVER: I understand it is your intention to have my participation hereunder recorded on videotape for presentation on TV and elsewhere, and I expressly agree that you shall have the unlimited right and authority to use and exploit your coverage of the series, the videotape, and any and all forms of reproduction thereof in any and all media in perpetuity in whatever manner and by whatever means expressly provided. Such recordings shall without limitations be the sole property of NRCU/USRA to deal with, broadcast, sell, license, rent, exhibit, and otherwise use or reuse in whole or in part as the NRC/USRA see fit.

I hereby acknowledge and agree to the limitations and conditions of all tournament rules. Furthermore I hereby certify that I am fully qualified under said limitations and conditions.

I hereby for myself and my agents waive and release any and all rights, and claims for damages I might have against the Charlie Club Resort Hotel & Fitness Center, the U.S. Racquetball Association, Seamco, Leach Industries, and any of their agents, for any and all injuries received by me in connection with this tournament.

Bugs Bunny and his Looney Tunes pals will greet Racquetball Juniors during a Great America outing during the Nationals.



Parent Signature _____

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Area Code _____ Number _____



Gourmet restaurant at Charlie Club overlooks indoor tennis, basketball/volleyball, and free weight training areas. Liberal use of wood interior enhances atmosphere, taken from Owner Charlie Vavrus Ft. Pierce, Florida ranch.

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Special Racquetball National's Rates.

Type Room	• Rate	• Tax	• Total	• Individual Cost
Single	36.00	2.18	38.16	38.16
Double	45.00	2.70	47.70	23.85
Triple	48.60	2.92	51.52	17.18
Quad	52.20	3.13	55.33	13.84

With 180 spacious sleeping rooms, luxuriously furnished suites, large meeting rooms and business conference rooms, the Best Western Charlie Club Resort Hotel has the answer to everyone's needs.

The decor of the hotel, like the rest of the complex, features cypress, maple, oak and pine, all from our Florida ranch. Many rooms contain king size beds and the suites feature hot tubs and wet bars. Cribs and rollaway beds are available, as well as babysitting service. Limo service to and from O'Hare is also available. And, of course, we provide a complete room service menu, valet service and reservation service to other Best Western Hotels.



charlie club

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1550 E. Dundee Rd. Palatine, IL 60067 (312) 934-4910



USRA National Champion Bret Harnett Goes Public.

Young Bret Harnett stepped onto a racquetball court for the first time only in 1978. But he's quickly carved out a place in racquetball history. Skill, dedication and love for the sport drove Bret to three national racquetball championships by the time he was 16. His first was the 1979 USRA National Juniors Championship (15 and under), followed by the AARA National Juniors Doubles Championship (with Mike Levine, also in 1979). In 1980 he became not only the youngest player in the history of the sport to win a USRA National Open Championship, but also the first to do it *without losing a single game*.

Now Bret's taken aim at the pro circuit. And after only five NRC pro stops to date, Bret's ranked among the Top 16 pros in the world. There's no stopping Bret Harnett now.

Catch him on his first personal appearance and exhibition tour. (U.S. and Europe)



Photography George Holtz Makeup

Bret Harnett



Highlight your tournament—state, city, club matches
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Bret Harnett is also available for product endorsement.

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Feature

Graduating



by Jim Brann

with Honors

Junior competition, like the 1981 USRA Junior Nationals Aug. 10-15, is the training ground for racquetball. Here are stories about two young touring pros who learned to compete on a national level in the United States Racquetball Association's junior events and went on to make names for themselves in the professional ranks.

Homework on the Pro Tour

Bret Harnett's Just another Senior at Las Vegas' Valley High



— Harry Santini photos

Bret Harnett, a 17-year-old Las Vegas, turned from the football field to the racquetball court after his first encounter with the court sport.

Currently rated 20th in the professional division Harnett has left the amateur ranks, where he gained impressive credentials, to concentrate on attaining number one status as a pro.

While his racquetball prowess has grown, it was in football that many people thought Bret would excel.

"He was a darn good safety as a sophomore," says a former coach. "I think he could have continued all the way to the pros."

Bret, a handsome 6' 1", 165 pound athlete, shrugs off the adulation.

"I like all sports, but I guess if I really concentrated on football I would have done all right. But racquetball fever caught me at that time and I decided to devote all my energies to it."

That devotion has led Bret to many titles including the USRA Open (1980); 15 and Under National Singles Champion (1979) and National Juniors Doubles Champion with Mike Levine of Rochester, NY (1979).

Rio and Dan Harnett with Bret



Additionally he has captured Nevada State Singles and Doubles Championships.

His decision to leave junior competition and concentrate on the pros was stimulated by a competitive instinct—and money.

"The competition is a lot tougher and I enjoy that. And besides you're playing for money and not trophies."

To stay at a high competitive pitch Bret practices at least one hour a day and then may play a couple of matches. Three days a week he will work out on the Nautilis machine and weights and then go through a jogging and rope jumping routine.

An all out effort against Ed Andrews makes Bret Harnett the 1980 USRA Men's Open Champion.

—Arthur Shay photo



One thing that separates Bret Hamett from his high school buddies is his 1980 Mazda RX7, a reward from his manager for winning the 1980 USRA Nationals Open title.

"Conditioning is the key to racquetball success. The game is so demanding that you must be prepared both mentally and physically."

A firm believer in safety on the court, Bret always wears eyeguards, even when practicing.

"There is nothing as important as your eyesight and I think, by my example, that others, especially kids, will get the idea that wearing eyeguards is an important part of safety on the courts."

When away from the racquetball scene Bret relaxes by listening to music, water skiing on Lake Mead or admiring old cars.

"All kinds of music interest me. I have no musical ambitions, but I really admire the various performers. I don't fool around with cars mechanically, but some day I'd like to have my own car collection."

Bret, who has college aspirations, has not settled on a future major at this point. The Las Vegas Valley High School senior lists history as his favorite subject and maintains an overall C plus average.

Although he has no "steady" girl friend he finds himself the target of the female species on many occasions.

"I date a lot of girls at school, but when I'm on the road, sometimes it gets a little hectic. I don't mean they're falling all over me, but lots of times girls will hang around after my match. Naturally I love it and talk to them, but usually I just end up with a quiet date with someone I know."

Bret, who is the youngest person to ever win the Open and also the youngest to hold three titles at the same time, signed a contract with Racquetball Spectaculars, Inc. last year.

His manager, Gary Naseef, acknowledged as a top music concert promoter, feels that Bret made the right move in having his career managed at such a young age.

Naseef hopes *"to develop and secure interests outside of the racquetball industry where I think Bret will be a marketable commodity."*

Naseef explains that he helps Bret make final decisions on business matters, so that Bret can concentrate on racquetball competition.

Bret is happy with the managerial concept, although he feels every player doesn't need a manager. *"If a player is looking to the sport as a future or career, then, yes, he should have a manager,"* he says. *"Having a manager takes a load off me—I don't worry about many things."*

Bret appreciates the fact that Naseef is an organizer, taking care of details like airline reservations, hotels and scheduling.

Bret, who enjoys the travel, said it does take a little out of his schoolwork but that he always studies on the road and his teachers not only offer strong encouragement, but also keep him on his toes with the make up work.

Schoolmates, however, are a different story.

After winning the Open title and being featured in the Las Vegas media Bret didn't have to worry about developing a big head.

"Oh my classmates were excited for me but no one made a big deal out of it. To them I'm just another kid."

The Open victory also provided Bret with an unexpected bonus—a 1980 Mazda RX7.

"I was sort of flat when I entered the tournament, but I was playing good. I guess Gary decided to use a little psychology on me and at the start of the tournament he promised to buy me a new Mazda, which is what I wanted, if I won the tournament."

"I was really pumped up and went through the tournament without losing a single game. And I got the car."

Manager Gary Naseef sets up Bret's training routine.



Hamett got interested in the game through his father, Dan, a former Nevada State Seniors Champion.

"I went with him to the Sporting House one day and then I was hooked. I've enjoyed every minute since," says Bret, whose half sister, brother and mother, Rio, enjoy the sport only as spectators.

"Can I beat my dad?" is a question everyone seems to ask, and I just say we have a friendly game now and then."

Naseef, who has won the prestigious Trendsetter Award (for promotional excellence) twice and has produced concerts for Fleetwood Mac, Chicago, Alice Cooper and many other major stars, has arranged an exhibition tour later this summer for Bret.

Mike Anadlo, above, Joey Pecoraro, left, and Pete Cantino pay little attention to their friend's racquetball record.



"We will do exhibitions and personal appearances at clubs in the States and we're negotiating appearances in Europe and Japan for Bret," said Naseef.

David Humm, a quarterback with the NFL Buffalo Bills, has seen Bret in racquetball action many times.

"He plays with the intensity and desire of a true athlete," says Humm. "He has great quickness and reaction and I know if he had stayed with football, he'd play in our league."

Racquetball fans are glad Bret Harnett made the switch.

An Exception to the Rule



—Carole C. George photo

Former Juniors Standout, Laura Martino, Gets on the Pro Circuit.

by Carole Charfauros George

There is a strange phenomenon associated with the Junior Nationals. The boys who excel as teenagers go on to play professional racquetball, while the girls who excel in racquetball go on to do something else. Marty Hogan, Larry Meyers, Mike Yellen, Scott Hawkins, John Egeman and Doug Cohen were all finalists in the Junior Nationals, and now are regulars on the men's pro tour. Meanwhile, Michelle Bussaca is enjoying the good times at UCLA, Lori Burkes is married, Liz Alvarado and Mona Mook still compete on a local, amateur level, and Jamie Abbot is no big name in the world of racquetball.

Laura Martino in her pre-racquetball years: at three months and at the age of four.



Laura Martino is the exception. After placing second to Abbott in the 1977 Junior Nationals Martino continued to compete in racquetball even though college became her first priority. Last summer she brought herself to national attention again by winning the 1980 Open Amateur title at the Women's Professional Racquetball Association Nationals. Laura's decision at that point was to finish her senior year at San Diego State University, and at the same time give herself one season on the pro tour to see how she could do in the big league. Currently at age 20 Laura Martino is number five on the W.P.R.A. circuit, the top ranked rookie for 1980-81 and the youngest player in the top 10.

Obviously anyone her age who is nationally ranked has potential. So why did Martino keep with it while others dropped out? Laura's theory is that girls have many other interests compared to boys.

"I might not have stuck with it if I didn't live in Southern California," explains Martino. *"My brothers were into racquetball and a lot of the kids I hung around were playing. I was still doing it just for fun."*

Like anything else racquetball is more fun if you're good at it. With five brothers Laura was already a skilled athlete when her physical education teacher, Donna Noguchi, introduced her to the sport of racquetball as a sophomore at Fountain Valley High School. Noguchi at that time was a top ranked Open player being coached by pro Jay Jones. Both Jones and Noguchi gave Laura and her younger brother, Mark, the impetus to become excellent racquetball players.

Of course the Martinos' love of competition, inherited from father, Sal, also helped Laura's progress. Sal and the oldest child, Paul, used to *"kick our butts all the time"* says Laura, so that she and Mark practiced like crazy just to get revenge.

That's Laura, front row center, in the Martino's 1970 Christmas card. Left to right, Chris, Mark, Steve, Laura, Mary and Paul.



Holiday Greetings
FROM
OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE

The Martino Family

"Sure Laura's competitive, Sal, her father, says with a smile. "It doesn't matter what kind of competition either—even tiddly winks with manhole covers."

Skateboard Dust

Sometimes Laura's competitiveness got her into trouble, like the time she had to prove that she could skateboard down a bigger hill than her brother, Steve. Her father says it was the only time he ever really worried about her. She was 16 years old and really *"bit the dust"* as Laura put it. She fractured her skull, and her whole body was scraped up, *"but it was great while we were doing it."* Since it happened at the beginning of summer, Laura couldn't wait to skateboard again—with bandages and headache.

It's true that Laura doesn't fall often, but when she does she always manages to pick herself up. Finishing second in the 1977 Junior Nationals was a big disappointment for Martino. Though she'd only been playing a little over a year until the finals she had had no competition. People were betting whether anyone would even get 10 points off of her.

"By the time I got to the finals, my head was so big I could barely get through the door," recalls Laura. Jamie Abbott cashed in on the favorite's overconfidence in a lesson Laura will never forget.

Laura will never forget the entire tournament. *"That was the best tournament I ever went to. The USRA paid almost all the bills for more than 200 players in the Junior Nationals in Chicago. They put all the kids up on the same floor of the Sheraton Hotel. We stayed for a whole week, played one match a day, and went to ride the scariest roller coaster at Marriott's. Everyone wanted to win, but it wasn't as competitive as the pros."*

The transition from amateur to pro has changed Laura. Marci Greer recalls when Martino used to use the *"humble me"* psyching technique. Laura was an amateur going up against a top ranked pro when she said to Marci *"Just don't give me the doughnut"* before beating her the first game. Marci was so mad that she'd fallen for Martino's tricks, that she almost did give her the doughnut the next game, letting only one point slip away from her.



Martino learned from the best in five encounters against Heather McKay during the 1980-81 women's tour. This quarter-final defeat is at the Fishkill, NY stop.

"I may have done things like that as an amateur," admits Martino, "but I would never do that anymore. I would never say 'don't give me the doughnut' to anyone because I don't think there's anyone who could."

That's not a cocky statement; it's the truth. With friends like Greer, Adams, and the Peck brothers Laura Martino has learned to be humble.

Brotherly Putdown

"If I ever came home from a tournament and started bragging about how hot I was, my brother Mark or Paul would take me on the court and put me back in my place. Also my friends at school know I play racquetball, but it's no big thing to them."

One of Laura's goals is to graduate from college next December with a degree in accounting/business administration. Her parents have always stressed the importance of having another career to fall back on in case racquetball never does become a way for her to earn a living. Considering her balancing act with a full load at school and professional racquetball her parents are extremely proud of her achievements.

Laura says that she really has to work to get good grades. She graduated with honors from Fountain Valley High School and was on the Dean's List at Long Beach State University before transferring to San Diego State's School of Business, where she maintains a 3.5 GPA.

In addition to school Laura works out on Nautilus three times a week, runs the bleachers at Aztec stadium 15 or 20 times every other day, jumps rope, does situps, rides the stationary bike as well as biking to school and back each day, runs sprints on and off the court and practices and plays racquetball. Her conditioning program is basically self-discipline because she doesn't have a trainer.

"I do get overwhelmed sometimes," admits Martino, "when everything piles up. It's just a matter of setting priorities, so it's my social life that has to suffer. I take my school books with me to the tournaments and then come home to take a test usually. My roommates always give me a hard time and say I'm no fun because I rarely go out with them."

During the weekends when there isn't a tournament Laura usually drives (and has even bicycled) the 90 miles up the coast to her family's eight bedroom, five bath house in Fountain Valley. Five of the eight Martino children still live at home. Mark, 19, is studying architectural design at the local junior college and plays semi-professional racquetball. Steve, 17, is a "surfer dude" at the beach five minutes away. Then there are Mary, 16, Tory, 11, and Kim, who was adopted eight years ago when she was an infant in an orphanage in Thailand where Sal was stationed in the service. (The Martinos didn't think seven was enough). The three oldest children are Paul, 23, who is a musician; Chris, 22, who is married and studying aeronautical engineering at San Jose State, and Laura.

Laura says she likes everyone in her family, except the dogs, which allegedly get better treatment from Anne Martino than her kids do. And Laura hates cats. "We had a cat once, but it mysteriously disappeared," says Laura's mother.

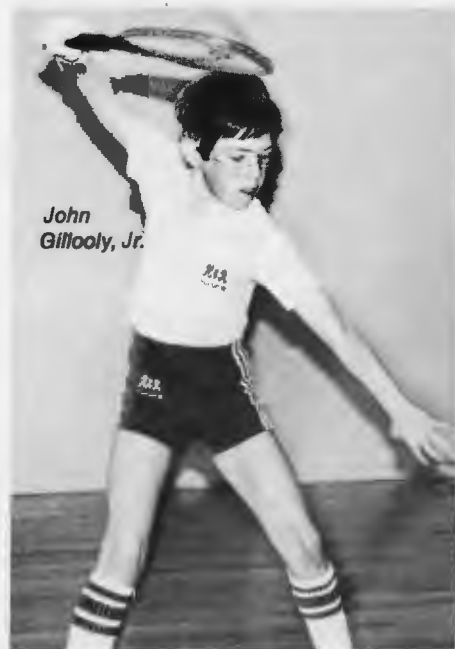
It's hard to imagine the devilish side of Laura Martino when she's approaching a potential sponsor (even with some help from Nike shoes, she's still just breaking even on the tour).

But Laura's seldom afraid to call on her sharp sense of humor. In the tense moments after a pro lost 11 to minus one in the tie-breaker of an important tournament, Laura walked up to him with a smirk on her face and said "at least you didn't get the doughnut." In a minute the loser was cracking up.

Playing for Free

John Ridder's Racquetball Boys

by Jack Canavan



John Ridder, owner of the new R & R Racquetball Club in East Bridgewater, MA, has been "like a fairy godfather" to John Gillooly, Jr., the nine-year-old's dad says.

Ridder supplies free court time, racquets, balls, shoes and uniforms for John, who lives in nearby Stoughton, and for Cliff Swain, 15, of Braintree. And when the boys go to the USRA Junior Nationals in August, Ridder will pick up the tab for transportation, meals and accommodations for the players and their parents.

Cliff started playing racquetball at 13, and, according to his father, "the first time he picked up a racquet, I could tell he was a natural." With a borrowed racquet Cliff entered and won his first tournament in October, 1979.

After six months court experience, and without any lessons or coaching, Cliff won the Massachusetts State Championships 13 and Under class. Then he went on to win the Northeast Regional Junior Boys 13 and Under division. In 1980 he took the Pepsi Open and the Coca Cola/WJAR Championships and this year the Northeast Regional 15 and Under title.

By the time Cliff started receiving national recognition, he had exhausted the local competition in his age group, and began taking on some of the better adult players who, he says, "finally began to take me seriously."



In the Greater Boston Challenge of the Sexes, November, 1980, Cliff was pitted against some of the top women players in the country. He won easily over Janet Simon in the semi-finals, to meet another top ranked women's player, Martha Callahan. It was youth over experience, as Cliff defeated Callahan in two games to win the tournament.

John Gillooly first played when he was seven. He took to the game immediately, and started challenging the older players. "He plays best under pressure," his father says.

"He's been like a fairy godfather to us," says John Gillooly Sr. Ridder's only requirement for his promising juniors is that they wear shirts with the R & R Racquetball Club logo.

To sharpen them up for the USRA Junior Nationals, Ridder is bringing in some top local players, and, as the boys progress, he might import Dave Peck for professional instructions.

Why does he do it? "Because they're nice, well-mannered kids," Ridder says, "and they're an asset to my club."

Like Father, Like Son

by Carole Charfauros George

Children whose parents own racquetball clubs may have an edge on the game over children whose parents don't. One of the reasons may be that the parents are at the club so much already that they don't have to set aside special time for racquetball, according to Bill Austin, owner of All-Sport Fitness and Racquetball Clubs in Poughkeepsie and Fishkill, NY.

Austin's son, Billy, is seven years old, which is just about the age that Marty Hogan's mother first took him out on a racquetball court and introduced him to the game. But Billy's already been playing for four years, beginning the same year that All-Sport opened.

Russ and Sarah Mannino also own two racquetball clubs in the state of NY: Harbor Racquetball in Brooklyn and Courts of Appeal in Staten Island, where Rubin Gonzalez teaches. Their son, Jason, is six years old and has been playing racquetball since the age of two. Following in her big brother's footsteps is Allison Mannino, two, who "just hits the ball around" according to Jason.

Both Billy and Jason have won tournaments tailored to their age group. They get enough attention on their own, but whenever you get a first grader and a second grader on the same court, especially when they can both play a decent game, it's sure to draw a crowd.

"People keep telling Jason how good he is," says father, Russ, "and it's no wonder he's a little cocky." A little cocky might be an understatement. When asked if he would consent to an interview for *National Racquetball* Jason seemed a little put out because he had to interrupt his practicing. "I'm in the newspapers all the time," he said.

As Jason and Billy get older, they may not draw the same "ooooo's" and "aaaaa's" they do now. By the age of 15 they also run the risk of being burned out after playing racquetball for a dozen years or so. At least neither of them will feel any pressure to continue playing if they don't want to.

Jason Mannino, left, and Billy Austin

—Carole C. George photo

"I never took him on the court and taught him," says Russ Mannino, an A player. "Jason just learned by imitating the better players like Rubin Gonzalez who he idolizes. If I put him on the court and told him to practice, he'd throw away his racquet. He has to want it himself."

Bill Austin used to coach little league, so he's aware of how damaging it can be to put pressure on young kids to excel in sports. He tries to spend time on the court with Billy whenever he can, "but if I did it every time he asked me to, I wouldn't be able to do anything else."

Bill and Billy won a parent/child tournament at their club, playing against a father who wasn't as good as Bill, who's a low B, and his teenage son who was twice the size of Billy. But Billy has quite a variety of serves and was able to score most of the points for their team. Bill sheepishly recalls one rally where he stepped onto Billy's side and returned the shot.

"Dad, that was my shot," complained Billy.

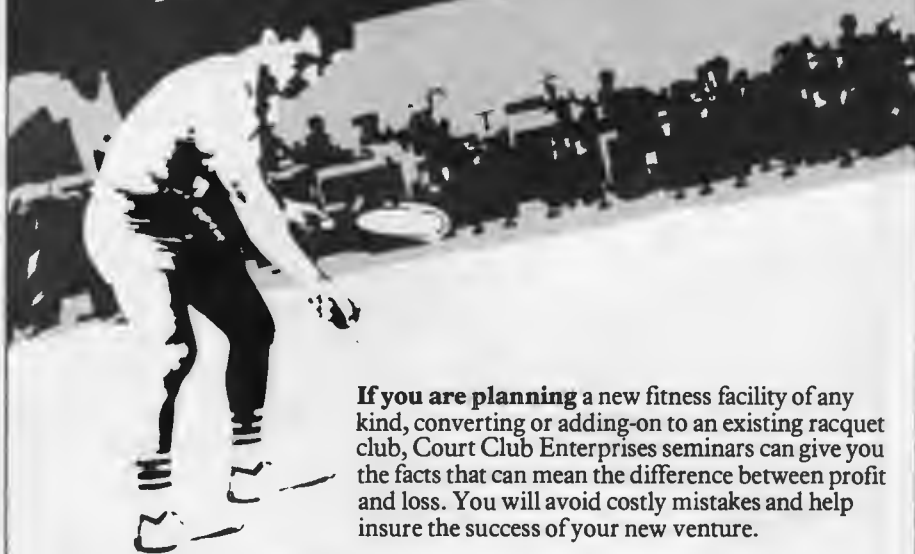
"Billy," his father calmly explained, "This is the finals."

Even at this age, kids have ideas for their future. Neither Billy nor Jason has definite plans of becoming a racquetball pro. Billy thinks he'd like to play pro hockey, since he also does well in that sport. Jason knows one thing for sure—he's never going to get married. Why not? "Because I don't like children," he smiled. "Now can I go practice racquetball again?"

ATTENTION: RACQUETBALL, FITNESS CENTERS, & TENNIS CLUBS

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Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

Three Time and Current Champion Marty Hogan, a Leach player who won the \$30,000 first prize in the 1980 June Nationals in Las Vegas, answers questions about improving your game in this exclusive *National Racquetball* series. Send your questions to Marty Hogan, c/o Ask the Champ, Managing Editor, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

Question: You have said that you end up with your weight on your right foot when you hit a backhand. But I have a bad right knee. What should I do?

Steve Musgrave • Norfolk, VA

Hogan: If you want to hit with maximum effectiveness, you have to be able to transfer that weight to the right foot. There's no way around it on the backhand. But don't give up. Remember I said maximum effectiveness. If you watch tournament players, there are many times when they don't or can't hit the ball with the best stroke because of the situation.

In your case you will have to find out the limitations of your right knee (i.e. does just twisting the knee hurt or does any weight on the right foot make the knee hurt?) and then adapt the swing accordingly. In addition you may need some strengthening exercises for your knee. But I really can't say because I don't really know what's wrong with the knee. Your physician should also have something to say about your limitations and what therapy program you can use to help that knee. But that therapy program is important. You can't ignore an injury and hope it goes away.

I remember when I was first playing tournaments, and I developed severe pain in my right wrist. At first I just ignored it. Then I saw a physician and half heartedly followed his advice (sometimes). But after awhile when the pain persisted, I decided I had to handle it a little more systematically. So I just disciplined myself to follow a planned program for getting rid of that pain.

Question: Doubles racquetball looks dangerous, but some of my friends say that it will improve my shooting and it's really fun. Do you play doubles? How dangerous is it? Is it fun?

Joe Zarr • Minneapolis, MN

Hogan: I do play doubles; I think it's a great workout, it is fun and it can improve your shooting. With the right partners I've found that it is fun and is a great workout, so I play it regularly. But it's only fun if your partners know the rules, are always aware of what is happening, give the hitter enough room and use a reasonable swing.

The biggest mistake that beginners seem to have is that they think doubles is singles with twice the number of players. In singles a beginner can get away with staring at the front wall all the time, but in doubles, that technique will eventually get you an unwanted racquet impression somewhere on your body. You need to know where all of the players are at all times, especially the person hitting the ball, because you should give him enough room to take a normal swing.

Doubles can improve your shooting because you can't always rely on the pass or else you will be on the court all day. You have to shoot the ball to end the point. If the other team is covering the court properly, they will return every pass shot you hit.

Even if everyone knows the rules and proper conduct on the court it is wise to wear some eye protection. I wear protection even when I play in singles tournaments.

But even with all those caveats the game is not that dangerous if the game is friendly. But if you don't like it, then don't let your friends force you to play.

Question: If the ball gets slower, would you change from a power game to a control game?

B. Halperin • St. Louis, MO

Hogan: Well at first thought I would say that I'll do anything that will get me the win. Secondly why should I worry about it until the day comes. But sometimes it's fun to think about maybes, so let's

suppose that the ball really slows down. Now what would I do? If you mean by control game hitting the ball around until my opponent gives me a set-up or hits the ball into the ground, there's no way that I'm going to do that, period! There are two reasons why I wouldn't do that. One is that it's boring, no fun. Who wants to win a point because his opponent tripped on his tongue hanging out? (Worse yet he might trip on my tongue.) I want to win the point. I don't want my opponent to lose the point (but then I'll take a free point anytime). The second reason is that power racquetball is based on aggressiveness, putting as much pressure on my opponent as I can. That means that I'm going to shoot that ball before he gets a chance to shoot it.

If you mean by control game, taking the "percentage" shot, I already do that. I take the shot that's going to get me the best results with the minimum of effort. But that all depends on my abilities relative to my opponent's abilities. The reason that I look like I'm taking low percentage shots is that you are thinking in your frame of mind, not mine. When I'm in top tournament condition, there is no one around who is as well conditioned or mentally tough as I am. That's not because I'm dreaming, but because I'm willing to make the sacrifices to be that far ahead of the other players. Given that situation I can afford to take certain shots that other players don't even think of. Surprise can be a weapon. Have you ever had someone hit a spectacular shot off of a shot you thought that you had won? It's a little depressing, especially when it's 10-10 in the tie breaker. But the only way to play racquetball is to go for it, right now!

But to stay on top you have to adapt, be creative. Probably some shots will have to be put in mothballs (at least for awhile). ●

How to Create an Upset



by Charlie Garfinkel

In 1971 I was involved in one of the most famous upsets in the annals of racquetball. Experts still talk about that match today. Of course I'm talking about my win over Charlie Brumfield in the National Championships in Salt Lake City.

At that time I was recognized as the best Open player on the east coast. However I was virtually unknown nationally. Brumfield, of course, was generally recognized as the greatest player in the world.

Most players figured I'd get 5-7 points a game. However I was very cocky (fortunately I've changed greatly) and I knew that Brumfield had never seen my unorthodox style of play. (I was a converted squash player.)

However I had seen him play. In addition to this I had carefully noted his particular strengths and weaknesses. I knew that his shots off the back wall were devastating, that his ceiling game was nonpareil and that he could roll out every shot that he was set for.

It didn't present a pretty picture, to say the least. However I also knew that Brumfield had a tendency to clown around, psych his opponent and sometimes suffer concentration lapses. Therefore I made this short list:

*Brumfield's strengths**

1. Superb off back wall—forehand and backhand
2. Nonpareil ceiling game
3. Automatic on shots when set up

Brumfield's Weaknesses

1. Tendency to clown around
2. Tendency to have concentration lapses

My Own Strengths

1. Devastating forehand pinch shot
2. Consistent backhand
3. Forehand Z serve (Also called the Garfinkel serve because it was instrumental in defeating Brumfield)
4. Tremendous reach (I'm 6'6" with size 15 sneakers)
5. Irrational belief that I could defeat Brumfield or anyone else.

My Weaknesses

1. None

I went into the match with a sound game plan. I felt that my unusual serve (Z to the forehand that hadn't been used much at that time) and my forehand pinch shot would throw Brumfield's timing off. In addition I felt that I could reach any shot that he didn't roll out.

Fortunately my assumptions proved correct. I created the upset because I had watched Brumfield play. I noted everything about him that I could.

I then evaluated my own strengths and weaknesses. After compiling both lists I stuck to my game plan and created a major upset. Oh yes the scores were 11-21, 21-20, 21-16. And therein lies the lesson.

*(Please note that we're talking about the Brumfield of 1971.)

Lesson One:

It doesn't matter whether you're a top notch pro or a local amateur. By carefully noting your opponent's strengths and weaknesses, combined with your own, you can formulate your game plan to create the upset.

Of course you must be realistic too. Just because you won the local YMCA's Novice Tournament, don't expect to upset Marty Hogan at the next pro stop because you've scouted him.

The Brumfield win led me directly to a quarterfinal match with eventual winner and 1971 National Champion—Bill Schmidtke. This match was a forerunner of another mind boggling upset that I was to accomplish four years later.

After defeating Brumfield in the 1971 tournament I thought for sure that I would go on to win the national title. However Bill Schmidtke, of whom it was said, "His success has never gone to his clothes," had other ideas. He defeated me in a close match 21-13, 14-21, 21-16.

Naturally I was disappointed. I had a friend scout Schmidtke in the tournament, as I was playing at the same time that he was. My friend's notes showed that Schmidtke had an excellent serve and an unerring forehand. His backhand was just adequate. My friend's diagnosis was excellent. Unfortunately I couldn't capitalize on Schmidtke's mediocre backhand enough but the way I prepared for the match brings us to...

Lesson Two:

By having a friend or coach observe a future opponent who is supposedly a better player than you, (at least on paper) you will have an idea of how to play this person. If you've scouted him, too, so much the better.

Then both you and your coach can evaluate his strengths and weaknesses along with yours. You should then arrive at the best game plan possible

The Gar's friend goes over a scouting report.

It wasn't until four years later that I got my chance to play Schmidtke again. We met in the round of 16 in 1975 at the Memphis pro stop. Schmidtke had won his second national championship eight months earlier in a tremendous performance that included wins against Strandemo, Brumfield and Serot.

But in the time between my two clashes with Schmidtke I'd been watching Bill Dunn, a Californian who had always given Schmidtke a close match. In fact he had match points against him on different occasions.

What Dunn had done was to keep everything to Schmidtke's backhand. He also hit an abundance of ceiling balls to Schmidtke's backhand side.

I watched Dunn play Schmidtke and I even asked Dunn his advice as to the best game plan to use against Schmidtke. I made up my mind that that advice, which correlated with my notes, was the correct way to play Schmidtke. Which leads to . . .

Lesson Three:

To scout future opponents considered better players watch them face tough opponents.

Needless to say I was definitely the underdog. However using the strategy that I had formulated from both watching and talking to Bill Dunn led me to another incredible upset.

I defeated Schmidtke 21-19, 21-13. Being able to control the game by hitting to his backhand had been the key to my upset win. I was so ecstatic that I wallpapered my house with Xerox copies of the article that told how I had scored my upset win. Of course I owed a special thanks to Bill Dunn.

By now you're probably thinking "*This is great advice. However what if I don't have all of the necessary skills needed to create an upset?*" That's an easy question to answer. You need to take your list of weaknesses to a qualified pro or coach.



You and the pro should carefully outline a program that will turn your weaknesses into strengths. You and your pro should make a list of what skills you need to improve. Your list could look like this:

Need to Improve

1. Backhand—Killshots, pinch shots, cross courts
2. Return of serve
3. Shooting better off the back wall

Even if your skill needs are different, you and your pro should spend a great amount of time practicing until you can perfect, or greatly improve, your skill needs.

Once you feel that you've perfected your skills, you should start playing better and better competition. However don't take on the player or players you hope to upset until you're fully confident that you are capable of defeating them. Gradually build up to players who are equal to or better than the player you hope to upset.

You should have no trouble identifying these players. They are the ones who've played your tormentor close, or defeated him.

Try to have your coach or pro at all of these practice or tournament matches, so you can evaluate how you're progressing. Even if you're playing a practice match, take the time outs that you're allotted to discuss tactics with your coach, or just to get your proper bearings.

As you start defeating practice players who are equal to or better than your target opponent, you should make your final preparations.

If you and your coach feel that you have the physical skills and the conditioning needed to create an upset, you should then proceed to make up the game plans that will help you upset your opponent.

Notice that we said game plans. You should have two plans, in case you might have to adjust your game.

Garfinkel does some scouting of his own.



Charlie Garfinkel's upset strategy pays off.



The author practices his "Garfinkel" Z serve.

Your game plans may appear as follows:

Game Plan I

- I. Serving
 - A. Serve hard and low to backhand on first serve.
 - B. Occasionally serve first serve to forehand.
 - C. Hard Z or medium Z on second serve.
 - D. Shoot ball at first opportunity.

II. Return of Serve

Go to ceiling as much as possible

III. Rallying

Stay to ceiling until opportunity presents itself to shoot or pass.

Game Plan II

I. Serving

- A. Serve all serves to backhand.
- B. Serve hard drives and soft lobs.
- C. Shoot off easy returns only.

II. Return of Serve

Go to ceiling or pass occasionally.

III. Rallying

- A. Stay to ceiling, but mix up some overhands and around-the-wall balls.
- B. Shoot or pass when possible.

Once you have your game plans firmly entrenched in your head, you should try to visualize exactly what you're going to do the night before the match or an hour or so before the match is to be played.

You should actually try to picture yourself playing the opponent you want to upset. Close your eyes. Relax. Imagine that you're serving the type of serves that you'll use in the match. You're either scoring outright aces or getting easy set-ups that you kill consistently.

During the rallies imagine that you're rolling out every ball or that you're passing your opponent cleanly. When you do have to hit a ceiling ball, imagine that it hugs the wall so closely that your opponent can barely return it.

Also make sure that you see the ball hit the strings of your racquet on every shot.

Finally picture yourself shaking hands with your opponent after you've accomplished your upset. (I actually visualized myself shaking hands with Brumfield the night before I defeated him.) Then picture the elation that you feel after you've won the match.

You'll find that if you have followed all or most of the strategies that I have advocated, you have an excellent chance of creating the upset when you step on the court with the opponent who has consistently defeated you. ●

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APRO Teaches . . . Biomechanics

Human Motion Studies More Effective than Eyeballing

by Jack L. Groppel, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Physical Education
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jack Groppel is guest author of this month's APRO Teaches, an exclusive *National Racquetball* feature by members of the American Professional Racquetball Association, an organization that services and certifies racquetball teachers. Groppel will speak at the third annual APRO national convention July 31-Aug. 2 at the Charlie Club in Palatine, IL.

Obviously the most proficient individuals in the world at executing racquetball skills are those found on the professional tour. Through many years and long hours of exhausting practice they have manicured all the skills necessary to put them in their present position. But are their techniques absolutely perfect? An analytical coach could ask "Could he have hit that killshot harder or with greater control? Could he have hit a more effective serve?" or "How could he better disguise the strokes?"

These questions and many others cannot really be answered by merely eyeballing a person's stroking pattern and surmising what the answer should be based solely on personal experience. It takes a highly trained eye and high speed films to assist the player and coach in discovering and correcting a stroking problem or simply perfecting a stroking pattern. This is the role of a field called biomechanics, the study of human motion and the forces involved that produce the movement.

Biomechanics is a common tool in almost all areas of contemporary sport coaching. It has, in fact, become a necessity in the instructional repertoire of any teacher wishing to excel in his or her sport. The racquet sports can serve as a representative example. Tennis coaches used to teach skills based on experience. That is, they taught strokes similar to how they "felt" when swinging or how the pros "look" when playing. Recently this experiential technique has become outdated. Instructors have realized that often the racquet *doesn't* do what they "feel" nor does the pro really perform in the manner thought by the instructor. Thus it has gotten to the point where the sport skill teacher must keep up with the information offered by the field of biomechanics or struggle to keep up with

colleagues who are well versed in the study of human motion. All this pertains to the racquetball instructor as well.

Many of you may ask what biomechanics can offer you. Consider these questions. Is one type of forehand grip better than another and why? What is the purpose of a follow through when the ball has already left the racquet face? How long can you keep the ball on the strings to disguise your shot? What provides the most force in hitting a ball—wrist snap or forearm rotation? These questions and others can easily be answered using biomechanical concepts.



Overhead

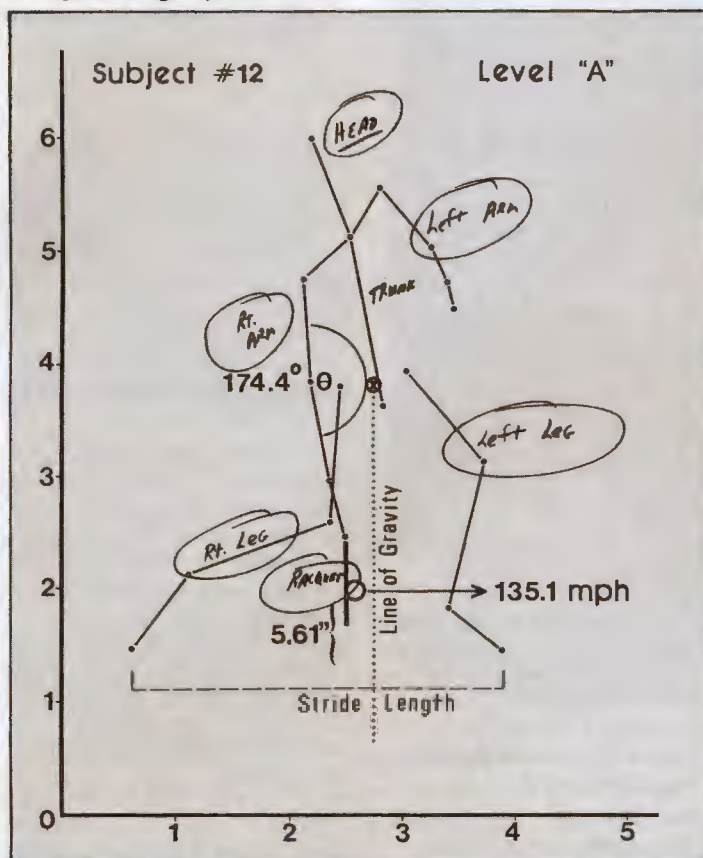
As a further example let's discuss the overhead in racquetball. It's a shot that traditionally was not very offensive but has become an important weapon in any player's repertoire. A typical instructional session might go like this:

"Upon seeing the oncoming ball turn sideways and take the racquet back to a 'cocked' position, behind the head with the left hand pointing to the ball. From this position, the racquet is dropped behind the head and swung forward to meet the ball at the highest possible point. The body weight transfers from the rear foot to the front foot with the hips and shoulders turning to face the front wall. As the ball is contacted wrist snap is made upward. The follow through is downward and in line with the direction of the shot."

These instructional cues are excellent, but the player is often left wanting more information such as how to hit the ball harder and with more control. The racquetball teacher must be able to go a step further explaining, for example, that the reason for turning sideways is to permit the body to rotate into the shot. This causes the body to generate significant angular momentum and, added to the linear momentum created by the forward body weight transfer, provides the individual with the capability of hitting the ball with maximal force. Utilizing only one type of momentum may often not be sufficient in a sport like racquetball.

Carl Loveday attempting an overhead shot.

Racquetball Player on High Speed Film



This sample computer plot shows how biomechanics breaks down a racquetball stroke. Jack Groppe added the circled information for *National Racquetball* readers.

Wrist Snap

The wrist snap is another important concern in the racquetball overhead. Most people don't realize that the wrist seldom ever "snaps" or flexes. As the elbow extends and the racquet approaches the ball contact point, the forearm and hand begin to turn outward or pronate. The wrist rarely flexes as some think. It is this pronating effect that supplies much of the force in striking the ball and not a wrist "snap."

You may now be asking "Since there's no actual wrist snap, why is it taught?" The answer lies in the timing of the shot. If beginners are taught to pronate the hand and racquet at impact, their timing is usually at the stage where they will hit the ball sideways from their body instead of directly forward. In contrast when taught to "snap" the wrist, the beginners hit the ball forward. It's as though when they are told to "snap" the wrist, they pronate. Timing of the shot is still crucial but their concentration seems to be more into hitting the ball than turning the racquet outward.

A teaching cue such as the one above usually works well at all levels of teaching. The instructor's knowledge, however, must go beyond all the cues. The teacher should be aware that pronation is a big power supply in the racquetball overhead and that the most effective overhead combines the generation of total body linear and angular momentum. Without a thorough understanding of these biomechanical principles and others involved in racquetball, the contemporary instructor might get left behind and caught up in the traditional role of "Take your racquet back, bend your knees, that'll be twenty dollars please." ●

Among other topics the APRO convention will cover:

- "How to Be a Champion" by Touring Pro Dave Peck
- "Enjoying Teaching" by APRO President Chuck Sheftel
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Linesmen's signals, top to bottom: thumb up—agree with the referee's call, thumb down—disagree, hand horizontal—didn't see.



—Lauren Shey photos

I don't profess to be a great referee. That boast belongs to none other than Charlie Brumfield, author of *National Racquetball's "Inside the Master's Mind"* series. However since I attended a refereeing clinic which Charlie presented for the San Diego Women's Racquetball League a few years ago, I would say I'm a much better referee than I was before.

At that time Gloria Brumfield was a member of the league. She asked her big brother to do us all a favor by sharing his years of experience on both sides of the glass—both as the referee and the referee. Therefore I owe much of the credit for this article to the Master Mind himself.

You may be a typical tournament player if you occasionally wish you would lose a match—just so you wouldn't have to referee. Most entry forms now state "All

winners will be required to referee the next match—or forfeit." This rule grew out of necessity, not because of some erroneous assumption that all winning players are good referees. The truth is that winning players have something at stake (ie: advancing to the next round) and therefore can be blackmailed into doing what very few of us enjoy doing.

Years ago it was the responsibility of the tournament director to scout up a willing victim to referee each match.

Tournaments in those days were disorganized. Directors tried to corner a friend who owed a favor or picked on a novice who was too timid to refuse, while the powermongers voluntarily monopolized the most important matches. Occasionally an exceptionally good referee with a dedication to law and order would do both the director and the players a favor by volunteering to ref.

Meanwhile everyone else could complain about the quality of the refereeing, but never have to be in that position themselves. At least the "winners must ref" rule has taught players to have a little sympathy for the person making the calls.

Ideally we'd all like to see mandatory training camps for racquetball referees, paid professional referees even for novice matches and a set of standard rules which pleased everyone. But then again wouldn't we all like a villa on the Mediterranean with a private racquetball court and personal masseuse? So let's be realistic and make the best of the situation as it now is: Every good tournament player should learn to be a good referee as well. The fact that you're reading this article shows that your heart is in the right place.

Qualifications

There is one gross error in the "winners ref the next match" method of assigning referees exemplified by this extreme example which should explain the problem: all the "First Time Novice" matches are played at 10 a.m. "Open doubles" is scheduled for 11 a.m.

Which brings up the question: How does playing ability relate to ability to referee? A general rule is that players can handle refereeing matches of their own playing levels. A B level tournament player has a

good idea what constitutes a hinder for a B player, and what a skip or a two bounce pickup looks like. A women's novice feels most comfortable refereeing other women's novice players because it's likely that if she doesn't know the rules, the people she's refereeing won't know them either, or at least won't try to intimidate her into changing a call.

There are two sides to the issue of qualifications of referees. A referee must feel confident to handle the match. Just as importantly the player must feel confident that the person who's holding the score card is qualified and unbiased. As Charlie says "You know you're in trouble if you're playing Davey Bledose in Memphis and the ref says, SKEEP BAAWL" (I think most of us would be in trouble if we were playing Davey Bledose regardless of the circumstances, but you get the idea).

Attitude

As a referee, no matter your level of competence, it's your responsibility to be consistent and fair. Unfortunately not all beginning referees are given this advice.

As long as the referee is trying to be fair and consistent, it is likely that the bad calls will be evenly distributed and therefore will not affect the outcome of the match.

Some referees may believe that they are consistent, but what they are consistently doing is awarding every questionable call in favor of the player who is behind at that point. The theory behind this method is that everybody loves an underdog. It might also be felt that the leading player can afford a few points and therefore won't argue as loudly.

Another thing to watch out for as the referee is that tendency to favor the players who scream the most. This is exactly why they're doing it. Some of the most intimidating cry babies on the court can be gentle, rational people off the court, but they realize that no one likes a hassle if it can be avoided. But the ref must still try to make the call as he sees it, regardless of which player will accept the decision and which player will challenge it.



Control

The most successful referees are the ones who are firm and in control. A referee is like a parent. The *"children"* on the court will try to push and to find out how much they can get away with. Once they realize that the ref is the *"adult,"* they'll start behaving.

Now I said *"parent,"* not *"God."* Some referees take *"being in control"* to the absolute limit. In this case the referee decides to throw the book at the players, so that no rally is allowed to finish without some interruption. It's almost as if the referee were on the court, too. But the purpose of the referee is to expedite things, not hold them up.

I observed the too much control style of refing when Dave Peck and Mike Yellen were playing their semi-final match at a pro-stop in Westminster, CA. Yellen questioned a call which could have been a legitimate gripe. The referee kept a face of stone and called the score. Yellen stepped off of the court to discuss it, but the referee asked if he was calling a time out. Yellen was finally forced to take a time out in order to try to get the referee's attention, but instead the ref watched the second hand on his watch. I know some people may argue this point, but I feel that no referee is a god; if he treats the players as fellow human beings instead of hostages, they'll respond with equal respect, instead of trying to revolt.

Line Judges

One of the recent innovations in refereeing attempts to eliminate a lot of the tension between referee and player. This is the addition of two line judges for all pro matches, and on request for amateurs. Charlie cynically calls this trio *"the three blind mice."*

Actually it's probably true that three sets of eyes are better than one. It's also a democratic system. If the ref says *"skip"* and one line judge agrees and one disagrees, the vote is 2-1 and the call stands. If the ref says *"skip"* and both line judges disagree, the vote is 1-2 and the call is reversed. In case of a tie when one line judge disagrees with the ref and the other one didn't see it, the play goes over. And if both line judges were contemplating their navels instead of the match, then the referee's call wins the vote 1-0 and stands.

Procedure

The referee gets set up with a score card, a pencil, a towel, one or two tournament balls, a coin to flip, a thorough knowledge of the rules, a good set of eyes and a loud voice. The purpose of the score card and pencil should be obvious; the towel is not only for the referee's sweaty palms, but also for the sweaty players and wet spots on the floor; extra tournament balls were even more necessary in the earlier days when the manufacturers hadn't perfected racquetballs and pros could go through quite a few before deciding on one that

was round and consistent; the coin flip is the easiest way to determine who gets the first serve, and the rest of the list speaks for itself.

Some referees like to be very formal (these are the ones in the black striped shirts with whistles around their necks) and will spend the first 15 minutes on the court with the players, explaining all the rules. For novices this might not be a bad idea because some may not realize that they can call a time out or that they should wait for the ref to call the score before serving the ball. For experienced tournament players it's still a good idea to point out court hinders (the lights, the door, the back railing) and introduce the line judges.

A ref who doesn't know the players should jot down some identifying characteristic, such as *"blue"* and *"red"* shirt colors next to each player's name. It's usually a good idea to determine the serve (either by flipping a coin or writing either *"1"* or *"2"* on the score card) while the ref is still on the court with the players so no one suspects any hanky panky.

The best vantage point for the referee (and line judges) will depend on the court. The ref might be behind a solid glass wall, speaking to the players via microphone without being able to hear the ball or the players. He might be perched from a ladder or crow's nest above a glass wall. Or, most likely, the ref will be standing upstairs looking down over the back wall.



Charlie Brumfield in formal refing attire.

The players are usually allowed 10 minutes to warm up. Once both players are ready to begin the ref gives a short introduction for the benefit of the spectators (if there are any). *"This is the quarter-finals of upper-division mixed doubles. Gardner and Weightman have the first serve. Pool and Pool will receive. Zero serving zero."* If no one is watching, the score is enough.

The scorecards are printed so that the player's (or teams') names are opposite each other. This aids the referee in remembering who served that rally. When the player whose name is on top wins the rally, the ref says *"point"* and marks off one of the numbers. When the player whose name is on the top loses the rally, the ref says *"side out"* and flips the card around so the other player's name is now on top, and the score remains the same.

It is also customary to call the server's score first. If Smith serves 4-2 and Martinez wins the rally, then the score becomes 2-4 and the referee will say *"two serving four."* The ref waits to call the score until both players are ready, and calls it every time, so that if there is any question about the score it can be cleared up immediately. However the system is set up so there shouldn't be any problems as long as the ref remembers to turn the card when it's side out and to give the server a point when it's not side out.

Doubles, of course, is a little trickier because each team gets two turns at bat before side out. Putting a notation on the score card to indicate which server is the second server on each team makes it easier to keep track.

After the match it's usually the referee's responsibility to collect the towel and tournament balls and return them to the tournament desk. Usually I find it works best if the referees also write the final score on the draw sheets, mark a slash diagonally across the score card to indicate the score has been posted and then return everything to the tournament desk. This saves the director and assistants from having to jump up and down posting the scores and keeps the draw sheets up to date.

If the ref was able to corner a couple of line judges, it's courteous to thank them after the match. The ref does the job to avoid forfeit, but the line judges help out just because they're nice people.

Problem Makers

Screen Serves

Screen serves are extremely difficult for the referee to call. From some angles of viewing it almost requires mental telepathy to determine whether the receiver was screened out or not. Many people try to use San Francisco Top Senior Player Bill Dunn's interpretation of a screen serve as anything that passes within 18 inches of the server's body.

Many good referees leave the decision on the screen serve up to the receiver, the only person who really knows.

If players want to call their own screens, the ref should caution them about the *"option ball."* This is a no-lose alternative which many players like. They hold up one hand to signal that they were screened, yet they return the serve anyway. If the ball skips, they stick by their screen call. But if they hit a killshot, they say *"never mind,"* as innocently as Emily Latella on *Saturday Night Live*, who demands to know what all the fuss is over the *"eagle"* rights ammendment, only to find out it's *"equal"* rights.

Out of Court

Knowing what to call on an out of court ball is easy if you remember the object of the game: hit the front wall. If someone manages to hit the front wall and the ball flies out, it's replayed, even if you suspect it may have been done purposely (when in doubt, hit it out). But if someone turns to slam one into the back wall and barely misses the ref's face instead, that person doesn't get another try because the ball didn't hit even the front wall.

Skips

Most referees can tell if a ball skips on the way to the front wall with some degree of accuracy, yet they blow the calls on the side and back walls. Think of the other walls as opposite the front wall: if a serve skips into the back wall, it's good, not long; if a Z serve skips into the side wall it's also good, not a fault.

Hinder Calls

Then there's the biggie—the hinder call. While electronic devices might be a possibility in the future to call short serves and skip balls—and line judges may be used to eliminate debate—the hinder call is totally subjective on the part of the referee.

First of all body contact does *not* automatically constitute a hinder. If that were true, some people would purposely run into the other player every time there was a setup, or easy shot. Already players have a tendency to go after the opponent instead of the ball, if they think the ref will give them a hinder.

—Carole C. George photos

In this sample Smith won the coin flip for first serve, but Martinez got to serve first in the tie-breaker because she had the most total points in the first two games. At this point in the game the referee says "Six serving four" because Martinez is ahead in the tie-breaker and is serving. If Martinez wins the rally, the ref marks out numeral "7" and says "Seven serving four." If Smith wins the rally, the ref turns the card around and says "Four serving six."

REGULATION U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION		SCORECARD	
PLAYER (S) <u>MARTINEZ (Yellow Headband)</u>		CT # <u>7</u>	
EVENT <u>W's "C"</u>		 "OFFICIAL BALL OF THE U.S.R.A."	
REFEREE <u>Your name</u>			
TIME OUTS	SERVE	 11 01 6 8 7 9 5 XXXX 558 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	
1/23	XXXXXXX		
1/23 (5)	XXXXXXX		
1/2	(5)	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 558 "OFFICIAL BALL OF THE U.S.R.A."	
SCORECARD		11 01 6 8 7 9 5 XXXX 558 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	
REGULATION U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION		11 01 6 8 7 9 5 XXXX 558 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	
PLAYER (S) <u>Smith (blue shirt)</u>		11 01 6 8 7 9 5 XXXX 558 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	

General Rules to Ref By

Do

- Referee players of your own ability
- Try to be objective
- Play the part of the adult who's in control
- Understand that your job is to keep the match moving

Don't

- Assume that the underdog gets the point in every dispute
- Favor the player who screams the most
- Treat the players as if they're your subjects

Brumfield simplifies this gray area by stating that the offensive player has the divine right to hit the ball. The defensive player must give that player enough room to get to the ball, swing the racquet and aim for either of the front corners. If Martinez is trying to hit the ball and Smith crowds in on her backswing, it's not Martinez's fault and therefore she shouldn't be penalized. If Martinez politely holds up, I would call it as a hinder and point out to Smith that next time I'll call that avoidable. If Martinez takes the shot and makes it, there shouldn't be a hinder called just because Smith is crying "contact, contact." If that's the situation, even if Martinez's shot skips in, I'd be inclined to call it avoidable and give Martinez the point anyway.

There is a fine line between simply replaying a hinder and calling it avoidable. Avoidable does not necessarily mean intentional. If a player dives for the ball, and thereby obstructs the opponent's chance to return it, that is an avoidable hinder. Also the player, usually a novice, who serves the ball and then backs out of the service area without turning around to watch is also a potentially avoidable hinder. Again—the rule of thumb is that the offensive player has the advantage.

Hinders also vary depending on the player's ability. For a novice anyone within

five feet in any direction may, at least psychologically, hinder the shot. With beginners the ref might want to stop play whenever there's contact just for safety reasons. Pros, on the other hand, need only a split second to see the ball in order to be able to make the shot they want. Nothing makes a pro madder than a referee taking away a "plum" shot just because the opponent is playing close. The pros like to play close, but it usually doesn't upset their concentration.

Some referees take the parental approach, "this hurts me more than it hurts you," when they call avoidables. They would rather let it pass than create any tension, but in some cases they're doing the player a favor by calling the avoidable. Many injuries—whether intentional or not—are caused by avoidable hinders.

Rules

Everything I've discussed here rests on the ref's firm knowledge of the rules. So if you plan on winning at least one round of any tournament, you should prepare for refereeing, learning the rules as part of your tournament preparation.

First of all follow NRC Director Dan Bertolucci's "What's the Call" column each month in *National Racquetball*. And send for the USRA rulebook—yours for the asking. To get your copy write Dan Bertolucci, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076. ●

Who Should Ref?

Tournament directors in two parts of the country abandoned the traditional "winner must ref" rule this year.

At the Golden West Outdoor Tournament at Orange Coast College Jim Carson and Raul Duarte took the suggestion of veteran player, Burton S. Morrow, D.D.S., to let the losers ref. The refing ran without a hitch, aided by the presentation of tournament shirts after the players served as referee.

At the Canton Hall of Fame in Ohio Tournament Director Bill Yates tried a policy that USRA South Carolina State Chairman Hayward Thompson had used successfully. Tired of "policing" and wanting to attract novice and C players who might be afraid to ref—Yates paid \$2 for each refereeing stint. "YOU DO NOT have to ref any matches," Yates' entry for his "First Cash Classic" read. "Any person wishing to ref will be PAID \$2 PER MATCH!" ●

What's The Call?

by Dan Bertolucci

When in Doubt, Call the Screen



Grant Shramek from Lincoln, NE seemed to run into an interpretation problem as he proceeded to serve his 19th and 20th points in a game with a friend. The area of concern revolved around the Screen Serve. It seems that even though both players agreed that when the ball passed Grant on the serve it was more than a racquet length away from his body, Grant's opponent still claimed that he did not have a fair chance to see the ball and so it should have still been played as a screen. Grant felt that as long as the ball passed his body at least a racquet length away, it was not his responsibility to make sure that his opponent was in a proper position to see the ball. Well, Grant, yes and no. First of all let's clearly state the rule and its effect. Secondly since this is a judgment call, I'll list some things to keep in mind the next time you or your opponent question whether or not your serve was a screen.

Rule 4.3 Defective Serves reads:

"Defective serves are of three types resulting in penalties as follows: (a) Dead Ball Serve. A dead ball serve results in no penalty and the server is given another

serve without cancelling a prior legal serve. Rule 4.4-Dead Ball Serve. Dead ball serves do not cancel any previous illegal serve. They occur when an otherwise legal serve:

(b) Screen Ball. Passes too close to the server or the server's partner and obstructs the view of the returning side. Any serve passing behind the server's partner and the side wall is an automatic screen."

Grant, keep these hints in mind next time you serve or receive someone's serve.

1. There is no 18 inch rule or other definitive rule prescribing a length or distance the ball must be from the server. It is strictly a judgment call.
2. A screen should be called whenever it is believed that the server's body blocked the ball to such an extent that the receiver was not allowed a fair chance to see the ball well enough to make a reasonable return.
3. The call should never work to the advantage of the server. Therefore be more inclined to make the call when the server hits a really tough serve, and do not make the call if the resulting shot is likely to be an easy return for the receiver.
4. Generally the receiver is entitled to see the ball most of the way back after the ball strikes the front wall.
5. On drive serves hit down a wall generally it is not a screen if the ball hits the floor first, depending on how close the server was standing to the wall.
6. The call must be made quickly and loudly enough so that both players hold up. **WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL THE SCREEN.** It is better to have a point unnecessarily replayed than to have a point unfairly awarded.
7. Caution: Do not let the receiver decoy you into a screen serve call. Often perfect aces to the forehand side catch the receiver off guard because he anticipates a serve to his backhand and starts to move that way. He may honestly think he was screened, but he's not entitled to a clear view of the ball if he moves out of center court, particularly if he moves the wrong way.

Good luck next time out.

Tom Rosa, Plymouth, MN describes a situation that occurs in many a racquetball game. See if this sounds familiar. The ball travels from the front wall to the back wall on a fly, bounces once and then hits the front wall again. I then hit it before it bounces a second time. Is my shot good or not? Must I hit the ball before it hits the front wall a second time, or is the fact that it only bounces once the only deciding factor?

Tom's question can be best answered by Rule 4.7—"Return of Serve (d) **Legal return**-After the ball is legally served, one of the players on the receiving side must strike the ball with his racquet either on the fly or after the first bounce before the ball touches the floor a second time to return the ball to the front wall either directly or after touching one or both side walls, the back wall or the ceiling or any combination of those surfaces. A returned ball may not touch the floor before touching the front wall . . . (2) If the ball should strike the front wall, then back wall and then the front wall again without striking the floor, the player whose turn it is to strike the ball may do so by letting the ball bounce after hitting the front wall a second time. (3) If the ball strikes the front wall, then back wall and then front wall again after striking the floor, the player whose turn it is to strike the ball must do so by striking it before it hits the floor a second time." ●

Dan Bertolucci is director of the NRC, governing body for professional racquetball, and is a longtime racquetball referee. Send him your questions about rules *c/o National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie 60076.



Get one free copy of the USRA rule book by writing to Dan Bertolucci, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

Who's Playing Racquetball?

Kristen Swigart:

Declaring Her Independence



Kristen likes to play against the power game of men like Darrell White, a judge in the Baton Rouge city court. They're competing at Red Lerille's Racquet and Health Club in Lafayette.



"Sometimes it's hard to give up racquetball," she says.

Swigart started playing the game when she arrived in Baton Rouge one long, rainy summer. Now divorced she had moved to Louisiana with her husband after working as a vocational counselor in her hometown of Redding.

In Baton Rouge the Chico California State graduate landed a civil service job counseling drunk driving offenders on probation. She sees about 20 active probationers a month in her office in the Baton Rouge City Court building.

Swigart wishes she could instill her clients with her own gutsy attitude toward life.

"It's a challenge because a lot of these people are multiple offenders. I try to work out why they're getting into trouble—there are so many things related to their problem. It can be really heavy when you're dealing with people with alcohol problems.

"The rewards are few and far between. There are some successes I remember—like the girl who'd had several arrests, but who's attitude is better now. She seems to care about herself and her self esteem."

Swigart says her own self esteem went up via National Racquetball's 1980 Most Improved Player contest.

"I decided that winning the contest would be my goal," she recalls. "I went all out because of it. I became a top A club player and that contest was in the back of my mind when I played in the regionals. In fact some people misinterpreted me as being cocky because I concentrated so totally on the game."

After sending in her entry Swigart ran to her mailbox every day, watching for the USRA reply. "It was important to me because playing racquetball was something I wasn't always able to do."

Louisiana's 1980 Most Improved Player did it all on her own. ●

Two and a half years after she left northern California Kristen Swigart still misses the mountains and "family laughs," but she's staying in Baton Rouge, LA because she wants to try to make it on her own. "I love the independence," she says.

The 24-year-old brunette has a fighting spirit that's sure to put her back in the racquetball competition, despite a nerve problem in a leg and a devastating case of the flu that felled her early in 1981. That spirit almost did her in when she honored a commitment to play doubles in a tournament only to end up with a coughing attack on court before she went to bed "really sick."

Spotting a New Resort Trend

Racquetball When It's Warm Up North

by Ivan Fuldauer



Between racquetball matches at the Olympia Resort in Wisconsin

Resort owners are beginning to take racquetball seriously.

The *newer* resorts have included racquetball in their plans from day one. Others have opted for racquetball courts when expanding their recreational facilities to participate in the growing physical fitness boom throughout the U.S. and Canada.

This trend is not limited solely to Sun Belt resorts in an effort to capture Frost Belt vacationers seeking to continue a 12 month physical fitness regimen. Resort operators in the northern tier of states are making sure their facilities are the equal of any anywhere, especially when seeking convention business, the lifeblood of the resort industry.

The Nevele Country Club, Ellenville, NY, serving conferees and vacationers since 1901, in a magnificent 1,000 acre resort, is just 80 miles north of the "Big Apple" in, where else? the lovely Catskill Mountains. There's all the usual outdoor sports plus indoor tennis, platform tennis and two new racquetball courts open 'round the clock.

The Nevele, while perhaps one of the plushiest of the Catskill resorts, was not the first to install racquetball courts. Handball courts were established long ago in some of the lesser known upstate resorts. A second generation of vacationers has turned the handball courts into racquetball courts, a situation not uncommon elsewhere in the U.S. Today there is a large concentration of resorts throughout the area with racquetball/handball courts available for guests.

In the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania the same situation exists. The Pocono Manor Inn and Golf Club, Pocono Manor, PA, says in its promotional literature that "Looking ahead to the active 80s and for our sports-oriented guests, the Manor has just completed a new indoor tennis and racquetball complex." Though two indoor tennis courts and one racquetball court don't sound like much, it's a major investment, nonetheless, for any resort in these inflationary days.

The nearby Mount Airy Lodge in Mount Pocono, PA, has indoor tennis and racquetball, plus a unique paneled wall where USRA members can warm up while waiting their turn on court. To be sure there's plenty of everything else.

Around Chicago there's Marriott's Lincolnshire Resort, less than 30 minutes from O'Hare International, a self-contained vacation center with its own legitimate theatre, an 18 hole golf course, health club, indoor and outdoor pools, five air conditioned indoor tennis and four racquetball courts, bike trails— even sunfish sailing on one of the man made lakes behind the low profile hotel.

Just a few miles further north over the border in Wisconsin is the Playboy Resort and Country Club in Lake Geneva, with its brand new \$1.5 million fitness and racquet center, including four indoor and eight outdoor tennis courts, six racquetball courts, a complete Nautilus Fitness Center and all the usual accoutrements plus a bevy of Playboy bunnies.



Refreshment service Playboy style



Sam Huff, Marriott's vice president of special marketing and former NFL football champion, is a racquetball enthusiast whose sports interests have helped put fitness facilities in 95 percent of the chain's hotels and resorts. The Marriott Corporation even has racquetball courts in their Bethesda, MD headquarters.

In Oconomowoc, WI, once one of the great spas for wealthy Chicagoans of another era, is the Olympian Resort and Spa complete with golf, tennis, racquetball, handball, cycling and jogging paths, volleyball, badminton, softball, shuffleboard, croquet, adult swimming pools, even a playground and pool for the children.

Since 1977, when Marriott purchased Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, MO, the fast expanding hotel and resort operator has invested more than \$12 million in renovations to the facility located on the shore of Lake of the Ozarks. Tan-Tar-A has been turned into a family, honeymoon and convention resort playground offering just about everything there is, including, of course, four racquetball courts.

In the Rockies another Marriott resort, the Mark, in Vail, CO, recently added three racquetball courts. Though perhaps better known as a ski resort, Vail is making a concerted effort to attract warm weather vacationers.

Not to be outdone by Vail Park City, UT, another well known ski area, is determined to attract summer business. The Prospector Square Hotel and Conference Center recently completed an athletic club that includes a competition sized pool, racquetball and tennis courts, saunas, steam and exercise rooms, a gymnasium and hydro pool. Horseback riding is available, as is a nearby 18 hole PGA golf course.

Standing virtually alone like a silent beacon in the northern Rockies, the Outlaw Inn in Kalispell, MT, offers one racquetball court, a tennis court and a game room. Doesn't sound like much until you realize that Kalispell is just 32 miles from the entrance to Glacier National Park, one of the most dramatically beautiful national parks in the U.S. Kalispell may be a long drive for a racquetball match, but a sidetrip to Glacier will make it all worthwhile even in these days of \$1.50 a gallon gasoline. ●

Resorts in the Story

Nevele Country Club
Ellenville, NY 12428
914-647-6000

Pocono Manor Inn & Golf Club
Pocono Manor, PA 18349
717-839-7111
800-233-8150

Mount Airy Lodge
Mount Pocono, PA 18344
717-839-8811

Marriott's Lincolnshire Resort
Lincolnshire, IL 60015
312-634-0100
800-228-9290

Playboy Resort & Country Club
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
414-248-8811
800-972-6727

Marriott's Tan-Tar-A Resort
Lake Osage Beach, MO 65065
314-348-3131
800-228-9290

Marriott's Mark Resort
715 Lionhead Circle
Vail, CO
303-476-4444
800-228-9290

Prospector Square Hotel
P.O. Box 1698
Park City, UT 84060
801-649-7100
800-453-3812

Olympia Resort & Spa
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
414-567-0311
800-558-9573

Outlaw Inn
1701 Highway 93
South Kalispell, MT 59901
406-755-6100

More Summer Resorts with Racquetball

Nordic Hills Resort
Nordic Rd.
Itasca, IL 60143
312-773-0660

Brighton Hotel & Casino
P.O. Box 627
Atlantic City, NJ 08404
609-441-4000

Seven Springs Mountain Resort
County Line Rd.
Champion, PA 15622
814-352-7777

Downingtown Inn Resort
U.S. Highway 30
Downingtown, PA 19335
215-269-2000
800-523-7515

Quality Inn
500 Centerville Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-898-2431

Host Town Resort Inn
30 Keller Ave.
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-299-5700

Admiralty Resort
Route 1, Box 75
Port Ludlow, WA 98365
206-437-2222
800-622-9020

Park City Racquetball/Village Lodging
P.O. Box 1360
Park City, UT 84060
801-649-6200
800-453-5731

Heritage Mountain Resort
Provo, UT 84601
801-375-5155

Summit Lodge
P.O. Box 119
Killington, VT 05751
802-422-3535

Quality Inn
51 Hartford Turnpike
Vernon, CT 06066
203-646-5700

Membership Sales Come out of the Dark



The sales force that helped the Courtrooms see the light: front, left to right—Tom Murano, Janet Lossick, Ray Gordon; back, left to right—Jim Bob Thompson, Reggie Tyler, Bruce Paller.

When the Courtrooms in Ft. Lauderdale, FL expanded its 10 court racquetball club into a 20 court full facility health club, Manager Fred Blaess decided the club's former approach to membership had been "naive and backwards."

"After comparing our methods to those of local health clubs, we realized we were in the dark ages when it comes to selling the club."

At the end of August, 1980 the Courtrooms hired Ray Gordon, a man in his early 30s who had managed sales for several area spas and fitness centers. Gordon and the four men and one woman he hired went to work full time in the club, and by January of 1981 membership sales rose from \$12,000 to \$100,000 a month. "That was in Florida," Blaess notes, "against all kinds of competition."

Across the country in California Chuck Hohl has applied similar sales principles at King's Court in Westminster, where he's co-owner and general manager.

"We had started that club with annual memberships of \$60 to \$70—it was easy to join and easy to walk away. We were getting anywhere from 40 to 60 percent attrition. Then we improved the club, added new facilities and switched to a higher initial fee, plus monthly dues. We realized we needed qualified professional people to sell the more expensive memberships."

The sales approach at the two clubs follows a similar formula: When a person enters the club, a sales person meets and greets him or her, has the new person sign a guest register and begins a tour of the facility. During the tour the sales person encourages the prospect to talk about his own interests, and the sales person relates those interests to the facility.

"The procedure is standardized," Blaess says. "The sales person asks specific questions and conveys particular information about the club."

At the Courtrooms the tour ends with a meeting in a private office, where the sales person describes types of memberships available and—in more cases than not—turns the prospect into a member. The Courtrooms also gets good results from its credit system that gives extended memberships and prizes to members whose friends join the club.

Both Hohl and Blaess say the sales program hinges on professionalism.

"You can't expect a manager who's at the front desk or cleaning the jacuzzi to sell memberships," Hohl warns.

Those full time sales people find their jobs pay off nicely. At a club with complete facilities and a strong local advertising program sales salaries range from \$20,000 to \$35,000 a year.

That's without being pushy. "We are not pressure people," says Hohl. "We give people first class service. Our products are excellent. We simply combine that excellence with the people who have the closing skills." ●

New Court Club Listings

Fern Hill Racquetball Club
17600 Clinton River Rd.
Mt. Clemens, MI 48044

Four Seasons Racquetball
& Fitness Club
Chester Creek Rd.
Brookhaven, PA 19015

Green Spring Racquet Club
Falls and Valley Rds.
Lutherville, MD 21093

Holabird Racquet Club
6400 Beckley St.
Baltimore, MD 21224

Loverslane Racquetball Club
1056 Loverslane
Bowling Green, KY 42101

The Quadrangle Racquetball Complex
2160 University Dr.
Coral Springs, FL 33065

The Racquethouse
4951 Lower Roswell Rd.
Marietta, GA 30067

Regency Courts
2402 Wooten Blvd.
Wilson, NC 27893

Security Court club
2076 Lord Baltimore Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21207

Twenty First Point Club
McKown Rd. off Western
at McKowns Grove
Albany, NY 12203

EXTRA!

Fit Company

Playing mixed doubles racquetball is one of seven ways 1,200 employees are testing their fitness four weekends in July.

More than 1,200 men and women representing 160 major corporations from five western states are taking part in the Corporate Fitness Challenge as

eight member teams, each of which donates \$500 to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Among the companies sending teams to compete are United Airlines, Safeway Stores, Arthur Anderson, Western International Hotels, Cole and Weber and Sears. Western Athletic Clubs, Inc.

and Seven-Up are co-sponsoring the series.

Each team, which includes at least three women, competes in racquetball, swimming, basketball, volleyball, two mile run, obstacle course and tug of war. Early round racquetball matches before the Challenge weekend lead up to the finals

on the last day of competition.

Initiated by the Seattle Athletic Club last year the 1981 Challenge takes place July 10-12 in Seattle, July 17-19 at the Honolulu Athletic Club and the San Francisco Bay Club and July 24-26 at the International Club in Denver and the Atlas Health Club in San Diego.

Salt of the Earth

Basil, a richly fragrant herb that's healthy as well as tasty, grows well indoors or out.



"Carefully controlled studies have shown that athletes actually perform better on a salt restricted diet," says *New York Times* nutrition and personal health writer, Jane Brody. She adds "over a period of months the body learns to conserve needed sodium," thus avoiding wilting muscle cells that cannot contract normally.

To cook with vigor, yet bypass salt, kitchen artists are turning to herbs—especially fresh herbs. During the summer months herbs such as basil, chives, dill, marjoram, sage, rosemary, tarragon and thyme

thrive outdoors. Seeds or plantings are available at nurseries, and even now—in July—there are several summer harvests ahead if the herbs go into a rich, well drained soil that is quite warm and gets plenty of sun.

Before the autumn frosts set in, the herbs can move indoors—in the form of cuttings rooted in water, and then planted in window sill pots, or in a chopped version, frozen into ice cubes that a cook can drop into tasty, but unsalted, stews, soups and sauces all winter long.

All Night Matches

Over 300 boys and girls from 11 Chicago area high schools participated in 12 hour playing marathons in February and March to raise \$10,000 for Evanston, IL's not-for-profit North Shore Association for the Retarded (NSAR). High School Key Clubs, the youth division of Kiwanis International, sponsored the eight Racquetball Round Robins at four of the area's Metro Clubs.

Metro rented their facilities at reduced rates to NSAR for four consecutive weeks from six Saturday night until six the following Sunday morning. The students formed mixed doubles teams which competed in 22 games. Each player raised money by getting sponsor pledges based on the number of points his or her team would accumulate during the all night event.

The Association plans to use the money to build new classrooms at the school for severely retarded children it operates in the Chicago suburb.





USRA State Affiliates

Safety Is Simple

Recently the USRA compiled a basic racquetball safety list for the National Safety Council. The list was featured on the cover of their March-April Recreational Newsletter and stressed the problem of eye injuries in racquet sports.

With 40 million people taking part in racquet sports annually the problem of eye injuries has become quite serious. It was estimated that in 1976 racquet sports were responsible for an estimated 3,200 eye injuries in this country. That figure grew to 9,000 in 1980 and some doctors place the figure as high as 70,000. Though some injuries are minor, others resulted in impairment or permanent loss of vision.

Most eye injuries in sports are preventable. It's not difficult to protect yourself from eye injuries when you play racquetball. Plastic eye protectors or protective glasses will do the trick. Lenses in front of the eyes are recommended. Players who wear frames can have a lens made to specification by an optician and placed in sturdy athletic frames for best eye protection.

Since the ball can attain a speed of over 100 m.p.h. after being struck by the racquet, injury also can occur to other parts of the body, as you read in May's *National Racquetball* story on safety. (You might want to save those pages for reference.)

The USRA wants racquetball competitors to play it safe. We're glad that organizations like the National Safety Council are working toward the same goal. Ignorance of the rules, lack of concentration or lack of sportsmanship on the court create potential injury situations. Striking the ball in anger or frustration has been shown to cause serious injury, especially after one player has lost a point and the rally has ended. This type of injury can be avoided easily.

A little precaution in the form of eye-guards and rational behavior can go a long way toward keeping you safe playing your favorite court sport.

—Terry Fancher

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Meet Your State Chairman

Vermont's Bob Beauchemin

Bob Beauchemin with Joey, left, and Jamie



Bob Beauchemin spends more time playing racquetball than reading, but the owner of Little Professor Books Centers in Burlington, Essex Junction and Middlebury manages to leaf through all the books on his favorite sport.

That devotion to the printed page has paid off. "I'm always looking for that extra blt to win a game—or a tournament. Right now the biggest part of my game is the pinch shot—and I learned that from a book."

Beauchemin, who favors Steve Keeley's *Racquetball Book* (which has been serialized in *National Racquetball*), applies theory to practice three noons a week at the Racquet's Edge in Essex Junction or the Court Club in Burlington.

"I play everybody and their brother at both clubs," he says.

When Cliff Bushey drives in from Swanton to Racquet's Edge, he's Beauchemin's opponent. The men have been sports competitors for most of their 35 years, from grade school in Plattsburg, NY through Champlain College in Burlington.

"We've always been competitive in softball and tennis and then he started playing racquetball. My constant goal is to beat him."

Which one is a better racquetball player? "It depends who you talk to. We're both too old to get any better," Beauchemin insists.

Other opponents are his sons—Jamie, 10 and Joey, 13—and his wife, Jill.

The USRA Vermont chairman for the last year is glad racquetball is "becoming pretty much of a family sport and the clubs are trying to cater to the family—not just the husband who wants to go out and play once a week."

Beauchemin reports that club nursery and junior programs are helping turn Vermont racquetball clubs into social centers.

That's a trend that makes sense to Beauchemin, who's happiest when he's meeting and helping people.

Five years ago when he'd tired of being a big company employee, Beauchemin looked into a business of his own. "Any business whether it was books or shoes, it didn't make any difference. I was looking for personal contact with the average consumer. A book store seemed to have the most variety."

Contact with a wide range of people is what he likes about his state chairman job, too.

"Our Green Mountain Racquetball Association is made up of people—Vermont people. They're the best people you can find."

Jamie, 10, won the Vermont State Juniors Championships in the 11 and Under division.



A Poem For All of Us Hinder, for Crying out Loud

Oh say can you see
Where the ball ought to be?
I'm sure I'm not blind,
But my opponent's behind
Is impeding my kill purposely!

When a plum I cough up,
He's quick as a pup
To administer a kill gleefully!
But in clearing the way
For my winning play,
In concrete his feet stick, you see!

Now the score, sad to say,
At the end of our play
Is 21-19, not in favor of me!
But in the shower no gloom
'Cause if I had room
I'd of beaten him 21-3!

So come on my lad
The loss isn't so bad
For in losing you've triumphed, you see!
This game's not for cheaters
Or profanity repeaters!
But sportsmen with class—
Like you and me!

—Les Skelton



Don't Get These Doubles Mixed

by Carole C. George

The "terrible twosome" entertains Jim Carson.



—Carole C. George photo

Craig and Rob Wilson are identical twins, but rumor has it that the one way you can tell them apart is by their racquets. On the court these lookalikes are serious about racquetball which they've competed in for the past four years, but off the court they're about as serious as Heckel and Jeckel.

The Wilsons from Vancouver, B.C. are only 15 years old, "but we look 19."

Having a twin seems like it could come in handy during a tournament. If you got tired or injured or lost your concentration you could just send in your clone. But the Wilsons have never substituted for each other because of their dissent over racquet selection. They probably could get away with it, though, since their racquetball abilities are also nearly identical. Generally they are seeded opposite each other, but out of the few times they have met in tournament competition, Rob has beaten Craig twice and Craig has beaten Rob once. They refuse to play doubles together because they're afraid they might get mixed up about who's playing which side.

Having a double can also cause problems. Often one of them will get chased out of the hospitality room because the person in charge will accuse him of already getting a meal. If one of them forgets to referee, the other one usually ends up getting cornered to do so. It seems like an advantage would be that you would always have someone about your own size and age to work out with, but they rarely get on the court together.

Lindsay Myers is the player who first made Vancouver famous in the world of racquetball. The twins have known Lindsay longer than they've played racquetball. Recently they've helped Myers at his clinics, "but nobody I know likes to be taught by a junior," confides Craig.

Like all good brothers Rob and Craig have learned how to take turns. First Rob won the 15-and-under division of the British Columbian Open after beating Craig in the semis. Then Craig won the 15-and-under division of the B.C. Closed and Rob lost in the other semis to someone else.

Jim Carson, coach and close companion to Lynn Adams, one of the top women touring pros, remembers the time the terrible twosome stayed at his place in Costa Mesa, CA during the outdoor nationals. "They're like this all the time," laughed Jim, "... crazy, sarcastic, disrespectful of their elders. They're on 24 hours a day." Carson went on to explain how he has saved every issue of every racquetball magazine for the past 10 years. By flashlight into the wee hours of the night Rob and Craig went through all the back issues, page by page.

"Yeah, we kept searching for one with Jim Carson in it, but we couldn't find it," replied the quicker of the two.

If they don't make it big in racquetball, they can always become a comedy team.

Tournament Results

Please send tournament results and clear black and white action photos to Renee Coplan, USRA, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076. Type your results double spaced, including name of tournament, dates and place with scores listed in style you see on these pages. Use first and last names the first time you mention a player (in doubles matches, too) and last names only after that.

Allow two months or more for your tournament writeup to appear here.

Holland

The Third Dutch Open Amateur Championships took place March 6-8 at Racketcenter Westvliet at Leidschendam near The Hague. Competitors represented five countries, including 25 from the U.S.A.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Lou Souther, 2nd-Tonny Luyckx, 3rd-Jim Mattingly, 4th-Melvin Kince

Men's B: 1st-Frits Groenendijk, 2nd-Willem Wenzel, 3rd-John Neill, 4th-Rob van de Kamp

Women's Open: 1st-Kathy Bender, 2nd-Mirjam Wietheesen, 3rd-Phyllis Dumont, 4th-Helen Cachero

Doubles: 1st-Mattingly/Kince, 2nd-Sauther/Luyckx, 3rd-Neill/Humphrey, 4th-Dzinh/Wenzel



Lou Souther, Melvin Kince, Tonny Luyckx and Jim Mattingly, left to right, won third in the Men's Doubles at the March Dutch Open Amateur Racquetball Championships.

New Jersey

Racquetball 23 and Spa in Pompton Plains hosted the East Coast Invitational March 7 and 8.

Results

First Round: A—Reuben Gonzalez d. Willy Wang 21-5, 21-9; Bob Francavella d. Eric Foley 19-21, 21-17, 11-8; B—Craig Guinter d. N. Elia 21-20, 21-10; Dave MacKelcan d. John Bierman 21-6, 21-14; C—Ray Capitanelli d. Charlie Horton 21-4, 21-18; Jim Cascio d. Steve Elia 21-11, 21-8; D—Steve Ginsberg d. Gary Valinoti 21-19, 21-19; Tom Ranker d. Stan Danzig 21-5, 21-13

Second Round: A—Gonzalez d. Francavella 21-12, 21-13; Wang d. Foley 21-18, 21-14; B—Guinter d. Bierman 21-16, 21-16; MacKelcan d. N. Elia 21-8, 21-17; C—Capitanelli d. S. Elia 21-8, 21-12; Cascio d. Horton 21-9, 21-12; D—Ranker d. Valinoti 21-13, 21-19; Ginsberg d. Danzig 21-17, 21-20



Third Round: A—Gonzalez d. Foley 21-9, 21-12, Francavella d. Wang default; B—Gunter d. MacKelcan 21-14, 21-8; N. Elia d. Bierman default; C—Cascio d. Capitanelli 21-1, 18-21, 11-4; Horton d. S. Elia 21-11, 21-9; D—Ginsberg d. Ranker 21-17, 21-15; Danzig d. Valinotti 21-9, 21-7

Semi-Finals: A vs. D—Gonzalez d. Ginsberg 21-20, 21-13; B vs. C—Cascio d. Gunter

Finals: Gonzalez d. Cascio 21-19, 21-10



Reuben Gonzalez was first place winner in the East Coast Invitational.

Texas

The 1981 Kings Court Racquetball Championships in Amarillo was held March 13-15 with 169 entrants, including five entries from Juarez, Mexico.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Scott Cullins d. Raul Canales, 3rd-Larry Fuller d. Dino Owens by default, Cons-Humbert Garcia d. Gary Hyatt

Men's Open Doubles: 1st-Scott Cullins/Larry Fuller d. Dave Martel/Gary Hyatt, 3rd-Raul Canales/Federico Alvarez d. John Davis/Randy Richards, Cons-Mike Jennings/Jim McPherson d. Terry Fleetwood/Alonzo Ramos

Men's B: 1st-Randy Richards d. Armando Urias, 3rd-Rick Higgins d. David Sharp, Cons-Mike Kowalski d. Ted Sanders

Men's B Doubles: 1st-Armando Urias/Enrique Garibay d. Michael Kowalski/Mike Kowalski, 3rd-Richard Mays/Pearre Chase d. Johnny Valdez/Terry Ingram, Cons-Dick Smith/Keven James d. Craig Owens/David Riddlespurger

Men's C: 1st-Enrique Garibay d. Michael Kowalski, 3rd-Mike Speck d. Bill King, Cons-Raul Armendariz d. Terry Porter

Men's Novice: 1st-Rodney Brewer d. David Inman, 3rd-Price Avent d. Gary Apodaca, Cons-Tim Graves d. Mike Miller

Men's 30 and Over: 1st-Tom Frank d. Denis Jalbert, 3rd-Darrell Little d. Bill Smith by forfeit, Cons-Tom Lindsay d. Walt Allinger

Women's Open: 1st-Diana Phillips d. Linda Schulte, 3rd-Sandy McPherson d. Julie Fuller, Cons-Doris Reed d. Mary Pace

Women's Open Doubles: 1st-Linda Schulte/Mary Pace d. Diana Phillips/Julie Fuller, 3rd-Joyce Jones/Ann Wooten d. Doris Reed/Candy Smith, Cons-Sandy McPherson/Sue Lesly d. Linda Roles/Cathy Chesser

Women's B: 1st-Debbie Moreno d. Stracia McCaig, 3rd-Chris Cody d. Elaine Watson, Cons-Cathy Chesser d. Carrie McGavock

Women's C: 1st-Diane Gorrie d. Jody Avent, 3rd-Gloria Valdez d. Kathy Adams, Cons-Denise Cockrell d. Jo Ann Noble

Women's Novice: 1st-Linda Gilbreath d. Brenda Rea, 3rd-Cheryl Prosser d. Robin Owens, Cons-Jana Blevins d. Evette Gentry

New Jersey

The 1981 Mercer Open was held at the Mercer Racquetball club in Hamilton March 13-15.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Jimmy Young d. Dia Abdellal, Rick Englander d. Jim Deritis, Willie Wang d. David Hottenstein, David Crocker d. Lonnie Allgood

Semis: Young d. Englander, Wang d. Crocker

Finals: Young d. Wang, Third-Englander

Men's B

Quarters: Jim Petrini d. Alan Englebart, Rich Gaeta d. G. O'Gorman, A Jessup d. C. Ginn, Mike Vannore d. Mike Brehler

Semis: Petrini d. Gaeta, Jessup d. Vannore

Finals: Jessup d. Petrini, Third-Vannore

Men's C

Quarters: Alan Englebart d. John Curran, D. Lawson d. Paul Southwick, Mark Cotugno d. George Pelke, John Moore d. G. Bentz

Semis: Cotugno d. Englebart, Lawson d. Moore

Finals: Cotugno d. Lawson, Third-Moore

Men's Novice

Quarters: R. Bentz d. B. DiGregorio, Cundari d. Neil Dehm, G. Bentz d. Jim Tymon, DiGiacomo d. Pete Sanchez

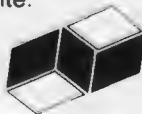
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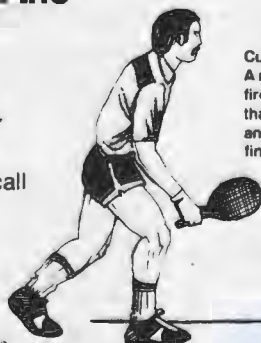
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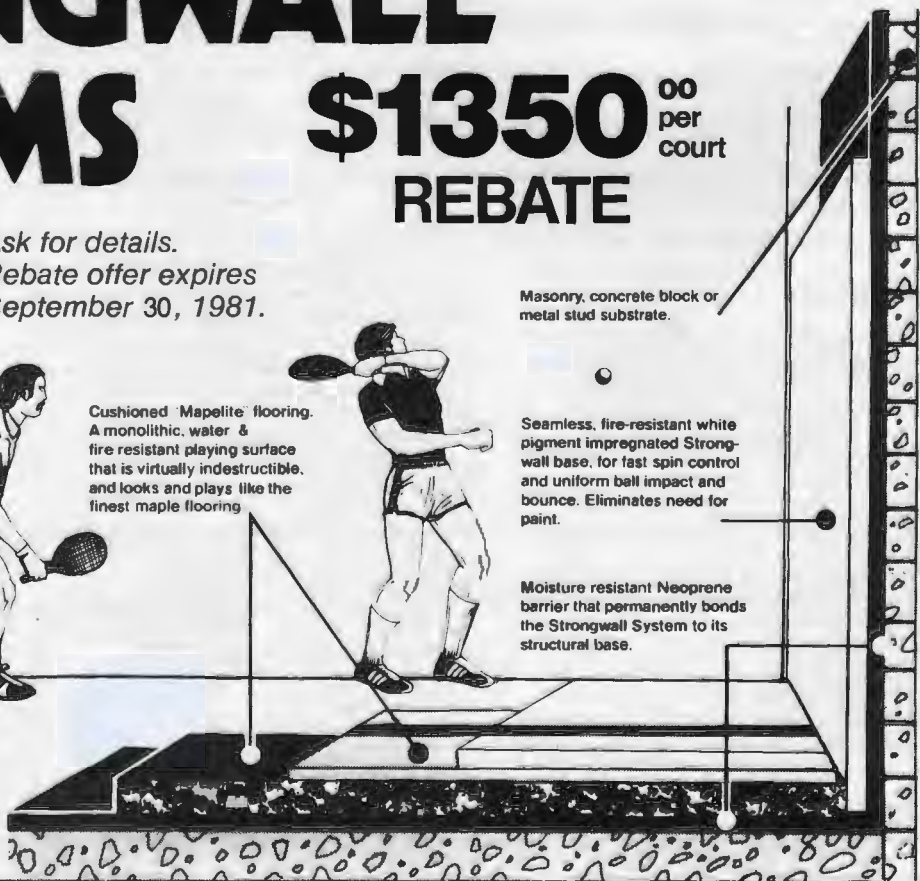
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Finals: DiGiamcomo d. Cundari, Third-Bentz

Men's Veteran

Finals: Bill Welaj d. Phil Zucker, Third-Gary Saretsky

Men's Doubles

Finals: Jimmy Young/Dave Hottenstein d. Billy Lynch/Phil Zucker, Third-Lonnie Allgood/Rick Englander

Women's Open

Finals: Linda Kennedy d. Sue Englander, Third-Debbie Sloan

Women's C

Finals: Judy Wleczorek d. Sue Cataldi, Third-Mary Vannore

Oregon

Gresham Court Club in Gresham hosted the third annual Hush Puppies Open March 18-22.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Jeff Larson, 2nd-Tony Krause, 3rd-Mike Grisz, Cons-Dennis Campredon

Men's A: 1st-Pete Luisich, 2nd-Steve Silverman, 3rd-Dick Chamberlin, Cons-Ramen Gonzales

Men's B: 1st-Mark Frank, 2nd-Mark Eisenzimmer, 3rd-Carl Ruggles, Cons-Greg Hardy

Women's B: 1st-Leslie White, 2nd-Yvonne Rowland, 3rd-Teresa Kralj, Cons-Gail Byers

Men's C: 1st-Terry Belcher, 2nd-Cary Sullivan, 3rd-Mike Houck, Cons-Ryan Robinson

Women's C: 1st-Sally Lindley, 2nd-Diane Baumgartner, 3rd-Janice VerMeer, Cons-Holly Santos

Men's D: 1st-Paul Anderson, 2nd-Dave Ferong, 3rd-Seve Chadwick, Cons-Sharon Amato

Women's D: 1st-Jann Lavender, 2nd-Charlyn Ringe, 3rd-Marcella Zamera, Cons-Davey Lenz

Men's Novice: 1st-Lyle Kawamata, 2nd-Tom Shearer, 3rd-Steve Mastranrea, Cons-Scott Shaffer

Women's Novice: 1st-Tena Spears, 2nd-Kathy vonRummelhoff, 3rd-Lynn Cameron, Cons-M.J. Riehl

Men's Open Doubles: 1st-Tony Krause/Jeff Larson, 2nd-Jim Boyce/Kelly Rasmussen

Men's A Doubles: 1st-John Giunta/Ken Hodgson, 2nd-Ken Bibbes/Greg Hardy

Men's Seniors C and D: 1st-Rich Buckingham, 2nd-James Brown, 3rd-Bob Daggett, Cons-Mike Hickman

Men's Masters: 1st-John Miatkawi, 2nd-Dave McCourt, 3rd-Lee Gleason, Cons-Ed Dathan

Mixed Doubles: 1st-Dave George/Christy Tinker, 2nd-Yvonne Rowland/Jim Boyce, 3rd-Steve Dusich/Patti Curtis, Cons-John Giunta/Rosemary Jeffries

California

Dan Southern and Vern Keohen teamed up to win the Men's A division title at Orange Coast College's St. Patrick's Massacre Doubles Racquetball Tournament, March 20-21 on OCC's 13 outdoor courts. Southern and Keohen defeated Nelson Matsukawa and Kory Longnecker in the A division finals. Bruce Moore and Frank Stouff captured the Men's B title, and Matt Moore and Gus Vogt annexed the Men's C crown. Steve Cuniff and Rene Lazorek defeated David Meier and Georgette Pijloo to win the Mixed Doubles A title. Frank Stouff and Lori Richardson won the mixed B championship, and Vincent and Sue Love grabbed the Mixed C title. The Women's B championship went to Mary Cole and Kim Platte. Janice Hopper and Sue Church won the Women's C division. The Senior division title went to Burt Morrow and Jerry Winterburn.

Pennsylvania

The Shamrock Shootout Racquetball Tournament took place at Manor Courts South in Pittsburgh, March 20-22.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Kelvin Vantrese, 2nd-Ken Goldberg, Semifinalists-Jeff Omalley, Rich Gambino

Men's B: 1st-Brian Lucas, 2nd-John Navage, Semifinalists-Gary Hasselschwert, Robert Steding

Men's C: 1st-Dick Reck, 2nd-Glenn Jurena, Semifinalists-Paul Majors, Jim Williams

Men's Novice: 1st-Tom Inerra, 2nd-Carmen Caligiuri, Semifinalists-Mike Oare, Bill Haines

Men's Senior 30 plus: 1st-Jack Emes, 2nd-Rich Zewe, Semifinalists-Rip Miller, Dave O'Brian

Junior Boys: 1st-Rick Armstrong, 2nd-Mark Daniher, Semifinalists-Dan Krauth, Allen Moore

Women's Open: 1st-Patti Gurson, 2nd-Jamie Skirboll, Semifinalists-Samantha Brem, Karen Henry

Women's B: 1st-Lynn Ross, 2nd-Caryn Soergel, Semifinalists-Samantha Brem, Janet DeCostro

Women's C: 1st-Shelle Pentes, 2nd-Ginny Bukovitz, Semifinalists-Diane Nucci, Arleeta Ebert

Women's Novice: 1st-Debbie Brady, 2nd-Sharon Weber, Semifinalists-Arlene Wojciechowski, Joanna Raida

Women's Senior 30 plus: 1st-Myrna Burns, 2nd-LaRue Jones, Semifinalists-Linda Abruzere, Ruth Pushak

Junior Girls: 1st-Mary Span, 2nd-Diana Baumhammers, Semifinalists-Karen Berkley, Ruanne Kane

Open Mixed Doubles: 1st-Robert Steding/Jeanine Farrell, 2nd-Tim Grapes/Linda Montgomery, Semifinalists-Rich Zewe/Patti Gurson, Rick Kushon/Eileen Turiak

B Mixed Doubles: 1st-Tim Harcharik/Debbie O'Donnell, 2nd-Rick West/Linda Abruzere, Semifinalists-Rick Armstrong/Shelle Pentes, Maria Vello/Ed Cook

New Jersey

The Wyndmoor Spring Classic took place March 20-22 at the Wyndmoor Racquet Club in East Brunswick.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Jim Cascio d. Lonnie Allgood, Glenn Sorrentino d. John Bierman, Willie Wang d. Rick Englander, Ruben Gonzales d. Billy Lynch

Semifinals: Cascio d. Sorrentino, Gonzales d. Wang

Finals: Cascio d. Gonzales, Third-Sorrentino

Men's B

Quarters: Vanore d. Weiner, Kieswani d. Marlorowski, Powers d. Collins, Sitren d. Cutagno

Semifinals: Vanore d. Keswani, Sitren d. Powers

Finals: Sitren d. Vanore, Third-Powers

Men's C

Quarters: Gowen d. Caldera, Nevins d. Sclarretta, Warren d. Zavec, Appel d. Denley

Semifinals: Appel d. Warren, Gowen d. Nevins

Finals: Gowen d. Appel, Third-Nevins

Men's Novice

Quarters: Misiura d. Patin, Dehm d. Lopez, McDermott d. Munoz, Howard d. Zemak

Semifinals: Dehm d. Misiura, McDermott d. Howard

Finals: Dehm d. McDermott, Third-Howard

Veteran Open

Quarters: Johns d. Goldstein, Fine d. Polite, Hoffman d. Klein, Munson d. Blaney

Semifinals: Johns d. Fine, Hoffman d. Munson

Finals: Johns d. Hoffman, Third-Munson

Boys 17 and Under

Quarters: Keswani d. Yellin, Steiner d. Curran, Salvato d. Wenner, Cotugno d. Bilancione

Semifinals: Steiner d. Keswani, Salvato d. Cotugno

Finals: Steiner d. Salvato, Third-Keswani

Boys 14 and Under

Quarters: Cline d. Libby, Kurland d. Schmidt, Vazzano d. Crammer, Salvato d. Westman

Semifinals: Cline d. Kurland, Vazzano d. Salvato

Finals: Cline d. Vazzano, Third-Salvato

Men's Open Doubles: 1st-Mike Vanore/Sam Munson, 2nd-Lonnie Allgood/Billy Johns, 3rd-Mark Berwick/John Sergeantanis

Women's C

Quarters: Cascio d. Forte, Lukowski d. Stoll, Sudol d. Wenner, Hurley d. Vanore

Semifinals: Hurley d. Sudol, Cascio d. Lukowski

Finals: Hurley d. Cascio, Third-Sudol

Women's Novice

Quarters: Annichiarico d. Traponese, Benko d. Olsen, Frank d. Covert, Forte d. Shearer

Semifinals: Frank d. Forte, Annichiarico d. Benko

Finals: Annichiarico d. Frank, Third-Forte

Men's B Doubles

Quarters: Powers/Russo d. Medici/Baecher, Scalzo/Luchetto d. Olechnik/Zavec, Aug/Schub d. St. George/Klein, Fernandez/Maclorowski d. Huie/Huppert

Semifinals: Powers/Russo d. Scalzo/Luchetto, Aug/Schub d. Fernandez/Maclorowski

Finals: Powers/Russo d. Aug/Schub Third-Scalzo/Luchetto

Open Mixed Doubles: 1st-Jennifer Armando/Russ Mannio, 2nd-Rick Englander/Sue Englander, 3rd-Paul DeLuca/Mandle Sudol

Missouri

USRA State Co-chairman Ted Podgorny successfully defended his Missouri State Amateur Champion title in the finals of the Men's Open division of the event held March 22 at the Jefferson City Racquet Club.

Results

Women's B: 1st-Patty Tobias, 2nd-Peggy Baker, 3rd-Tammy Oligschlaeger

Women's Novice: 1st-Pam Knoll

Men's B: 1st-Greg Curran, 2nd-Randy Huggins, 3rd-Jon Stahle, 4th-Greg Lloyd

Men's C: 1st-Leroy Eggert, 2nd-Kevin Verbie, 3rd-Tom Lynch

Men's D: 1st-Dennis Morrissey, 2nd-Jim Coe, 3rd-Floyd Trim, 4th-Mike Pugh

Men's Novice: 1st-Al Struckloff, 2nd-Martinez Arnold, 3rd-Mike Sessler, 4th-Dennis Holliday

Men's Doubles: 1st-Ted Podgorny/Bruce Greenbaum, 2nd-Dawson/Scharamitaro, 3rd-Eggert/Curran, 4th-Charlie Sidebottom/Neal Jones

Men's Senior: 1st-Lowell Johnson, 2nd-Tony Boes, 3rd-Luigi Tucci, 4th-Harry Richardson

New York

The Fourth Annual New Paltz State Racquetball Tournament was held at the college in New Paltz from March 26-28.

Results

Men's C

Quarters: Robert Kanter d. George Hild 21-5, 21-10; Bob Finkelstein d. Robert Hooper 21-8, 21-20; Chuck Malara d. Greg Brandon 21-4, 21-2; Dennis Higgins d. Jim Licardi 21-14, 21-8

Semifinals: Kanter d. Higgins 21-10, 21-10; Malara d. Finkelstein 21-16, 12-21, 11-10

Finals: Kanter d. Malara 21-8, 21-8

Men's Novice

Quarters: Rich Giglia d. Rick King 21-3, 21-8; Mike Weinrach d. Jose Varuzza 21-12, 21-9; Deena Cohen d. Joe Finn 21-12, 21-3; Eric Wollenberg d. Bernie Lipman 21-17, 21-20

Semifinals: Giglia d. Wollenberg 21-15, 21-15; Weinrach d. Cohen 21-17, 21-18

Finals: Giglia d. Weinrach 16-21, 21-11, 11-14

Golden Masters

Quarters: Irv Cowle d. Frank Plotnick 21-5, 21-12; Francis Anderson d. George Spear 21-3, 21-12; Ed Muller d. Jim Cater 21-10, 21-12; Bill Gruner d. Bill Donovan, forfeit

Semis: Cowle d. Gruner 21-7, 21-12; Anderson d. Muller 21-4, 21-7

Finals: Cowle d. Anderson 21-8, 18-21, 11-10

Men's Doubles

Quarters: Brown/Threm bye; Weinrach/Kanter d. Unrath/Zielinski 21-18, 21-10; Higgins/Longo d. Donovan/Jecusco 13-21, 21-7, 11-10; Licardi/Malara d. Swadel/Sheppard, forfeit

Semis: Brown/Threm d. Weinrach/Kanter 21-19, 21-19; Higgins/Longo d. Licardi/Malara 21-20, 21-17

Finals: Brown/Threm d. Higgins/Longo 21-16, 21-14

Women's Novice

Quarters: Tammy O'Hara d. Sue Allen 21-5, 21-11; Tari Threm d. Diane Burleson 21-5, 21-12; Barbara Meredith d. Dianne Nero 21-16, 21-19; Lorraine Brady d. Kim Shafer 21-18, 21-4

Semis: O'Hara d. Brady 21-3, 21-4; Threm d. Meredith 21-11, 21-9

Finals: O'Hara d. Threm 21-2, 21-7

Men's Seniors (Round Robin)

First Round: Maurice Keroack d. Steve Nurbin, Stu Brown d. George Hild

Second Round: Keroack d. Hild, Brown d. Nurbin

Third Round: Keroack d. Brown, Nurbin d. Hild

Keroack-93 points, Brown-90, Nurbin-63, Hild-30

Florida

The Suncoast Courthouse held the Fun 'n Sun Region III Qualifying Tournament March 27-29.

Results

Women's Open: 1st-Pam Harrison, 2nd-Renee Fish, 3rd-Chris Collins, 4th-Donna Furlong

Women's 18-24: 1st-Donna McCarthy, 2nd-Joanne Pagliano, 3rd-Chris Collins

Women's 25-30: 1st-Renee Fish, 2nd-Bev Nist, 3rd-Vicki Cooper, 4th-Bibi Rodriguez

Women's 30-35: 1st-Sally Chase, 2nd-Cherle Bustin

Women's 35-40: 1st-Pam Harrison, 2nd-Doreen Holliman

Women's 40 plus: 1st-Dottie Trauscht

Girls 17 and Under: 1st-Gina Marcus

Girls 15 and Under: 1st-Natalie Boudin

Women's B: 1st-Bev Nist, 2nd-Gina Marcus, 3rd-Bibi Rodriguez, 4th-Debbie Long

Women's C: 1st-Gina Marcus, 2nd-Debi Jackson, 3rd-Tracey Rodwell, 4th-Natalie Boudin

Men's Open: 1st-Bill Koenig, 2nd-Todd Taylor, 3rd-Kenny Anderson, 4th-Don Luehm

Men's 18-24: 1st-Terry Aydt, 2nd-David Mathews, 3rd-Jim DeLadesmo, 4th-Jeff Lardizaba

Men's 25-30: 1st-John Milano, 2nd-Randy Godwin, 3rd-Frank Katz, 4th-Randy Thompson

Men's 30-35: 1st-Carson Turlington, 2nd-Don Luehm, 3rd-Jim Kelley, 4th-Gene Owen

Men's 35-40: 1st-Charlie Behar, 2nd-Bill Koenig, 3rd-Collie Carlton, 4th-Sonny Marcus

Men's 40-45: 1st-Sonny Marcus, 2nd-Ed Vlock, 3rd-Robert Marazzi, 4th-Dan Sgro

Men's 45 plus: 1st-John Hatcher, 2nd-Wes Burguest, 3rd-Gene Feuling, 4th-Joe Grammatico

Boys 17 and Under: 1st-Rich Bandel, 2nd-John Ross, 3rd-Steve Lardizabal, 4th-Ray Alcover

Boys 15 and Under: 1st-Charlie Nichols, 2nd-John Schneider, 3rd-John Sgro, 4th-Ricky Lardizabal

Boys 13 and Under: 1st-Gary Lardizabal, 2nd-Tony Simotes

Men's B: 1st-John Wagner, 2nd-Len Gissiner, 3rd-Eric McCall, 4th-John Thompson

Men's C: 1st-Keith Klein, 2nd-West Teel, 3rd-Eddie Riverol, 4th-Mike LaRocca

North Carolina

Regency Courts in Wilson, hosted the 1981 USRA North Carolina State Championship Tournament March 27-29.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Jim Slate, 2nd-Randy Watkins, 3rd-Gregg Troupe

Men's B: 1st-Steve Martin, 2nd-Jack Saylor, 3rd-Homer Schwartz

Men's C: 1st-Jim Hillwig, 2nd-Chuck Waller, 3rd-Phil Dorroll

Men's Novice: 1st-Kelly Zaytoun, 2nd-Ardell Lewis, 3rd-Matt Grace

Men's Open Doubles: 1st-Slate/Nieves, 2nd-Kilimis/Renn, 3rd-Krall/Johnson

Men's Seniors: 1st-Paul Saperstein, 2nd-Dick Guidetti, 3rd-Sonny Harmon

Men's Masters: 1st-Dick Lane, 2nd-Vint Fountain, 3rd-Luther Green

Women's Open: 1st-Malia Nieves, 2nd-Mildred Gwinn, 3rd-Lucy Hardison, 4th-Nancy Moore

Women's B: 1st-Gail Moran, 2nd-Nancy Froelich, 3rd-Fran Davis

Women's C: 1st-Vicky Thornton, 2nd-Rose Hester, 3rd-Carole Wood

Women's Novice: 1st-Jan McVeigh, 2nd-Ruth Barr, 3rd-Patti Hardin

Women's Open Doubles: 1st-Nieves/White, 2nd-Gwinn/Hardison, 3rd-Moore/Walston

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California

The Supreme Court Mariner Square was host March 27-29 to the Alameda Island Classic Pro/Am.

Results

Men's Pro Singles

Semifinals: S. Hawkins d. G. Price, S. Dunn d. B. Harnett
Finals: Hawkins d. Dunn

Men's Open Singles

Semifinals: B. Hand d. D. Steeger, J. Jensen d. B. Rissel
Finals: Hand d. Jensen

Men's B Singles

Semifinals: R. Ferrin d. S. Stewart, T. Nowell d. W. Gulnn
Finals: Ferrin d. Nowell

Men's C Singles

Semifinals: W. Holmes d. J. Martinez, M. Dauphinee d. R. Goodwin
Finals: Dauphinee d. Holmes

Men's D Singles

Semifinals: P. Records d. M. Berber, J. Johnston d. L. Hanke
Finals: Johnston d. Records

Men's Seniors Singles

Semifinals: D. Lose d. G. Deluca, P. Sills d. K. Juan
Finals: Lose d. Sills

Men's Masters Singles

Semifinals: M. Wayne d. S. Gonzales, G. Landrum d. A. Rossi
Finals: Wayne d. Landrum

Women's Pro Singles

Semifinals: L. Martino d. M. Mook, K. Walton-Trent d. B. Massie
Finals: K. Walton-Trent d. L. Martino

Women's B Singles

Semifinals: L. Franzli d. K. Nuttall, D. Nagel d. B. Bredimier
Finals: Franzli d. Nagel

Women's C Singles

Semifinals: M. Theilen d. J. Wong, M. Rice d. C. Wallace
Finals: Rice d. Theilen

Women's D Singles

Semifinals: B. Gutierrez d. L. Perkins, J. Gier d. L. Peters
Finals: Gutierrez d. Gier

Women's Seniors Singles

Semifinals: M. Pessagno d. D. Billington, K. McDonald d. K. Klayman
Finals: M. Pessagno d. K. McDonald

Men's Pro Doubles

Semifinals: Sullivan/Viola d. Wright/Trent, Baruck/Harnett d. Dunn/Kraut
Finals: Baruck/Harnett d. Sullivan/Viola

Men's Open Doubles

Semifinals: Ferrin/Sanders d. Voyne/Meadows, Freitas/DeFranco d. Hunt/Cua
Finals: Freitas/DeFranco d. Ferrin/Sanders

Men's B Doubles

Semifinals: Nowell/Webb d. Eskew/Dethier, Perez/Vincent d. Porazio/Denko
Finals: Perez/Vincent d. Nowell/Webb

Women's B Doubles

Semifinals: Hill/Logan d. Gutierrez/Bush, Theilen/Grossman d. Duke/Baker
Finals: Hill/Logan d. Theilen/Grossman

Women's C Doubles

Semifinals: Hull/Mathues d. Wilson/Gonzalez, Funes/Nuttall d. Parsons/Swanson
Finals: Funes/Nuttall d. Hull/Mathues

Mixed A Doubles

Semifinals: Ellis/Thompson d. Jancoski/Babbitt, Jensen/Farmer d. Massie/Brongan
Finals: Ellis/Thompson d. Jensen/Farmer

Mixed B Doubles

Semifinals: Logan/Yanashirahara d. Glines/Hisaka, Klayman/Truby d. Franzli/Markley
Finals: Klayman/Truby d. Logan/Yanashirahara

Amateurs on the Pro/Am Tour

Missouri

Coors Grand Prix Final May 6-10 Town and Country Racquet Club, St. Louis

Men's Open

Round of 16: John Slazas d. Jon Edwards; Doug Lillie d. Harry Wells; Ted Podgorny d. David Gross; Ken Wong d. Herb Orf; Sean Moskwa d. Mike Boyle; Jeff Berlin d. Dave Prim; Cliff Dawson d. Bill Howk; Steve Chase d. Andy Gross

Quarters: Slazas d. Lillie; Wong d. Podgorny; Moskwa d. Berlin; Chase d. Dawson

— Lauren Shay photos



Former Pro Ken Wong, now a research associate at Washington University in St. Louis, got to the semifinals in the Men's Open division.

Semifinals: Slazas d. Wong; Moskwa d. Chase

Finals: Slazas d. Moskwa 21-14, 21-17 (Cons. Greenberg d. Buehrle)

Women's Open

Round of 16: C. Mathieu d. Martha Nance; Susie Busch d. Mindy Scherzer; Debbie Payne d. S. Gross; JoAnn LaPointe d. A. Wirick; Peggy Woods d. Carol Mickes; Debi Roman d. Susan Drennan; Nancy Serot d. Tammy Woods; Gail Ferguson d. Judy Spasser

Quarters: Mathieu d. Busch; LaPointe d. Payne; Woods d. Roman; Ferguson d. Serot

Semifinals: LaPointe d. Mathieu; Ferguson d. Woods

Finals: LaPointe d. Ferguson (Cons. Gross d. Spasser)



Joanne LaPointe, left, beat Gail Ferguson to win the Women's Open.

Women's B

Quarters: Ann Morrissey d. Daryl Carter; Davida Crozier d. Lisa Symons; Deedee Nagel d. Ola Patty; Linda Presgrave d. Mary Jane Koenig

Semifinals: Crozier d. Morrissey; Nagel d. Prestrave

Finals: Nagel d. Crozier 21-12, 21-11 (Cons. Koenig d. Carter)

Men's B

Round of 16: Dart McCarty d. Gene Leung; Terry Marker d. Ed Schalinker; Thomas Speiser d. Ron Blue; Carl D'Amico d. Jon Jones; Ron Pruitt d. John Morrissey; William Bonow d. Gary Beattie; Brad Mizgate d. Brian Bliss; Greg Curran d. Steve Bednar

Quarters: Marker d. McCarty; D'Amico d. Speiser; Bonow d. Pruitt; Curran d. Mizgate



John Slazas, left, won the Men's Open title by beating Sean Moskwa.

Semis: Marker d. D'Amico; Curran d. Bonow
Finals: Curran d. Marker 12-21, 21-11, 11-7 (Cons. Pescrillo d. Vanenbrock)



Greg Curran, right, was the Men's B winner after defeating Terry Marker in the finals.

Men's C

Round of 16: Harry Hales d. Tony Dickman; Frank Bennett d. Sam Ulah; Darin Tessmer d. Ruben Damos; Richard Pullum d. Jeff Jones; Jon Coughlin d. Greg Hoberock; David Phillips d. Tim Kelly; Steve Agne d. Wayne Miles; Frank Borghi d. Joe Perez

Quarters: Bennett d. Hales; Pullum d. Tessmer; Coughlin d. Phillips; Borghi d. Agne

Semis: Pullum d. Bennett; Coughlin d. Borghi

Finals: Coughlin d. Pullum 21-12, 21-15 (Cons: Mesplay d. Ulah)

Women's Novice

Round of 16: Nancy Bootcheck, bye; Barb Danielwicz d. Mary Ann Taylor; Kathy Pfeifer d. Donna Diedrich; Cathie McCarthy d. Ronda Maggard; Orin Salloway d. Lilia Tana; Hope Price, bye; Kathy Phillips d. Carol Ryan; Karen Steele, bye

Quarters: Bootcheck d. Danielwicz; McCarthy d. Pfeifer; Price d. Salloway; Steele d. Phillips

Semis: McCarthy d. Bootcheck; Steele d. Price

Finals: Steele d. McCarthy (Cons: Ryan d. Diedrich)

Men's Novice

Round of 16: Brad Crist d. Robert Bliss; Rich Mark d. Charles Lowe; Nathan Hagedorn d. Jim Pisoni; Allen Hollander d. Robert Blake; Roy Rahn d. Gary Givan; Gerry Young d. Jesse Stricker; Tom Pearl d. Phillip Raymer; Albert Chidester d. Dave Kodner

Quarters: Crist d. Mark; Hollander d. Hagedorn; Young d. Rahn; Chidester d. Pearl

Semis: Crist d. Hollander; Chidester d. Young

Finals: Chidester d. Crist (Cons: Givan d. Johnson)

Men's Seniors

Round of 16: Ron Johnson, bye; Jerry Iafollo d. Lowell Johnson; Jerry Lucas d. Bill Mackie; Scott Barry d. Dick VanLant; Al Ferrari d. Ted Smith; Robert Steege d. Joe Simon; William Bergen d. Mike Winer; Herb Grigg d. Charles Skaggs

Quarters: Johnson d. Iafollo; Berry d. Lucas; Ferrari d. Steege; Grigg d. Bergen

Semis: Johnson d. Berry; Grigg d. Ferrari

Finals: Grigg d. Johnson 21-6, 21-10 (Cons: Johnson, forfeit)

Men's Masters

Round of 16: Fred Zitzer, bye; Dan Davies d. Harold Griffin; Ron Maggard d. Art Albert; Wayne Nelson, bye; Joe Zelson, bye; Ken Retzer d. Lou Cotton; Sam Gardner d. Al Meehan; Jack Moskwa, bye

Quarters: Zitzer d. Davies; Maggard d. Nelson; Retzer d. Zelson; Moskwa d. Gardner

Semis: Zitzer d. Maggard; Retzer d. Moskwa

Finals: Retzer d. Zitzer (Cons: Griffen d. Meehan)

Texas

Terry Bradshaw El Paso Cancer Treatment Center Benefit May 13-17 Supreme Court

Men's Open

Round of 16: Mike Ray d. Alex Classon 21-15, 21-15; John Hellard d. Steve Mejia 15-21, 21-11, 11-8; Joe Wittenbrink d. Mark Fairbairn; Dave Negrete d. Mike Bohling 21-20, 21-11; Skip Merrill d. Luis Miranda; Scott Cullins d. G. Brown; Ray Navarro d. Bill Land; Gerry Price d. Rafael Septien

Quarters: Ray d. Hellard 21-15, 21-15; Negrete d. Wittenbrink 21-20, 21-12; Cullins d. Merrill 11-21, 21-16, 11-5; Price d. Navarro 21-11, 21-15

Semis: Ray d. Negrete 21-9, 17-21, 11-3; Price d. Cullins 21-11, 21-15

Finals: Price d. Ray 21-17, 21-15 (Third: Cullins d. Negrete)

Women's Open

Quarters: Diane Bohling d. Jennifer Aromanda; Brenda Young d. Patricia Ellis; Marian Merrill d. Martha Nance; Leslie Hall d. Carmen Zamora

Semis: Bohling d. Young 21-13, 21-16

Finals: Bohling d. Hall 20-21, 21-16, 11-6 (Third: Young, forfeit)

Men's B

Round of 16: Larry Stockton d. Richard Diaz; Alan Klinowski d. Tommy Young; Enrique Garibay d. Peter Melendez; Frank Ortiz d. Cesar Pedrayes; Ben Avalos d. James Johnson; Bobby Bailey d. Carlos Miranda; Mandy Armengol d. Hugo Blake; Kirk Michaelis d. Max Long

Quarters: Stockton d. Klinowski 21-9, 21-16; Ortiz d. Garibay 21-12, 21-6; Avalos d. Bailey 21-12, 21-7; Michaelis d. Avalos 21-14, 15-21, 11-3

Semis: Ortiz d. Stockton 21-18, 13-21, 11-7; Michaelis d. Avalos 21-14, 15-21, 11-3

Finals: Ortiz d. Michaelis

Women's B

Quarters: Glenda Young d. Susan Riddler; Denise Freitag d. Lily Perez; Martha Venegas d. Jean Dunham; Carmen Carrillo d. Toni Renteria

Semis: Freitag d. Young; Carrillo d. Venegas

Finals: Freitag d. Carrillo (Third: Venegas, forfeit)

Men's Novice

Round of 16: Bob Rostro d. Glenn Young; Randy Peck d. Joe Harkins; Keith Alexander d. Terry Karatendiek; Juan Rodriguez d. Cornello Carballo; Ira Horowitz d. Gary Mann; Hector Yturralde d. Tim Owens; Ron Clausen d. Tim Botkin; Joel Ozaeta d. Manuel Yanez

Quarters: Rostro d. Peck; Alexander d. Rodriguez; Horowitz d. Yturralde; Ozaeta d. Clausen

Semis: Alexander d. Rostro; Horowitz d. Ozaeta

Finals: Horowitz d. Alexander (Third: Ozaeta d. Rostro)

Women's Novice

Semis: Alma Fuentes d. Helen Peck; Janet Neglia d. Patsy Armengol

Finals: Neglia d. Fuentes 18-21, 21-17, 11-10 (Third: Peck d. Armengol)

Men's C

Round of 16: Phil Westerman d. Kerry McLain; Tom Benero d. Donato Marchese; John Skinner d. Mike Cebelak; Stan McMurtrie d. Luis Olivas; Jorge Urias d. Mike Fredricks; Enrique Bayona d. Ed Pena; Raul Armendariz d. Henry White; Sergio Espejo d. Manny Cisheros

Quarters: Westerman d. Benero; McMurtrie d. Skinner; Urias d. Bayona; Armendariz d. Espejo

Semis: McMurtrie d. Westerman; Urias d. Armendariz

Finals: Urias d. McMurtrie (Third: Armendariz d. Westerman)

Women's C

Quarters: Cindy Mortimer d. Cathy Gibson; Carol Addis d. Adriano Miranda; Linda Longnecker d. Pam House; Sheila Fennell d. Sylvia Pedrayes

Semis: Addis d. Mortimer; Fennell d. Longnecker

Finals: Addis d. Fennell (Third: Longnecker, forfeit)

Men's Veteran and Masters

Quarters: Joe Lambert d. Nelson Morris; Leo DiValentino d. Dave Sims; Ron Maggard d. Roy Crump; George Hall d. Bill Dunham

Semis: DiValentino d. Lambert; Maggard d. Hall

Finals: Maggard d. DiValentino (Third: Lambert, forfeit)

Women's Open Doubles

Semis: Bohling/Hall d. Brain/Smith; Merrill/Armengol d. Zamora/Dunham

Finals: Bohling/Hall d. Merrill/Armengol (Third: Brown/Smith d. Zamora/Dunham)

Illinois



Most Improved Now a Champ

National Racquetball's 1979 Most Improved Player from Georgia, Caryn McKinney won the Women's Open title at the Women's Professional Racquetball Association nationals in Palatine, IL.

Upcoming Events

July 10-12

Oklahoma Grand Prix—Trac Summer Open, Tulsa Racquetball Aerobics Club, 918-749-9347

August 14-16

Oklahoma Grand Prix Shootout at the "Center," Weatherford, 405-772-3556



Tournament Results

—Carole C. George photos

McKay Back in



Winning Groove



Heather's Pinch Shots
Stop Lynn Adams In New
York Women's Pro Stop.

Heather McKay, right in left photo, beats Marci Greer, and Lynn Adams, right, wins over Shannon Wright in the prelude to the finals that makes McKay champ of the Fishkill tournament.

by Carole C. George

Before a capacity crowd at All Sport Fitness and Racquetball Club in Fishkill, NY April 23-26 Heather McKay stopped Lynn Adams from gaining her second consecutive victory on the Women's Professional Racquetball Association Tour.

McKay explained how she was able to do it. *"The first set was really close, so I decided I better change my game. When I beat Marci (Greer) yesterday I kept her on the move. But against Lynn I have to pinch more."* The strategy must have worked because McKay had little problem racking up the first two games of the second set, 11-5 and 11-8, (under the W.P.R.A. scoring system) before holding back a comeback with a 16-14 win in the final game.

"If you give Lynn anything," continued McKay, "she puts it away. She doesn't miss any anymore. Lynn's really much more consistent and has gotten her game together in the last few months."

While Adams has obviously been playing her cards right—beating McKay in March



in Rhode Island and taking second in two stops—Shannon Wright feels that she's gotten a misdeal. Her ranking slipped to number three coming into Fishkill for the first time this season.

"I still consider myself number one," said two time NRC Champion Wright. She calculates that she's won over 35 pro tournaments, beaten McKay more times than she's lost to the current W.P.R.A. National Champion and suffered in the rankings due to injury and bypassing the Chicago stop to play in TV's Superstars.

In her playoff against Marci Greer for third place Wright displayed her usual aggressive, no-nonsense style of intense concentration, winning 3-0, 3-0. She also teamed up with former husband/coach, Pete Wright, to win the \$2,500 first place check in the Pro Mixed Doubles, a new event for Fishkill. Lynn Adams and her partner placed second in the event only to split \$500. That meant that Wright actually took home more money than Adams (\$2,000 compared to \$1,500), as Shannon was quick to point out: *"I didn't do so bad, did I?"* *"Just ask her who won in the semis,"* reminded Adams.

In the other semi-final match McKay utilized her favorite playing style—passes, passes and more passes—to counteract Greer's serve and shoot. Since Greer upset McKay in the semis of the Boise pro stop last November, everyone takes notice when the two are paired up again.

Up and Comer Laura Martino (see page 21) gets another lesson from the best woman in the game, while in other quarters its Greer over Fran Davis, Adams over Janell Marriott and Wright over Karin Walton-Trent, top to bottom photos.



Fishkill, NY • April 23-26

First round: Heather McKay d. Peggy Steding, Elaine Lee d. Heather Strupp, Stacey Fletcher d. Jean Sauser, Laura Martino d. Connie Peterson, Fran Davis d. Terri Gilreath, Linda Prefontaine d. Joyce Jackson, Vicki Panzeri d. Linda Forcade, Marci Greer d. Melanie Taylor, Shannon Wright d. Caryn McKinney, Bonnie Stoll d. Ginger Sottile, Karin Walton-Trent d. Betsy Koza, Brenda Poe d. Jennifer Harding, Barbara Allweiss d. Peggy Gardner forfeit, Janell Marriott d. Rita Hoff, Barbara Maltby d. Mary Dee, Lynn Adams d. Susie Dugan

Second round: McKay d. Fletcher, Martino d. Lee, Davis d. Prefontaine, Greer d. Panzeri, Wright d. Stoll, Trent d. Poe, Marriott d. Allweiss, Adams d. Maltby

Quarters: McKay d. Martino, Greer d. Davis, Wright d. Trent, Adams d. Marriott

Semis: McKay d. Greer, Adams d. Wright

Third Place playoff: Wright d. Greer

Finals: McKay d. Adams

Heather McKay Takes Second National Title

—Arthur Shay photos

by Nicholas J. Schmitz

Lynn Adams "Wasn't
Putting Pressure on
Me Like the Last Time"

Top Seeded and Defending Women's Pro National Champion Heather McKay kept her Chicago victory streak intact by winning the second annual Women's Professional Racquetball Association pro/am national championships May 13-17 at the Charlie Club II in the Chicago suburb of Palatine.

McKay's surprisingly easy win was over Second Seed Lynn Adams of Costa Mesa, CA in the tournament that carried a \$20,000 purse. McKay beat Adams 3-0, 3-0

Heather McKay, left, puts every muscle into play, concentrating on her win against Lynn Adams in the finals of the women's pro Nationals.





Marci Greer's stamina is no equal to McKay's in the long semi-final match, the most dramatic of the tournament.



under the scoring system the W.P.R.A. has used during its 1980-81 tour season.

In two previous Chicago area tournaments the internationally known squash champion from Toronto, Canada defeated a tough Adams to reach the finals of the 1980 W.P.R.A. Nationals, and to win an exciting tie-breaker at the W.P.R.A. pro stop this past February.

Although 23-year-old Adams did not win a game from 39-year-old McKay at the 1981 Nationals, she did start out strong. Then after losing the first game of the first set by only two points, 11-9, Adams' game appeared to get on a roller coaster. It slumped at first, then dove steeply and finally recovered in the second set, but not enough to get over the hump of defeat.

McKay finished the first set by posting 11-8 and 11-5 victories. And she ended the match by taking the first three games of the second set 11-7, 11-8 and 11-8. A devastating forehand pinch was the shot with which McKay applied her coup de grace to Adams' national championship dream.

Going into the championship match McKay's two-fold strategy was to keep Adams off balance by mixing her pinch and passing shots and to deny Adams setups off the back wall. Between sets Adams admitted that McKay's strategy was working.

"She's real good in the middle of the court with her pinch shots," Adams said. "She was very good keeping me off rhythm. I'll have to try to get some sort of rhythm during the second set."

It never was to be, and McKay knew it.

"She wasn't putting pressure on me like the last time we played," McKay said. "She skipped balls that normally she wouldn't have. She was just too tight."

"Lynn's best shot is her backhand pinch. She didn't get many. On the other hand I was very pleased with my serve," McKay said. "I got a few aces and put a lot into it."

The pro division of the 1981 W.P.R.A. Nationals was unusually predictable. There were no major upsets, only a few minor ones and the top four seeds reached the semi-finals as expected.

As for the minor upsets 23rd ranked Kippi Bishop of Los Alimitos, CA edged 16th ranked Bonnie Stoll of Stamford, CT 3-2, 3-2 in the 32s. Ninth ranked Peggy Gardner of San Diego, CA got past sixth ranked Fran Davis of Montclair, NJ 3-2, 3-2 in the 16s. And last year's surprise fourth place finisher, 10th ranked Linda Prefontaine of Eugene, OR defeated sixth ranked Jennifer Harding of Milwaukie OR 3-1, 3-2, to reach the quarter-finals.

McKay knocked off Pro Qualifier Judy Thompson of Davenport, IA 3-0, 3-0, W.P.R.A. Rookie Brenda Poe of Miami Springs, FL 3-1, 3-0 and Gardner 3-0, 3-1 to reach the semis. Adams victimized Pro Qualifier Leslie Clifford of Los Angeles, CA 3-0, 3-1, Bishop 3-1, 3-1 and Prefontaine 3-0, 3-0.

Third Seed Shannon Wright of Las Vegas did not have it as easy. After handily dispatching Sheryl Ambler of Boise, ID

3-0, 3-0 in the 32s, Wright squeaked by the 13th ranked and upset minded Rita Hoff of St. Louis 3-2, 3-2, in the 16s. She later settled down enough to soundly defeat Former Women's NRC Champion Karin Walton-Trent, of Santee, CA 3-0, 3-1 in the quarter-finals.

Fourth Seed Marci Greer of Wichita, KS easily bounced local favorite, Pro Qualifier Sue Carow of Glenview, IL 3-0, 3-0 in the 32s, 13 Rank Vicki Panzeri of Seattle, WA 3-0, 3-0, in the 16s, and Fifth Seed and Top Rank W.P.R.A. Rookie Laura Martino of San Diego, CA 3-0, 3-1 in the quarters to complete the semi-final field of four.

Judging by the ease with which McKay put away Adams in the finals, the tournament really was won during the two exciting semi-final round matches. In the top bracket Greer pushed McKay, but eventually fell 3-2, 3-1, while in the bottom bracket Wright fell to Adams 3-1, 3-1.

The fourth game of the first set of the McKay-Greer match was probably the most exciting game of the tournament. Greer was down two games to one despite her great court coverage, and she was determined not to lose. The game saw-sawed back and forth with neither player able to come up with the necessary two point victory margin until Greer emerged on top with a 20-18 score. The standing-room-only crowd of 500 loved it, cheering each of the incredible gets and on each point.

"20-18, I can laugh about it now," McKay said after the match, "but it wasn't so funny then. We both had our chances."



Lynn Adams takes advantage of Shannon Wright's surprising tentativeness in the semis.

See page 51 for Caryn McKinney's photo.

But Greer's chances of winning the match apparently disappeared with that desperation game victory. McKay took the fifth and decisive game of the first set 11-5. Greer came back to win the first game of the second set 11-8, but she came up short the next three games 11-4, 11-4 and 11-9, dropping the second and decisive set 3-1. According to Referee Mike Lichtfuss Greer appeared spent during the second and third games of the second set.

McKay, on the other hand, admitted she started out slow and that she needed a good, hard match. "It will do me good," she said. "I was pleased with the way I finished up."

In the other semi-final round match Adams, who came into the tournament feeling very confident, played extremely well, taking the first two games 11-3 and 11-4.

"Normally the first two go to Shannon," Adams said. "I wanted to put pressure on her so she wouldn't have that cushion."

Adams became tentative during the third game, getting the ball up and giving it to Wright off the back wall. Wright won 11-7. However she blew a 9-8 lead in the next game, only to lose the game 11-9 and the set—3-1 to Adams.

Wright took the first game of the second set 11-9 but dropped the next three 11-9, 13-11 and 11-5.

"I think Shannon was scared coming into the tournament," Adams said after the match. "She was not the normal Shannon. I felt it was building, particularly after Fishkill."

"In the first game of the second set, when I wasn't making my shots, I'd go to the ceiling and all Shannon did was go back to the ceiling," Adams said. "It allowed me to get a rhythm with the ball."

Referee Jack Moskwa also noticed the difference in Wright's play.

"Shannon seemed to be a little sluggish. She just couldn't get into the match," he said. "It appeared she was a half-step behind most shots and that she gave up early in the second set. She also started to rush her shots, trying to overcompensate."

Adams looks forward to renewing her long rivalry with Wright.

"She can beat me and I can beat her, but she can no longer mess with my head," Adams said. "It took a long time for that to happen. We'll have some blockbuster matches in the future."

As for the W.P.R.A. amateur national championship Top Seed Caryn McKinney, a 23-year-old senior at Atlanta's Woodrow Wilson College of Law, defeated Barb Maltby, 32, Philadelphia, PA, the current North American Squash Champion. The score was 3-1, 3-1.

McKinney started slowly because Maltby's control, pinch shot squash style is different from most racquetball players. "It took me quite a while to get my rhythm and shots, but that's what I expected," said McKinney, who won *National Racquetball's* 1980 Most Improved Player contest for Georgia.

Although Maltby took the opening game 11-6, McKinney came back to take the next three 11-7, 11-9 and 11-8. The first two games of the second set also went to McKinney 11-2 and 11-4. Maltby, however, fought back. She took the third game 12-10, but had nothing left for the fourth and ultimately decisive game, which McKinney took 11-4.

"I was serving better in the second set," McKinney said. "Having the first set helps mentally. I got a couple of aces and she was not playing her offensive game."

"This is my last amateur tournament," McKinney said. "The win is a great confidence booster. I have a lot of work to do."

During the tournament the W.P.R.A. elected Francine Davis to replace Janell Marriott of Salt Lake City, UT as president. Also elected were Jennifer Harding, vice president, and Kippi Bishop, secretary. Other members of the board are Lynn Adams, Peggy Gardner and Joyce Jackson. ●

**Women's Nationals
Charlie Club, Palatine, IL
May 13-17 • \$20,000 Purse**

Round of 32: Heather McKay d. Judy Thompson, Brenda Poe d. Stacey Fletcher, Peggy Gardner d. Mary Dee; Fran Davis d. Barb Tennison, Laura Martino d. Barb Allweiss, Janell Marriott d. Terri Gilreath, Vicki Panzeri d. Caryn McKinney, Marci Greer d. Sue Carow, Shannon Wright d. Sheryl Ambler, Rita Hoff d. Peggy Steding, Elaine Lee d. Jean Sauser, Karin Walton-Trent d. Barbara Maltby, Jennifer Harding d. Joyce Jackson, Linda Prefontaine d. Betsy Koza, Kippi Bishop d. Bonnie Stoll, Lynn Adams d. Leslie Clifford

Round of 16: McKay d. Poe, Gardner d. Davis, Martino d. Marriott, Greer d. Panzeri, Wright d. Hoff, Walton-Trent d. Lee, Prefontaine d. Harding, Adams d. Bishop

Quarters: McKay d. Gardner, Greer d. Martino, Wright d. Walton-Trent, Adams d. Prefontaine

Semis: McKay d. Greer, Adams d. Wright

Finals: McKay d. Adams



Wright is an easy winner over Karin Walton-Trent in the quarters (photo above) and in other matches in this round Adams beats Linda Prefontaine, left, and Greer defeats Laura Martino. Not pictured is McKay's win over Peggy Gardner.



W.P.R.A. Rankings as of May 17, 1981

1. Heather McKay	610
2. Shannon Wright	530
3. Lynn Adams	520
4. Marci Greer	340
5. Francine Davis	160
Jennifer Harding	160
Karin Walton-Trent	160
8. Laura Martino	150
9. Peggy Gardner	140
10. Linda Prefontaine	130
11. Elaine Lee	110
Janell Marriott	110
13. Rita Hoff	100
Vicki Panzeri	100
15. Brenda Poe	90
16. Bonnie Stoll	80
17. Mary Dee	70
Caryn McKinney	70
19. Jean Sauser	60
Terri Gilreath	60
Stacey Fletcher	60
22. Sheryl Ambler	50
Kippi Bishop	50
Joyce Jackson	50
25. Melanie Taylor	40
Susie Dugan	40
Peggy Steding	40
28. Linda Forcade	30
Connie Peterson	30
Betsy Koza	30
Barb Allweiss	30
Barb Maltby	30

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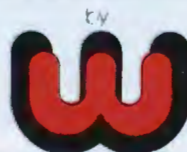
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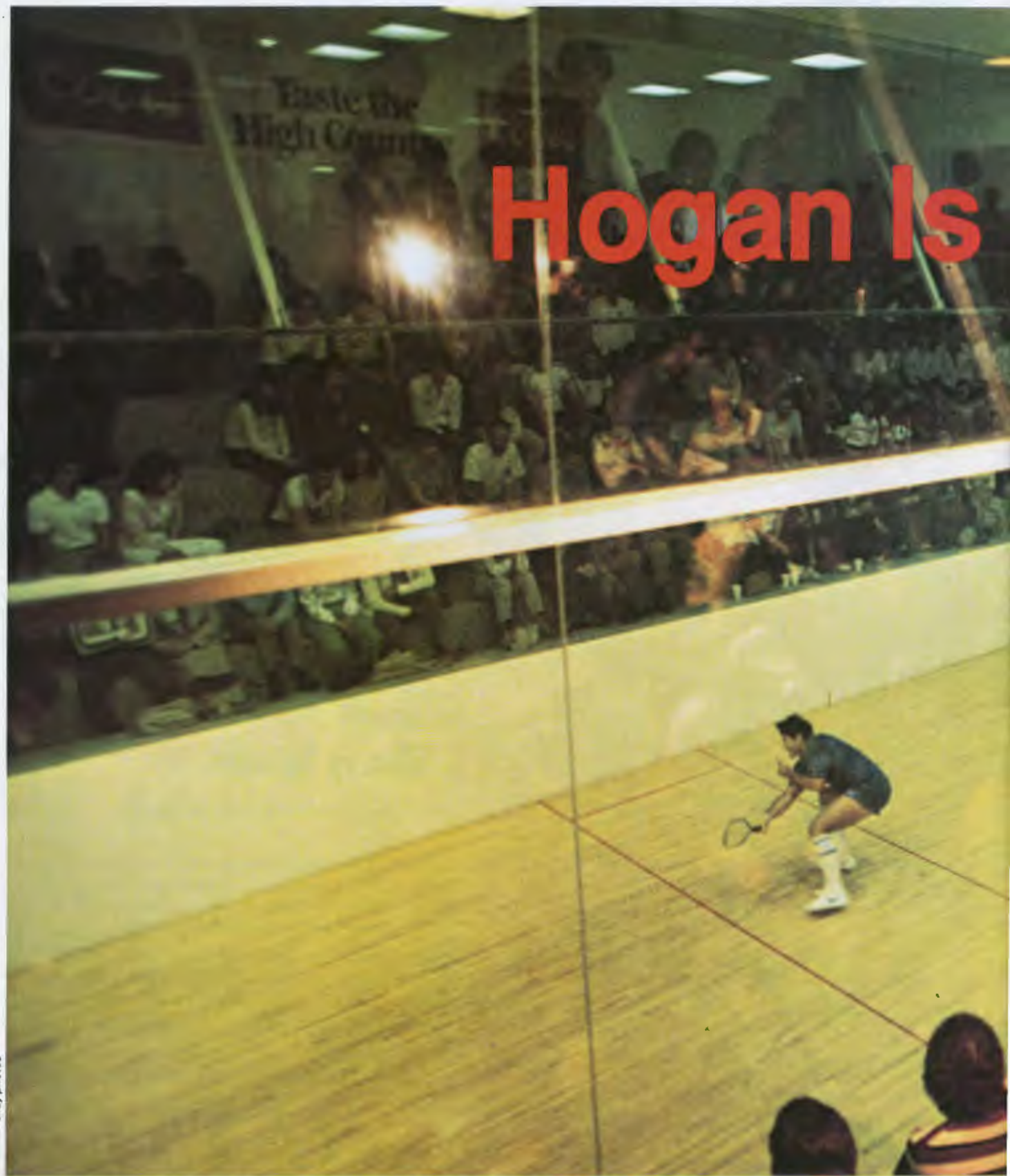
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Tournament Results

Hogan Is



—Lauren Shay photos

Hogan, right, gets the highest marks in the finals as he and Peck test each other before an overflow of fans.



"If I die tomorrow, I'll die knowing that I finally won in St. Louis"—
Marty Hogan to the audience after defeating Dave Peck for the \$25,000 Coors Grand Prix Championship

Hometown King

by Thomas J. Morrow

Marty Hogan began playing racquetball 14 years ago under the tutorship of his mother at the St. Louis Jewish Community Center— affectionately known as *"the J."* During the 14 years of hard work which has resulted in his becoming the best racquetball player in the world Hogan captured more than 50 various tournaments, but never in St. Louis. Hogan was the first to admit that a certain aura of pressure existed in his returning to his native community in May, and the tension grew when three other St. Louis professionals joined pro racquetball's other top 12 players at the \$25,000 Coors Grand Prix of Racquetball finals May 6-10 at the Town & Country Racquet Club.

As it has been for the past three years, pro racquetball is owned by Hogan. It's his game, with all others emulating his style in an attempt to catch the curly headed boy wonder whose power serving game has completely changed the pace and the face of this young sport.

There are less than six pro players in the game who can stay on the court with Hogan— no more than four on any consistent basis. Of these four Jerry Hilecher knows him best because he also learned to play the game at *"the J,"* in St. Louis along with Hogan and other boy-hood chums Ben Koltun and Doug Cohen.

It would be the older Hilecher who would develop first, becoming a top player, but it didn't take Hogan long to catch up.

In St. Louis at the Coors Grand Prix Hilecher, Dave Peck of El Paso and Mike Yellen of Southfield, MI would be the favorites— no different from the other eight National Racquetball Club tour stops this season. It would be Hilecher's daring dives, quickness and determination; Yellen's coolness, powerful drives and stamina, but, most of all, Dave Peck's ability, shrewdness and near flawless play that Hogan had to face once again.

Marty Meets— and Beats— Them in St. Louis

Falling into his familiar pattern—in the semis Hogan lets Yellen win the first game handily before the champ presses in the second game and jumps to a big tie-breaker lead.

In the finale to the season long Coors Grand Prix, a competition within the regular pro tour, the field was the top 16 players earning points in the 1980-81 season.

In the round of 16 on Thursday Craig McCoy of Riverside, CA was defeated by John Egberman of Boise, ID 21-14, 21-16; Mike Yellen downed Gregg Peck of El Paso 21-11, 21-9; Hilecher ousted Koltun after a close call in the second game, 21-5, 20-21, 11-7; Mark Morrow of Hawthorne, CA lost to Don Thomas of Mesa, AZ 21-6, 21-11; Steve Strandemo of San Diego dropped a close match to Lindsay Myers of Vancouver, BC 21-20, 21-14; Rich Wagner of San Diego beat Dave Bledsoe of Kingsport, TN 21-14, 21-4; Dave Peck defeated Doug Cohen of St. Louis 21-14, 21-19 and Hogan capped the evening by downing an ambitious Scott Hawkins of Santa Clara, CA 21-18, 21-9.

In Friday's quarter-final round it was Peck facing Wagner, Thomas against Hilecher, Egberman and Yellen, Myers pitted against Hogan.

Egberman gave Yellen a close match, even though the score, 17-21, 21-15, 11-4, doesn't necessarily reflect it. Yellen appeared bored, and not prepared to play as the aggressive Egberman chased him around the court.

"I not only hadn't decided to win, I hadn't made up my mind whether or not to play," said Yellen afterward. "John's a very good player and I was lucky to have gotten away with the win because I really didn't play very well."

In the Hilecher-Thomas match it became more evident that the St. Louis native was serious about winning this tournament. Hilecher played the best match he has turned in over the past three tournaments, ousting Thomas 21-1, 21-11.

Like Yellen Peck hadn't really gotten into the mood to play racquetball. When he met Wagner in the quarter-finals, he was up against a determined young man who saw an opportunity to make the semis for the first time this season. Wagner has to be considered for the most improved player honors this season as he regained lost ground after his serious auto crash last season. He started the season seeded 21 and has been as high as number five this year.



Peck found himself trailing in the first game 20-16 before he was able to bounce back and take the game 21-20. In the second game Peck survived with a 21-17 win to advance to Saturday's semi-finals.

Unlike their battle in Coral Gables the Hogan-Myers match was rather routine, with the Canadian National Champion Myers only threatening Hogan seriously in the second game which ended 21-19. Myers was blown out in the first stanza 21-11.

In the semi-final round Hilecher and Peck were paired, and it was Peck all the way. In the first game Hilecher led 4-2 early in the action, but Peck unleashed a series of brilliant killshots and ace serves which soon had him in a commanding lead, 12-5.

Hilecher rebounded with three more points, but Peck, again, scored on his powerful backhand with killshots from the back court which had him again comfortably ahead 18-8.

Hilecher would score only four more times before Peck iced the first game 21-12, with three more killshots, one with his backhand and two with the fore.

Peck seemed to be all by himself in the second game as he ran a 13-1 score courtesy of Mr. Hilecher, who had skipped him five of those points. Peck slammed two aces in a row for his first two points and hit accurately on two pinches and more killshots.

Hilecher seemed down, but he was by no means out. He came storming back, scoring 11 points to Peck's zero, bringing the score to stand at 13-12. But it was too little, too late. The 26-year-old Hilecher would score only one more point while Peck was on his way to the final round in a 21-13 second game win.

Probably the most entertaining match of the tournament, from a spectator's viewpoint, was the semi-final contest between Hogan and Yellen. Compared to the earlier, somewhat slow moving match with Peck and Hilecher, the Hogan-Yellen encounter was a shootout.

If Hogan was out to show the hometown crowd that he was the undisputed king of racquetball, he certainly was doing just that on Saturday evening before a capacity crowd at the Town & Country. But Yellen was also playing inspired ball, especially compared to his lackluster performance against Egberman the evening before.

Hogan jumped to a 6-2 lead, slamming his way ahead of the husky Yellen. Both players were shooting as if each were trying to see who could drive the ball harder and more accurately. Though Hogan would eventually prove to be the better shot, in the early going each player seemed to be equal to the other.

At 7-2 Yellen pulled within one, only to have Hogan keep moving out to a 12-7 lead. Yellen shaved it with a kill from the back court and an ace serve, but at 12-9 Hogan unleashed a series of spectacular killshots, seeming to alternate between the forehand and the backhand, ending the first game 21-9.

Hogan lost his concentration in the second game and seemed to roll over and play dead as Yellen overcame an early 6-0 deficit by taking advantage of five Hogan skips. The players had moments when their talents clicked at the same time, producing marathon rallies with 12 to 15 exchanges. Yellen won the first two in the second game, which was enough to give him the momentum to go on and win 21-14, even though Hogan had tied the score at 12-12.

Hilecher disappoints his hometown friends who see Peck outshoot Jerry in the semis.



Some of the crowd mumbled about Hogan's inconsistency, but he quieted disbelievers as he slammed eight points in the tie-breaker before allowing Yellen a serve. Yellen would score only two points with that serve and would see the offense only once more in this short game as Hogan made quick work of this opponent, 11-2.

Peck and Hogan have become the best match up in professional racquetball and although Hogan dominates in the victory column of this great series, Peck has never let the champion walk away with a win.

Peck, 24, and Hogan, 23, have met each other in Chicago, Memphis, Honolulu, Coral Gables and now St. Louis. Peck claimed victory only in Chicago, but Hogan was seriously challenged in the other matches. Hogan admits that Peck is the one player who can stay consistently with him in the arena.

"Dave isn't like most of the other players—you can't give him anything because he doesn't make many mistakes and he never makes the same one twice," said Hogan of his chief rival.

The St. Louis finals between Hogan and Peck would be different from the others in this exciting series. It would be almost boring. Conservative play from both players seemed to prevail.

Peck took an early 4-0 lead, almost quietly, and then skipped five shots in a row to Hogan, giving him a 5-4 edge. Hogan took this edge and ran the score to 11-6 before Peck responded.

Hogan led 14-7 when Peck began to make his move. As has been the case all season one player seems to spot the other a lead and then the catch up challenge begins. Peck didn't disappoint as he quickly tied the score at 14-14, with a series of forehand pinches and killshots.

But Hogan wasn't going to let Peck have the lead again in this first game and moved to score four more points—18-14. Hogan skipped Peck two points while en route to his first game win. Hogan ended the first game 21-17, with a beautiful forehand, back court killshot with the right side.

The second game seemed to go just the opposite of the first. Peck took a commanding lead from the champ and never relinquished it. The score stood at 9-2 before Hogan knew what happened. And unlike the first game, in which Peck awarded his adversary with a series of skips, he earned all but three of his first nine points with a nice mixture of kills, pinches and an accurately placed right corner splat from the back court.



In the quarters John Egberman, in the second photo from the top, continues his 1980-81 pro tour practice of scoring better against more formidable foes. Other quarters contenders, top to bottom, are Lindsay Myers, losing to Hogan; Rich Wagner, downed by Peck, and Don Thomas defeated by Hilecher.

At 14-8 Hogan attempted to recover, but Peck had too much momentum built to let anyone pass him. Peck ran out the score, ending the second game 21-11. Having scored the most points in the first two games earned him the initial tie-breaker serve.

Peck lost the offense almost immediately on a skip ball and Hogan proceeded to repeat his tie-breaker performance of the previous evening against Yellen. He scored six quick points on three forehand kills, a right corner pinch, an ace and a skip from Peck.

Peck scored his first point on a forehand, back court killshot, only to be answered by Hogan, who shot three more forehand kills and a left corner pinch. The score stood at 10-1, whereupon Peck shouted the announcement: "This game ain't over yet!"

Peck put his shots where his mouth was and scored four points on three kills and a right corner pinch.

But it was too little, too late.

Hogan regained the offense on a powerful mid-court killshot and then ended the tournament with a forehand killshot from the back court down the right side.

Asked about their somewhat conservative play after they had been awarded the \$8,000 and \$6,000 prize money, Hogan said: "I think we were testing each other instead of playing our usual game."

Peck agreed.

"When you assume you know everything about a player, you try to find out what they can't or can do," explained Peck. "There are few surprises for the two of us when we play, so I think we were trying to find new ground." ●

COORS \$25,000 Grand Prix Finals St. Louis May 6-10, 1981

Round of 16: Marty Hogan d. Scott Hawkins 21-18, 21-9; Lindsay Myers d. Steve Strandemo 21-20, 21-14; John Egerman d. Craig McCoy 21-14, 21-18; Mike Yellen d. Gregg Peck 21-11, 21-9; Jerry Hillecher d. Ben Koltun 21-5, 20-21, 11-7; Don Thomas d. Mark Morrow 21-6, 21-11; Rich Wagner d. Dave Bledsoe 21-14, 21-4; Dave Peck d. Doug Cohen 21-14, 21-19

Quarters: Hogan d. Myers 21-11, 21-19; Yellen d. Egerman 17-21, 21-15, 11-4; Hillecher d. Thomas 21-1, 21-11; Peck d. Wagner 21-20, 21-17

Semis: Hogan d. Yellen 21-8, 14-21, 11-2; Peck d. Hillecher 21-12, 21-13

Finals: Hogan d. Peck 21-17, 11-21, 11-5

Notes of the Tournament . . .

This Coors Grand Prix finale fielded the 16 contenders who had accumulated the most points per round while playing on the regular NRC 1980-81 pro tour. The \$25,000 purse made the St. Louis tournament one of the richest of the tours. (The Tournament of Champions and the Nationals are the only two that beat it.) During this entire season the Adolph Coors Company, headquartered in Golden, CO, contributed \$45,000 to professional racquetball. Providing beer and sponsoring a pre-tournament press party with free T-shirts and caps were Coors local distributors, Sam Tidmore and Vince Ventimiglia . . . Town and Country Racquet Club, one of the country's top ten tennis centers, is on its way to the same success with racquetball, if the tournament direction of Kathy Symons is any indicator. Under her leadership the rest of the Town and Country staff volunteered to put together a first class welcome for the St. Louis born pros . . . Luigi Tucci, manager of the club restaurant, kept players well fed all week . . . NRC director Dan Bertolucci, USRA Director Terry Fancher and USRA Tour Staff Member Larry Lee kept clear heads while refereeing and serving as linesmen for every pro match the entire week. ●



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Dave Peck Afloat in El Paso

Pittsburgh Steeler Quarterback Terry Bradshaw's first view of pro racquetball was a near perfect performance by the hometown favorite, Dave Peck, who floated through five matches to win the title at the El Paso Cancer Treatment Center Benefit tournament May 13-17 at the Supreme Court.

This was the first year that racquetball was part of the weeklong series of sports events now in its third year as a fund raiser for El Paso's not-for-profit outpatient facility that provides radiation therapy.

Peck carried the number two NRC pro tour rank going into the tournament, and he was seeded first in El Paso in the absence of NRC number one ranked Marty Hogan.

The husky 24-year-old proved he was clearly the best of the rest by keeping opponents' scores to no more than 13 points in any one game. None of Peck's matches went to the tie-breaker.

In the final match against Jerry Hilecher of Solana Beach, CA Peck earned 90 percent of his points on service, placement or execution. There were just three or four forced errors against Peck in the entire match.

In earlier rounds Peck did the same kind of damage to Rich Wagner of San Diego in the semis, Ben Koltun of St. Louis in the quarters, Mark Morrow of Hawthorne, CA in the 16s and Matt Matthews of Tampa, FL in the 32s.



John Eggerman, Dave Peck, Former Supreme Court Owner Bill Dunham and Club Manager Bob Mortimer, left to right, meet in the hospitality room at the Terry Bradshaw tournament. Mortimer and his wife, Cindy, along with Connie Dolezal, Angie Guzman and other members of the Supreme Court staff who donated their time, made players feel at home in the Texas border town. So did tournament Directors Carolyn Hersh and Armando Armengol, professor of Spanish studies at the University of Texas, El Paso, and a former prof at the University of Illinois. Gilbert Torres, El Paso racquetball buff, also lent his time.

The semi between Hilecher, ranked third as he arrived in El Paso, and Mike Yellen, filling the fourth spot, was more of a battle. Each player controlled a game apiece, and in the tie-breaker Hilecher jumped out to an 8-2 lead, only to have Yellen come back six points. But Yellen seemed to play to Hilecher's strong forehand, and the match ended 11-8 in Hilecher's favor.

Also to be noted was the fact that John Eggerman and Scott Hawkins are becoming consistent quarter-finalists, improving each pro stop. Eggerman of Boise, ID lost to Hilecher with respectable 21-20, 21-17 scores, while Santa Clara, CA's Hawkins fell to Yellen after showing well against Dave Bledsoe of Newport Beach, CA in the 16s.

Bret Harnett took over the number 19 pro rank that had belonged to Gregg Peck when the Las Vegas 17-year-old defeated Dave's younger brother 11-10 in this year's ongoing rookie battle. ●

**Terry Bradshaw
El Paso Cancer Treatment Center Benefit
Supreme Court, El Paso, TX May 13-17
\$15,000 in Prize Money**

Round of 32: D. Peck d. M. Matthews 21-8, 21-11; M. Morrow d. M. Ray 21-15, 6-21, 11-6; B. Koltun d. M. Levine 21-9, 21-17; C. McCoy d. S. Mondry 21-20, 21-13; D. Thomas d. D. Negrete 21-17, 21-13; D. Cohen d. D. Factor 21-5, 20-21, 11-3; S. Strandemo d. K. Kamalu 21-12, 16-21, 11-3; R. Wagner d. R. Canales 21-3, 21-9; M. Yellen d. S. Cullins 21-11, 21-12; B. Harnett d. G. Peck 21-16, 10-21, 11-20; S. Hawkins d. B. Wickham 21-2, 21-11; D. Bledsoe d. S. Merrill 21-15, 21-16; J. Eggerman d. G. Merritt 21-14, 9-21, 11-7; L. Meyers d. S. Oliver 15-21, 21-18, 11-0; K. Dunlap d. B. Vierra 5-21, 21-4, 11-6; J. Hilecher d. G. Price 21-16, 14-21, 11-3

Round of 16: Peck d. Morrow 21-13, 21-10; Koltun d. McCoy 21-18, 21-10, 11-7; Thomas d. Cohen 12-21, 21-18, 11-0; Wagner d. Strandemo 21-18, 21-12; Yellen d. Harnett 21-7, 21-8; Hawkins d. Bledsoe 17-21, 21-4, 11-8; Eggerman d. Meyers 21-13, 21-1; Hilecher d. Vierra 21-15, 21-11

Quarters: Peck d. Koltun 21-9, 21-3; Wagner d. Thomas 21-13, 21-11; Yellen d. Hawkins 21-7, 21-12; Hilecher d. Eggerman 21-20, 21-17

Semis: Peck d. Wagner 21-6, 21-4; Hilecher d. Yellen 21-11, 12-21, 11-8

Finals: Dave Peck d. Jerry Hilecher 21-8, 21-6

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