

National Racquetball®

Vol. 9, No. 8
August, 1980
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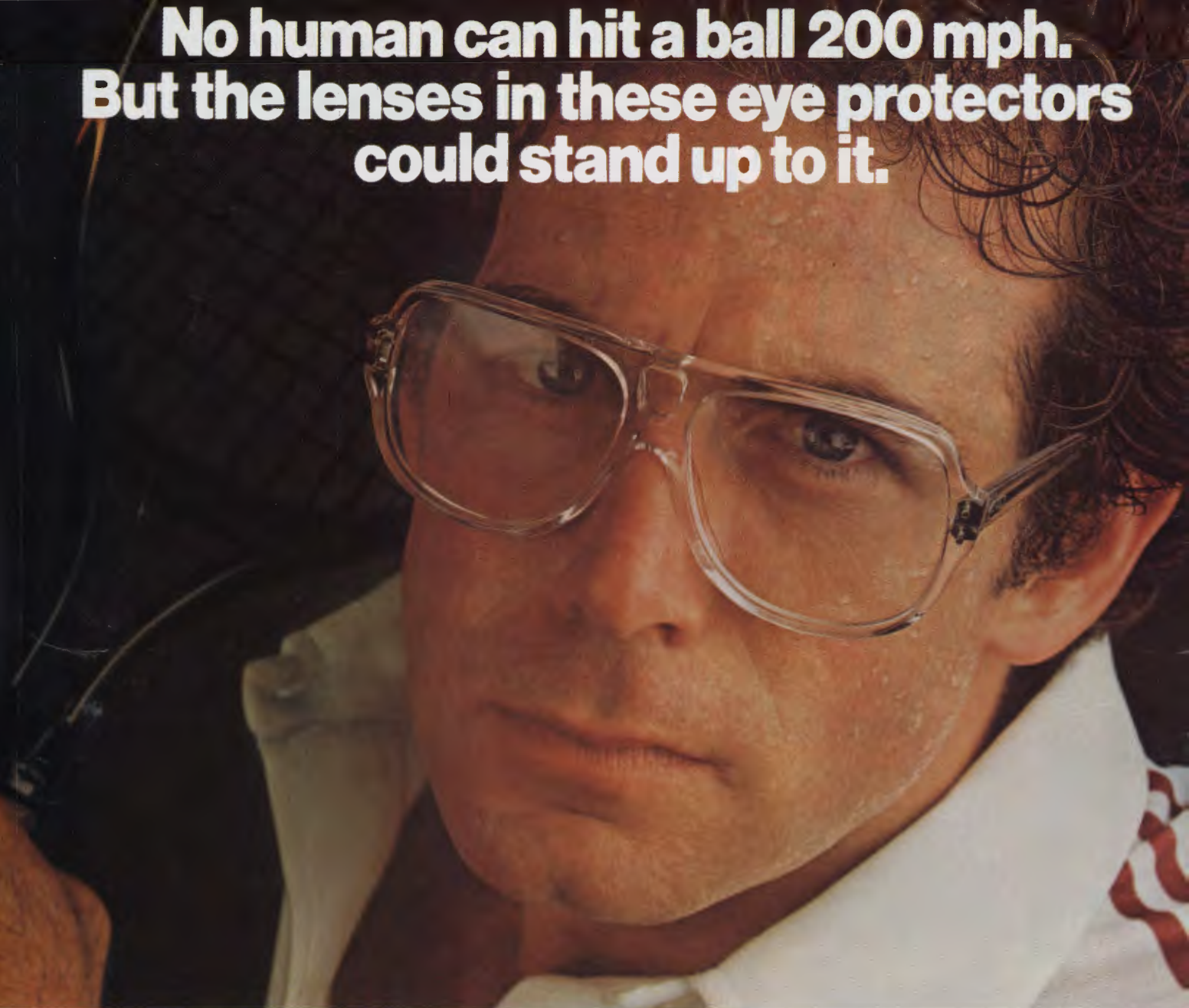
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**ACTION
EYES™**

BY BAUSCH & LOMB

National Racquetball®

Vol. 9, No. 8
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On the Cover . . .

A hand in the gallery mirrors Marty Hogan's triple victory sign at the moment that racquetball's highest money earner becomes racquetball's three time National Champion. Turn to page 60 for more pictures and the full story of pro play at the June Nationals in Las Vegas, and check through this issue for reports on Nationals amateur competition.

—Arthur Shay photo

Thinner and Better

More racquetball news in a smaller space is what you're getting starting with this August issue of *National Racquetball*.

National Racquetball's newer, smaller body type size compacts our stories into fewer pages which makes it easier to keep up with rising costs of paper and postage. We pass this savings onto you by avoiding a subscription increase.

We think you'll find our streamlined *National Racquetball* just as informative and entertaining as ever. And you still get it for just \$12 a year.

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From Bob Kendler



Aggressive Action

These are excerpts from Bob Kendler's welcoming address at the USRA State chairperson convention May 31 in Las Vegas.

Please forgive me when I tell you I feel just like an old alumnus speaking to the honor students of the graduating class. You know, you are our honor students, and you certainly have earned your right to be here. In fact, you deserve much MORE than this small token of our gratitude for all the help you give us in your state.

As one who came through the same school I hasten to add that racquetball can give you the happiest days of your life, and our sole purpose in inviting you here is to demonstrate to you that administering racquetball can be just as much fun as playing it. Just ask the man who administrates!

I wish there were an easier way for me to pass on to you over 50 years of administering court sports. But since there isn't, I want you to know I am here to share with you the knowledge that comes only from being *first* a player, and *second* an administrator.

Having a player's point of view and having won some national championships, I was well prepared for the viewpoint and the challenge that made both handball and racquetball the overwhelming favorites they are today. Long before racquetball was born we forged together another family of players who brought great distinction to handball here and abroad. We did it by practicing the Golden Rule, in deed as well as in thought. You can be absolutely sure that whatever we do, it is based on principle. It also must be the consensus of one body of people reflecting the "togetherness" that comes from being joined in one common sport.

It should be very easy for you to accept the family idea in racquetball. Unlike other sports we have a togetherness . . . a sociability that is unique in the sports world. Did it ever occur to you that membership in our Association is like joining a fraternity of like minded missionaries who have embarked on a course of building both a sport and its image? There is no monetary reward in anything we do. We are motivated only by the firm resolve to raise, to the highest conceivable level, the quality of play and the character of the player. That's why you will find Bible verses in our editorials and scholarship awards in our budget. With total "togetherness" we fully demonstrate our overriding concern for America's troubled youth.

I speak for every member of our staff when I say we thank you, we welcome you, we commend you. We thank you for not only giving us your week here in Las Vegas, but for all the weeks you give us back home. It certainly is no chore for me to warmly welcome all of you and express my gratitude for your attendance. We welcome you not only for taking the time to be a part of our workshop, but for all the time you take from your family during your state tournaments. You can believe me when I say you are the best friends our young players have, and we commend you for it!

As I was coming in here today, one of our new chairpersons asked me if this was our Annual Convention. I hastened to say that it was not a convention like many. We are not like the Olympic Committee or the A.A.U. where every decision is a legislative nightmare requiring years of parliamentary procedure . . . and, most times, the original intent is lost in the process. When a progressive idea presents itself to us, we thoroughly analyze it at our staff meetings, then we test it on state chairmen we think are most knowledgeable, and we make an immediate determination based on what is good for the sport in general and for the player in particular.

I have heard there is money to be made in racquetball, but this has not been our experience, or our purpose. We are free to make whatever disposition of our income we choose, and this workshop is one of our choices. We like workshops. We like scholarships. We like educating the educators . . . not only to increase participation, but to increase the quality of play. And this we have been doing, from the day we first introduced modern racquetball to America. We take great pride in what we are doing, and we know that players yet unborn will be blessed by what we do today.

And that's the way I want you to feel about our time here together. Let's all talk about excellence. Let's all think about excellence. And let's all demonstrate excellence!

There is absolutely no way we can improve our performance without aggressive state chairpersons. I hope all of you know that I think of you as our quarterbacks . . . and while we may be coaching from the *sidelines*, we know *full* well that without your passes and plays — without your drive — we are not going to win a lot of victories. I happen to live a few blocks from the Chicago Bears training field and Coach Neill Armstrong's home in Lake Forest. So I am never at a loss for professional advice in big sports management, and that's what we need most in the racquetball structure. Don't be surprised when I tell you that George Halas has some very bright assistants. They are the keys to his kingdom. *You* are the keys to ours! You know what they emphasize, over and over again? *Aggressive action!*

Doesn't sound like much, but when you see what Billy Martin has done with the Oakland A's, you won't discount Aggressive Action. As of today two tailend teams *last* year (Oakland and Toronto) are close to the lead in their divisions *this* year. What did it? Aggressive Action.



Bob Keenan (in white shirt) USRA director, and Richard Turek, computer rating system specialist, examine displays by association supporters Saranac Glove and Wagner Thirst Quencher — at the Las Vegas meeting.



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That's where you come in. We can do all the coaching in the world from the bench, but nothing takes the place of what YOU do with your team *off* the bench . . . like Billy Martin does.

Your team is your state. When you think of what Roger Staubach has meant to the Dallas Cowboys, then you know what you mean to your team. They need all the leadership you can give them . . . plus ideas that will bring more play to the court clubs and more fun for your members. If everyone in this room exchanges his best idea for someone else's, this trip could make you an overnight genius!

Let me give you some of MY ideas. Never criticize other tournaments. Encourage them. Don't respond to unwarranted attacks. Ignore them. You can hold your head high, since no one enjoys the regard and respect that you do. You are an executive of an honored governing body, and we don't dignify bad manners or bad mouth. Remember we are the recognized worldwide headquarters for handball and racquetball. No matter what title is frivolously associated with other events, our tournaments *ARE* the National Championships, and our seeds *ARE* the accepted rankings and our rules *ARE* Bible with friend and foe alike. No one ever challenges our leadership, our authority or our judgment.

We think our best idea is to put far more emphasis on our amateur promotion. We have any number of surprises next season, not only for our adult amateurs, but our Juniors as well. And you know we are constantly expanding our budget for amateur awards while adding to the scholarship fund as well. For the Juniors we are hoping to make an announcement soon that will bring them a "two wheel" surprise. If we succeed, it will be a deluxe award and an enormous incentive. All in all this will be the year of the amateur, and we'll stop at nothing to convince them that amateur play is equally as important as professional, if not more so! For our chairpersons this should be most stimulating, since virtually all of your efforts are amateur oriented. This year you can look for lots more goodies for the folks back home.

There is the Outdoor One-wall Championship planned for New York City this summer led by Jim Pruitt, our Pennsylvania chairperson. All of this was HIS idea and HIS work. Talk about *Aggressive Action*!

Jim Stevens is another great idea man. Through his efforts the National Juniors are being staged in Indianapolis, and this should be a banner year. Not only good location but superb management, and Jim Stevens can take the credit. More *Aggressive Action* at work!

I mention only two of our most successful people even though there are numerous other examples of outstanding performances by aggressive and active chairpersons throughout the country. The two I mentioned, Jim Stevens and Jim Pruitt, are an inspiration to all, and you will find them easy to meet and invigorating to talk to. You will also find that they are intensely aggressive and loaded with action.

With so much to do for our sport right here at home you may wonder why I am devoting so much effort internationally. The answer is very simple. There is so much organizational work going on in Europe today, that it would be foolhardy for us not to establish ourselves before free choice disappears from the international marketplace. And that is always the ultimate objective of government-managed sports bodies, several of which now exist.

They say the penalty of success is to be followed by imitators. We are flattered that everything we do is immediately imitated by our poor relatives. And poor they are. No one has enriched the sport as we have.



Two of the farthest traveling chairpeople — Jane Goodsill from Hawaii and Deno Paolini from Alaska.



Money, rules, ideas, celebrities, scholarships, public relations and, best of all, women! Can you think of one thing that someone *else* initiated? I can't! We did it all.

Everything that's official begins at our headquarters. We make all the rules, run all the championships, and if there is anything new, you can be sure we put it together at one of our staff meetings. And you already read it first in *National Racquetball* magazine.

Put our pros in their proper perspective, and you will find that, without their spectacular shows, racquetball would lose a valuable ingredient in this mad scramble for sports superiority. By the way does any other organization promote pros? Do you know of anything that has given our sport more prestige than the performance of our pros? Do you think it is easy to raise three or four hundred thousand dollars a year to finance these tours?

Just so that you understand these figures if you are one of those who think the first prize is \$100,000, let me clarify the distribution of money. The overall prize package for this particular event is \$100,000 but \$30,000 is the actual first prize. The balance is needed for other prizes, referees, linesmen, per diem, travel and the implementation fees to stage the event. It should be interesting to know that this year the prize money was double that of last year, and that *again* demonstrates aggressive action.

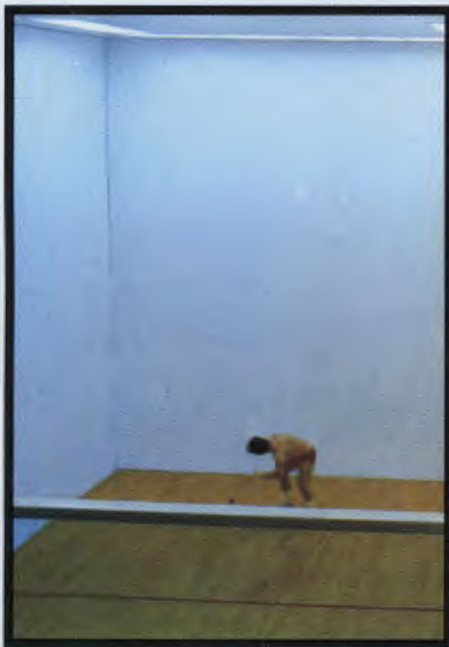
By the way did it ever occur to you that *no one*, absolutely no one, puts out anywhere near the amount of money we provide for prizes? Did it ever occur to you that no one even attempts to put on a pro tour? Did it ever occur to you that no matter who a pro plays for, they ALL play on our tour? They are not always on our side, but they are always happy with our prize money. We will *always* have the top players; we will *always* have the biggest purse; we will *always* have the most prestigious sponsors, and we will *always* treat the players as we did on the first day we started.

One of the by-products of our broadening image presents a unique opportunity. As you know, there are some places on earth where squash is very highly regarded. For years there have been overtures made for us to become involved. I was quite cool to the idea until a challenge entered into the discussions. Simply put, squash felt their pros could beat ours, *in racquetball*! I hope to work out an international showdown between the long racquet and the short racquet, the fast ball and the slow ball. This should add considerably to the prestige of racquetball because squash is played in some very elegant clubs and by some very distinguished sportsmen.

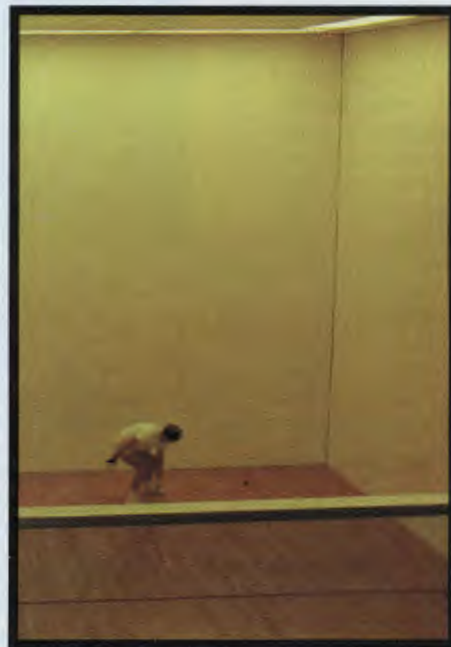
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Should we be fortunate enough to make network TV, we just might have to change our scoring rules. We recently sent a handball team to Ireland for several days of TV taping. Ireland is fascinated with regular weekly handball shows, but the games are limited to strict time frames. Three 20 minute segments with every serve a scoring point, no time outs, and some other minor innovations make the game suitable for TV and in no way limit the play. As in basketball and football the clock controls the game, and this is a must if we ever hope to be on television. We should all think about this because it is only a matter of time when we won't have a free choice

Speaking of free choices there is something that needs to be said about our free choice of the Seamco Ball as "official" for our tournaments. Many years ago the Seamless Rubber Company competed vigorously for our handball business. We were very impressed by their presentation but, in the final analysis, we gave our official blessing to Spalding. In over 30 years Spalding has sold many millions of handballs, and it was their royalties on these balls that gave us the funds to do all the things that must be done to build an American sport, with national and regional tournaments, professional and amateur play and a strong educational program.

During this same period Seamless made an excellent handball, and succeeded in capturing a share of the market. When racquetball came along, we tested many balls and negotiated with numerous companies. All things considered there was no other choice. I can name a dozen reasons besides the ball that made Seamco's choice a wise one.

You know it takes money to put on a National Championship. A lot of money. When we first started \$300 was enough. Now \$100,000 is the call! So we went with the ball we thought would be most popular because our royalties depended on player support. Happily player acceptance of the Seamco ball gave us the income we needed to put racquetball where it is today. No other firm matched Seamco for royalties, quality or giveaways. Would it surprise you to learn Seamco has given absolutely free in excess of 35,000 dozen balls to USRA sanctioned tournaments?

Seamco has been our choice, and as long as they continue to make the most popular ball, we will use it. We know there will always be players with other preferences, and we understand. But the choice we made was just as good for you as it was for us, and we would make the same choice again. We have nothing but the highest regard for Al Mackie, Seamco's

NRC Director Dan Bertolucci greets Lori Nave, New York, left, and Millie Mankertz, Oregon.



president, and if I may be so bold as to say it, *"Without Seamco, your entry fee would be twice what it is now."*

Racquetball is not self supporting, and unless you have a civic minded, unselfish, and generous sponsor, you can dismiss from your mind the greatness that lies ahead for racquetball. Why do you think all our competitors fall flat on their faces? You can't do it with entry fees, or contributions or ticket sales. Like baseball and football which survive on television income, we need royalty income. That's why you should do all you can to push our sponsors' products.

Now Leach is important in another way. Their contribution is not in royalties, but in talent. They really do two things — provide GREAT players and GREAT sponsors. From a cash standpoint the money they spend is enormous, but far more important, the sponsors they provide have put racquetball in the major leagues. I don't believe any of you know Leach has provided most of the sponsors, most of the pros and most of the prize money. Believe me without Leach and their monumental contribution of players and prize money, racquetball would still be on the back burner! Lets face it. We think the pro tours made racquetball what it is today. We also think Leach gave pro racquetball its great start and no one will ever deny that Charlie Drake was the real spark plug of our pro tours. I have no doubt we would have developed pro racquetball ultimately but, with Leach, we did it overnight. Here again they have earned your support because they

certainly don't profit from the pros. The pros profit from them . . . all the pros, no matter who they play for!

One of our lesser lights of the past year was our loss of the women pros. I approach this subject with no little trepidation, knowing that *"fools rush in where angels fear to tread."* A wise man probably would retreat and leave well enough alone.

George Meredith was most unkind when, after a tiff with his wife, he wrote *"women will be the last thing civilized by man."* George Eliot, being a woman, made an appropriate response when she wrote *"I am not denying women are foolish. God Almighty made 'em to match the men!"*

Often described as the weaker sex many women don't seem to fit that category. They swim across the English Channel, wrestle, compete at West Point and do marvelous things in gymnastics. Women say they want equal pay for equal work. Obviously they ought to have it. They are just as ambitious as men and have to pay their bills just as promptly. They want equality and ought to have it without question or reservation. I think we all agree that the Equal Rights Amendment should be the law of the land.

None of this, however, has any bearing on the ratings. And prize money always reflects the ratings. As long as I have been in racquetball, women have never attracted as large an audience as the men. Personally I enjoy a women's match equally as well, but my opinion doesn't count. The number of spectators counts.

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Every year, however, the women's audiences have increased. Improved play has contributed more to this than anything. And I have no doubt that one day the women will command a far more substantial pot of prize money than they are offered today. But until that day arrives, there is nothing much the NRC can do about it. We can't take money out of the sponsor's pocket and arbitrarily give it to the gals. Sponsors evaluate the attendance of an event, and if the tariff is too high, they pass. That's what happened this year.

I think the women know I am very unhappy with their departure. I started their pro tour. I put up the money for their first events. I added the money that gave them their first increase. I did all this *personally*, because I have always been in the ladies' corner. If they succeed on their own, I'll be just as proud as they are.

Because we're all attracted to the sport of racquetball, I'm sure you can relate to a story I just heard about a fellow who was told by his doctor that he needed a heart transplant. "Fortunately," the doctor explained, "you have three choices. We have the heart of a 21-year-old marathon runner who was run over by a car; another from the wide receiver of the Dallas Cowboys, who drowned in a boating accident; or you can have the heart of a 58-year-old racquetball referee who died of natural causes."

The patient immediately chose the racquetball referee, and when the astonished doctor asked *why*, the patient replied, "Because I figure it was never used!"

Before I step down, I would just like to introduce you to two of our best unpaid workers — my wife, Evie, and our younger daughter, Kip, of our staff. And speaking about staff I think every man and woman we have is the BEST I can find anywhere in the country. Please let us know how each of us can help each of you. ●

Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler



Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God.

1 John 4:7



From the NRC National Director

Tribute to Those Who Don't Always Win

As I look back over the tournament play that culminated in the Nationals, I become more aware of the fact that our sport is characterized by hundreds of players whose determined personal efforts, high standards of excellence and spirit of friendship reign supreme. Those of you who can identify with these creditable characteristics are truly the heroes of our game.

To you the NRC/USRA pays tribute and thanks, for the support you've given us in helping bring you the finest in racquetball.

We are proud of our champions, for sure, and we are proud of those who *also* played. Give us the losers, those of you who never say die, without whom there would be no winners. Give us those of you who find victory in never ending devotion to our sport, for without your loyal support, we would be nothing.

You made the phenomenal growth of racquetball a reality, you made it the sport of the 80s. With this in mind you can be assured of more great USRA/NRC programs. More scholarships to be given away, more tournaments in the schedule, more age divisions for men and women, international competition and expanded junior programs and—yes—even women pros as part of the overall USRA/NRC umbrella.

The achievements and success each of you aspire toward individually benefits all of us in racquetball.

Thanks for allowing us to serve you. It's been our privilege. ●

Dan Bertolucci

Dan Bertolucci

From Our Readers



Demoralizing

Dear Mr. Kendler:

I was very disappointed to see the model on your May cover, but then I saw the "Hallelujah Racquetball" article and read

the offensive slogan on the T-shirts. . . . This demoralized me. Up until this issue I had been most pleased to see the apparent good taste you've shown in selection of photography, advertising and copy.

Your use of a scripture verse at the end of your "Opinions" is pleasing and suggests to me that you are looking to God's word for guidance.

If so please prayerfully evaluate this issue.

Richard S. Marks
Waynesboro, PA

From Father and Son

Dear Dan:

I just wanted to drop you a short note thanking you for the help and favors that you did for both Mike and me during the past season.

I really appreciated it and am looking forward to seeing you in September when the new season starts.

Mort Levine
Rochester, NY

Go! Book

Dear Ms. Brusslan:

In the February issue of *National Racquetball* an article entitled "Putting Your Heart Into Your Game" referred to a booklet titled *Go! An Exercise Program for Healthy People* published by the Chicago Heart Association. However the article did not give the mailing address required in order for us to request this booklet.

Louis F. Mortillaro, Ph.D.
Las Vegas, NV

Write to Jack Ruane, Chicago Heart Association, 20 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL 60606. Ed

Tournament Help

Dear Skokie Gang:

Thanks again for a great tournament and the opportunity to help you with its operation. I know having the state chairpersons meeting at the same time as the Nationals causes some more work for the staff, but I hope we made up for it by giving you some additional help running the tournament.

Scott Deeds
Long Beach, CA



Prepare To Defend Yourself



Pros like Dave and Shannon know that skill is not enough. The demanding Racquet Sports require both strength and endurance. Nautilus has developed the conditioning equipment and concepts to prepare your players for their day on court.

Dave Peck and Shannon Wright preach what they practice. For information on Racquetball and conditioning seminars in your club contact Nautilus Sports/Medical Industries.

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**PRESENTING THE ONLY
RACQUET THAT CAN GIVE
MARTY HOGAN 100%.**



Leave it to Leach to deliver 100%. And more.

Back in the fall of 1978, we gave Marty Hogan something he couldn't get from anyone else in the industry.

A Leach Graphite 100. The world's first 100% graphite racquetball racquet.

Since then, Marty and his Graphite 100 have teamed up to turn the pro tour upside down. With wins in every major tournament—including the 1978 Pro Championship.

And with back-to-back wins to kick off this year's tour.

Why Marty won't go to court without graphite.

Graphite is probably the perfect racquet frame material. Ounce for ounce, it's several times lighter than aluminum. Yet, even stronger and stiffer.

And that translates into extra power and speed for any player's game. Including Marty Hogan's.

What's more, no one's been able to copy Leach's innovative technology. So the Leach Graphite 100 is still the world's first and only 100% graphite racquet.

There's more than one way to win with graphite.

Obviously, not everyone needs the awesome power of 100% graphite. So Leach created three other racquets that harness graphite's winning ways.

Like the Leach Graphite Competitor. An ingenious

combination of maple, ash, bamboo and graphite laminates make it Leach's lightest racquet. Strong and stiff, it's a hybrid that packs tremendous power.

A brand-new breed of Bandido.

Then there's the new Leach Graphite Bandido. We took one of the winningest designs and—without altering its shape a single millimeter—beefed up its glass-filled frame with graphite.

The result is, quite possibly, our most dangerous glass-filled design.

The Performer still is.

The Leach Graphite Performer was

one of the sport's first composites to successfully marry the awesome power of graphite and the flex of glass. Dark and deadly, it features a modified head, narrow throat and one of the biggest sweet spots in the sport.

There's not a single imitator that's its equal anywhere.

Number One by process of elimination.

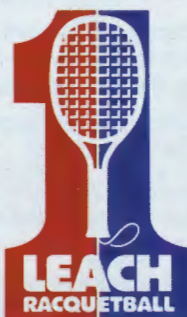
Collectively, our Leach racquets are the winningest graphites on the pro tour. Bar none. With the largest selection of graphite racquets available from any single source.

But then, when it comes to graphite, only Leach can give you 100%. And more.

Because only Leach can give you a choice.



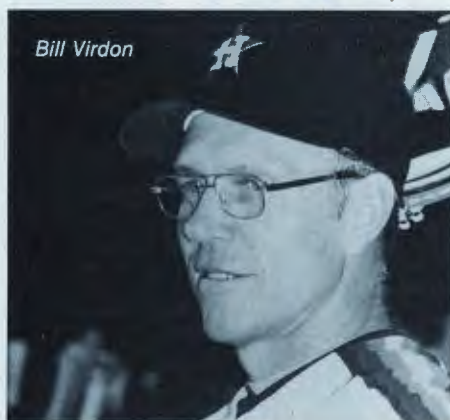
Leach Graphites: The Competitor, Bandido and Performer.



NUMBER ONE BY DESIGN™

10251 Scripps Ranch Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92123, (714) 578-8900

Bill Virdon's Waiting Game



Bill Virdon

Life on the road for a manager of the boys of summer is lonely.

Bill Virdon, manager of the Houston Astros, has spent a thousand nights in strange towns some of them good, but more of them bad. Time between ball games can drive a manager up a wall.

Virdon picked four walls. The ones surrounding racquetball and handball courts.

"Believe me," Virdon was saying recently while on a three-day, three-game stop in San Diego, "The hardest thing for a manager or a player to handle is spare time. Once the game starts it's great. But it's the waiting that gets to you."

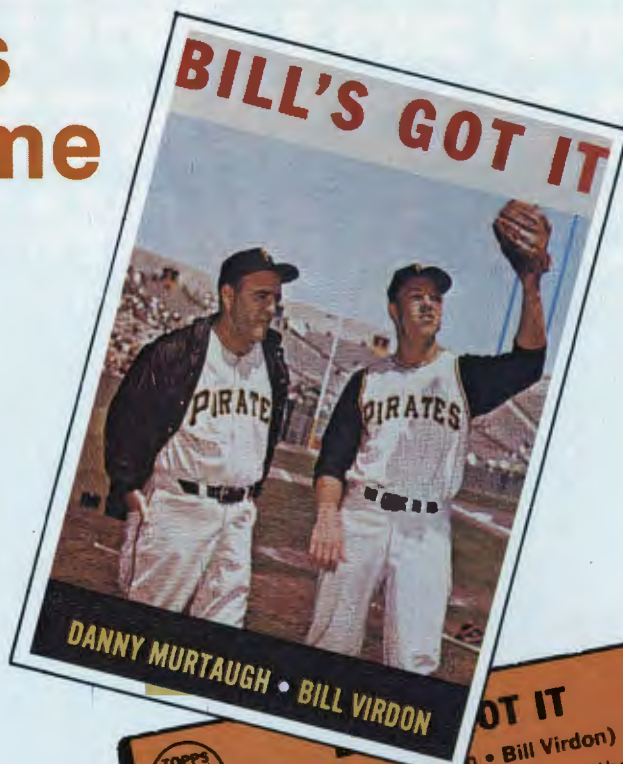
To deliver himself from this boredom he plays racquetball.

"I play more on the road than I do when I'm home," says Virdon. "I've met a few people from the different cities in which we play, people who I can play with when I come to town. But usually the court I play at will set me up with a partner."

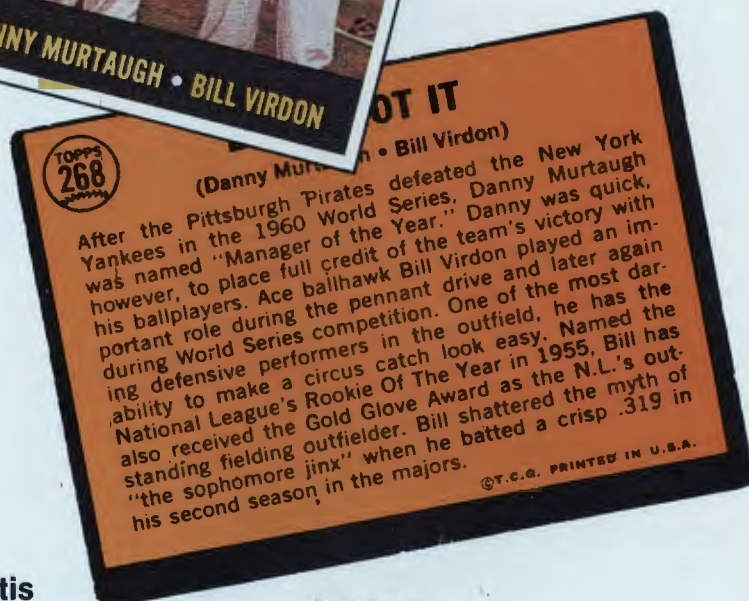
Home for William Charles Virdon and his strikingly attractive wife Shirley, is Springfield, MO.

There the Virdons make racquetball a family affair. They have three daughters, Debbie, Linda and Lisa. And though none of the girls live at home, racquetball draws them together.

"I play two or three times a week," says Shirley Virdon. "Normally I play other women, but if I don't have a partner Bill and I will play. When we play I get defensive about him telling me what to do and consequently I play rather poorly. He's patient, however, and doesn't get upset. I get upset with myself."



Racquetball Beats Boredom for Astro's General Manager



by Carl Bettis

"I play with my daughters during the off-season. And even during the season when we play in St. Louis and they come to the games."

"Racquetball is an excellent family game," says Bill. "The game can be learned easily and—compared to other string sports—it's fairly inexpensive."

"But, like any sport, if you want to become good at it you have to play often. At least four or five times a week."

That's the chink in Bill's racquetball game.

"I don't have the time to spend to become really good," Virdon says. "But I don't like to be embarrassed."

Embarrassment has not been Bill's partner in life, not as a player, not as a manager and certainly not as a man.

Best Rookie

This private, friendly man broke into the major leagues with the St. Louis Cardinals in the spring of 1955. He was named Rookie of the Year when he batted .281 with 17 home runs and 68 runs batted in. After being traded to Pittsburgh he was the centerfielder on the Pirates' 1960 World Championship club, that unforgettable series when leadoff hitter Bill Mazeroski slammed a Bill Terry fastball over the left centerfield wall in the bottom of the ninth in the seventh and deciding game to defeat the Yankees.

Virdon spent 12 years in the majors and averaged .267 as one of the outstanding centerfielders.

As a manager Bill's teams, which include the Pirates, the Yankees and the Astros, have won 646 games and lost 341, a winning percentage of 65 percent. He was the American League Manager of the Year in 1974.

Bill Virdon, shown here with Harvey Haddix, center, and Dick Groat, played for Pittsburgh from 1956 until 1975, when he moved into Houston management.



1955 Rookie of the Year Virdon gets a homerun welcome from Hall of Famer Stan Musial, while Wally Moon looks on during an exhibition game against the Chicago White Sox.

As a man to know him is to like him. A man of strong character. A leader. A man you'd want to lead your son. The strong, silent type.

"I say what I have to say," he says. "I don't like people who pop off. I don't like b.s. I don't like know-it-alls. I've been in baseball 30 years but the longer I'm in it the less I know."

One thing Virdon does know is that racquetball is good for baseball players.

"I think players should play more, but only in the off season," he says.

"Because of the chance of injury I don't think they should play once the season starts. And I don't recommend it for pitchers because of the strain on the arm.

"Racquetball is tremendous for developing hand-eye coordination. It's a great conditioner. It develops quick reactions. Mentally it's like baseball in some ways but physically it's much more demanding than playing nine innings of baseball.

"In racquetball you have to think quickly. What are you going to do with the ball once you get to it? You must select the right shot."

Two of the Astro manager's favorite family competitors are his wife, Shirley, and his daughter, Lisa.



— Teri Cluck photos

Competitor

While Bill was in Dan Diego, he arranged a match with your reporter. He said he'd been playing handball for 19 years and racquetball for about three.

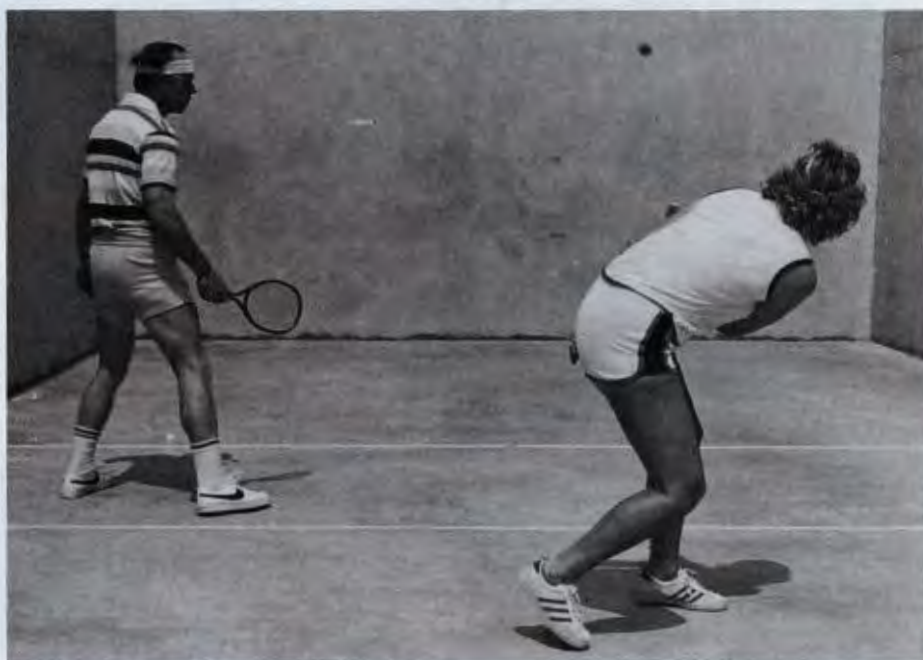
"I consider handball harder to play than racquetball," he says. "You have to be ambidextrous to play handball and there's more bending and running."

Virdon turned 49 on June 9. He's an excellent physical specimen and has the appearance of a much younger man. His stomach is flat and it looks as hard as a washboard.

Though he lost both games, 21-4 and 21-14, the scores were not indicative of how hard I had to work. He's a competitor. If you can't put the ball away with a rollout or a clean pass or pinch, he'll run the ball down or dig it out. Now remember folks Virdon is 49 and his opponent is 15 years his junior.

"I can't hit the ball low enough," he says. "I don't play enough to score well. My offensive game is weak but I can play defense. I can dig out the shots. You have to score in racquetball when you get the chance. That's my weakness."

"I can play with top B racquetball players and top A handball players. Of course A and B players here are better than where I live. This is a racquetball hotbed."



Spring training is three-wall time for Bill and Shirley Virdon.

"But then I play this game for the workout. To get in and stay in shape. But don't get me wrong. I play to win. I don't pick on easy touches. I want a game! No one can win all the time but you have to give the effort to win."

"In baseball you have to face the fact you can't win all the time. It's where you're at after 162 games that counts."

When it was all said and done last season Virdon's Astros were positioned in second place behind Cincinnati. And Virdon was named the National League Manager of the Year.

And write down that there is a pennant fever blowing in Houston. The Astros were off to a fine start. With the best pitching staff in baseball, good defense and timely hitting, they are a threat to capture the league flag. They have the right man to lead them. But the road to the top is long and lonely.

Still Bill Virdon's with the game he loves, the stuff of summer wishes and winter dreams. ●

Curing Your Racquetball Elbow

Nacinovich, Michael J. and Anthony, John. *The Tennis and Racquetball Players Self-Guide to Injury-Free Fun*. Paradise Valley, Arizona: Phoenix Books, 1980.

Reviewed by Terry Muck

Man is the only animal that eats when he is not hungry, drinks when he is not thirsty and plays tennis even when he has "tennis elbow." Given these excesses of the human personality Michael Nacinovich and John Anthony wrote this book telling players how to guard against getting tennis elbow and, if unlucky enough to contract the malady, how to cure it.

The book is called *The Tennis and Racquetball Players Self-Guide to Injury-Free Fun*. If you have "tennis (or racquetball) elbow" this book *might* help you.

If and might.

That a book should be centered around one specific injury gives an indication of how common a problem "tennis elbow" is. The authors don't give statistics, but apparently their jobs as licensed massage therapists at John Gardiner's Tennis Ranch in Scottsdale, AZ have convinced them there are readers who need their book.

Whether or not the book will cure the "tennis elbow" you may have gotten playing racquetball is a question that only you can answer. Of course the authors begin the book with an anecdote of a "tennis elbow" cure, but that's about as reliable as the Ayatollah Khomeini's word. If you look long and hard enough, you can find a witness to support almost any position.

The authors include racquetball players in the masses of those afflicted with tennis elbow, though the wristy racquetball stroke doesn't put the same kind of strain on the elbow as the stiffer tennis stroke. Thus what elbow problems the racquetball players suffer differ from those of the tennis players.

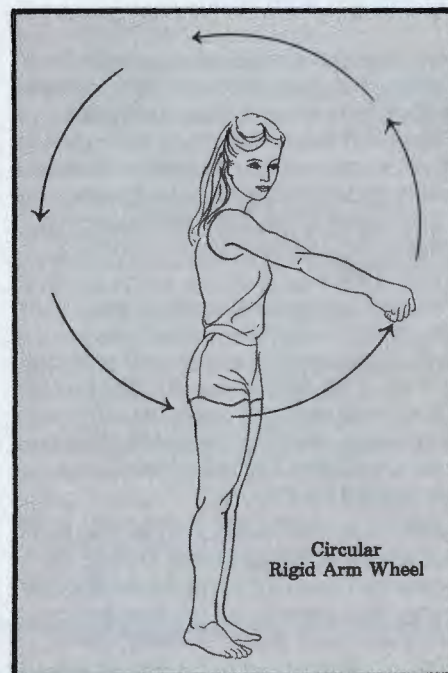
Perhaps the exercises the authors recommend in their book are equally effective for "racquetball elbow" and "tennis elbow" — perhaps not. The authors don't really discuss the problem.

As it is the imp in one suspects that the inclusion of racquetball players in this book is based less on medical reasons than economic ones.

This suspicion gains some credence from the content of the book, or should we say lack of racquetball content in the book. Racquetball is specifically mentioned in the chapter entitled "Tennis Wisdom Don'ts," a collection of nonprofound, common sense suggestions; the advice is given that you don't play racquetball unless the safety strap is locked around your wrist (p. 45). The same kind of suggestion is given regarding racquetball eyeguards (p. 55) and keeping the wooden floors free from drops of perspiration (p. 56). For all practical purposes that's it. The book is really written about tennis players.

Which is not necessarily all that bad. Much of the advice directed at tennis players — such as general exercises for the arms, back, and feet; the values of massage and vitamins, and some cautions about excessive sun and dangerous playing practices — can apply to racquetball as well as tennis. Further tennis and racquetball as social phenomena have a great deal of similarity besides being racquet sports. (Did you trivia fans know that young Humphrey Bogart's first and only line in his initial play was "Tennis, anyone?" Today he would say "Racquetball, anyone?")

But as a racquetball player don't expect too much from what is basically a one chapter book. Aside from the usual language infelicities one finds in hastily edited books ("nutritionists agree that it is normally always best to..." (p.29) and a couple of questionable recommendations (for an elastic bandage below the elbow to relieve stress on the elbow, a practice some doctors say doesn't do any good; and an endorsement for deep knee bends, which most exercise specialists feel can lead to knee problems) the book offers some safe, standard exercise practices, with only one chapter (nine) really offering anything novel (pp. 34-43).



Circular
Rigid Arm Wheel

Chapter nine is a series of five exercises which, if done faithfully, will help prevent and cure tendinitis caused by racquet sports. The five — the first pivot, the hand pivot (both done "slowly and dynamically" whatever that means), the circular rigid arm wheel, the moving circular L-arm, and the wall push away — are the keys to the kingdom of pain free racquet sports.

If you want to see if they work for you, it's probably worth the \$4.95 the book sells for. If nothing else the book might stimulate you to thinking about safer athletic participation practices. The authors firmly believe in preventive medicine, and seem to endorse an older physician, Hippocrates, who said that "healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes a matter of opportunity."

Maybe this is an opportunity to rid yourself of racquetball elbow. ●

Myers and McKay Claim Canadian Championships Rightfully

by Tony Leighton

The Canadian National Racquetball Championships in Montreal May 14-18 set a few things straight. They finally put Toronto's Heather McKay on top as the finest woman racquetball player Canada will likely see for a long time. And they put Vancouver's Lindsay Myers back on top after a brief and undeserved respite in second place.

Myers killed almost everything that Montrealer Ross Harvey dared leave unfastened, and left Harvey at the wrong end of a 21-9, 21-4, score. The 38-year-old McKay was even more complete in her domination. She beat three-time Canadian champion Linda Forcade of Winnipeg, Manitoba 21-4, 21-5.

As followers of women's pro racquetball will attest, McKay's game is unique. Her power and accuracy might be equalled by a few other players, but her anticipation and positioning are extraordinary. With instincts gleaned from 20 years as the world's greatest female squash champion Heather traced Forcade's presence in the court like a cat. Frequently McKay passed Forcade with a powerful backhand, or forced Forcade to wrongfoot into a weak return. And McKay swatted any weak return like a drowsy housefly.

Since taking up racquetball over a year ago McKay has primarily exercised her talent in the United States, most notably in her Coors All Pro victory over ex-Texas Ranger Al Oliver. That and squash, of course, had prevented her from showing the Canadian racquetball public what she is capable of. The National Championships were a coming-out of sorts, and, in the opinion of many, another step in Heather's rise to the pinnacle of women's racquetball.

Top Tournament Seed Ross Harvey, who earned his rank in a previous upset victory over Lindsay Myers, bowed to the three-time title holder in the Canadian Nationals.

Lindsay Myers is still Canada's champ.



Tony Leighton photos



Canadian women's champ, Heather McKay, reviews rules with Referee Ian MacKenzie.



San Diego Duel

Neither Lindsay Myers nor Ross Harvey are about to reach the top of the men's game (although Myers made it to the finals of the Florida tournament with Marty Hogan during the 79-80 tour) but both have left Canada to live and play in San Diego. Myers is currently ranked 13th on the men's tour and Harvey is a relative newcomer who has just started to qualify for professional tournaments.

Understandably Myers was surprised late last year when Harvey upset him at an event in Winnipeg called the Keystone Classic. But he was even more disappointed when that victory propelled Harvey past him to the Number One position in the Canadian rankings. According to the Canadian Racquetball Association that resulted from the number of points Harvey gained by knocking off the country's top-ranked player. Fine. But tournament organizers at the Nationals then jumped on the bandwagon and saw fit to seed Ross Harvey ahead of Lindsay Myers—in a tournament that Myers had won for the last three years.

If it was controversy they had hoped to create, they succeeded. Myers came to Montreal in a grim mood, claiming that he was going to *"blow Harvey off the court."* With the help of Vancouver psychologist, Dr. Lee Pulos, Lindsay had taken a lesson in what he called *"self-concentration."* And evidently it helped. From the moment he stepped into the court before Harvey's hometown crowd, Myers was utterly convinced of his ability to regain lost honor. *"I don't mind being ranked second,"* he said, *"as long as it's only for a few days."*

Fist and Finger

It was 5-0 before Harvey managed a point. When that finally came after four kill attempts, the crowd showed nervous relief by cheering loudly, but Ross himself was uneasy. And so he should have been. Myers was powerful, precise and unyielding, shaking his fist and pointing his finger each time he made a key shot.

Although the serve changed hands regularly, Myers refused to give up points and slowly eroded Harvey's confidence. The score went to 9-1 and then 12-5. At that juncture Harvey gained a quick three points, much to the crowd's approval, but just as quickly, Myers snatched the momentum back again. He allowed Harvey only one more point before nailing the game down with a clean backhand kill along the glass sidewall.

Considering the efficiency with which Myers took the second game you'd think he had a plane to catch. Harvey was unable to capitalize on even the few setups that came his way, and Myers continued to kill at will. At 19-4 the match had been sealed when, in complete frustration, Harvey outright whiffed a backhand. To show there were no hard feelings, Myers then drove a perfect ace just past the short line. As it dribbled off the wall and died, he leaped into the air, one fist raised defiantly, and shouted a roar of achievement.

Lindsay Myers had settled the question of Who's Best? Although after the match he wasn't about to entertain the notion that there were any real doubts to begin with. *"There was no question,"* beamed Myers. *"I was waiting for this and I was in tune."*

Lindsay Myers' Think Training

Some people claim that Lindsay Myers hits the ball as hard as any pro on the tour, with the exception of Marty Hogan. And Charlie Brumfield has been quoted as saying that Myers has the potential to eventually overtake Hogan. Potential, however, is not easily realized without self-control and, until recently a dismal lack of self-control has stood between Lindsay Myers and the fulfillment of his racquetball potential.

But that's all starting to change. With the help of Vancouver psychologist Lee Pulos Ph.D., Myers has struck on a type of self-hypnosis that seems to aid his on court concentration immensely. Pulos, who has known Myers since he was a child, calls the technique *"think training."* Lindsay refers to it as a *"trance."*

"Whenever Lee and I get together," explains Myers, *"he helps me attain a kind of hypnotic state. Once I'm there, he makes suggestions to my subconsciousness. Mostly they're positive statements; things I want to work on."*

Pulos gets his cues from a list of subjects that Lindsay has prepared beforehand. The

Harvey/Kruger Champs

Harvey took some consolation for his humbling loss to Myers by winning the national doubles title with Edmonton's Brad Kruger. Kruger's left handed game in combination with Harvey's obvious right handed talents upset the top seeded team of Wayne Bowes and Bob Daku, also of Edmonton.

It was interesting to note that for the first time at the Nationals men's doubles were not the exclusive domain of male players. After failing to find a female doubles partner, Heather McKay decided to enter the men's competition with her regular practice partner, Bruce Miatello of Toronto. Heather stands 5' 7" and weighs approximately 115 pounds. Bruce stands at least 6' 5" and weighs in excess of 200 pounds. That combination got them into the quarter-finals.

While the men's and women's Open categories are all that's truly of interest to most racquetball players, the Canadian Nationals drew 468 players in 18 divisions. The numbers are impressive enough in themselves, but so, too, is the calibre of play. Since the last national tournament—held in Halifax, Nova Scotia last November—a subtle shift in talent can be noticed. Along with its continued growth in Canada, the game of racquetball is going through certain refinements, proving quite conclusively that hockey is not the only indoor sport at which Canadians excel. ●

list might center, for instance, on an upcoming match and the way Lindsay envisions handling his opponent. Such was the case prior to the Canadian Nationals. Lindsay knew what he had to do to beat Ross Harvey and with the help of Pulos he reviewed exactly those tactics while deeply relaxed and receptive.

"It's simply a technique for concentrating," insists the psychologist. *"In the process the subject is able to run 'mental movies' or rehearsals; running things through his mind before they actually happen. Lindsay does this very well."*

While Myers admits to possessing *"good concentration when I want,"* he is helped into the 30-45 minute sessions by *"clinically-tested techniques of hypnosis"* that Pulos has been practicing for years. Pulos has acted as team psychologist to the Commonwealth Games, for the Canadian national volleyball team and as a personal counselor to dozens of individual athletes. The results have invariably been gratifying, as long as the athlete is able to channel his or her thoughts.

Court Shorts

Four-time American champ, Charlie Brumfield, whose success with hypnosis was the subject of a previous *National Racquetball* story, has put together a cassette with Richard B. Garver, Ph.D. that Brumfield says "will teach you to improve your game through self-hypnosis." The one-hour "Racquetball through Hypnosis," is available for \$9.95 through Arch Enterprises, 11703 Sandman, San Antonio, TX 78216. ED



Lee Pulos displays the eyes behind the trance that helps Lindsay Myers win racquetball matches.

Using Myers as an example, Pulos tries to dispel the mysticism that tends to surround the whole procedure. "The technique is just Lindsay working with his own consciousness—the more focused he can be, the more successful his play."

Because Myers is a personal friend, Pulos trades racquetball lessons for the time he spends on Lindsay's concentration. Being a self-admitted "racquetball nut," and an obvious fan of Lindsay Myers, he considers the trade a fair one. Myers says "what Lee does for me is on the basis of him just wanting to see me do well. And for that I'm deeply appreciative."

He's also deeply convinced. After winning the Canadian Nationals in excellent form, Lindsay went on to make his first 79-80 pro stop quarter-final, losing in a close match to Jerry Hilecher in Atlanta. His confidence and abilities have never been so in tune and a good deal of the credit goes to Pulos. "I'm an extremely skeptical person," says Myers, "but this technique has obviously worked for me. I'm going to keep up with it from here on. I'd be a fool not to." ●

—Tony Leighton

Conor Charles was born May 26 to Four Time National Champion Charlie Brumfield and his wife, Pat. Conor Charles Brumfield's mother



... Other news from the racquetball family is that 1979 National Women's Champion Karin Walton was married July 19 to Steve Trent, men's Open finalist at the 1980 Nationals. ... And Sarah Green, who won the Memphis pro stop in her hometown last December, now lives in Las Vegas, where she supplements her racquetball earnings dealing blackjack at the Fremont. ... *Sportstyle* reported in a late spring edition that Leach leads the racquetball market with \$14 million in estimated sales for 1979, and that Seamco is the leading ball producer to the tune of \$9 million in sales. ... John Rusinko, who beat Charlie Brumfield, in a wheelchair exhibition match reported in April's *National Racquetball*, finished fifth in the wheelchair division of the 1980 Boston Marathon. Rusinko's time—2:10.35—was 16 minutes faster than the previous Boston wheelchair record, and 17 minutes faster than Bill Rodgers, the overall winner. ... Carol Morgenstern devotes 31 pages to racquetball in her new book, *Playing the Racquets*, published by Dell. The oversize paperback covers tennis, squash, racquetball, paddle tennis, platform tennis and one and four-wall paddleball. ... Frank Katch, Ed.D., of the University of Massachusetts, and Victor Katch, Ed.D., of the University of Michigan, have developed FITCOMP, a computer that prints out two weeks' menus using foods the dieter wants to eat, as well as

the number of calories allowed each day, how long it should take to reach the goal weight and an exercise program. ... For a copy of the new guidelines for complying with Title IX in intercollegiate athletics call SPRINT-line toll free at 800-424-5162. ... The Browning Corporation purchased Ektelon, according to a May 1 announcement out of Morgan, UT, headquarters for the outdoor sports products manufacturer. ... Circuit Court Systems, Inc. in Miamisburg, OH is offering a customized court club computer system. ... Two manufacturers are spreading the word about women's athletic socks. One is Wigwam Mills, Inc., of Sheboygan, WI, which makes a Terri-Cuff stretch ankle with an extra heavy turn down cuff and the other is Tennis Togs, of Boca Raton, FL, featuring Comfort Cushion Sox with a lock collar. ... A British marketing firm based in Wimbledon says its new SURGRIP increases the friction between palm and racquet and absorbs sweat. The gel-like compound pours out in liquid form, then dries to a white powder



... Spaulding Racquetball Clubs, Inc. has promoted G. T. Cozad, Jr. and Shapleigh Mather to vice presidential posts. ... Quebec's *La Soleil*—in a half page story in the French daily's sport section—reported that the average age of racquetball players in two Quebec clubs was 32 years for men and 28 for women, and that participants played an average of two hours a week. *La Soleil* sports writer, Jacques Arteau, says that eight clubs in the Quebec area are serving local racquetball enthusiasts. ●

by Wayne Welch

The heavies surface for racquetball tournaments
looking cool and self-assured as they arrive

With an eye of an architect they study the court
mentally designing where to place the ball

Facial muscles tighten with concentration
as the start of the game draws near

Like a primitive warrior crouched over his prey
the "A" league player hunches over the ball
serving changeups like a baseball pitcher
who throws a fast ball followed by a curve

His opponent waits poised at the back court line
Twisting his hips he snaps his wrist

Rifling the ball into a coffin corner
where the ball rolls out flat for a clean kill shot

So begins the tournament between the heavies

Like boxers exchanging blows toe to toe
cat instincts sensing without seeing
the precise unguarded spot to place the ball

Stretching the body with a dancer's grace
to dig kill shots out of the crack
until the margin of difference between them
rests on the decisive point players dream of

Then there is time to wipe away the sweat
pinstripping down their cheeks and caking there

Then there is time to relish kill shots
storing them away for future tournaments
to be pulled out like drawers with snapshots.

Kill Shot

—Arthur Shay photo

Psych 'Em out then Wipe 'Em out

by Paul Carson

Inviting the folks from the office to watch you play may be more of an incentive for your opponent than for you. It may be the motivation he needs to beat you; then look at all of the extra explaining you'll have to do.



—John Yankowski photos

My doubles partner and I watched as one of our opponents taped his badly swollen ankle 15 minutes before the start of our semi-final match. "Hey, this is going to be our easiest win ever," whispered my partner as we left the locker room. This poor, crippled soul could hardly walk and yet he was putting on the armour for one last battle.

"If ever there was a sure thing," I replied, "this is it. In Reno we would be eight point favorites."

Three points into the first game, however, my partner went down, clutching his right calf. He had suffered a torn tendon and we were forced to forfeit the match. So, instead of playing in the final, we were spectators as Gimpy and his partner strolled on to victory.

To this day I am convinced we psyched ourselves out of a championship by getting over-confident. As we watched our injured adversary apply the tape, we became so excited at the prospect of an easy win, we neglected to warm up properly. Failure to do our usual leg stretches led to the tearing of my partner's tendon.

Which leads to an important part of racquetball — the psychology of the game.

If you can maintain complete concentration while somehow diverting your opponent's, you have a better chance of pulling off an upset. Here are some tested methods of beating your opponent through his (or her) mind.

Please the Ref

Despite the tendency of many players to intimidate the ref try the opposite, particularly if your foe is a noted raver. Being pleasant to the referee will not only make your opponent suspicious of your intentions, but he might also feel your apparent friendship with the official could give you an unfair advantage on the close calls.

Put on Knee Pads

Your attire can sometimes have an unnerving effect on the person you are about to play. For instance someone wearing knee pads will sometimes make me change my strategy. They can be intimidating even if you're not a diver. Of course you may have to take a courtesy leap early in the match just to perpetuate the myth. Leg braces and shoulder harnesses also can be intimidating.

Choose Old Clothes

One tip on dress—this is not a fashion show. It's a racquetball game. Therefore don't try to outdo Pierre Cardin. Never enter an important match wearing an all new, all white, nicely pressed ensemble. This is a dead giveaway. Everyone knows the best racquetball players are the ones with the grimmest, smelliest clothes and the most tattered sneakers.

Forget Cheering Section

Everyone likes to show off a little, and playing before a gallery gives many of us the opportunity to perform. However if you invite the boys from the office to watch, hoping to unsettle your opponent, forget it. Having your own cheering section will often spur him on, giving him the motivation to win. And worse if he does win, look at all the extra explaining you'll have to do.

Show No Pain

Getting hit by the ball can hurt like heck, but you've got to show restraint in this situation. Shake it off quickly and get set to return to action. You can always cringe later when your opponent isn't looking, but a show of pain indicates your own vulnerability. If you show no signs of agony, he can't help but think he's playing a pretty tough cookie.



Never let your opponent know you are running out of steam. Using an oxygen mask during a time out may give your secret away.

Do not show pity on players wearing knee braces or other devices. They often turn out to be speed demons.



Be Cocky

Marty Hogan used a classic technique in a major tournament several years ago. At match point in the championship game Hogan turned to the gallery and requested someone call his mother to inform her that her son had just won another title. You can imagine the shattering effect this had on his opponent. Lucky for Hogan the ploy did not backfire and he went on to win the point and the match.

Cockiness can sometimes be unsettling to an opponent, especially if you can back up your cockiness with winning shots. A little verbal outburst to celebrate a kill shot or a rollout always helps to rub it in a bit more. After all if you scored a touchdown in the Rose Bowl you would spike the ball wouldn't you?

If you really want to upset your opponent's concentration, turn and smile prior to serving. Seeing those pearly whites will drive him bananas.



Showing pain, especially when hit by a ball, can sometimes give your opponent a lift. When hit try to camouflage your agony. If you can hold back on your reaction, your opponent will think he's playing a pretty tough cookie.



The author setting up for a shot

Smile

In those emotional, tension packed games a simple smile can also be very upsetting. Just prior to serving turn, face your opponent and grin. That's right let him see those pearly whites when he least expects to. It'll drive him nuts wondering what you've got up your sleeve. He'll probably be too concerned with the smile to even know where the serve is going. Don't smile on every serve, however. Try and keep him guessing.

Huff and Puff

One of my good friends psyches himself up for serves by breathing heavily in a crouch position as he prepares to put the ball into play. Inhaling and exhaling like **THE BIG BAD WOLF**, is his way of psyching me out. This one's murder on your opponent if you've had garlic sausage for lunch.

Hide Exhaustion

Camouflaging your fatigue is another important psyching technique. Never let your opponent know you are fading. During timeouts and between games try not to let on that you are being pushed to the limit. If he calls a time out, don't sit down, don't take a drink (toweling off is allowed) and above all don't let him hear you gasping for air. Try to appear cool and when play resumes, let him see that big smile again. If you can pull this one off smoothly, you'll leave your opponent wondering how you could be so fresh after the long rallies and heated competition.

Praise Mistakes

When your opponent commits an error, show your appreciation for his mistake. If he skips in an easy plum or fans on a back wall pickup, thank him for his generosity. This technique is a risky one, so use it with caution. Some players simply can't take this kind of ribbing and you may end up with a bandido for braces.

At a recent tournament one of my major foes came well prepared for our match. His hopes hung on a jar of honey he had brought along for quicky energy. Unfortunately for him the jar shattered in his equipment bag and the honey covered everything from his racquet to his gloves. Needless to say the half hour preceding the match was spent cleaning the sweet stickiness from his gear rather than preparing for the match. He never recovered.

I can hardly wait for our next match. My psyching strategy for that occasion will be to present him with a new jar of honey. ●

Diana's Dive into Racquetball

by Tom Reinman

Diana Nyad is author of *Other Shores*, a Random House book.

— Dianora Niccolini photo



It can get pretty wild inside a racquetball court at times, but how wild can it get for a woman who has attempted swims through shark infested waters from Cuba and the Bahamas to Florida?

Diana Nyad is about to find out.

Nyad, 30, of New York City, has taken up the game of racquetball. She had been playing just three months when she entered the Leach National Pro-Am Championships in Las Vegas in June.

"I've got an awful lot to learn," she said before her first match. *"But I'm the tenth-ranked woman squash player in the country and I'm in shape, so I think I'll be competitive. I mean I'm not going to get blown out of here."*

Maybe not blown out, but she did lose her first round match to Lyn Chirigos of Albuquerque, NM.

She has gotten pointers from Heather McKay, and the similarity—squash player, world-class athlete—was noted. *"There'll never be another Heather McKay,"* she said with emphasis. *"She is an outstanding athlete, probably in better shape than anyone else on the tour. And she's in her late 30s."*

Nyad plans to stay with the game as much as possible through the summer, but in September she'll have to take stock. She begins training then for her next swim, 100 miles across the Aegean Sea in August of 1981. If she's happy with her racquetball performance and prospects, she'll keep after it when her schedule allows. If not it'll be relegated to recreation.

"I'm signed to work for ABC Sports as a commentator through the 1984 Olympics," said Nyad, *"and that's my top career goal right now. Swimming is still what I do best, and it's still very important to me. I'd list racquetball somewhere after that."*

"It's a good conditioner for some people, but then there's shape and there's shape. In September I'll start my running program, about 12 miles per day at a 6:10 pace, heavy weight training, skipping rope and swimming. Racquetball is good, but it just doesn't fit into my routine when I'm getting ready for an event like this one."

Nyad, despite her rigorous training and almost death-defying swims, does not look like a leftover from the Soviet women's shotput team. She stands about 5 foot 6, and has a medium build. She is an intense competitor and while she is often open and friendly, when she is working on a stationary bicycle or the Nautilus machines, she is not to be disturbed.

Her schedule through the summer calls for racquetball whenever possible, some work for ABC Sports, and some escape time, possibly in Baja California.

"I'm excited about this sport," she said. *"With only three months experience I try not to get annoyed when things don't go as they should. But I expect to be getting help from Heather and Charlie Brumfield, so we'll see what happens."* ●



Diana Nyad, right, warms up with 1979 National Women's Champ Karin Walton.

Who's Playing Racquetball?

Ruth Rootberg: Street Clown

Ruth Rootberg, who usually performs in wide, open spaces, enjoys the confines of the racquetball court.

"I like the possibilities of the ball hitting any of the four walls," says the tall brunette. "And I love the sound of the ball when you hit it hard in that little room."

Sounds are not part of Rootberg's routine when she's off the court, pursuing her career of street clown. Rootberg uses her body—facial expressions, gestures, but never her voice—to communicate with strangers and provide what she calls *"free public laughs"* in Chicago's parks, museums and shopping malls. She supplies laughs for a price at private parties and is paid for teaching street clowning—mainly to children—in classrooms and at seminars.

Rootberg began playing racquetball in January of 1980, a year and a half after she joined a street clowning workshop, which followed 10 or so years of the *"eclectic background most people bring to clowning,"* including leads in school musicals, a psychology degree from Tufts University, courses toward a Ph.D. in music and voice study in the U.S. and Europe.

Back in Chicago—her hometown—the vivacious 28-year-old learned about clowning the same way she met racquetball. Friends introduced her. In both cases she displayed instant promise. Her teacher at the Bozo Ensemble workshop encouraged her to stick with clowning, and so did the pro at the Downtown Court Club.

This summer Rootberg is improving her game in the Metro chain's interclub league. *"I'm on the beginner level now, but my teacher has great hopes for me. He thinks I'll be good competition as an advanced player when I get that far."*

Ruth Rootberg plays racquetball—and so does Sarah Schmelding, her clown counterpart.



Ruth Rootberg helps a 12-year-old with his clown makeup during a school workshop. "Kids love clowning," she says, "because it allows them to do things social rules say you can't."



Julie Bucken watches Rootberg put on her clown face for a photo session at the Spaulding club in Northbrook, IL.



The street clown—who's also had her hand in puppeteering—compares her two current passions.

"Both racquetball and street clowning work best when you move without thinking—when you use instant body movements that don't pass through your brain."

"The difference is in the margin of error. In racquetball if you move wrong, you lose the point—or the game. In clowning if you don't make them laugh with the first movement, you have another chance." ●

Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

Three Time and Current Champion Marty Hogan, a Leach player, answers questions about improving your game in this exclusive *National Racquetball* series. In this month's issue Marty refers to his preparation for his most recent win — the \$30,000 first prize at the June Nationals in Las Vegas. Send your questions to Marty Hogan c/o Ask the Champ, Managing Editor, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076

Question: What should my practice schedule be before an important tournament?

Lori Tracer
Atlanta, GA

Hogan: One thing you should never do before an important tournament is drastically change any practice schedule that you might be on. The more you change then, the more mentally it's hard to go in and prepare yourself for your game. If you change very little, then it's easier to mentally treat a tournament like it was just another match. This is what everyone should try to do, because it gets rid of nerves. If you start making a big deal out of a tournament weeks before, then you'll just be a bundle of nerves before a tournament comes around. Before the Nationals I had four weeks to train. The first two and a half weeks I worked out very hard, not only running, but practicing and playing two matches a day. Then I started slowing my schedule down and gearing myself mentally for the matches. By this I mean I quit running and only played one match a day. Then about four days before the tournament started I only went out and practiced by myself. You will find out that by tapering off your training schedule as the tournament draws closer it will make you much more eager to play hard in the tournament. I certainly find that's true with me, and I think it will help you also.

Question: Since you're the only one on the tour who looks like a weight lifter, I need to ask you how many pounds you can bench press, curl, squat? How long do you lift weights a day and how often? Also how many pounds do you weight lift before a tournament?

Joe Robledo
Draper, UT

Hogan: The only weight lifting I do is with my legs. It's very important in racquetball to have strong legs, plus the endurance you get from running. I usually work on my legs about three times a

week—nothing really heavy, just leg extensions, leg curls and I work with my calves. I don't attempt any squats because there's too big a chance of injury. As far as lifting with my upper body I do very little to speak of. What I do are gymnastics exercises like pushups, pullups and dips, just using my own body weight. The muscles I have are from doing gymnastics since I was a kid. You'll find out that if you lift weights too much, you will lose all the flexibility needed to play racquetball. These gymnastics exercises I will do at least five or six times a week. As far as lifting before a tournament goes I cut out all lifting at least five days before I go to a tournament. During those five days I will just stretch out with my legs for about a half hour a day and start preparing myself mentally for the tournament. My advice to anyone who would want to start a weight lifting program for racquetball would be to pick up five or six exercises, all using your own body weight, and instead of raising the weight—begin to do more repetitions. These exercises will strengthen you much better for racquetball.

Question: Do you use a special shot selection when you're playing on glass walls?

Andy AuBuchon
Chicago

Hogan: One thing you should never do is to go into a match and change your game plan. However you should always take advantage of any glass the courts might have. And there are certain shots which are very hard to see on glass walls. On glass any ball hit down the line freezes your opponent for an instant because it's very hard for him or her to see not only the ball going into the wall, but also as it comes back off the wall. On three wall glass courts the ball hit down the line is more effective than the cross court pass.

Anything taken cross court you can follow off of the front wall. Ceiling balls are also very difficult on three wall glass courts because the closer the ball is to the side wall the more difficult it is to judge how far the ball is away from that wall. As far as serving on glass courts Z serves are very effective because they not only come out of the glass, but also go into the corners and it's very hard to get balls out of the corners when the walls are see-through. My advice to you if you play on glass a lot would be that any time you're on a certain side of the court to take the ball straight in and hit it down the wall.

Question: Can you tell me how to improve the accuracy of my killshot so that I can experience the joy of the rollout kill? Does the fact that I hold the grip low on my racquet (I wrap my little finger around the very end of the grip) encourage the racquet head to dip, and if so does this hinder the ball from traveling on a straight line toward the front wall? Also how low on the grip do you hold your racquet?

Bob Santucci
Scarborough, ME

Hogan: The fact that you hold your racquet way down off the grip could have a lot to do with the accuracy of your killshot. Think of a racquetball racquet as a baseball bat. When you want more control of a baseball bat, you choke up on the handle. And when you want to swing from the heel, you bring your hand down to the end of the handle. Same goes in racquetball. You will find you don't have quite as much control if you hold the racquet down as low as you do. I hold my racquet with the hand almost in the middle of the grip, and from observing most of the pros on the tour I find that they do also. By holding a racquetball racquet with the hand in the middle that will give you the optimum control of the racquet. ●

The 60 Minute Practice Plan

by Steve Strandemo

Not everyone likes to practice. This is particularly true of racquetball, because the game is so much fun to play. Who wants to waste time practicing?

I'm not saying everyone should practice. If you're content with your game, by all means, just play. Nobody's game ever suffered by playing and having a good time.

But if you feel like you do want to "work" on your game, with an eye to improving certain areas, then you might consider taking out an hour once or twice a week and practice.

Tennis players are great for drills. They have practice down almost to a science. The racquetball player who wants to practice can learn from his tennis cousin, who will stand and hit a hundred topspin lobs until he feels he's starting to get it right.

Drills are very important, because they give a sense of order to a practice session. In this article I want to suggest ways you can maximize the benefits of a one hour workout. You will see how drills impart a systematic approach that allows you to make the most of your time, as opposed to going out and "fooling around" for half an hour. Remember I'm not saying you must practice. But if you want to, this is a logical way to go about it, and to improve.

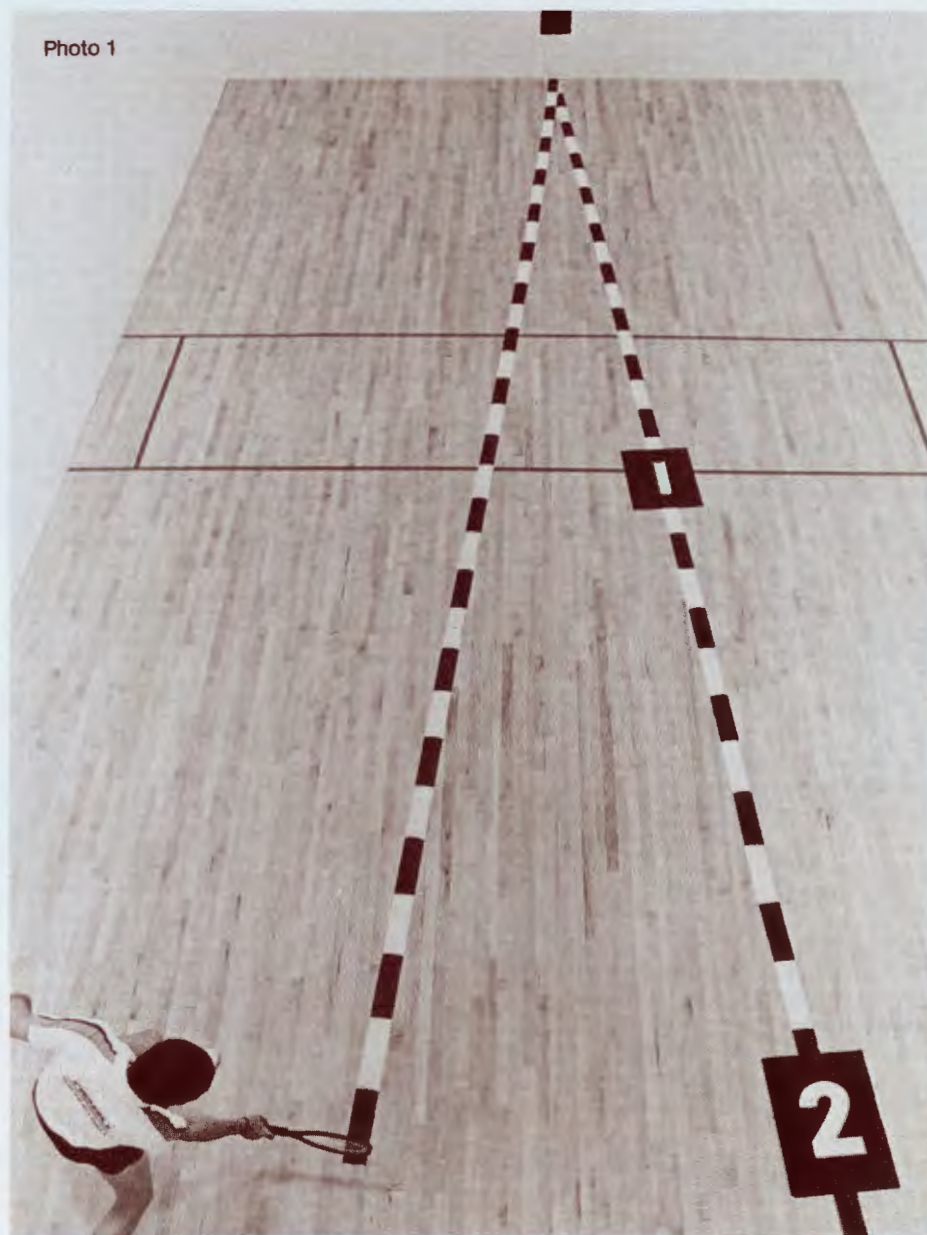
You can practice by yourself, or with a buddy. Either way before your time on court begins, loosen up. Drive to your club, park and jog a mile. Go through your stretching exercises. Never forget to do this. More pulled muscles result from an improper or incomplete warmup than from any other cause.

By the time you take the court you should feel nice and warm and loose. Then you can get straight down to hustling and hitting the ball, which is what the game is all about.

If you are working out alone, you can get more accomplished than you might have thought. Start out hitting forehands to the front wall from a distance of about 25 feet. Just bounce the ball and make good racquet contact.

Keep it low, and not too hard at first. Just get your eye on the ball. Then as you begin to step up your velocity, move farther back in the court. When you have worked up to the velocity you would use

Practice hitting the target area that makes the ball bounce twice before hitting the back wall.



in a game situation, you should be hitting from a distance of about 35 feet on the 40 foot court.

The bottom-line goal of every racquetball player is to hit the front wall low enough and hard enough so that the ball will bounce twice on the floor before it reaches the back wall. To do this the ball must hit the front wall very close to the floor. A ball hit higher than about two and a half to three feet is likely to bounce only

once on the floor and come off the back wall within easy reach of your opponent.

Everyone's front wall target area, then, will be somewhere below two and a half and three feet. Just how your ball behaves within that area depends on your velocity.

As you are hitting, be conscious of the target area within that larger area that causes your ball to bounce twice before hitting the back wall. (See photo one.) As I



Photo 2



Photo 4

When you practice hitting the ball to yourself, use a half lob type motion. It's basically a straight arm swing with no wrist snap. This gives you accuracy so the ball keeps coming back into your proper hitting zone. Notice that you don't bend your knees when you hit to yourself.



Photo 3



Photo 5

Hit to yourself so the ball hits the corner, then comes off the side wall into center court.

say, it depends on velocity. No one is going to hit a killshot every time, but if you consistently keep the ball low enough and hard enough to make it bounce twice, then it puts incredible pressure on your opponent. He's either got to try to cut the shot off, or he's got to hustle deep and get it before it takes the second bounce.

After a little bit of the bounce-and-hit routine, move on to hitting the ball easily to yourself. (See photos two, three and four.) With a half-lob-serve kind of motion, bounce the ball off the front wall. As it comes back to you, get set, get your racquet back in good position, and hit a good forehand.

This is a basic practice technique for every touring pro I know: half-lob off the front wall, set up, racquet back, hit the shot. It is an excellent technique for working on timing. Hit the ball with good velocity, and know where your "two-bounce" zone is. Work to hit that zone consistently.

Next, turn around and practice the same thing from the backhand side.

Now, from about the same 25-35-foot distance, shift from the straight-in shots to corner shots. Hit to yourself so the ball hits the front wall in the corner, then comes off the side wall into center court. (See photo five.) Study the angles the ball takes, according to height, target and velocity.

Practice pinching the shot back into the corner. The same rule of low and hard applies: the pinch shot should bounce twice before reaching the opposite side wall. Also practice hitting down-the-lines and cross-court passes off balls coming out of the corner.

These basic accuracy and timing drills should consume about 20 minutes. Once you're satisfied with that part of the workout, move up in the court, five to seven feet behind the back service line, and work on reaction-type shots. To set up the situation, hit the ball with pretty good pace to the front wall, then get ready to cut it off as it comes back.

The general rule is, cut the ball off if it reaches you in center court at waist height or lower. (See photos six, seven, eight and nine.) If it is higher than that, it will be better in game situations to play it off the back wall. Practice cutting off balls both in the air and on one bounce. Hit straight in,

Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



When you're practicing cutting off the ball in center court, notice the wide open stance. Try to cut off balls at the heights pictured in six, seven and eight. When a ball is at the height pictured in nine, let it come off the back wall for a setup.

and also go for the pinch to both corners. In all these drills give the forehand and backhand approximately equal time.

In the reaction drill remember to set up quickly, stance fairly open, compact backswing, good contact, pull your shoulder and torso powerfully through the swing for good velocity.

Another shot you can practice well alone is the ceiling ball. Consistency is important in hitting a good ceiling ball. Stand in the back court, find your good target area on the ceiling. The ball hits the ceiling, then the front wall, comes down and contacts the floor in front of the service zone. Then it arcs high to the back court. When properly hit the ceiling ball will come down and strike the back wall about two feet or less above the floor.

That is your goal with the ceiling ball, but if you hit some long or short, practice killing them, just as you would in a match.

When you are happy with the shotmaking part of your workout, move on to the serve. To save time have at least four or five balls available for this drill.

Stand just about in the middle of the service box and practice the low drive serve. (See photo 10.) As you hit remember to check three things:

1. Make note of where you're standing and where the racquet is making contact with the ball. The low drive serve is usually hit from near the middle of the service area.
2. See where the proper front wall target area is for your particular velocity. Your first goal is to get the low drive serve to come back and carry the back service line, bouncing between yourself and the side wall. Your second goal is to get the ball to bounce a second time before it comes off the back or side wall.
3. Be very aware of court geometry. Check the angles that each of your serves take. Zero in on the ones that put the ball properly in the back corner. The proper angle is a function of contact point and front wall target area. Velocity and height, meanwhile, determine the shot's depth and number of bounces.

If there are two of you, you can concentrate on some of the same drills just by dividing the court, the same way tennis players do. (See photos 11.) While you're working on the forehand side, your

While you practice the low drive serve, check where you're standing, where the front wall target is and court geometry.

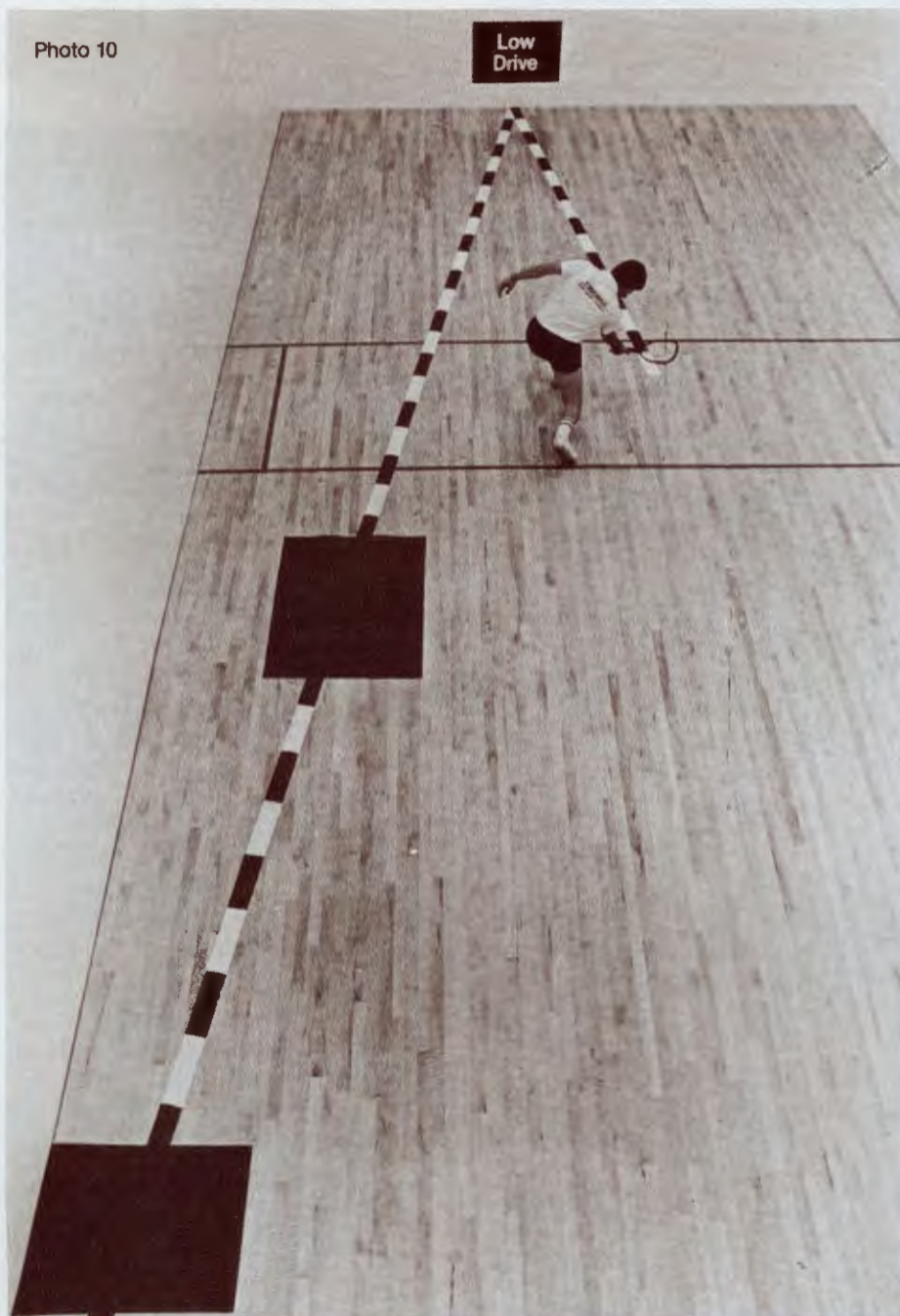


Photo 10

Low
Drive

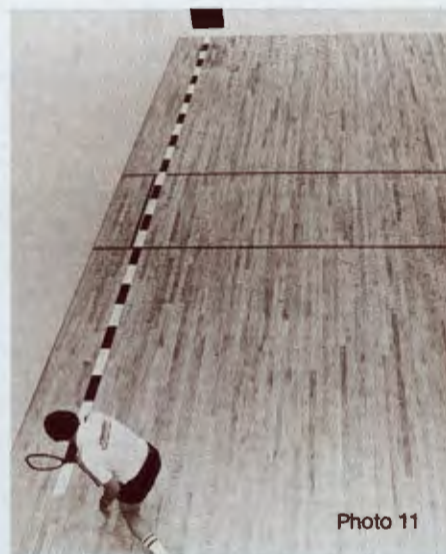


Photo 11

Take turns with a partner practicing forehand and backhand down-the-lines or kills, then work on return of serve.

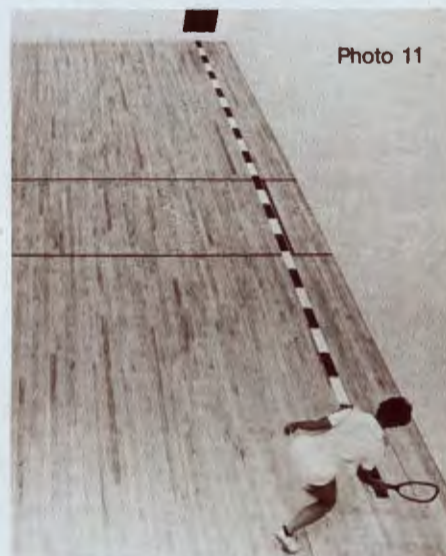


Photo 11

buddy is working on the backhand. Of course you can't hit any pinches or cross courts.

When two of you are practicing the serve, you also should be practicing the return of serve, which is practically impossible to

practice alone. One serves, the other returns. The servers, meanwhile, don't forget to hustle into good position for the third shot of the rally. In all of these serve and return situations, go ahead and play the rally to its conclusion.

As you are practicing, remember that in order to improve usually you have to go through a stage where you actually are playing a little worse. As you try new techniques and getting them down pat, you are going to feel a little awkward at times. Don't worry about it. The polish will come.

Keep your workouts to about an hour, and don't practice day in and day out. You want to play regularly, to see how your practicing has helped, but mostly to have fun. ●

Applying Your Wall Brakes

by Mike Yellen

Mike Yellen, who took second in the June, 1980, Nationals, writes this exclusive series for *National Racquetball* based on questions that come up in clinics he holds for his sponsor, Ektelon.

Racquetball is such an aggressive, fast paced sport that it is usually to your advantage to be able to hit the ball hard and fast.

Speeding up the ball means that it will go straighter when hit lower, will take more crazy spins and bounces off walls and cracks and, generally, can be killed deader.

There are times, though, when you may want to slow the ball down both for the sake of a particular shooting situation and/or your overall game strategy.

Simply hitting the ball softer isn't the way to take pace off it. That means you have to more or less lob the ball instead of hitting it in a straight line parallel to the floor.

By using the walls (and ceiling), though, you have more control over the height and direction of your shot, slowing its pace only at the critical point in its flight. You also add another directional component to your shot, an additional wrinkle which makes its ultimate destination just that much more difficult for your opponent to predict.

The classic wall ball is the ceiling ball, a defensive shot. Its goal is to put your opponent deep in the back court where his or her shooting percentages diminish and the ball is so high above the waist that is even more difficult to take an offensive shot.

It is possible to lob the ball back to the same mid air point, but the danger of the ball coming off the back wall for a setup is greater. Also it's fairly obvious that the pace and trajectory of a properly hit ceiling ball is far more difficult for your opponent to handle than those of a lob.

Initially the ceiling ball is fast paced for maximum rebound off the ceiling and front wall and it only slows down (relatively speaking) at the critical juncture: its descent by the back wall.

In the offensive mode you can use the side walls the same way you use the ceiling to add another directional wrinkle and take the pace off the ball at the critical juncture. The pinch and roll-corner



Figure 1. The ceiling shot is the classic wall ball. It puts your opponent in the back court where he or she can do less harm. It slows down after the bounce as it approaches the back wall. Its only alternative—the lob—is more likely to come off the back wall.

kill use the side wall as “insurance” to make sure your low shots stay down.

The classic wall ball is the ceiling ball, a defensive shot. Its goal is to put your opponent deep in the back court where his or her shooting percentages diminish and the ball is so high above the waist that it is even more difficult to take an offensive shot.

The former is hit directly into the front wall as close to the side wall as possible. It then “pinches out” on the side wall and, hopefully, dribbles off in such a way that your opponent can’t retrieve it.

The roll-corner operates on the same principle, but contacts the side wall first where most of the pace is taken off it so that it has little rebounding ability by the time it reaches the front wall. A good spot for side wall contact is about three feet from the front wall, but that can be adjusted in keeping with your position on the court and how hard you hit the ball in the first place.

A major advantage to these shots is that you can hit them hard and low—that is straight—but with relatively little risk of them rebounding off the front wall if they aren’t right on target.

Even so these shots won’t always stay down. Therefore choose the corner which will send your pinch or roll-corner shot away from your opponent’s side of the court if it does rebound high.

A good rule of thumb is to choose the corner on your opponent’s side of the court because the ball will then rebound toward the other side. If your opponent is on the left, a shot into the left corner will rebound out toward the right.

Figure 2. The pinch uses the side wall for “insurance” to guarantee that your low kill stays down.

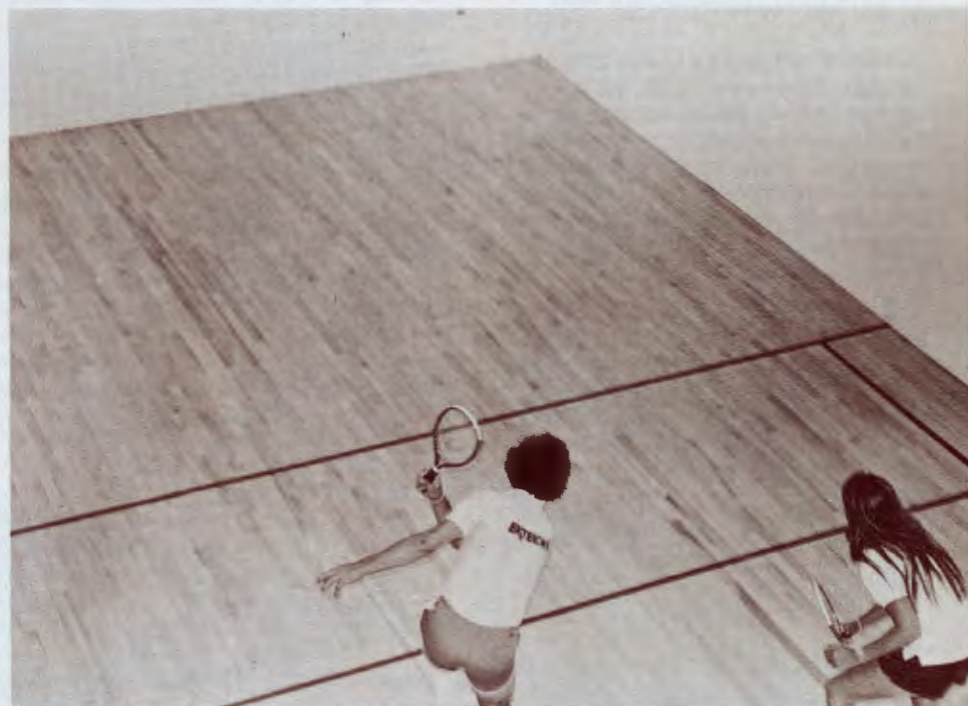


Figure 3. Similarly the roll-corner kill uses the side wall to take the pace off the ball so that it drops lower and slower by the time it reaches the front wall. Both the pinch and roll-corner have a directional “wrinkle” in that they can be hit so that they head away from your opponent just in case the shot doesn’t stay down, as shown here.

Beginner's Racquetball

Four Vital Defensive Shots

by Jack Kramer

Your ability to use the side walls or ceiling comes in handy against any opponent, but it is particularly useful against a player who is more powerful and/or accurate than you are.

As I said before, there is an advantage to hitting hard fast shots. But if you are the weaker of two shooters, your opponent is going to win any kind of toe-to-toe shootout with you.

It's a little like the championship fight between George Foreman and Joe Frazier, two punchers as opposed to boxers. The harder puncher, Foreman, was the inevitable winner. Had Frazier been able to box him, though, the outcome of the fight might have been different as, in fact, happened when Foreman fought Muhammed Ali.

Up against a stronger shooter you have to come up with an alternative strategy. Since most of the game's premier shootists like to speed things up to a pace about 50 m.p.h. faster than the normal human being is comfortable with, slowing the game down might not be a bad choice.

He'll send your straight-in kills and drives right back down your throat, not to mention keeping you off balance. Using the walls will improve your percentages during those tough shooting situations and throw more odd angled and change of pace shots at your opponent. Remember you don't pitch fast balls to a home run hitter.

There are other ways to slow down the pace of the game, such as using your time outs and stalling, but that's another article. The principal point here is that while you want to slow down the game, you don't want to slow down the speed of your shot, until it reaches the front wall, that is.

Use the walls and ceiling to take the pace off the ball. That's what they are there for. ●

As in most games there are certain vital or defensive moves or strokes you must know to play racquetball effectively. In racquetball these are the *ceiling ball*, the *around-the-wall-ball* the *Z ball* and the *lob*. To play the game skillfully you should learn these basic shots, whether for defense, returns, or whatever. How you use them depends on your opponent and the run of the game.

The Ceiling Ball

The ceiling ball is the most effective defensive shot in racquetball and can be played from almost any position on the court, with either a forehand or backhand. The purpose of the ceiling ball is to move your opponent out of the midcourt area into the back court area. If executed properly, the ball bounces high toward the back wall, arcing as it does so.

The ceiling ball is not easy to hit; it requires time and practice, but it is the strongest defensive shot you can play. The ceiling shot is played directly up to the ceiling, near the juncture of the ceiling with the front wall. The ceiling target is one to five feet from the front wall. If you fail to strike within this area, the ball will come up short—hit midcourt—and open the door for a kill by your opponent. The ball hitting the side takes away the deep court effectiveness: it puts the ceiling ball in the middle of the court without the arc effect. The ceiling shot is done with a hard hit directed toward your opponent's backhand side.

The best ceiling shot first strikes the ceiling, then the front wall, and then zooms to the floor, rebounding high. The rebound should be very near the the back wall, thus making it almost impossible for the opponent to return it (figure 1).

The two types of ceiling shots most often used are the forehand overhead ceiling return and the backhand overhead (waist high) ceiling stroke. The waist high ceiling stroke is used for hitting low balls. Involving an underhand flip of the wrist this shot will give you a chance to recover court position if you are in a bad court spot and off balance.

Forehand Overhead Ceiling Shot

Execute the forehand ceiling shot with an overhand stroke. Try to have your racquet hit the ball head high and about a foot ahead of your head, off the front toe. (In a moment we will tell you how to practice.) The rear-to-front foot weight and follow through will ensure the power necessary to get the ball where you want it, not where your opponent wants it.

To start the swing keep the knees slightly bent and the racquet in position near the left ear. Rotate your hips to the left (or to the right if you are left handed), and swerve the right (or left) shoulder down into a tucked position. As you move your hips and shoulders, your body weight will shift to your back left (or right) foot.

You are now ready to uncoil and strike the ball with a thrusting forward motion. Twist

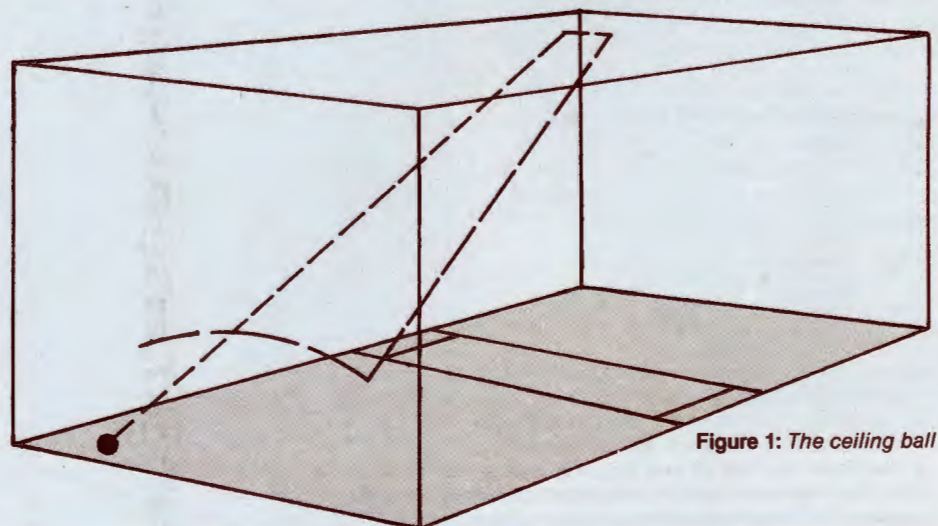


Figure 1: The ceiling ball



Figure 2: Forehand overhead ceiling shot

your hips around to the right (or left) (toward the front wall), and move your right (or left) shoulder out of the tuck position and stroke the ball.

Keep your racquet hand stiff and extended as you get ready to strike the ball; upon contact your wrist will snap slightly, imparting an undercut action that creates ball speed. Hit the ball waist high or slightly higher, depending on where the ball presents itself. Keep the racquet slanted backward (open faced) so you can get the upward angle.

To practice the forehand overhead ceiling shot face the side wall and use the forehand position. Toss the ball above your head, as you would if you were making a tennis serve. Strike the ball after it has peaked and started its descent to the floor. To swing extend your racquet arm from the forehand position to near your ear and then to the ball. Try to strike the ball so it hits the ceiling as close to the front wall as possible. Make the contact point occur just in front of your body, above your head and over your lead foot. Then follow through with the racquet pointing to the floor.

The Backhand Overhead Ceiling Return

The backhand overhead ceiling ball is an effective return of your opponent's ceiling ball. This is a difficult shot, requiring a backhand swing over your head from deep court position.

The same principles that apply to the regular backhand stroke are in effect for this shot. Get into the standard backhand position and drop the ball, as you do when practicing a standard stroke. Hold the racquet across your body until your lead foot steps into the swing. As you move your arm forward, drop your nonracquet shoulder slightly—this elevates the racquet shoulder and opens the face of the racquet when it makes contact with the ball. The open face (strings tilted slightly to the ceiling) makes hitting the ball upward easier.

As you swing, snap your wrist just before you make contact with the ball. Again strike the ball out in front of your body and over your lead foot. The lower the ball drops to the floor, the more effort is necessary to hit the ball upward toward

the ceiling. Follow through with the standard backhand stroke, with your racquet just a little higher upon contact and completion.

Practice the backhand overhead ceiling shot by letting the ball bounce first. But instead of catching the ball after the bounce, move into position and, using an overhead stroke, strike the ball back to the ceiling. To do this position your racquet in the standard backhand position until you want to step to contact the ball. Then raise your racquet and drive your elbow forward. The wrist should snap naturally just before you make contact with the ball; the follow through leaves your racquet arm bent, with your racquet above your head. Avoid making contact with the ball too close to the body because this causes you to hit the ball with an uneven racquet face, and the ball will probably slice off into a side wall. The most effective contact is made slightly out in front of the body.

Around-The-Wall Ball

The around-the-wall ball is not a difficult shot and can be mastered after only a little playing. The ball is generally struck

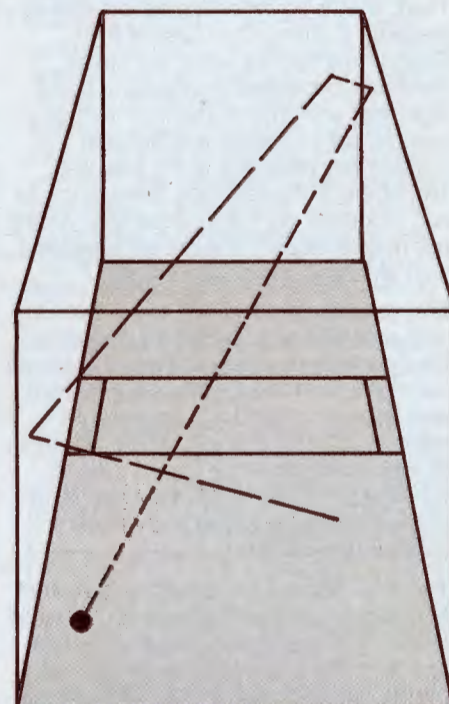


Figure 3: Around-the-wall ball

waist high from deep court (three-quarter court), usually with a backhand shot (figure 3). The ball is sent cross court with moderate drive, striking the side walls high in the front right (or left) corner. The point of contact with the ball should coincide with your right (or left) foot forward. Start with a normal backhand position, and then arc around like a baseball player swinging a bat left handed (or right handed). Aim the ball so it hits first on the side wall, about three feet down from the ceiling and three feet in from the front wall. Even if you miss the three-foot preferred spot—a couple of feet either way—the ball will still do its trick. The ball should *not* strike the ceiling at all.

The ball will wrap around the corner in a diagonal direction toward the left (or right) side wall and hit at midcourt (about two-thirds of the way up) and then angle down to the floor.

There is a forehand around-the-wall ball, but is not recommended because it usually comes off the right (or left) side wall right into your opponent's powerful forehand.

The Z Ball

The Z shot is so called because it makes the letter Z during its course of flight. Execute the shot by using any stroke (forehand, backhand, overhead) to about eight feet or higher on the front wall so that the ball hits sharp and fast and immediately rebounds to the side wall, and where it crosses court through the air and rebounds off the opposite wall. As the ball makes its path, it picks up speed and spin and so it is difficult to return.

During a rally hit the Z ball to the front wall, side wall and opposite wall—all on the fly. In this way your opponent is forced out of the front court to the back court area in chase of a return. Because the return is difficult, this shot should result in an easy setup point for you. In essence the effective Z ball forces your opponent into a bad court position and a weak or nonreturnable action.

The most satisfactory Z ball is a forehand shot hit as near the front wall and as close to the right side wall as possible. Hit the forehand Z ball by standing just behind the second short line and about three feet from the right (or left) side wall. Hit the ball

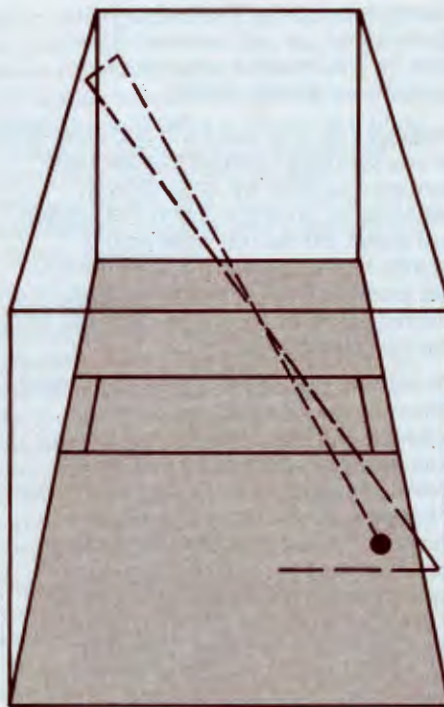


Figure 4: The forehand Z shot

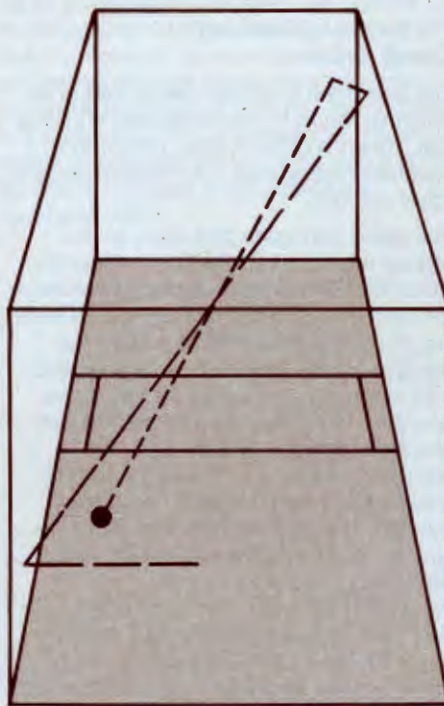


Figure 5: The backhand Z ball

waist high with moderate power so it carries well. Your target for the ball is a spot three feet down from the ceiling and three feet in from the left (or right) side wall. Drive the ball hard and cross the court so it strikes the front wall first. If you do not hit the forehand Z ball properly, the ball will end up somewhere midcourt or off the back wall, giving your opponent the advantage.

The forehand Z ball strikes the front wall high at the left (or right) corner, cuts quickly into the left (or right) side wall, and then trajectories diagonally cross court to the right (or left) side wall, rebounding at an angle almost parallel to the back wall, about a foot or so out (figures 4 and 5).

An overhead or knee high Z ball should be hit high enough so it can go across court once it has hit the front and side walls—usually at a height of about eight feet. To get the spin necessary to make any Z ball effective hit it hard, with the point of contact on the front wall within a foot or so of the side wall.

Practice the Z ball to become accustomed to the angles and changes of direction the ball will take. To practice position yourself in the midcourt area. Hit the ball with an overhead stroke into the front wall near either side wall. Try to locate just the right spot for the Z ball to hit—once you have the target you can vary your shots by moving around the floor and changing how hard you hit the ball. This practice will give you an idea of how hard you have to strike the ball in relation to the portion of the court you are standing in. It will also show you the weak points of hitting a poor Z ball as you watch its return position on the court.

Lob

A lob return is not easy to do but a well placed lob can catch your opponent flatfooted. Hit the lob shot firmly with a high arcing stroke; you want the ball to hit the front wall near the ceiling. A good lob rebounds to hit the floor behind the short line and bounces high, coming down again close to the back wall but not touching it. ●

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Building Speed for Racquetball

by Steve Mondry

You don't build speed by running distance. Running distance is good for three things as far as racquetball is concerned:

1. It helps your endurance in a long match.
2. It gives you a feeling of confidence when playing someone who doesn't run.
3. It keeps your weight down.

Many people have the misconception that they can build speed for racquetball by running 100 yard dashes. When was the last time you had to chase a shot down 100 yards? The furthest one can run for a ball on the racquetball court is 44.7 feet, and that's if you do it Steve Serot style — by crashing into the walls. For all the math whizzes at Cal Tech I used the Pythagorean Theorem ($C^2 = A^2 + B^2$) to compute the distance.

In a game probably the furthest you will have to run for a ball will be 30 feet or 10 yards. However the majority of the time you will have to cover a small portion of that distance—a half, a third, etc.

Whatever the distance is you have to cover it as quickly and as efficiently as possible. As players you need to work on speed as you would any other aspect of the game.

The drills I am about to describe to you are actually pretraining drills for building your strength and endurance so you will be able to obtain the maximum benefits from more advanced conditioning drills I'll be discussing in future issues of *National Racquetball*. If you don't run these pretraining drills, don't expect to run the others later without a great deal of muscle soreness.

The first drill "up-backs," involves — you guessed it — running back and forth in the court. The starting position is the left rear corner. From there sprint to the front wall, touch it and sprint backwards to the starting position and touch the back wall. Sprint up and down twice, and then cross over at the short line, using rapid sideways shuffle steps, to reach the right side of the court. Repeat the three up-backs on the right side; after the third time cross over to the left side at the short line, again using shuffle steps. Sprint to and touch the front wall, sprint backwards to the short line, shuffle step over to the right side, sprint up and touch the front wall again, back to the short line, and finally

Steve Mondry, a regular on the pro tour who ranked 22 going into the Nationals, shows how a lefty does the step-over drill.



cross over again and do three more up-backs. Do this entire drill two times with a minute rest period between the repetitions.

Jeff Smith starts his racquetball drills with the up-backs.



The second drill is called "step-overs." Starting position is the return-of-serve position on the court. Facing the front wall with the left foot step over to the right (if you're right handed), bending into a forehand, and simulating a forehand swing. All your weight should be on your lead foot, and the bend should come from your knees, not from your waist. When this motion is completed, push off that foot and return to the starting position. Again facing the front wall, step over to the left with the right foot and bend into a backhand, simulating a backhand swing. Do this four times to each side. Repeat the complete drill twice.

The best schedule I have found is to do these drills three or four days each week. Here is the schedule I have found to be perfect for me:

	M	T	W	Th	F
Week 1	X		X		X
Week 2	X		X		X
Week 3	X	X		X	X
Week 4	X	X		X	X

Playing Tips For Women

National Racquetball Photographer Arthur Shay, who has taken thousands of photos for Time, Life and other major publications, and Jean Sauser, teaching veteran and co-owner of the Milwaukie Racquetball Club outside of Portland, OR, have written a book, Inside Racquetball for Women, that many consider the classic text on learning to play better racquetball. Published by Contemporary Books in Chicago the Sauser-Shay volume presents problems the average woman develops as she's learning racquetball, and—in a series of photos—describes simple solutions to problems like the common forehand phobia dissected in this chapter. National Racquetball is excerpting material from Inside Racquetball for Women, available at pro shops and sporting goods stores, with permission of the publisher. ●



Mistake: Returning Every Serve with Your Forehand. It takes many women far too long to develop confidence in their backhands. To cover up what they feel is and what may well be a weakness, they stand in a forehand-ready position on the backhand side of the court. If you are one of those women, you are developing a huge weak spot in your game. A smart server will jam you with serves down the backhand wall or will hit hard to the forehand part of the court that you are leaving untended, and you will probably make weak returns from both sides of the court.



Correction: Covering Full Court Forehand or Backhand. The most effective ready position is deep in center court, about two or three feet from the back wall. Your shoulders should be facing the front wall, your legs slightly bent, your weight on the balls of your feet, ready to go for the ball, wherever it comes. At your first awareness of the direction of the ball, you are prepared to rotate your shoulders to the side the ball is being served to. Eventually, as your backhand strengthens, you will lose the fear that hard serves will come to your "weak" hand, and you will actually look forward to the challenge of covering the full court forehand or backhand, whichever is more effective. In practice drills favor your backhand if it is your weaker shot.



APRO Teaches . . . The Ceiling Ball — Off-the-Back Wall Return

by Ron Johnson, Ph.D.

Members of the American Professional Racquetball Organization write this regular *National Racquetball* feature for club pros and other racquetball teachers. Ron Johnson is a part time instructor at Racquetball Plus in Indianapolis, in addition to being a full time chemist.



A professional racquetball teacher spends a significant amount of time on the standard floor-first—off-the-back-wall return. Incessant drilling is often necessary to convince beginning and intermediate students to let the ball drop below their knees and to kill it. Once proficiency is achieved, however, the off-the-back-wall shot is considered a plum and often results in a rally-ending kill or pass shot return.

With the advent of the live racquetball in recent years an interesting variation of the off-the-back-wall shot has become more prevalent. That is the ceiling ball which bounces off the back wall.

Unlike the average floor-first back wall shot, the ceiling ball-backwall shot drops sharply downward toward the floor and more rapidly downward than the lob-back wall shot. This is especially true for the front wall-first—ceiling ball and to a lesser extent for the ceiling-first—ceiling ball.

Several important points to tell your students about positioning and execution are:

1. Set up a closed stance somewhat closer to the back wall than normal with your racquet back in a cocked position very early. It is especially important to have your racquet cocked early due to the rapid downward trajectory of the ball.
2. Keep far enough to the side of the ball so that your stride allows a low stance to be achieved while striking the ball. Usually your lead leg is bent at the knee 45 to 90 degrees and your back slanted forward about 45 degrees.
3. When your lead foot touches the floor, start your racquet swing in a level arc, snapping your wrist to achieve contact eight to 18 inches from the floor.
4. Watch the ball until racquet contact; finish with a level follow-through behind your opposite hip. Do not rise as you swing, as this often opens the face of the racquet causing the shot to be high; but wait until after contact, then move to cover the front court. If you execute the shot well enough, you may not need to cover the front court, but it is good practice, so do it anyway. ●

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What's the Call?

Ref Decisions at Nationals

by Dan Bertolucci

At the recent Leach National Pro/Am Championships in Las Vegas some interesting incidents occurred which will serve as the topics for this month's column. The first found the referee in somewhat of a quandry. Just what do you do when the two players can't make up their minds as to what game ball to use? You know — how do you solve the situation when one player wants a faster, harder ball because of his game style versus the other, who would prefer a slower ball to facilitate his reaction time? Rule 2.3 Ball Selection can be used to bail you out if you should have to employ it. It reads as follows:



"Rule 2.3 Ball Selection. A ball shall be selected by the game referee for use in each match in all tournaments. During a game the referee either at his discretion, or at the request of player or team, selects another ball. Balls that are not round or which bounce erratically shall not be used."

"In tournament play the referee and the players shall agree to an alternate ball, so that in the event of breakage, the second ball can be put into play immediately."

In keeping with the above the players must select or have the ball selected from the balls that are provided at the tournament from the governing body or sanctioning body to be used for tournament play. The players may not bring in their own new balls or purchase any from the local club's pro shop to be used for their match. After all official balls are provided so that the quality, standardization and consistency are equal for all who participate.



The second incident regarded foreign objects—What constitutes them, and when is play automatically stopped because of their interference with play? Do lost eyeguards, shoes, racquets all get treated as the same type of foreign object? Well to answer these questions I refer to rule 4.9i Stoppage (1) (2) (3) which explains play stoppage as a consequence of object interference.

"Rule 4.9i-Play stoppage. (1) If a player loses a shoe or other equipment, or foreign objects enter the court, or any outside interference occurs, the referee shall stop the play. (2) Players wearing protective eye glasses have the responsibility of having such eye glasses securely fastened. In the event that such protective glasses are not securely fastened, no stoppage of play shall result and the player wearing such glasses plays at his own risk. (3) If a player loses control

of his racquet, time should be called after the point has been decided, providing the racquet does not strike an opponent or interfere with ensuing play.

As you can see eyeguards or glasses, racquets and shoes are all treated differently. The third controversial incident led to the question: What happens when the ref calls side out on a player because in the ref's judgement it was thought that the ball hit or glanced off a players leg (sock) even though no apparent indication of contact was made by the player in question? Is there an appeal allowed or does play go over? Or, in fact, does the side out stand? Simply put "side out" was probably the wrong call. If the ball was judged to have glanced off of the player and neither player volunteers information as to the actual occurrence, the ref could have just as easily called some type of hinder under those circumstances, thereby justifying a replay or side out/point depending on the offender ●

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.





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EXTRA!

Blair Beats Coplan in Natural Light Meet

Renee Coplan, USRA administrative assistant who'd prepared for the encounter with games against husky males like *National Racquetball* Designer Milt Presler, went down in defeat to Matt Blair of the Minnesota Vikings May 2 in a match that preceded the Chicago area regional tournament in the Natural Light/NFL series.

In a social game that followed her match with the linebacker Coplan defeated Rita Hoff, who's been playing football players for two years during Natural Light/NFL series. Hoff went on to defeat Chicago Bears Guard Revie Sorey before the Minnesota Vikings won the third of five regional tournaments.

The following month in St. Louis Rafael Septien, place kicker for the Dallas Cowboys, defeated Dave Brown, Seattle Seahawks defensive halfback, to win the \$8,000 first prize in the Natural Light/NFL championships. Brown walked away with \$4,000 in prize money while Buddy



Rafael Septien, the sure footed kicker of the Dallas Cowboys, prepares to deliver a powerful forehand to Stu Voigt of the Minnesota Vikings during round-robin matches in the Natural Light/NFL Players Association Racquetball Championships June 13-15 in St. Louis. Septien beat Voigt and every other opponent to capture the \$8,000 first place money.

Hardeman, of the Washington Redskins, and Randy Dean, of the New York Giants, each received \$1,500.

Other NFL players who went on to the championships after winning their regionals were Tim Mazzetti, Atlanta Falcons; Willie Buchanan, San Diego Chargers; Stu Voigt, Minnesota Vikings; Joe DeLamielleure, Buffalo Bills, and Curley Culp, Houston Oilers.

Breaking Up Blood Clots

While you're annihilating your racquetball opponent, your blood might be destroying clots that could lead to heart disease or strokes.

R. Sanders Williams, M.D., associate in the division of cardiology at Duke Medical Center, found an "important

mechanism" to lower chances of having heart disease, though he cautions "it would be overstating the case to say that we have found a vitally important effect of physical conditioning that clearly prevents heart attacks."

Duke doctors, who measured

the effects of 10 weeks of mild physical exercise on 69 healthy—but sedentary—adults, found at the end of the 10 weeks that the lining of the volunteers' blood vessels released greatly increased quantities of proteins called plasminogen activators. Plasminogen dissolves fibrin, a

stringy protein that helps form blood clots, which—when they occur in important blood vessels—cause heart attacks and strokes.

The Duke study explains a fact that doctors have recently been observing: people who exercise regularly have healthier hearts.

Posh and Hybrid

Parisian players are trying our game on one hybrid squash/racquetball court, but on the other side of the world some privileged Tokyo competitors will soon be playing at a three million dollar facility.

Ken Ueyama and Pierre Etchevery, in two separate early summer visits to USRA's Skokie headquarters, told dramatically different stories about the status of our sport in their countries.

"The Japanese Research Institute is spending three million dollars on three racquetball courts in an office building connected to the New Otani Hotel, due to open in February of 1981," reports Ueyama, a JPI researcher who will head the facility's racquetball operations. "The courts will be for JPI executives and hotel guests." Ueyama, who learned to play while he was a U.S. college student, is writing a racquetball book for Japanese beginners, illustrated with pictures by *National Racquetball Photographer* Arthur Shay.

Bob Kendler, left, and Ken Ueyama



Pierre Etchevery, left, and Sean Flynn

Etchevery manages the Front de Seine Squash Club a few blocks from the Eiffel Tower. He was in the U.S. with Sean Flynn, 20-year-old squash pro at his club and 1979 British Junior Squash Champion, 19 and Under.

Etchevery says that Paris has taken so well to squash since he introduced it, he's now going to show the city racquetball.

1980-81 National Racquetball Club Tour News



The NRC pro tour returns for the third time to King's Court in Westminster, CA, Aug. 27-31, for the Bank of Newport Beach Racquetball Classic. You'll find the entry on page 59.

Another upcoming event is a late September tournament that will be the first competition in a mini Coors Grand Prix series. The NRC welcomes Coors to its third year of pro tour sponsorship. For its Grand Prix series within the NRC format the Golden, CO, based brewery is sponsoring two qualifying tournaments, and then a final Grand Prix event a month before the Nationals.

Also slated for the NRC pro tour is a return in October to Keith Mahaney's Holiday Health and Racquet Club in Bangor, ME. Last year's site for an NRC invitational tournament will be host to a regular pro-am stop this year. Look for a complete story on the 1980-81 NRC pro tour in the September issue of *National Racquetball*.

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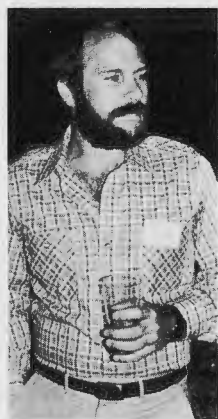
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State Chairmen of the Year

Among the 50 outstanding heads of state who assure USRA success two deserve special recognition for the job they've done the past few years.

One is Chuck Hallock, who is retiring from his post Sept. 1 after three years as Arizona state chairman. Chuck, who teaches at Arizona State in Tempe, has run eight to 10 local tournaments in Arizona each year and he played an important part in the 1978 and 1979 regionals. He helped run the Nationals in Tempe last year and was in charge of the amateur division at the Tempe pro stop last fall. Chuck's been a chairman to count on any time the USRA has needed him. His contributions have ranged from supporting junior programs in his state to being a team leader at the 1980 Nationals. Chuck leaves the Arizona association stronger and larger than it was when he took over its direction. We hope he'll continue as an unofficial consultant for Arizona and for our national organization.



The year before Chuck took over Arizona Jim Stevens became head of the USRA's Indiana association, after he'd been organizing racquetball in his state for three previous years. The four time Pan American and Olympic Games official—a national and world certified official in aquatics, wrestling and track and field—has made a tremendous contribution to our sport by designing and organizing the Indiana State Racquetball Referee certification program, which will serve as a model around the country. (Watch these pages for more news on becoming a referee). Referee certification program, which will serve as a model around the country. (Watch these pages for more news on becoming a referee). In the photo here Jim wears ISRA's official referee hat as he describes his pilot project to fellow state leaders at the Las Vegas conference that preceded the Nationals.

— Bob Keenan

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918-258-2062 (Res.)

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Vanier City, Ontario
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613-745-1247



USRA 1980 Regional Results

Seven thousand racquetball players around the country gathered in 15 court clubs the first, second and third weekends in April to compete in the USRA regional championships. By the time the regionals were over the USRA had gained almost 2,000 new members, now entitled to play all USRA events during the coming year and to receive a one year subscription to *National Racquetball*.

Trophies went to the first, second and third place winners in all divisions—the largest number of categories ever offered competitors in regional events. Men's and women's open winners received free trips to the June Leach/NRC-USRA Nationals in Las Vegas, where Southwest Winner Susie Dugan became National Open Women's Champ and Western Winner Ed Andrews bowed to Bret Harnett in the finals for the men's national title.

Regional sponsors included Leach, Seamco and Wagner's Thirst Quencher contributing to all 15 events, as well as Natural Light, Cullum & Boren, Ray Ellison Homes, Pizza Hut and Hawaiian Air.

Like regional competitors around the country, players in Portland, OR, enjoyed gallons of the official USRA drink—Wagner's Thirst Quencher.



New England

Natural Light USRA tournament at Court House One, Vernon, CT

Results

Men's Open: George Viera d. Phil Pannarella 21-12, 21-8; 3rd-Mike Romano

Men's B: Mike Chabot d. Joe Curley, 3rd-Buy Morrin

Men's C: Bob Palmer d. John Mendala 21-19, 21-19, 11-5; 3rd-Joel Gittlin

Men's Novice: Steve Silva d. Scott Redfern, 3rd-Pierre Dzivelnia

Men's Senior: Charlie Garfinkel d. Howard Peele 21-5, 21-8; 3rd-Jack Nocera

Men's Veteran: Charlie Garfinkel d. Chuck Bigalow

Men's Masters: Tom Waltz d. Harold Grieg 21-17, 21-19; 3rd-Bill Staknis

Men's Golden Masters: Bill Brielt d. Saul Lesser 21-18, 21-9; 3rd-Irv Cowie

Men's Veteran Open: Mike Romano d. John Cassesse 3rd-Nick Caruso

Men's Doubles

Open: Bill Risley/Steve Meltsner d. Ron Mirek/Dennis Fonseca 21-12, 21-19; 3rd-Jim Rougeaux/Mike Janiak

Men's Senior: Steve Duborg/Ed Astillo d. H. Adler/Dave Yurgaitis 21-13, 21-11

Men's Masters: Schaub/Manciona d. Perrimenis/Melcee 21-8, 20-21, 11-3; 3rd-Downey/Capuanio

Women's Open: Monique Parrent d. Bonnie Stoll 21-17, 21-20; 3rd-Elaine Ehrlich

Women's B: Debbie Amiot d. Ginger Sattile 21-19, 21-16; 3rd-Karen Van Kampen

Women's C: Fran Moura d. Fiona McKay 14-21, 21-11, 11-7; 3rd-Lois Van Leer

Women's Novice: Sue Bradwell d. Joanne Zbanak 21-15, 21-7; 3rd-Shirley Lardas

Women's Open Doubles: Jackie Adler/Kathy Strachar d. Gail Stanley/Julie Lauder 21-17, 21-11; 3rd-Debbie Amiot/Ann Cleaver

Northeast

Brammar Racquetball Club, Wilmington, DE

Results

Men's Open

Semis: Remen d. Guinter 21-5, 21-6; Deskins d. Ranker 21-8, 12-21, 11-10

Finals: Remen d. Deskins 21-12, 16-21, 11-3

Women's Open

Semis: Davis d. O'Brien 21-9, 21-12; Baxter d. Kennedy 21-2, 21-10

Finals: Davis d. Baxter 21-13, 21-16

Men's Veteran Open

Semis: Remen d. Duda 21-4, 21-5; Evans d. Kitchens 21-12, 21-7

Finals: Remen d. Evans 21-9, 21-16

Men's B

Semis: Frey d. Diemedio 21-18, 21-16; Cascio d. Mancari 21-11, 21-6

Finals: Cascio d. Frey 21-20, 11-21, 11-1 **Cons:** Wright

Men's C

Semis: Ruark d. McGill 21-15, 21-17; Gutosky d. Hummel 21-18, 21-15

Finals: Ruark d. Gutosky 21-19, 19-21, 11-3 **Cons:** Palermo

Men's Seniors

Semis: Kortman d. Powell 12-21, 21-18, 11-8; Drennon d. Pruitt 21-4, 21-13

Finals: Kortman d. Drennon 7-21, 21-10, 11-3

Men's Veteran Seniors

Semis: Krevsky d. Moody 21-3, 21-18; Cappozzoli d. Mas 21-7, 14-21, 11-3

Finals: Krevsky d. Cappozzoli 21-14, 21-12

Semis: Clark d. Thomas, Watkins d. Bailey

Finals: Clark d. Watkins

Men's Veteran Open

Quarters: Bob Wood d. Jeff McNeal, L. Samuelson d. Cary Medelson, A. Diaz d. Fred Howard, C. North d. Don Sebolt

Semis: Wood d. Schmuelsen, Diaz d. North

Finals: Diaz d. Wood

Men's Senior Singles

Quarters: B. King d. H. Pickrel, S. Harmon d. C. Lake, E. Taylor d. R. Hamilton, N. Chambers d. T. Freshwater

Semis: King d. Harmon, Chambers d. Taylor

Finals: King d. Chambers

Men's Master Singles

Quarters: J. Hogan d. M. Wyman, L. McGee d. D. Lane, C. Lake d. F. Howard, L. Green d. D. Freshwater

Semis: McGee d. Hogan, Lake d. Green

Finals: Lake d. McGee

Men's B

Quarters: G. Klimas d. B. Wood, D. Weiss d. B. Burke, H. McKim d. R. Renn, L. Matus d. E. Wood

Semis: Klimas d. Weiss, McKim d. Matus

Finals: McKim d. Klimas

Men's C

Quarters: H. Schwartz d. John Hooten, R. Isaacs d. S. Lewis, T. Arkle d. J. Wise, R. Perkins d. E. Davis

Semis: Schwartz d. Isaacs, Arkle d. Perkins

Finals: Schwartz d. Arkle

Men's Senior & Master Doubles

Semis: Wiles/Freshwater d. McGee/Smith, Taylor/Weinstein d. Wyman/Lane

Finals: Taylor/Weinstein d. Wiles/Freshwater

Women's Open

Semis: C. Brown d. A. Katz, T. Tilletson d. C. French

Finals: Tilletson d. Brown

Women's B

Quarters: H. Moore, bye, S. Walker d. M. Cameron, L. Baumler d. D. Hill, G. Moran d. B. Isenhouse

Semis: Moore d. Walker, Baumler d. Moran

Finals: Baumler d. Moore

Women's C

Quarters: A. Cavin d. G. Moran, M. Bergin d. R. Hoden, M. Voller d. R. Childress, L. Martin d. M. Marshall

Semis: Cavin d. Bergin, Martin d. Voller

Finals: Martin d. Cavin

Atlantic Coast

Carolina Courts of Raleigh, Raleigh, NC

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: S. Clark d. F. Anthong, M. Thomas d. N. Chambers, R. Watkins d. B. Thompson, J. Bailey d. J. Slate

Women's Open Doubles: 1st-Lucy Hardison/Malia Nieves, 2nd-Debbie Hill/Carolene Brown, 3rd-Vickie Thornton/Robin Childress

Southeast

Courtsouth at Akers Mill Square, Atlanta, GA

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Gary Stephens d. Vincent Ganley 18-21, 21-7, 11-2; Bryce Anderson d. John Jordan 21-10, 21-9; Jim Adkins d. Emile Catignani 11-21, 21-10, 11-9; Jim Cullen d. Mike Ray 21-14, 21-20

Semis: Stephens d. Anderson 19-21, 21-20, 11-4; Cullen d. Adkins 21-20, 21-10

Finals: Cullen d. Stephens 21-20, 11-21, 11-3, 3rd-Anderson

Men's Open Doubles Finals: Bryce Anderson/Emile Catignani d. Jim Adkins/Gary Stephens, 3rd-Cullen/Vincent.

Men's B Finals: Tim Tracy d. Ron Coleman, 3rd-Mick Didson, Cons-Steve Feinberg.

Men's C

Quarters: Nick Bartell d. Gary Colbert 21-10, 21-4; Mark Kupciewicz d. Steve Rhode 21-17, 21-14; Gerald Cleveland d. Dave Payne 21-20, 21-11; Dave Huckleba d. Bill Alpert 21-17, 21-11

Semis: Kupciewicz d. Bartell 21-13, 21-13; Huckleba d. Cleveland 21-6, 21-10

Finals: Huckleba d. Kupciewicz 21-12, 21-13, 3rd-Bartell, Cons-Jeff Unger

Men's Veteran Open

Quarters: Wayne Vincent d. Ron Clarke 14-21, 21-8, 11-1; Doug Wurster d. Ralph Birdsong 21-3, 21-1; Jay Schwartz d. Joe Pappaterra 21-7, 21-10; Bobby Siegel d. Joe Serabia 21-5, 21-12

Semis: Wurster d. Vincent 21-12, 9-21, 11-10; Schwartz d. Siegel 21-20, 10-21, 11-5

Finals: Wurster d. Schwartz 21-15, 21-14, 3rd-Vincent

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Jim Jordan d. Craig Gutchow 21-8, 21-9; Marsh Chamberlain d. Ron Scallion 21-14, 21-7; Vic Oliver d. Ron Pang 21-12, 8-21, 11-2; Roger Wehrle d. Jim Hilliard 21-8, 21-20

Semis: Jordan d. Chamberlain 21-0, 21-12; Wehrle d. Oliver 21-15, 21-8

Finals: Wehrle d. Jordan 21-7, 21-18

Men's Masters

Semis: Warren Bouwman d. Bill Billingsley 21-9, 21-8; Gordon Ira d. Frank Jernigan, forfeit

Finals: Ira d. Bouwman 21-9, 21-7

Men's Golden Masters

Semis: Frank Phillipson d. Alex Guerry, default; Fred Vetter d. John Becker 17-21, 21-15, 11-5

Finals: Vetter d. Phillipson 21-8, 21-8

Women's Open

Semis: Sheryl Nelson d. Caryn McKinney, injury forfeit; Nancy Hamrick d. Babbette Burkett 21-19, 21-18

Finals: Hamrick d. Nelson 21-16, 21-14, 3rd-Burkett

Women's C

Semis: Cindy Eaton d. Sheri Adkins 21-20, 21-13; Shelly Zeiden d. Vicky Gatlin 21-16, 17-21, 11-10

Finals: Zeiden d. Eaton 21-0, 21-10, 3rd-Adkins, Cons-C.C. Neal

Ohio Valley

Arlington Court Club, Columbus, OH

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Phil Stepp d. Dan Clifford 21-20, 21-6; Kelvin Vantrease d. Mike Sipes 21-19, 21-14; John Amatulli d. Bill Gottlieb 21-13, 21-18; Mark Fried d. Al Brint 20-21, 21-16, 11-8

Semis: Stepp d. Vantrease 21-20, 21-8; Fried d. Amatulli 21-4, 21-15

Finals: Stepp d. Fried 21-13, 21-15

Veterans Open

Quarters: Dan Cartee d. Rich Taylor 21-18, 21-8; Shelly Hoffman d. Jon Hauck 21-17, 21-14; Richard Mathers d. Dave Kovanda 21-17, 21-18; Barry Hart d. Ray Huss 21-14, 21-16

Semis: Mathers d. Hart 16-21, 21-12, 11-3; Hoffman d. Cartee 21-11 21-20

Finals: Hoffman d. Mathers 21-11, 21-19

Seniors

Quarters: Ron Johnson d. Pete Keiser 21-12, 21-11; Jim Marsh d. Kent Fusselman 21-18, 20-21, 11-3; Peter Sakon d. Mike Brown 21-19, 21-9; Jack Soble d. Jim Gordon 21-10, 21-11

Semis: Johnson d. Marsh 21-20, 21-7; Soble d. Sakon 21-17, 21-9

Finals: Johnson d. Soble 21-6, 21-15

Veteran Seniors and Masters (Combined)

Quarters: Charles Solomon d. Jack Little 21-3, 21-4; Rex Lawler d. Bernie McNamara 16-21, 21-11, 11-4; Jim Herron d. Don Smith 21-10, 20-21, 11-10; Bobby Sanders d. Frank Redden 21-19, 21-3

Semis: Solomon d. Lawler 21-16, 21-14; Sanders d. Herron 21-8, 21-15

Finals: Sanders d. Solomon 21-14, 21-13

Veteran and Golden Masters (Combined)

Quarters: Ed Witham d. Gene Macdonald 10-21, 21-12, 11-8; Fred Zitzer d. Del Daines 21-13, 21-8; Don Detjen d. Nick Wasyluk 21-3, 21-1; Art Payne d. Robert Craig 21-11, 21-15

Semis: Witham d. Zitzer 21-15, 21-19; Detjen d. Payne 21-20, 21-20

Finals: Detjen d. Witham 21-15, 12-21, 11-6

Men's B

Quarters: Bill Lancet d. Howard May 10-21, 21-10, 11-7; Jack Ecktmann d. Rich Taylor 21-13, 21-15; Justin Vantrease d. George Lawson 17-21, 21-7, 11-4; Carl Fisher d. Roger Nix 21-10, 21-5

Semis: Ecktmann d. Lancet 21-10, 21-19; Vantrease d. Fisher, forfeit

Finals: Vantrease d. Ecktmann 20-21, 21-19, 11-5

Men's C

Quarters: Jerry Leshner d. Tim Anthony 16-21, 21-12, 11-7; Ted Champion d. Bob Saltsman 21-7, 21-16; Jeff Zipes d. Steve Helsing 21-15, 21-14; Joe Miller d. Clark Hertzler 21-13, 21-12

Semis: Champion d. Leshner 21-11, 21-7; Miller d. Zipes 21-13, 21-9

Finals: Miller d. Champion 21-10, 21-13

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Mark Fried/Jeff Riehl d. Tom Travers/Jerry Davis 21-15, 16-21, 11-8; Phil Stepp/Dan Clifford d. Bruce Lillis/Steve Miller 21-18, 21-11; Clark Pittman/Mike Sipes d. Elijah Helton/Rob Abrams 21-14, 21-12; Kelvin Vantrease/Lee Vantrease d. Bill Bauer/Ray Sabatine 21-6, 21-9

Semis: Stepp/Clifford d. Fried/Riehl 21-11; 21-10; Clark Pittman/Mike Sipes d. Kelvin Vantrease/Lee Vantrease 21-15, 21-6

Finals: Stepp/Clifford d. Pittman/Sipes 21-8, 16-21, 11-3

Men's Senior Doubles

Semis: Mike Stern/Jack Soble d. Brownie Vantrease/Goneze 21-2, 21-18; Bernie McNamara/Frank Redden d. Fred Zitzer/Ed Witham

Finals: Stern/Soble d. McNamara/Redden 21-7, 21-13

Women's Open Singles

Quarters: Trish Morpew d. Nancie Messerschmidt 21-1, 21-7; Dana Cornblath d. Beth Marcum 21-4, 21-7; Julie Selim d. Susie Retterer 21-16, 17-21, 11-1; Becky Callahan d. Kathy Koch 21-11, 21-11

Semis: Cornblath d. Morpew 21-17, 21-18; Callahan d. Selim 21-16, 21-7

Finals: Callahan d. Cornblath 21-6, 21-8

Women's Veterans Open

Quarters: Trish Morpew d. Shelly Ogden 21-5, 21-16; Shirley Strickland d. Salina Harkleroad 10-21, 21-16, 11-1; Linda Shalkhauser d. Margaret Gray 21-8, 21-18; Joyce Underwood d. Heidi Gilman 21-18, 21-11

Semis: Morpew d. Strickland 21-11, 21-5; Underwood d. Shalkhauser 19-21, 21-14, 11-5

Finals: Morpew d. Underwood 21-11, 21-5

Women's B

Quarters: Barb Young d. Lori Fisher 21-18, 21-12; Colleen Brint d. Cathy Mapes 21-17, 21-20; Nan Brint d. Judy Robert 21-6, 21-7; Becky Brint d. Claudia Mapes 21-17, 21-19

Semis: Young d. C. Brint 21-5, 21-9; Brint d. N. Brint 21-4, 21-14

Finals: Young d. Brint 19-21, 21-8, 11-0

Women's C

Semis: Anita Grosz d. Marcia Moore 21-15, 21-8; Bonnie Kowalski d. Yvonne Fox 21-11, 10-21, 11-9

Finals: Grosz d. Kowalski 21-6, 21-12

Women's Open Doubles

Semis: Beth Marcum/Holly Rentz d. Marilyn Perna/Margie Gray 21-5, 21-4; Becky Callahan/Julie Selim d. Karen Jacobs/Nancie Messerschmidt 21-12, 21-7

Finals: Callahan/Selim d. Marcum/Rentz 21-18, 21-14

Northern

The Blain Racquet Club, Minneapolis, MN

Results

Men's Open Winner: Paul J. Kier

Women's Open Winner: Barb Tenneson

Midwest

Dales Courts, Overland Park, KS

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: R. Newcomer d. F. Kay, S. Perry d. G. Withrow, J. Roudebush d. J. Gardner, J. Klearman d. R. Montoya

Semis: Newcomer d. Perry, Klearman d. Roudebush

Finals: Klearman d. Newcomer

Men's Veterans Open

Quarters: T. Elgethun d. A. Marolis, C. Holm d. T. Hoffman, E. Brewer d. G. Steger, B. Knighton d. T. Peterson

Semis: Elgethun d. Holm, E. Brewer d. Knighton

Finals: Brewer d. Elgethun

Men's Seniors

Quarters: C. Morse d. B. Neilson, C. Olsen d. G. Downing, B. Gaeta d. D. Norris, L. Humphrey d. R. Beckman

Semis: Olsen d. Morse, Gaeta d. Humphrey

Finals: Olsen d. Gaeta

Men's Masters

Quarters: O. Oas d. bye, D. Kincade d. R. Drake, W. Lee d. S. Rinaldo, D. Bowersock d. R. Siemens

Semis: Oas d. Kincade, Lee d. Bowersock

Finals: Oas d. Bowersock

Men's Veteran Seniors

Quarters: G. Chunka d. bye, K. Fosse d. H. Walmsley, D. Tindall d. J. Reddick, P. Hershfield d. L. Phillips

Semis: Fosse d. Chunka, Hershfield d. Tindall

Finals: Hershfield d. Fosse

Men's B

Quarters: T. Adams d. D. Doyle, R. Rose d. P. Braunstein, P. Valdepena d. M. Berkland, L. Hansen d. G. Downing, D. Norris d. V. Brewer, C. Burks d. R. Lindwall, M. Wilson d. R. Galusha, J. Coughlin d. B. McCullar

Semis: Rose d. Adams, Valdepena d. Hansen, Burks d. Norris, Coughlin d. Wilson

Finals: Valdepena d. Burks

Men's C

Quarters: K. Albarelli d. R. Noonan, A. Gross d. R. Liebsch, R. Loehning d. J. Strada, T. Jankevicius d. D. Pasternack

Semis: Gross d. Albarelli, Loehning d. Jankevicius

Finals: Loehning d. Gross

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Newcomer/Knighton d. Feltz/Kay, Podgorny/Newcomer d. Brewer/Montoya, Perry/Parodi d. Brown/Sacco, Gardner/Matheson d. Olson/Beckman

Semis: Newcomer/Knighton d. Podgorny/Newcomer, Perry/Parodi d. Gardner/Matheson

Finals: Newcomer/Knighton d. Perry/Parodi

Men's B Doubles:

Quarters: Kennedy/Downey d. Berkland/Justeson, Marolis/Campbell d. Meyer/Hamilton, Loehning/Orozco d. Holm/Hurt, Spotts/Valdepena d. Hansen/Spelts

Semis: Kennedy/Downey d. Marolis/Campbell, Loehning/Orozco d. Spotts/Valdepena

Finals: Kennedy/Downey d. Loehning/Orozco

Men's C Doubles

Quarters: Mongoven/Faunce d. Farrell/Farrell, Cocherl/Anwander d. Morris/Drake, Weixeldorfer/Hunsinger d. Reinhardt/Isaac, Oliver/Ackerley d. Shea/Reese

Semis: Cocherl/Anwander d. Mongoven/Faunce, Oliver/Ackerley d. Weixeldorfer/Hunsinger

Finals: Cocherl/Anwander d. Oliver/Ackerley

Women's Open

Quarters: T. Brown, d. A. Bahe, T. Dickerson d. S. Dostal, Ceglinski d. C. Cox, T. Kennedy d. N. Ustad

Semis: Dickerson d. Brown, Kennedy d. Ceglinski

Finals: Kennedy d. Dickerson

Women's B Singles

Quarters: B. Smith d. T. McVay, S. Downey d. A. Weingold, L. Weidman d. J. Dahr, J. Clemons d. K. Edwards

Semis: Downey d. Smith, Clemons d. Weidman

Finals: Downey d. Clemons

Women's C Singles

Quarters: C. Peterson d. P. Marolis, P. Drysdale d. J. Livonius, P. Haller d. C. Brogan, L. Green d. R. Montoya

Semis: Drysdale d. Peterson, Green d. Haller

Finals: Green d. Drysdale

Women's Open Doubles

Quarters: Burden/Porter d. Fisher/Edwards, Hayhow/Smith d. Lozon/Burnes, Ustad/Maginn bye, Brown/Cox d. Olivas/Haller

Semis: Burden/Porter d. Hayhow/Smith, Brown/Cox d. Ustad/Maginn

Finals: Brown/Cox d. Burden/Porter

Southern

Wallbanger Court Clubs Baton, Rouge, LA

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: B. Holliday d. M. Nickerson 21-11, 21-10, M. Comeaux d. D. Marshall 21-16, 21-19, B. Land d. B. Soule 21-10, 21-14, A. Hodges d. C. Zeas 21-7, 21-5

Semis: Holliday d. Comeaux 21-14, 21-14; Hodges d. B. Land 21-12, 21-9

Finals: Hedges d. Holliday 21-10, 21-8

Men's Veterans Open

Quarters: D. Marshall d. D. Ellerman 21-10, 21-17; R. Jeter d. D. Besse 21-15, 20-21, 11-10; J. Stewart d. J. Jones, forfeit; R. Chiquelin d. J. Kindl 21-5, 21-19

Semis: Marshall d. R. Jeter 21-9, 21-10; Chiquelin d. J. Stewart 21-16, 21-9

Finals: Marshall d. Chiquelin 21-16, 21-17

Men's Senior Singles

Quarters: L. Bobbitt d. J. Jones, forfeit; D. Moreau d. J. Winsberg 21-15, 21-7; W. Hardy d. S. Comeaux 21-3, 21-6; W. Reuther d. C. Minor 21-8, 21-9

Semis: Moreau d. Bobbitt 9-21, 21-12, 11-9; Hardy d. Reuther 21-7, 10-21, 11-7

Finals: Moreau d. Hardy 14-21, 21-19, 11-4

Men's Veteran Senior Singles

Quarters: B. Tanner d. B. Forest 21-8, 21-4; P. Baum d. L. Vargas 21-4, 21-4; E. Lowrance d. D. French 21-17, 21-14; C. Pfister d. J. Groner, forfeit

Semis: Tanner d. Baum 21-4, 21-4; Pfister d. Lowrance 21-20, 21-17

Finals: Tanner d. Pfister

Men's Master Singles

Quarters: B. Tanner d. A. Irwin 21-4, 21-4; G. Ferris d. B. Voorhies 21-15, 21-13; D. Gunther d. F. Hartstun 21-10, 21-4; J. Hero d. W. Dunbar 21-12, 21-11

Semis: Tanner d. Ferris 21-8, 21-8; Hero d. Gunther 21-10, 21-18

Finals: Tanner d. Hero 21-13, 21-5

Men's B

Quarters: Moore d. Watson 21-6, 15-21, 11-6; D. Beard d. P. Goodman 21-18, 21-9; J. Stewart d. C. Moreland 8-21, 21-17, 11-9; A. Masood d. S. Rogers 21-19, 21-19

Semis: Moore d. Beard 21-14, 21-19; Stewart d. Masood 21-15, 21-9

Finals: Stewart d. Moore 21-15, 21-16

Men's C

Quarters: D. Vegas d. R. Kyzar; A. Krail d. S. Quinton 21-8, 21-12; E. Scott d. K. Martinez 21-9, 21-7; Fontenot d. Baudin 21-11, 12-21, 11-5

Semis: Vegas d. Krail 21-14, 16-21, 11-7; Fontenot d. E. Scott 21-4, 15-21, 11-7

Finals: Vegas d. Fontenot 21-5, 20-21, 11-9

Men's D

Quarters: F. McArdle d. R. Arceneaux 12-21, 21-19, 11-6; M. Tynes d. T. Hall 21-12, 21-11; R. Bergeron d. T. Loftin 21-15, 21-7

Semis: Tynes d. McArdle 21-16, 21-9; R. Bergeron d. T. Loftin 21-15, 21-7

Finals: Tynes d. Bergeron 21-19, 21-9

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Gonzales/Gomila d. Soule/Guillot 21-20, 21-16; Land/Hodges d. Lacour/Hannan 21-9, 18-21, 11-9; Holiday/Jeter d. Beard/Setton 21-16, 21-13; Chiquelin/Moore d. Zeas/Vega 21-19, 21-18

Semis: Land/Hodges d. Gonzales/Gomila 21-11, 21-14; Chiquelin/Moore d. Holiday/Jeter 21-19, 21-12

Finals: Land/Hodges d. Chiquelin/Moore

Men's Senior and Masters Doubles

Quarters: Moreaux/Winsberg, bye; Ellerman/Shean d. Benham/Slusarex, forfeit; Moreland/Ferris d. Hero/Gunther; Guillot/Minor, bye

Semis: Moreaux/Winsberg d. Ellerman/Shean 21-4, 21-3; Guillot/Minor d. Moreland/Ferris 21-13, 21-13

Finals: Moreaux/Winsberg d. Guillot/Minor 21-2, 21-10

Women's Open

Quarters: G. Woods d. B. Jacobs 21-1, 21-4; K. Swigart d. A. Foster 21-18, 21-8; T. Andrews d. R. Salemi 21-19, 19-21, 11-9; S. McClintock d. C. Zeas 21-2, 21-11

Semis: Woods d. Swigart 21-8, 21-0; S. McClintock d. T. Andrews 21-12, 21-15

Finals: Woods d. McClintock 21-4, 21-5

Women's Senior Singles

Semis: R. Hebert d. Berteau 21-0, 21-4; K. Morgan d. G. Tabary 21-0, 21-5

Finals: Hebert d. Morgan

Women's B

Quarters: D. Sherburne d. P. Wilson 21-16, 21-13; B. Jones d. T. Berteau 21-1, 21-10; J. Risch d. K. Lange 21-12, 21-8; L. Moreau d. J. Eiswirth 21-6, 21-7

Semis: Jones d. Sherburne 12-21, 21-18, 11-5; Risch d. L. Moreau 21-11, 21-7

Finals: Risch d. Jones 21-12, 21-13

Women's C

Quarters: J. Lynch d. T. Richards 21-10, 12-21, 11-5; Huni d. D. Deville 21-20, 21-10; G. Wagner d. K. Griffin 21-12, 21-16; I. Hodges d. L. Miller 21-14, 21-3

Semis: Lynch d. Hunt 21-20, 21-10; Wagner d. Hodges 21-16, 21-6

Finals: Wagner d. Hunt 12-21, 21-16, 11-9

Women's Novice

Quarters: J. Aycock d. L. Haney 21-9, 21-11; J. Cline d. D. Bergeron 21-12, 21-8; V. Watts d. L. Vallory 21-9, 21-4; C. Hastings d. C. Zull 21-7, 21-9

Semis: Cline d. Aycock 21-19, 21-17; Hastings d. V. Watts 21-10, 21-18

Finals: Hastings d. Cline, forfeit

Women's Open Doubles

Quarters: Hebert/Morgan d. Bozant/Besse 21-1, 21-4; Andrews/Shean d. Lumpkin/Beard 21-9, 21-5; Degobary/Ribas d. Thibodeaux/Duncan 21-15, 21-11; Sherburne/Wilson d. Moore/Stuntz 11-21, 21-9, 11-8

Semis: Hebert/Morgan d. Andrews/Shean 21-2, 17-21, 11-10; Degobary/Ribas d. Sherburne/Wilson 15-21, 21-10, 11-10

Finals: Hebert/Morgan d. Degobary/Ribas 21-3, 21-15

South Central

Racquetball and Handball Club of San Antonio, TX

Results

Men's Open Singles: Jeff Kwartler d. Gregg Peck 21-11, 21-20, **Cons:** Lance Gilliam

Men's B Singles: Mark Newport d. Steve Mejia 21-10, 21-20, 3rd-Mike Tuminello, **Cons:** Tim Dignan

Men's C Singles: Mike Givilaniz d. Paul Bozzo 21-10, 21-8, 3rd-Luis Miranda, **Cons:** Mike Skolnik

Men's D Singles: Mario Martinez d. Jack Lewright 13-21, 21-12, 11-3, 3rd-Bruce Gilby, **Cons:** Kevin LaBadie

Bruce Hendin, left, owner of Racquetball and Handball of San Antonio, and Southwest Men's Open Champ Jeff Kwartler



Men's Novice: Steve Liebowitz d. David Ragsdale 21-18, 21-19, 3rd-Jesse Carrillo, **Cons:** Robert Espinosa

Men's Veteran Open: Pete Wright d. Marc Auerbach 21-6, 21-13, 3rd-Mike Tuminello, forfeit, **Cons:** Jim Swigart

Men's Senior Singles: Rinaldo Gonzalez d. Tom McKie 21-11, 13-21, 11-10, 3rd-H.J. Cooper, **Cons:** Al Valdez

Men's Veteran Singles: Ken Kachtik d. Harry Witt 21-18, 21-17, 3rd-John Watson, forfeit, **Cons:** Fred Fawcett

Men's Masters Singles: Richard Walker d. Bill Dunn 21-4, 21-3, 3rd-William Emick, **Cons:** Leo DiValentino

Men's Veteran Master Singles: Simon Welderman, d. Milton Karp, 21-15, 21-11, 3rd-Fred Ricketts

Men's Open Doubles: Jeff Kwartler/Mark Malowitz d. Bob Merritt/Gary Merritt, 21-7, 21-14, **Cons:** Les Boren/Floyd Chapman

Men's Senior Doubles: Tom Chodosh/Ken Kachtik d. Dick Bagby/John Watson 21-8, 21-18, 3rd-Joe Fazio/Milton McKenzie

Women's Open Singles: Susie Dugan d. Janice Segall 21-3, 21-10, 3rd-Becky Bludau, **Cons:** Betsy Dunman

Women's B Singles: Betty Harlan d. Dottie Wofford 21-13, 21-9, 3rd-Diana Shaw, **Cons:** Gail Marshall

Women's C Singles: Melinda Miller d. Elaine Still 21-18, 21-5, 3rd-Anita Carvajal, **Cons:** Kay LeGrand

Women's D Singles: Monica Guevara d. Nancy Walker 20-21, 21-13, 11-2, 3rd-Sylvia Howell, **Cons:** Cindy Chodosh

Women's Novice Singles: Lily Kehoe d. Carolyn Sheets 21-14, 21-8, 3rd-Cindy Overfield, **Cons:** Sylvia Dobbs

Women's Senior Singles: Beverly Trevor d. Tina Weiner

Women's Open Doubles: Carol Farrell/Charlotte Renken d. Marian Merritt/Janice Segall 21-12, 21-15, 3rd-Leslie Hall/Mary Pat Sklenka

Rocky Mountain

The Fountain of Youth, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT

Results

Open Singles: 1st-Bill Hildebrand, 2nd-Kyle Kamala

Men's A: 1st-Rick Strout, 2nd-Dave Jackson, 3rd-Robert Nicholas, 4th-Steve Coray

Men's B: 1st-Mark Lothrop, 2nd-Fred Gershkoff, 3rd-Marty Booser, 4th-Randy Darrohn

Men's C: 1st-Randy Nielson, 2nd-Mike Bement, 3rd-Mike Jensen, 4th-Butch Jentsch

Men's Veterans Open: 1st-Morgan Sayes, 2nd-Tom Bramble, 3rd-Rob Jackson, 4th-Randy Darrohn

Men's Senior Singles: 1st-Robert McNabb, 2nd-Tom Bramble, 3rd-Robert Boice, 4th-Cliff Goff

Men's Masters Singles: 1st-John Mooney, 2nd-Dallas Church, 3rd-Luzell Wilde, 4th-Bob Apple

Juniors 17 and Under: 1st-Mike Jensen, 2nd-Russ Griffiths, 3rd-Trevor Sudweeks, 4th-Bruce Booker

Juniors 15 and Under: 1st-Corby Patrick, 2nd-Brian Smith, 3rd-Vincent Brown II, 4th-Travis Brown

Juniors 13 and Under: 1st-Vincent Brown II, 2nd-Ricky Henrich, 3rd-Travis Brown, 4th-Paul Foucault

Women's Open Singles: 1st-Lydia Emerick, 2nd-Anne Kashiwa, 3rd-Marilyn Kemp, 4th-Pat Coray

Women's B Singles: 1st-Alison Hays, 2nd-Bitsy Ray, 3rd-Anita Torti, 4th-Karen Knudsen

Northwest

Hawaiian players competed in their own regional, but Alaskans traveled down to Portland for the northwest tournament. Representing the country's northern outpost at the Portland event were, front row, left to



right: Mary Rasmusson, Larry Rasmusson, Deno Paolini, Lou Fuzzard, Erick Rasmusson, Nancy Torhurst, Paris Henry, Robin Rodriguez, Tryan Saario, Rod Rodriguez; back row, left to right, Lonnie Henry, Doug McDonald, Jeffy Sandys, Steve Deaton, Mike Presley, Kay Deaton, Harold Campbell, Nick Walker, Jim Haeg, Judy Campbell.



Gene Gibbs, left, of Boise, ID, was winner over Dave Retter, Spokane, WA, in the finals of the Men's Open Division of the USRA northwest regionals at Lloyd Center Courts in Portland, OR.



Connie Petterson, right, Eugene, OR, beat Susie Carlos, Salem, OR, in the tournament at Lloyd Center Courts.

Western

Tournament House Racquetball Club, Riverside, CA

Results

Men's Open Singles:

Quarters: E. Andrews d. J. Hicks 21-12, 21-6; M. Martino d. J. Mack 21-6, 21-15; D. Doehr d. J. Woodard 21-5, 21-18; B. Harnett d. L. Kessing 21-3, 20-21, 11-1

Semis: Andrews d. Martino 21-9, 21-12; Harnett d. Doehr 21-9, 17-21, 11-2

Finals: Andrews d. Harnett 12-21, 21-14, 11-8

Men's Veteran Open Singles

Quarters: J. Corbett d. B. Blade 21-7, 21-16; D. Chandler d. S. Abrevaya, forfeit; C. Sisneros d. C. Johnson 21-16, 21-20; J. Schatz d. J. Conine 21-19, 21-15

Semis: Chandler d. Corbett 21-5, 6-21, 11-9; Schatz d. Sisneros 21-10, 21-13

Finals: Schatz d. Chandler 21-18, 21-18

Men's Veteran Senior Singles

Quarters: B. Bible d. G. David 21-15, 21-11; D. Harnett d. J. Northwood 21-11, 18-21, 11-4; B. Adams d. E. Rodriguez 21-15, 21-12; B. Basucci d. C. Walker 21-5, 21-9

Semis: Bible d. Harnett; Adams d. Masucci 11-21, 21-16, 11-9

Finals: Adams d. Bible 21-13, 21-11

Men's Veteran Master's

Quarters: B. Henley d. W. Dahlem 21-14, 21-7; E. Spruill d. T. Duarte 21-15, 21-10; D. Gartrell d. B. Gibson 21-18, 21-13

Semis: Spruill d. Henley 21-7, 21-12; Gartrell d. Eckardt 21-12, 21-19

Finals: Spruill d. Gartrell 21-7, 21-16

Men's Master Singles

Semis: V. Lerner d. G. Stull 21-18, 21-13; B. Morrow d. T. Thee 21-17, 10-21, 11-9

Finals: Lerner d. Morrow 21-17, 21-9

Men's Golden Master's Singles

Quarters: C. Loveday d. H. Bristol 21-4, 21-5; M. Bugel d. O. Rodeffer 21-12, 21-8; J. Pallette d. T. Duarte 19-21, 21-14, 11-5; B. Carroll d. R. Short 18-21, 21-3, 11-4

Semis: Loveday d. Bugel 21-6, 8-21, 11-4; Carroll d. Pallette 21-11, 21-10

Finals: Loveday d. Carroll 21-7, 21-14

Men's Super Golden Master's Singles

Quarters: S. Berney d. V. Miller 21-0, 21-5; L. Getlin d. L. Rankin 21-6, 20-21, 11-3; J. Scott d. B. Rouleau 21-9, 21-7; O. Rodeffer d. B. Brown 21-6, 21-17

Semis: Berney d. Getlin 21-4, 21-5; Rodeffer d. Scott 21-6, 21-11

Finals: Berney d. Rodeffer 21-13, 21-7

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Davidson/Martino d. Mack/Sheffield 21-14, 21-17; Hicks/Mitchell d. Nowak/Eddy 6-21, 21-16, 11-7; Conine/Lerner d. Williams/Chavez 21-16, 18-21, 11-7; Charfauros/Reinecke d. Corbett/Ehren 21-16, 21-16

Semis: Davidson/Martino d. Hicks/Mitchell 21-17, 21-10; Conine/Lerner d. Charfauros/Reinecke 13-21, 21-16, 11-3

Finals: Conine/Lerner d. Davidson/Martino 21-19, 12-21, 11-10

Men's Master's Doubles

Semis: Morrow/Gibson d. Henley/Lerner; Berney/Loveday d. Deeds/Hughes

Finals: Morrow/Gibson d. Berney/Loveday

Men's B Singles

Quarters: Galarza d. DeLaRosa 21-5, 18-21, 11-0; Lewis d. Taggart; Zeiner d. Picazo 21-15, 21-13; Chavez d. Wolfe 21-16, 21-15

Semis: Galarza d. Lewis 21-5, 19-21, 11-10; Chavez d. Zeiner 17-21, 21-20, 11-7

Finals: Galarza d. Chavez 21-14, 21-0

Men's C Singles

Quarters: G. Anderson d. P. Richards 21-11, 21-5; H. Miller d. B. Whitehead 21-18, 21-17; M. Chavez d. T. Rea 21-14, 21-8; J. Coleman d. T. Arango 21-16, 21-16

Semis: Anderson d. Miller 21-13, 21-13; Coleman d. Chavez

Finals: Coleman d. Anderson 21-18, 21-13

Women's Open Singles

Semis: Martino d. Siau 21-5, 21-4; Gardner d. Mathews, forfeit

Finals: Gardner d. Martino 15-21, 21-15, 11-9

Women's B Singles

Quarters: Cummings d. Fisher 21-16, 21-16; O'Sullivan d. Alvarado 21-16, 21-16; Seymour d. Torres 21-8, 21-6; Ayala d. Newell 21-7, 21-19

Semis: O'Sullivan d. Cummings 21-9, 21-14; Seymour d. Ayala, forfeit

Finals: O'Sullivan d. Seymour 21-10, 21-9

Women's C Singles

Quarters: S. Wilson d. G. Marler 21-12, 21-10; K. Carr d. C. Mandell 21-1, 21-11; L. Banta d. C. Myers 21-12, 21-19; K. Gartrell d. P. Gastwirth 21-4, 21-2

Semis: Wilson d. Carr 21-2, 21-1; Gartrell d. Banta 21-3, 16-21, 11-7

Finals: Wilson d. Gartrell 21-6, 21-8

Women's Open Doubles

Semis: Harding/Fisher d. Banta/Seymour 21-14, 21-10; Cummings/Pizzifred d. Gardner/Pool, forfeit

Finals: Harding/Fisher d. Cummings/Pizzifred 21-12, 21-11

Hawaii

Hawaiian Air/USRA Tournament at the Courthouse Racquetball Club, Kaneohe, Hawaii

Results

Men's Open Singles

Quarters: Randy Lau d. George Akeo 21-0, 21-17; Woody Cox d. Norman Akau 21-6, 21-13; Joe Decker d. Mel Tom 21-6, 21-20; Owen Lovell d. Michael Clegg 21-14, 21-17

Semis: Cox d. Lau 21-9, 17-21, 11-4; Decker d. Lovell 21-19, 4-21, 11-1

Finals: Cox d. Decker 21-8, 9-21, 11-9

Men's B Singles

Quarters: Bob Pires d. Roy Kobatake 21-16, 10-21, 11-7; Bill Casart d. Lee Porter; John Driscoll d. Bill Gadino 21-16, 21-20; Walter You d. Ken Hooley 21-16, 21-19

Semis: Casart d. Pires 21-15, 16-21, 11-6; You d. Driscoll 21-16, 21-19

Finals: You d. Casart 21-10, 21-19, 3rd - Pires, 4th - Driscoll

Men's C Singles

Quarters: Ric Smith d. Vince Cruz 21-15, 21-10; Norwood d. Ed Berr 21-19, 21-7; Hector Ramirez d. Jake Purdy 21-15, 21-14; Bob Rydberg d. Dan Benere 21-19, 21-13

Semis: Smith d. Norwood 21-6, 21-11; Rydberg d. Ramirez 21-17, 21-2

Finals: Rydberg d. Smith 21-7, 21-17, 3rd - Ramirez, 4th - Norwood

Men's Novice

Quarters: Jeff Jones d. Duane Kealoha 21-16, 21-13; Bob Murachver d. William Ginoza 21-11, 21-19; Joe Natividad d. Mack Asinger 21-2, 21-8; Greg Moore d. Michael Beaumont 21-17, 21-8

Semis: Jones d. Murachver 21-14, 21-5; Moore d. Natividad 21-6, 21-19

Finals: Jones d. Moore 21-11, 21-11, 3rd - Natividad, 4th - Murachver

Senior Men's Singles

First Round: Jabo Jarog d. Jacob Purdy 21-10, 21-16; Wrenley Kaakimaka d. Miles Fonseca 21-6, 21-12; Norman Lau d. Jerry Jessen 21-3, 21-1

Semis: Kevin Dorr d. Jarog 21-2, 14-21, 11-5; Lau d. Kaakimaka 21-17, 10-21, 11-7

Finals: Dorr d. Lau 21-2, 12-21, 11-7, 3rd - Jarog, 4th - Kaakimaka

Men's Veteran Senior Singles

First Round: San Koanui d. Rovert Kidani 21-19, 21-14; Bob Rydberg d. H.A. Hodge 21-9, 21-12; Les Skelton d. Chuck Lindsey, forfeit; Doug Erway d. Powell Moore 21-6, 21-19; Ron Harris d. Al Borges 19-21, 21-14, 11-6; Jim Swoish d. Peter Britos, Sr. 21-13, 21-18; William Quinn d. Arturo Quiseng 21-12, 19-21, 11-9

Quarters: Bob Rydberg d. Sam Koanui 21-19, 21-7; Les Skelton d. Doug Erway 21-16, 10-21, 11-8; Ron Harris d. Jim Swoish 21-16, 21-1; Donald Lam d. William Quinn 21-9, 21-17

Semis: Rydberg d. Skelton 21-9, 18-21, 11-4; Harris d. Lam 21-20, 21-6

Finals: Harris d. Rydberg 21-7, 21-3, 3rd - Skelton, 4th - Lam

Juniors

First Round: Ken Pate d. Kevin Izaguirre 21-9, 21-13; Ryan Pate d. Terrance Goldberg 21-20, 21-20

Second Round: Mark Lindsey d. John Britos 21-5, 21-17; Aaron Kamau d. K. Pate 21-3, 21-3; R. Pate d. Duane Kealoha 21-18, 21-17; Louis Britos d. Kalpo Lau 21-6, 21-9
Semis: Lindsey d. Kamau 21-6, 21-17; L. Britos d. R. Pate 17-0, forfeit
Finals: Lindsey d. Britos 17-21, 21-14, 11-6, 3rd - Kamau, 4th - Page

Women's Novice Singles

First Round: Ann Wert d. Maryann Ricart 21-3, 21-11; Marilyn Onoyama d. Beth Deshane 21-11, 21-9; Pam Newhaller d. Crystal Lau 21-10, 21-6; Brenda Wagner d. Lani Britos 21-6, 21-9

Semis: Wert d. Onoyama 21-11, 21-9; Newhaller d. Wagner 21-11, 19-21, 11-2

Finals: Wert d. Newhaller 21-16, 21-2, 3rd - Onoyama, 4th - Wagner

Women's Open Singles

First Round: Carol Lohman d. Jody Scafe 21-18, 21-12; Phyllis Gomes d. Gail Valentine 21-12, 21-16; Duane Gibbs d. Brook Gramann 21-9, 21-8

Quarters: Lorna Nalai d. Lohman 21-6, 21-6; Jane Goodsill d. Carol Leiban 21-9, 21-2; Shizu Takayasu d. Gomes 21-16, 21-16; Dancetta Feary d. Gibbs.

Semis: Nalai d. Goodsill 21-7, 21-10; Feary d. Takayasu 21-20, 19-21, 11-4

Finals: Nalai d. Feary 21-12, 21-8

Women's B Singles

First Round: Jody Scafe d. Brenda Wagner 21-2, 21-4; Amy Schneider d. Denise Ingle 12-21, 21-14, 11-4

Quarters: Rachael Ahili d. Ann Wert 21-4, 21-14; Scafe d. Brook Gramann 21-17, 21-20; Schneider d. Luella Tahara 21-7, 21-8; Jane Wetzel d. Cheryl Lorch 15-21, 21-6, 11-6

Semis: Scafe d. Haile 15-21, 21-8, 11-7; Schneider d. Wetzel 1-21, 21-9, 11-7

Finals: Scafe d. Schneider 21-15, 17-21, 11-1, 3rd - Rachael Haile

Women's Open Doubles

First Round: Luella Tahara/Cheryl Zarbaugh d. Phyllis Gomes/Cheryl Lorch, forfeit; Jane Goodsill/Ala Freitas d. Carol Lohman/Rachael Ahili

Semis: Dancetta Feary/Williamette Soon d. Tahara Zarbaugh 21-7, 21-8; Carol Leibam/Schizu Takayasu d. Goodsill/Freitas 20-21, 21-11, 11-7

Finals: Leibam/Takayasu d. Feary/Soon

Senior Men's Doubles

First Round: Randy Doctorello/Wally Tamaye d. Rodney Yamamoto/Leland Onokea; Al Broges/John Davis d. Ralph Yampuku/Young; Les Skelton/Wrenley Kaakimaka d. Art Silcox/Errol Yim

Semis: Jim Swoish/Sam Koanui d. Doctorello/Tamaye 21-14, 21-14; Skelton/Kaakimaka d. Borges/Davis 21-10, 8-21, 11-6

Finals: Koanui/Swoish d. Skelton/Kaakimaka 21-10, 21-17

Men's Open Doubles

First Round: Kakali/Pires d. Beaumont/Natividad; Keanui/Lau d. Hughes/Aio; Norwood/Silva d. Paishon/Kolohi; Akana/Trinidad d. Barrett/Fitzgerald

Second Round: Moku/Lau d. Britos/Britos; Hallissey/Gadino d. Darrow/Hooley; Lau/Akeo d. Nolan/Long; Kalakie/Pieres d. Waialae/Bea; Decker/Rezentes d. Keanui/Lau; Geary/Landrum d. Norwood/Silva; Young/Kobatake d. Akana/Trinidad; Lovell/Wong d. Harris/Warden

Quarters: Moku/Lau d. Hallissey/Gadino 21-3, 21-19; Lau/Akeo d. Kakali/Pires 21-15, 21-9; Decker/Rezentes d. Geary/Landrum 21-11, 21-14; Lovell/Wong d. Young/Kobatake 21-5, 21-14

Semis: Moku/Lau d. Lau/Akeo 12-21, 21-15, 11-7; Lovell/Wong d. Decker/Rezentes

Finals: Moku/Lau d. Lovell/Wong 21-19, 21-10



In choosing photos of tournament play for these pages, we will give priority to pictures of players wearing protective eye gear.

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Amateurs on the Pro-Am Tour • Nationals '80

Las Vegas, NV

Leach National Championships June 1-7

Bret Harnett, Susie Dugan 1980 Open Champs

by Carole Charfauros

The excitement and glamour of Las Vegas attracted racquetball players from all over the country. Among close to 800 entries 177 men and 84 women entered the open divisions; many stayed the entire week, due to the new one-match-a-day format.

Bret Harnett only had to drive a few miles to claim his amateur title. Playing on his home court with the support of the crowd was the 16-year-old's route to victory in the same way that Bobby Bolan earned the Men's Open amateur title in Tempe, AZ last year.

Susie Dugan traveled from Dallas, along with her boyfriend, Pete Wright, to insure that the title didn't slip away again this year. Last year at the Tempe Nationals Dugan also had the top seed. But in the round of 16 she was upset by an unknown, Lynn Adams. Dugan had never heard of Adams, but she found out quickly how good she was when they met in the pro qualifying and the amateurs and Lynn won both times.

The finals of the Women's Open seemed rather routine to Dugan after a tie-breaker match in the semis. Dugan's opponent, Peggy Gardner of San Diego, had been a semi-finalist last year, so only the finals could have been an improvement for her. Gardner and her partner, Kathy Pool, had just finished annihilating everyone in the Open Doubles. But in the singles Gardner waited until Dugan had her 18-6 before she decided to play racquetball. Undaunted by Peggy's aggressive comeback Dugan freakballed one in for a winning score 21-8, 21-15.

Gardner's ever-optimistic attitude helped her to rationalize the situation. Instead of moaning about having her best chance to win and traveling so far, Peggy said "at least if I'm going to play badly, it's best that I waited to the finals to do it."

In the semis Gardner had a great match with 16-year-old Stacey Fletcher who inched out the first game, but was able to score only six points total for a match rundown of 20-21, 21-3, 11-3.

Laura Martino had her disappointing match before ever reaching the finals. Her scores against Dugan, 21-6, 11-21, 11-2, seem decent, but Laura felt that she didn't even deserve to win one game. Dugan gave her credit when she said "She killed me on the lob serve. It drove me nuts."

Dugan also felt that Mary Dee, the player she met in the quarters, was much improved since they met in the finals of the Chicago pro stop.

After upsetting number four seeded Connie Peterson in the 16's Laura Martino went on to

Bret Harnett, in the white headband, looks like a player possessed as he bounds around his home court to win the Men's Open Nationals against Ed Andrews.



Susie Dugan, left, and Peggy Gardner.



—Arthur Shay photos

Nationals court action that amazes 1979 Women's Champ Karin Walton doesn't faze Mike Romano, of Philadelphia, front, and Gary Lusk, of Chula Vista, CA, who won the Men's Veteran Doubles after NRC National Director Dan Bertolucci put together the two players who each came to Las Vegas looking for a partner.



—Carole Charfauros photo

defeat Liz Alvarado, last year's 17 and Under winner in the USRA Junior Nationals. In the 16's Alvarado had eliminated Kippi Bishop, amateur Open winner of three pro stops this year.

The third seed, Barb Faulkenberry, fell to Caryn McKinney, who fell to Gardner 21-10, 21-6 in the quarters. Hope Weisbach, the second seed, was overcome by Fletcher in the quarters 21-5, 21-17.

There were even more upsets in the men's amateurs. Top seeded Mike Levine, the 16-year-old whiz kid from Rochester, NY, who won more open titles at USRA/NRC pro-am stops this year than anyone else, was taken out by Jim Wirkus in the quarters.

Levine and Harnett, the eventual winner, have been rivals since they first met in the 15 and Under division of the Juniors Nationals. Levine's triumph was in Memphis where he blew Harnett out in the semis before going on to win the men's amateurs. But while Levine had a consistently great season, Harnett seemed to save it all for the end.

Another 16-year-old who was expected to do better was Gregg Peck, the second seed of the draw. But in the quarters Gregg was pitted against Unseeded Ed Andrews—a player who has given many of the top pros a run for their money and has even defeated Scott Hawkins, Davey Bledsoe and Mark Morrow in tournament play.

At 24 Ed Andrews, who lives in Bonita, CA, is competing against 15 and 16-year-old up-and-comers. But his long, lanky build, powering cool confident kill shots, brought him to the attention of the nation as he finished in the finals of the Nationals.

In the other quarter-final matches Bret Harnett defeated Dan Factor 21-13, 21-19, and Steve Trent beat Dave Bush 21-11, 21-11.

After his grueling 21-13, 20-21, 11-4 win over Levine, Wirkus had little left for Harnett. Bret took the semis 21-11, 21-13 and came out smoking for the finals.

In the bottom half two San Diegans had it out. Steve Trent was one of the first good players to awe Andrews when Ed first started playing racquetball three years ago. The first game was close, but Andrews won it 21-16. Then Trent brought out the serve which always impresses Andrews. Trent zipped by 21-2, but then surrendered in the tie-breaker 11-5.

The finals of the Men's Open, like the women's, was anti-climatic as Bret could do no wrong and Ed could do no right. The front wall glass seemed to cut Andrews' timing just enough so that he was late to react and then overanxious to swing. Meanwhile Harnett coolly killed nearly everything he could get his racquet on. Andrews made a slight attempt at a comeback late in the second but the scores 21-3, 21-8 indicate who was in control.

Harnett Drives Home a Win by Carole Charfauros

Even before 16-year-old Bret Harnett applied for his driver's license, he was down at the Mazda dealer's, trying to decide between yellow and powder blue.

Harnett of Las Vegas, received a gift of a new Mazda Rx-7 from his manager, Gary Neseef of Racquetball Spectacular, who promised him the sportscar for winning the National Men's Open. Bret also received a trip to Hawaii from Leach Industries.



—Carole Charfauros photo

Bret Harnett and his generous manager, Gary Neseef

"I've been dreaming about this moment for a long time," said the amateur champ. "Gary knew how bad I wanted a Mazda, so we made a deal that he'd buy me one if my pro ranking moved up to the top 10 or if I won the Amateurs."

After winning the Boys 15 and Under at the USRA Juniors Nationals last summer, Bret went on to win the Men's Amateurs at the Tempe, AZ pro stop, as well as qualifying in the pros, defeating Jerry Zuckerman and giving Marty Hogan a run for his money. Harnett's pro ranking shot up to 24, but after that he couldn't get any higher.

Bret has a commitment that most of the pros don't have to worry about anymore: finishing two more years of high school. His grades began slipping when he was spending so much time away from school, missing lectures and films, then trying to catch up when he got back to class.

Sarah Green, another pro from Las Vegas and a former student at Memphis State, has been there herself. She observed "You don't have to tell me Bret's in the finals. Of course he is—school's out."

Bret agrees. While he's in school, he spends a lot of time thinking about racquetball. Then when he plays racquetball, he has school on his mind. Bret has also spent a lot of time working in his father, Dan's construction business.

Dan Harnett is one of the top seniors players in the state of Nevada and deserves much of the credit for Bret's success. Bret's mother, Rio, a

real estate salesperson, is also one of Bret's biggest fans. Bret's parents, along with half of Las Vegas, turned out to watch him nearly shut out Ed Andrews in the finals 21-3, 21-9.

Playing on his home court, with the home town crowd in his favor, didn't hurt Bret's chances of winning the amateurs, but his attitude was also a major factor. The night before he played Ed he said to his parents, "Wouldn't it be great if I could win 21-5, 21-5 in 20 minutes?" Dan was all smiles the next day when his son nearly made his wish come true.

Bret says his classmates will also be surprised when they learn his deal with Neseef was for real. For the past months their response has been "Sure Harnett. We'll believe it when we see it." At 19-4 in the second game Bret's streak let up a little as he thought "Mazda." Ed was able to win a short streak himself so that Bret got a little worried and asked himself if Ed would be able to run 12 points before Bret got two. "No way" was the 16-year-old's answer to himself as he finished off the match.

The last time Andrews and Harnett met in a tournament was at the finals of the regionals where Ed finished on top in a match that could have gone either way. Everyone was expecting the rematch to be just as exciting.

The front wall glass which Bret plays on every day was a major factor against Ed, but the San Diegan refused to make excuses. Instead he stuck with the positive. "Hey I've won five straight tournaments. I knew I was going to have to lose my winning streak sometime."

Bret knew the gallery was loaded with Ed's friends who had never seen Andrews lose. That kept Harnett fired up even more.

Bret also appreciated not having to travel for the Nationals. "It's great being at home. You can go home and eat your own meals and sleep in your own bed. You can listen to your own stereo."

And now Bret Harnett will be driving his own Mazda Rx-7. Maybe he'll even give Gary Neseef a ride.



Bill Tanner, who plays on his own court in Memphis, won the National Masters Veteran division just after he celebrated his 50th birthday. Ed Lowrance, who works for Tanner's media placement company, placed second in the Golden Masters division.

Dallas Triumphs by Carole Charfauros

While most of Dallas was wondering "Who shot J.R.?", Susie Dugan and Pete Wright were celebrating their recent victories in the USRA Nationals.



Susie Dugan and Pete Wright

Wright won the newest division—Men's Veterans 30 and over—and Dugan won the Women's Open title. Susie had only been playing racquetball for six months when Pete started coaching her three and a half years ago.

"The first thing Pete did," exclaimed Susie, "was get rid of my two handed backhand. Then the first tournament I entered I came in second in the As."

At last year's Nationals Dugan also was seeded on top, but instead of winning she was knocked off in the 16s by an unseeded player, Lynn Adams, who went on to the finals with Heather McKay. "I was upset, but Lynn was tough. I had never seen her before, but in that tournament I lost to her in the pro qualifying and the amateurs."

Now Adams is one of the top ranked pros and Dugan hopes to follow in her footsteps. This was Susie's last amateur tournament, according to her coach, who taught his ex-wife—Shannon Wright—to play racquetball.

Dugan had torn cartilage from her rib cage in January and lost 10 pounds in the six-week healing process, which a doctor had predicted would take years.

The lost weight helped Dugan's speed on the court. It also inspired Pete to lose 15 pounds so he wouldn't feel like "the big whale."

Wright feels that racquetball requires a different kind of speed than track, which Susie used to compete in. Now he has her riding a stationary bike at a high speed with low tension.

Dugan's accent gives away the fact that she was born in Oklahoma. She even throws in a few y'alls now and then. Her family now lives in Corpus Christi, TX, where she graduated from college with a degree in marketing.

At first the Dugan's weren't too excited about their daughter's decision to become a racquetball pro after spending four years in college. "But once they saw it wasn't a fly by night idea they were all behind me."

In fact Susie, who's 26, uses her business background as a buyer for the pro shops that Pete owns at several of the racquetball clubs in Dallas. Susie also teaches at the clubs.

Susie works out two or three hours a day on her racquetball game. Even though she gives Pete full credit for her coaching, she still feels it's hard to leave it on the court. At home they try not to talk about racquetball and for recreation they play from tennis (similar to jai alai) and go horseback riding.

As for Las Vegas Pete and Susie had a great time. "Don't tell the I.R.S." whispered Susie, "but I'm \$58 ahead, so the fun is on them!" Not only did she win at the tables but more importantly she and Pete both won on the court.

Results

Men's Amateur Open Singles: Bret Harnett (Las Vegas) d. Ed Andrews (Bonita, CA) 21-3, 21-8

Men's Veteran Singles (30+): Pete Wright (Dallas) d. Joe Wirkus (Madison, WI) 21-8, 21-18

Men's Senior Singles (35+): Jay Jones (Sherman Oaks, CA) d. Bill Condratow (Vancouver, BC) 21-7, 21-17

Men's Veteran Senior Singles (40+): Charlie Garfinkel (Buffalo, NY) d. Bob Peterson (Boise, ID) 21-12, 21-15

Men's Master Singles (45+): Bud Muehleisen (San Diego) d. Pat Colombo (Scarsdale, NY) 19-21, 21-9, 11-1

Men's Veteran Masters Singles (50+): Bill Tanner (Memphis) d. Bill Dabney (Piedmont, CA) 21-11, 17-21, 11-0

Men's Golden Masters Singles (55+): Kal Gladstone (Glendale, CA) d. Floyd Svenson (Orinda, CA) 21-18, 21-19

Men's Veteran Golden Masters Singles (60+): Fred Vetter (Elm Grove, WI) d. Ed Lowrance (Memphis) 21-11, 21-19

Men's Open Doubles: K. Garrigus/K. Fleming (Phoenix) d. Steve Trent/Steve Wright (San Diego) 21-16, 21-19

Men's Veteran Open Doubles (30+): Mike Romano, (Philadelphia)/Gary Lusk (Chula Vista, CA) d. Pete Wright, (Dallas)/Kent Taylor (Stillwater, OK) 21-9, 21-10
d. Joe Wirkus (Madison, WI) 21-8, 21-18

Men's Senior Doubles (35+): Craig Olsen/Dale Beckman (Grand Island, NE) d. Jerry Conine/Dan Fearing (Rialto, CA) 21-14, 21-15

Men's Masters Doubles (40+): B. Nuehleisen/S. Karp (San Diego) d. John Mooney/Frank Leyden (Colorado Springs, CO) 11-21, 21-20, 11-10

Men's Golden Masters Doubles (55+): Burton Morrow (Lakeside, CA)/Leslie Skelton (Honolulu, HI) d. Scott Deeds/Carl Loveday (San Diego)

Women's Amateur Open Singles: Susie Dugan (Dallas) d. Peggy Gardner (San Diego) 21-8, 21-15

Women's Veteran Singles (30+): Camille McCarthy (Indianapolis) d. Trish Morphew (Athens, OH) 14-21, 21-4, 11-3

Women's Senior Singles (35+) and Women's Veteran Senior Singles (40+): Sue Carow (Chicago) d. Bette Weed (San Diego) 21-7, 21-3

Women's Open Doubles: Peggy Gardner/Cathy Pool (San Marcos, CA) d. Stacey Fletcher/Irene Ackerman (Warren, MI) 21-6, 21-4

Turn to page 60 for Tom Reinman's story and Arthur Shay's four color photos on pro play at the Leach NRC/USRA National Championships.



Upcoming Events

August 15-17

Seamco/USRA Master's Doubles Invitational, co-sponsored by Saranac Glove and The Supreme Courts of Madison, WI, at the Supreme Courts, 5555 Odana Rd., Madison 53719. Call 608-274-5080 for inquiries on eligibility.

August 15-17

Seamco Open; Lakewood Racquetball Club, 666 Lakewood Rd., P.O. Box 4010, Waterbury, CT 06702, 203-755-6699

Sept. 4-7

Natural Light Open Pro-Am, Davison Racquet Club, G-2140 Fairway Dr., Davison, MI 48423, 313-653-9602. Entry deadline Aug. 22





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Between Point Conditioning

National Senior Women's Champ Never Wastes time

by Carole Charfauros



At 43 Sue Carow, USRA 1979 and 1980 National Senior Women's Champion, is celebrating her third year as a divorcee, playing the best racquetball of her career. . . and as hyperactive as ever.

"I'm happier now because I think I fit better into today's lifestyle," says Carow, whose actions and words in the court have gained her a reputation as a fiery competitor. *"For once I don't have to try to please anyone but myself."*

Sue was the youngest of six children, growing up in Evansville, IN. Her Catholic school required girls to wear dresses (*"I had to hide from the nuns so they wouldn't see me in shorts after school"*) and had no physical education program. But Sue was always playing ball with her four brothers.

Carow continued to compete in sports, excelling as a swimmer and a tennis player. She attended college in Louisiana

A typical Sue Carow question to the referee, this time on a call in a match against another top Illinois player, Bev Franks.



—Carole Charfauros photo

on an athletic scholarship, then quit to seek her fortune as a stenographer in Washington, DC.

"School was fun, but I got tired of never having any money. D.C. was so cosmopolitan and offered me the opportunity to meet lots of people and experience new things."

One of the people she met was her husband. At 21 Sue and Jack moved to Chicago, where his family lived, and they set up a household of their own.

"For 10 years I did nothing" she confesses, "except have babies and stay at home. But I was content at the time to be a housewife."

The four Carow children—Jeanne, 18; John, 15; Chris, 14, and Jennifer, 10—have all inherited their mother's interest in sports. When the kids were small, Sue spent a lot of time with them at the YMCA in gymnastics and swimming. Then Sue discovered the racquetball courts.

"As soon as I saw racquetball, I asked how I could get started. It was 50 cents to rent a wooden racquet, but I said 'I'm really going to like this sport,' so I immediately bought a wooden racquet for \$6."

Sue describes herself as a *"compulsive competitor. Whenever someone drops a ball and invents a new sport, I always want to be the best at it."*

So Sue fell in love with racquetball 10 years ago and has been playing ever since, except for a year off in 1972 to recuperate from knee surgery.

Carow admits that her pursuit of the sport had to be for love, not for money. She would spend \$3,000 a year following the pro tour just to make a few hundred dollars in prize money. Her highest yearly earnings were \$800 even though her ranking remained in the top five from 1975 to 1977.

Back then Peggy Steding was number one, and all the pros stayed in the same motel. The hospitality would consist of a party in the room of Chuck Leve, then NRC director. *"Peg got so mad at the Buffalo pro stop because the men kept banging on our doors,"* Sue recalls.

In order to support her racquetball habit Sue worked at clubs and gave lessons. *"I was a two hour a day racquetball junkie, but I always had a full time job and a full time job at home, too."*

Now that Sue is single again after 19 years of marriage, and her children are older, it doesn't mean that she has slowed up at all.

"I can't stand to waste time" she says. "In grocery lines I take along a book to read. And I'm in the habit of jumping up and down between rallies when I play racquetball. In an hour and a half match that adds up, so I don't have to waste time jumping rope."

By the end of a busy day Sue wastes no time counting sheep. *"All I have to do is shut my mouth and shut my eyes—in five minutes I'm asleep."* ●

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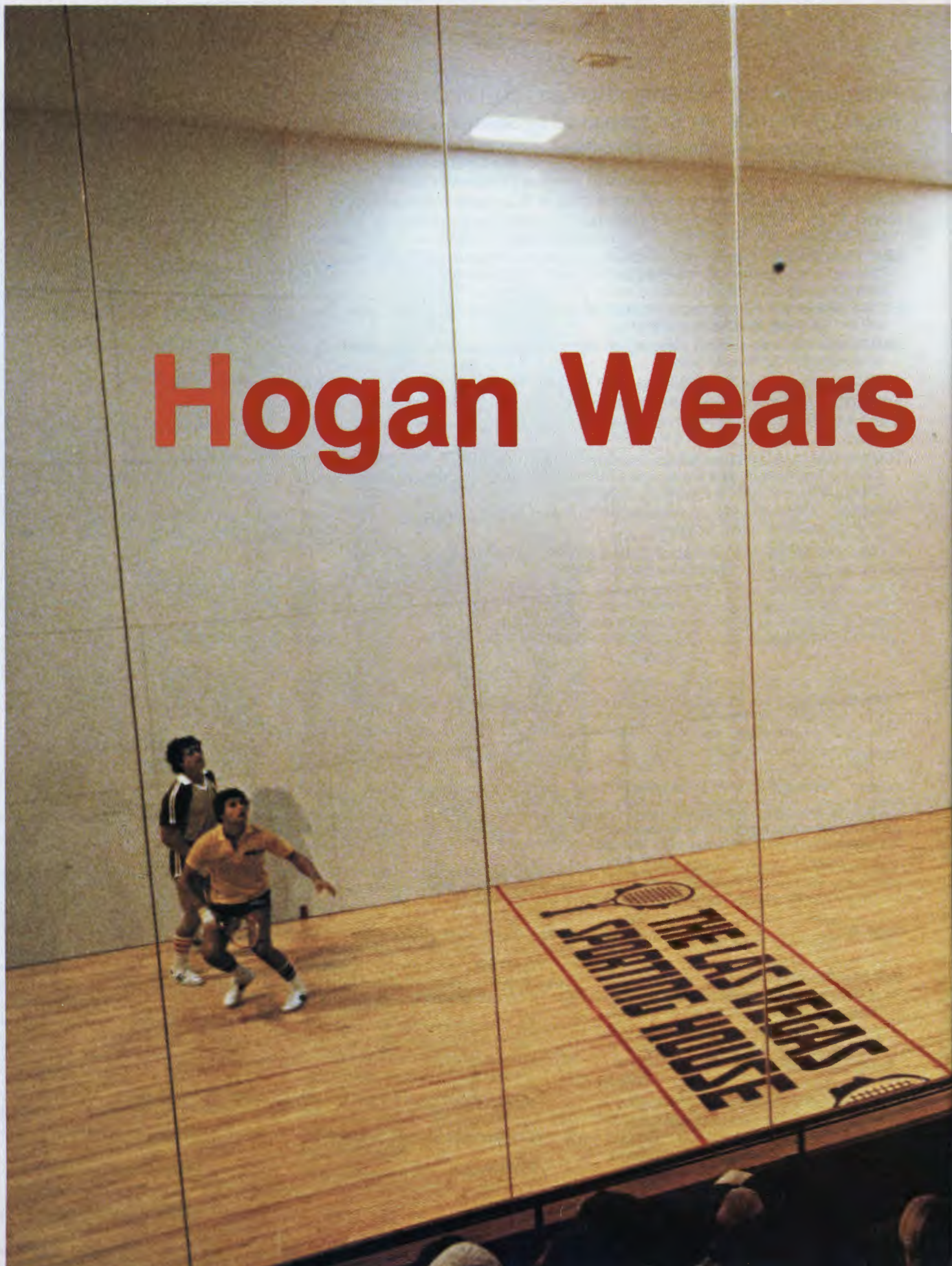
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Hogan Wears



—Arthur Shay photos

a Triple Crown

And a Racquetball Writer Journeys through His First Week of the Nationals

by Tom Reinman



If you weren't there, or if you were and you missed it, Marty Hogan won his third straight National title when he capped off the \$70,000 Leach National Pro-Am Championship with a 21-16, 21-12 win over second seeded Mike Yellen.

That about sums up the tournament, but what sums up the final week of the National Racquetball Club Pro-Am tour season, the week of June 1 in Las Vegas, is a bit of Marx Brothers repartee.

Groucho says to Harpo "You just can't keep going on like this, my boy. You know what they say, 'You can't burn the candle at both ends.'"

And of course Harpo whistles and yanks out of his coat a candle burning at both ends and Groucho can only say, "Well at least I thought that's what they said." Cut to Chico prowling around.

"They" never saw Las Vegas.

There are lights in Las Vegas that never go out. Machines that are almost always ringing and spitting out money. Big green tables where guys stand around and yell a lot. People from the Johnny Carson show doing their own shows for only \$20. You don't even have to pay for drinks. You just put your money on a table with a wheel on one end of it and a lady brings drinks right to you. Breakfast for 99 cents. Such a deal, Las Vegas.

Throw in some racquetball during the day, maybe a little sun, a few brews and Whammo: Double-ended Burning Candle Syndrome, Terminal Ward.

Maybe that's what made this tournament just a little different from the rest. Maybe that's why the notes on this thing are scattered across notebooks, napkins and loose leaf, why the visions of the recent past are clouded here, brilliant there.



Regaining the concentration that had eluded him in two previous tournaments Marty Hogan, left, beats Mike Yellen for the \$30,000 Nationals first prize that doubled last year's top figure.



Monday. About all that elicited a raised eyebrow was the way Hogan won his first match. For the first time this season he blew somebody out in two games. It was the only time he held his man under 10 points in both games. For the record it was Kirk Williams, 5 and 9.

The other thing about Monday was the discovery that along with other people's kids, household pets and the phone on Sunday morning, dollar slot machine jackpots tumbling into other people's hands really grates on the nerves in a hurry.

Tuesday. Dave Peck, ranked third, fresh from 10 days at the Nautilus weight training center in Florida and looking very serious, maybe sends Steve Keeley into retirement when he wins 21-2, 21-9. Peck was awarded an honorary degree from the St. Vincent de Paul School of Charitable Acts after losing his shutout in the first game with a 19-0 lead.

Mike Yellen, ranked second, continued first round business as usual, cruising past Bobby Bolan 6 and 8. Through the season Yellen gave up fewer first round points than any other player on the tour. (See accompanying box.)

Somebody named Bruce Christensen eliminated Charlie Brumfield 21-6, 14-21, 11-8, marking the first time Brumfield ever lost in the opening round of a National championship of anything.

At Wimbledon they sell strawberries in cream. At Las Vegas they sold strawberries in fermented milk, yogurt. There's a message in there somewhere.

Chorus girls wear long false eyelashes onstage but you have no idea what long is until you hve a drink with a chorus girl in false eyelashes after a show.

Wednesday. Three days into the event and the first round is finally over. At this point there's usually four guys left.

In the second round somebody named Christensen rides up on a very dark horse and plugs Canadian National Champion Lindsay Myers. This Christensen guy had only played into the 16s, he already had beaten one guy from the top 10 here and how long could this go on, anyway?

Meanwhile the other favorites all advanced. Ben Koltun began the very long day with an 11-8 win against Larry Meyers. Strandemo gave a clinic on the topic of experience with Scott Hawkins taking notes. Hilecher ended what surely ranks as a disappointing season for Davey Bledsoe, the 1977 National Champion.

Peck rolled over Dave Fleetwood. Don Thomas ousted Doug Cohen, who had risen through the course of the season from the edge of obscurity to a tie for 10th in the NRC rankings. Yellen survived Craig McCoy, who had it tied up late in the tie-breaker only to lose 11-7. And Hogan trailed Jeff Bowman 10-2 in the first game and won 21-11, 21-11.

After the George Carlin show at the Sahara there was something about a very greasy hamburger, planeloads of ice cold beer, a long but strangely fast moving night at a table where one woman kept saying "Hit me" and one man kept saying "I give up," a drive through the desert into the sun and a dock on a very cold, clear lake jumping with chorus girls. Without their false eyelashes on.

Thursday. Strandemo and Hilecher tie up the court for three hours and ten minutes doing a replay of the War of the Roses. Peck beats Thomas in a quality match. Yellen punches midnight on somebody named Christensen's timeclock. And Hogan shows Koltun The Serve.

It was as though Strandemo and Hilecher knew they hadn't played each other since 1979 and wanted to make up for lost time. The first two games were both tied at 17-17. The tie-breaker went to 8-8. Long rallies, impossible gets, strategy, enough to make even handball players take a second look at racquetball. But in the end Hilecher nailed a couple of forehands and Strandemo was left on the quarter-final rung for the seventh time in nine outings.

Peck's service pulled out his win against Thomas, who has been playing the game for only about four years and has been on the tour just two, yet has jumped from 19th to sixth in this last year.

Most of the time spectators at pro racquetball matches seem to take in the matches, clap a little and go home. Dave Peck, in the middle of the season, played to crowds with his loose manner and winning ways and had them jumping in the aisles. Now along comes somebody named Christensen, ranked 26th, sends out Brumfield, ranked seventh, and Myers, ranked 10th and has Yellen at 8-8 in a tie-breaker. "Brucie's Bunch" was spilling yogurt all over itself.

Jerry Hilecher's gruelling quarter-final match simplifies Marty Hogan's job of winning in the semis.

The pressure Dave Peck puts on himself to stay in the number two spot seems to be the Texan's undoing in his semi-final match against Mike Yellen. The win has Yellen ending the season in the second place berth.



Ben Koltun tries to hold his own in the quarters, but bows to the skill and style of the champion.

Here was a guy, the only regular on the tour, in fact, who didn't have a big name sponsor. His father was footing the bill for his first year on the tour. He looked like somebody who should have been sweating on a side court somewhere—dirty high top sneakers, old stretched out shirts and shorts, left handed, a little on the gangly side, but boy, could he hit the ball.

Mr. Nobody. Cannon fodder. From where? Nashua, NH? Come on. Let's go watch this guy. That sort of thing.

But his shots were for real, and when he should have been folding up like a pup tent after a weekend in the woods, he was blowing photons past some of the best in the business.

The dream ended when Yellen's mistake free play finally overcame momentum, strength and luck, but like the weekend jogger who finishes a marathon the same day he starts one, Christensen walked out a winner.

Hogan put his phaser on stun early and Koltun never recovered. "I've never seen him like that before," said Koltun afterward. "If his serve stays that hot nobody will touch him."

If one travels by cab from the Tropicana Hotel, which is perched on the edge of the desert on the south end of town, to the Union Plaza downtown via the Strip, the tab is just over \$7. If one makes the return trip via Interstate -15, the tab is more than \$9. If one makes a sizeable withdrawal from Del Webb's Mint, one doesn't sweat the tab.

Three and a half hours after Referee Dan Bertolucci calls "zero serving zero," Jerry Hilecher emerges the quarter-final winner of one of the toughest matches he's ever played against Steve Strandemo.





Six Footer Bruce Christensen, arriving at the quarters via wins against Charlie Brumfield and Larry Meyers, puts on a display of brute power before he loses to Mike Yellen.



Friday. No that is not another casino sign, yes that is the sun, no you may not go to sleep, yes the semis start in 45 minutes.

The top four ranked players are all in the semi-finals, the first time that has happened on the tour all season long. Peck plays Yellen in a rubber match. Hogan goes for three straight wins against Hilecher.

Peck tied the score at 13-13 and then watched as Yellen pulled away with eight unanswered points against just two service breaks. The game took just 45 minutes, a record by their standards.

Peck led 11-3 and 18-7 in the second game before Yellen took the serve and went to the ceiling following up soft lob serves. Of the next 11 points by Yellen, which brought him back to a one-point deficit at 19-18, only one was scored on a Peck error, but Yellen was continually served up passing shot and killshot opportunities, and he cashed in.

Peck scored 20 on a backhand right corner pinch, but Yellen retained his serve on the next play on a, well, questionable get. He made it 20-20 on passing shots down both lines before Peck won back the serve with a diving backhand soft off the front wall.

"You deserve this game," he roared as he readied for the game winner, although Yellen's play and a couple of debatable calls had so thoroughly unravelled him that most other players in his shoes would have been foaming at the ears by that point. Yellen skipped a backhand cross court and the tie-breaker was booked.

But Yellen served first, last and every time in between in the extra game, starting and ending with aces driven left.

Dave Peck dismisses the possibility of a quarter round upset by Don Thomas, the tour's number eight player, with enough hunger and talent to pose a threat.

Peck appealed a shot which made it 9-0. Linesman Bill Schmidtke agreed with Peck. After momentary delay, linesman Ken strong agreed with referee Larry Lee's call. Say, Sis, isn't that foam coming out of Dave Peck's ears?

He flipped the ball over his shoulder at Strong, saying, *"The ball's wet."* That brought an immediate technical. Make that 9-1. Negative one. One of the imaginary numbers that has been plaguing school kids for a long time. *"Why do we have to know about imaginary numbers?"* they always ask without getting a good answer. And now teachers across America can say *"This way when you go to a pro racquetball match, you'll know what's going on."*

If Jerry Hilecher can serve the ball, and he can, what was Marty Hogan doing in between those red lines Friday afternoon?

Hilecher tied Hogan at 7-7 and didn't score again until it was 19-7, and while none of those 12 came on aces, only one came on a skipped ball. Eight side outs

later Hogan passed him on the right and then took a skipped ball for the win.

Hogan led 15-8 in the second, and then eight side outs later Hilecher took the serve and the game to the ceiling, cutting the lead to 19-7. Hogan scored, but then made two errors and got killed once, making it 20-20. But he smiled when Hilecher missed an easy forehand setup off the back wall when serving game point, and he promptly laced a forehand down the right line for the win.

That capped the season for Hilecher who, when he was good, hit the finals three times and the semis twice, and when he was bad, left in the 16s, three times.

Two accomplices led one guy into his room Friday night and had to restrain him when he saw a big flat thing with a green spread on it. He started yelling *"Come on eight"* and rolling dice on his bed. Then he went into the bathroom and started tugging on the faucet as he dumped quarters into the sink drain, staring at the soap, whispering *"Damn two bars."*

Saturday. When Marty Hogan got off the plane in Atlanta after losing to Mike Yellen in Beverly, he said *"That guy will never beat me again."* When he got off the plane in San Diego after losing to Yellen in Atlanta, he said *"The only tournament that really matters is the Nationals. I will not lose. I will win three straight and it'll be history."*

Yellen seemed unfazed when Hogan took leads of 5-1, 10-3 and 16-7, and following his usual routine he made no mistakes of his own, slowed the game down with the ceiling game and hung around until he was back in it, trailing 18-16. Hogan regained the serve and scored on a forehand, lost the serve, won it back and hit an ace to the right and a forehand side wall-front wall for the win.

Hogan seemed unfazed when Yellen took a 9-5 lead on six skips and a non-returned serve and a couple of passing shots. The next time Yellen scored, he cut Hogan's lead to 19-10. Four aces, three to the right, an avoidable hinder, four forehands, a couple of passes, a soft pinch, one error by Yellen. The Serve and The Streak had done him in.

Then came trophy time. \$30,000. The key to the city. Marty Hogan Day. Honorary Citizen proclamation. The key to the Sporting House. The announcement of the \$1.5 million letter of intent on a contract with Catalina Sportswear and Leach Industries. TV interviews.

Hogan got to where he is, and brought just about everybody else along with him, on the strength of the serve and shoot game. He had an up and down season this year, with his intensity diminished at times and outside interests luring him away. But through the week of June 1 in Las Vegas it was Serve and Shoot Streak Week for him once again. Nineteen straight against Bowman in the 16s. Large bunches against Koltun in the quarters. Twelve against Hilecher in the semis. Fourteen against Yellen in the finals.

Progress is the Law

These are Bob Kendler's remarks at the June 5 awards banquet during the Nationals.

A great religious leader once wrote *"Progress is the Law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfill."* Progress is the only way we know, and the demands it has made upon us have certainly been fulfilled. Let's see how we've met these demands.

Seven years ago we struggled to stage three or four pro stops. Prize money was almost non-existent and sponsors were like manna from heaven. Starting next season we have 36 confirmed pro shows over a three year period, so every one of our players is assured long range occupation and income.

Not too long ago \$10,000 was a fortune in prize money. At this event we are looking at \$100,000! In every respect there has been progress. The quality of play is far superior;

the facilities are vastly improved and the galleries expanded. Hospitality has a new quality and refereeing becomes more exact every day.

As a neophyte publisher there was much for me to learn. But if you compare today's magazine with our first issue, I think you will admit that, here also, we have made great progress. With considerable humility we assumed a leadership role in the industry and have continued to broaden the chasm that separates us from our imitators.

All the world is looking to us for leadership and we are progressing on every front. Today we are joined with Canada, Australia, England, Ireland and Japan in a universal effort to standardize the facilities, the rules and the play. To our credit oversize courts in Ireland are being cut down; squash courts in England and Australia are being enlarged. American

Evie Kendler, Bob Kendler and Dan Bertolucci



—Arthur Shay photo



"I worked harder this week than in any other tournament in my career," said Hogan as the crowd headed for the bar. "There was so much on the line in this tournament my concentration had to be at its peak, and it was."

"This was another chance to make history. I was going to win three straight Nationals, no question about it."

That about sums it up. ●

play is now everyone's choice, and it is only a matter of time when an International Series, bringing together the best of all countries, will be a reality.

So will television. And the portable court. And the white glass. And the challenge rounds with the great players of squash. Last but not least will come some outstanding women's events that might even include some mixed doubles. The junior program soon to be announced will open the door of opportunity for Marty Hogan's successor. If you have a young hopeful below 12 years of age, we have a real surprise for you.

All we ask is your continued support for which we are profoundly grateful. You made the phenomenal growth of racquetball a reality. You made it the sport of the 80s. Now it is up to us to hone and refine your input and develop this into a success story that will

bring a harvest of players outstanding for their character, good sportsmanship and awards. It is up to us to provide the best alternative for America's sometimes troubled youth.

We love the demands. With one decade now behind us, we go into the 80s with more understanding, more desire and more pride in our record. And pride is the key to everything we do. We want all of you to be proud of us and the demands we fulfill. We want you to know that we always seek to be an influence for good, to contribute to the well being of our youth and to demonstrate the Law of God in the finest tradition.

We must be making progress because as I watched the exciting match between Bledsoe and Hilecher, I was surprised to discover I was beginning to enjoy racquetball as much as I enjoy handball. That's progress! ●

Hogan, Catalina Matchup

In an announcement following the finals Jim Veeder, Catalina vice president and general merchandising manager of the men's division, reveals that Catalina and Marty Hogan have signed a letter of intent for a four year contract for more than a million dollars, racquetball's most lucrative player-manufacturer agreement. Looking on are, left to right, Leach President Charlie Drake and Cal James, president of Diversified Products, which recently acquired Leach. Hogan and Leach also signed a three year contract for more than \$500,000.

Results

Round of 32: Hogan d. Williams 21-9, 21-5; Bowman d. Wagner 14-21, 21-14, 11-5; Meyers d. Serot 21-17, 21-8; Koltun d. Harvey 21-14, 21-10; Strandemo d. Harnett 21-12, 21-5; Hawkins d. Morrow 21-11, 21-6; Bledsoe d. Eggerman 21-4, 21-11; Hilecher d. Chase 21-5, 21-5; Peck d. Keeley 21-2, 21-9; Fleetwood d. Levine 21-20, 21-13; Cohen d. Mondry 19-21, 21-1, 11-6; Thomas d. Stephens 21-6, 20-21, 11-3; Christensen d. Brumfield 21-6, 14-21, 11-8; Myers d. Berberet 21-6, 16-21, 11-1; McCoy d. Zuckerman 21-16, 21-20; Yellen d. Bolan 21-6, 21-8.

Round of 16: Hogan d. Bowman 21-11, 21-11; Koltun d. Meyers 21-4, 10-21, 11-8; Strandemo d. Hawkins 21-5, 21-16; Hilecher d. Bledsoe 21-14, 14-21, 11-4; Peck d. Fleetwood 21-12, 21-6; Thomas d. Cohen 21-5, 21-18; Christensen d. Myers 21-12, 21-11; Yellen d. McCoy 20-21, 21-11, 11-7.

Quarters: Hogan d. Koltun 21-6, 21-13; Hilecher d. Strandemo 10-21, 21-18, 11-8; Peck d. Thomas 21-14, 21-17; Yellen d. Christensen 20-21, 21-6, 11-8.

Semis: Hogan d. Hilecher 21-7, 21-20; Yellen d. Peck 21-13, 20-21, 11-1 (negative one)

Finals: Hogan d. Yellen 21-16, 21-12

Turn to page 74 for statistics
on the 1979-80 pro tour.



NRC's president presents the 1979 Robert W. Kendler cups to Karin Walton and Marty Hogan, last year's men's and women's national champions.



Leach President Charlie Drake announces that Doug Cohen gets the Player of the Year award, which carries a \$5,000 scholarship Doug will use next fall at Meramack College in St. Louis. Cohen, just recently turned pro, earned the award for his outstanding performance and sportsmanship as an amateur player.

Notes of the Tournament . . .

Cal James, president of Diversified Products, which recently acquired Leach Industries, joined the racquetball family by presenting \$30,000 to 1980 Champ Marty Hogan. Mike Yellen took home \$12,000 for his second place finish. Quarter-final Finisher Don Thomas earned \$2,500 playing racquetball, but was heard to say he won more at the blackjack tables . . . On hand from Seamco were President Al Mackie and his wife, Nancy; National Sales Manager Art Orloski and his wife, Bary Ann; Director of Racquetball Sales and Promotions Jim Aimek and National Accounts Sales Manager Marv Konowitz . . . Leach reps included Charlie Drake and Staff Members John Weaver, Randy Floyd and Susanne Ambler . . . Mike Barnett and Joanne Ritza of Wagner's Thirst Quencher flew out from Chicago to make sure that six dispensers of their satisfying and energy restoring beverage were filled and ready for players, who downed 500 gallons of Wagners between matches . . . Las Vegas Sporting House Owners Fred Glusman and Jack Hurd were weeklong hosts, along with Mike Zeitman and Tony Santeris, staff members at the lavish club which made all its amenities available to tournament players . . . Tournament souvenirs from Leach were shirts, shorts and trophy cups . . . Las Vegas weather, which hit hundred degree temperatures the last days of the tournament, produced suntans acquired around the Tropicana pool . . . Eighteen out of 24 offered categories took place, including popular men's and women's 30 plus divisions . . . Two hundred twenty-five saw the Folies Bergere show at the Tropicana after the Thursday night awards banquet . . . Those awards, besides the ones pictured on these pages, included plaques which NRC Director Dan Bertolucci presented to Ken Strong, Bill Schmidtke and Larry Lee, recognizing their two years of pro stop officiating and their leadership in the National Racquetball Referees Association, which state chairmen currently are making part of USRA programs around the country . . . Another tribute came from Indiana USRA Chairman Jim Stevens, speaking for the grass roots of racquetball, and praising long time sponsors Charlie Drake, Al Mackie and Bob Kendler . . . Team captains for the matches were Jim Stotz, director of the Aurora (IL) YMCA; Jim Stevens and Chuck Hallock, retiring Arizona USRA state chairman. Team members were Eric Sanchez, acting New Mexico USRA state chairman for 1979-80; Jim Cartwright, member of the Illinois State Racquetball Association; Scott Deeds, California USRA chairman; Wayne Vincent, Georgia chairman, and his wife, Ruth; Tom O'Dwyer, Vermont chairman; Fred Street, member of the California association and brother of Illinois Past Chairman Tom Street; Ron Johnson, from the Indiana association, and Dave Negrete, Illinois USRA member. The scheduling, assigning and hard work of this mighty crew added up to a smooth running week of racquetball.

National Racquetball Club Rankings Final Standings For 1979-80 Season

1.	Marty Hogan San Diego	* \$54,600
2.	Mike Yellen Southfield, MI	\$25,500
3.	Dave Peck El Paso	\$24,500
4.	Jerry Hilecher Solana Beach, CA	\$17,000
5.	Don Thomas Mesa, AZ	\$8,425
6.	Steve Strandemo San Diego	\$8,650
7.	Ben Koltun St. Louis	\$6,750
8.	Charlie Brumfield San Diego	\$4,650
9.	Doug Cohen St. Louis	\$3,000
10.	Larry Meyers San Marcos, CA	\$3,825

*Final ranking is computed from results of the last five tournaments played on the NRC tour. Twenty percent of a player's final rank is determined by NRC prize money earnings. Other determining factors are percentage of victories, average points, total points and season ranking.

Don Thomas made the greatest improvement by a tour veteran, moving up 14 places from a year ago. Doug Cohen, in his first year on the tour, jumped up 23 spots. Larry Meyers improved his season standing by six and Mike Yellen by two.



Proclamation

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WHEREAS; Las Vegas will establish itself as the capital of racquetball, the fastest-growing sport in the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM H. BRIARE, Mayor of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, do hereby proclaim the week of June 1st through June 7th, 1980 as:

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in the City of Las Vegas and urge all citizens to give due recognition to this worthwhile endeavor.



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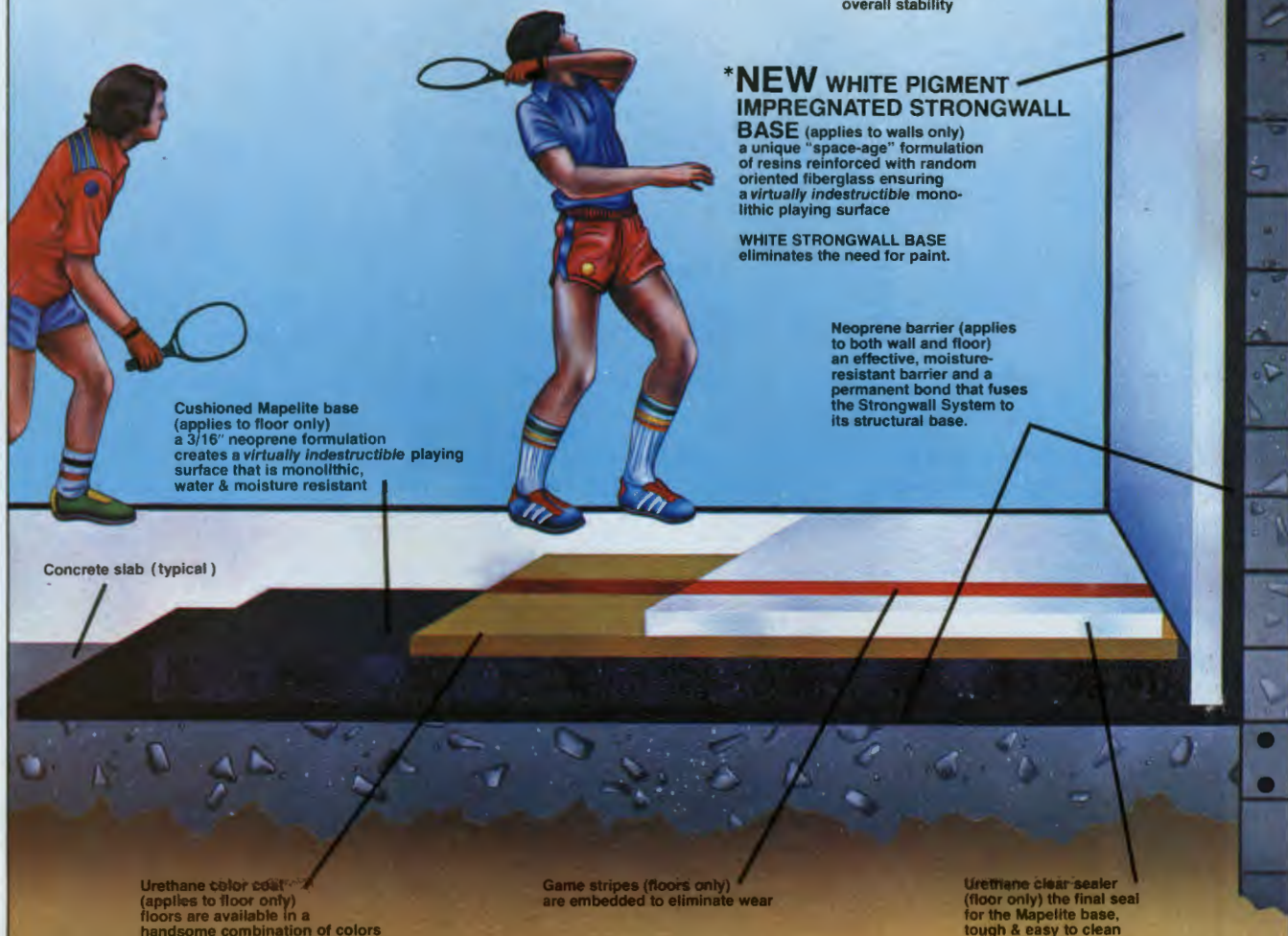
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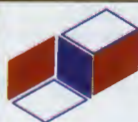


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Pro Am Tour • 1979-80 Statistics

Pro Tour Winners

\$30,000 Kendler Classic
Sept. 26-30, Lombard, IL
Marty Hogan d. Jerry Hilecher 21-17, 21-15

\$21,000 Jack-in-the-Box Classic
Nov. 14-18, Tempe, AZ
Marty Hogan d. Dave Peck 21-15, 21-9

\$21,000 Tanner/Coca-Cola Classic
Dec. 13-16, Memphis, TN
Dave Peck d. Davey Bledsoe 21-10, 7-21, 11-4

\$15,000 Coors Classic
Feb. 20-24, Denver, CO
Marty Hogan d. Dave Peck 21-14, 21-9

\$15,000 Catalina Classic West
Mar. 19-23, San Francisco, CA
Dave Peck d. Jerry Hilecher 21-13, 11-21 11-9

\$15,000 King's Bank of Newport Classic
Mar. 26-30, Westminster, CA
Marty Hogan d. Dave Peck 21-20, 8-21, 11-0

\$15,000 Seamco Classic
Apr. 9-13, Beverly, MA
Mike Yellen d. Marty Hogan 21-16, 21-11

\$15,000 Catalina Classic East
Apr. 30-May 4, Atlanta, GA
Mike Yellen d. Jerry Hilecher 18-21, 21-14, 11-5

\$70,000 Leach National Pro-Am Championship
June 2-7, Las Vegas, NV
Marty Hogan d. Mike Yellen 21-16, 21-12



Tournament Records

Most scored by winner

227 Marty Hogan: Lombard, LA
227 Mike Yellen: Atlanta

Fewest scored by winner

204 Dave Peck: Memphis (12 games)
210 Marty Hogan: Denver, LV (10 games)

Widest victory margin

112 Mike Yellen: Atlanta (12 games)
100 Marty Hogan: LV (10 games)

Most games played by winner

13 Marty Hogan: Lombard, LA
12 Mike Yellen: Beverly, Atlanta
12 Dave Peck: Memphis

Fewest games played by winner

10 Marty Hogan: Denver, LV

Season Records

Most regulation game wins

61 Dave Peck 9 events
60 Marty Hogan 8 events

Most tie-breaker wins

10 Jerry Hilecher 6 events
10 Mike Yellen 6 events

Most tie-breaker games

14 Mike Yellen 8 events
13 Jerry Hilecher 6 events

Best tie-breaker win percentage

.875 Marty Hogan (7 of 8)
.692 Jerry Hilecher (10 of 13)

Worst tie-breaker win percentage

.000 Dave Fleetwood 0-5
.436 Charlie Brumfield 5-11

Best overall winning percentage

.816 Marty Hogan 8 events
.764 Dave Peck 9 events

Widest victory margin (single game)

21-1 D.Cohen vs. P.Martino, Beverly
21-2 M.Yellen vs. B.Christensen, Atlanta
21-2 D.Peck vs. S.Keeley, LV
21-2 C.Brumfield vs. D.Fleetwood, LA
21-2 L.Meyers vs. J.Egerman, SF

Widest victory margin (two games)

21-2, 21-4 M.Yellen vs. B.Christensen, Atlanta
21-6, 21-3 D.Peck vs. J.Zuckerman, Memphis

Miscellaneous

Longest winning streak

Tournaments

2 Marty Hogan: Chicago, Tempe
2 Mike Yellen: Beverly, Atlanta

Matches

14 Mike Yellen
13 Marty Hogan

Games

12 Marty Hogan
10 Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen

Most consistent non-winner

Steve Serot
8 Round of 32 (9 events)
Steve Strandemo
7 Quarter-finals (9 events)

Fewest tie-breaker points scored

-1 Dave Peck vs. Mike Yellen, LV*
0 Dave Peck vs. Marty Hogan, LV
0 C.Brumfield vs. Marty Hogan, Boston
0 Mike Levine vs. Marty Hogan, Atlanta



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