

National Racquetball®

Vol. 10 No. 8
August, 1981
\$1.50

• **MARTY HOGAN
WINS FOURTH
NATIONAL
NRC TITLE...**



**Nationals 81
Issue: Pro and
Amateur Play.**

0051391
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1402 VILAS AVE
MADISON MI 53711
RB



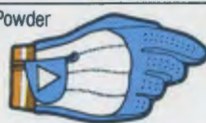
R-200

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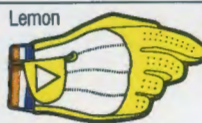
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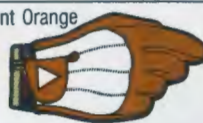
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Lemon



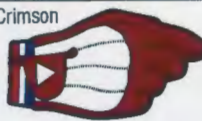
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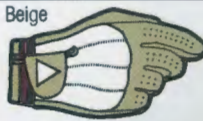
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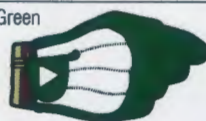
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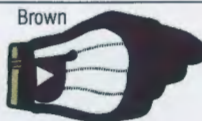
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Brown



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National Racquetball®

Vol. 10 No. 8
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— Arthur Shay photo

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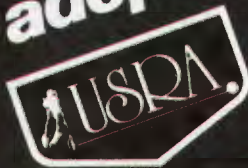
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Opinions

From Bob Kendler



Behind Every Good Magazine There's a Good Woman!

Racquetball has an office full of men running it. For the life of me I cannot believe a woman could have penetrated our macho fortress. One talented lady did it in a very clever way. Several years ago a journalist, Carol Brusslan, came in unannounced and asked for a chance to write for racquetball. She suggested writing feature articles that women would enjoy, describing the competition from a woman's point of view. The female species was attracted to the sport of racquetball just like magnets, and Carol was quick to perceive this phenomena that would soon be bursting with journalistic possibilities. I could not envision, at that moment, a very large readership among the women, but challenged by a new idea, asked her to work with us on a part time basis. To our great pleasure her articles were timely, very professional and full of common sense!

I guess common sense describes her better than anything else. We soon discovered Carol had so much literary moxy that before long we gave her the latitude a feature writer deserves. She introduced racquetball fashions, racquetball for children, diets and exercises that would contribute to physical fitness for the ladies, contributed so many fresh ideas, she soon earned a private office and a key to the building. Before we knew it, *National Racquetball* magazine was the leader in the field.

To be perfectly honest our magazine has become the bible of the industry. It is the voice of authority, as it should be, because it expresses the will, wish, and desire of all the players in the United States Racquetball Association. You may be surprised to learn there are a lot of politics involved in racquetball. Managing tours, pleasing sponsors, satisfying the pros and inspiring the amateurs are no less sensitive areas of endeavor than serving in the U.S. Diplomatic Corps. The direct approach, the accurate coverage, the light touches of humor, the thrust for perfection all describe Carol's constant dedication. No wonder she gets so many testimonials!

Well I don't mind. Carol has worked for her status, and she deserves it! All men like to think they are geniuses in their own right, and I am no exception. I'm sure Carol is quite aware of it, and you should see how tactfully she maneuvers me (just like my wife does!) into accepting ways to improve my writing, my thinking, my strategy. Good stuff, too . . . I listen! The truth is that I am fascinated by what women have done for racquetball. And I thought enough of Carol to make her editor.

With the rising popularity of racquetball and its attending publications, there are probably a dozen related magazines. But we have Carol. The pros love her, the women love her and I hope the amateurs feel that she gives them the best of it because that's the way she feels. Never prejudiced, never favoring one group over another Carol is 100 percent for the good of racquetball.

Carol Brusslan has been a real blessing to us. Never forget that our magazine is so powerful and influential that we can select the highest quality of advertisers. You will not see cigarettes, alcohol, guns or anything questionable in our magazine. There is only one you can be sure of. Carol will be the mainstay of *National Racquetball* magazine, and I personally propose a toast to our "guiding light!"

Evie & Bob Kendler

Bob and Evie Kendler

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From the National Commissioner



Good Season Ahead

It's been my pleasure to have the job of thinking about the next season while most players are enjoying the culmination of the present one. While I've been watching outstanding racquetball played at the Nationals and then again at our Junior Regionals, I've continued to be impressed with the ever higher quality of the competition.

That means that in 1981 and 1982 play will be even better. We at the USRA will be giving those hard playing amateurs a chance to compete at state and regional tournaments under our sponsorship and then—again—at the Nationals, where the best men and women from around the country will be battling for the 1982 crowns.

Our Juniors program will mirror the format of adult competition—with state championships, 14 regional championships and the Nationals for 17 and Under, 15 and Under, 12 and Under and 10 and Under.

Our National Racquetball Club pro program, which I believe has been racquetball's best for the last eight years, will continue, too, and details of that tour will follow in future issues of *National Racquetball*. I look forward to cheering all of you on during the 1981-82 racquetball season.

Joe Ardito

Joe Ardito

From Our Readers



"Think Win" a Winner

Dear Ms. Brusslan:

I was hoping to obtain some information from you regarding an article printed in your April issue on page 28 titled "Think Win," by Joan A. Finn. This article features use of what appeared to be an abbreviated form of a personality testing instrument, Rother's Internal-External Locus of Control, and it is this instrument which interests me.

I am a staff trainer with the State Division of Family Services and am currently involved in training a seminar titled "Getting Control: Personally and Professionally." The instrument you published seems to lend itself well to this curriculum. However I've been unable to find any research on it and would like your help. Any information you can provide would be appreciated. Thanks for your help.

Chrys Cox
Kansas City, MO

Contact the author, Joan Finn, at
Southern Connecticut State College in
New Haven. ED

NR for Genealogy

Dear Carol:

I received this letter after the story about me appeared in the May issue of *National Racquetball*:

"Can you believe this comes to you via circuitous route? From a Wildman, no less?"

"My purpose in writing to you is the result of my interest in the Wildman family genealogy, particularly with regard to the descendants of Thomas Wildman, born in 1613, Bethesden, Kent County, England, and died in 1689, Bedford, Westchester County, New York, leaving a widow and six children.

"I am one of the 10th generation, born Andover, NY October 5, 1906. I am retired from NCR and living with my wife in Greenville, OH.

"A copy of a story concerning you in National Racquetball magazine was

forwarded to me from a Wildman living in York, Nebraska. So you see your name and your hobby has gotten around. I extend my congratulations and wish you continued good health.

"Needless to say I'm wondering if you might be one of a long list of Wildmans whose vital statistics have thus far escaped me. There were a few pioneer Wildmans who migrated to the American Colonies from England who have never been found to be related to the above named Thomas.

"Miss Diane Wildman, a TV news reporter, is a descendent of a Quaker pioneer.

"I would be much indebted to you if you would or could supply me with the names of your Wildman ancestors back as far as you can, hoping that a common ancestor might be found. Thanking you kindly, I am

Latha T. Wildman
Greenville, OH

It shows your magazine is widely read.

Jack Wildman
Elizabeth, NJ

Pass a Poster, Please

Dear Sirs:

As director of our Lower Bucks YMCA Racquet Center I recently received the latest issue of *National Racquetball*. As a result I read the article on Gary Patterson which was very interesting and funny (nice car, too).

Our Racquet Center is fairly new and I am looking for ideas to add to the overall spirit of a racquetball facility. Please give me any information you have on the nearest place in our area to purchase Gary's work.

Lorenzo Henderson
Fairless Hills, PA

Please write The Thought Factory, P.O.
Box 5515, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413. ED

Check the Club

Gentlemen:

Yesterday I purchased a copy of the paperback, *The Racquetball Book*, which mentioned your publication. I haven't seen it on the newsstand. Where can I get it?

Linda Self
Granada Hills, CA

By subscribing (forms are in the back and front of each issue) or by buying it at your club. If you'd like to have your club sell *National Racquetball*, ask the management to get in touch with Joe Ardito, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie IL 60076, 312-673-4000. ED

Don't Make It the Last Stretch

Dear Editor:

Your short review of my book, *Stretching for All Sports*, brought many inquiries to the publisher and I appreciate your coverage.

I do want to warn players that stretching the wrong way can cause more harm than good. It is important to warm up the muscles before stretching, to hold the stretch position gently (no bouncing) and to stretch to a tight—not painful—position.

Racquetball players who plan to enjoy the benefits of stretching should read a good book on the subject or consult the club trainer before they go into stretching routines.

John E. Beaulieu
Eugene, OR

Watch for Health section in a future issue of *National Racquetball* for more on stretching. ED

Racquetball for Running

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Usually my husband and I have to battle the five children for the sports section of the newspaper. Now I'm happy to report they also compete with us to see who will read *National Racquetball* first. Even our seven-year-old drops racquetball statistics.

One statistic I'd like to throw in your direction shows what racquetball can do for the body. Ken Frank of Century Harbor Racquetball Club in Middleton accepted the challenge of some F.B.I. agents, daily runners, who told him "*Racquetball is not a good conditioning sport.*" Frank joined them recently in the 20 mile Madison to Stoughton race, finishing it in 3:06—not as good as the 1:52 winning time, nor the time of his 40 to 60 mile a week challengers, but excellent for someone who trained only by playing racquetball.

Teresa Gnewuch
Stoughton, WI

Dear Carol:

Where else could I finish last and come in a winner! A 5:32:30 for the Lake County Marathon brought me in first in the 50-54 age class. Best of all daughter Amy crossed the finish line with me.

It all started eight years ago. I played a little racquetball at Lake Forest College in an effort to break a two pack a day cigarette habit; I didn't have the wind for two games back to back. I tried running but couldn't get around the block; to be truthful I barely made it to the corner. A full year later I conquered the block—

three-fourths of a mile! Whee. Meanwhile my endurance at racquetball grew. I could play for hours. Then I discovered our lovely bike path and stretched my distance to two and a half miles. Who would ever want to run farther? My racquetball hummed right along; I started as a B, the lowest level at that time, dropped down to C when that came along, finally won one of those, and made a decision—I wanted to be an A racquetball player and run a marathon.

As we trudged across the finish line, Amy, a USRA scholarship winner, remembered my goals: "*Mom, one down and one to go; now you'll have to hang up your running shoes and hit the tournament circuit.*"

Peggy Gudbrandsen
Lake Forest, IL



Peg Gudbrandsen, left, and daughter Amy, cross marathon finish line.

Rolling Along

Dear Carol:

Since my article on wheelchair racquetball appeared in your March issue, racquetball on wheels programs have started in North Carolina, Ohio, West Virginia and Massachusetts. You and the magazine can be proud of the impetus you've given the program.

Sam DeCrispino
Towson, MD

Steve Keeley Where Are You?

Dear Sirs:

I've tried for two years to get Steve Keeley's book, *Racquetball: for Advanced to Champion Players*, but with no success. Book stores say it's not available, not in print or never was printed. I enjoyed his other book, *The Complete Book of Racquetball*, and found it instructional and enjoyable to read.

Can you tell me if Keeley's other book is available, where I can get a copy or when it is going to be printed?

Tom Martin
Reno, NV

Steve—are you out there somewhere? Please give us the answers to Tom Martin's questions so we can tell *National Racquetball* readers about the book. ED

Sponsors Where Are You?

Dear Editor:

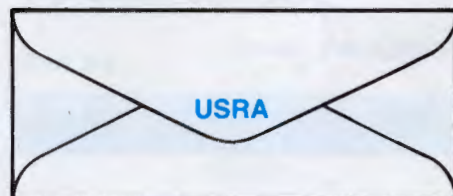
I began reading *National Racquetball* in June of 1978, when I first started playing the game. Through the years your magazine has helped me and been a source of enjoyment.

Since then I became a racquetball junkie, gave up my good paying job in the bank for the betterment of racquetball. For the last year I have been an activities director, striving for quality of club events. I have succeeded, but I want to do more and am planning the second annual Four Seasons for Women Racquetball tournament Oct. 9-11.

Can you give me ideas for getting big sponsors to assure that the women, who will be coming from all over California, get the best they deserve?

Hope Porter
Castro Valley, CA

With competition keen for major sponsors the best bet is to concentrate on local businesses or local branches of national companies. Perhaps there's a potential sponsor who will read your letter and offer to back you at the Four Seasons Racquetball Club, 20211 Patio Dr., Castro Valley 94546. ED



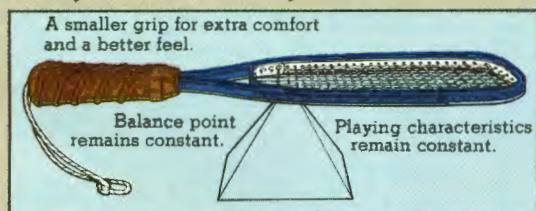


Lady Swinger

Lady's AC-250

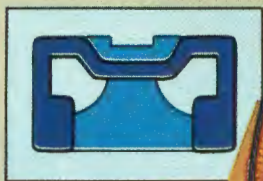
LADY'S CHOICE.

Introducing the Lady AC-250. Light, lovely and patently offensive. Leach believes a woman takes her racquetball every bit as seriously as a man.



Hence, Patent Number 4066260, the Lady AC-250. With a design as unique as its patent reflects.

It begins with a solid core of shock-absorbing ABS plastic, wrapped with a special thin-wall aluminum extrusion. Plastic for control, aluminum for power.



Special ABS plastic core reinforces the Lady AC-250's unique frame.

It continues with a modified throat and elongated head for one of the biggest sweet spots in the game.

And it finishes with a radically tapered handle and striking leather grip, for extra comfort and a better feel for smaller hands.

All in all, a slender little package weighing in at a tidy 250 grams.

And re-introducing the Lady Swinger. A perennial favorite.

Looking for a little something in glass, ladies? Look no further.

The Lady Swinger offers a modified teardrop head for one big sweet spot.

A powerfully sleek throat configuration that minimizes torquing on occasional miss-hits around the edge.

A scaled-down handle that fits a lady's hand cleanly, comfortably.

And a genuine leather grip with raised blue beading that breathes easier and grips longer.

Unusually trim, the whole racquet

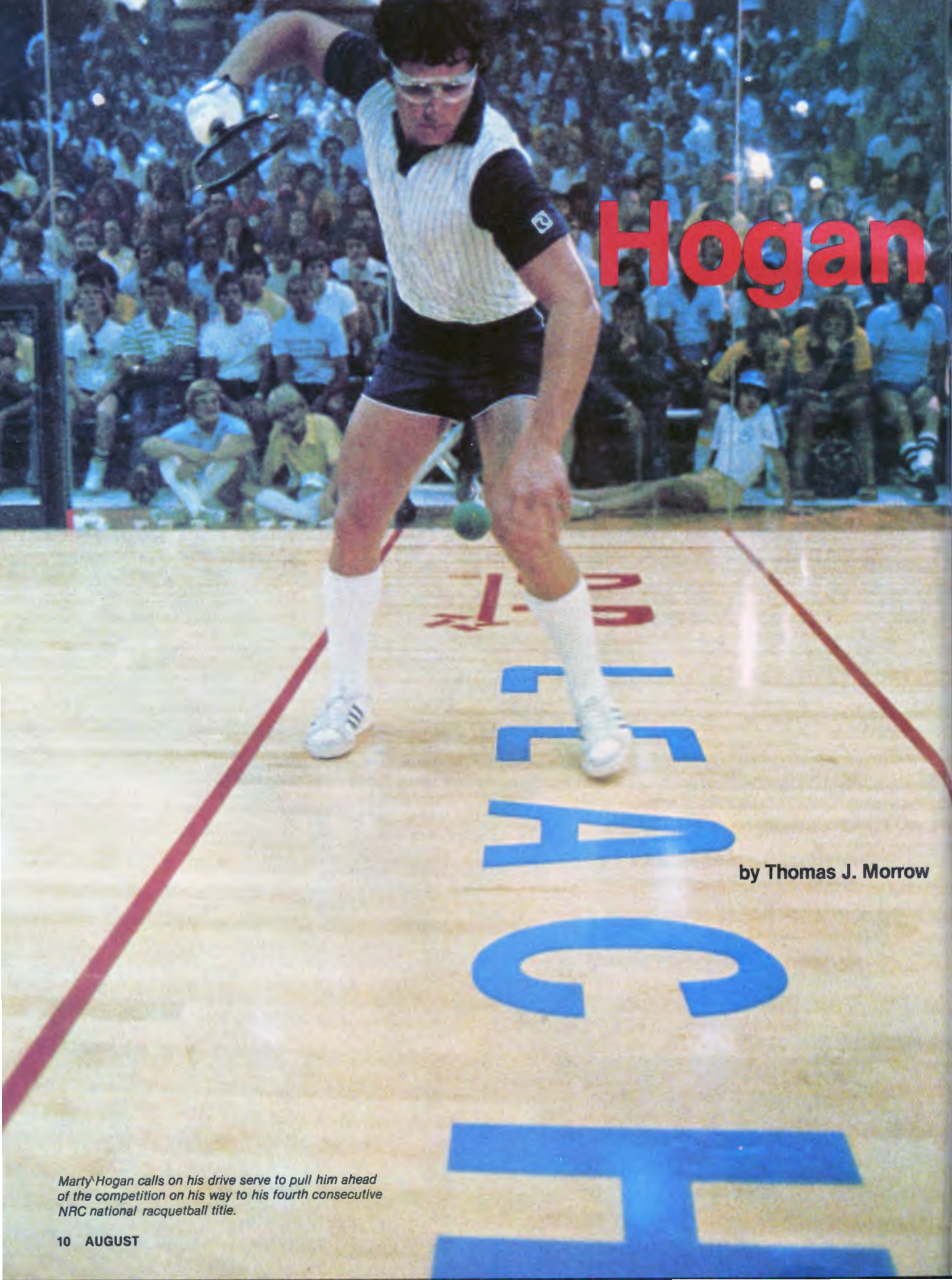
Our Lady Swinger took last year's Women's National Championship. weighs in at under 250 grams.

So there you have it. An old favorite, a new favorite.

Both giving evidence, once again, to the fact that pleasing the ladies really isn't tough at all.

When you're **Number One By Design.**



A full-page photograph of Marty Hogan, a professional racquetball player, in the middle of a drive serve. He is wearing a white and black striped short-sleeved shirt, black shorts, white socks, and white sneakers. He is holding a racquet in his right hand and a green ball in his left hand. The background shows a large crowd of spectators in a gymnasium. The floor has large blue letters spelling 'NCAA' and red lines.

Hogan

by Thomas J. Morrow

Marty Hogan calls on his drive serve to pull him ahead of the competition on his way to his fourth consecutive NRC national racquetball title.

No Surprise— Takes Fourth Title

But the Champ Gets a New Finalist Opponent
in Craig McCoy at the Arizona Leach Nationals



Presenting power racquetball: Craig McCoy has no defense in the Nationals finals against the low, hard trademarks of Hogan's game.



—Arthur Shay photos

The best laid plans of racquetball players seldom go their way, unless, of course, your name is HOGAN!

No one will dispute that Marty Hogan, at 23, is the best racquetball player in the world. He proved it once again that he's number one by winning his fourth consecutive national title in Tempe, AZ June 13, and he only had to work up a sweat just once on his way to the title.

"It was a cake walk all the way," said Hogan matter-of-factly.

The plans Dave Peck had for a finals showdown with Mr. Racquetball went astray when he was upset by a hot Craig McCoy in the round of 16. McCoy, 24, a left hander, is an amiable pro who never seemed to take his game all that seriously and had only advanced as far as the quarter-finals once during the 1980-81 season (Houston).

McCoy was the last person Dave Peck expected to give him a tough game. McCoy stunned the number two ranked Peck and his fans at the Arizona Athletic Club by eliminating the Texan in the \$100,000 DP Leach Nationals 21-14, 17-21, 11-8.

Jerry Hilecher, the NRC's number three ranked player, suffered the same fate at the hands of 17-year-old Bret Harnett earlier that same day. Harnett came back from a first game loss to Hilecher (21-11) to win the match 21-14, 11-3.

That wasn't the way it was supposed to be. The entire season had been dominated by the big four: Hogan, Peck, Hilecher and Yellen. The other players were assigned by fate to serve as supporting cast, falling by the wayside at their appointed time. But fate has a way of changing its mind.

Harnett didn't want to be a part of the cast and McCoy began to realize that he wasn't getting any younger (by racquetball standards) and decided to put his fantastic athletic ability to work.

In the upper bracket of the tournament Hogan faced little opposition. Dan Factor, ranked 29th, had the dubious honor of playing the champ in the first round. Factor gave Hogan a respectable warm-up, but fell 21-7, 21-15 in the end. The round of 32 began on Sunday, June 7, with the Arizona temperature outside hitting the 115 mark. The upper bracket played Sunday and the lower bracket finished the first round on Monday.

Hogan beat Factor; Dave Fleetwood downed Bob Bolan; Doug Cohen eliminated Mark Morrow; Charlie Brumfield lost a heartbreaker to young Scott Hawkins;

Before losing the match to Hogan's center court domination Mike Yellen varies his shots to build a 16-12 lead early in the first game.



Lindsay Myers dispensed with Steve Mondry; Keith Dunlap edged Ben Koltun and Mike Yellen defeated Matt Mathews.

That first day's play most likely marked the last appearance of pro racquetball's pioneer and popular player, Brumfield.

During Monday's second stanza of the opening round Hilecher beat Kyle Kamalu; Harnett downed Dave Bledsoe; Steve Standemo beat Mike Levine; John Egberman clobbered Dennis McDowell; Rich Wagner easily handled Gerry Price; Don Thomas downed Beaver Wickham; Craig McCoy beat Gary Merritt and Dave Peck eliminated Gary Berberet.

In the second round Hogan met Fleetwood in a match that didn't start until well after midnight due to a playing schedule that became backed up during the long day. Hogan played with Fleetwood as a cat would toy with a mouse until the champ realized he was keeping everyone up (it was 2 a.m.), then quickly ended the day 21-5, 21-11.

The match that began bogging down on Tuesday was the Gregg Peck-Lindsay Myers confrontation. Peck scored a 21-16 win in the first game, but Myers came back to a 21-11 victory in the second.

Young Peck took the defending Canadian national champion 11-9 in the tie-breaker, all three games taking most of three hours.

Hawkins advanced by ousting Cohen; Yellen walked over Dunlap; Harnett upset Hilecher; Strandemo had a surprisingly easy time beating a usually tough Egberman; Thomas narrowly downed Wagner in a tie-breaker and McCoy surprised Dave Peck to dash his hopes of a shot at the national title. It was after midnight before Fleetwood and Hogan took the floor.

With a day off on Wednesday for the annual awards banquet play resumed on Thursday with the quarter-final round.

In the upper bracket Yellen moved by young Peck with ease, 21-8, 21-8; Hogan gave his fans a few anxious moments as Hawkins took the champ into a tie-breaker 21-8, 18-21, 11-2. The scene was set for what was to be the tournament's best and most exciting match—Hogan versus Yellen in the semis.

In the bottom bracket things were not as expected with Peck and Hilecher out of the tournament. Harnett continued his aggressive play, ousting Strandemo in an emotional tie-breaker 21-11, 10-21, 11-9;

McCoy continued to stun the crowd with his near-perfect shots which left Thomas as his third victim in a tie-breaker, 17-21, 21-18, 11-1. Who would have guessed Harnett, a rookie, and McCoy, a player who has never seen the finals of an NRC tournament, in the semi-finals of the national championships?

The heartbreak that Hilecher and Peck felt was written on their faces. Hilecher went home—Peck said simply: *"I got beat. McCoy was the better player today. Believe me, I didn't plan it that way."*

With the elimination of these two great players much of the excitement of the tournament diminished. This is not to take away the playing abilities of Harnett and McCoy. To be sure both are excellent and talented players, but the momentum built during the season by Hilecher and, especially Peck, was great and fans were expecting a shoot-out like never before between the nation's top four ranked professionals.

Realistically speaking the tournament was over when Hogan defeated Yellen in the semi-finals. If anyone after Peck and Hilecher had a chance of defeating racquetball's most dominant player and performer, it was the power hitter from Southfield, MI.

McCoy's unorthodox, relaxed racquetball style brings Bret Harnett's three match winning streak to a screeching halt.



The Hogan-Yellen match-up in the semis was the third time in as many years that the two top pros had met in the national tournament. Yellen had been runner-up to Hogan in the final round for the past two years, but because of his fourth place seeding coming into the Nationals, he found himself facing the champ in the same bracket for the semi-final round this year.

Yellen beat Hogan twice last season, (Boston and Atlanta), but not this year. He shocked the crowd and stunned Hogan by jumping to a 14-7 lead in the first game.

"He was slugging with me and beating me at my own game," said Hogan afterward. *"I knew he couldn't keep that pace up for long. It was the best he's played all year. The angles on his (Yellen's) shots were just perfect."*

As perfect as those shots were, Hogan nibbled away at the deficit until Hogan got the upper hand. It went that way in both games, with Hogan winning 21-17, 21-16.

The surprising thing about McCoy playing in the semi-final round was that he had advanced to his highest point in his professional career.

"I've never even been in the finals of a National Racquetball Club tournament," McCoy told news reporters after defeating Harnett 21-14, 21-6. *"I did beat Hogan once when he was coming up."*

Although the score gives indication of a blow-out, the youthful Harnett fought McCoy most of the first game, trailing by only 15-14, but the smooth, unemotional McCoy seemed to shift to a higher gear and pulled away, leaving the Las Vegas player in the dust.

As surprised as the fans were at seeing McCoy, the left hander, in the finals against three-time defending national champion Hogan, no one was more surprised than McCoy himself.

"I think the win over Peck gave me momentum, but at the same time took it away," said McCoy. *"After beating the number two seed in an early match and a real tough match I had to really concentrate in my next match. I didn't pay much*

attention to the seeding coming into the tournament. Once you get to the top 16 players, anybody can win," said the tournament's number 11 seed.

Full of confidence and new found ambition McCoy vowed he would not let Hogan blow him off the court as he had done when he met the champ in the quarter-final round in Houston last February.

As elated as McCoy was at the thought of playing Hogan for all of the marbles, the bubble was quickly burst when Hogan began hitting his power shots of reality.

McCoy simply could not stay with the quick and powerful hitting of Hogan. As a control player McCoy led 3-2 in the beginning of the first game before Hogan out-scored him 13-2 to take a 15-5 lead. Hogan coasted the rest of the way to win the opener.

In the quarters Scott Hawkins deals Hogan his only 1981 Nationals game loss before the champ's intensity leads to an 11-2 tie-breaker.

In the second game McCoy appeared to be giving Hogan all he could handle as the champ was ahead only 10-9 halfway through the second game, but all that quickly changed when the champ scored the next four points and then 11 of the next 14 to win the game and match.

"I wasn't pushed, not in the least," Hogan maintained afterward. "I was in full control the whole way. The game was played at a pace where McCoy never had the opportunity to get hot."

Hogan collected \$25,000 from DP Leach Vice President Charles Drake and his fourth consecutive national crown—something no other professional has ever done.

Charlie Brumfield won a total of five national titles, but three were from early open-style tournaments, before the NRC pro tours began. Brumfield won back-to-back national titles in 1975 and 1976.

Prior to the final match between Hogan and McCoy Leach and the Men's division of Catalina, headquartered in Los Angeles, jointly announced the NRC-sanctioned 1981-82 pro tour with a minimum of \$325,000, the largest package of prize money in the history of pro racquetball.

Known as the Catalina Pro Racquetball Classic the tour next season will consist of six regional tournaments of \$25,000 each; a \$50,000 regional final; the annual \$25,000 Kunnan-Leach Tournament of Champions and the annual \$100,000 DP Leach National Open Pro Championship.

Both Drake and Ed Murphy, president of Catalina Men's division, said next season's tour is a major breakthrough for men's professional racquetball, pointing to the substantial increase in prize money as a strong indication of the growing spectator interest in the sport. The 1980-81 tour this past season had \$220,000 in total prize winnings.



Surprise Quarter-finalist Gregg Peck, who arrived in the round of eights by beating Lindsay Myers, succumbs to Yellen's control.



Harnett scores seven straight winners against Steve Strandemo to take the quarters tie-breaker 11-9.



McCoy takes charge in the tie-breaker to the tune of 11-2 after two close quarter-final games against Don Thomas.

"Every tournament next year will have a minimum \$25,000 purse," explained Drake, a long time promoter of the NRC tour and adviser to touring pros. "Most of our events this year were only \$15,000 purses with 32 players competing for the money. Next season we will feature 12 of the top touring professionals who have agreed to compete in the seven regional tournaments."

The Kunnan-Leach Tournament of Champions will continue with the same format as before, inviting the nation's top eight pros from the 1980-81 tour and four sponsor invited players. The \$100,000 DP Leach Nationals will be open to all professionals.

The 12 players who have committed for the Catalina Pro Classic series are: Hogan, Dave and Gregg Peck, Yellen, Wagner, Eggerman, Harnett, Thomas, McCoy, Strandemo, Fleetwood and Cohen. Hawkins and Dunlap have been named as alternates in the event any of the above players would be unable to appear.

Rio and Dan Harnett are on hand for the announcement of the Catalina 1981-82 tour. Also standing in the back row, left to right, are Rich Wagner, Scott Hawkins, Bret Harnett, Dave Peck, Don Thomas, Gregg Peck, Craig McCoy and Marty Hogan. Seated are, left to right, Steve Strandemo, Mike Yellen, Dave Fleetwood, John Eggerman, Doug Cohen and Keith Dunlap.



Notes of the Tournament . . .

Arizona Athletic Club Owner Carl Porter received the Host Club of the Year award at the banquet that he hosted for 400 pros and amateurs who took part in the 1981 Leach Nationals run by the National Racquetball Club. USRA/NRC National Commissioner Joe Ardito introduced banquet speakers NRC/USRA President Bob Kendler and Leach Industries General Manager Charlie Drake . . . 6:30 a.m. was pool time for competitors who wanted to beat the 115 degree heat that prevailed the entire tournament week in Tempe . . . But the heat didn't stop some players from getting in the sun to tube down the Salt River, horseback ride on desert and mountain trails, Grand Prix race at the Malibu car track and surf on the manmade wave in the manmade lagoon at Big Surf, Tempe's "ocean in the desert" . . . Marty Hogan received an extra \$10,000 (in addition to his \$25,000 first prize) from Catalina President Ed Murphy in recognition of Hogan's fourth straight national title. Paul Coyne, comptroller of Catalina, was the man who handed the 10 thou to Marty . . . Catalina was a generous pro-am sponsor during the entire 1980-81 season. The big sponsor for the Nationals was Diversified Products, supplying amateur winners with fitness products worth more than \$30,000. Other sponsors of the NRC tour this past season included William B. Tanner-Coca Cola, Bank of Newport/E.O. Roedeffer, Coors, Kunnan/Kennex, Bob Kendler and Seamco, Inc. The USRA/NRC staff gave special thanks Nationals week to Walter Eichelberger, Seamco vice president, for his longtime support and for providing the official tour ball. Players were complimenting Eichelberger on the quality of the Seamco balls during the Nationals matches . . . All agreed with the motto "If you want a good tournament, go to Tempe", and making good on those words were Carl Porter, Manager Denny Porr, Maintenance Engineer Jim Buckeye and the entire AAC crew . . . Also adding to the 1981 Nationals success were the Arizona Racquetball Association and USRA team staff members headed by Jim Stotz and including Chuck Hallock, Cec Morris, Andrea Levario, Dave Watson and Kim Rush, from Arizona; Eric Sanchez from New Mexico; Mike Gris from Oregon; Gilbert Torres from Texas; Scott Deeds, USRA state chairman from California, and Clyde Senters, Jim Cartwright and Jack Moskwa from Illinois . . . Referees and linesmen who served were Gary Lusk, who won the Men's Veterans doubles; Gene Gibbs; Ron Johnson, who spent three and a half days traveling from Indianapolis on a Kawasaki 1,000, and the recipients of the 1981 awards for outstanding service and dedication to the National Racquetball Referee's Association (part of the NRC/USRA)—Dave Negrete, Gary Merritt and Larry Lee . . . Back at the banquet USRA Director Terry Fancher and NRC Director Dan Bertolucci made special presentations to Bret Harnett and Gregg Peck, Rookies of the Year; Don Thomas, Sportsman of the Year, and Rich Wagner, Comeback Player of the Year.

The 1981-82 NRC-sanctioned season begins Sept. 14 at the King's Court in Westminster, CA, near Los Angeles. Other regional tournaments to be scheduled and announced later will be in such cities as Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, Portland, Honolulu and Boston. The Kunnan-Leach Tournament of Champions will be in Miami again and the annual \$100,000 DP Leach National Championship will be the season's final in New York City. ●

\$100,000
DP • LEACH NATIONAL PRO-AM
Racquetball Championship
Arizona Athletic Club
Tempe, AZ June 6-13

Round of 32: Marty Hogan d. Dan Factor 21-7, 21-15; D. Fleetwood d. Bob Bolan 21-9, 21-11; Doug Cohen d. Mark Morrow 21-11, 21-8; Scott Hawkins d. Charlie Brumfield 21-8, 17-21, 11-4; Lindsay Myers d. Steve Mondry 21-13, 21-11; Gregg Peck d. Larry Meyers 21-18, 21-13; Keith Dunlap d. Ben Koltun 14-21, 21-19, 11-7; Mike Yellen d. Matt Mathews 21-15, 21-16; Jerry Hilecher d. Kyle Kamalu 21-16, 21-8; Bret Harnett d. Dave Bledsoe 21-13, 21-18; Steve Strandemo d. Mike Levine 21-12, 21-17; John Egerman d. Dennis McDowell 21-3, 21-12; Rich Wagner d. Gerry Price 21-9, 21-15; Don Thomas d. Beaver Wickham 21-19, 21-13; Craig McCoy d. Gary Merritt 21-5, 21-13; Dave Peck d. Gary Berberet 21-11, 21-12

Round of 16: Hogan d. Fleetwood 21-5, 21-11; Hawkins d. Cohen 9-21, 21-18, 11-7; G. Peck d. Myers 21-16, 11-21, 11-9; Yellen d. Dunlap 21-8, 21-8; Harnett d. Hilecher 11-21, 21-14, 11-3; Strandemo d. Egerman 21-5, 21-11; Thomas d. Wagner 14-21, 21-15, 11-6; McCoy d. D. Peck 21-14, 17-21, 11-8.

Quarters: Hogan d. Hawkins 18-21, 11-2; Yellen d. G. Peck 21-8, 21-8; Harnett d. Strandemo 21-11, 10-21, 11-9; McCoy d. Thomas 17-21, 21-15, 11-1

Semis: Hogan d. Yellen 21-17, 21-16; McCoy d. Harnett 21-14, 21-8

Finals: Hogan d. McCoy 21-9, 21-12

National Racquetball Rankings As of June 13, 1981

1. Marty Hogan
2. Mike Yellen
3. Dave Peck
4. Jerry Hilecher
5. Don Thomas
6. Craig McCoy
7. Rich Wagner
8. Scott Hawkins
9. John Egerman
10. Lindsay Myers
11. Bret Harnett
12. Steve Strandemo
13. Gregg Peck
14. Doug Cohen
15. Larry Meyers
16. Mark Morrow
17. Keith Dunlap
18. Ben Koltun
19. Dave Bledsoe
20. Dave Fleetwood
21. Gerry Price
22. Matt Mathews
23. Mike Levine
24. George Vierra

Craig Shows Us "The Real McCoy"

by Charles Garfinkel

Charles Garfinkel, 1981 USRA Men's Senior Veterans Singles champion and holder of seven national titles, has known Craig McCoy since 1971, but has never challenged him to a game.



Going into this year's Nationals Craig McCoy was a little tired of hearing how lackadaisical he was, how he's wasted his talent and how he's all washed up at the ripe old age of 24.

After he defeated Dave Peck, Don Thomas, and Bret Hamett to advance to the finals against Marty Hogan, everyone said "McCoy was phenomenal, his intensity the best I've ever seen, and his court movement unbelievable." What happened?

According to McCoy "There are good reasons why I've seemingly been up and down in my racquetball career."

Why was he "up" for the Nationals?

"About three months ago," he says, "I played in a local tournament in California. I was trying a new racquet, and had only one of them. The racquet broke and I had to borrow another racquet. The racquet had no feel to it. I actually lost the match to a far inferior player. The worst part was that the guy told me I was through, and that I couldn't play anymore. Naturally I was furious."

McCoy had the opportunity to play the same player two weeks before the Nationals in another tournament. "I went into that tournament for the first time in my life really mad at someone. I couldn't believe my own intensity. I blew him out 21-6, 21-7.

"Everyone said that they hadn't seen me play like that in a long time. I proved to everyone that I could do it all. However I had to show my stuff in the Nationals.

"I was satisfied with the draw. I knew that anyone in the top 32 was capable of defeating anyone else."

McCoy's adrenalin was flowing. He remembered his intensity and flawless shotmaking two weeks earlier. He was determined to hang on to those qualities in the Nationals. And he did!

"First matches in most pro tournaments are in the morning," McCoy explains. "I'm not a morning person. It's hard for me to get acclimated and get myself up for matches early in the day. Playing late helped, but I was ready, regardless of what time I had to play."

Charlie Drake "couldn't believe it. McCoy kept his intensity and played extremely well. And he was doing something I haven't seen him do in a long time. He was going after every shot!"

Looking back on his career McCoy remembers the finals of the Louisville pro stop in 1974 when he was 18. "People thought that I was on my way. The pressure was unbelievable. However I had no one back home in Riverside, CA who could give me any type of game. It was hard to stay at peak level consistently."

And yet McCoy has held high rankings. He was third nationally in 1977. In 1978 he faced Hogan time and again in the quarters, semis and finals. "Even though I played him some close matches, it was very discouraging to keep meeting him so often. However I was still ranked fifth that year."

In 1979 McCoy reached the semis of the Nationals and was still ranked in the top 10. Then—in 1980—the bottom fell out. McCoy plummeted to 15th in the rankings. What happened?

"I had trouble adjusting to a new racquet," he says. "I was playing well before that. In a match against Hilecher I was way ahead, when I hurt my back. I had to rest between tournaments and hardly played at all. My game really suffered. Also the time changes at different tournament sites seems to bother me more than before."

About a year ago, when McCoy's back started feeling better, he got another break. "After having no one to play as a frequent opponent I got the competition I needed in Steve Lerner. Lerner is a fine player and really makes me work hard. We play two to three times a week and it's kept my game sharp."

If you wonder "how sharp" just ask Dave Peck, Don Thomas and Bret Hamett. ●

New Date Set for the Match that Wasn't Played

The battle that fans had expected at the Nationals—between Dave Peck and Marty Hogan—will take place Saturday, Sept. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Long Beach Athletic Club in California.

USRA State Chairman Scotty Deeds cooked up the idea for the exhibition match while driving back from the Nationals in June. "When you drive in the heat between Arizona and California, the sun bakes your brain," he explains.

Spectators who pay \$100 for the best viewing seats at the \$10,000 winner-take-all competition can take part in two days of events surrounding the Peck-Hogan meeting. Friday morning, Sept. 4, Hogan and Peck will analyze players' games during an hour and a half clinic, and that afternoon teams of celebrities coached by the pros—Hogan's Heroes and Peck's Bad Boys and Girls—will compete.

For more information contact Scotty Deeds at the Long Beach Athletic Club, 4000 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90807, 213-426-5577. ●

The Collegiate Quarter

Students Report that a Fourth of Their Classmates Play Racquetball

by Carl Lavin

Brian Chermiside, who just got a degree in marketing from Central Michigan University, was captain of his school's racquetball team. He was captain of the student group that travels to tournaments, that is. Central Michigan, like every college and university in the country, has no official intercollegiate racquetball team.

At Central Michigan the racquetball program, one of the largest of its kind, is run like a club—like chess or debating. Chermiside was president of the hundred member club at Central Michigan and fought for official recognition as a sport. "One of the goals of our club is intercollegiate competition," Chermiside says.

From Michigan to California, from Arizona to Minnesota, students are playing racquetball in record numbers. Chermiside's estimate that 25 percent of the students at his school play was echoed by students from other schools where racquetball does not yet have the status of football, basketball, or even tennis or golf. It has yet to be made a varsity sport, yet to receive more than a token of a university's sports budget and yet to attract the crowds on campus that come out for a "major" sports event.

Despite this lack of support hundreds of college racquetball players sacrifice a lot of time and money to play competitive racquetball at the state and national level and at intercollegiate tournaments. Some of the most active college racquetball players in the country talked about the status of the sport in between matches at the USRA intercollegiate tournament last spring in Champaign, IL. Although only a few had more than a gesture of support from their schools, most of the players were optimistic about the future of intercollegiate racquetball at the varsity level.

One problem facing fledgling players is inadequate facilities. Cindy De Witt won't even play on the courts at her school, Ball State University in Muncie, IN. "There are two courts at school, and they're both bad," says Cindy. She's good enough to be invited to play at a court club in Muncie, but a beginning player at Ball State would not have that advantage.

Brian Chermiside was Central Michigan's club team captain.



—Lauren Shay photos

Oversize cement brick boxes are courts at Northern Arizona, Jack Nolan's school.



Cindy DeWitt avoids bad courts at Ball State.



Capt. John Blecher coaches star Air Force Academy player, Barbara Faulkenberry.

Illinois' Karen Randich, left, and Dawn Kell are meeting players around the country.



Training High

Northern Arizona University has a similar problem, according to Jack Nolan, a freshman who came to the tournament backed by Leach and a group of Flagstaff, AZ businessmen. "None of the courts are regular size," says Nolan. "They're old cement-brick boxes, about twice as big as regulation courts." Nolan also plays at a court club, and, he admits Flagstaff does have its advantages. "We're up about 7,500 feet above sea level. We train in the mountains, and when I come down here it's great—I never get tired." There is a racquetball club at Northern, but Nolan said that most students play at a social level. Nolan, who has played at pro stops and went to the junior Nationals four years in a row, is the top ranked student at Northern.

Often a school can boast one top player among its students. The Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs has Barbara Faulkenberry, a former Florida state champion. Like Chermiside at Central Michigan and Nolan at Northern Arizona Faulkenberry is the core of the racquetball program at her school. Unlike the other schools, though, the Air Force Academy teaches all its students racquetball. "All 4,000 cadets go through the classes," says Faulkenberry's coach, physical education instructor, Capt. John Blecher. Except for Memphis State, the leader in college racquetball, the Air Force Academy is the only school sending a coach to tournaments—and the Air Force pays all Faulkenberry's and Blecher's expenses.

Dan Ferris studies business at St. Cloud State in Minnesota. A former top juniors player Ferris is St. Cloud's top player, but he still has a hard time getting to a court on campus. "There are six new courts this year," Ferris says. "But they're always booked." Ferris would like to see racquetball made a varsity sport. So would the University of Illinois' Rich Samson. As the Illini's top player he can almost always get on one of the five challenge courts on campus. There are 18 other courts at the U. of I., but they get almost constant use.

Ferris and Samson squared off in the later rounds of the USRA tournament, and despite the home court advantage, Samson lost in two games. Each had been playing racquetball for more than seven years, making them veterans on the college circuit.

Other Illini players fared better. Karen Randich and Dawn Kell came out winners in women's doubles.

Both seniors they've watched the women's racquetball program take off. "In the past four years the women's team has grown 400 percent," says Kell. The University of Illinois pays some of the travel costs of tournaments, helping the team to matches in Memphis and Houston in the past year. "There's a lot of people we know now from two or three years ago," Kell says.

Laura Doak leads the women's racquetball program at Iowa State in Ames. She does play on campus courts and has seen them used more and more in the past few years. "A lot more people play, but they're just starting out. It's going to take time before they get good," she reports.

Michelle Busacca represented the University of California at Los Angeles. Her mother, traveling with her to Champaign was impressed by the courts at Illinois, calling the facilities "outstanding." At the University of Wyoming at Laramie there are now 10 new courts and a very active racquetball program, according to Bob Busch, who represented Wyoming at the tournament, even though he had broken his ankle at a recent racquetball game back home.

Courts are always booked at St. Cloud State, where Dan Ferris is a student.



Laura Doak is leading woman player at Iowa State.



Michelle Busacca of UCLA and her mother, Beverly, right, travelled to Champaign.

The University of Wyoming's Bob Busch taped a sprained ankle so he could play in the USRA Intercollegiate Nationals.



Slipping under the Varsity Gate

"There's no gate," says Gale Sayres.

"That's not the issue," says Mike Dau.

National Racquetball's probe into the prospects for varsity racquetball uncovered two outlooks.

One view is that racquetball must first show that it can pay its way as a spectator sport. That's the opinion of Gale Sayres, athletic director at Southern Illinois University and former Chicago Bears star running back.

S.I.U., with an active club racquetball program, is far from making racquetball a varsity sport because, says Sayres, "there's no gate. To get that gate we need N.C.A.A. national championships."

Achieving that hallowed N.C.A.A. standing isn't easy.

"First 25 percent of the active members of the N.C.A.A. must sponsor racquetball on a varsity intercollegiate basis," says Shirley Whitaker, administrative assistant

In the Memphis State Budget

Memphis State University has yet to make racquetball varsity, but the city college with 19,000 students *does* budget money for the sport.

Larry Liles is the man who built racquetball at Memphis State into the country's best college program, the winner of two USRA intercollegiate national titles. Every year—as racquetball grows in popularity—so do the number of students who choose the college, hoping to make the M.S.U. racquetball team.

"Last year we had 19 kids trying out for two slots, says Liles, who's been coach for six of the nine years that Memphis State has offered the sport. "I even had six players from out of town who enrolled here so they could sign up for the team."

Liles reports that Memphis State allows \$15,000 in its budget for racquetball team uniforms, equipment, travel to tournaments around the country and miscellaneous costs, but he's out there raising money from other sources, too.

"We sponsor two or three tournaments a year, and we make \$2,000 to \$4,000 each time in entry fees," Liles explains. "You might say our fans are more participants than spectators."

The Memphis Racquetball Association and local businesses cover some of the expenses—like souvenir shirts—for those

Bruce Zamost heads the Southern Illinois University racquetball club.



Only Money

A midwest school with an active program is Southern Illinois University. Bruce Zamost, a student who heads the racquetball club in Carbondale, came to Champaign with a team of six. The S.I.U. team gets some financial backing from the school, and a lot of enthusiasm from the players. "The only thing that will hold back intercollegiate racquetball is money," insists Zamost.

The University of Michigan is one school that provides more than a token amount of support for its racquetball program. Larry Fox, one of the four players the U. of M. sponsored at the tournament, said that the 32 courts on campus are booked "90 percent of the time." Even so, he adds, starting a good program is difficult, because "a lot of the students are apathetic." One student racquetball player who is not apathetic is Sharon Fanning from Memphis State. Sharon is one of the top ranked players in her age group and a good example of what a top ranked racquetball program can do at the college level. Memphis State has incorporated racquetball into its physical education curriculum, much in the same way as the Air Force Academy has. And for Sharon Fanning it's a good thing. "I took a class 'cause you have to have P.E." she explains. "My instructor got the racquetball coach out to look at me." In three years she went from novice to national Open player. And she has a good college program to thank.

Sharon's story is an unusual one now, but as racquetball programs continue to grow, and as colleges build new courts on campus, it will be more and more common. And who knows? Someday we may get up New Year's Day to watch the Big Ten and the Pac Ten battle it out on a . . . racquetball court. ●



Regular national Open contender, Sharon Fanning, learned racquetball in a Memphis State P.E. class.

at the National Collegiate Athletic Association, headquartered in Shawnee Mission, KS.

"Then the subject of racquetball national championships has to be brought up at our annual convention as an amendment to the bylaws, voted on by the delegates."

Whitaker says the N.C.A.A. defines a varsity sport as one that (1) is under the control of the department of intercollegiate athletics, (2) gives official varsity awards to qualified participants, (3) considers students eligible only after review and certification by a staff member or committee designated by the president or a committee responsible for undergraduate policy and (4) is recognized as varsity by the school's chief executive officer or designated committee.

All well and good, says Mike Dau, but there's a shortcut to varsity standing, the status that automatically puts a sport into a school's intercollegiate sports budget.

Dau is athletic director of Lake Forest College in suburban Chicago. He's also head football coach, and he's been handball coach since 1968, when he encouraged administrators to build courts in a new athletic facility *"because I wanted to give our students some lifetime sports."*

When handball went varsity at Lake Forest College nine years ago, it was not because it would bring in spectator dollars.

"There's no moneymaking in minor sports," Dau contends. *"I'm sure Gale Sayres doesn't make money off the golf team."*

"At a small college like ours income doesn't pay for varsity sports. We consider \$2,500 to \$3,000 in gate receipts as good, while we have a couple hundred thousand in costs."

Then what convinced Lake Forest to give handball the varsity tag?

"The administration recognized handball's very concrete benefits for the school. Lake

Forest attracts excellent students who want to take part in our handball program."

"Lake Forest's handball program is a recruiting tool for a small school (1,100 students) that's vying with other good liberal arts colleges for capable students."

Dau's handball teams, which have won eight United States Handball Association national college championships, compete in Greater Chicago handball leagues. And though Dau admits that Lake Forest's metropolitan location provides his team with steady competition that substitutes for a schedule of intercollegiate meets, he thinks the crux of the matter is not geography, but people.

"To make racquetball a varsity sport at a college or a university, you first have to have someone on the staff who's nuts about racquetball. Then you start attracting kids because of your racquetball program. Then you have leverage with the administration." ●

tournaments and they help meet general team expenses. Liles is planning a fund raiser, in September, when Coca Cola will supply a truckload of its product that

students will sell by the case. The team will drum up sales in a shopping center parking lot with radio spots, searchlights and a local deeJay emceeing the event.



Liles, 34, is the classic *"racquetball nut"* Mike Dau refers to in the accompanying *"Varsity Gate"* story. The daily player has drawn his whole family into the sport. His wife, Dotsy, plays and so do sons, Buddy, II, and Josh, five. Molly, who's two, *"tries to cut the grass with a racquetball,"* Liles reports.

The Memphis native played handball as an M.S.U. undergrad until a friend invited him to try a racquet in one of the city's many courts housed in churches. After teaching racquetball while he earned a masters in recreation Liles succeeded Geddes Self as M.S.U. racquetball coach.

Each spring Liles builds a future for M.S.U. squads by running a racquetball program at St. Louis junior high. Liles supplies the equipment and the Racquet Club of Memphis provides courts at a discount.

Larry Liles is optimistic about racquetball at Memphis State—and the rest of the country. *"The administration moved it from a club sport to the P.E. department. I think that means we're getting closer to being part of intercollegiate athletics. And there will be other college varsity teams to play. Within the next five years I see racquetball scholarships and racquetball competition at schools everywhere."* ●

Etymology Prof with the Racquetball Bug

Flies are Don Webb's Specialty

by Carl Lavin

Don Webb's office is a little cramped. As coordinator of the racquetball program at the University of Illinois he has an excuse this weekend. Webb's school is host to a USRA intercollegiate tournament. Cans of balls line his desk, boxes of trophies block the path to the door.

But Webb's office is always crowded, tournament or no tournament, because Webb shares it with tens of thousands of insects.

An insect taxonomist Webb works for the Illinois Natural History Survey and is an associate professor of agricultural etymology at the U. of I. He studies bugs—especially flies—looking at the different characteristics of each species. He also identifies bugs for pest control specialists, farmers or curious school children.

Racquetball is Webb's other love. He is the faculty adviser to the student racquetball association and an A player. At one time he was ranked third in the state.

A fellow taxonomist might say that Webb is as busy as an *Apis mellifera*. Without looking up from his tournament schedule Webb could tell you that's just a fancy name for a common bee.

The morning of the tournament Webb drives his well-used station wagon to pick up some visitors at the airport in Champaign. It's a sunny 39 degrees. Webb wears sneakers, pants and a short sleeve shirt.

Two boxes of donuts are in the back of the car, purchased by Webb for the dozens of college racquetball players already warming up at the courts. They're going to have to wait for breakfast. Webb wants to show off his bugs.

Driving into town Webb recites a litany of the advantages central Illinois offers its residents. Even when others in the car see only vacant land, Webb points to it with pride. "That soil there is some of the richest farmland in the country," he says.

Turning onto campus Webb drives past the vast intramural sports fields. "We have one of the biggest intramural programs at any university," Webb says. "Practically every student participates in some sport."

Ten years ago the U. of I. built a new intramural sports building. Some far sighted planner designed the building with 23 racquetball courts. Racquetball was seen as an easy sport for beginners, and a game that gives a good workout. When the building opened, the racquetball program at the U. of I. began in earnest.

Unlimited Court Use

Webb's office is a five minute walk from the courts. "If I have a game at lunch time, I can leave at a quarter to 12 and get back to the office at 1:30," Webb says. "And I don't have to pay for court time." As a faculty member Webb pays \$45 a year for unlimited use of all athletic facilities on campus.

If money for court time is not a problem for Webb, finding the time itself often is. This isn't the first Saturday Webb has spent examining insects. But it hasn't dampened his enthusiasm.

"This is probably the fifth or sixth largest collection in North America," says Webb, ushering his visitors into a dusty suite of offices. "We're heavy on insects from central and eastern United States, but we have all different kinds."

Webb pulls open one of the wooden drawers from a seven foot green metal cabinet. "Can you smell the mothballs?" he asks. The drawer contains hundreds of insects, each stuck on a pin. Mothballs keep other insects from gnawing on the protein rich specimens in the collection.

This drawer is filled with flies, each as big as Webb's thumb. He pulls out another drawer. "Midas flies," Webb says. "Two inches long with a three inch wingspan. They really get you moving."

Most of the huge specimens come from Illinois. "I'm always collecting throughout the state," Webb says. "Last summer I was in Texas and New Mexico. Half of my vacation time is spent collecting."

Webb's wife, a secretary on campus, and their two daughters, now in high school, go along on these combined vacation/collecting trips. They get a chance to see Don, and occasionally reap other benefits.



Diane Webb, now a ninth grader, received As in science all through elementary school with a little advice from her father. Her nature exhibits made a hit, Don says, when Diane brought them to school professionally labeled and mounted. But you don't have to be related to a taxonomist to build a good collection, Webb advises. "There are three to four hundred species of insects in a typical backyard."

There are six taxonomists in the Natural History Survey. They work with two graduate students and two technicians. Each taxonomist has his own area of specialization. "I've been doing a study of horseflies and deerflies in the central United States," Webb says. "There are something like 105 different species of horseflies and deerflies, 90 different species in Illinois."

16,130 Kinds of Flies

On a desk in the corner is a book several inches thick. It looks like it gets a lot of use. "This is a catalog of flies of North America—everything north of Mexico," Webb says. "In 1965 there were 16,130

USRA 1981 intercollegiate host, Don Webb, poses at the tournament with some of his 1980-81 University of Illinois women team members, back, left to right, Janine Toman and Amy Gudbrandsen, and front, left to right, Vicki Carr, Karen Randich and Dawn Kell.



— Lauren Shey photos

different species of flies, and it keeps going up every year as new ones are described." Part of Webb's job is to describe new species.

Other taxonomists are working on similar projects. They often write the Illinois Natural History Survey hoping to borrow parts of the collection. "We ship anywhere in the world," Webb says. "They reexamine all the morphological characteristics of a species, updating the identifications that may be decades old, discovering new details that may distinguish new species."

Identifications are another part of Webb's job. "We are an identification service for the state of Illinois. We get all kinds of stuff in here. One woman had an insect on a strawberry. She put the whole thing in an envelope. Well you know the envelope goes through a cancelling machine." Webb pauses as his visitors imagine a strawberry colored envelope, bug inside, arriving in the day's mail. "Put it in a pill box," Webb advises. "Then send it straight here to the Natural History Survey. We'll identify it."

Webb pulls out more drawers, stacking them on top of each other. He turns to a microscope sitting nearby. "It's very detailed work. We use the microscope for everything except for the very large insects." Details that may appear insignificant, like the number of hairs on a leg, or the pattern of color on a back, can make all the difference in the insect world.

A few steps away is another drawer set up like a museum exhibit. "The biggest insect in Illinois is almost six inches long," Webb says. "The smallest? See that fuzz on the end of that wire?"

As a student at the University of Toronto Webb was fascinated with aquatic biology. While he observed the fish and amphibians in local ponds, Webb began to pay more attention to the food than the fish. His work in insects came out of that interest, and he specialized in taxonomy, "because the taxonomy of the group was in such a mess."

Webb came to the University of Illinois 15 years ago and went right to work classifying flies. His favorite fly is the scorpion fly,

named because the male genitalia looks like a scorpion's stinger. Webb points out other "mimic" flies, ones that look like bumblebees, others that exactly resemble wasps. "The flies are edible, and the bees and wasps aren't," Webb explains. "Birds and other predators are confused by their shape and leave the mimic flies alone."

The core of the collection was a set of insects captured in central Illinois in the 1860s and these 120-year-old specimens are still used by scientists. Webb recently sent the antiques on to Austria. "We packed them like you would pack trophies," Webb says, gesturing to the floor. There packed in Styrofoam and cardboard are specimens from another side of his busy schedule. They are two boxes full of USRA intercollegiate racquetball trophies.

They remind Webb that it's time to go to the tournament. The donuts are waiting in the car. Webb drives home first ("seven and a half minutes by bicycle") to pick up a daughter, a dozen three foot long submarine sandwiches and a few bags of celery, carrots and pickles. For now flies are forgotten. ●

The Killshot: Keeping It Straight

by Dave Peck

This is the first in a three-part series that the number three ranked pro on the NRC tour is writing exclusively for *National Racquetball*.

A straight line is not only the shortest distance between two points, it's also the secret to hitting good killshots.

The kill is both racquetball's most effective shot and its toughest. For maximum efficiency it has to be hit low, travel straight off your racquet to the front wall and remain as nearly parallel to the floor as possible while doing it.

If you turn your racquet face up, down or to either side, your shot is going to skip in or head off in a direction you don't intend. That means you have to get down low and make solid contact with your racquet's face parallel to the front wall (or to whatever point you're aiming when it comes to pinches and other side wall kills). It's a difficult set of body mechanics, particularly under the stress of a game.

Oil billionaire Lamar Hunt— one of Houston's goodest good ole' boys— used to like to say that, if you want to be successful, it's better to be lucky than smart. But when it comes to killshots, it's better to be consistent than either lucky or smart. Luck won't get you through many games, much less tournaments, and it doesn't take smarts to hit a good killshot. It takes practice. It's a feeling or method you want to develop so that, during the quick action of a game, your body will react automatically time after time.

To help my students develop that automatic action I tell them to picture the kill as a series of straight line motions culminating in the ball going straight from racquet to front wall.

There are two kinds of killshots. One is the looping, pendulum-like stroke in which the end of your racquet describes an arc from above your head to the floor where contact is made with the ball. I prefer the sidearm stroke where the motion is more across your body and, at the point of contact, the racquet face is pointing out to the side wall.

I have one good reason for choosing the sidearm stroke: it's easier so I figure I'll be able to do it correctly more often. Consistency.

Photo 1 To help them develop the correct body mechanics for the killshot I tell my students to think of it as a series of straight lines. Set up with your racquet arm parallel to the floor and your racquet handle pointed straight into the floor.



If you make a mistake with the pendulum stroke, the ball will either skip or come high off the front wall. It's harder to blow it with the sidearm stroke and if you do, it will only cost you a shot that is more to the left or right than you intended.

You can see straight lines through all aspects of this stroke. Let's start with the forehand kill. To begin with set up with your feet pointing into the side wall and your racquet arm up parallel to the floor as pictured in photo one. The racquet is perpendicular to your arm and the handle is pointed straight into the floor. It's a collection of 90 degree angles.

Don't make the mistake of cocking your racquet behind your head or you'll have to swing around your head and it will throw off your stroke. From the correct position your stroke will flow smoothly straight through the ball.

As you swing, shift your weight from your back foot to your front foot and step in the direction you are shooting (the direction of your step is a little different for the backhand, which we'll get to in a minute). Snap your hips as you step, bringing your upper body square with the front wall. Your arm straightens out by the time it reaches your front foot—the optimum point of impact. This causes a natural wrist snap and follow through.

The wrist snap is the most important part of your stroke because that is the single greatest contributor to power. Also the angle of the racquet at that point determines your shot's accuracy. Your step-in, the snap of your hips and the swinging motion of your arm contribute momentum but, in a larger sense, these body movements serve mainly to facilitate your wrist snap. In effect what you are trying to do is line up your wrist and racquet properly or, to put it another way, simply get your body out of the way of your wrist.

Photo 2 I prefer the side arm stroke to the pendulum like power stroke because it is easier and surer. As shown here you can dig the ball into the floor if you contact it too late on the pendulum swing . . .



Photo 4 At point of contact with the sidearm stroke the racquet face is pointed out toward the side wall, providing a broader and straighter surface for contact with the ball.



Photo 3 . . . Or send it up high on the front wall if you are too early with your pendulum stroke.



Photo 5 In practice the sidearm swing looks like this . . .

Another advantage of the sidearm over the pendulum stroke is that it is safer. Most racquet caused injuries occur on the follow through and, with the sidearm stroke, your racquet moves across your body instead of over your head. If your opponent gets in the way, he'll be hit in the chest rather than the face. Likewise you have a little more control of your body with the sidearm stroke and are able to get back into position more quickly for your opponent's return.

The backhand stroke requires a slightly different grip and set of movements in order to keep the racquet flush with the front wall. It is still a sidearm stroke, but more like snapping a towel or throwing a frisbee than swinging a baseball bat. You have to change from the classic forehand pistol grip with the "V" between your thumb and index finger on the middle of the top of the racquet to one with the "V" a quarter-inch to the left (if you are right handed).

Instead of stepping into your shot as with the forehand, step straight toward the side wall as you swing. This compensates for the different angle caused by shooting across your body. If you step toward your shot on the backhand, you'll contact the ball early and pull it cross court.

Except for these two differences the forehand and backhand killshots are the same. Many people feel that the backhand is more difficult and it probably is, but I think it's also more satisfying when executed correctly.

To summarize the key to success with your killshots is to keep your racquet face flush with the front wall so that, at the point of contact the ball will travel straight off the racquet to the wall. To help them achieve that I tell my students to keep their body mechanics straight and simple, too. The value of this will become more evident in my next two articles when I talk about killshot situations and the quick-reaction re-kill. ●



Photo 6 . . . And, if things fall into place, results in this.

— Mike Hogan photos

A Woman's Guide to Racquetball Equipment

With Some Sound Advice for All

by Shannon Wright with Steve Keeley

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Equipment for racquetball is minimal compared to many sports, especially if you take the gladiatorial garb rather than the dress-to-impress approach. Whatever your taste this guide will enable you to play safely and to hit the ball as well as your strokes allow. This chapter covers these equipment topics: (1) shoes, (2) warm-up suits, (3) brassieres, (4) eyeguards, (5) gloves and related grip slip-stoppers, (6) racquets and (7) balls.

Apparel

Shoes

Racquetball footwear should be heavy duty tennis shoes or racquetball shoes. Ask a shoe dealer or pro shop salesman to recommend a good basketball shoe, since both sports involve similar quick pivoting and pushing off. If you have a history of ankle problems—sprains or strains—go with a pair of high tops for more support. Jogging shoes are impractical and unsafe for racquetball because they provide little lateral support.

Other than footwear it is not overly important which apparel you pick along the lines of socks, shorts and shirts. There are three important exceptions: warm-up suits, brassieres and eyeguards.



Warm-up Suits

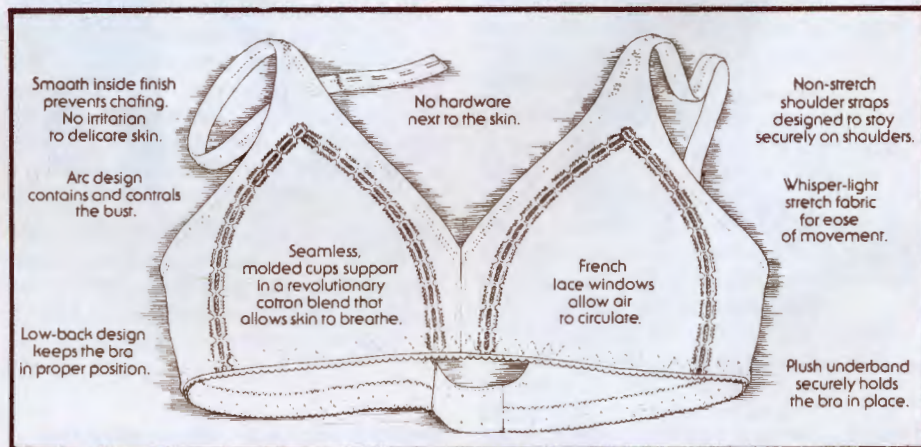
These are nice for warming up before a match and for cooling down afterward. A cold body that stretches violently during early play, or a hot body that suddenly cools after play, may develop cramps or muscle pulls.

Brassieres

Bras are recommended by authorities for all medium to large busted players. Even smaller chested women should consider wearing a bra during racquetball games for two reasons. First the game involves a lot of bouncing on the feet, which can cause the breasts to sag over a period of time. Second there is real danger of injury to a breast from a direct blow by a ball or racquet. This may cause anything from a slight bruise to a hematoma (pocket of blood from a bad bruise), but not cancer.

Whether or not you now wear a regular bra on the court, you should consider investing in a sports bra. These provide more support, are more absorbent, the shoulder straps won't slip and the hems and fasteners are well padded to prevent rubbing and irritation.

The Lily of France Sport Bra has features that make playing more comfortable.



Eyeguards

These are a must because the ball travels faster than the eyelid can blink in racquetball. Most serious injuries in racquetball occur to the unprotected eye, and this is likely to happen to you, especially if you are a beginner or an intermediate player. At these levels most players are usually unaware of where the ball is going and of the location of their opponent's wildly flailing racquet. Open and tournament players should also wear eyeguards. About one out of every five professional players has suffered an eye injury that has resulted in the temporary loss of vision in one eye. Eyeguards are mandatory in all Canadian Racquetball Association (CRA) tournaments, as well as at many court clubs in the United States.

Many players who wear prescription glasses wonder if these are suitable for racquetball. They are, but only if the frames are plastic rather than metal, and if the lenses are plastic rather than glass. Note that shatterproof glass lenses may still shatter and splinter from a direct blow by a racquetball moving at 100 miles per

Court Hardware

The remainder of this chapter deals with court hardware—those items that enable you to hit the ball with your maximum potential power and accuracy. These include (1) gloves and other defenses against racquet slippage, (2) racquets and (3) balls. First we'll look at the defenses against grip slippage: wrist bands, gloves and minitowels.

Wrist Bands

These are useful if the slip-causing sweat gets to your palm by running down the arm. They dam the sweat quite well, and when the bands become saturated, they should be changed. You might also look into the wrist band-thong combination unit. This device is an absorbent wrist band with a Velcro fastener, to which the racquet thong is permanently attached. This unit precludes having to make sure the thong is twisted snugly to the wrist; it also prevents the problem of the thong hooking and loosening the Velcro fasteners of your racquetball glove.

Headbands are stylish and/or functional. Use one if errant strands of hair get into your eyes. Tuck the pigtail or pony tail under to avoid whiplash on the follow through.

—Arthur Shay photo



Gloves

Racquetball gloves provide perhaps the most effective means of combatting grip slippage. These, to some players, also offer a psychological boost akin to that provided to Wonder Woman when she slipped into her uniform. Choose either the full-fingered or the half-fingered glove.

The latter exposes your fingers, starting at the middle knuckle joint. Some players prefer this style, claiming a superior "feel" for the racquet handle. Any glove should be thin and fit tightly, almost as a second skin. There are many glove materials from which to choose, and you should experiment to suit yourself. Gloves are usually sized from extra small through extra large. Most pro shops expect you to try on a potential purchase for size, and you should do so if this is your first glove or if you are considering a new brand. Most gloves are washable in warm water, but you should first inspect the cleaning instructions for each particular type. Gloves do wear out eventually, and consequently they themselves can be the cause of racquet slippage. Toss them out when the palm wears so thin or gets so crusty or slick that washing doesn't help.



Minitowels

The alternative to wrist bands and gloves is the minitowel. This is a washcloth sized piece of material that tucks into the shorts. It is used to wipe off the gloveless hand and/or racquet handle when either gets sweaty. You may purchase a minitowel, though construction is simple enough. Just cut an absorbent towel into approximately six by 12 inch strips and then hem the rough edges if you wish to prevent fraying. Tuck one edge of the minitowel into your gym shorts at the right hip (assuming you are right handed), and you're ready to wipe. When your hand or handle gets wet, lay the racquet handle onto the flappy part of the material, wrap a turn and twist with your gun hand. The towel simultaneously dries your grip as well as the racquet's grip, and it takes only a couple of seconds.

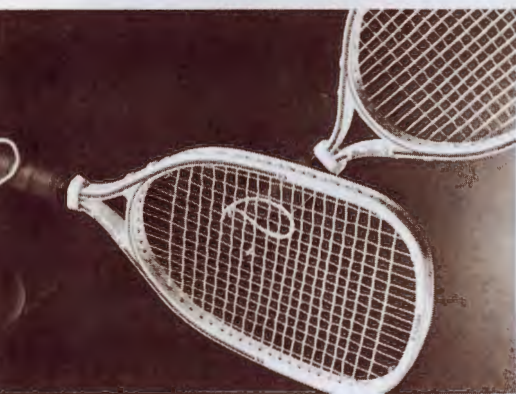


Racquets

Your racquetball racquet is the vanguard of your equipment arsenal, and as such it deserves detailed attention. Let's break the racquet into its common feature categories and consider each individually. The feature categories include (1) frame, (2) length, (3) weight, (4) head shape, (5) grip and (6) strings.

The most common frame materials are fiberglass (plastic), metal (aluminum), graphite and wood.

The two most popular types of frame materials are fiberglass and metal. Fiberglass (plastic) racquets traditionally flex more. This means that theoretically they provide more power owing to a greater recoil of the frame following the big flex, or give, of the frame upon ball contact. The relationship between control and flexibility is less clear cut, though most pro players feel that the more the frame flexes, the longer the ball stays on the racquet face—thus giving more control. In all fairness to the metal racquet manufacturers it should be pointed out that some of the recent aluminum frames are extruded so as to provide equivalent flexibility to fiberglass. Experiment with both materials to determine which has flexibility characteristics more compatible with your stroke and game style.



The problem with fiberglass racquets is that they may break when you accidentally hit the wall. Novice players, who during the early stages of their court careers clobber the side walls nearly as often as the balls, should take this point to heart.

Metal racquets, on the other hand, usually are stiffer (except, as noted, for some of the newer extruded frames). Be aware that stiffness is not necessarily a detriment in stroke production, and some players prefer the inherent stiffness of metal. The big plus for metal is its durability. Most of these racquets are tough to bend and even tougher to break.



The two other frame materials are graphite and wood. Graphite racquets are sometimes described as composites or graphite composites, depending on the constituent materials. Graphite frames may be flexible or stiff, and light or heavy, depending on the ratio of graphite to other materials used to make the frame. Most graphites are more expensive than their frame material counterparts.

Wood frames are making a comeback, but these newcomers are far more sophisticated than the old wood clunkers, which had sundry disadvantages: they were too short and too heavy, the rims were too thick (which makes the strung surface area too small), the head shapes were too limited because of the nature of wood and the grips were typically too large. The new wood frames are usually laminated and lighter, thus negating the disadvantages of the early wood racquets.

Most beginning players start with a metal racquet because of its durability. Then, as their skill improves, many opt for the fiberglass for more flexibility. Graphite and wood are no better or worse as frame materials—they simply play differently.

Racquet length is more easily chosen than frame material by the racquet buyer. Two different length racquets are marketed today: the standard and the extra long models. The latter is about an inch longer and therefore offers a little more reach, a little more leverage and a little more weight. These factors may not be beneficial for modern racquetball, in which the name of the game is power and fast reaction. The standard can be brought around on the swing faster than the extra long, which means more power and less time required to set up on each shot. Only about one out of eight pros uses the extra long, though you should experiment with each before making a final decision on racquet length.

Racquet weight is another important determinant in selecting a racquet. The evolution of the racquetball from slow to faster has precipitated a power stroke that is characterized by a very quick swing, that is, fast head speed. A lighter racquet is obviously better suited for swinging more quickly. Still remember that this is somewhat of a trade-off in that though you increase stroke head speed with a lighter racquet, you sacrifice the added weight behind the stroke provided by a heavier racquet.

Most racquets weigh in at 230-290 grams. A light racquet may be considered to weigh less than 240 grams, a heavy racquet above 280 grams. Again personal preference is the determining factor here, and experimentation is the only way to discover which weight feels most comfortable to you.

Head shape is a relatively minor concern compared to the other factors involved in choosing a racquet. There are three basic head shapes: the tear drop, the rectangular (quadriform) and the round. Each offers different playing features, but none is superior to the others.

A more pertinent point of consideration along these lines is the bumper, which fits on a groove on the top of the racquet head. The bumper not only protects the racquet frame, but it also adds head weight. Thus it greatly affects a racquet's balance. (The balance is a somewhat arbitrary term defined here as the ratio of the handle weight to the head weight. Hence racquets are often labeled head-light or head-heavy). Be aware that if you remove the bumper from a normally bumpered racquet, it becomes too head-light and the racquet handle may slip in your hand upon ball contact. It is more reasonable to lighten a racquet by removing the bumper, cutting off an inch or so, and replacing it in its rim groove. If you try this, a dip into hot water makes the removed rubber-plastic bumper more pliable for easier replacement.

Grip material and size are the next questions. The material options usually include leather and rubber. Leather grips wear longer and are easier to regrip. However do not be deluded that just because a leather grip has not worn out to the point of having a hole, it will not wear out. They do wear, but in a different manner—by getting slimy or slick. This can at first be cured with a warm water bath, but sooner or later the grip will become slick beyond help, and you should regrip. Most players who use leather grips also wear gloves, since leather is slippery when wet.

Rubber grips are less expensive per unit than leather, though this economy is negligible since rubber wears out faster. Rubber grips erode especially fast when there is the added friction of a glove against the grip. Players who use rubber grips find the minitowel useful to sop up handle sweat.

Grip size is just as important as grip material. There are three common sizing systems for racquet handles: (1) The "word" system labels grips extra small through extra large. Most male players use a medium or larger, whereas most women use a small or smaller. (2) The "inches" system gives an exact measurement of handle circumference. The normal range is from about 3 5/8 inches to 4 5/8 inches with 1/8 inch or 1/16 inch increments available. Most men use a 4 1/3 inch grip or larger, and most women a 4 inch grip or smaller. (3) The "two-size" system is utilized by a major racquet company to facilitate manufacturing and consumer selection. The two sizes include the standard and the small. About 90 percent of male players require the standard, and 90 percent of female players the small.



Grip size and grip shape should not be confused. There are three common sizing systems, all based on handle circumference: word system, inches system and two size system. On the other hand grip shape refers to the shape of the handle, which is best seen by viewing the butt end of the racquet. Experiment with various handle sizes, as well as with different shapes.

There are two important additional points on grip size. The first concerns the fallacy that the racquet grip should be of similar circumference to the tennis grip. This is wrong; you should actually experiment with a smaller grip size. Racquetball uses a much more wrist oriented stroke with its shorter racquet, and you'll find that a smaller grip lends itself better to this. The

second point on grip size is that handles may be customized regarding circumference. This is a matter of removing the leather or rubber grip and shrinking or building up the handle. Shrinking works only on wood handles. Here you file the handle down evenly to the desired size, then replace the grip. Building works equally well on any handle material: You wrap a few layers of tape around the handle to increase its thickness, then replace the grip.

Strings are the final feature category for racquet selection. This subject includes string material and string tension. String material is of little concern to the beginning to intermediate player. Racquetball racquets are almost universally strung with nylon—either monofilament (tournament) nylon or multifilament nylon. Cheap racquets often use a cheap grade of nylon, better racquets a higher quality nylon.

String tension provides a much more lively topic for discussion in club locker rooms and jacuzzis. Most racquets are factory strung at 28 to 32 pounds of tension, which should be fine for the vast majority of players. However court experience breeds a certain fickleness regarding string tension. The gist of this is theoretical but logical: A looser tension gives greater power, and possibly more control, on the stroke. The rationalization here is that the strings "give" more upon ball contact with a looser tension, and consequently they recoil more for enhanced power. Similarly the racquetball stays on the string longer with a looser tension, thereby providing increased control. The advanced player often experiments with varying string tensions—within a range of about 22 to 32 pounds. A tension below about 22 pounds may give the *butterfly net effect*, in which the racquet almost catches the ball instead of hitting it. A tension above about 32 pounds may cause the *board effect*, in which the racquet feels as stiff as a board upon ball contact.

Note that whatever the original tension, your racquet will lose two to four pounds during the first week of play as the strings stretch and "seat" in the frame. Do not worry about this since nothing can be done about it anyway.

Another related matter to which you will eventually have to acquiesce concerns broken strings. Even high quality nylon breaks sooner or later, the frequency of breakage depending on the amount of play. (The one exception is the racquet whose strings break repeatedly in a certain area. This is diagnostic of a broken or missing grommet—the plastic or metal

cylinder through which the string passes within the frame). You may get just a one string patch job, though this gives different playability on different areas of the strung surface. It makes more sense to have an entire restringing job done, either by sending the racquet to the manufacturer or by digging up a competent restringer. Whichever you choose, be sure to specify the type of string and tension desired. Also tape your name and phone number to the handle in case the racquet is misplaced.

Besides examining the important feature categories when choosing a racquet—frame, length, weight, head shape and strings—there are a few other minor considerations. Autographs on racquets (autograph models) may or may not be an indication of quality. Base your selection more on how you feel about the racquet itself. Racquet covers are another extra often used to lure prospective customers. Covers are unnecessary (nylon string is water resistant and most frames are noncorrosive) unless you plan to sandwich your racquet between sweaty gym clothes in your gym bag. The price tag on a racquet is not a precise indicator of quality. A medium priced racquet often hits better than a more expensive one, though you should suspect any very cheap racquet. Finally check out the warranty card that comes with most racquets. This usually guarantees the frame against any breakage except misuse, and the length of warranty depends on the frame material. Typically fiberglass frames are guaranteed for about three months and metal for a year; the warranty period for graphite and modern wood varies.

Racquet selection should now pose few problems. This especially will be true if, before you shell out any money, you borrow and try out the same model that you plan to buy. It often takes only a dozen hits to differentiate a lemon from a winner.



The *racquetball* is the last piece of court equipment in this section. The selection of a good ball, once a simple chore of buying the sole ball manufactured, is now a mind boggling task due to the vast array available. Let's simplify matters by stating that a ball is either fast or slow, and a ball is either pressurized or nonpressurized (pressureless). A slower, nonpressurized ball is best for beginning to intermediate players. The slow (less bounce) characteristic allows the novice more time to chase down and set up on each shot. This leads to the quicker development of proper strokes and of court positioning. The nonpressurized characteristic is important because these balls are generally much more durable and more consistent than their pressurized kinfolk. Increased durability means you spend less money replacing broken balls, while increased consistency means you don't have to worry about out-of-round balls. ●

How to Win THE Tournament

by The Players Who Did

Coming home from a big national tournament with a title that says "*best in the country*" amateur players hear "*How did you do it?*" as often as "*Congratulations!*".

National Racquetball questioned winners in a variety of divisions at the 1981 Leach National Championships in Tempe, AZ June 6-13 and—as might be expected—came up with a variety of answers.

One fact is clear. There's no one way to become an amateur champ.



Ed Andrews beats Gregg Peck in the Men's Open finals.

Ed Andrews, Men's Open Singles Winner, Bonita, CA

Getting Ready

I played every day for about a month, instead of my usual four times a week, and I went over to Balboa Family Fitness, where there are really good caliber players.

About a week before Tempe I got some coaching and I did drills with Lindsay Myers. They were drills in shot selection—a lot of passing drills. Last year, when I lost the Open in the finals, I hadn't done any drills beforehand, so they must have helped. Another thing that was different from last year was my weight.

In 1980 I weighed 205 pounds. I was 190 going into the 81 Nationals. For six months before the Nationals I lost weight by trying not to eat a lot of beef and no candies or cakes.

Before the tournament I got my usual eight hours sleep and kept to my regular routine—up at 7, breakfast at 9, play at 10. In fact the Nationals routine just followed my own. I had a 10 a.m. match every day.

Shot Choice

My passing shot worked. I liked the higher percentage shot because I had less chance to make mistakes. I was hitting the pass shots into the deep corners.

Strategy

In the finals I was trying to hit ceilings, but they weren't working, I was losing rallies. So I changed. I waited for the ball to come down.

Special equipment

I always wear eyeguards. About two years ago I was practicing and I hit a Z serve. It grazed me in the left eye and I couldn't see for five hours.

Mental Attitude

I kept trying to block everything out. I started out a little nervous—on the glass and in the finals—but I was determined—I think that's 70 percent of winning—and had confidence from winning five national championships. Every tournament victory adds to that confidence.



Paul Darnell, left, beats Gary Lusk for the Men's Veteran Singles title.

Paul Darnell, Men's Veteran Singles Winner, Phoenix, AZ

Getting Ready

Fortunately the tournament was at my home club. I got ready by simply playing good competitive racquetball. I play for the enjoyment and reap the free benefits—physical conditioning, mental exercise and relating to players on a friendly, competitive level. I jump rope once in a while for my footwork and I stretch out faithfully before I play. I stuck to my regular diet—not too much junk food, sugar or coffee. I believe thin is in and fat is not where it's at.

Shot Choice

My most effective shots are the pinches—forehand right side wall-front wall and forehand left side wall-front wall. Those are pure reaction shots for me. They end the rally with either a point for me or a side out. (I won so I must have made most of them.)

Strategy

Most players either cannot hit a good defensive ceiling shot or are too impatient to do so. I lob served 90 percent of the time, the opponent shot the ball or hit a bad ceiling and I rekill everything that wasn't a perfect shot. That ended the rally with the least amount of exertion for me. The strategy kept me from getting fatigued and allowed me to play my game—up in front court with rekill reaction shots.

Special Equipment

I insist on high top shoes to protect the ankles. I had one sprain six years ago and switched to high tops and have had no trouble since.

Mental Attitude

To have fun (most important) and to be a good sportsman as a representative of Arizona, like Don Thomas and Bobby Bolan.

Shortcuts or Tricks

I'm myself and that seems to fool people. Most who don't know me underestimate my talents and before they can believe it, I have 21.



Gary Lusk, left, and Charlie Garfinkel watch the pro action.

Charlie Garfinkel, Men's Veteran Senior Singles Winner, Buffalo, NY

Getting Ready

I read all my old clippings and fondled my trophies, plaques, metals, silver pieces, etc. I kept saying "Be a star, Play like the Gar." Seriously I practiced by myself more, ran and played six days a week.

Shot Choice

Awesome backhand and mind boggling ceiling game.

Strategy

Going to the ceiling over and over until I got my shot. Then bye! bye! Just ask my string of defeated opponents.

Mental Attitude

I was determined to show the seeding was wrong. I was a two time defending champ and was seeded third. Question: I've won three years in a row now. Does that mean that next year I'll be seeded fourth?

Learning by Losing

Frank Low of Davenport, IA, who came in second in both the Senior Veterans singles and doubles, says "If someone wants to win a national title, he or she should concentrate on one division. Otherwise all the time is taken up playing and reffing."

Low decided four months before the Nationals that he would go all out in his preparations, which included a diet heavy on vegetables and fruits (to reach a 30 pound weight loss goal), running four miles each night before dinner and increasing his playing from four times a week after he won the state championships to five times a week after he won the regionals to twice a day between the regionals and Nationals.

Gary Lusk, Men's Veteran Doubles Winner (with Mike Romano), Chula Vista, CA

Getting Ready

I played a few times a week—three at the most—the way I usually do. I lost 25 pounds a month before Tempe by knocking off all starches, salts and sugars and some proteins. I stopped eating late at night—my last meal was 3 p.m. I didn't condition and I didn't sleep more. Rest makes me lazy.

Shot Choice

We isolated the player on the right in both the semis and finals. I would hit drive serves to the backhand, there would be a weak return and then Mike would kill the ball.

Strategy

We frustrated the right court player. Ever so many rounds we'd give him the ball, and he wouldn't be ready to play . . . Once a year Mike and I play together. He plays left and I play left or right. We can adjust to each other. We talk before we go in the court and between serves.

Mental Attitude

We thought we could win the way we did last year. We were confident. I never down myself. Our attitude was we can't lose.

Geri McDonald, Women's Veteran and Masters Senior Singles Combined Winner, Millbrae, CA

Getting Ready

I did the usual—soccer twice a week, baseball once a week, basketball once a week, run occasionally. If I lose, I think I've overtrained. The only thing I did that was different was that I asked Joe Cua to help me put my stroke together to make it smoother. He helped twice a week for three weeks. I'm 5'2", 105 pounds and I eat constantly—all day long—all that good stuff like Snickers. I'm up at 6 every morning and in bed by midnight.

Shot Choice

I avoid a ceiling game because I'm short. My back wall straight-in power shot worked and so did my low, hard serve. I was hitting the crack with it.

Strategy

My biggest advantage is that I run so much on the court. I frustrated my opponents because I'd return their kills. I kept the rally going and let my opponent make her mistakes.

Special Equipment

I won't go in the court even by myself without eyeguards.

Mental Attitude

Playing in our division the people were so nice, each game was friendly, not like the local dog eat dog games. It was a fun type of thing. There was no tension.

Shortcuts or Tricks

I never give up. The game isn't over until the 21st point. I just keep running.

Myron Rodrick, Men's Masters Singles and Doubles Winner, Stillwater, OK

Getting Ready

I don't smoke or drink or eat a lot, so I didn't do anything different than usual to prepare for the Nationals. I played a couple of times a week—I have good people to play with and I play hard. I may have concentrated a little more while I was playing.

Shot Choice

I had watched my finals opponent and saw he cut everything off in front. So I changed my ceiling ball so it went high—at an angle closer to the top of the front wall. He was tall so he reached high to cut it off and made a weak shot.

Strategy

In older divisions there's more strategy used, more differences in motion and style of play, I tried to keep my opponents on the move so they wouldn't have time to set up.

Special Equipment

I don't wear any, but my first opponent was wearing a light weight football helmet.

Mental Attitude

I find I can concentrate in the tournament if I've concentrated in practice. I get a knot in my stomach when I start—I think that's good because it makes me more intense, but the problem is to get over it. The knot disappears for me as soon as I get into the flow of play. As I get older, my priorities change. I still like to compete, but I play for the fun, too.

Shortcuts or Tricks

I give my opponent three or four types of serves and see what he likes to do.



Jay Schwartz, right, takes the Men's Senior Singles championship from Ed Remen.

Jay Schwartz, Men's Senior Singles Winner, Pensacola, FL

Getting Ready

I started gearing up four months before the Nationals. I worked out on Nautilus equipment three or four times a week doing a lot of sets to gain strength in my quadriceps and hamstrings. I did three sets of 12 repetitions and the last set I burned out my muscles with negative repetitions. Someone raised the weights and I lowered them.

I played very little, but I was on the court coaching Babette Burkett, a Women's Open player, and I did drill work on the court. A drill I read about in *National Racquetball*—the two can pickup—helped me with speed because I did the drill in competition with friends.

As for diet I just stayed away from sugar and avoided second helpings.

Shot Choice

My style of play is to go for the killshot. I play aggressively. I relied on my serve, my backhand was hot and I scored off the back wall.

Strategy

You kind of log in your brain what works. I tried to disguise my serves—vary the speed to throw my opponent's timing off. I tried to hit at three-quarter speed after appearing that I would hit the ball hard or to hit so it rebounded right at my opponent. I took some low percentage shots to put pressure on my opponent.

Special Equipment

I wear flowered shorts that Babette makes. In the finals I wore red ones with yellow and blue flowers. I wouldn't go into the court without eyeguards.

Mental Attitude

I was determined even though I wasn't favored to win. After watching the others I felt confident. I knew I was at the top of my game.

Shortcuts or Tricks

People say I look mean, but I just try hard.



Linda Siau, right, wins the Women's Veteran Singles title by downing Donna Meger.

Linda Siau, Women's Veteran and Senior Singles Combined Winner, Tucson, AZ

Getting Ready

I ran in the heat one and a half to two miles a day and worked out on weights to strengthen my upper body. Since I started running, I took off eight pounds. I played four or five times a week a couple hours each time. A few days before the tournament I ate pancakes in the morning.

Shot Choice

I count on hitting the ball out of my opponent's reach with controlled passing shots. My best serve—the drive down the right—worked.

Strategy

I played a girl who's 5'11" in the finals. I'm 5'1½". But I didn't change my style. I was able to pass her even though she had such a big reach.

Special Equipment

I was wearing a new glove that helped me hold on.

Mental Attitude

I felt I had nothing to lose because I'd been playing so poorly. I was determined to win and didn't look at my opponents or the prizes.

Shortcuts or Tricks

I try to get mad at something. If I get smacked with a ball—I caught one on the side in the finals—that jars me and puts me back in the reality of the match. ●

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Covering the Court

by Terry Fancher

This is an excerpt from *Racquetball 1, 2, 3*, published by the Athletic Institute, Palm Beach, FL.



Photo 1



Think of playing with each and every shot as if you had radar capability. Track the ball parallel to its line of flight in order to keep it at arm's length. Racquetball is a game of perpetual movement and, like most sports, is a ballet, tracking and controlling an object. This enables you to move the ball away from your opponent keeping it always just out of his reach and keeping him off balance. To do this effectively you must know how to retrieve.

Court coverage of your opponent's shots depends largely upon what he likes to do with his shots in a given situation. Once a player recognizes probable shots in a given situation, he then begins to find a selection of possibilities from which his opponent will choose his shots. As you start to eliminate unlikely shots from the shot selection, a definite pattern will start to emerge, making your court coverage job much easier.

For instance as serve is returned, the server is already near center court if he is wise enough to serve from near the middle of the service zone. After finishing the service motion and putting the ball in play the server should swing the left foot around and position himself facing the left side wall (if serving the left corner). (See photos one through four.) In doing so the racquet should swing back in the ready position and the server can peer through the strings of the racquet and thus give further protection to the face and eyes against an errant shot or the serve return.



Photo 3

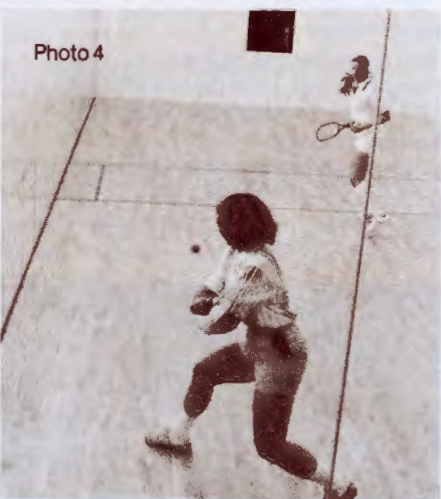


Photo 4

The server must be ready to cover several possibilities on the serve return such as:

1. The down-the-line pass along the right side wall (See photo five)
2. The ceiling return
3. The cross court pass to the right corner
4. The kill in the left corner



Photo 5



Photo 6

After a few service returns the server should start to recognize what return he may expect from the opponent off a given serve. By turning to look at the receiver (See photo six) the server can spot one very important clue: Where, in relation to the body, is your opponent striking the ball? Shoulder high or above the shoulder usually indicates the ceiling shot. Between shoulder height and the waist usually indicates a pass shot or cross court return. Between the waist and the knees usually dictates a kill attempt or a low court pass.

By using eye protection during play, and also using the racquet as a face shield the server can usually detect the general vicinity where his opponent will place his return. This also applies to play in general when the playing partner is making a return of the previous shot. Protect yourself, but sneak a look to target where the placement is headed. In doing so you can begin to move in the direction of this shot and retrieve many more shots than you ever thought possible.



Photo 7



Photo 8

Let us go back now to the possible serve returns. The down-the-line pass, if successful, will drive the serve into the left corner (See photo seven) and out of center court position which is undesirable for the server, since center court must be maintained. When the return constantly goes down the left side wall cut the distance by moving closer to the left side wall yourself (See photo eight) and cut the ball off before it gets by you. By cutting the ball off you prevent the opponent from taking your rightful place in center court and you keep him in the court behind you. Hitting the ball low into the side wall on this return, or "pinching" the ball, will often result in a quick point for the server. The pinch shot is the same as a side wall—front wall kill.

The next common return, the ceiling shot off the serve, is fairly easily detected since the receiver usually telegraphs this shot just by virtue of his erect stance prior to the shot. This is your cue to retreat quickly into deep court in anticipation of the high return. This will save rushing headlong

backwards into deep court and will make a more effective return possible. Since most serve returns are made to the back-hand side of the court along the left side wall, the earlier you prepare for your back-hand return the greater your choice in making an effective counter shot. (See photos nine through 13.)



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13

The cross court pass is a wicked shot which many players learn to control and veil because this shot can be made from waist high or lower, resembling a kill. If the server comes up to cover the kill, the receiver hesitates, then pulls the ball to the right of the server into the far right corner of the court. This requires a fast-moving retrieval and often a side out for the server. The best way to cover this shot is not to get caught flat footed. Keep the weight slightly forward and be prepared to retreat into the opposite corner of the court. (See photos 14-16.) The problem with the cross court pass is that many players over use it and rely too heavily on it during play. If you get caught too often and surprised by it, be aware that your opponent will probably use it until you start to anticipate and retrieve it a few times. Then the effectiveness will diminish.

The other common return off the serve is the kill in the left corner, either straight out into the front wall or into the side wall first, then the front wall. The receiver usually tips off this shot by letting the ball drop low before striking it. The other clue that this shot is coming is that your serve is poor and allows for plenty of time for a well-placed return. Good control of the serve is important in order to get a defensive return rather than an attacking shot.

To cover the straight in kill, the server must first recognize that the receiver is waiting longer to strike the ball. The server must then move quickly toward the left corner and, after the ball is hit, stretch for the return. (See photo 17.) If the ball can be reached, the receiver is usually at a disadvantage because he is far back in the court and must rush forward. Learn to stretch for this ball with an elongated stride and you will be amazed at how many shots can be retrieved and returned



Photo 14

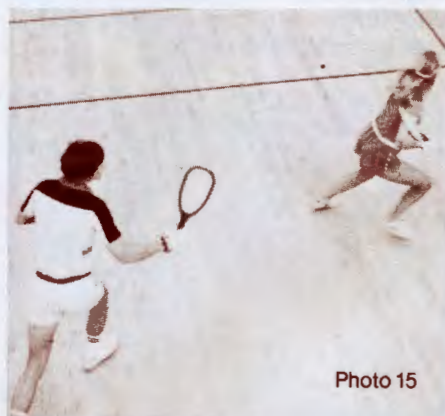


Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17

effectively whether it is a serve return or during a rally. If you can reach a killshot attempt, remember that you are close to the front wall and you may simply "dump" the ball back to the wall for an easy point.

For the coverage of the side wall—front wall shot, be aware that this coverage requires that the server flow slightly off-center to the opposite side of the court since the ball strikes the side wall first and rebounds away from the server. Moving slightly off center will put you right where the ball ends up unless it is placed perfectly. Learn to anticipate this shot if your opponent over-uses it because this shot often is used in crucial situations. You can demoralize your opponent and force him to use another shot if you retrieve the pinch shot repeatedly.

General court coverage patterns apply in the same manner as the serve return depending on from which side of the court your opponent returns your last shot. Remember to flow with your opponent's shot. Do not stand still after you return the ball, but always be moving toward the center of the court. Do not rush to center court and stop, but be moving tentatively. If you come to a dead stop, you must go for the ball from a fixed position which simply takes too much time. Your opponent's shot may be then just out of



Photo 18

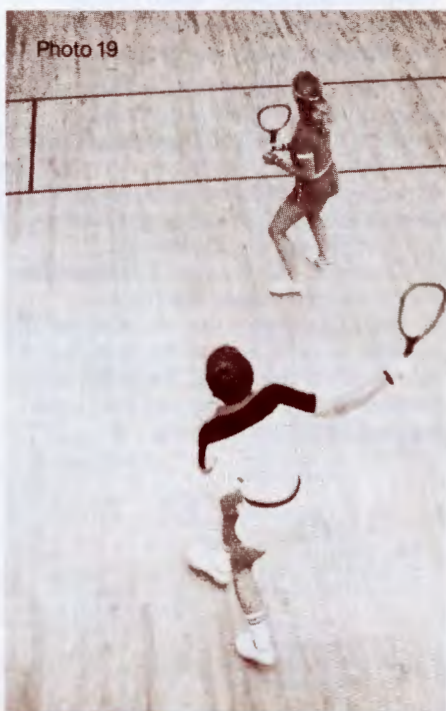


Photo 19



Photo 20

reach. Retrieving difficult shots requires that the player be prepared to move forward or back for the ball. It's always better to be moving forward because if the shot is hit into front court you can simply continue to move up for the ball. If the shot is hit past you into deep court you can brake and push off with your feet to track the ball into deep court.

All good retrievers are constantly moving, seeking the tipoff which points to where their opponent's next shot will go. (See photo 18-20.) Playing a good retriever is frustrating because they are constantly digging up your best shots and keeping the ball in play. This makes the rally last longer and is tiring. A good retriever should also be in good physical condition. ●

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Instructional

What's the Call?

by Dan Bertolucci

The Last Rally's Hinder Doesn't Count

John Matson of Charlotte, NC describes a situation that came up during a league match that decided the first place league winner.

Player A faults on his first serve. His second serve is good and both players begin a rally. After four or five exchanges player B returns the ball and it hits player A on the fly. Player A goes on to replay the rally and faults again on his first serve. This time player B says player A loses the serve because he already faulted once before the rally was replayed. Player A says he should get another serve. Who is right? This has been one of our most questioned rules.

First, John, let me answer that question before I go on to the second part of your question: Player A gets two serves. What went on in the previous rally has nothing to do with the present one. The issue is merely the dead ball hinder.

John goes on to say that after the rule was questioned, the players finished the game. Player A went on to win 21-18. The questioned point occurred at 10-8. After the game was over could player B have appealed the possible point infraction that occurred when the score was 10-8?

There are times, John, when you can protest a completed match. The situation you describe isn't one of those times.

As far the rule that applies to the interpretation of the first part of your question, it is rule 4.10 **Dead Ball Hinders** (a) (2) which reads as follows: "*Hinders are of two types—dead ball and avoidable. Dead ball hinders as described in this rule result in the rally being replayed.* (a) *Situations. When called by the referee the following are dead ball hinders:* (2) *Hitting opponent. Any returned ball that touches an opponent on the fly before it returns to the front wall. The player hit or "nicked" by the ball may call this hinder, but must call it immediately.* ●



This ball grazing the back player's leg results in a dead ball hinder that the back player must call out immediately.

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



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



Keep up Your Game in August

Many of us who will be directing racquetball camps this summer will see you on the courts. Campers will be making great strides toward improving their overall games.

What about you amateur players who will not be going to instructional clinics. Is it okay to let your game slide? How much should you be doing to keep up your game? One school of thought is that it is actually good for players to take off completely and not play at all during the summer.

I personally feel that it is best to play at least once a week so as to not let deterioration set in. This conclusion is reached through years of teaching and observation.

Lessons in the summer could help to polish your game and possibly correct any errors in your strokes or strategy while you are not under any pressure. Pros who are always under pressure, and cannot afford to let their games lag, may slack off slightly, but the up-and-comers generally work very hard in the "off season." (There's less and less of that every year.)

You have read in *National Racquetball* that other sports can compliment racquetball. Swimming and bicycling can help improve your court stamina, if the intensity and duration are sufficient to warrant a training effect.

Tennis is a good change of pace. Though the stroke may be somewhat different, it is still a racquet sport and the outdoors can be refreshing. Incidentally the racquetball court will seem nice and small and the game more controllable after a few sets of tennis.

So don't forget your racquetball and remember, too—what could be more refreshing on a hot, muggy August night than an air conditioned court club?

—Terry Fancher,
USRA Director



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703-430-0666

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W.V.U.
Morgantown 53711
304-293-5221

Wisconsin
Tom Murray
432 S. Blackhawk
Janesville 53545
608-754-5566 (Off.)
608-752-8753 (Res.)

Wyoming
Dan Sell
Teton Courts
911 Flag Drive
Riverton 82501
307-856-5424

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Canadian Racquet. Assoc.
333 River Road
Valley City, Ontario
K1L 8B9
613-745-1247



Meet Your State Chairman

California's Scotty Deeds

by Carole Charfauros George

After playing handball from 1940 to 1970 Deeds looks forward to 20 more years of racquetball games.

Scotty Deeds, the racquetball prof, at the Nationals with Stacey, left, and Terri Strandemo.

—Carole C. George photos



Many Californians may recognize Scotty Deeds as their USRA chairperson, but at Cal State Los Angeles he's known as "the racquetball professor." Even though he retired in 1969 after 19 years as a coach and athletic director, Deeds still teaches some of the racquetball classes which he added to the college curriculum back in 1971 for the "spazzes" in his handball classes. Now 2,000 students a year enroll in racquetball at Cal State, and handball is only taught as part of a combination class with racquetball.

Over the past 10 years Scotty Deeds has become known as an expert on the history of racquetball and the game itself. He has collected every copy of *National Racquetball* magazine since the first issue when it changed over from the back pages of handball's *Ace* magazine, and uses them as a reference library for his students.



When the NRC had one of its first pro stops at the Long Beach Athletic Club in 1973, Deeds was asked to be the tournament director. One of his goals is to bring back the same quarter-finalists and replay that tournament in 1983. "I think Charlie Drake might even have played Steve Serot in the quarters; I'll have to check my records," Deeds says.

For helping out with tournaments Ben Agajian, the owner of the LBAC, gave Deeds the title "assistant to the president," and a personal locker. When the club was later sold to Russ Welsh, the new owner said he wouldn't buy it unless Deeds was written into the contract—and he could keep his locker permanently. Deeds still runs the tournaments, exhibitions and special events, such as the USRA regionals, a challenge of the sexes between Lynn Adams and Roger Ehrend and a \$5,000 winner-take-all handball match between Naty Alvarado and Fred Lewis.

Besides being the racquetball professor Deeds also coached football, swimming and tennis, increasing the number of varsity activities from four to 13. In 1973

he was voted into the Athletic Director's Hall of Fame by the National Collegiate Athletic Director's Association. In return he presented the Hall of Fame with the racquet and ball that Steve Keeley used to defeat Charlie Brumfield in that 1973 pro stop. Under Deed's leadership Cal State's tennis teams won seven conferences titles and three NCAA national college championships, with a record of 254 wins and 14 losses. Of course having players like Larry King and Billie Jean Moffit didn't hurt. Deeds says that Billie Jean "worked out like a trooper." Even after the Kings got married and BJK became a superstar, they never forgot their college coach. Deeds was hired to set up the format for World Team Tennis, and he's at it again with Team Tennis.

Actually Deeds has known Billie Jean since the day she was born. He and her father, Bill, went to school together in Long Beach. Bill Moffit was an excellent baseball player, and his son, Randy, is now a pitcher with the San Francisco Giants. Five years ago Deeds initiated Moffit into racquetball and they've become part of a foursome which gets together every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. for doubles.

Tournament Results

Bill Moffit never misses their regular doubles matches, not even the day the news about Billy Jean's affair with Marilyn hit the media. Deeds was the first to try to console BJK's father when he showed up at the LBAC, but what Scotty hadn't realized was that he was breaking the news to Bill for the first time. Scotty says "Everyone has been really supportive and Billie Jean is handling it like she handles everything else—honest and direct."

Deeds describes himself as "strictly a California beach boy," and at 58 years of age he still enjoys body surfing and belly boards. His love of the ocean prompted him to join the navy during WWII, which interrupted his football career at University of Oregon. During the service he trained pilots for air sea rescue, played football in Hawaii and met his future wife, Kathleen, who was also in the Navy. After the war Deeds finished school at Brigham Young University, where he received an All-American honorable mention in football. He and Kathleen enjoyed the country life of Utah, but after graduation they returned to Long Beach.

The Deeds have three sons—Bob, 34, Carl, 28, and Timothy, 26—and one grandchild. The "kids" all play a little bit of everything, including racquetball, but "Dad" is the only one who plays tournaments.

Deeds plays only doubles these days because he figures "I can cover 10' by 40' at least." He and Carl Loveday have been runners-up in the Golden Masters Doubles of the 1980 and 1981 Nationals, losing close ones both years. For the past five years Carl Sherwood and Deeds have won the racquetball doubles in the Senior Olympics. And Scotty Deeds is not about to retire from racquetball. He played handball for 30 years from 1940 until 1970 when he switched over to racquetball, "so I figure I have another 20 years of racquetball to go just to even things out."



Deeds and his California USRA advisory council—Don Berberet, Carol Dowd, John Hughes, Vance Lerner, Ori Rodeffer and C.B. Winston—are planning and promoting a \$10,000 winner-take-all match between Dave Peck and Marty Hogan Sept. 5 at the Long Beach Athletic Club.

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

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

New Jersey

The N.J.R.A. Grand Prix took place April 2-4 at Racquetball 23 and Spa in Pompton Plains.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Ruben Gonzalez d. Mike Miksa, Greg Levine d. John Bierman, Rick Englander d. Lonnie Allgood, Glen Sorrentino d. Ray Capitanelli

Semis: Englander d. Sorrentino, Gonzales d. Levine

Finals: Gonzales d. Englander **Third**—Sorrentino



Ruben Gonzales, right, beat Rick Englander in the Men's Open finals of the N.J.R.A. Grand Prix April 2-4.

Men's A

Quarters: Bloxom d. Moran, Sweetwood d. Vaccaro, Block d. Posella, Corcello d. Searles

Semis: Sweetwood d. Bloxom, Corcello d. Block **Finals:** Sweetwood d. Corcello, **Third**—Block

Men's B

Quarters: DeLuca d. Natase, Thomas d. Mainenti, Hamlin d. Kahn, Duggan d. Jewell

Semis: DeLuca d. Thomas, Hamlin d. Duggan

Finals: Hamlin d. Deluca, **Third**—Duggan

Men's C

Quarters: Ferrero d. Thalheimer, Bryne d. Olenick, Lochman d. Deckart, Cortese d. DeVaux

Semis: Bryne d. Ferrero, Cortese d. Lochman

Finals: Cortese d. Bryne, **Third**—Ferrero

Men's Novice

Quarters: Travers d. Kozell, Marchesin d. Sedlak, Adamski d. Rubin, Provenzano d. Parker

Semis: Travers d. Marchesin, Adamski d. Provenzano **Finals:** Adamski d. Travers, **Third**—Marchesin

Men's Veteran Open

Quarters: Mannino d. Welaj, Berwick d. Clark, Horne d. Babiak, Elia d. Polite

Semis: Mannino d. Berwick, Elia d. Horne **Finals:** Elia d. Mannino, **Third**—Berwick

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Denning d. Prucha, Kohout d. Torres, LaSala d. Miller, Fine d. Polite

Semis: Kohout d. Denning, LaSala d. Fine **Finals:** Kohout d. LaSala, **Third**—Denning

Men's Masters

Quarters: Pruzawsky d. Travers, Bykowski d. Ural, Horiel d. Ryan, Feldman d. Lewis

Semis: Bykowski d. Pruzawsky, Huriel d. Feldman

Finals: Bykowski d. Huriel, **Third**—Feldman

Open Doubles

Quarters: Levine/Bloxom, bye, Horne/Bierman d. Elia/Elia, Berwick/Sergentanis d. Allgood/Lynch, Gonzales/Valenti d. Wiles/Robertson

Semis: Levine/Bloxom d. Horne/Bierman, Gonzales/Valenti d. Berwick/Sergentanis

Finals: Gonzales/Valenti d. Levine/Bloxom, **Third**—Horne/Bierman

Men's B Doubles

Quarters: Latronica/Kahn d. Nastase/Thomas, DeGennaro/Jewell d. Powers/DeLuca, Pruscha/Clarke d. Patterson/Media, Cirrillo/Porter d. Portelli/Mainenti

Semis: Pruscha/Clarke d. Cirrillo/Porter, Latronica/Kahn d. DeGennaro/Jewell

Finals: Pruscha/Clarke d. Latronica/Kahn, **Third**—Cirrillo/Porter

Open Mixed Doubles

Quarters: Mannino/Aromanda, bye, Englander/Englander, bye, Crockett/Conrad d. Thomas/Williams, Moran/Moore d. Denning/Elia

Semis: Mannino/Aromanda d. Moran/Moore, Englander/Englander d. Crockett/Conrad

Finals: Mannino/Aromanda d. Englander/Englander

Women's Open

Quarters: Taylor d. Aromanda, Bednarsky d. Englander, Borge d. Perrotty, Marchini d. Palumbo

Semis: Taylor d. Bednarsky, Marchini d. Borge

Finals: Taylor d. Marchini, **Third**—Borge



In the semis of the Women's Open at Racquetball 23 and Spa Melanie Taylor, left, won over Karen Bednarsky, and then went on to take the division title.

Women's B

Quarters: Cunningham d. Crockett, Eagan d. Urabell, Peckerman d. Regan, Reuther d. Elia

Semis: Cunningham d. Eagan, Reuther d. Peckerman

Finals: Cunningham d. Reuther, **Third**—Peckerman

Women's C

Quarters: Regan d. Forte, Lukowski d. Bagoon, Nickolychick d. Gitkin, Custanzo d. Erdman

Semis: Regan d. Lukowski, Nickolychick d. Costanzo

Finals: Regan d. Nickolychick, **Third**—Lukowski

Women's Novice

Quarters: Bagoon d. LaSorda, Trappe d. Scullion, Cataldi d. Laverghetta, Loprette d. Holliday

Semis: Bagoon d. Trappe, Loprette d. Cataldi

Finals: Loprette d. Bagoon, **Third**—Trappe

Women's Veteran Open

Quarters: Williams d. Tonnow, Forte, bye, Strandskov d. Oldis, Nickolychick, bye

Semis: Williams d. Forte, Strandskov d. Nickolychick

Finals: Williams d. Strandskov, **Third**—Forte

Women's Open Doubles: 1st-Perrotty/Nastase, 2nd-Strandskov/Palumbo, 3rd-Borge/Desrosiers, 4th-Egan/Schulman

Boys 17 and Under

Quarters: Marshal d. Storms, Rooney d. Steiner, Appel d. Cosmillo, Travers d. Keswani

Semis: Marshal d. Rooney, Appel d. Travers

Finals: Marshal d. Appel, Third—Rooney

Boys 14 and Under

Quarters: Cirrillo d. Appel, Vazzano d. Crammer, Kohout d. Salvato, Cline d. Hammand

Semis: Cirrillo d. Vazzano, Cline d. Kohout

Finals: Cirrillo d. Cline, Third—Kohout

New Jersey

Mercer County Community College defeated Rider College 21-18 in a racquetball team match April 10 at Hopewell Valley Racquetball Club in Pennington. The coaches were Debbie Fitzgeorge for MCCC and Dick Dundee for Rider.

Results

Men: Barry Sherman (Rider) d. Al Gerth (MCCC), Rich Gallinkin (Rider) d. Tom Dickson (MCCC), Bill McDonough (Rider) d. Lou Maldonado (MCCC), Bruce Dozis (Rider) d. Dave Meisberger (MCCC), Glenn Noble (MCCC) d. Bart Chase (Rider)

Women: Carol MacIntyre (MCCC) d. Carol Smith (Rider), Karen Byrnes (MCCC) d. Barb Sweetnam (Rider), Cheryl Hoffman (MCCC) d. Sherri Murry (Rider)

Men's Doubles: Barry Sherman/Joe Tiziker (Rider) d. Tom Dickson/Lou Maldonado (MCCC)

Mixed Doubles: Ken Strine/Cheryl Hoffman (MCCC) d. Bill McDonough/Carol Smith (Rider)

Wisconsin

The East Madison YMCA held the 1981 Wisconsin State YMCA Men's Racquetball Tournament April 10-12 in Madison.

Results

Men's Open

Finals: Bill Schultz d. Tom Mantz 21-11, 21-8 3rd: Steve Schafter d. Rick Risch 20-21, 21-14, 11-3 Cons: Steve Juno d. Dan Powell 21-2, 21-10

Men's B

Finals: Carlton Coward d. Shawn Warner 21-12, 21-16 3rd: Jim DuPont d. Tom Kennedy 21-2, 21-11 Cons: Mike Ciske d. Tom Schobalski 21-13, 19-21, 11-6

Men's C

Finals: Shannon Wilmot d. Dave Hanson 21-12, 21-16 3rd: Kevin Duffy d. Glenn Mellon 21-7, 21-7 Cons: Mark Carrico d. Ken Martin 21-11, 21-3

Men's Masters (45 and Over)

Finals: Bob Brunelle d. John Waldron 21-7, 21-17 3rd: Bob Rector d. Les Kirchen 21-18, 21-16 Cons: Tom Bowers d. Corby Stanelle 21-10, 21-7

California

Bruce Moore and Frank Stouff teamed up to win the Men's A division title at Orange Coast College's April Fool's Doubles Racquetball Tournament on OCC's 13 outdoor courts. Moore and Stouff defeated Nick Rohwer and Mike Genevay in the A division finals. Al Hice and Mike Genevay captured the Men's B title, and Ken Kiser and Mark Alexander annexed the Men's C crown.

Scott Crawford and Lori Mullan defeated Terry Haun and Diane Rippy to win the Mixed Doubles A title, Bill Muran and Kim Platte won

the Mixed B championship and Ralph Dominguez and Chanda Taylor grabbed the Mixed C title. The Women's B championship went to Linda Plenert and Chris Voltarel and the Senior division title went to Bob Bible and Bob Wetzel.

Indiana

Klubhaus Racquetball in Noblesville hosted the 1981 Burger King Junior Klassic April 10-12 co-sponsored by Carmel Cycles of Carmel, Indiana.

Results

Boys 17 and Under: 1st-Mark Lasbury, 2nd-Mark Waldorf, 3rd-Jim Kerns, Cons-Brad Bilbrey

Boys 15 and Under: 1st-Jeff Zipes, 2nd-David Lasbury, 3rd-Gary Edlin, Cons-Damen Karras



Jeff Zipes goes for the ball on the way to his finals win against David Lasbury in the 15 and Under division of the 1981 Burger King Junior Klassic.

Boys 12 and Under: 1st-Keith Pritchett, 2nd-Jeff Soloman, 3rd-Jack Mallon, Cons-Steve Rumbaugh

Boys 10 and Under: 1st-Jason York, 2nd-Chad Sanford, 3rd-Bo Pritchett, Cons-Thor Yanko

Girls 15 and Under: 1st-Dina Pritchett, 2nd-Bridget Huff, 3rd-Krista Harneson, Cons-Kim Stephenson



Dina Pritchett, front, beats Bridget Huff in the 15 and Under girls' finals.

Girls 12 and Under: 1st-Kim Stapleton, 2nd-Tricia Henk, 3rd-Deb Stapleton

Alabama

The Southeast Junior Team Racquetball League 1981 Tournament was held at the Montgomery Athletic Club in Montgomery April 24-25.

Results

Team: Montgomery—1223, Columbus—647, Auburn—637, Birmingham—532, Dothan—296

Boys

10 and Under, Skill rank 1: 1st-Kevin Cochran, 2nd-Mike Perreault, 3rd-Kirt Sellers

10 and Under, Skill rank 2: 1st-Seb Baggiano, 2nd-Lee Conner, 3rd-Tripp Harris

10 and Under, Skill rank 3: 1st-Jimmy Tuley, 2nd-Luke Dunning, 3rd-Tim Kerr

12 and Under, Skill rank 1: 1st-Brant Kersey, 2nd-Rem May, 3rd-Bobby Parker

12 and Under, Skill rank 2: 1st-Scott Windle, 2nd-John Stevenson, 3rd-Todd Scarbrough

12 and Under, Skill rank 3: 1st-Mike Fussell, 2nd-Jim Sherlock

14 and Under, Skill rank 1: 1st-David Gries, 2nd-Wade McNair, 3rd-Baxter Hollands

14 and Under, Skill rank 2: 1st-Michael Drummond, 2nd-Steve Browning, 3rd-Vance Dowling

14 and Under, Skill rank 3: 1st-Ken Overbey, 2nd-Bruce Buntain, 3rd-Brad Yurchuck

17 and Under, Skill rank 1: 1st-David Overbey, Jr., 2nd-John Phillips, 3rd-Scott Shirah

17 and Under, Skill rank 2: 1st-Hal Espy, 2nd-Jay Conner, 3rd-Tommy Cassels

17 and Under, Skill rank 3: 1st-Bill Bowser, 2nd-Mark Bass, 3rd-Bill Johnson

Girls

10 and Under, Skill rank 1: 1st-Cristy King, 2nd-Brent Willett, 3rd-Celeste May

10 and Under, Skill rank 2: 1st-Libby Humber, 2nd-Beth Ramey

12 and Under, Skill rank 1: 1st-Laurie Gries, 2nd-Sara Pocklington, 3rd-Renie Humber

12 and Under, Skill rank 2: 1st-Jenny Martin, 2nd-Missy Ivy, 3rd-Penelope Bentley

14 and Under, Skill rank 1: 1st-Lori Nunn, 2nd-Tracie Townsend, 3rd-Nicole May

14 and Under, Skill rank 2: 1st-Tracy Bachelor, 2nd-Suzanna Gidliere, 3rd-Judy Johnson

17 and Under, Skill rank 1: 1st-Debbie Gries, 2nd-Lee Kenimer

17 and Under, Skill rank 2: 1st-Tina Babington, 2nd-Diann McMahon

17 and Under, Skill rank 3: 1st-Gina Jordan

Open Boys: 1st-David Gries, 2nd-Wade McNair, 3rd-David Overbey, Jr.

Open Girls: 1st-Susan Carastro, 2nd-Debbie Gries, 3rd-Tina Babington

Sportsmanship Award: Wade McNair and Sara Pocklington



USRA Tournament Results • Nationals 81

Nationals Geography Question

Eastern Canada (represented by Monique Parent and Suzanne Robert from Quebec), Alaska (Deno Paolini came from Anchorage) and Hawaii (Les Skelton flew the Pacific to get to the Nationals) were among the places from which players traveled to get to Tempe, AZ, site of the 1981 Leach Nationals. Do you know which player traveled the farthest? The answer is on page 45.

1980-81 Leach National Pro/Am Racquetball Championship June 6-13 Arizona Athletic Club, Tempe

Arizona

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Ed Andrews d. Mark Martino 21-8, 21-13; Ruben Gonzales d. Gerry Price 21-13, 21-12; Jeff Kwartler d. Jim Wirkus 21-12, 11-21, 11-8; Gregg Peck d. Kenny Kaihlanen 21-18, 21-5



Ruben Gonzales of Staten Island, NY was the talk of the tournament as he blasted his way through the Open division of his first USRA meet until the Open winner, Ed Andrews, beat him in the semis. The three time outdoor one wall handball champ brought along one of his racquetball proteges, 12-year-old Richard Vazzano.

Semis: Andrews d. Gonzales 21-12, 21-14; Peck d. Kwartler 21-9, 21-19

Finals: Andrews d. Peck 21-19, 13-21, 11-6

Men's Veteran 30+

Quarters: Glen Withrow d. Joe Wirkus 21-18, 13-21, 11-5; Gary Lusk d. Cliff Henderickson 21-10, 21-19; Paul Darnell d. Gary Stephens 8-21, 21-9, 11-10; Leo Gurnoe d. Monte Huber 19-21, 21-13, 11-8

Semis: Lusk d. Withrow 17-21, 21-12, 11-3; Darnell d. Gurnoe 19-21, 21-13, 11-8

Finals: Lusk d. Darnell 21-17, 21-9

Men's Senior 35+

Quarters: Jay Jones d. Jay Corbett 21-15, 17-21, 11-6; Jay Schwartz d. J. Kortman 21-15, 16-21, 11-4; Roger Ehren d. Herb Grigg 21-17, 21-17; Ed Remen d. Rich Spear 21-17, 21-8

Semis: Schwartz d. Jones 16-21, 21-16, 11-1; Remen d. Ehren 21-19, 21-12

Finals: Schwartz d. Remen 21-18, 21-16

Men's Veteran Senior 40+

Quarters: Bud Muehleisen d. Bill Masucci 21-10, 21-5; Frank Low d. John Hellard 21-16, 21-14; Charlie Garfinkel d. Scott Berry 21-9, 21-12; Ron Starkman d. Lou Sukow 21-9, 21-6

Semis: Low d. Muehleisen 21-19, 21-10; Garfinkel d. Starkman 21-20, 21-12

Finals: Garfinkel d. Low 21-9, 21-8

Men's Masters 45+

Quarters: Lee Pretner d. Paul Banales 21-17, 21-12; Myron Rodrick d. Ron Maggard 21-2, 21-5; Don Clark d. Jay Streim 21-3, 21-13; Charles Wickham d. Robert Moericke 21-14, 21-17

Semis: Rodrick d. Pretner 21-19, 21-3; Clark d. Wickham 21-14, 21-11

Finals: Rodrick d. Clark 21-10, 21-4

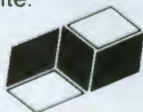
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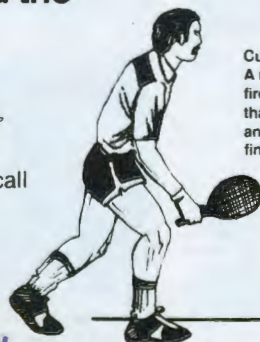
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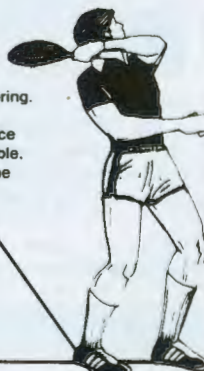
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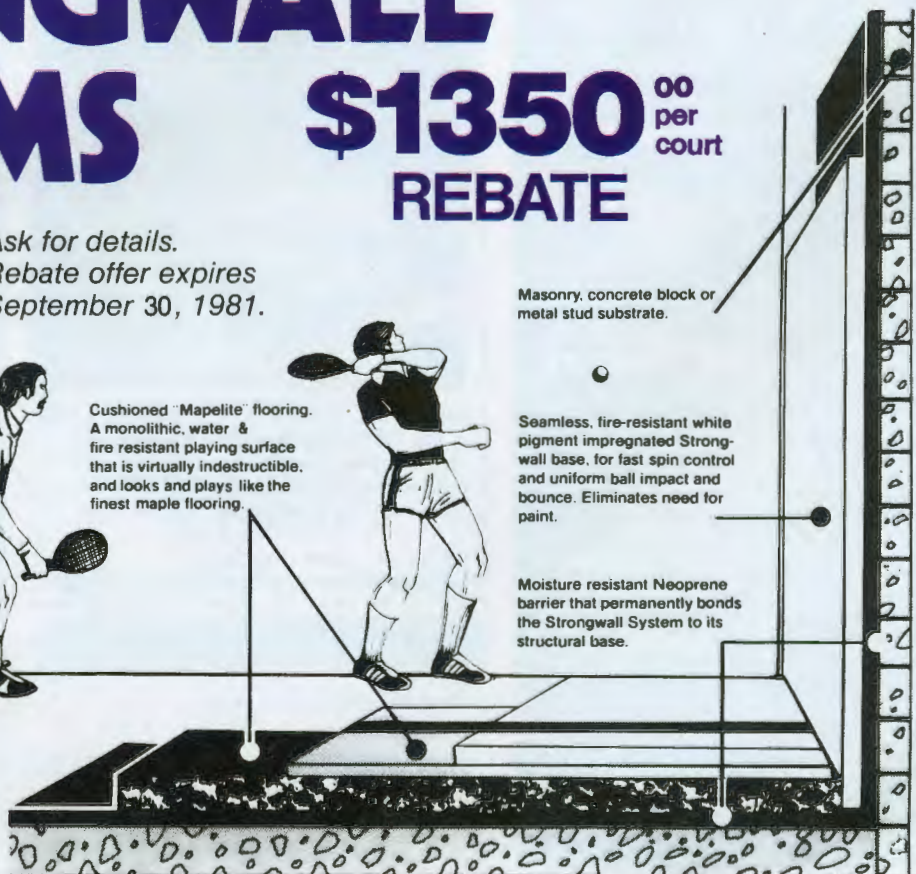
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Men's Veteran Masters 50 +

Quarters: Bill Tanner d. Bob Henley 21-19, 15-21, 11-5; Frank Leydens d. Vance Lerner 21-12, 21-11; Floyd Swenson d. Don Cincotta 21-5, 21-12; Bob Troyer d. Bud Held 21-13, 21-14

Semis: Leydens d. Tanner 21-20, 19-21, 11-7; Troyer d. Swenson 21-9, 21-19

Finals: Leydens d. Troyer 21-19, 21-14

Men's Golden Masters 55 +

Quarters: Floyd Svensson d. Roy Short 21-16, 21-7; Fred Zitzer d. Leslie Skelton 21-18, 21-9; Robert Fraser d. Burt Morrow 20-21, 21-16, 11-8; Joe Hero d. Milt Karp, forfeit

Semis: Zitzer d. Svensson 21-17, 3-21, 11-7; Fraser d. Hero 11-21, 21-16, 11-9

Finals: Zitzer d. Fraser 21-14, 21-16

Men's Veteran Golden Masters 60 +

Quarters: E.O. Rodeffer d. Peter Farina 21-11, 21-10; Bruce Kelly d. John Pearce 21-5, 18-21, 11-7; Des Smith d. Earl Acuff 17-21, 21-13, 11-3; Luzell Wilde d. Melvin Baker 21-8, 21-6

Semis: Kelly d. Rodeffer 17-21, 21-5, 11-8; Wilde d. Smith 21-11, 21-14

Finals: Wilde d. Kelly 21-2, 21-9

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: K. Garrigus/K. Flemming d. T. Golueke/A. Witt 21-10, 21-12; J. Kwartler/M. Malowitz d. B. Shelton/S. Schaeffer 21-5, 21-15; K. Kaihlanen/A. Hodges d. J. Thompson/J. McDowell 21-8, 21-8; D. Factor/G. Merritt d. E. Melvin/C. Melvin; G. Price/S. Fitzpatrick d. S. Wright/S. Trent 21-17, 21-12

Semis: Garrigus/Flemming d. Kwartler/Malowitz 21-20, 11-21, 11-3; Factor/Merritt d. Price/Fitzpatrick 17-21, 21-18, 11-2

Finals: Garrigus/Flemming d. Factor/Merritt 14-21, 21-13, 11-9

Semis: Garrigus/Flemming d. Kwartler/Malowitz 21-20, 11-21, 11-3; Factor/Merritt d. Price/Fitzpatrick 17-21, 21-18, 11-2

Finals: Garrigus/Flemming d. Factor/Merritt 14-21, 21-13, 11-9

Men's Veteran Doubles 30 +

Quarters: M. Romano/G. Lusk d. L. Gross/L. Ruiz 21-9, 21-6; P. Darnell/M. Aubrey d. D. Paolini/Peters 17-21, 21-14, 11-3; T. Ochoa/J. Durant d. J. Wirkus/D. Bertolucci 21-17, 18-21, 11-1; G. Withrow/F. Low d. C. Senters/J. Cartwright 21-6, 21-8

Semis: Romano/Lusk d. Darnell/Aubrey 21-8, 21-10; Withrow/Low d. Ochoa/Durant 21-18, 21-17

Finals: Romano/Lusk d. Withrow/Low 21-18, 21-8

Men's Senior Doubles 35 +

Quarters: D. Beckman/C. Olsen d. J. Northwood/M. Aubrey 21-2, 21-16; R. Starkman/R. Carson d. R. Spear/R. Hill 21-16, 21-10; T. Chodosh/S. Alvarado d. R. Ehren/J. Corbett 21-15, 17-21, 11-10; E. Remen/J. Saperstein d. D. Lose/L. Lipton 21-11, 21-8

Semis: Starkman/Carson d. Beckman/Olsen 18-21, 21-16, 11-7; Remen/Saperstein d. Chodosh/Alvarado 21-11, 21-12

Finals: Starkman/Carson d. Remen/Saperstein 21-5, 17-21, 11-7

Men's Master Doubles 45 +

Semis: B. Muehleisen/M. Rodrick d. B. Troyer/C. Wickham 21-4, 21-19; J. Mooney/F. Leydens d. P. Banales/B. Daley 21-19, 21-19;

Finals: Muehleisen/Rodrick d. Mooney/Leydens 21-4, 21-4;

Men's Golden Master Doubles 55 +

Semis: L. Skelton/B. Morrow d. I. Bruner/C. Howard 21-18, 21-20; S. Deeds/C. Loveday d. J. Pierce/L. Wilde 21-5, 21-12

Finals: Skelton/Morrow d. Deeds/Loveday

Women's Open

Quarters: Barb Maltby d. Diane Bohling 21-13, 21-14; Lynn Wojcik d. Michelle Busacca 21-20, 21-13; Liz Alvarado d. Judy Sawicki 21-9, 20-21, 11-2; Beck Gonzales d. Barb Faulkenberry 21-13, 19-21, 11-5

Semis: Maltby d. Wojcik 21-13, 21-8; Alvarado d. Gonzales 21-10, 21-1

Finals: Alvarado d. Maltby 21-16, 21-17

Women's Amateur Doubles and 30 + , 35 + Combined

Quarters: B. Faulkenberry/G. Ferguson d. J. Ippolito/P. Woodall 21-7, 21-4; L. Hall/D. Bohling d. D. Meger/E. Mildenerberger 21-18, 21-5; C. Shields/C. Liozzo d. S. Morris/C. Salazar 21-11, 21-14; L. Alvarado/G. Young d. M. Parent/S. Robert 21-11, 21-13

Semis: Faulkenberry/Ferguson d. Hall/Bohling 21-12, 16-21, 11-5; Alvarado/Young d. Shields/Liozzo 21-6, 21-18

Finals: Alvarado/Young d. Faulkenberry/Ferguson 21-11, 21-8



Barb Faulkenberry, far left, and Gail Ferguson, far right, lose to Liz Alvarado and Glenda Young, center left to right, in the Women's Doubles at the 1981 Nationals.

Youngest Faces Oldest



Hitting the ball for the camera are Luis Miranda, the youngest Nationals player, at 14, and Frank Douglas, whose 71 years gave him the oldest player distinction.

Canadian Competitors



Monique Parent, left, and Suzanne Robert earned their \$1,600 air fare from Quebec to the Tempe, AZ Nationals by winning a teaching pros' racquetball league in their home city. Labatt Beer paid for round trip tickets for the team that ranks second in Canada. Parent and Robert lost in the Nationals quarters to Women's Open Doubles Winners Liz Alvarado and Glenda Young.

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Liz Alvarado of Odessa, TX, 17-year-old holder of the 1981 USRA Women's Open title, gets coaching help from her father, Simon, and academic inspiration from her mother, Mary, a junior high life science teacher and dean.

Women's 30 + and 35 + Combined

Quarters: Linda Siau d. Debra Billington, forfeit; Peggy Woods d. Gerry Ippolito 21-16, 18-21, 11-2; Claudia Liozzo d. Pearle Woodall 21-19, 21-13; Donna Meger d. Geri McDonald 21-7, 21-5

Semis: Siau d. Woods 21-14, 21-14; Meger d. Liozzo 21-12, 21-15

Finals: Siau d. Meger 21-19, 21-20

Women's 40 + and 45 + Combined

Round Robin: 1st-Geri McDonald, 2nd-Sue Graham, Semi-Sue Abbrescia, Semi-Jackie McDaniel, Semi-Betty Field

But seriously folks, I'm giving up racquetball.

by Les Skelton

My rotor cuff is damaged,
My tendon's getting thin,
My elbow's bending out
When it should be bending in!

The forehand's lacking thunder,
The backhand's rather meek,
My knees have come asunder,
My sacro-jack's begun to creak!

So kindly pass the aspirin,
And I'll throw down two or three.
We'll just stick to doubles,
And you'll see the same old me.

Did you see that lovely pinch?
The elbow didn't hurt!
The knees held together
When I ran that lightening spurt!

Dear Lord I thank thee,
Even though the end is near.
I'm only pushing sixty,
And, of course, my fate is clear.

I'm giving up racquetball!
Listen all who'll lend an ear!
I don't like the game after all,
So I'll quit for sure . . . next year!

Nationals Geography Answer

Deno Paolini, who played in the Men's Veteran Singles and Doubles, took the longest trip to the Nationals. In round figures the Quebec to Tempe mileage is 2,700, the Honolulu figure is 2,500 and the Anchorage number is 3,500.



—Carole C. George photos

Les Skelton won first with Burt Morrow in the Golden Masters Doubles at the Nationals.

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Charlie Brumfield, five time national champion and frequent contributor to the instructional section of *National Racquetball*, has a new title— Vice President Marketing and Promotion for Geostar, a conglomerate headquartered in Scottsdale, AZ. Brumfield is designing a line of racquetball racquets featuring Geostar's tri-radial stringing pattern. Elliot Rovinsky is founder of Geostar, a company that comes to racquetball from real estate, diamonds and antiques . . . Racquetball was one of 17 sports attracting competitors to World Games I July 24-Aug. 2 in Santa Clara, CA . . . The Women's Sports foundation is urging members to write to The Vice-President, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20500 to let him know it's important to retain regulations that enforce Title IX. That's the law that's given girls and women equal opportunity in school sports . . . Oyster Creek Enterprises in Texas has named Jim Austin vice-president of a new management consulting division . . . Richard M. Folden is new manager of special markets for Penn Athletic Products Company with headquarters in Monroeville, PA . . . Puma, U.S.A., which makes racquetball shoes, has named Olympic Champion Bob Seagren executive vice-president . . .



Pat Dickerman, author of *Adventure Travel*, is sure that racquetball players occasionally like to get into wide open spaces. Her source book of outdoor vacations, from river rafting and horse trekking to hang gliding, is available at 36 E. 57th St., Dept. 5, New York City 10022 . . . Racquetball players who are backpacking or hiking in the Smokies can rent a racquet and play on one of two new courts at the Nautilus Fitness and Racquetball Center in Waynesville, NC at the base of the mountains near Gatlinburg and Ashville . ●

Words for Waiting

All club newsletters don't come in the mail.

At All Sport Fitness and Racquetball Club in Poukeepsie, NY and Yogi Berra's Racquetball Club in Plainfield, NJ messages about programs, lessons and fees go out on the telephone to members who've been put on hold.

Tim Berra, manager of the club that features his famous father's name, says *"if people are waiting to book court time and they aren't doing anything and their ears are open—we use that extra way to communicate."*

For the last two years the New Jersey club has recorded its messages on a cassette and piped the words into the telephone and club PA system. Sal Salciglia, one of the owners, suggested that the club adapt the system he'd been hearing on other business phones.

The messages made such good sense to Jim Winterton, who was visiting Yogi's club, he went back to All Sport and persuaded Owner/Manager Mike Arteaga to try the phone announcements.

Subjects that All Sport members hear while they're on hold include rules, use of eyeguards, tournaments, leagues, classes, special pro shop rates, new staff members and the entertainment schedule in the club lounge.

Both clubs change messages every two weeks. ●

And Another Promotion Plan

Hot Shots Night

Leo Gurnoe, owner/manager of Another Racquet in Encinitas, CA has been filling down time with Hot Shots Night, which began three years ago when four players

got together, playing round robin, with the winner getting a free donated dinner from a local restaurant. (The restaurant liked the idea when the three others joined the winner for a meal.)

In three years the idea has grown from 10 to 15, 15 to 25 to 30 players a night. Local shops and merchants now offer free hair-cuts, surfboards, dinners, ice cream, brake jobs, flowers and pizza for winners. The club itself tosses in "beer cards" good for 10 free brews.

On Wednesday nights from 6 to 8 p.m., women and lower division players (below C) play off. On Thursdays at the same time middle and upper division players square off. Members, about 60 percent of the crowd, pay \$2 a head. Non-members are charged \$4.

"The idea has really taken off," Gurnoe says. *"Every week I have other merchants from the community calling me with prizes to offer."*

"I break down the prizes various ways. Half the fun is playing for a different set of prizes each week." ●



Leo Gurnoe gets local merchants involved in weekly Hot Shots Nights.

New Court Club List

Findlay Circuit Courts
1219 W. Main Cross St.
Findlay, OH 45840

Knoll Indoor Tennis and Racquetball Club
1130 Knoll Road
Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034

Greenwood Racquetball Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 642
Greenwood, SC 29646

Sweet Shop Racquetball and Fitness Club, Inc.
One Ashdale Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401

Club Chamale
#90 Chamale Cove West
Slidell, LA 70458

East Bank Center
401 East Colfax Ave.
South Bend, IN 46617

Brandon Racquetball Club
2007 S. Parsons Avenue
#574 & Parsons
Brandon, FL 33511

Capitol Tennis Club
Leighton Road
Augusta, ME 04330

Clark's Courts
Rt. 70 & Plymouth Avenue
Marlton, NJ 08053

Crow Canyon Racquet Club
2460 Old Crow Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA 94583

Sports Illustrated Court Clubs/Needham
144 Gould St.
Needham, MA 02192

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

Four Seasons Racquetball & Health Fitness Club
Chester Creek Road
Brookhaven, PA 19015

Green Spring Racquet Club
Falls and Valley Roads
Lutherville, MD 21093

Loverslane Racquetball Club
1056 Loverslane
Bowling Green, KY 42101

The Quadrangle Racquetball Complex
2160 University Drive
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Mellowing on Court

by Carole Charfauros George

As racquetball grows up, so do the players. Jay Jones is a good example of someone who won the National Amateur title in 1975, went on to play four years as a pro, and now at the age of 38 is winning seniors titles. *National Racquetball* asked Jones and others with years of experience in the Open and older age divisions "What is the transition like from Open to Beyond the Open?"

Jay Jones in his pro days

—Arthur Shay photo



Jones thinks there is a world of difference. Thirteen years ago when Jones started out in the amateurs he was impressed with the gentlemanly behavior of his opponents, but "got sick" over the ranting and raving that goes on in the pro division. "Seniors is a pleasure," says Jones, who's happy to be competing on an amateur level again. "Everyone plays really well—you're talking about a lot of experience."

Bob Troyer, 52, played handball for 22 years before switching to racquetball in 1970, so he's spent more than half his life as a four-waller. He agrees that the biggest difference between the Open and the older divisions is the attitude. In the semi-finals of his Veteran Masters Doubles match, when the referee was stalled, all four players agreed to start without him. They were half way through the first game before the ref showed up, but Troyer says there wasn't one controversy—if there was any question on a call, the rally was replayed.

"We both want to win. We're both competitive. But we could do it without a referee," explained Geri McDonald about her match against Sue Graham in the 40-and-over division. McDonald defeated Graham in both the 1979 and 1981 Nationals in Tempe, AZ because of her quickness, even though she feels Graham is a better player.

—Carole C. George photos



Sue Graham

Geri McDonald, right, says "from the back people think I'm in my 20s."



McDonald admitted that she celebrated an over 35 birthday during the Nationals (and her family hired a plane to bring her cake out to her), but usually she just lets people guess her age. "I had one man say to me, 'If I saw your face I'd think you were in your early 30's. If I saw you from the back I'd go after you.' They try to compliment you, then they throw in that little dig," she laughs. The reason McDonald prefers to keep her real age a secret is because at home in Millbrae, CA, where she is one of five owners of the Royal Racquetball Club, she plays on soccer, basketball, and softball teams with college women, "and I'm afraid if it gets out they won't think I'll carry my weight on the team." In an individual sport like racquetball McDonald thinks her age can be an advantage because younger players don't expect her to be so quick.

The importance of physical conditioning increases as a player hits a higher age group. Frank Low lost 20 pounds since last year's Nationals, and he beat the top seed in the Veteran Seniors Division before losing to Charlie Garfinkel in the finals. Garfinkel, 42, has been playing racquetball off and on since 1964 and says he's still in great shape and plays the same style of game except that he "might try to wear the guy down more in the Veteran Seniors. If he's 25 or 26 he doesn't have to be in such good shape."

Utah's Georgia and Luzell Wilde with Women's Seniors runner-up, New Yorker Donna Meger.



Luzell Wilde, 62, admits that he's not able to move as well as he used to, but for someone who never played any sports until he turned 50, he's in great shape. "All these other boys like Scotty Deeds and Carl Loveday have been playing sports for 40 years," Wilde pointed out, even though he finished first in his age division. He and his wife, Georgia, have gone to the Nationals for five years and never went home without at least one trophy.

Carl Loveday



Wilde credits his success to the fact that he plays against younger players like Janell Marriott back home in Salt Lake City, so he has developed a power game which he prefers over the soft, lob game that most Masters use. (There are plenty of older players in Salt Lake City, even a group of men in their 80s who play every day, but to get good competition Wilde plays against younger men and women.)

Troyer, the college math teacher, disagrees. He likes the mental challenge of the older divisions. Open players mostly hit low and hard and rely on their quickness, "but as you get older you lose that reflex, so you have to modify and use more strategy. I use lob serves, pinch more, move my opponent around the court more, wait for an opening and take the shot." Troyer also likes to play younger players, like Betsy Koza, because he feels they help each other. She gives him a hard work out and he adds slow, control shots to her game, which she probably wouldn't learn from her peers.



Bob Troyer: "I lost a contact, lost a tooth, lost the finals. But it was a great tournament."

Frank Leydens, right, was the victor in the Veteran Masters finals Troyer lost.



The defensive style of play in older divisions may also be due to the fact that so many of them switched over from handball and never did learn to hit their backhands properly. The younger players coming up are trying to emulate Hogan, and they learn to hit with power from either side right from the beginning. The older players in future years may play a more powerful game—if they continue to improve their conditioning . . .

. . . And if they avoid injuries along the way. Jay Jones may be forced to retire from racquetball if his \$10,000 arm operation isn't successful. Jones blamed his "pitcher's arm" on power strokes and vibrating racquets. "As you get older you lose elasticity in your ligaments and tendons, but you still have the competitiveness that leads you to believe that you can do the things you did when you were younger," says Jones.

Another common complaint among the older racquetball players is the lack of attention they get. The Open divisions always get the prizes and money. In local tournaments all the men over 35 may be lumped together under the heading "seniors" if an age division is offered at all. For women Beyond the Open is even more frustrating. Sue Graham, who's been playing since 1972, says she'd feel guilty playing in the Bs, yet she's not able to compete with the Opens. But women's masters is rarely offered on the entry form.

The good news is the change over to dividing the players up every five years instead of 10, at least in the men's divisions. In a way this could double the participation. For example with the previous divisions the only players who could be competitive in the Master's were 55, 56, 57 and perhaps 58 years old. So the number of entrants in a 55-65 division were no more than there are now in the 55-60. And the players in their early 60s are more encouraged to enter because of the Veteran Masters.

This year the oldest men's division was 60 and over. But there were three players over 70. The 65-and-over was cancelled because the draw was too small, but this is a complaint that women racquetball players have had to battle all along.

Even if things aren't ideal, the players who entered Beyond the Open in the Nationals wouldn't miss it for the world. Several couples are retired and own travel trailers so the tournaments become a vacation. Sometimes traveling takes them to areas of the country where their children and grandchildren are scattered. So it becomes a family reunion. The Wildes say "We've made a lot of good friends over the years. It's worth the trip just to get together with all these wonderful people." ●

Bobby Bible:



—Carole C. George photos

Bobby Bible became a believer in 1962 and a racquetball fanatic in 1972. He has also presented the "most coveted Christian Attitude Award for Good Sportsmanship" since he first went to the Nationals in 1975.

At home in Long Beach, CA Bible is the minister of a congregation of 150 who call themselves "The Christian Brothers." Several of the members are racquetball players, so they always enter a doubles team in the local tournaments under the name of their church. Bible and his partner, Jeremiah Christian, who competed in arm wrestling on Wide World of Sports, are both B players. Since turning 35 six years ago, Bible has also been doing well in the senior's division.

Bobby Bible and Jeremiah Christian are not their legal names, but during the political activity of the sixties, when the Christian Brothers went to rallies in order to spread the gospel, they decided to take new names in order to be under cover in case their controversial message angered anyone enough to look them up. Bible kept the name for racquetball because he thought it had a nice ring and "besides, I wanted to give God the glory on those drawsheets."

Like Catholic priests Bible has remained single and celibate because the Bible says "The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord, but the married man is anxious about worldly affairs, how to please his wife and his interests are divided." (1 Corinthians 7:32-33). On the side he works in the Los Angeles harbor as a longshoreman.

A Born Again Player

Bobby Bible points to the one coach who can get him to the finals.



Men's Open Winner Ed Andrews receives his earthly reward.



Overall Bible feels that there has been an improvement in the racquetball players' attitude and less profanity on the court. "If you're going to cuss," explains Bible, "cuss out the communists for taking over Afghanistan but don't cuss because the ball doesn't hit the court properly."

Even though Bible doesn't know NRC/USRA President Bob Kendler personally, he feels that his Bible verses every month are an inspiration to racquetball players. "And Joe Ardito gave God recognition at the player's banquet," Bobby noted.

Amen. ●

—Carole C. George

Bobby Bible's Most Christian Attitude Award
Almighty God, the Ultimate Ref, He Knows (Galatians 6:7)

Angel: (1) consistent good calls (2) appears cool, always in control (3) even compliments good play of victorious opponent (4) a joy to play or watch or referee, seldom swears, never uses God's name in vain

Devil: (1) cheats, lies, argues constantly (2) life falls apart after every lost rally (3) has one million excuses why he or she lost (4) cusses blue streak even with own mother watching

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EXTRA!

A Whopper in Buffalo

Charlie Garfinkel

Charlie Garfinkel, who holds six national racquetball titles and is author of *Racquetball the Easy Way*, has been informing and entertaining viewers of International Cable television in Buffalo, NY.

The Buffalo Evening News sports columnist first hosted a 13 week, 10 minute show covering such topics as "Should Women Take Lessons from Women Pros Only?" "Excuses for Losing Are Valid" and "The Mystique of the Lefthander."

"Some of the highlights included having a ball stuck to



my nose when I talked about safety features," Garfinkel reports, "and a group discussion that began with the question 'Do you change when you hit a forehand and backhand?' and ended with the answer 'Of course not. I wear the same clothes for both shots'."

Garfinkel's second TV series is a single elimination competition for which Burger King is putting up the prize money. "A whopper of a tournament," says the host of the 12 week 30 minute series airing through the summer.

Ten New Eye Tips

In its continuing campaign to keep the subject before readers *National Racquetball* presents the latest tips on eye protection for racquetball players, this list from the National Society to Prevent Blindness:

- Know the rules of the game and observe good court manners.
- Check your racquet for any loose or protruding strings.
- Wear an absorbent headband to help keep perspiration out of your eyes.
- During practice never put more than one ball into play at one time.
- Always keep your eyes on the ball, making full use of peripheral vision.



Bausch & Lomb's Action Eyes feature 3mm-thick polycarbonate lenses.

- Know where your opponent(s) is on the court and allow enough room to swing the racquet safely.
- Call a "hinder" if your opponent is in the way of your hitting the ball.
- If you're in the front court, don't turn around to see what's going on behind you.
- Never hit the ball out of anger or frustration after play has ceased.
- Always wear your eyeguards when you play.

Cabers and Racquetballs



The sixth annual Virginia Scottish Games Competition (that's high point earner, Brian Oldfield, tossing the caber) is in *The Signet Book of World Winners* and so are the USRA and NRC 1979 National Racquetball Championships.

Judith Norback's collection of facts about familiar (baseball) and obscure (belly flop) contests includes two pages on professional racquetball wins by Karin Walton and Marty Hogan and amateur victories by Bobby Bolan and Heather McKay.

This first compilation of all the winners of competitions around the world contains names and pictures of champions, as well as information on entries, in case you want to try your luck in the Rotten Sneaker Contest or the Lawn Mower Race. The New American Library, Inc., in New York City is publisher.

Keep It Simple

Though racquetball has turned you into a perfect physical specimen, you may have a friend or relative who's not in shape.

Now there's a booklet that can pry that person out of a sedentary lifestyle. It's *Feel Better*, a publication of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Associations, coordinating agency for the plan health insurance system. The 29 page pamphlet— subtitled "a very simple guide to help you look better and like yourself better"—suggests small changes that can make your most overweight, under-active friend part of the national fitness revolution.

Feel Better analyzes why "we've gone soft," contending that Americans are victims of machines—from dishwashers to garage openers—that do the work that once kept us strong. Then the booklet describes how to spend a small part of each day "making your future better and healthier."

On page 26 of *Feel Better* there's a man who looks fit indeed, as he climbs up a flight of stairs. The man and staircase are familiar to the staff at USRA headquarters—he's Milt Presler, *National Racquetball* designer, model for *National Racquetball Photographer* Arthur Shay, who took the pictures for the Blue Cross book.

You can receive a copy of *Feel Better* by contacting your local Blue Cross/Blue Shield office listed in your local phone directory.



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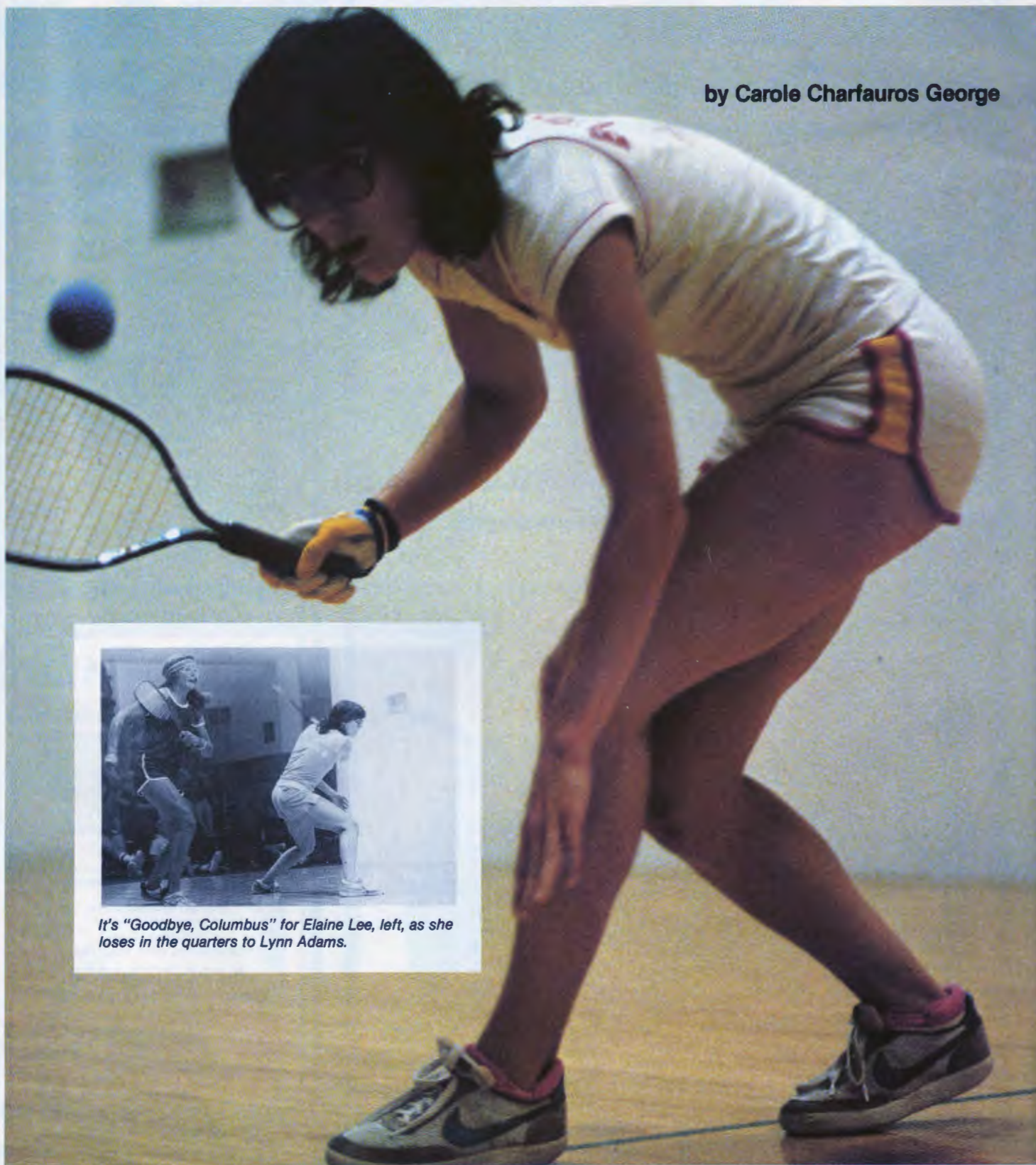


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Extended Season

by Carole Charfauros George

—Carole C. George photos



It's "Goodbye, Columbus" for Elaine Lee, left, as she loses in the quarters to Lynn Adams.

Works for Adams

Heather McKay Meets Her Second Defeat When Women Pros Play One More in Columbus

Having another pro stop June 4-7, just three weeks after the Nationals, may have seemed anticlimatic to some players, but not for Lynn Adams, winner over Heather McKay in the finals of the Sawmill Classic in Columbus, OH. At this stage the young Women's Professional Racquetball Association tour will go anywhere there's \$10,000 in prize money, so a post-Nationals stop at the Sawmill Athletic Club was fine, especially for Adams—\$2,500 richer because of it.

Actually the turning point this season for Adams was in Rhode Island, where she defeated McKay for the first time. Adams had been nipping at McKay's heels ever since they first played in the finals of the 1979 USRA Amateur Nationals. In 1980 Adams was awarded the W.P.R.A. Most Improved Player of the Year, winning her first pro stop in Columbus last spring while McKay was still sitting out to retain her amateur status for the \$40,000 Coors All-Pro finals, which she went on to win.

Adams improved her ranking from number two in the amateurs to number three in the pros last season, and her progress from number three to number two pro this season is just as impressive, considering the domination of the top four women. She and Shannon Wright have battled it out in the semis often enough for Adams to feel that she's earned her higher rank. Overall Adams is pleased with the outcome of the season, even though the National title escaped her.

"I have so much respect for Heather," Adams says. "She's an awesome athlete." Awesome, yes. Unbeatable, no. In the finals of Sawmill every game was just about as close as possible. McKay started out strong, winning the first two games 11-8, 11-8, under the W.P.R.A. scoring system. But Adams wasn't about to surrender, countering with three straight wins—11-9, 11-7, 11-9—to take the set. In the second set Adams and McKay traded off games wins—11-9 Adams, 11-8 McKay, 11-9 Adams, 11-7 McKay—with Adams winning the crucial game and the match with the widest margin of the day 11-5.

Following the Nationals McKay had said that it might be a little harder to get up for the Columbus tournament after winning the title for the year, but "we're all so competitive that once we get there we'll play as hard as ever." McKay lived up to words, even though she came into the tournament with a cold. As the week progressed, her health improved. After struggling with Peggy Gardner in the quarters Friday night she was in good enough shape to perform well in the Sunday afternoon finals.

"Heather was playing well as usual, and I was physically exhausted after my match with Shannon, so I had no energy left and had to rely on my brains instead of physical conditioning for a change," explained Adams.

The Adams vs. Wright semi-final match was another weekend thriller. After two see saw sets Adams got off to a fast start at 6-1 in the tie-breaker and never lost the lead until she won 15-10 with an ace to Wright's backhand.

Marci Greer—who this season went to the finals three times, the semis every other time but once and held a solid number four ranking—played a semi-final match against McKay that was a disappointment. "That's the worst I've ever played," admitted Greer. "I didn't even give her a game." Greer said she had felt good mentally and was confident going into the match—perhaps even overconfident. "I don't have any excuses," she said.

"Heather played well and she beat me." After a quick 11-2 win for McKay the second game went into overtime, with McKay winning 14-12. Then Greer pulled out her only game of the match, 11-9, before McKay finished off the first set 11-9. From there McKay dominated 11-5, 11-8, 11-3.

The quarter-final matches presented some familiar faces, with Greer defeating Rita Hoff, who had upset Jennifer Harding in the 16s; Wright beating Janell Marriott after Marriott downed Laura Martino in the round of 16; Elaine Lee losing to Adams 3-2, 3-0 and Gardner playing McKay in the rookie's best match of the season.

In the Open play Top Seed Linda Forcade was knocked out in the semis by Cindy Baxter, who is the current Pennsylvania state champion now that Lee and Davis have moved to the pros. Baxter went on to defeat a junior player, Betsy Koza, in the finals. ●

Fran Davis Women's Pro President



Francine Davis of Montclair, NJ is president of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association. The AMF Volt eastern racquetball promotions manager, ranked nine on the W.P.R.A. pro tour, serves with Jennifer Harding, vice president, and Board Members Lynn Adams, Peggy Gardner and Joyce Jackson.

W.P.R.A. Rankings As of Aug. 1, 1981

	Points
1. Heather McKay	459.38
2. Lynn Adams	435.63
3. Shannon Wright	395.00
4. Marci Greer	279.38
5. Karin Walton-Trent	150.00
6. Peggy Gardner	143.57
7. Laura Martino	108.38
8. Linda Prefontaine	94.38
9. Francine Davis	88.13
10. Janell Marriott	86.25
11. Jennifer Harding	84.38
12. Elaine Lee	80.63
13. Rita Hoff	65.00
14. Vicki Panzeri	60.00
15. Brenda Poe	52.50
16. Bonnie Stoll	47.50

What's Wrong These Days with Racquetball?

by Dick Squires

Just a few years ago the word "racquetball" had a magical ring to it. Courts were springing up faster than dandelions in April, and Americans everywhere were flocking to commercial clubs which were frantically being built all across the country. The sky was the limit, and it was only a question of time before this neophytic offspring of handball would topple tennis off its prestigious pedestal. Racquetball was destined to become the number one racquet sport.

Today, however, there is a feeling that the sport has already peaked. Racquet and ball sales are down, club memberships and court utilization are substantially less in many areas and gloom-and-doom has replaced rampant optimism. What happened? What went wrong?

In some quarters the blame for the decline is pointed at the USRA— even Bob Kendler. The accusations go something like this: "They've been unsuccessful in landing a major corporate sponsor. They haven't gotten a big television contract, so the sport isn't getting the exposure it needs. They ought to change the scoring system." All of this, of course, is utter nonsense. No one has done more for the sport than Mr. Kendler and his organization.

It is also very easy to write off our current problems by blaming the "built-in caprice" of the American public which, the theory goes, is especially fad-prone when it comes to their sports preferences. This concept does not hold any validity either, as more and more Americans are spending a higher percentage of their personal income on participatory games.

The sooner we stop rationalizing and start admitting that we, the people in the industry, are the ones to be censured, the quicker we can take steps to strengthen and solidify the entire racquetball market. We are the ones, after all, who greedily overbuilt clubs in many areas. We failed to learn a lesson from indoor tennis club owners. We have repeated their mistake.

We are also the ones who sell our court time too cheaply in spite of utility and manning expenses that seem to rise 20 to 25 percent each year.

In 1978 a book was published in which the author wrote the following: "*The youngest of all racquet sports is presently growing at a rate that has taken everyone by surprise, and its growth . . . has been mind boggling to market analysts, equipment manufacturers and even the players themselves. It might be said that the game was never taken seriously until it became a nationwide epidemic.*"

The writer went on to designate 12 appeals that the sport of racquetball proffered to everybody, with the first and foremost being its utter simplicity. "*It's the easiest to learn of all racquet and paddle games . . . Success and personal gratification come quickly. There is no need for months or even years of expensive professional instruction.*"

Overselling Simplicity

The perspicacious author of those insightful lines was *me*, in my book, *The Other Racquet Sports!*

That, in my humble opinion again, is certainly one key mistake we all made. We have oversold the ease-of-learning feature to the detriment of the sport. We stressed the game's simpleness because it lured people into trying it. They did, indeed, do it better and quicker than practically any other participatory form of recreation they had ever tried. "*Instant mediocrity*" was theirs, and with it came self-satisfaction, as well as a lot of fun and the loss of a few hundred calories in a short period of time.

Later on in the same chapter of the book I also, however, wrote somewhat ominously about what could happen. And it has. "*If individuals do not have to invest a lot of money in lessons and playing attire, and if they rent equipment rather than purchase it, they may have no qualms about deserting the sport as soon as something else comes along. They simply have not made the investment in time and dollars that, say, tennis players have made in their sport.*"

In other words being so inexpensive and elementary, there was no need for racquetball participants to make any kind of a commitment. Most of them, therefore, did not!

When commercial clubs opened, long lines of avid racquetball prospects formed out front. Everybody wanted to become a

member. Racquetball was "in" and people desiring exercise and new social contacts flocked to join in on the fun. A typical racquetball facility had 10 courts and 3,000 members. Club owners and managers became "fat cats," and enjoyed trotting on down to the bank once or twice a day—with broad, smug smiles across their faces.

This is the precise point where we sowed the seeds of our own possible downfall. The tyros came in droves, and are now leaving the same way. Why? Because the people in the business kept believing and espousing how easy the sport was. The dire mistake most of us made, however, was we did not also tell the neo-racquetballer that the game was complex . . . that it was as difficult to master as it was easy to learn.

Recreational activities that have stood the test of time and continued to grow in popularity are games that are *challenging*. Golf, tennis, backgammon, chess, to name a few, have had their ups and downs, but are constantly augmenting their number of participants not only in this country, but all around the world. Even bowling, which fell out of favor a decade or so ago, has made a remarkable comeback.

Now that racquetball has come of age, it is high time we start creating somewhat of an intrigue, an aura of mystique about the sport, if we are to entice people into trying it, and eventually becoming adroit enough so that they are *addicted*. Extensive and intensive teaching programs at all the 2,000-plus commercial clubs in the U.S. should commence immediately. Clubs should commence group clinics as well as individual and private lessons. Oh, sure, we all offer them now. Perhaps a better word would be to *hard sell* these programs.

Six to Refute

A study of why people in many parts of the nation drop out of racquetball clubs at the astonishing and rather scary rate of 50-60 percent each year shows the predominant reasons are: (1) "Couldn't find a suitable opponent," (2) "Always played against the same people," (3) "Got tired of being beaten all the time," (4) "Got tired of always beating poorer players, and seldom got the chance to play up," (5) "Got tired of racquetball" and (6) "I felt like a number in such a large club."



Top level racquetball equals any sport in its demands for skill, stamina and concentration.

An analysis of these negative replies provides the answer to what we can now do right. Commercial club owners must get their members involved from day one in leagues, ladder competition, social/athletic happenings—*anything* to make them feel more of an important part of their club, and to provide them with a wide range of opponents against whom they can improve their games.

We must not allow either their games or their interest to peak out. Encourage them to take lessons, to compete and to participate. Tell them the truth. There is a great deal more to racquetball than they have been led to believe (mostly by us!). When you reach a certain skill plateau, there is no reason why you cannot, through instruction and practice, advance to the second or third level. And, of course, it is axiomatic to state: The better you are able to do something, the more you enjoy it, and the more often you do it!

If our favorite sport is not only to survive, but thrive, then we, collectively, have to rethink the marketing methodology we all used during the halcyon years of dynamic growth. Besides its ease, we have to sell the sport's *other* attributes; namely strenuous workout, subtle strategy, the psychological release, the sociability, tailor-made for the unnatural as well as natural athlete—and this all must be done to the rank (as against ranking) amateurs when they first come to us.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with racquetball per se. It is a unique and beautiful racquet and ball sport for almost everyone. But if we insist and persist in merchandising its simplicity, the game can really become a dumb and boring pastime. By promoting its sophisticated strategy, its rewards as a person improves, its demands for skill, stamina and concentration, however, we will, in fact and not just fantasy, have a bonafide game that offers more of a challenge and broader appeals than tennis. This is what will keep an increasing number of people coming back again and again. This marketing strategem, like the game, is not simple, but it will surely be rewarding and satisfying and bode well for the future of racquetball. ●



Fashionable Fans



Ed Remen in the jacket that's been collecting tournament logos for the past five years.



Sandy Toundas



Karla Huber

Mary Ann and William Daley



Ellie Sanchez

When he wasn't catching pro action on court, Arthur Shay aimed his camera at some of the Nationals' well dressed spectators. Here's a sample of fans who looked fashionable under a 115 degree sun. ●



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