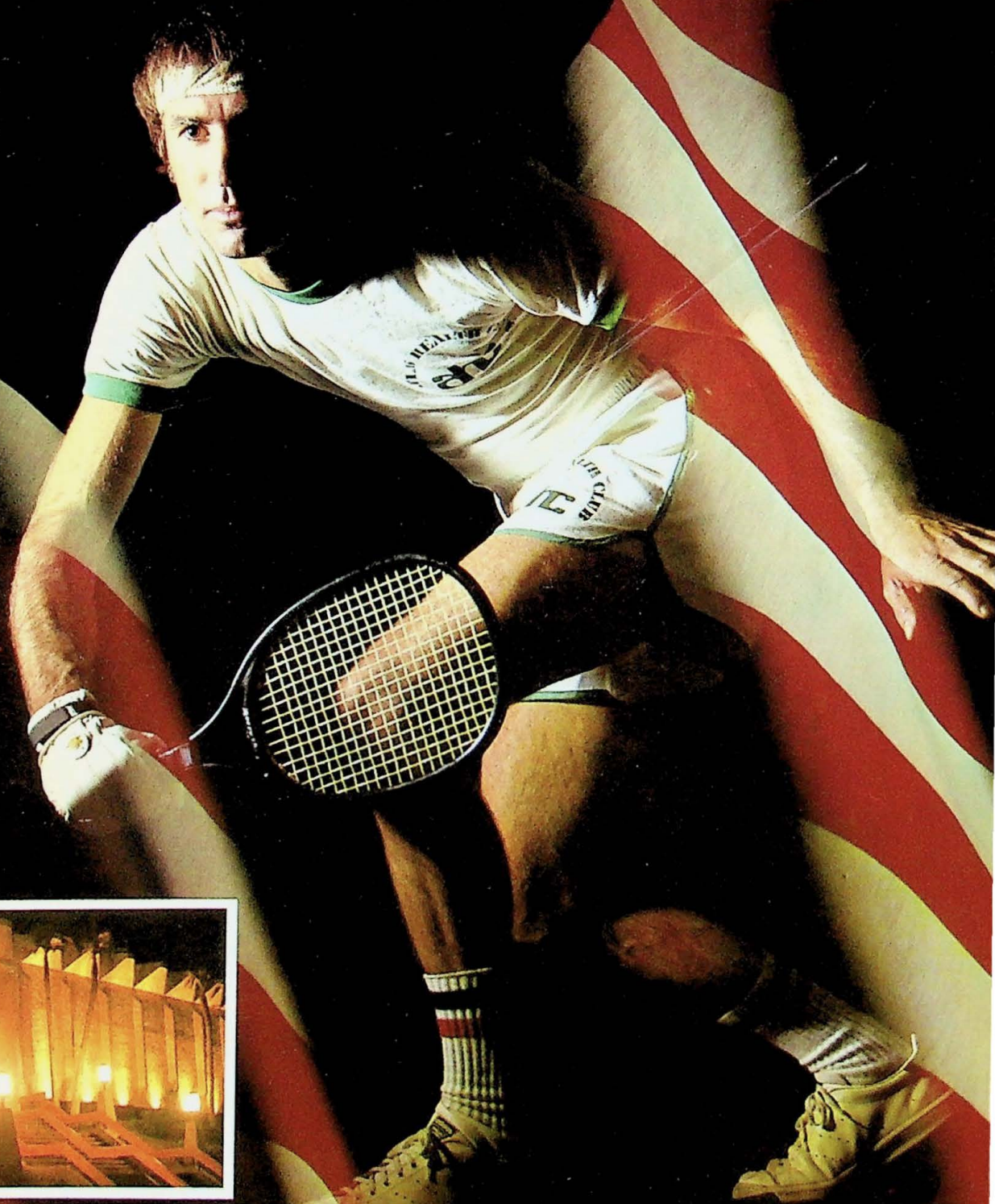
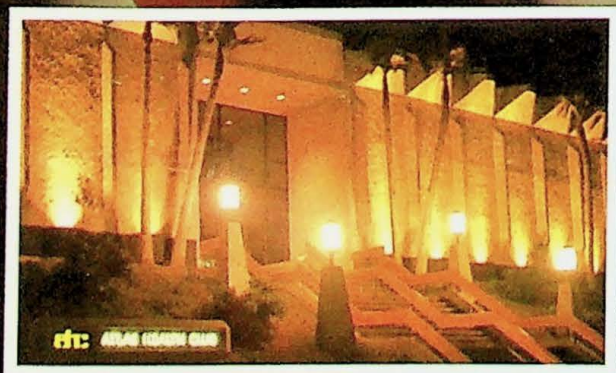


USRA-NRC

LEACH/SEAMCO NATIONAL RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

June 13th-19th, 1976



Tournament Held At
San Diego's Atlas Health Club



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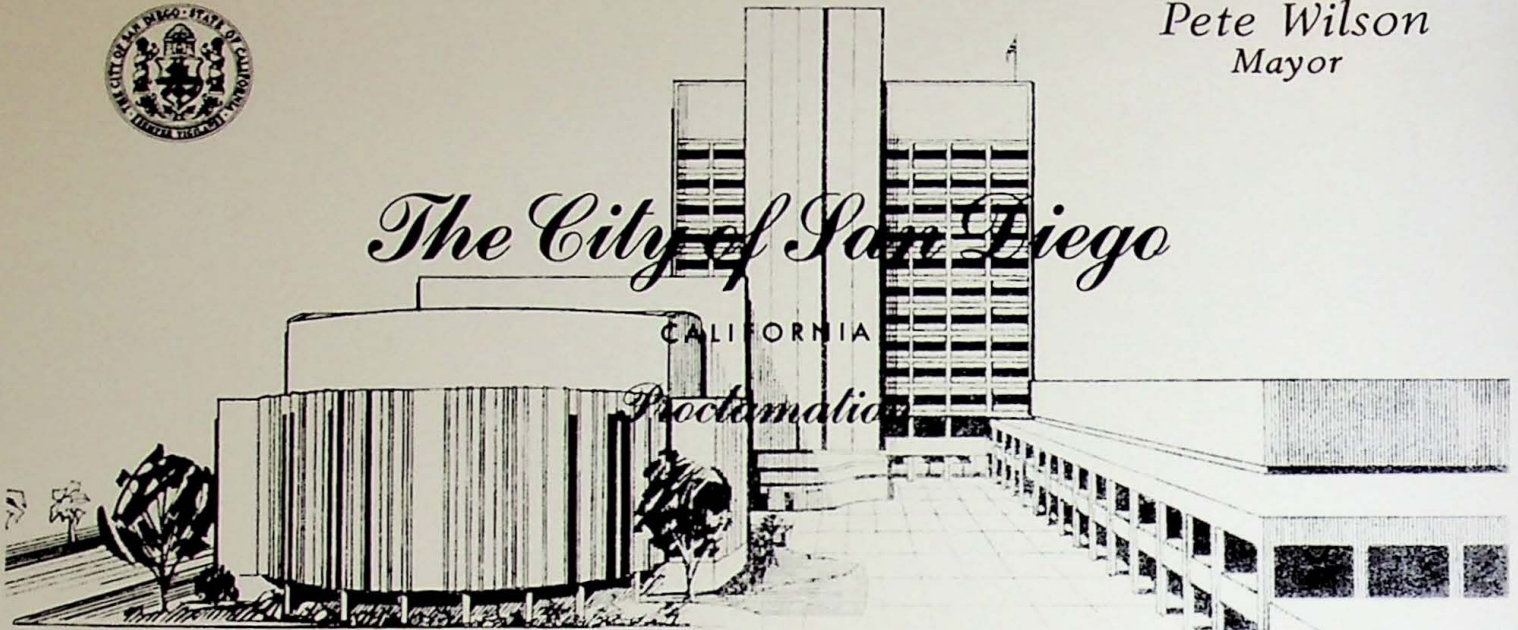
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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY by ED MASTERSON



Pete Wilson
Mayor



WHEREAS, the sport of racquetball has grown at a phenomenal rate across the country and has attracted young and old, male and female, amateur and professional players to its ranks; and

WHEREAS, racquetball enthusiasts insist that their sport constructively promotes physical fitness as no other sport does; and

WHEREAS, San Diego is considered the capital of racquetball, being the home of many of racquetball's leading players, several major racquetball manufacturers and a national champion, Charles Brumfield; and

WHEREAS, San Diego will host the Leach-Seamco National Racquetball Championships from June 13-19 at the Atlas Health Club in Mission Valley;

NOW, THERE, I, PETE WILSON, the Twenty-ninth Mayor of the City of San Diego, do hereby proclaim the week of June 20-26 to be "RACQUETBALL WEEK" in San Diego and encourage all citizens to become a part of this most exciting and competitive sport.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand, this Nineteenth Day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-six, and have caused the Seal to be affixed hereto:

Pete Wilson





PETE WILSON
MAYOR

May 19, 1976



GREETINGS!

Welcome to San Diego and the Leach-Seamco National Racquetball Championships. These exciting championships will bring to San Diego the best players in the world, and we are delighted to be the host city for this competition.

San Diegans boast that their city is the capital of racquetball. In addition to being the headquarters of this country's major racquetball equipment manufacturers, San Diego also is the home of the sport's leading players, including national champion Charles Brumfield.

Amateur participation in racquetball throughout the city is accelerating at a tremendous rate and the rapid construction of racquetball facilities cannot satisfy the demand for courts. All indications point to a period of continued enthusiastic growth for racquetball.

During the championships we hope you will have the opportunity to sample some of the other attractions which contribute to the distinctive character of what we truly believe is America's Finest City. San Diego offers a myriad of recreational opportunities which await your discovery, as well as a host of cultural and educational centers, historic sites, beautiful parks and 70 miles of beaches. These attractions, combined with the excitement of keen competition, promises each of you a memorable week in our city.

San Diegans are proud of their city and San Diego reflects that pride in many ways. I hope that each of you will soon feel very much at home with the spirit and enthusiasm created in our city by these championships. My personal best wishes to each competitor for every success in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Pete Wilson in cursive script, located below the word "Sincerely,".

PETE WILSON

PW:ss



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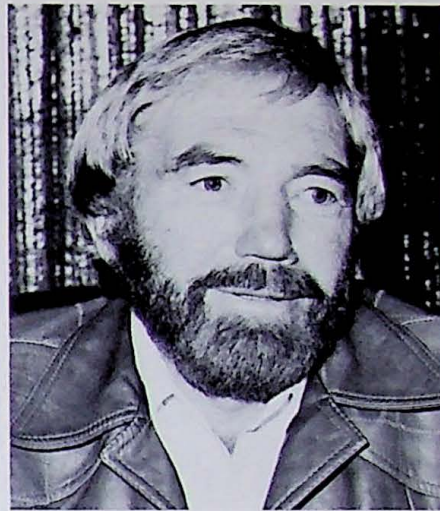
AL MACKIE

Seamco Sporting Goods Company

The tremendous racquetball season culminating with these National Championships could not have been possible without the tremendous aid given the N.R.C. and U.S.R.A. by the Seamco Sporting Goods Company and Leach Industries.

These two firms, led by Al Mackie, at Seamco and Bud Leach at Leach, unselfishly donated \$25,000 each this season toward the N.R.C.'s prize money fund. With this help, the pro-am tour was made a reality and has grown in stature to become the most exciting series of racquetball events annually.

The \$15,000 prize money here in San Diego is part of that \$50,000 sponsorship, which has enabled the N.R.C. to continue to promote racquetball in a first class manner.



BUD LEACH

Leach Industries

The National Racquetball Club is honored, indeed, to have such close working relationships with the nation's largest racquet and ball manufacturers in our sport. The fact that these firms have been willing to invest in racquetball part of the profits they derive from racquetball, is indicative of the fine people and businessmen that our sport represents.

Next season the N.R.C. looks forward to continuation of this fine working arrangement, with additional prize money, more tour stops, and finer competition for all players.

When you stop in their hospitality suite, how about a thank you to Al Mackie and Bob Coate at Seamco, and Bud Leach and Charlie Drake at Leach for their great support. Without them we couldn't do it.

MEET THE N.R.C. AND U.S.R.A.



BOB KENDLER



JOE ARDITO



CHUCK LEVE

ROBERT W. [BOB] KENDLER

Bob Kendler, at age 71 still a dynamo on the court, is the father of all the court sports. Before racquetball was ever imagined, this Milwaukee born real estate giant was wowing the spectators on the handball court. And if you've been following handball or racquetball for a few years, then you know the story of court sport success that has followed Bob.

In 1951, at the urging of his fellow players, and in an attempt to right what were then and still are inconsistencies in the amateur code, Bob formed the U.S. Handball Association. At that time the Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) had total jurisdiction over the sport of handball, but not for long. Within two years, virtually every player of stature had joined the U.S.H.A.

Under Kendler's leadership, the U.S.H.A. grew to a strong and healthy body, the true voice of handball. Its publication **ACE** magazine (since changed to **HANDBALL**) has become the recognized Bible of the sport.

After forming the first racquetball association in 1968, Kendler formed the N.R.C. to promote pro racquetball and the U.S.R.A. to further promote amateur racquetball in 1973. From the beginning both of these organizations have shown tremendous growth, paralleling the growth of racquetball.

By publishing **National Racquetball** magazine, the U.S.R.A./N.R.C. group has by all guidelines, the most professional, timely and interesting racquetball publication there is.

The official rule book, development of court clubs, relations with manufacturers and all aspects of racquetball's promotion go through Mr. Kendler's office.

As president of the N.R.C. and U.S.R.A., and like all N.R.C. personnel, Mr. Kendler welcomes your comments. If you have any questions regarding racquetball or the N.R.C./U.S.R.A., feel free to drop him a line.

JOE ARDITO

The business manager and national commissioner of both the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. is likeable Joe Ardito. Another "refugee" from handball, Joe brought with him 25 years of tournament and player experience into the racquetball world three years ago. Now thoroughly comfortable in his important racquetball role, Ardito has rapidly become the liaison between major manufacturers and the N.R.C./U.S.R.A.

His responsibilities include negotiations of contracts, advertising in **National Racquetball** magazine, and generally handling the business end of running our Associations.

As National Commissioner he has earned the respect of all pro players as a fair, but firm enforcer of N.R.C. policies. If ever a problem arises before, during, or after a tournament, you can be sure Joe Ardito will be able to handle it.

Ardito's latest project is organization of state and local chapter of the U.S.R.A. to give an even bigger boost to racquetball's promotion. He'll be here in San Diego all during the week, and he'd like to hear some of your ideas on how racquetball can be better promoted in your area.

CHUCK LEVE

The one man who has ridden herd on the rise of racquetball is Chuck Leve. Tabbed by Bob Kendler to run his racquetball organization in 1970, Leve quickly assimilated his talents to this babe of a sport.

Racquetball and Leve became synonymous. Anxious to utilize his journalism degree, Leve became editor of the first racquetball publication in 1972 and is now editor of **National Racquetball**.

His duties include general promotion of racquetball, from sending out news releases, keeping tabs on membership, co-ordinating sales of National Racquetball to court clubs, to making up the draw at all professional events and refereeing all semi-final and final round professional play.

As editor of **National Racquetball** it is his chore to make sure the proper balance of interview, instruction, tournament results and other features makes this magazine the best possible publication for U.S.R.A. members.

Creator of new ideas, it was Leve who proposed that racquetball do away with the three-bounce rule, and try playing all third games to 11 point tie-breakers. It has proved a tremendous success every place it has been used.

MEN'S PRO LOG



CHARLIE BRUMFIELD, San Diego, \$8,675

Seed: 1

Age: 27

Outside Interests: Attorney, instructor

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: Denver (September), Tucson (December), Aurora (January), Peoria (May).

Tour losses this season: Hogan (Burlington-October), Hogan (Milwaukee-February), Hilecher (Buffalo-March).

General Game Style: Control

Strengths: Pin-point serving, patience, anticipation, plays the percentages.

Weaknesses: None glaring. Average speed, questionable overhead, over-confidence.

Things to look for: Psychological plays to break opponent's momentum; rapport with gallery; ace serves; cross-court passing game.

Titles: Current National Professional Champion; has won every major title offered in racquetball at one time or another.



MARTY HOGAN, St. Louis, \$4,675

Seed: 2

Age: 18

Outside Interests: Student

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: Burlington (October), Milwaukee (February).

Losses this season: Keeley (Denver), Brumfield (Tucson), Wagner (Aurora), Wagner (Buffalo).

General Game Style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Booming serve, ability to shoot from any point on court, extremely fast wrists, deceiving speed.

Weaknesses: No secondary game plan, inconsistency in serve, tendency to lose composure.

Things to look for: High-tension in his matches; cockiness bordering on obnoxious; super serves.

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MEN'S PRO LOG



STEVE STRANDEMO, San Diego, \$3,775

Seed: 3

Age: 30 (estimated)

Outside Interests: Employed by racquet manufacturer

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None.

Best finish: 2nd-Denver, 2nd-Peoria.

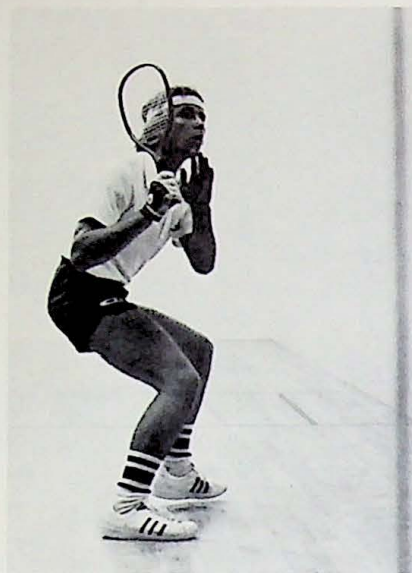
Losses this season: Brumfield (Denver), Keeley (Burlington), Brumfield (Tucson), Serot (Aurora), Zeitman (Milwaukee), Hogan (Buffalo), Brumfield (Peoria).

General Game Style: Control.

Strengths: Outstanding retrieving ability; superb physical conditioning; good ceiling game.

Weaknesses: Can only kill certain shots; difficulty handling good drive serves; allows concentration to wander (gallery, referee, etc.)

Things to look for: Great desire to win; lots of ceiling balls; Z serves; lots of action; good passing game.



RICHARD WAGNER, San Diego, \$3,100

Seed: 4

Age: 20

Outside Interests: Student

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: Buffalo (March).

Tour losses this season: Hilecher (Denver), Serot (Burlington), Zeitman (Tucson), Bledsoe (Aurora), Brumfield (Milwaukee), Strandemo (Peoria).

General Game Style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Top back wall shooter today; good, drive serves; could be game's best retriever; great quickness.

Weaknesses: tends to blow the "plums"; gets down on self and has difficulty re-gaining confidence.

Things to look for: Good entertainment in his matches; not afraid to go for his shots; can run all day and still shoot.



MEN'S PRO LOG



STEVE KEELEY, San Diego, \$3,025

Seed: 5

Age: 27

Outside Interests: Varied

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None.

Tour losses this season: Brumfield (Denver), Hogan (Burlington), McCoy (Tucson), Rubenstein (Aurora), Bledsoe (Milwaukee), Wagner (Buffalo), Brumfield (Peoria).

General Game Style: Control.

Strengths: Opponent's knowledge of his great ability; corner kills; alteration of match pace; concentration.

Weaknesses: Speed (lack of); desire to win (lack of). Hits soft.

Things to look for: Upsets—can be beaten at any time—has ability to beat any player alive; stoic on-the-court nature.



DAVEY BLEDSOE, Memphis, \$2,825

Seed: 6

Age: 24

Outside Interests: Public Relations

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None.

Tour losses this season: Strandemo (Denver), Schmidtke (Burlington), McCoy (Tucson), Brumfield (Aurora), Hogan (Milwaukee), Schmidtke (Buffalo), Keeley (Peoria).

General Game Style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Excellent forehand corner kills; great speed and quickness; power player; retrieving.

Weaknesses: Stamina; shot selection; hot-and-cold backhand.

Things to look for: Will give all-out effort every time; if hot with backhand could surprise; exciting to watch.



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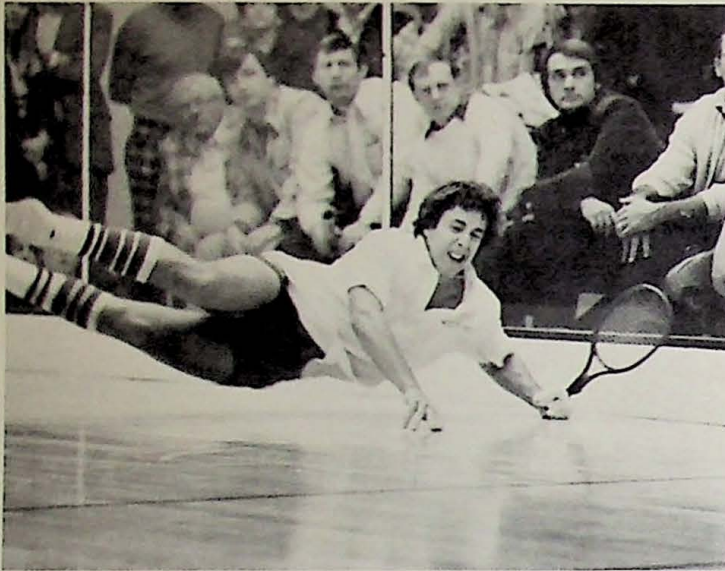
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MEN'S PRO LOG



STEVE SEROT, San Diego, \$2,800

Seed: 7

Age: 19

Outside Interests: Student

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None.

Tour losses this season: Strandemo (Denver), Hogan (Burlington), Bledsoe (Tucson), Brumfield (Aurora), Hogan (Milwaukee), (Buffalo-DNP), Strandemo (Peoria).

General Game Style: Power and shoot.

Strengths: Renewed kill ability from any point on court; fantastic retriever; best diver in game; never out of a match.

Weaknesses: Speed (lack of); dives too much; injury prone; lack of good drive serve.

Things to look for: Expect plenty of diving—it's the Nationals; if he's healthy will be tough. Most exciting player in the game.



BILL SCHMIDTKE, Wayzata, Minn., \$1,925

Seed: 8

Age: 34

Outside Interests: Court club manager/pro

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None.

Tour losses this season: Hogan (Denver), Strandemo (Burlington), McCoy (Tucson), Brumfield (Aurora), Keeley (Milwaukee), Wagner (Buffalo), Brumfield (Peoria).

General Game Style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Excellent shooter, especially with forehand; great determination to win; will always give best; excellent pressure player.

Weaknesses: Age, speed, mobility, tendency to stray from game plan.

Things to look for: Another streak player, always a threat in Nationals; go for broke desire on the court.

Titles: National Champion 1971, 1974.



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MEN'S PRO LOG



CRAIG McCOY, Riverside, Cal., \$1,200

Seed: 9

Age: 18

Outside Interests: Family business

Racquet: Starmaster

Tour victories this season: None.

Best finish: 2nd-Tucson.

Tour losses this season: (Denver-DNP), (Burlington-DNP), Brumfield (Tucson), (Aurora-DNP), Rubenstein (Milwaukee), Strandemo (Buffalo), Schmidtke (Peoria).

General Game Style: Shooter.

Strengths: Beautiful forehand kills, especially to left corner; strength; ability to control match.

Weaknesses: Inconsistency, poor concentration, lack of motivation, speed (lack of).

Things to look for: If his ball stays down, his chances go up.



JERRY HILECHER, St. Louis, \$1,150

Seed: 10

Age: 21

Outside Interests: student

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None.

Best finish: semi's (Buffalo).

Tour losses this season: Serot (Denver), Keeley (Burlington), Bledsoe (Tucson), Wagner (Aurora), Hogan (Milwaukee), Schmidtke (Buffalo), Serot (Peoria).

General Game Style: Serve and shoot.

Strength: Good serves with ability to kill from anywhere; best streak player in the game; good speed.

Weaknesses: Inconsistency; concentration.

Things to look for: Highly emotional player will create tense atmosphere; could upset control player early, especially if hot.

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MEN'S PRO LOG



MIKE ZEITMAN, Memphis, \$750

Seed: 11

Age: 27

Outside Interests: Business

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None.

Best finish: quarters (Denver, Tucson, Milwaukee)

Tour losses this season: Brumfield (Denver), (Burlington-DNP), Hogan (Tucson), Schmidtke (Aurora), Wagner (Milwaukee), Hilecher (Buffalo), Strandemo (Peoria).

General Game Style: Power and shoot.

Strengths: Stamina and strength; great natural ability; occasional hot streaks.

Weaknesses: Inconsistency, poor shot selection, tendency to lack killer instinct.

Things to look for: Lots of kills, lots of skips, good retrieving, beautiful form.



RON RUBENSTEIN, Chicago, \$450

Seed: 12

Age: 36

Outside Interests: Business

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None.

Best finish: quarters (Aurora, Milwaukee).

Tour losses this season: (Denver, Burlington, Tucson-DNP), Bledsoe (Aurora), Brumfield (Milwaukee), (Buffalo-DNP), Keeley (Peoria).

General Game Style: shooter.

Strengths: Excellent pinch kills, great desire.

Weaknesses: Age, speed (lack of), stamina, real good serve (lack of).

Things to look for: Tie-breaker should help, but higher than quarters would surprise.

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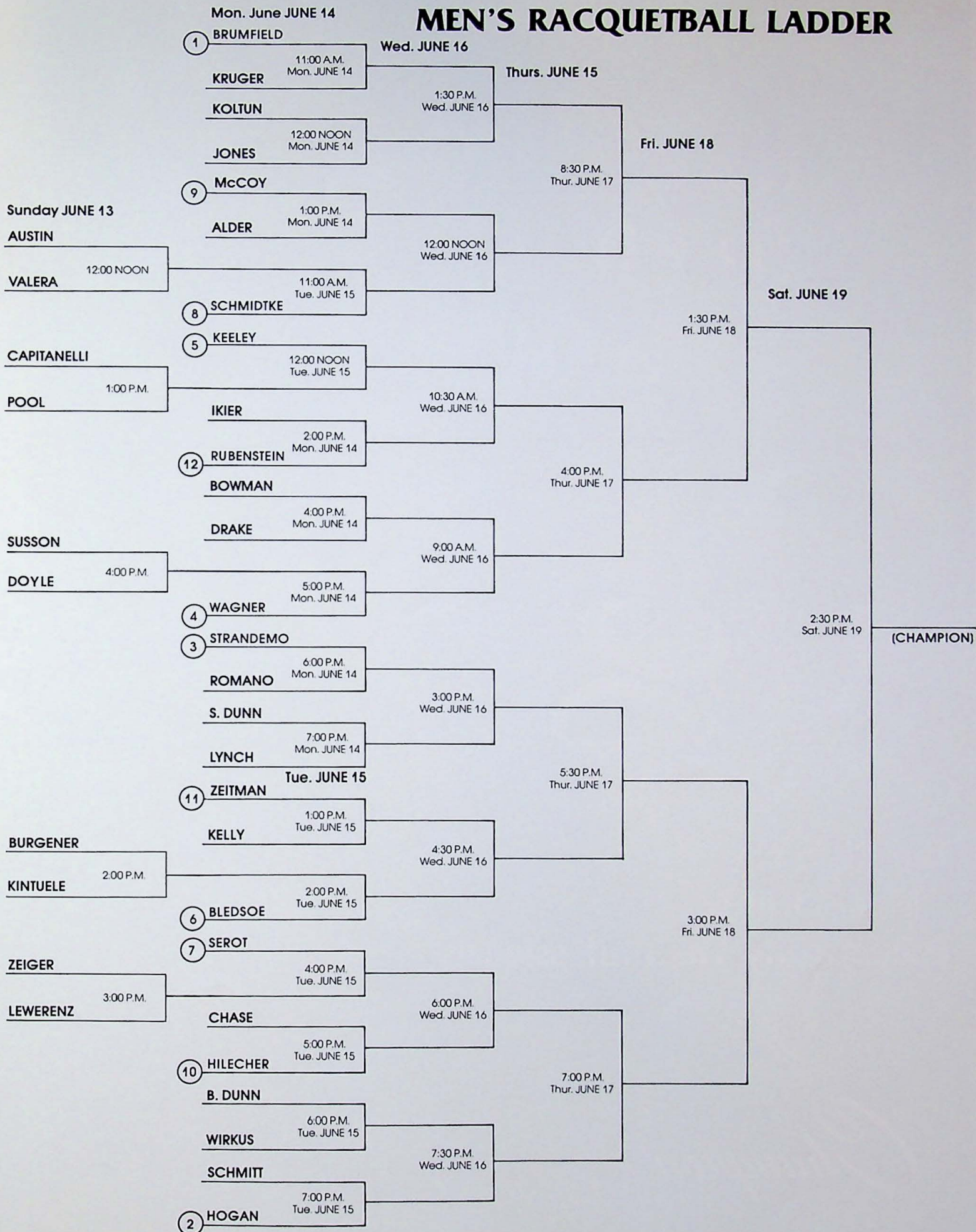
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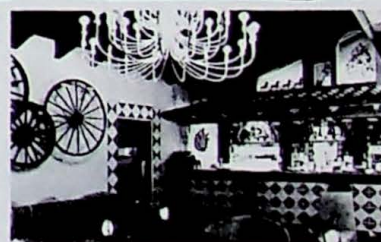
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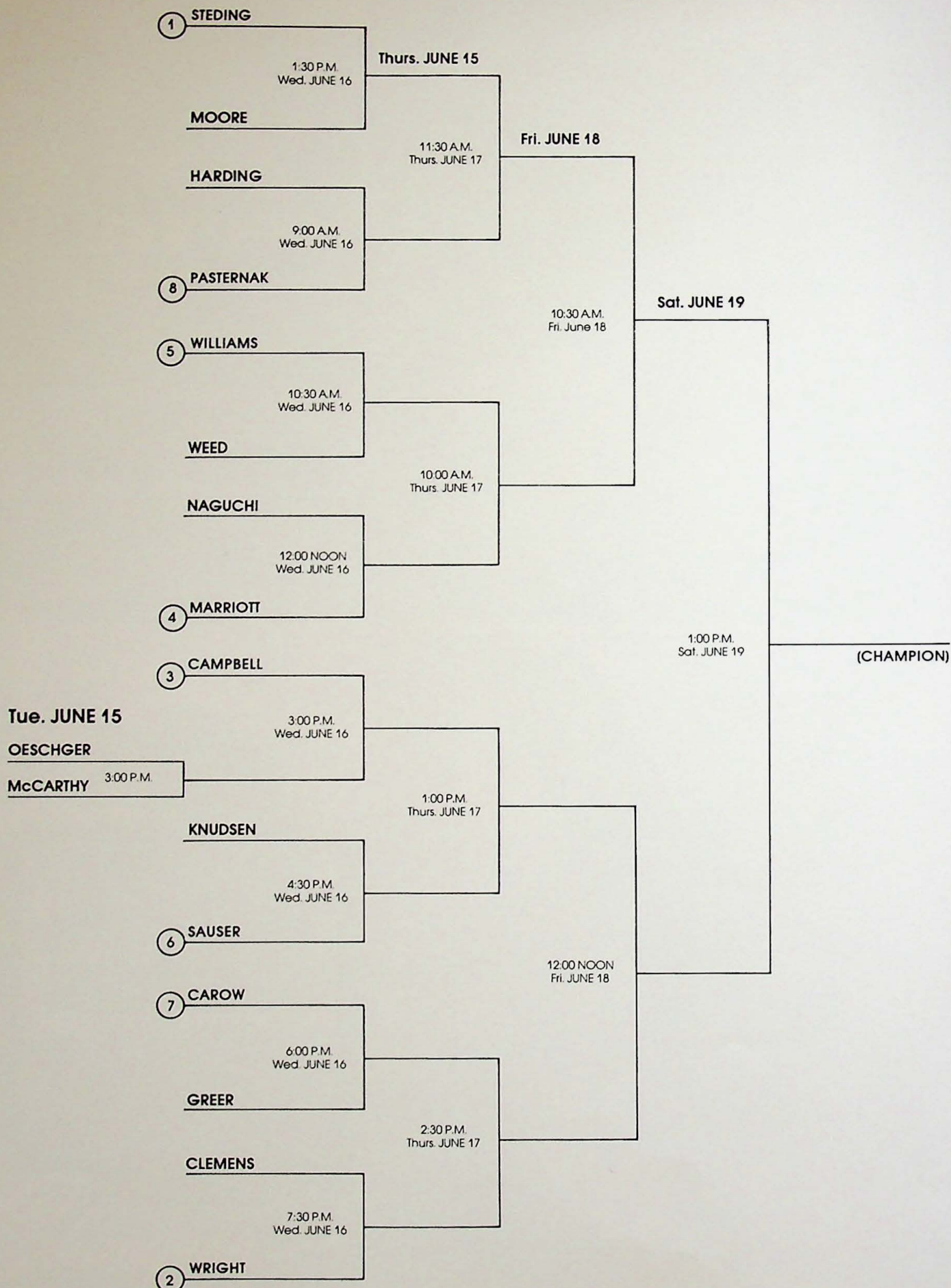
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WOMEN'S PRO LOG

PEGGY STEDING, Odessa, Texas, \$1,650

Seed: 1

Age: 40

Outside Interests: Varied

Racquet: Vittert

Tour victories this season: Tucson (December), Milwaukee (February), Buffalo (March), Peoria (May).

Tour losses this season: Marriott (Denver), (Aurora-DNP).

General Game Style: Power and shoot.

Strengths: Power, power serves, power kills, power passes, ability to fly kill, has all the shots, reputation.

Weaknesses: Speed (lack of), age.

Things to look for: Can be devastating if playing well. If not, should still win, with struggle.

Titles: Current National Professional Champion.

SHANNON WRIGHT, Dallas, \$750

Seed: 2

Age: 20

Outside Interests: Instructor

Racquet: Starmaster

Tour victories this season: Denver (September).

Tour losses this season: (Tucson, Aurora, Milwaukee, Buffalo-DNP), Steding (Peoria).

General Game Style: Control.

Strengths: Ceiling game the best, excellent backhand passes, great determination, patience.

Weaknesses: Tends to play too safe, stamina questionable, needs to sharpen kills.

Things to look for: Grind-it-out style forces errors; Good hustle, watch the cross-court backhand.



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WOMEN'S PRO LOG

JAN CAMPBELL, San Diego, \$500

Seed: 3

Age: 22

Outside Interests: Instructor

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None.

Best finish: 2nd (Aurora), 2nd (Tucson).

Tour losses this season: Wright (Denver), Steding (Tucson), Williams (Aurora), (Milwaukee-DNP), (Buffalo-DNP), Sauser (Peoria).

General Game Style: Control.

Strengths: Over-all game solid; beautiful form, excellent forehand.

Weaknesses: Shot selection; tendency to be erratic with backhand; questionable in big matches.

Things to look for: No way to tell how she'll play—could go to finals—could lose in second round. Up to her.

JANELL MARRIOTT, Salt Lake City, \$450

Seed: 4

Age: 23

Outside Interests: Varied

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None.

Best finish: 2nd (Denver).

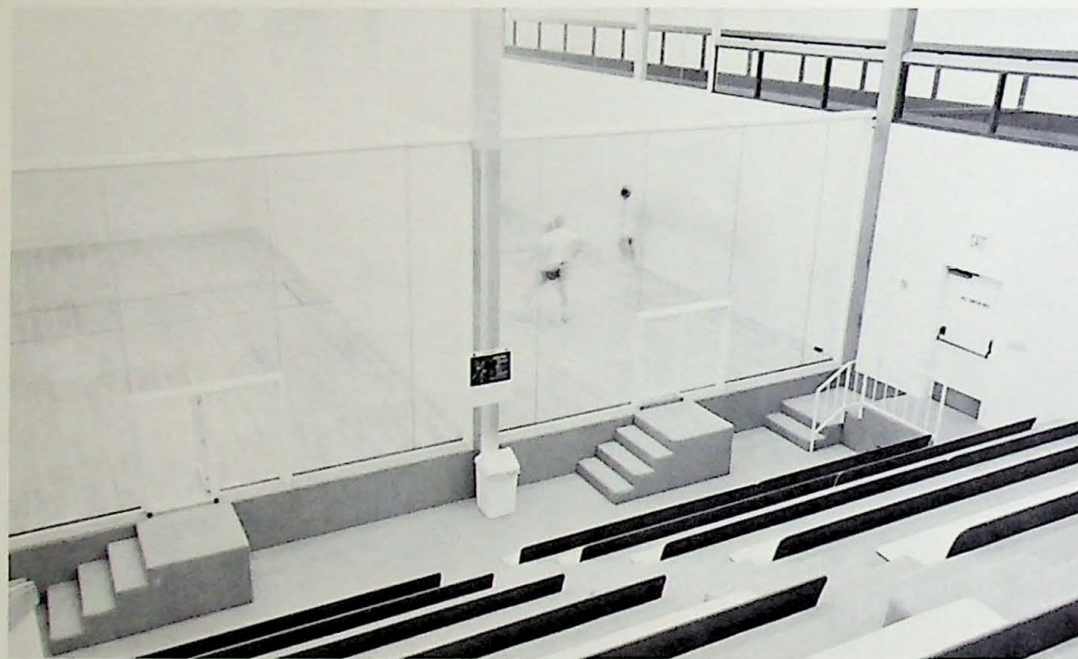
Tour losses this season: Wright (Denver), Campbell (Tucson), (Aurora-DNP), (Milwaukee-DNP), (Buffalo-DNP), Steding (Peoria).

General Game Style: Power and shoot.

Strengths: Excellent drive serves, both sides; aggressive in shot selection; puts pressure on opponent; good kills.

Weaknesses: Speed average; ceiling game average. Concentration occasionally weak.

Things to look for: Has ability to top anybody; sometimes is too nice; merits watching.



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WOMEN'S PRO LOG

KATHY WILLIAMS, Hazel Park, Mich., \$400

Seed: 5

Age: 28

Outside Interests: Instructor

Racquet: Seamco

Tour victories this season: Aurora (January).

Tour losses this season: Marriott (Denver), Steding (Tucson), Sauser (Milwaukee), (Buffalo-DNP), Marriott (Peoria).

General Game Style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Power, strength, solid shots, ability to get hot.

Weaknesses: Inconsistency, shot selection, concentration (lack of).

Things to look for: Like Campbell, can't tell until she walks on court; will go out shooting, for sure.

SUE CAROW, Glenview, Illinois, \$350

Seed: 6

Age: 37

Outside Interests: Business, sports

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None.

Best finish: 2nd-Buffalo

Tour losses this season: Campbell (Denver), Campbell (Tucson), Williams (Aurora), Steding (Milwaukee), Steding (Buffalo), Wright (Peoria).

General Game Style: Control.

Strengths: Great desire to win; fine passes; not afraid to shoot.

Weaknesses: Power (lack of), weak ceiling game, has trouble with glass.

Things to look for: Will do everything she can to win; great hustle, doesn't quite have the guns.



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WOMEN'S PRO LOG

JEAN SAUSER, Northbrook, Illinois, \$350

Seed: 7

Age: 25

Outside Interests: Instructor.

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None.

Best finish: 2nd (Milwaukee).

Tour losses this season: Steding (Tucson), Pasternak (Aurora), Steding (Milwaukee), Wright (Peoria).

General Game Style: Control.

Strengths: Outstanding concentration, good drives, desire to win.

Weaknesses: Kills (lack of), has difficulty relaxing on court, inexperience.

Things to look for: Needs to develop confidence in kills. Will give her all, but is it enough?

JAN PASTERNAK, St. Louis, \$200

Seed: 8

Age: 22

Outside Interests: Instructor

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None.

Best finish: semi's (Aurora, Milwaukee).

Tour losses this season: (Denver-DNP), (Tucson-DNP), Campbell (Aurora), Sauser (Milwaukee), (Buffalo-DNP), Steding (Peoria).

General Game Style: Control

Strengths: Desire, good retriever, patience.

Weaknesses: Conditioning and stamina, quickness (lack of).

Things to look for: Was #2 last season and needs to get in shape to regain position. If not, won't last long.

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PRIZE MONEY

1975-76

MEN'S N.R.C. PRIZE MONEY EARNINGS

1	Charles Brumfield	San Diego	\$8675
2	Marty Hogan	St. Louis	4675
3	Steve Strandemo	San Diego	3775
4	Richard Wagner	San Diego	3100
5	Steve Keeley	San Diego	3025
6	Dave Bledsoe	Memphis	2825
7	Steve Serot	San Diego	2800
8	Bill Schmidtke	Minneapolis	1925
9	Craig McCoy	Riverside, Cal.	1200
10	Jerry Hilecher	St. Louis	1150
11	Mike Zeitman	Memphis	750
12	Ron Rubenstein	Chicago	450

1975-76

WOMEN'S N.R.C. PRIZE MONEY EARNINGS

1	Peggy Steding	Odessa, Tex.	\$1650
2	Shannon Wright	Dallas	750
3	Jan Campbell	San Diego	500
4	Janell Marriott	Salt Lake City	450
5	Kathy Williams	Hazel Park, Mich.	400
6	Sue Carow	Glenview, Ill.	350
6	Jean Sauser	Northbrook, Ill.	350
8	Jan Pasternak	St. Louis	200

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THE TOUR THIS SEASON

Stop #1—Denver [September] . . . The first battle of the '75-76 season saw the same faces as always, Brumfield winning, Strandemo second, Keeley and Serot in the semi-finals. What few realized were the fine performances of the kids—Hogan, Wagner, Bledsoe which should have been an indication of what was to come. It was here that Marriott beat Steding, but Wright topped Marriott for the title.

Stop #2—Burlington, Virginia [October] . . . This is still the most exciting tournament of the season, to date, where Marty Hogan blitzed the top three (Brumfield, Serot, Keeley) en route to his first pro title. Playing to full houses on three straight nights, Hogan had the entire limelight in a richly deserved win. He topped Keeley in the finals, with Strandemo the other semi-finalist. (No women's pro in Vermont).

Stop #3—Tucson [December] . . . Here the Brum regained his dominance, with total control in both the semi's and finals, where he defeated McCoy easily. Strandemo had Brumfield on the ropes in the quarters, but a back injury cost Steve the match. Bledsoe upset Serot (21-20 third game) to reach the semi's, but couldn't take McCoy. Brumfield topped Hogan in the other semi, thereby atoning for his earlier loss. It was all Steding in the ladies, with Campbell second.

Stop #4—Aurora, Ill. [January] . . . With 350 people on hand three straight nights Aurora proved to be the most popular of the pro tour, and they all saw plenty of action. Brumfield, unsure of himself all week on the three walls of glass still managed a convincing win over Bledsoe in the finals. Wagner, who topped Hogan, and Serot were the semi-finalists. Williams played the best ball of her career, besting Campbell in the finals.

Stop #5—Milwaukee [February] . . . Again met by standing-room-only crowds, the fans in Milwaukee were looking for one thing—a Brumfield-Hogan final. And they got it. Brumfield, having won the Milwaukee event the previous two years, was not on his game, but Hogan was, topping Brum 21-17, 21-9. Wagner again made the semi's, losing to Brumfield, and Hogan beat Bledsoe in his bracket. Steding, with ease in the ladies, over Sauser in the finals.

Stop #6—Buffalo [March] . . . Stop number six has to go down as the tournament of surprises. The winner was Richard Wagner, who became the first player to break the Brumfield-Hogan monopoly on pro titles. Another surprise was Bill Schmidtke reaching the finals where Wagner stopped him 20-21, 21-16, 11-6. Wagner over Hogan 11-10 in the third was the big semi match; Schmidtke topped Jerry Hilecher 14 and 20 in the other. It was Hilecher who stopped Brum 11-9 in the third. Steding again took the ladies bracket over Sue Carow.

Stop #7—Peoria [May] . . . The Tournament of Champions was exactly that as Brumfield came back to win his first tournament since January, besting a much-improved Strandemo in the finals. Keeley and Serot, both showing a resurgence, were the semi-finalists, leaving all the kids behind. Steding topped the women impressively, allowing no more than 10 points in any single game, over Wright in the finals.

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ATLAS HEALTH CLUB

By Jerry Sandstrom



The Leach/Seamco National Racquetball Championships promise to be unique in many respects. The tournament will be held at the Atlas Health Club that opened September 12, 1975. The seven court facility has been acclaimed as one of the finest Court Clubs in the country. The Club was designed and will probably serve as the prototype for the next generation of Court Clubs. Many of the construction methods, design treatments and decor concepts have been used in the planning of future clubs.

We are expecting over 400 participants in both the professional and amateur ranks. The tournament will determine the top male and female player of the 1975-76 professional tour which has been held at seven different clubs throughout the country. The tour is conducted under the auspices of the U.S.R.A., N.R.C. and sponsored by Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods.

The professional rounds of play will be broadcast live and in color starting Wednesday June 16. The tournament will be carried over closed circuit television into four Atlas owned hotels located on Hotel Circle. The tournament will be carried over Channel 7. Participants and Hotel guests will be notified as to starting times, results of matches and the general progress of the amateur rounds of play starting June 13.

Each day's final rounds of professional play will be tape-recorded and aired over Mission Cable 2 into 175,000 homes locally. In addition, these final matches will be aired in 29 cities in several states. Mission Cable is a subsidiary of Cox Cable, the largest Cable Company in the United States. We are hopeful that this live television broadcast will be a convincing demonstration to the National Networks and skeptics that racquetball is definitely a spectator sport that can have mass viewing appeal to a television audience.

Atlas Hotels wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Bob Kendler, Joe Ardito, Chuck Leve and the United States Racquetball Association for their tremendous support and help of our first National Racquetball Championships. We are especially indebted to Leach Industries, Seamco Sporting Goods, Champion Glove Company and Saranac Glove Company for their generous sponsorship in every aspect of this tournament. Finally, we wish to thank the participants, both players and spectators, for their support and enthusiasm in these championships.

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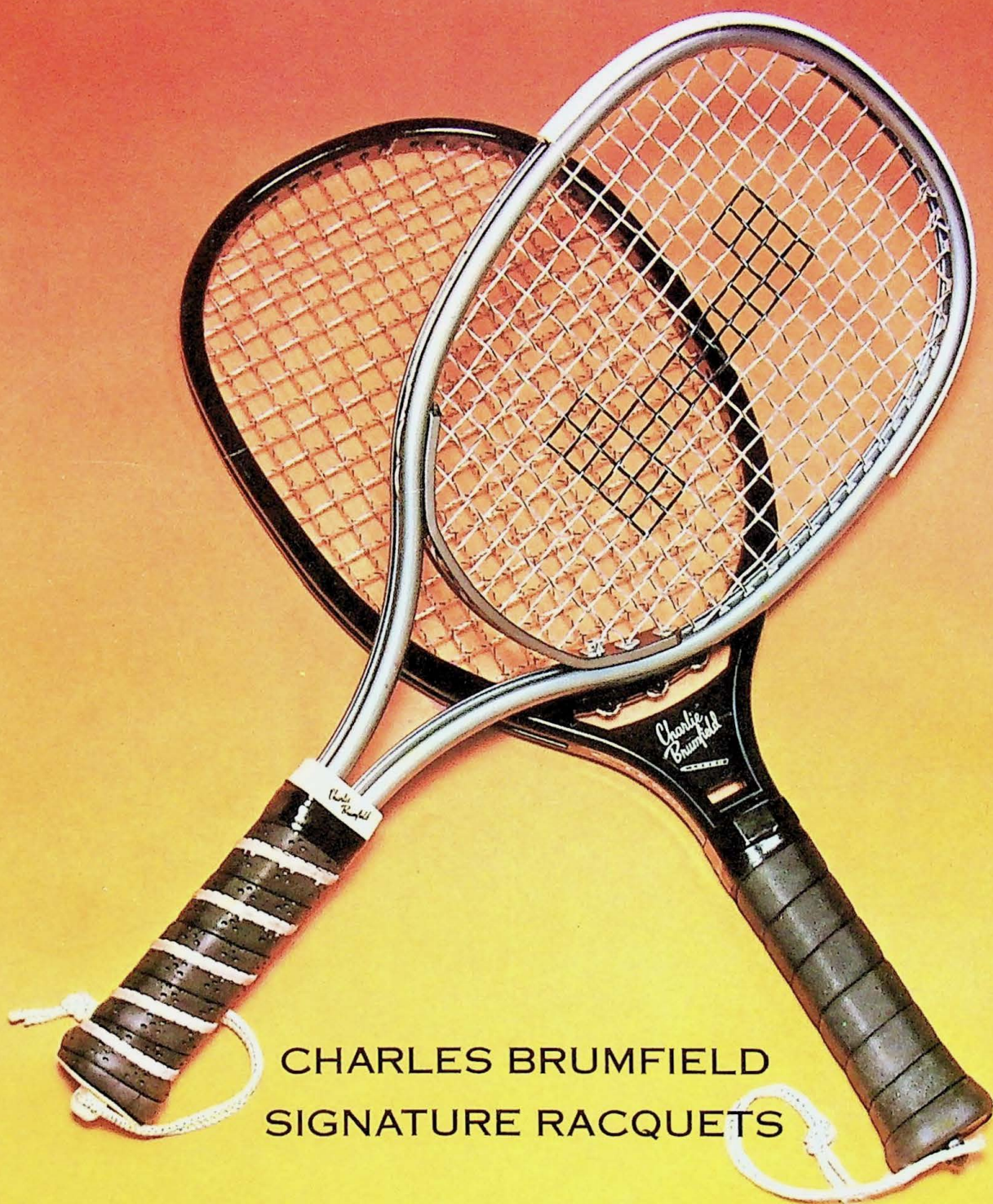
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