

KILLSHOT

September/October 1992

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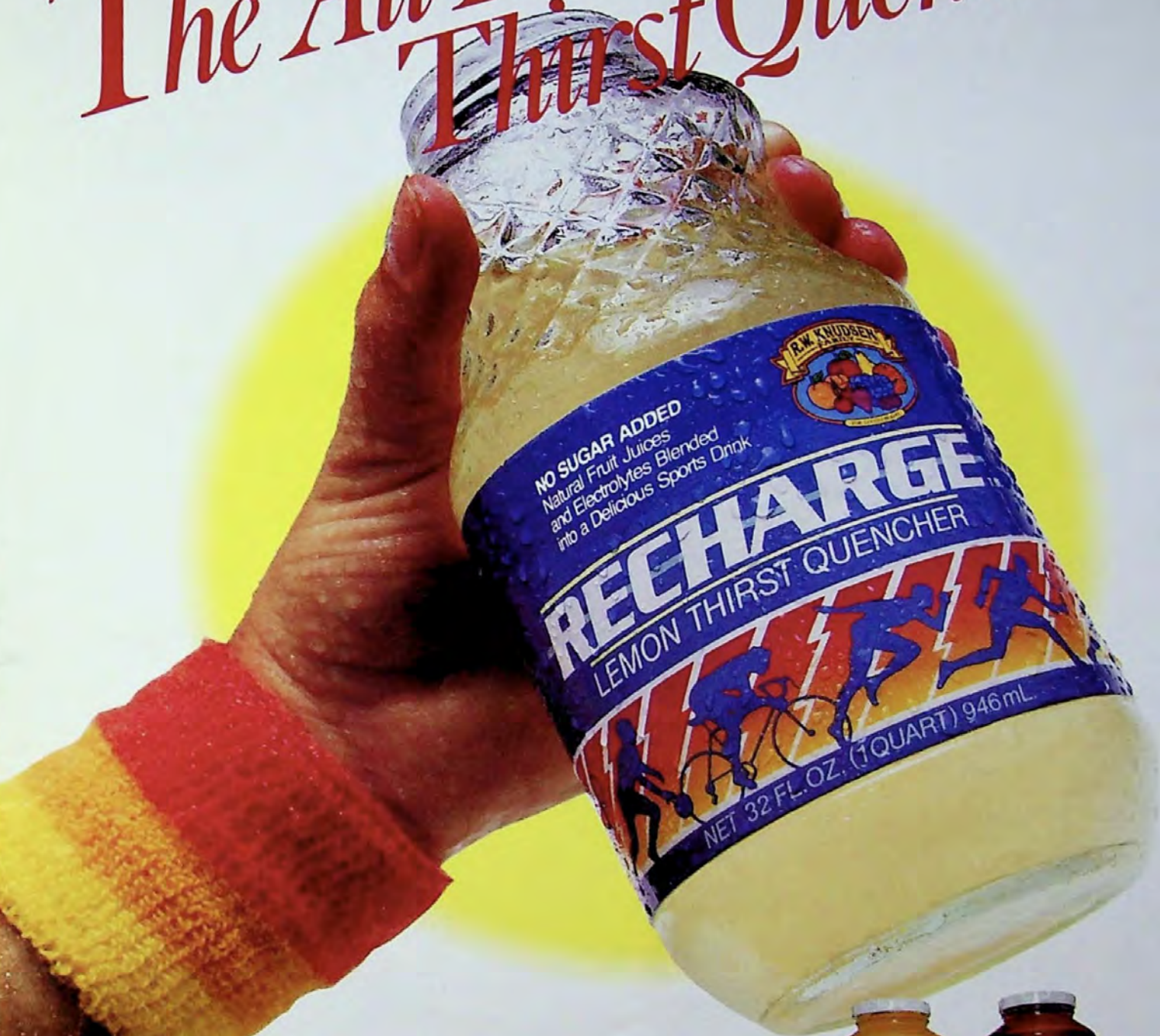
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KILLSHOT

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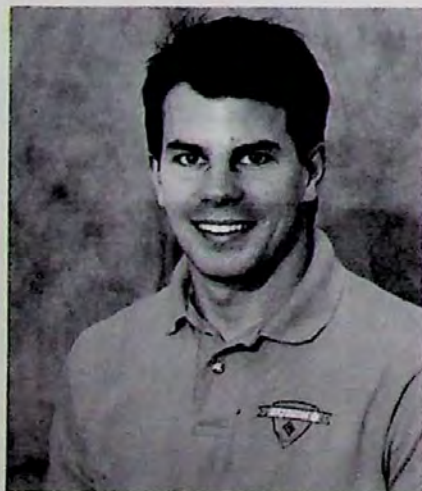
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SHORT SERVES

...and returns

Ceresia Takes the Great White North!

After near misses for several years, IRT pro Mike Ceresia finally captures his home Canada's greatest racquetball honor. Congratulations to Heather Stupp, women's top division winner, and all the rest of the skill and age division winners earlier this year.

Kudos to the new US national team and all the division winners at the AARA nationals in Houston this summer as well. Michigan's Chris Cole and Idaho's



Michelle (Gilman) Gould walked away with the gold in the open divisions.



Hogan Retires!

In a surprise announcement in Los Angeles in June, Marty Hogan announced his retirement from active touring to pursue his mounting business and family interests. Seeking a more active role in the Marty Hogan Racquetball division of ProKennex, and more time at home with wife Ann, son Benjamin, and daughter Caitlyn, Hogan felt the constant touring of a 16+ tournament season too demanding at a time when he had nothing left to prove as a player. Credited with much of the evolution of the modern game of racquetball, Hogan's pro victories span from 1975 until his recent domination of the VW Credit event in April of this year.

To The Maxx

The new *Strokemaxxer* accurately measures racquet speed without radar. With it you not only can tell who swings the hardest, but can use it as a powerful training tool for any game style. Available in the past for tennis, the device has just been released in a version for racquetball. Distributed by Network Marketing.

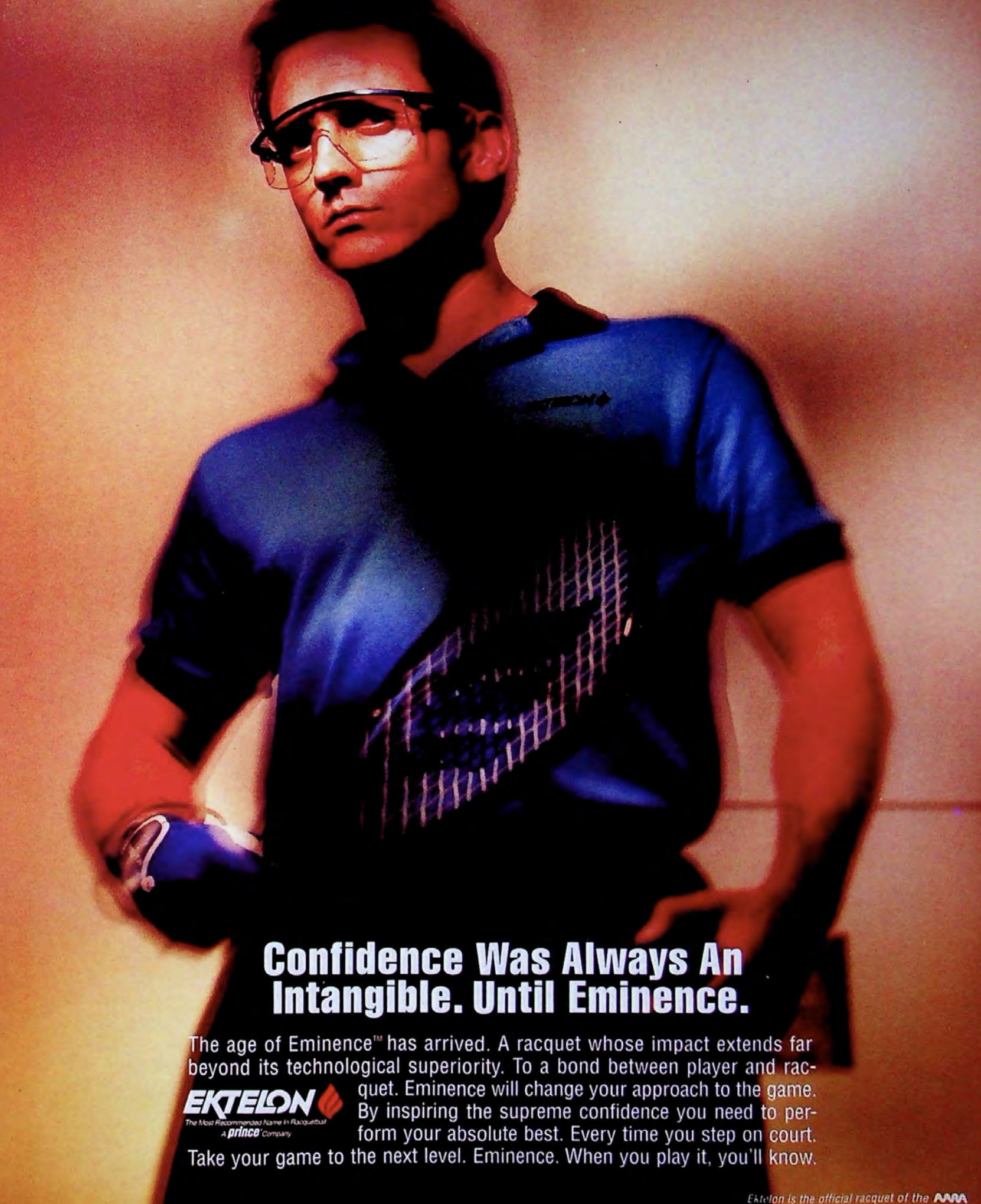
Dee Gets A New Job & A New Racquet

Dee Ferriera-Worth of Los Angeles will fill the recently vacated position of President of the WPRA. Active in WPRA administrative duties for some time, Ferriera-Worth will replace long-time president Chris Evon. After several years in the position, Evon displayed a mixture of relief and sentimentality at the changing of the guard.

Ferriera-Worth has recently signed with Pro Kennex and will play with the Marty Hogan ASM 31 racquet. She becomes the second of visible WPRA players to sign with the San Diego based Pro Kennex in recent weeks.



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ESTUSA Signs Obremski

Dan Obremski from Pittsburgh has accepted a multi-year offer to endorse Sportstech Industries Inc. Estea/USTech racquetball products. Estea/USTech racquetball is a product of Sportstech, which also markets and distributes Estusa tennis and Estea squash and badminton products.

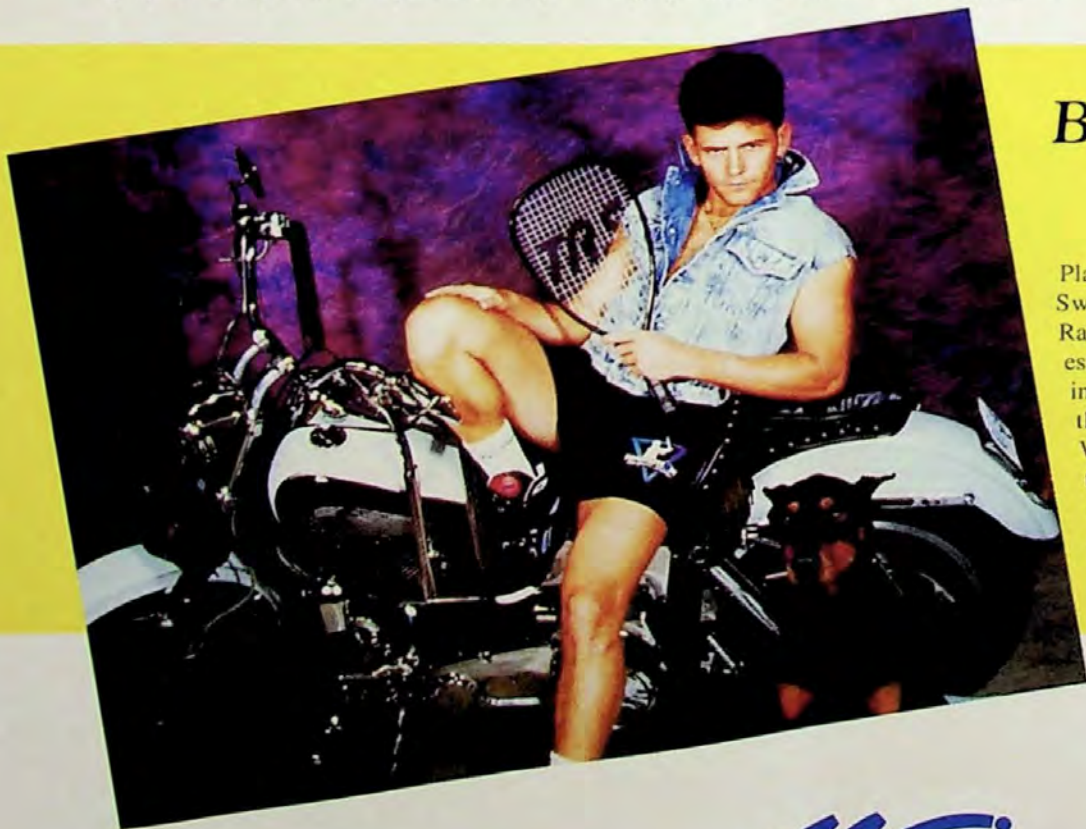
USTech's National Racquetball Program director, Scott Winters explains that "Dan will fit in perfectly among our Sportstech pro staff because of his competitive accomplishments, and his professionalism on and off the court. We feel that Dan will be able to add tremendous credibility to our USTech product line and impact racquetball product sales. It has been our policy to promote our pro staff players along with the products they

endorse. Therefore, we will be using Dan as a focal point in our racquetball product marketing including his signature and photograph likeness on all Estea/USTech rac-

Scott Winters, left, and Dan Obremski are all smiles as Obremski signs a multi year agreement with Estusa.



quetball products. We also feel that promoting Dan in this manner will not only benefit Estea sales, but will also enhance the image of the sport of racquetball."



Bad boy with a bad new racquet!

Playing some of his best racquetball ever, Cliff Swain has signed on with the new Transition Racquet Sports and has helped engineer their latest "Bad Influence" racquet. Jet black and arriving from the factory to players hands unstrung, the Bad Influence is one light, stiff weapon. While racking up pro wins for several years on the tour, Cliff earned the reputation of being quite controversial. The darker side of Swain has not escaped TRS whose frame can be quite brutal when that is what it takes to win.

Congratulations!

Wedding bells are in the news as Michelle Gilman becomes Michelle Gould. Also tying the knot recently were Egan and Alice Inoue, and Woody and Jackie Clouse.



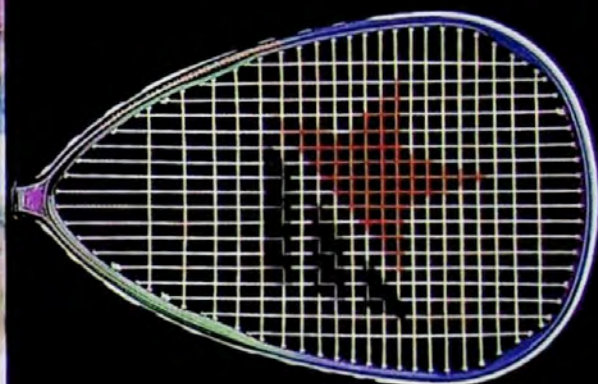
DAN OBREMSKI

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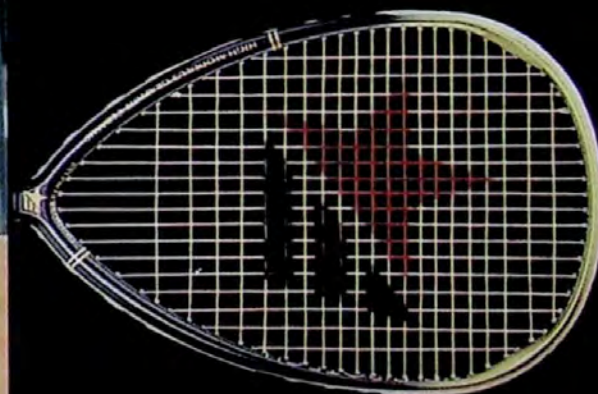
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(Editorial Comments)

Let the games begin (again)

One of the most difficult things in life is to admit you have made a mistake or been guilty of an error in judgement. We've done both.

It is a harsh realization sometimes to come to grips with the fact that your intentions and efforts just aren't equalled by your performance. But that is exactly what has been happening. Try as we might to produce a monthly publication we were always finding ourselves further and further behind -- making excuses and pedalling like crazy in ill-fated attempts to keep up.

Trouble is we just couldn't seem to keep up. No matter what lengths we went to in attempts to make up lost time we were always finding ourselves later and later -- promising to catch up next month.

So, our only choice was to throw on the brakes, screech to a halt, redefine our goals, re-evaluate our formulas, and close-

ly examine our methods. Here is what we saw:

We could keep going the way we were going, losing more and more credibility and working ourselves into a frenzy and still not measure up, or, we could completely reorganize and change direction.

We chose the change and ultimately survival. Since we weren't a good consistent monthly magazine, we decided to be the best possible bi-monthly we could be. Then we took it a step further -- combine summer months when racquetball traditionally slows down a little.

All this is to say, here is the new plan:

1. Bi-monthly with combined summer issue (five issues per year). When we (and you) are satisfied that we are doing this well the plan is to increase frequency gradually and finally end up monthly.

2. Change yearly subscription rates from \$19.94 to \$16.95

3. Subscribers having paid for 12 issues will get 12 issues beginning with this one. All future subscriptions will be on a five-times per year basis.

4. If you stay with us we will be your friend for life and will continue to bring you the best racquetball has to offer.

5. If you absolutely can't stand the change then we will send you a refund, subtracting out the issues you have received. (We will also put a little known Welsh curse on you and all your future descendants.)

So, there you have it. Its your move. And its great to be in the game again.

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T i m Sweeney

Having captured both the Intercollegiate title in 1991 and 1992, and the Amateur Nationals Championship in 1991, Southwest Missouri State University's Tim Sweeney is definitely the man to beat in amateur competition.

But with impressive showings on the TransCoastal Mortgage International Racquetball Tour and a powerful win at the October '90 Chicago Pro Stop, he is at the crossroads of his career.



By Steve Quertermous
Photographs by Tom Clouser

at the crossroads

The decision of whether to turn professional or remain at the top of the amateur game places Sweeney in a struggle both on and off the racquetball court.

Q: How did you get involved in racquetball?

TS: It's kind of weird. I was at a friend's house when I was in high school and he got a call that they needed somebody to work in a racquetball club. I've always said it was an elite club because when we were kids you couldn't go in there - they'd chase you out. They said they needed some help, a towel boy at the club. My friend said he knew somebody so I went down there and they hired me on the spot. I was towel boy at a place called "Killshot" and I just started watching racquetball and hand ball. It was a big handball club too. I was a maintenance kid running around -- washing towels and doing the whirlpool, then I started playing a little bit. I picked up the game and fell in love with it. I

stopped playing all other sports and concentrated on racquetball.

Q: How old were you?

TS: I was 14.

Q: This was in the Chicago area?

TS: Right. About 20 minutes outside the city of Chicago.

Q: Tim, you were the Intercollegiate champ in '91 and you won the Amateur Nationals in '91, right so far?

TS: Yeah.

Q: After achieving those two levels, is it difficult to stay focused and play? Do you feel like you've achieved everything you can on the amateur level?

TS: Anytime you win a title, the hardest thing is to repeat. I won those two titles and I also won a pro stop that same year. You feel that when you reach that level, you want to move up. I just started school...I want to try to stick with school a little bit more, but I do want to play on the pro tour and I want to do a gut check and see if I can repeat.

Q: You mentioned winning the pro stop - that was in the fall of '90?

TS: Yeah.

Q: Do you think that winning that stop had anything to do or affected your game to help you to win the other two titles?

TS: Yeah, I think it did. I got lucky I guess because the tournament was at my home club at Woodfield. I think anytime you have that type of atmosphere, it pretty much helps out. I think that showed me a little more confidence and showed me I could play at a certain level.

Q: Tell me about the racquetball program at SMSU.

TS: George Baker did a phenomenal job of building that program. He set his goals in the program about six years ago. He's a great guy and whenever he wants to do something he just does it. He built a racquetball program and at the beginning they [the players] were paying everything themselves, then they started getting some help financially from the school. Last year after we won the Nationals, he pushed and got twelve new courts. Everything that racquetball is at SMS is because of George Baker and help from the administration.

Q: How do you assess the talent of the rest of the team at SMSU? What kind of players?

TS: We have all different types of players. We have power players and a lot of young up and coming players. It's nice for me to see that level. The guys come in, John Ellis, Alan Engel, and Bret Parker and they're talking about the juniors and how good they are. I don't really know half the players, the ones I grew up with are like Swain, Roberts,...

Q: Do you think it affects your game in a positive way to be able to see these other guys that play on such a high level on a daily basis?

TS: Yeah, I think it helps. As long as you're playing people of a certain level, it helps your game, but again, I'd like to play at the pro level. Because I think that is the level above everything else. There definitely, you have to raise your game up just another notch to play at that level - at that intensity.

Q: How would you describe your game?

TS: I think I've got a lot of the skills. I have the speed, the backhand, the forehand, and a pretty tough serve. Right now though, I think I'm missing the desire at the smaller tournaments. It's hard for me to come in and get up to a level to play after having played in the pros. I need to get a little more desire to get myself up for every match. Poor excuse, but I think that's what is wrong with my game right now.

Q: The mental aspect?

TS: Yeah.

Q: How do you prepare mentally for a match? Do you do anything special?

TS: I've been taking some psychology courses in college and I think I'm really interested in that. I've changed my diet since I went on the US team. My diet and my workout are a little more structured now, especially what I eat I take a little more seriously. I try to prepare a little more mentally - visualization and stuff like that, watch and try to picture how I'll hit a certain shot. When I'm out playing somebody I don't think I should maybe go in there and kill, that's when I don't do the necessary things. I don't do the visualizations or stretch out and go in there ready to really play. That's when somebody gets a lead on me. I think I really need to make sure I do focus and play every match, one match at a time.

Interview

KILLSHOT

T i m

Q: What sort of player do you least like to play?

TS: A lot of guys are going to power so I've been playing a lot of power players. I think somebody who controls, somebody who slows the game down is a tough one. I see some of the players that have control games and they slow it down. I usually beat them pretty good, but I hate the longer matches. I like to hit the ball and be aggressive.

Q: What's your best shot?

TS: I think my backhand splat is pretty good, but there are a lot of guys out there



that probably hit it better than I do.

Q: Is that also your favorite shot?

TS: I think it is sometimes too much. They know I'm going to hit it. I think my backhand splat is probably one of my favorite shots and my best is probably just a forehand cross-court, I hit it as hard as I can pretty much.

Q: How did you perfect your backhand splat? Is that something that comes natural to you, or have you spent a lot of time working with that?

TS: I practice a lot and when I was growing up, like everyone else, I used to sit by the glass court and watch all the good players and try to emulate what they were doing. Just develop it — Jack Newman, [Dave] Negrete, etc

Q: So far, have you managed pretty much to stay free from injury?

TS: Yeah. The worst thing I've done is turn my ankles a couple of times. I usually get my shoulder checked out, maybe twice a year, and have never had any problems with it.

Q: A few minutes ago you mentioned the decision from the IRT about the money tournaments and players not being able to play amateur. How does that affect you, or has that affected you in any way?

TS: I think it probably affected me the most of anybody right now. I was always hanging on to 15 or 16 and the cut-off was made at 16. The first time I was #17, so I didn't have to make a decision. The last time I made the decision I was #15 so, of course, I chose to stay an amateur and to stay on the US team and to stay in school. We need certain levels in our sport, we need the amateurs and US team and the

chance to turn pro. It's a step forward and I don't see anything wrong with it at all.

Q: Do you plan on playing more pro stops then? Do you see that in your future?

TS: Yeah. Right now you've caught me at a major decision time when I've been talking to my parents and talking to the coach about what I want to do next year. I think I'm set on playing some pro stops. I want to try to do that over the first part of the year. I want to take some classes over the summer, probably take off the first semester and go back for the second semester.

Q: What's your major?

TS: I'm interested in marketing, but I'm really leaning toward psychology right now.

Q: What are your goals for yourself in racquetball?

TS: Short term, defend both titles that I won last year -- both Intercollegiate champion and Nationals champion. Then I

might play doubles. I've been talking to some players. I've never won any of those tournaments and I think I'm a pretty good doubles player and I want to get some respect. Long term, I'm obviously going to try to be #1 on the pro level.

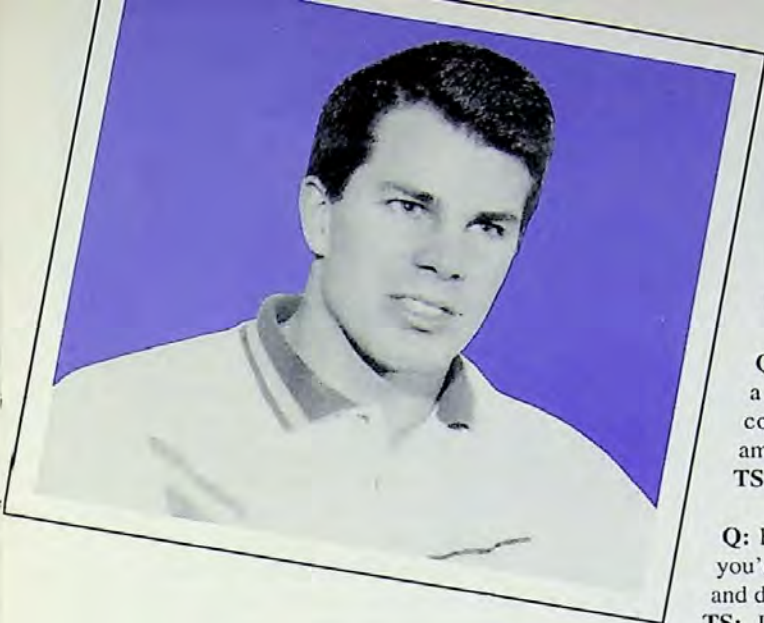
Q: You mentioned doubles, do you have a partner?

TS: I've been talking to Doug Ganim. We don't know if we're going to do it.

Q: Definitely a doubles player. Are you satisfied with your game right now? Are you playing the way you think you should be playing? Are you happy with the results?

TS: I think I could play better. I've been up and down. It's tough at school. Anybody that has been to school can appreciate the distractions. You can be on your way to the courts and you get an opportunity to do something else. I probably work out harder when I'm at home by myself because I get into a routine. I need to work out and play hard. I play a lot of squash and do bike racing to stay in shape.





can't win them all. Sometimes I've gone in over confident, thinking that I couldn't lose and I've lost.

Q: Do you think there is a fine line between over confidence and the right amount of confidence?
TS: Yeah, I think there is.

Q: How do you determine if you're just confident to go in and do it or too confident?
TS: I think when I'm too confident, I don't get nervous, I just go in there and think I'm going to win. When I'm nervous, I prepare for the game. Some of it is mental. You have to be prepared upstairs. You have to know what's going through your head and you have to be ready to go. Lots of the things we've been studying in the psychology courses I've been taking have really hit home - really apply in any sport.

Q: How do you see the game changing?
TS: Going to more and more power.

Q: Do you think that's good?
TS: I think it's good. I think its more exciting. You talk about Egan Inoue, Andy Roberts, or Tim Doyle...you talk about how hard they hit the ball. I think a lot of people want to come out and see that. It's coming to be that you have to be more of a triathlete; you have to be in great shape, have great footwork, and you have to eat right. That's what every sport hopes to get to at a certain level.

Q: Do you like the one serve rule that the pros use? That's got to be tough for you going from one arena where you're playing a two serve, fifteen point game to a one serve, eleven point game.
TS: I have to say I like the one serve because the first tournament they adopted that, I won. I was in Chicago then. But it is tough to make the adjustment. I don't mind it as long you get ready for it - for each tournament.

Q: Is it tough to face each tournament knowing everybody's gunning for you?
TS: I've seen that this year. I've lost a couple of tournaments and it's true: you

Interview

KILLSHOT

T i m

Q: I think there's an emphasis on the mental aspects of the game and how big a part that is in all sports.

TS: Yeah

Q: What's ahead for you?
TS: I'd like to hit the tour pretty hard next year. I think my decision is going to be to play the tour at least half the year. It looks great. I'd like to play at the pro level and hopefully do well. And, I'd like to get my degree -- soon as I can. College is real important. I just wish I hadn't waited this long to go back to school.



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H₂O

by Marcy Lynch
Nutrition Editor

Everyone knows we are supposed to drink water, but how much, how often? And aren't juice, soda, and sports drinks just as good?

Your body consists of about 60% to 70% water. You could get by without certain nutrients, or even food, for an extended period of time but you can't live for very long without water.

Water, for the physically active person, is one of the most important ingredients for optimal athletic performance. It serves three basic functions:

1. Transports glucose and oxygen through the bloodstream to the muscles
2. Eliminates waste products in the urine
3. Dissipates heat through the skin in the form of sweat

If you drink too little water, these functions are inhibited which prevent you from performing your best. The blood carries nutrients and oxygen to the muscles and removes the waste they produce. Blood is mostly water. With less water present, there is less blood volume and the heart has to pump harder to push the blood throughout the body. The heart rate, therefore, will increase.

When your body gets warm through exercise, blood is channeled near the skin to be cooled by the air. With a decrease in blood volume due to the loss of water or inadequate consumption of water, the cooling effect is greatly decreased.

It is important to drink water before, during, and after exercise or competition. Thirst is not always an accurate indication of the need for water. The "Eight Glasses

of Water a Day" theory works for sedentary people but for athletic people, eight glasses is a minimum. The best way to stay hydrated is to make a conscious effort to drink water throughout the day. You will know if you are drinking enough by checking the color and quantity of your urine. If your urine is dark in color and scant in quantity, you need to drink more fluid. If your urine is clear, your body has a normal water balance.

For those who need more specific water requirements, here are some basic rules of thumb:

Before Exercise

Drink two to three cups during the two hours prior to the activity. Drink one to two cups about 15 minutes before activity.

During Exercise

Drink one cup every 15 to 20 minutes

After Exercise

Weigh yourself before you exercise and then weigh yourself immediately following. The difference in body weight is fluid loss, not fat loss (too bad!). Drink two cups of water for every pound of body weight lost.

What about other drinks such as soda, juice, and sports drinks? Water is the best way to replenish lost fluids because it is absorbed into the bloodstream the most quickly. The sugar in soft drinks and even juice can slow down the absorption of the fluid which makes them an ineffective source of fluid immediately prior to and during exercise. The exception to this rule is endurance activities (longer than 90 minutes of non-stop, high intensity exercise like a run or a bike trek). A dilute solution of a carb-drink or juice can provide some needed fuel. Racquetball is not considered an endurance activity. Tournaments, however, can become endurance events if you play more than one division and are forced to play several matches in succession. Carb drinks, juice, and soda (not diet) can be very good in replacing nutrients after or between matches but should not take the place of H₂O.



L E T T E R S

Thanks, Lisa!

Who says our readers aren't clever?

Nestled among the past due invoices, requests for free copies, and press releases on obscure new products, the following letter arrived in our box. It was signed Anon Y. Amos, Milledgeville, GA. (cute huh?). From all we can determine, this reader (who chooses to remain anonymous) is upset about our less than ideal schedule.

Ten (10) Best Ways to Kill Time Between Issues of **KILLSHOT**

10. If right-handed, learn to play racquetball left-handed
9. If left-handed, learn to play racquetball right-handed
8. Transcribe the Bible onto the head of a pin.
7. Undergo major arthroscopic surgery on an elbow or kneecap, convalesce and completely rehabilitate.
6. Receive two (2) bi-monthly issues of *Racquetball Magazine*.
5. Plan, organize, and execute a full-scale onslaught of Mount Everest, all the while learning the Tibetanese language (formal and slang) as you teach the sherpas English.
4. Discover how to become a Copy Editor then apply for the obvious vacant position at **KILLSHOT**. [sic]
3. Run the Ironman Triathlon blindfolded and backwards on your tippy-toes.
2. Plant, grow, harvest, and replant another garden.

And the Number One Best Way To Kill Time Between Issues of **KILLSHOT** -

1. Petition the government to reissue calendars, clearly stating that "monthly" equals three month increments; divert some of the funds from payment of the National Debt in order to pay for my subscription to **KILLSHOT** beginning - NOW! All the while building block by block a racquetball court AND learning from Novice to join the Pro Tour - give or take a month!
- Anon Y. Amos

Thank you for producing such an outstanding publication which our industry so desperately needs. I recently received the January/February/March 1992 issue (unfortunately, I had to wait until my boyfriend read each and every article before I could tear it away from him!), and found **KILLSHOT** interesting and informative.

I simply want to tell your readers...**BE PATIENT!** As the saying goes, **GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT!** For a magazine of this exceptional quality, that is both educational and entertaining, the short wait is certainly worth it. GSRA wholeheartedly supports and applauds your effort!

Lisa Gaertner, President
Garden State Racquetball Association, Inc.
Waldwick, NJ

Thanks, Lisa. That is high praise, indeed, coming from one of the top state Racquetball organizations in the country. We, likewise, applaud your tireless efforts in promoting racquetball, both in New Jersey and the entire country.

AARA

I have been playing racquetball recreationally for the past several years. I would like very much to get involved in some amateur tournaments; however, I am not sure at what level or class I am.

Could you please send me information on how I may contact the American Amateur Racquetball Association for tournament information and classification of play? Any assistance you could provide for me would be greatly appreciated.

S. Bruce
Adrian, MI

Gladly. The AARA can be reached by writing:

AARA
815 North Weber
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2947

All correspondence should be sent to
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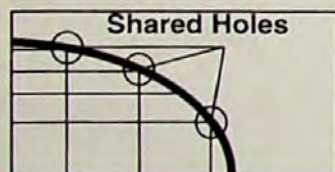
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Evaluating a String Job

By Lynne Balthazor

The most important factor in determining the quality of a restringing is knowing your racquet. Racquets have main strings, going from the throat of the racquet (the end with the grip) to the head. The main strings are put in first and provide the power for your racquet. Next, the cross strings are woven through the mains to provide control and stability. You should know how many mains and crosses your racquet should have, and check that it returns from restringing with the correct number. This



sounds really simple until you notice that in some racquets (like the Ektelon Strobe) a main and a cross will share the same hole. Therefore, a stringer could put strings in every hole and still not have the right number of strings for your racquet to play properly. With the introduction of wider frames and more open string patterns, there are fewer shared holes, but in older racquets, shared holes were very common. For example, Ektelon's Toron had three shared holes, all at the head of the racquet, while the Symitar had five, three at the head and two at the throat.

Occasionally a stringer not familiar with a racquet will miss one or even more of these shared holes. Leaving out a required string will cause a loss of control for balls hit in that area of the racquet, and more importantly, will put unacceptable strain on the frame that can cause the frame to self destruct. Your racquet should have

come from the manufacturer strung with the correct pattern. If your racquet returns from restringing with fewer mains or crosses than it had from the manufacturer,



Figure 1

the string job should not be accepted. If you have forgotten how the racquet was originally strung, the chart on the next page gives a list of some of the more popular racquets along with the manufacturer's count of mains and crosses and the recommended tensions.

During restringing, your frame is subjected to tensions different from regular play. If the racquet is not well secured during stringing it can warp. Also, the wrong tension can pull the head or sides of the racquet too tight. If your racquet doesn't "look right" after restringing, lay it over another racquet of the same type to determine if its shape has changed. If it has, again, do not accept this stringing.

Other errors to detect include crossovers, misweaves, and friction burns.

The easiest way to look for a misweave is to bring the racquet to eye level and look across the string plane at a slight angle. The strings should form an even pattern. A break in the pattern will give away the presence of a misweave.

Figure 2

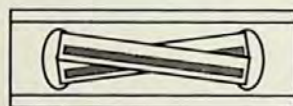
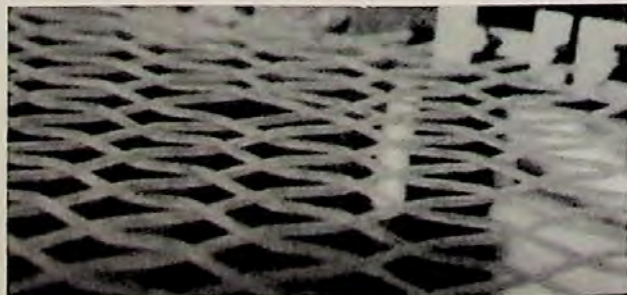


Figure 2

A look along the outside edge of a racquet will determine where more than one string runs side-by-side. These strings should lie flat, as in Figure 1. If they cross, as shown in Figure 2, the top string may be above the level of the bumper guard. One purpose of this guard is to protect the string when the racquet comes in contact with the wall or floor. If the top string is higher than the bumper guard, contact may cause this string to break prematurely. A crossover should be pointed out to the stringer, but only expect to get the racquet restrung if the string breaks at the location of the crossover.

The cross strings are woven over, under, over, under the mains. A misweave as shown in Figure 3 will probably not hinder the racquet's playability, but it is an indication that the job was not done carefully. If a misweave is found, point it out to the stringer. If more than one is found, consider having the racquet restrung and/or finding a new stringer, as this is an obvious sign of sloppy workmanship.

Finally, if the stringer has pulled the crosses too quickly across the mains, friction burns or notches can be created. This



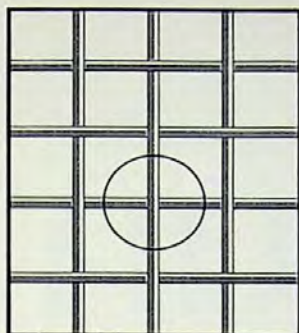


Figure 3

is not very common in racquetball due to the relatively low tensions used, but do examine new strings for any signs of notches or nicks, and discuss any you find with the stringer.

So, how do you find a good stringer? Talk to the stringer if possible. Look for a stringer who is interested in your game and the type of performance you want to get from your racquet, and who can suggest different strings or tensions to achieve these goals. An interest in your game and the ability to make suggestions that will improve the playability of your racquet are qualities very important in a stringer. A willingness to try new things and listen to your feedback will get you the best job available. A conscientious stringer will carefully examine each racquet and will not string a racquet with cracks or damage, because the stresses of stringing may be the last straw for a damaged racquet. So, while it may be discouraging to be told that your favorite frame is broken or about to break, it's also a sign of a good stringer.

Good stringers also belong to the U.S. Racquet Stringers Association (USRSA). USRSA members receive regular updates regarding new racquets, and the tensions and patterns required to string them. A USRSA stringer will have access to the information required to string your racquet correctly. The USRSA also has a certification program to assure the quality of the stringers in their organization, so finding a USRSA certified stringer is one quick way of finding a good stringer. You can contact the USRSA at (619) 481-3545 for a list of certified stringers in your area.

The strings are a very important part of the racquet, so finding a good stringer and experimenting with new materials suggested by him/her can pay great dividends. Also, having a knowledgeable professional to discuss your game and racquet with can increase your confidence, and that will improve your game.

Racquet Specs

Frame	Mains	Crosses	Suggested Tension (lbs.)
E-Force			
Answer	18	21	28 Ms 30Xs
Predator	18	21	27 to 32
Signature	18	21	27 to 32
Ektelon			
Lexis	14	16	45
Mirada	14	16	45
Mirada Mid	14	15	40
Nemesis	14	15	40
Precis	14	16	45
Serex (& RTS)	14	17	45
Serex RTS 91	14	16	45
Strion	14	17	45
Strobe	14	17	45
Toron (& RTS)	16	20	50
Toron RTS 90	14	16	45
Xiter	14	17	45
Xpre	14	16	45
Head			
Colossus	16	20	35 to 45
Defiant	14	18	35 to 45
Elite	14	18	35 to 45
Endeavor	14	18	35 to 45
Excalibur	14	18	35 to 45
Intrepid	14	18	35 to 45
Match	14	18	35 to 45
Pro Kennex			
ASM 31	18	19	26 to 34
Presence	18	19	28 to 36
Shadow	18	21	43 to 46
Richcraft			
Epic T.E.	14	17	34 to 44
Express S.M.	14	16	32 to 42
Pirate XL	14	17	35 to 45
Pulsar 91	14	16	34 to 44
Spalding			
Assault	14	17	39 to 45 Ms 29 to 35 Xs
Exac-Tech	16	14	37 to 43 Ms 32 to 38 Xs

The Third Shot of the Rally:

Now the Fun Really Begins

By Steve Strandemo

In previous articles, I have emphasized the reality of racquetball -- that it is much more a game of left-up shots than of kills or aces. We have learned from videotape analysis that only 15% of all offensive shots will produce balls that bounce twice before a player can get his racquet on the ball. You also know another 15% will skip before they hit the front wall and that the remaining 65-70% of all offensive shots will funnel into the back 20 feet of the court. A high percentage of those shots will funnel directly through the middle of Zone 3.

With that knowledge as the basis for our approach to the game, we have gone on to discuss the fundamentals of the serve and return of serve. Now, we come to the third shot of the rally which, to me, is where the real fun begins for the server. Now, he or she can really start to use the strategy and knowledge obtained earlier about left-up shots and playing the percentages.

The third shot of the rally is where it starts to all come together for any player who can accept the reality of 65% to 70% left-up shots. If you can believe that and if you quickly and efficiently relocate back to Zone 2 - 3 after serving, you will find a ton of offensive opportunities. If you also are willing and prepared to *cut the ball off* before it goes to the back wall, you will find yourself maximizing those opportunities more than you ever could have imagined.

Please consider the benefits of cutting

the ball off while your opponent is still stuck in backcourt recovering from his return of a hard serve. I call this "Option 1"; taking any offensive shot before the ball reaches the back wall. This shot is often taken with an open stance and should be hit with a more compact stroke. "Option 2" would be retreating and shooting the ball as it comes off the back wall. Given the choice, most players would take "Option 2". But, in doing so, they might relinquish the only position advantage they will get in that rally.

To cut balls off in the middle of the court, you have to have a good ability to rally, to control the ball, and to direct your shot away from where your opponent is positioned. That is why, in previous articles, I started you off with 30-second drills. And, *do them, and do them, and do them*. I wanted you to learn to keep a rally going by hitting back and forth to yourself from 30 - 38 feet off the front wall. I wanted you to become familiar with quick-reaction shots, while hitting from an open stance with a backhand or a forehand, because you will need that skill for the kind of Zone 2 - 3 play necessary if you are to capitalize on left-up shots.

At this point, you now have four to five months behind you of ball control skills. You are accepting balls coming to you off the front wall, because you have rallied in 30-second drills many, many times. You have done your homework and now, if you can rally, we are in business and can go forward.

If you have trouble or you have neglected your 30-second drills, it is time to get in there and start. You must have this skill to put the ball away with quick reaction shots. You must accept this way of thinking even though it is contrary to the way 99% of racquetball players think. This is a radical idea because the predominant way of thinking has been to take everything off the backwall, let it drop low and kill it.

I was under the same assumption for the first two years I played in Minnesota. I was told by all the other players, "Never cut a ball off." So it was an enlightening and humbling experience when I came out to San Diego and played Charlie Brumfield and some of the other top players. They would just camp out on defense in Zone 2 - 3. They would play off my left-up balls, cutting many of these shots off and directing them to wherever I was not on the court. I would be in the back left corner and they would poke it down the right side. I would be in the back right and they would pinch it right wall-front-wall. I just ran this endless marathon and it did not take too many matches to realize that someone was cutting the ball off here and I had better start doing it myself.

So, what I would like servers to do, after the serve, is to get back to Zone 2 - 3, expect the left-up ball, and as it comes to them, try to cut that ball off and score.

If you are not quite ready or you are a little out of position, then go back for the shot off the back wall and take "Option 2".

But always consider "Option 1" because it is an efficient and practical option.

With most racquetball players, the mental strategy is to serve, get back a little bit, and try to cover the opponent's front court winners which they hardly ever get to. Many times, they get caught too far forward in their coverage and their opponents kill attempts go by them for winners. When they are back and "Option 1" is available on the third shot of the rally, they don't want to take it. They would rather take everything off the backwall and go for the perfect winner.

Instead, consider this situation: serve a low drive serve; your opponent returns the ball cross-court and you (the server) having relocated to Zone 2 - 3 step over with an open stance, knee-to-waist-level shot and cut the ball off with your opponent still in the left corner. All you need is a quick-reaction shot to direct the ball down the right wall or pinch it right wall - frontwall, and you have yourself a point. If you let the ball go by and take it off the backwall, you still have a great racquetball shot. But, while you are waiting for that ball to come off the wall, your opponent has relocated to Zone 2 - 3. If he is thinking properly, he will be prepared for the left-up shot that you, unfortunately, leave up 65 - 75% of the time.

By choosing "Option 1", however, you keep the advantage of favorable court position. And, even the percentages dictating a majority of left-up balls cannot help your opponent if he is still stuck deep in the back corner, unable to get to the ball because you cut the ball off. I never understood this concept, when I first started playing, until it was done to me time and again. Then I learned I would rather cut the ball off and direct a well angled left-up shot away from my opponent than to constantly retreat to the back wall and have the pressure of having to hit the perfect winner.



Top: Players must realize that when cutting off quick reaction shots in Zone 3, they will be hitting from an open stance; this is the accepted standard of how you must realistically hit. **There is no time to step into this shot.** **Center:** Hitting offensive shots from waist level will be very practical. **Bottom:** If your opponent is out of position, cut the ball off at this height and angle an offensive shot away from your opponent. This can be a very effective weapon.



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Paraiso-Gibson & Bailey take advantage of a wide-open season

KILLSHOT • 21



Kelly still hot after a strong showing in Southern California. In fact Kelly dispatched Kuhfeld in the 16's in part of a streak that nearly took her all the way to the finals. A disappointing season for Kuhfeld, she has been unable to unleash the weapons that have kept her at the top of the game for some time. Smart money says look for a strong return from Kuhfeld

in the fall as well as for Kelly to keep getting better and better.

Also in the 16's, Tour Executive Director and sports entrepreneur Molly O'Brien blasted her way to a three game upset of a disbelieving Bevelock. O'Brien was on fire throughout the match and even into the next round with another big victory over Drexler. A fantastic showing for O'Brien, she squared off with Paraiso-Gibson in the semi's for an admirable stand but no victory.

Meanwhile, Lynch had once again powered her way to the quarters, but fell to the rampaging Paraiso-Gibson. Bailey took out Chicago's Sandy Robson, and Kelly took Coburn to hotly contested five.

In the crowd's favorite match, Bailey and Kelly battled for a five game, two and a half hour marathon that would not end. Court coverage was superb and shot selection right on the money through out the war. When the smoke cleared, Bailey pre-

Becoming a familiar sight -- Malia Bailey and Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson in a final.

Jeff Slate

vailed but Kelly had captured fans' attention and admiration just as effectively.

Before a sell-out crowd treated to gallons of complimentary champagne and Pepsi, Paraiso-Gibson would not be denied. She left with the check and the beginning of the end of what would be her biggest season so far.

Anchorage
Bailey racks up number two

As the WPRA pros descended on Alaska for one of the best loved events

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Malia Bailey

J. Paraiso-Gibson

SEMIS

Bailey/Coburn

P.-Gibson/Kelly

QUARTERS

Bailey/Drexler

Coburn/Kuhfeld

P.-Gibson/Lynch

Kelly/Bevelock

Anchorage

on the schedule, the rivalry between Bailey and Paraiso-Gibson was beginning to heat up. Jay and Kathy Wisthoff and the Silver Racquet Pro Am have always made up for the cold temperatures with some warm hospitality and this year was no exception.

#1 seed Bailey's end of the draw brought her past J.J. Risch to face Drexler in the quarters. Bailey's patience and consistency paid off as she rode out Drexler's hot streaks for the win in four.

#4 seed Coburn fired up for a win over with #5 seed Kaye Kuhfeld, #6 seed Kelly handed an upset to #3 seed Bevelock, and #2 seed Paraiso-Gibson devastated Lynch with a quick win in three.

In the semi's, Kelly looked much better against Paraiso-Gibson than a loss in three straight would indicate. At the same round, an ever improving Coburn took Bailey to four.

In the final, it was tough passes and backhand rollouts off Paraiso-Gibson's left-up balls that bought victory for

J. Paraiso-Gibson

Malia Bailey

SEMIS

P.-Gibson/O'Brien

Bailey/Kelly

QUARTERS

P.-Gibson/Lynch

O'Brien/Drexler

Bailey/Robson

Kelly/Coburn

Atlanta

Bailey. This battle in the building rivalry went to Bailey in four.

Philadelphia

Paraiso-Gibson returns for seconds

After only a week and a half since the previous event in Alaska, the WPRA visited Philadelphia, home of executive director O'Brien for the now famous Philadelphia Grand Slam. Hosted by the Shawnee-at-Highpoint Racquet Club, O'Brien Sports Marketing, Diet Pepsi, Penn, and

J. Paraiso-Gibson

Robin Levine

SEMIS

Levine/Lynch

P.-Gibson/Kelly

QUARTERS

Levine/Kuhfeld

Lynch/Bailey

P.-Gibson/Drexler

Kelly/Coburn

Philadelphia

McDonalds, the event drew its usual share of eager hopefuls.

As has become the standard in recent outings, Kelly, Coburn and Drexler advanced to the quarters. Kelly even advanced to the semi's continuing her streak of big wins. Paraiso-Gibson played her usual precision game to power through to the finals, to bring an end to Kelly's charge.

The upsets were the hot news at Philly. First, Pennsylvanian Lynch came

Marcy Lynch sets for the backhand against Toni Bevelock.

Charlie Palek

away with a big four game win over #1 seed Bailey. Next, Lynch herself would be upset by a fired-up Levine. On the way to her first pro final, Levine had also blasted past Bevelock and Kuhfeld.

In a tough five game final that left Paraiso-Gibson shaking her head in disbelief, Levine shot ball for ball for a near miss that left her with an impressive second place.

Toronto

Bevelock adds name to winner's circle

At the Airport Club in Toronto, one of the few clubs to host both a men's and women's professional event, the fans have become accustomed to great racquetball. Sue McTaggart, sometimes touring pro and manager of the Airport Club teamed up with Spalding Canada and a host of other sponsors for the WPRA's only event outside US borders.

While #1 and #2 seeds Paraiso-Gibson and Bailey came to Canada playing their usual tough games, it was not enough this time. In fact, Paraiso-Gibson even eliminated a returning Gilman in the quar-



ters, only to fall to Bevelock in the semi's. Bailey was dispatched in the same round by Kelly.

While hanging tough to the quarters, Lynch, Drexler, and Kuhfeld folded as well. In fact except for Lynch who made it look easy by getting there in three, it

Toni Bevelock

Dottie Kelly

SEMIS

Bevelock/P.-Gibson

Kelly/Bailey

QUARTERS

Bevelock/Lynch

P.-Gibson/Gilman

Kelly/Drexler

Bailey/Kuhfeld

Toronto



Ed Dellis

required five games in the 16's to make the quarters.

Bulldozing through each end of the draw were Bevelock and Kelly, each hungry for a first victory. Kelly, playing better at each event, played brilliantly for a second place of which to be proud. Bevelock simply dug in and fought it out for the big win in Toronto.

Robin Levine with an amazing diving get against Kaye Kuhfeld.

Baltimore
The Diet Pepsi Nationals
Gilman : back, healthy, and winning

One of the best spectator clubs in the country, The Merritt Athletic Club-Security once again welcomed the WPR pros for the season's climax. With lots of potential winners emerging throughout the course of the season, anything could have happened.

While Paraiso-Gibson and Bailey had dominated for much of the season, neither would be allowed to progress very far at the nationals. A returning McKinney



Charlie Palek

Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson hustles for the backhand against Marci Drexler.

Nationals	SEMIS	Michelle Gilman
	Gilman/Bevelock	Marci Drexler
	Drexler/Levine	
	QUARTERS	
	Gilman/McKinney	
	Bevelock/Lynch	
	Levine/Kelly	
	Drexler/P.-Gibson	

took out Bailey in the 16's only to fall at the hands of Gilman in the quarters. An explosive Drexler eliminated Paraiso-Gibson in the semi's.

Levine and Bevelock also stormed into the semi's only to find disappointment. The Levine/Drexler match was as exciting as it would seem, but frustrating for Levine as Drexler found her rhythm for the win in four.

In the end, Gilman captured her third consecutive pro nationals, having never lost a single game all the way through the draw. At 100%, Gilman may just dominate the women's pro game for some time to come.

In national pro doubles, defending champions Gilman and Paraiso defeated Drexler and Robson in a close five.



*good-bye from
Chris Evon...*

It is with mixed emotions that I write this, my final column for **KILLSHOT**, as president of the WPRA. Four years ago I took over the position from Caryn McKinney, and I vividly remember the overwhelming feeling I had of the task ahead of me. Through the years there were a lot of rewarding as well as difficult times. I enjoyed the never ending challenges we faced as a group to build the professional end of the sport, and to keep alive the dream that people like Peggy Steding, Jennifer Harding, Janell Marriott, Fran Davis, Heather McKay, Lynn Adams, and Caryn McKinney had for women's racquetball. I also enjoy knowing that this dream can and will continue for the many talented players on the tour.

Last year I knew that this would be my final season as president. In January a few other players active in running the organization made the decision to step down. We thought the time had come to turn the administrative duties over to some others with new ideas and energy.

As for me, my heart will be with the WPRA for a long time and I plan to continue to compete and to do what I can for the organization. I have always believed that change is good, and I have felt for a while that, for myself and for the best interest of the organization, it is time to close this chapter. My time, outside of training, will be spent trying to write a thesis and finish my Masters Degree in Sports Psychology. I hope to do more teaching with the possibility of organizing instructional camps throughout the country.

I give all my support to the new players on the tour, and to those not so new players who decide to put the success of the tour into their own hands. I sincerely thank those friends who have been understanding and supportive during this rather trying year of letting go of something that has been so much a part of my life. I appreciate the opportunity to say my own good-bye, and who knows, I may pop up somewhere else in the magazine. You know how it is -- once racquetball is in your blood...

Changing of the Guard

...greetings from Dee

You may be thinking to yourself right now, who are you and what have you done with Chris Evon. Well, Chris has come to the end of her tenure as President of the WPRA and I am the new President. My name is Dee Ferreira-Worth. Some of you know me and some of you do not. I have been playing racquetball since 1974 and competing since 1978. The past two years I have devoted myself full time to playing the WPRA pro tour and have been serving on the sidelines as a member of the board of directors as well as being the Tour Book Supervisor. As President I hope to bring new life to the organization in the coming year.

The challenges facing the WPRA membership are many, but the opportunities are incredible. This year everything changes, from the top seeds, to the leadership of the organization. Look for some exciting changes to occur in the next calendar year as there are many new ideas being kicked around (i.e. a combined Women's and Men's pro stop is on the drawing board for next season!) Also, there has been a lot of talk about putting some more spark into the upcoming events! So, keep your eyes peeled. If you're looking for excitement, something new, look no further. The WPRA has it all! Stay tuned.

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WPRA Annual Awards 1991-92 Season

Player of the Year
Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson

Sportsmanship
Lynne Coburn

Most Improved
Dottie Kelly

Steding Cup
Jennifer "J.J." Risch

Penn Pro Series 1991-92 Season

Winner
Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson

Runner Up
Malia Bailey

Finalists
Lynne Coburn
Marci Drexler
Dottie Kelly
Marcy Lynch

1991-92 Lynn Adams Spirit Award

Lynn Adams
(Innaugural Recipient)

WPRA Rankings (Current and year end)

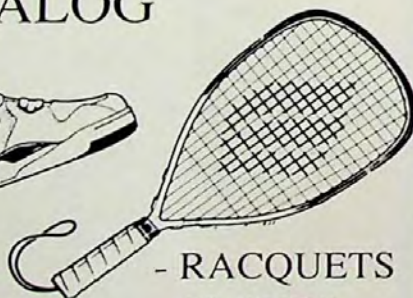
- 1) Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson
- 2) Malia Bailey
- 3) Toni Bevelock
- 4) Michelle Gilman
- 5) Dottie Kelly
- 6) Marci Drexler
- 7) Marcy Lynch
- 8) Lynne Coburn
- 9) Kaye Kuhfeld
- 10) Robin Levine
- 11) Chris Evon
- 12T) Dee Ferreira-Worth
- 12T) Robin Whitmire
- 14) Sandy Robson
- 15) Janell Marriot
- 16) Ellen Crawford
- 17) Molly O'Brien
- 18T) Kim Machiran
- 18T) Kim Russell
- 20) Jennifer "JJ" Risch
- 21) Caryn McKinney
- 22T) Julie Dechene
- 22T) Roxanne Goblish
- 24) Cheryl Gudinas
- 25) Janet Myers
- 26) Kathy Treadway
- 27) Cathy Nichols
- 28T) Lynn Alexander
- 28T) Cindy Baxter
- 28T) Kersten Hallander
- 28T) Nadia Verilli
- 32T) Lorraine Galoway
- 32T) Doreen Metzold
- 32T) Josee Moore
- 32T) Pat Musselman
- 32T) Debbie Nemitz
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Intercollegiate Champion

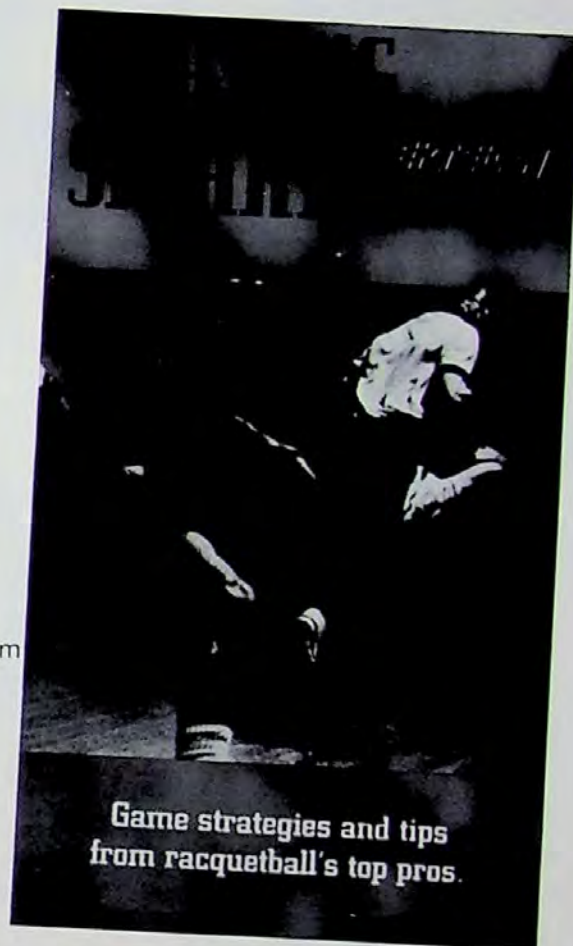
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Pros and Cons

Racquetball's right way and wrong way

By Fran Davis & Stu Hastings

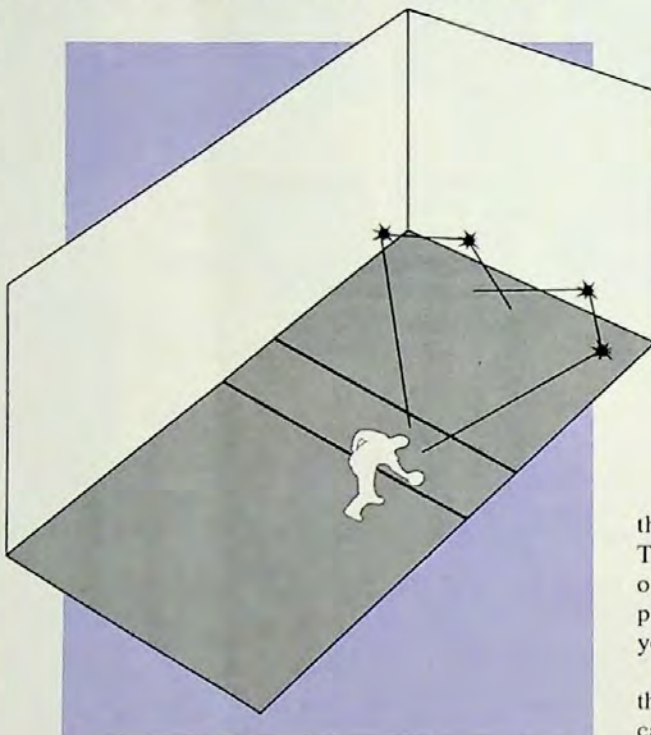
Last issue we continued to build your racquetball game from the ground up and introduced the area often overlooked -- *The Shots of the Game*. We explained that by developing a wide variety of shots you can become a more well-rounded player who is more deceptive and less predictable. Too many of us are guilty of repeatedly hitting the same shots making it easy for our opponents to read and anticipate our game.

We broke the steps down into two categories, defensive and offensive shots. The offensive shot ends the rally and/or scores the point and the defensive shot buys you time and/or draws your opponent out of center court. We discussed, in detail, one of the fundamental but most important defensive shots in the game today, the Ceiling Ball. Remember the strokes for the forehand and backhand ceiling ball are the same as the basic forehand and backhand strokes except the contact points.

Forehand: full extension above head, racquet 45° angle

Backhand: shoulder high, racquet 45° angle

We will now shift gears moving to the offensive shots, the *pinch* and the *reverse pinch*. A pinch shot is defined as a shot that hits the sidewall first, then the frontwall, bouncing twice before hitting the second



sidewall so it is not playable off the second sidewall.

The pinch hits the closest corner possible and the reverse pinch hits the farthest or opposite corner. Each should be hit low enough so it bounces twice in front of the

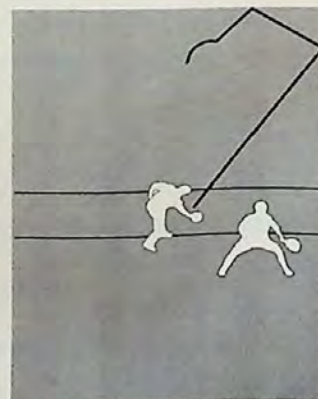
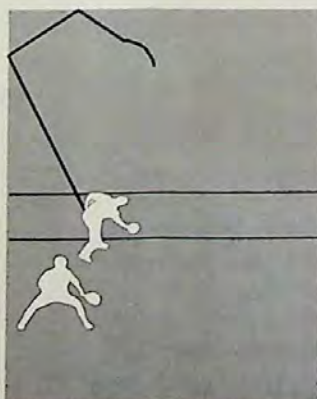
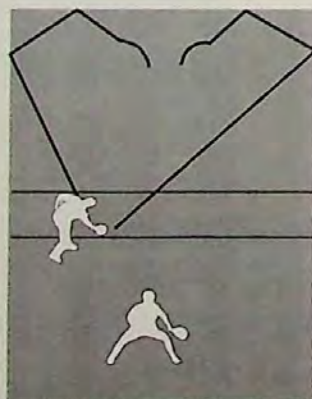
short line.

A good rule of thumb would be to use these shots when your opponent is behind you, deep in the court or trapped to one side of the court.

By tracking your opponent's position you would be able to choose which corner to target, based on the opponent's court position.

After studying video tapes for years, we have found that most club players rely on straight in-and-out shots rather than the pinch or reverse pinch. The straight-in shots move your opponent side to side, but the pinch and reverse pinch move your opponent up and back.

We urge you to incorporate these shots into your game so you can keep your opponent off balance and guessing. Remember your choice of shots now will be determined by your opponent's position rather than the shot you feel most comfortable making at the time. This will build a strong and solid game offering variety. And, variety is the spice of life.





Top left: The grip and ready position are the same as in regular strokes. Top right: Improper technique.

Pros:

Below left: The contact point in the swing for the pinch is made at the first racquet with the cover (footwork doesn't change, only contact point). Below center: The contact point in the swing for the reverse pinch is made at the last racquet with the cover. Below right: The follow through is the same as in regular strokes.

Cons:

Bottom left: The contact point for the pinch is way back, off the back leg. Bottom center: The contact point is made way out in front and you guide or push the ball into the corner, not striking it correctly (notice the face of the racquet). Bottom right: The follow through is the same improper technique as in the incorrect regular stroke.



Back in the Saddle Again

Some familiar faces from the past resurface at the top of this year's events

By Mark Henry

Since our last look at the TransCoastal International Racquetball Tour, the season has taken some very interesting twists and turns. At the onset of this season, no one could have guessed what the outcome would be. If you haven't kept up with the tour since the last **KILLSHOT**, you should prepare yourself for some shocks.

Sit down, brace yourself, 'cause here goes:

1) There were a gazillion stops on the tour with even more guaranteed for next season. The season officially ended in mid June, only to start the next in early July. Prize money and bonus pools skyrocketed at a rate not seen since the late 1970's.

2) Five of the last seven events were taken by four veterans that collectively

dominated the game for more than fifteen years. Mike Yellen won two events and found himself in the number one position after the start of the season -- a very familiar spot. Cliff Swain and Bret Harnett returned to the tour at the end of the season to capture one event each. Marty Hogan surprised the industry twice by winning the New Jersey VCI event, then by announcing his retirement later in Los Angeles.

3) Mike Ray played one of the most disappointing seasons of his career only to rebound for a big win at the TransCoastal Grand Nationals, and a late season recovery which allowed him back into the top four.

4) Andy Roberts, Tim Doyle, and Drew Kachtik continued to rip through the draws at each stop as they had started the

season, but it was Kachtik who finished with the number one ranking and national championship.

Now if I have your attention, let's look at the rest of the season one stop at a time.

Little Rock Roberts chalks up a tough one

Little Rock's Arkansas Pro Am debuted as one of the most pleasant surprises on the IRT. Nestled into the hills outside the city, the Little Rock Athletic Club is a spacious and modern facility with plenty of southern hospitality. Tournament host Bill Grantham as well as master of ceremonies and former national champ Gregg Peck welcomed a healthy crowd of fans hungry for their first taste of professional racquetball.

Television producer Jerry McKinnis took time out from *The Fishin' Hole* and his other ESPN productions to take a shot at pro racquetball in Little Rock. Proving himself a tough all around athlete, McKinnis made it through the qualifiers but had the dubious distinction of facing #4 seed Ruben Gonzalez in the 32's. It was Gonzalez in three in quite a crowd pleaser.

Upsets were the rule in Little Rock, with California's up and coming Mike Brady advancing to the 16's. Rookie of the year Mike Guidry retiring a tough Dave Johnson for a berth in the quarters, Memphis State's Joel Bonnett besting #10 Aaron Katz, and Chicago's little-known Dale Johnson blasting Ray in three straight.

Brian Hawkes goes down-the-line to Drew Kachtik's backhand.



Charlie Palek

Andy Roberts

Tim Doyle

SEMIS

Roberts/Obremski

Doyle/Yellen

Little Rock

QUARTERS

Roberts/Guidry
Obremski/Gonzalez

Doyle/Newman
Yellen/(Dale)Johnson

Roberts and Guidry started five game marathons in the quarters that would mark the remaining two rounds. With 12 point games all over the place, the semi's that began at 6:00 PM were still giving fans their money's worth well past 11:00. The Dan Obremski match up with Roberts was the match that wouldn't end. Doyle and Yellen proved likewise with the rule of the day being kill and rekill.

The finals continued in the same vein with Roberts and Doyle giving up nothing. Roberts' win in Little Rock was one of the best earned and hardest fought of the season.

Pittsburgh Yellen can still win 'em

John Pushak and Suzy Klingensmith together with Shop'N'Save, Integra Bank, Coors, and the team at the Racquet Club of Pittsburgh have so consistently put together an impressive pro stop that the players have come to expect good things in Pittsburgh.

While rumors had circulated for weeks that Swain was returning to the tour, he had yet to appear at an event. Often controversial and always exciting, Swain's appearance in the draw in Pittsburgh, had fans eager with anticipation. Playing as though he had never left the game, Swain bested veteran and long-time rival Ruben Gonzalez in the first round. Gonzalez, recovering from the flu and looking a bit off his game could do nothing with a fit and ready Swain. Victories would continue for Swain until being stopped in four in the quarters by Ray.

Canadian National Champ Sherman Greenfield returned once again to the IRT to post an impressive upset over the cool and calculating Jack Newman in the 32's. Greenfield's unorthodox style makes him a challenge for any currently touring pro.

A blistering quarter final battle between California's Brian Hawkes and Texas' Kachtik proved Hawkes could count consistently on the backhand that claimed a win in Toronto earlier this season. However, Kachtik, the king of rekill, would eventually overcome for the four game victory.

Good friends and bitter rivals Obremski and Doyle locked horns for a five game quarter final war. Covering Doyle's missiles took Obremski off his feet so much that a gaping hole opened on his right knee that would produce a steady stream of blood for the remainder of the match. After being tagged in the face on a Doyle follow through Obremski began to look more like a prizefighter than a racquetball pro. In the end, a Doyle comeback left him with a close victory and a chance at Kachtik in the finals.

Mike Yellen

Tim Doyle

SEMIS

Yellen/Ray

Doyle/Kachtik

Pittsburgh

QUARTERS

Yellen/Roberts

Ray/Swain

Doyle/Obremski

Kachtik/Hawkes

By the time it came down to Yellen and Doyle in the finals, space for the spectators was standing room only. After seeing both combatants display such determination all week, fans knew that each was a man with a mission. When the smoke cleared and Yellen stood holding the first place check, everyone knew they had witnessed a piece of history. At an age when many had written him off as ready to retire, Yellen not only had played a tremendous season, but had now gone all the way for his first pro stop victory in years.

Andy Roberts sets for a backhand in a fierce match-up with Mike Yellen.

Las Vegas

Harnett dominates in hometown

In the first sanctioned pro event held in Las Vegas in years, TransCoastal Mortgage, Mike Coulter Enterprises and Ripe Plum brought together the IRT pros for some incredible racquetball. While the effect of Las Vegas is to most people like that of entering into a hypnotic trance, the IRT pros seemed untouched by the lights and excitement.

The action began early on as California's Steve Lerner returned to professional play for a big upset of #9 seed Hawkes in the 32's. Texas' Doug Eagle also captured a major win against a surprised #7 seed Gonzalez in the same round.

Most of the following rounds fell as the rankings would have indicated, but with plenty of excitement. Roberts dispatched Hogan surprisingly quick, Kachtik took out Newman and Obremski with seemingly little trouble.

Harnett was the stopper right from the start. Always feared since his absence from recent events has caused Harnett's seedings to match him with top contenders right from the early rounds. In Vegas he sent home Woody Clouse, Ray, Yellen, and Roberts without hesitation. Harnett's grace, speed and strength were amazing especially considering he had not actively played the IRT in some years.

The Harnett/Kachtik final was a low boards spectacular with most every shot ripping off the wall just off the floor.



Charlie Palek



Dave Johnson made a strong showing in Memphis, taking out Roberts and, here, Obremski.

Diving rekills from both players kept fans on the edges of their seats until finally Harnett took the fourth game for the money and this season's only hometown win.

than any other city in the world, this is one town that knows the game. Testimony to that is the beautiful Racquet Club of Memphis.

One of the most exclusive and finely appointed facilities in the country, the RCM also hosts the US Indoor Tennis Championships. On this particular weekend, however, all eyes turn to Marty Austin and Quinn Roberts' four-day racquetball extravaganza.

Early round highlights included a Harnett/Tim Sweeney match that was a spectator's delight. Two of the most exciting players on the tour, they took this nail biter to a fifth game that ran well past 11 points. In the end Sweeney squeaked by for the win at 14 - 12.

Bret Harnett

Drew Kachtik

SEMIS

Harnett/Roberts

Kachtik/Obremski

QUARTERS

Harnett/Yellen

Roberts/Hogan

Kachtik/Newman

Obremski/Doyle

Las Vegas

Memphis

Yellen proves earlier win no fluke

In Memphis, first there's Elvis, then there's Andy Roberts. Memphis is one of very few cities where everybody knows its racquetball pros. Roberts can be seen all over the media endorsing products from racquets to Cellular One phone systems. Perhaps due to Memphis State's 15 year domination of collegiate racquetball or to the fact that for many years Memphis had more racquetball courts per capita

Mike Yellen

Dave Johnson

SEMIS

Yellen/Kachtik

Johnson/Obremski

QUARTERS

Yellen/Ray

Kachtik/Newman

Obremski/Doyle

Johnson/Roberts

Memphis

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The story of this tournament had to be Dave Johnson. Respected by peers in the top eight as a force not to be taken lightly, it looked as if Johnson might go all the way with this one. With big wins against Gonzalez, Obremski and Roberts, Johnson captured fans' attention in the south for the first time. Long noted for his incredible conditioning, Johnson added determination, talent and sportsmanship to his list of attributes in Memphis.

Always good for ticket sales was the Obremski/Doyle war to be fought again in Memphis. Meeting somewhere along the way at most every stop this year, these two have engaged in such ruthless battles that fans often feel as though they have participated rather than watched. Here Obremski prevailed in yet another close five.

In the end, Yellen could not be stopped. Well past prime age, Yellen has been credited this season with some of the best play of his career. After four tough games, Yellen walked with top money and the undisputed acknowledgment of having the most consistent play on the tour.

Cliff Swain returned to the tour in a big way. He is seen here with a diving Mike Ray.

**Lyndhurst, NJ
VW Credit Series Second Event
Hogan, strong as ever**

Just across the river from the big apple, King's Court of Lyndhurst hosted the second event of the VCI series. This is an area where people are serious about their racquetball and Gonzalez is the king.

Gonzalez used his fans' support for that extra edge he needed to make it to the semi's past Newman and Roberts. In the semi's, however, Doyle ended Gonzalez streak in a close five.

The early upsets in New Jersey belonged to Todd O'Neil. After some solid victories on the IRT this year, the



The televised final from this event surprised the world as Hogan went dive for dive and blast for blast with the younger Doyle for the win in three straight. After many had counted Hogan out, he looked as strong and fast as ever. In fact, in dominating Doyle, one of the game's all time biggest hustlers and hardest hitters, Hogan gave fans on nation wide television a taste of what power racquetball is all about.

Still on fire since New Jersey, Hogan was playing amazing racquetball. Even so, Kachtik would end the year with the number one ranking, the prestige, the bragging rights, and the bonuses.

The Yellen/Obremski and Ray/Doyle

Marty Hogan

Tim Doyle

SEMIS

Hogan/Obremski

Doyle/Gonzalez

QUARTERS

Hogan/Kachtik

Obremski/Yellen

Doyle/O'Neil

Gonzalez/Roberts

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Ray: top form for his third Nationals

The Harbor Square Athletic Club in the beautiful waterfront area of suburban Edmonds hosted the TransCoastal Grand Nationals for the second time. At stake this year were top money, a car from George Platis Motors, and the all important year end rankings. Down to only two contenders, the number one spot could only fall to either Roberts or Kachtik.

Back in the draw after an absence for most of the season due to a knee injury, Egan Inoue looked tough early on before falling to Roberts in the 16's. Roberts found a stopper in the quarters, however, by matching up with Newman. Unable to surpass Newman in several recent outings, Roberts again fell victim in Seattle.

Kachtik's ideas of advancing were put to rest in the same round by Hogan.

Mike Ray

Mike Yellen

SEMIS

Ray/Newman

Yellen/Hogan

QUARTERS

Ray/Doyle

Newman/Roberts

Yellen/Obremski

Hogan/Kachtik

Nationals

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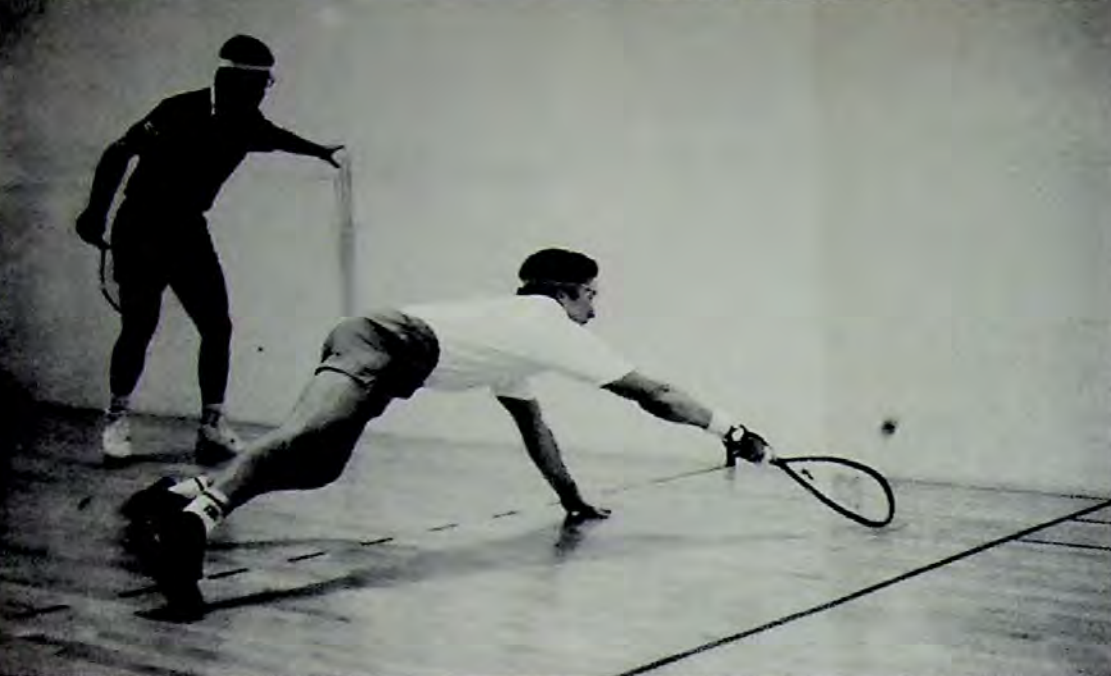


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Charlie Palek

Dan Obremski dives to return a Tim Doyle shot in one of their many matches.

quarters were both five-game see-saw marathons, each ending in a 12 - 10 extended final. In fact, the quarters in Seattle were easily in contention for the finest day of matches of the season.

The most anticipated match of the tournament was the Yellen/Hogan confrontation. These two gladiators meeting in the semi's of the Nationals is nothing new.

However this happening in recent years and with each of them in winning form and hungry for the victory was certainly very unusual. Old adversaries that have shaped the modern game, they played with all the gusto of young champions. After gunning and diving (that's right diving) for what seemed like hours of superb racquetball, Yellen

claimed the victory in what will go down as their final match up.

Going into the final, smart money was all on Yellen. After a brilliant season and tough play throughout the nationals, Yellen seemed destined for victory. Ray had other ideas. In a five game battle of tough, smart racquetball, Ray proved that he may never be counted out, and that when big titles are at stake, he can turn up the juice. A convincing 11-5 fifth game made it clear that Seattle is Ray's home away from home.

Tournament of Champions

Dan Obremski

Drew Kachtik

SEMIS

Kachtik/Ray

Obremski/Evans

QUARTERS

Kachtik/Gonzalez

Ray/Yellen

Obremski/Doyle

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this is his tournament by taking the top money two years in a row. All that seems lacking is that no ranking points are involved even for such a hard fought victory.

**Los Angeles
VW Credit Series Third Event
Swain: back 100% and winning**

Upsets and close matches were the rule right from the start of the third VCI event. Jim Carson and company from LA Fitness in Anaheim hosted the climax of the most prestigious series in pro racquetball. While no IRT player managed to win more than one of the three events, it was California's Doyle that would amass the most finish points for the coveted VCI Cup. Swain who wasn't even in the first two VCI events fought savagely for the win in LA which would be posted as season ranking points at the start of the 1992-1993 season. Andy Roberts, winner of the first VCI event and consistent top finisher all year would miss the event for the birth of his new daughter. Hogan, winner of the second VCI tournament in New Jersey would shock fans with the official announcement of his retirement from pro racquetball while in LA.

A fine showing by California's Johnson took him past a hot Hogan in the 16's and #1 seed Kachtik in the quarters only to fall to the irrepressible Swain in five close ones in the semi's. Consistently producing upsets and top finishes, Johnson is still fighting for the big win he has been deserving.

Even before getting to Johnson, Swain's matches had been tough with newly crowned Canadian National Champ Mike Ceresia, rookie hot shooter Guidry, and recent Grand Nationals winner Ray.

The Inoue/Doyle match proved that Inoue is finally recovering from an early season knee injury by fighting fiercely to five close ones with Doyle. Inoue's prolonged absence however proved fatal here

as Doyle captured the win.

The Sweeney/Newman battle of Chicago in the quarters went to four as Sweeney reigned supreme this time out. Similarly, Sweeney sent Doyle home next in the semi's but not before Doyle posted the most consistent string of finishes in the series for the VCI Cup and bonus pool.

The Swain/Sweeney televised final gave fans on hand and watching at home a taste of truly exciting racquetball. Both players naturally fast and powerful, they also displayed some of the smartest and most determined play ever seen. In the end, Swain Claimed the victory.

**IRT 1991-92
Year End Rankings**

- 1) Drew Kachtik
- 2) Andy Roberts
- 3) Tim Doyle
- 4) Mike Yellen
- 5) Mike Ray
- 6) Dan Obremski
- 7) Jack Newman
- 8) Ruben Gonzalez



VW Credit Cup Winner:
Tim Doyle

**IRT Rankings:
(Current after LA event)**

- 1) Mike Yellen
- 2T) Drew Kachtik
- 2T) Tim Doyle
- 4) Mike Ray
- 5) Dan Obremski
- 6) Jack Newman
- 7) Dave Johnson
- 8) Andy Roberts
- 9) Cliff Swain
- 10) Ruben Gonzalez
- 11) Bret Harnett
- 12T) Mike Ceresia
- 12T) Woody Clause
- 12T) Jeff Evans
- 15) Mike Guidry
- 16) Tim Sweeney
- 17) Brian Hawkes
- 18) Todd O'Neil
- 19) Egan Inoue
- 20) Aaron Katz
- 21) Louis Vogel
- 22) Vince Kelley
- 23T) Jason Krikorian
- 23T) Scott Liperelli
- 23T) Jason Waggoner
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- 30) Doug Eagle

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October 28 - November 1
Chicago, Illinois
Woodfield Racquet Club

November 11 - 15
Riverside, California
Tournament House

November 18 - 22
VW Credit Series Event #2
Baltimore, Maryland
Merritt Athletic Club - Security

TransCoastal

Mortgage Corp
International Racquetball Tour

Long and Winding Road

By Hank Marcus
IRT Commissioner

They always said that success had its downside but I was never sure what that saying meant until the TransCoastal IRT became a success with stops throughout the United States and Canada. With tremendous interest in professional racquetball the players and I have felt like the entire year has been spent in airplanes, airports, and hotels. Try explaining to your friend who doesn't travel that "No, that seven-hour flight across the country really isn't fun, even if your luggage does end up in the same city as you.

Enough of my complaining because it has been a great year for professional racquetball! TransCoastal, VW Credit Challenge Cup Series, **KILLSHOT** Magazine, all the new and traditional stops, and most of all, the fans have made this a year to remember and it will only get better.

Through all the travel and ups and downs of the year, one thing has been a constant; the play on the court has been phenomenal! The players are the show and they have wowed the fans in every city. The effort, intensity, and quality of play never ceases to amaze me. Anyone who sees a pro stop is seeing racquetball played at a level never seen before. And the Kachiks, Roberts, and Doyles better look out because the next generation is already on the way raising the level of play another notch. I always wonder what Brumfield, Serot, and Muelheisen would think if they saw these guys. The game is played on the same court, but that is the only similarity.

The play is the best ever but what does that say about racquetball legends Hogan and Yellen who both won for the first time in five years on the tour? Yellen twice! The competition is so tough that Brian Hawkes can win in Toronto and then go out in the first round of three straight tournaments, and Mike Ray who has dominated the tour the last two years can only make one semi and then come back to win the Grand Nationals. And don't forget Bret Harnett winning in his first stop of the season in Las Vegas and going out in the first round four days later in Memphis.

It has been a long year but one we can all look back on and smile about. This season promises more surprises to come, and lots more travel!



No, that's not the way Aaron talks, way Aaron talks, way Aaron talks.

In last issue's "Do It Like The Pros Do" (The Forehand), there was a duplication of a portion of the instructional and an omission of the second half. We either outsmarted ourselves or were victims of technology on the rampage. At any rate, below is the text in its entirety from the instructional. Please refer to the previous issue for photos. The photos were all correct and, believe it or not, in the correct order.

If there is one weakness I see when watching amateurs view the pros it is a focus on the pros' outstanding athletic ability. And, although that is fun to watch, many players would benefit more by watching the fundamentals of the pros. For while most of us will never be able to hit a diving rekill while parallel to the ground like Marty Hogan, or retrieve the unretrievable like Ruben Gonzalez, some of the basic fundamentals that the pros use are aspects of the game that we all should be able to incorporate.

The Forehand

To develop the forehand mechanics for maximum power and control some fallacies need to be dispelled. The first one is "get your racquet up, and high." When I first started playing I was told this time and time again. Very few of the pros begin their forehand stroke with the racquet any higher than the head. Rather, you will notice on all the best forehands, Brett Harnett, Mike Ray, Tim Doyle, etc., the focus during the prepared position is with the elbow high (at least equal to the racquet, normally higher. See photo #1) This allows maximum elbow drive and extension which is crucial to a flat and powerful wrist snap at contact. When the racquet is held high (see photo #2) the elbow will lead in on the body, limiting your extension and lead to the more inconsistent, short and chopping stroke. Another

prepared position that I often see is that of putting the racquet behind the head. Once again, this will greatly impair the proper extension of the elbow at contact. So, if you have been told that the "butt" of the racquet is a camera lens, taking a picture of your back foot, take a look at the pros clarification.

The second fallacy is that of the point of contact. The myth that you should contact the ball off the front toe on the forehand is one that has been around since the inception of the sport. This is a carry-over from tennis fundamentals. One should take note that none of the top players contact the ball here. The proper contact point is considerably deeper, approximately by the inner front thigh or a little back. It is at this deeper contact zone where both proper elbow extension and weight transfer are maximized. This allows the most powerful and deceptive stroke possible. Contacting the ball off your front toe is at the momentum of the stroke rather than the power portion of the stroke (see photo #4).

Early racquet prep is another overlooked aspect of the forehand stroke. Brett Harnett, who possesses one of the most deadly forehands on the run is a great example of early preparation. Watch Brett as he starts heading towards a ball far away from him. Long before he starts his stroke, his elbow and racquet are up allowing him to hit the ball as soon as the ball enters his hitting zone. Very often, at the amateur level, you will see players trying to initiate their racquet preparation and their downswing into one motion, rather than having a pause at the top, before initiating the downswing. Just about every pro has this pause at the prepared position.

Try these tips to improve your forehand stroke but also as a guide watching the pros the next time you get a chance to see them play. You will be amazed at how many fundamental improvements you can make by watching.

So, get out there and practice those forehands so you can do it like the pros.

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#1 Premiere issue. (Aug) Mike Ray profile, Michelle Gilman interview, MPRA & WPA background, High School stars, beginning of Strandemo series, Racquetball Canada

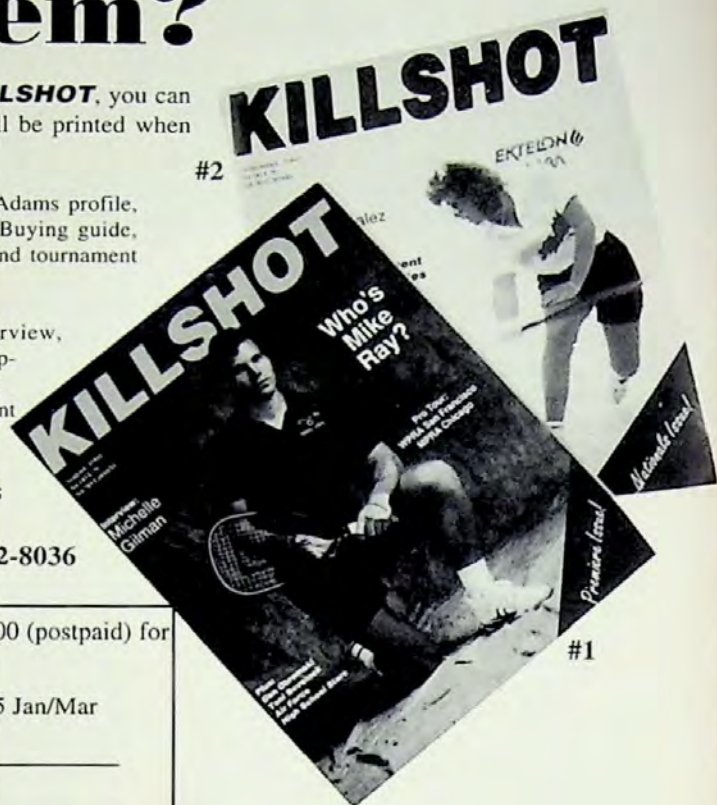
#2 Nationals issue. (Sept) MPRA, WPA, AARA, & Canadian Nationals, Andy Roberts interview, Ruben Gonzalez gallery, Dynamic Duo & America's Most Wanted begin, Florida Outdoor Nationals

#3 October. Marty Hogan profile, Caryn McKinney interview, Boudman on stringing, California Outdoor Nationals, Best of the Pros, look at the WPA

#4 November/December. Lynn Adams profile, Egan Inoue interview, Holiday Buying guide, SMSU racquetball, instruction and tournament coverage

#5 Jan/Mar. Malia Bailey interview, photographing racquetball, equipment of the pros, Brian Hawkes gallery, instruction and tournament coverage.

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Minneapolis, Minnesota	October 10-11	Jack Newman/Andy Roberts
Denver, Colorado	October 17-18	Jack Newman/Andy Roberts
Riverside, California	November 7-8	Jack Newman/Ruben Gonzalez
Erie, Pennsylvania	December 5-6	Doug Ganim/Ruben Gonzalez
Des Moines, Iowa	December 5-6	Jack Newman/Andy Roberts

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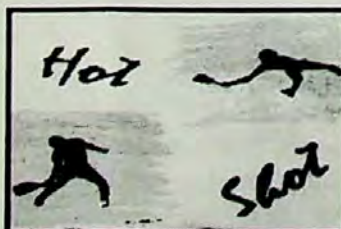
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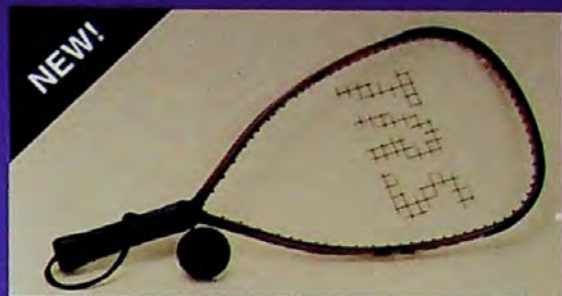
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Norm Blum's Passing Shots

Cash for Trash - It must be a sign of the times. A maintenance man at a racquetball club was cleaning up but he took his job a little too literally. He would take racquets while players showered and put them in the trash. At the end of the day he'd retrieve his take and get the racquets ready for sale. But there won't be any Sunday night television movies on this caper. This crook wasn't too smart. He didn't know the difference between a K-Mart racquet and a \$200 racquet. His lack of knowledge created questions, and the club pro, aware of the missing racquets confronted him. He confessed. It didn't take much interrogation to crack this case.

Potpourri - You know you are an aging player when you look at a younger player and say: if he had my head on his body, he'd be unbeatable.

I invested in my first racquetball club in Atlantic Beach, Florida. I wrote a check for \$1500 and asked Curtis Winter, one of the partners, to be club pro for the day. He almost tore up the check.

If there's a most improved award it has to go to Jason Thoerner, the runner up in the 18 and under division at the high school nationals. "Nine months ago I could score 10 points or sneak in a win," says his father, Butch. "I was able to maneuver him. Now I can't get but two or three points, if that many."

Things I Like - Clubs that recoat the surface of their floors and being competitive at age thirty-seven.

Things I Dislike - Clubs that close their courts before 10 p.m. and serves so fast that you have no chance of returning them.



Just when you thought it was safe to get back on the courts Mike Yellen is back, tearing up the tour and winning

Comeback Kid

By Marvin Quertermous

In most sports today, the innovations are a thing for the history books. Most of the evolution of major sports took place years before any of our lifetimes. Play will change only in small details and the names of today will fade as their records are broken over the coming years.

In racquetball, each one of us is a part of the beginning. Still an infant game, today's innovations will be part of the very earliest history of the game. With James Naismith and Abner Doubleday long gone, Joe Sobek is alive and well. We are part of an enchanted, magical time when the aspects of the game we accept or reject will lay the groundwork for generations of players.

Certainly the 1980's has seen more unrest and change in racquetball than any other time. The advent of new frame materials and sizes, new string, and new balls have changed the face of the game. In fact, the very way the public views the sport has seen drastic changes over the last decade.

In the midst of these epic changes, a young man from

Southfield, Michigan that no one had noticed named Mike Yellen rose to stardom. He racked-up five consecutive National Championships. He became the first professional to sweep the prestigious "Grand Slam". He signed a seven-digit contract and went globe trotting, promoting the game, the U.S., and his sponsors. Amazing stats representing an amazing competitor.

Lets skip ahead a few years to the 1991-92 TransCoastal International Racquetball Tour. Things have changed. Racquets are finely honed precision instruments. Ball speeds consistently reach the 180 mph. mark. Instead of a four or five man pro game, legitimate contenders for tournament wins extend beyond the top 16 players. A 32-year-old veteran from Southfield, Michigan that no one had noticed for years has had the most successful consistent string of finishes on the tour. That was also Mike Yellen.

The amazing part is not that he could do it. In fact, anyone who saw Yellen at age 24 would have guessed that he was capable of being competitive at age 32. The amazing part is that he would do it.

Why? What could Yellen possibly gain from actually playing at this stage in his career? He had proved his ability well beyond a reasonable doubt with a record that was impeccable. His financial take from years at the top plus smart business management had left him in want of very little. In fact, if anything, Yellen had more to lose by embarrassing himself with a poor showing than anything he might gain.

Was it simply a cake-walk through the top 16 to a current



Yellen and Dr. Fred Lewerenz

#1 ranking for Yellen?

"Pro racquetball today is at its highest level," says Yellen.

Tour Commissioner Hank Marcus simply comments, "It's the toughest schedule ever with lots of back-to-back events. There is never any time for recovery, and most of the matches are close, right from the round of 32. Rules have been structured so that pro players push their ability to the absolute limit on every outing."

The talent is so strong and so deep on the tour that it is no cake-walk. Yellen admits, "I've trained. I've trained hard." His face brightens from the thought.

And then it hit me. He doesn't do it for any tangible benefit. He has nothing to gain. He loves the game, he loves to win, and he even loves the work that it takes to make it happen. It's what makes marathon runners keep running and bloodied prizefighters keep punching. It's called heart.

"I've trained. I've trained hard."

After a number of international tours and mounting business interests, most of the industry assumed Yellen was nearing the retirement portion of his sponsorship. It was not until the current season that many really understood Yellen. The effect on fans has been like that of a proud pet owner, one day realizing that his award winning pet could also talk. Not only did he have the accomplishments, Yellen was indeed a champion in the purest sense of the word as well. He has the right stuff. He has heart.

Michael Yellen was born in 1960 as the second of four sons to Seymour and Lenore Yellen. His suburban roots took him through the traditional sports of football and basketball. He, like two of his brothers worked part-time for the Southfield Athletic Club. It was here that Yellen learned racquetball as well as the business of sports from such noted sports figures as Dr. Fred Lewerenz and Al Kaline.

As Yellen's understanding and love for the game grew, so did his win record. Capable of some of the smartest play in the history of the game he quickly surpassed local rivals.

Younger brother Jeffrey recounts,

"No matter how good Mike got, our oldest brother, Sheldon, was always a little better. Mike would work like crazy, then Sheldon would come home from school after not having played and still beat him."

When asked if that happened for very long, the reply was a quick grin and rolling eyes. "Mike worked hard for a long time to do the things he's done. He was determined to get the wins, and he did."

Yellen's first season on the professional tour saw him through to a Nationals semifinal near-upset of court king Charlie Brumfield. The next year marked the beginning of an intense rivalry with a contemporary from St. Louis named Marty Hogan.

But the 1980's belonged to Yellen.

National television appearances and national magazine coverage outside the racquetball mainstream made Yellen's one of only a few names in the sport recognizable by the public.

Extravagant promotions including sports celebrity cruise appearances, concept posters, and tours abroad became the norm for Yellen. His interest in the military had him on a tour of various military installations and into the cockpits of helicopters, tanks, and as Yellen describes it, "other neat stuff."

With inclusion in the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and a Michigan State Legislature Resolution in his honor, Yellen has been widely celebrated for his accomplishments.





Left: Early in Mike's pro career.

Below, left to right: At three months, three years, and nine years

Today, Yellen's manner is friendly and professional. His ice-cold court presence gives way to a warm and genuine off-court countenance. He speaks with enthusiasm about golf, boating, and business interests. In fact, Yellen seems to approach business and financial matters with the same gusto with which he addresses a professional match.

On the court, Yellen's game has evolved with the times. Known primarily as a control player, emphasizing strategy,

accuracy, and anticipation, he has also been blessed with an ample portion of strength and speed. What's more, his game has adapted to the blasters of the '90's to include more tough drive serves. Recent tour stops have even found Yellen still making diving gets.

Typically, Yellen shrugs off questions about his game, his training, and his future with a casual smile. Only in a rare heartfelt moment will he concede, "I wanted it, I thought I could do it, and you know, I'm

really playing kind of well right now. It feels pretty good."

When asked who has helped him Yellen never shrugs. He responds with a quick "Dr. Lewerenz and the Lewerenz Sports Medicine Clinic, Leonard Karpeles, Franklin Racquet Club, West Bloomfield Jewish Community Center, Ektelon, A'me Sports Specialists, Q.C. Inrecon, TransCoastal Mortgage Corporation, and VW Credit, Inc." He isn't just reeling off a list, he stops and considers each one.

The bottom line is that Yellen is back. A new threat from an old adversary is a

**"I wanted it, I
thought I could do it,
and you know, I'm
playing kind of well
right now."**

formidable thing in any sport. In the volatile crucible of the IRT, it becomes a chance to see history in the making. At any rate, one need only watch the master in action to feel a sense of awe and a certainty of having witnessed greatness.





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Promotional posters for sponsors and major events utilizing Yellen's celebrity status, a Michigan Legislative Resolution in Yellen's honor, National magazines that have included Yellen in racquetball features, the first Ektelon Mike Yellen signature "Flex" racquet, Yellen turned



Mike Yellen

Early Career Highlights

- 1977 First Professional Match
- 1978 Nationals Semifinalist
- 1979 Nationals 2nd Place
- 1982 First #1 Professional Ranking
- 1983 Grand Slam Sweep
- 1983 National Champion
- 1984 National Champion
- 1985 National Champion
- 1986 National Champion
- 1987 National Champion



pilot in a military helicopter, with friend Englebert Humperdink after a heated match, Yellen's plaque in the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, Air Yellen.



1992 Tournament Wins

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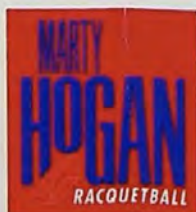
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