

National Racquetball®



Vol. 9 No. 12
December, 1980
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National Racquetball®

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On the Cover . . .

National Racquetball's gift to readers this holiday season is a feature on one of southern California's photogenic players—Judy Norton-Taylor. Turn to page 12 to learn how the real Judy contrasts with her nine year television image as Mary Ellen Walton.

— Peter Borsari photo

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4101 Dempster Street
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Opinions

From Bob Kendler



Jingle Bells for Racquetball

This is the season we should be glad
For Santa's gifts and the games we've
had;
For the friends we've made in racquetball
And the challenging fun it provides, above
all.

Let's not forget how we've improved
And by our example some friends were
moved
To learn, compete, and share the game
Develop a swing. . . one's claim to fame.

Racquetball *can* be special to you
Addicted you'll be, and your friends will
too.

You'll begin to live as never before
And soon discover life's not a bore.

So Christmas Day give the gift of fun;
Our magazine shows what can be done,
Bringing sporting news all through the
year
Reminding your friends that you are near.

For *you* we wish this Yuletide thrill . . .
May every shot be a perfect kill
With ceiling and corner balls galore
And winner's trophies to even the score.

Whatever Santa Claus brings your way,
We hope it adds to the game you play.
Stay in condition, your future is bright;
You'll soon be a foe known as
"Dynamite!"

May the holiday spirit bring many a laugh
Is the wish of the Kendlers and our whole
staff.

To that we add "courts-full" of warmest
cheer
And a wonderfully healthy and happy New
Year! ●

Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man
hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to
him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

From the NRC National Director

Coors Grand Prix

Coors involvement in the pro tour goes Grand Prix. This season the Coors Brewery from Golden, CO is sponsoring three events on the pro tour with Omaha having been the first, to be followed by Houston in February and St. Louis in May. All other Open events on the NRC tour until the St. Louis tournament are considered as part of the Coors Grand Prix, with Grand Prix points awarded at each event. The top eight point earners prior to the St. Louis event will qualify for that event, which will be known as the Coors Grand Prix finals with a \$25,000 purse. Here are the Coors Grand Prix rankings after the Omaha stop. Follow the Grand Prix points and NRC rankings each month in the pro tour coverage section of *National Racquetball*.

Total Points Accumulated Coors Grand Prix as of Oct. 12, 1980

1. Mike Yellen	70
2. Jerry Hilecher	60
3. Don Thomas	45
4. Dave Peck	40
5. Marty Hogan	30
Rich Wagner	30
6. Gregg Peck	20
Bob Bolan	20

When Is an Amateur a Pro?

As most of you know, the USRA/NRC defines a professional as someone who has earned \$1,000 or more at NRC sanctioned events within the previous 12 months. At all NRC pro tour stops the current ranking method automatically places the top 24 ranked players into the main pro event, thereby allowing for eight qualifiers to break into the pro division. Without delving into the wisdom of the system I'm bringing up an area of concern which needs some attention — what happens when someone breaks into the top 24 and maintains such a position without necessarily violating our \$1,000 rule? (i.e. has not earned \$1,000 or more within the last 12 months or has not accepted prize money to alter the amateur status and enters an amateur and pro division at the same event). How is this individual perceived by the public and his peers at the tournament? The NRC feels that the integrity of the amateur divisions at the pro tour stop needs to be maintained.

Since through performance and ability a player is able to finally achieve this sought after status, he is a pro regardless of age and is highlighted as such in the draw sheets, program and media.

What also seems to go hand in hand with making it into the top 24 is forfeiting out of the amateur events so the player can save himself for the pro events that start with winning a round of 32 or 16. When a player in the top pro 24 plays in amateur matches, it produces lopsided brackets, unfair pairing and meaningless seeds in some of the amateur divisions. So at future NRC pro tour stops players among the top 24 ranked pros based on the latest NRC computer ranking system must enter pro for that event and for as long as they maintain the top 24 ranking. ●

Dan Bertolucci

Dan Bertolucci

From Our Readers



Separate Amateur and Pro Nationals?

Yes—Glory for the Amateur

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Your idea of an Amateur National Championship is nothing less than fantastic, and your perception of the ideals and glory that an amateur plays for couldn't have been expressed more pointedly and accurately. As for the pros? Right on! They play for money and deservedly so. They earn it. Your promotion of the young sport of racquetball thus far has been superb. Keep up the good work.

Terry Komar
Woodbridge, VA

Maybe—He'd Miss the Pros

Dear Bob,

I read with interest your statement that you are seriously considering splitting the Nationals into a tournament for the amateur and a separate tournament for the pros.

I guess this is unavoidable as the Pro Tour continues to grow in prestige and dollars. I can see how the pros might feel they deserve this as their stature grows. I'm sure they do deserve it.

I feel a sadness though, that the Nationals as we have known them will no longer exist. In my five years of racquetball experience as a player and club owner I have come to love the Nationals. What

other sport allows the amateur to participate in his sport right along with his pro counterpart? I get as much enjoyment out of the Nationals of previous years as I would if I could have played a round of golf with Jack Nicklaus, took batting practice with Pete Rose or shot baskets with Magic Johnson. I know several professional athletes on a first name basis but I still get that feeling at the Nationals.

I also doubt whether I will attend two events. I wonder which one I'll attend. I guess the location will dictate that.

Thomas E. Murray
Centerville, OH

Amateur Strength

Dear Editor:

I was greatly disappointed in your August issue on coverage of the Amateur National Championship in Las Vegas. As a participant, I was eager to know the results and commentary on all the divisions. Instead, you published just the results of the finals, with only a detailed commentary on the Mens and Womens Amateur Open Division.

I personally was very interested in the results of the round of 16 up to and including the finals. There was some great play in the veteran singles and seniors (better perhaps than many of the professional matches.)

Your coverage of the professional championship was excellent (eight pages) but I feel that the 700 participants in the amateur division deserve more than the one and a half pages allotted. In my opinion the amateurs of the USRA are the strength of the organization and deserve more attention.

A.I. Ginsburg, D.P.M.
Baltimore, MD

Amateurs do deserve the spotlight, and that's why we devote so many pages to amateur tournament results and features on amateur players. We had to limit our coverage of the amateur portion of the Nationals in the August issue because we simply ran out of space, after printing the results of all the regionals that led up to the Nationals. Your comments about the importance of amateurs are well timed, since there's a good chance that the USRA will hold a separate Nationals for amateurs in June of 1981, as Bob Kendler wrote in his October editorial. One of the reasons behind the split of amateur and pro Nationals is that we want to give the country's best amateur players the recognition they deserve. ED

Eye Wear Stories Useful

Dear Carol:

I have received the September, 1980 issue of *National Racquetball* magazine along with past articles on protective eye wear in racquet sports. Thank you for sending these materials. They should prove most helpful to our educational program at the Prevention of Blindness of Metropolitan Washington.

Jan Havelka
Washington, DC

Eyeguard Information

Dear Sir:

We read your feature article "Evolution of Female Racquetball Player" by Nancy Driscoll in your September, 1980 issue. On page 22 you show a picture of a player wearing our exclusive patented Eye & Glasses Protector. This is the only eyeguard which fits over your glasses and also fully protects the nose.



For your readers' information they can learn more about the eyeguards by writing to Unique Sports Products, Inc., 26101 Miles Rd., Cleveland, OH 44128.

Gene Niksich
Cleveland, OH

Bouncy

Dear Mr. Bertolucci:

Thank you for the Seamco 600 Balls for our racquetball tournament at the Westmont Park District.

I feel the balls were excellent with a true lively bounce.

The tournament was a big success and I hope to be able to use Seamco again year after year.

Bill Schumann
Westmont, IL

Proud and Most Improved

Dear USRA:

Thank you very much for the pen set, book and award. I'm very proud to be chosen 1980 Most Improved Player in California.

Gerry Price
Castro Valley, CA

Racquetball Backed Education

Dear Mr. Kendler:

The sport of racquetball is lucky to have a man of your stature as our spokesman. If Joe Sobek is the father of racquetball, then you are definitely the godfather.

I am one of the students who, because of your financial generosity, attends Memphis State University. For the last two years I have earned \$2,000 by winning the national intercollegiate. I am currently a junior studying business. After graduation I hope to enter some profession that deals with racquetball. Since I have been involved in racquetball almost my entire life (my original home is St. Louis) it would surely be a mistake to enter some field that does not relate to racquetball.

Thanks again for your financial help of me and college racquetball. Keep up the great work; racquetball needs the leadership you provide it.

Dan Cohen
Memphis, TN

We'll Buy That

Dear USRA:

Enclosed is my check for a new subscription for my son. This \$12 is the best buy in the USA these days.

Eleanor Quackenbush
Salem, OR

Stay with Women Pros

Dear National Racquetball Staff:

The coverage of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association is well received. Carole George's article and photos in the October issue are great. Keep up the good work and coverage of all future WPRO events.

Betsy Koza
Lake Forest, IL

They All Want Wally Ball

Gentlemen:

We read with interest in *National Racquetball* magazine for October, 1980 the article "New Games in Court." In particular we would like to write to Joe Garcia for information regarding the Wallyball kit he sells for use in our Laurel Hill Swim and Tennis Club.

Would you please give us his mailing address?

N.F. Heydinger
Toledo, OH

Readers around the country seem intrigued with the new games and have asked for details. To reach Joe Garcia write Wallyball, Inc., 4112 Oak Hollow Rd., Calabasas, CA 91302 or call 312-992-5972. ED

That's a Badger

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Shocked—and then appalled—that was my reaction to the cover picture on October's issue of *National Racquetball*. I was proud to be associated with *National Racquetball* and recommended players in our club subscribe to the magazine to get the best tips, etc. on racquetball. Now those players are laughing, asking if that girl on the front cover is one of our pros or a reject from *Playboy* magazine.

I'd really like to see our tremendous sport projected in its best light, especially on the magazine cover—and not by some teenage girl who is sitting on a bed, accompanied by her teddy bear.

Linda and Shelly Phebus
Kansas City, MO

Our widely discussed October cover may have seemed afieled from racquetball, but the real life college woman, sitting in a real college room, accompanied by an actual mascot from a Big 10 university (a University of Wisconsin badger, not a bear) drew enough attention to the availability of racquetball posters that the manufacturers listed in the cover story have received dozens of requests for the racquetball wall hangings. We hope you liked the next month's cover—the real life new number one pro player, Mike Yellen. ED





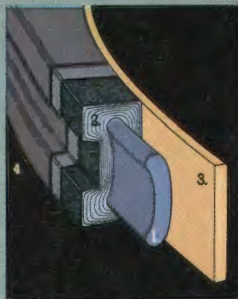
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Point Four: Durability. Utilizing a torque tube design (the fiberglass completely encases the graphite), Ektelon minimizes racquet face distortion and maximizes durability. Like all Ektelon racquets, the Composite 250G features a full two-year racquet frame and ninety-day string warranty.

Point Five: Winning Points. The popularity of the 250G among knowledgeable players points to just one thing: performance. Its innovative features add up to surer passes, harder kills, fewer skips, more points game after game and match after match. And that's the whole point of a racquetball racquet.

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*Research results available from Ektelon.

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Wholesome Judy

by Tom Reinman





In the viewer's eye Judy Norton-Taylor is still as wholesome as 13-year-old Mary Ellen (in overalls) in an early episode of "The Waltons." But the actress-amateur athlete says she'd rather convey the sultry image in the photo below.



She showed up on time and smiled a little, but was only tolerating the interview. For whatever reason, she just wasn't fired up to talk about the life and times and racquetball of Judy Norton-Taylor.

And then somebody said the magic words. "Could we get some action shots of you on the court?"

Bingo. Lights, camera, action. It was like she was an actress, a good one.

She is. A nine year veteran of "The Waltons", the longest running dramatic show on television, Judy Norton-Taylor has been working longer than anyone else on the air right now. During her stay on Walton's mountain she has gone from a Los Angeles area junior high to high style publicity photographs. From pigtails and "golly gee" through one marriage and into a home in prestigious Woodland Hills, in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles.

Meanwhile her character in the show has lost her husband in the war, but has given birth to a son and is now working her way through medical school. With many of the original lead players in the cast now

departed her role has taken on a new importance, a challenge she's been looking forward to. She has been with the show so long that people tend to think of her as Mary Ellen Walton, not as Judy Norton-Taylor, as people thought of Gary Burghoff as M*A*S*H's "Radar O'Reilly".

"If there's a problem with the show," she says after an energetic photo session, "it's that I don't like having that total association with the character. One's a character and one's me."

A couple of years ago a story on Norton-Taylor appeared in a national magazine.

"Wholesomeness," it began, "what we seem to have here is an advanced, possibly irreversible case of wholesomeness . . . next to her, Debby Boone could be Irma La Douce."

Two years later, with "The Waltons" still on the air and Norton-Taylor still contracted to play the part of the sweet, earnest gal from the mountains, steps—and publicity shots—had to be taken.

"That's the real me," says Norton-Taylor pointing at the photos. "At least a lot closer to it than the part I play.

"It seems as though if you don't get into trouble, you're no fun, boring. Wholesome. I don't get into trouble—I'm not a big party person, not into drugs or heavy drinking. But that doesn't make me boring by any means."

Roller Derby

And neither does being a member of the immediate family of the LA Thunderbirds, one of roller derby's best known teams. A former boyfriend skated for the T-birds and at one point she was a regular at team games and practices.

"It takes a lot of athletic ability to be a roller derby competitor. There's a lot of showman in the players of course. But those hits are for real. When you hit that rail, you know it, believe me."

Aside from racquetball fever Norton-Taylor's athletic activities range from skating to softball, from tennis to horse show jumping her prize-winning English hunter, "Cheerio." No points for originality on the name, Judy.

She made a name for herself as a pitcher and shortfielder with an LA radio station



that played celebrity teams around town, even in prelim games at Dodger Stadium.

Good as she was she couldn't crack the lineup in the annual Hollywood All-Stars game at the Stadium. "They played hardball," she sniffs, "and they wouldn't let the girls play. They said we could be batgirls and cheerleaders; that sort of nonsense."

But it wasn't nonsense when she got the call to compete in the "Battle of the Network Stars" and "Celebrity Challenge of the Sexes." Like the Superstars event, in which Marty Hogan, Heather McKay and Kathy Williams have appeared, those have been billed as trash sports, made for TV time fillers.

Her reaction to that claim was the same as Hogans. "Baloney. The competition there is intense."

Penciled in for the football team in "Battle", she spent three weeks in between takes on "The Waltons" playing football with the crew. Prepared for the "Battle" she caught three scoring passes that helped her team to a second place overall finish.

She attacked racquetball with the same determination.

"I was a little skeptical before I started," she admits. "But it didn't take me long to realize how much I like this game. I love the types of exercise where you don't know you're getting a workout. Racquet-

ball sure is one of them. You play hard but you concentrate so much on what you're doing you don't really sense the fatigue and certainly not the boredom of other exercises."

Who's the Celebrity?

"Judy came to the game with a remarkable court sense," says her coach, Ginny Gregor. "That and a better than average backhand. She should be very competitive. We look forward to entering the celebrity racquetball tournaments."

Celebrity softball, racquetball, Superstars-type competition. Is Mary Ellen Walton a celebrity?

"It's funny. I guess I am. I get recognized a lot. But I'm always confused about autographs. I mean, what do people do with them when they collect them?"

"It's more flattering when someone in the industry pays you a compliment, really. The network threw a bash a while ago and Cicely Tyson was collecting autographs. When she came to me I said, 'You want mine?' Imagine, an actress of her caliber asking for my autograph and meaning it. That tells me I must be doing something right."

What she'll be doing next is another question. Word is, this is the last season for the show.

But that's been the word for a couple of years now.

In that magazine story of 1978, Norton-Taylor said, "It's a possibility (that we'll be typecast). But I'm not going to do anything radical to change the image. If it's a wholesome role that I like, what's the difference?"

Contrast that to her current thinking. "I have to be concerned with it. It's been a great learning experience, working on the show for this long at this age. But now are people going to be looking for Mary Ellen Walton to do something or me to do something new? I'm eager to branch out now. I have to prove I can do different things." Toward that end she's taking singing and dancing lessons.

Judy Norton-Taylor looks forward to new challenges in television and the possibility of films. She has more softball games to win, more parades to announce (she's done the Cotton Bowl twice and the Gimbel's Thanksgiving Day Parade once for the network). And she's already been in the business for nine years. At the age of 21.

"Right, I figure I've got plenty of time left.

"I definitely have the potential. How far I go is up to me. I have to dream about what I can do. I have to set high goals for myself. If I say I'll be happy with anything less, that's what I'll settle for. And I don't want to settle for anything." ●

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Steve Strandemo



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HEAD METAL RACQUETS. The PROFESSIONAL® is used by more Head Touring Pros for its outstanding power and control. It uses high-strength aluminum for devastating power. The MASTER® is made with a lighter, more flexible aluminum extrusion for superior racquet control and quickness.



HEAD RACQUETBALL BAGS. Specially engineered for travel and small lockers, Head Bags are available in navy blue and chocolate brown. All are washable and contain wet-pockets.



RACQUETBALL ACCESSORIES. Look to Head for the best in accessories, too. The Head racquetball shoe features a canvas-and-mesh upper molded to a skid-resistant crepe rubber sole. The Head Plum® ball and deerskin gloves add to your enjoyment and skill. Our eye guard adds to your protection. See your authorized dealer for equipment that will help you play your best.

We can make a difference in your game. **AMF Head**



Happy Racquetball Holidays



Now that his gift subscriptions to *National Racquetball* are in the mail (see page 8) Santa surveys the presents he'll deliver to racquetball players on Christmas eve. They include gloves, eyeguards, racquets, balls, gym bags, racquet covers, headbands, wristbands, jewelry, shirts, shorts and warm-ups.

Santa, who expects racquetball to trim his waistline, says playing regularly calms his nerves during his busiest season. ●

Europe Imports Racquetball



—Ivan Fuldauer photos

Demo Glass Draws Crowds at Munich Show

by Ivan Fuldauer

Made in America.

Is there a sport of the 80s that better typifies "Made in America" than racquetball?

"Made in America" was the theme of a major export push by U.S. sports equipment makers at the recent international sporting goods show, ISPO '80, in Munich, West Germany. As the centerpiece of the exhibit World Courts, Inc., Weymouth, MA set up a full-sized court with an Ellis Pearson clear glass back wall that allowed the hundreds of spectators attracted to the exhibition to view racquetball during the four nine-hour days of the ISPO trade fair.

Manned by players from the U.S. military stationed in West Germany the "Made in America" racquetball court generated enough interest for World Courts' Frank Cassarino to write contracts for 19 courts in four cities—Stuttgart, Munich, Geneva and Brussels—with the expectation that another 100 courts will be in place by the end of 1981.

Put together by Gerald Kallman, Kallman Associates, Jersey City, NJ, the "Made in America" exhibit was the first attempt to group U.S. sports equipment manufacturers together under one common banner. Because there have to be players first, the U.S. racquetball equipment makers did not display their wares at ISPO. When the nucleus of 650 players in Holland's two clubs (six courts) expands, perhaps the equipment makers will branch into Europe in time for ISPO '81 or '82.

Fast Takeoff

How fast will racquetball take off?

Drawing upon his experience in constructing squash courts throughout West Germany Jon Pearson, of Ellis Pearson Glass Wall Systems, whose company provided the tempered clear glass back wall for the "Made in America" racquetball court, noted that in 1973 there were but five squash courts in that country. Four



years later there were 30. Today—seven years after the first squash court was built—there are 1,500. And the end, says Pearson, is not in sight.

"I expect racquetball to parallel that growth," Pearson says. "Not all countries will grow as quickly as West Germany, though. France is about three years behind Germany in its acceptance of squash. And I expect this pattern to continue with racquetball. There's even a rumor that a squash club is about to be built in Moscow. Can racquetball be far behind?"

Pearson's company has installed glass wall squash and racquetball court facilities in Australia, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Egypt as well as the 500 installed in clubs in the U.S. and Canada.

Passing under a USRA bumper sticker dozens of U.S. military personnel demonstrate racquetball to sports equipment buyers during the four day ISPO '80 show in Munich, West Germany.

Jon Pearson, Director, Ellis Pearson Glasswalls, Sheffield, England, shows Mike and Steve Arnold, 27-year-old twins from Oxnard, CA, a sample of the new Twin-Vue glass wall that has been endorsed by the U.S. Racquetball Association.



With agents in 33 countries Pearson expects to install glass wall courts in some 20 to 30 clubs in Europe by the end of the next year, perhaps upwards of 100 by the end of 1982.

Captain Bob Ellis, who with Mike Tipton, Mel Kince and Lee Gordanier, founded Racquetball Germany, a non-profit organization to promote racquetball throughout Germany and, eventually, much of western Europe, said in an interview taped exclusively for *National Racquetball*, that "youngsters in Holland are taking to racquetball. They already have a good foundation in squash, a sport that has become very popular on the continent in the past four or five years. Holland is the pioneer in European racquetball. Our organization puts on weekend clinics and we generally get 30 to 40 men and women to participate. Juniors, too."

Bob Ellis, who learned racquetball at the Racquetball and Handball Club in San Antonio, TX and this year won the Dutch Open in The Hague, competes on the demonstration court against Simone Werner, a high school PE instructor, who was an interpreter at the "Made in America" exhibit. Werner also jogs, skis, once bicycled over the Alps and says "racquetball has more bounce than squash—it's more fun."

Daniel Nardinger, left, Montreal, returns a shot by Michael Tipton, Seattle, who is president of the European Racquetball Federation, during one of the many racquetball exhibitions on the "Made in America" court.



Teaching the Dutch

"The Dutch are hungry for racquetball education. We break the beginners down into groups of five or six for periodic lessons that concentrate on strokes and towards the end of the second day, strategy. We put on structured round robins and continually supervise play.

"As more and more civilian clubs open throughout Europe, we expect to put on clinics and exhibitions wherever we can. In November we're going with four of the top Dutch players and three Americans besides myself to put on a four-day clinic/exhibition in Zurich, Switzerland."

What's the appeal of racquetball to Europeans? After listening to Simone Werner, an interpreter at the "Made in America" exhibit, the appeal to Europeans is the same as it is to Americans. A high school physical education instructor and a better-than-average squash player, Werner said she enjoyed her first exposure to racquetball because "it's much fun. It's not too difficult at the beginning, particularly for someone who has played tennis or squash." Though she believes German women will take to racquetball, "it will have to compete with squash. It's quite popular. It's the 'in' sport in Munich now. But racquetball is a good sport for people who want to keep fit but who do not want to practice too much their technique."

Among the military racquetball is a highly popular sport. Captain Monte Mingus, who heads the Army's Recreational Services Office in Munich, says "our three courts in Munich are in use 14 hours daily. We only charge 50 cents an hour. Racquetball is also popular in Heidelberg, where we really have crummy courts. But we can't keep the people off the courts long enough to properly maintain them."

Though racquetball will probably never qualify for a government citation as an export helping the U.S. balance of payments, it is an export nonetheless. Though it grew out of handball, an Irish game, racquetball is as American as mom's apple pie. ●

Will Hamburg Fall for Racquetball?

Harald Claussen, left, and Winfried Witthoft, right, shown with Top West German Squash Player Myrtle Lange, are among several investors putting up the first all-racquetball club in Europe.



Though Han van den Heiden's Racketcenter Westvliet in The Hague, Holland, was the first racquet sports center in Europe to include racquetball, Harald Claussen is perhaps the true pioneer of European racquetball.

Already the owner of several squash and tennis clubs in Hamburg, West Germany, Claussen's Racquetball Center—Jenfeld Club will be the first racquetball only facility outside North America.

The 11 court club will include several courts with glass walls to facilitate spectator viewing. Racquetball Center—Jenfeld will also have a solarium, including a sauna, plus a cold pool and massage area, a gymnasium with exercise equipment and a complete restaurant. The \$1.6 million club will be a partnership with a group of businessmen, many of whom

have invested in Claussen's other successful racquet sports clubs.

Because Germans are not used to up front initiation or membership charges, Claussen will offer open court time. Based on the current value of the German deutsche mark the non-prime time hourly rate will approximate \$8.75 per person. Prime time court costs figure out to a little less than \$12 per person. A German "hour," Claussen says, is 45 minutes. As in the U.S. there will be "fixed booking" or permanent court time available.

Claussen got "keen on racquetball just by listening" to others more familiar with the sport. "Racquetball Center—Jenfeld is a pilot project. If racquetball catches on in Hamburg, we'll build more clubs." ●

—Ivan Fuldauer

Who's Playing Racquetball?

Anne and Peter Holt:

Following Rugby and Rowing



Peter and Anne Holt think if they went back to Poulton le Fylde in England's Lancastershire County, they could find the church pew in which a pocket knife had carved "P.H. loves A.R."

"That was during the love phase of our love-hate relationship," recalls the former Anne Riddle, whose next romantic brush with Peter came at age 14, when they won a doubles badminton trophy "during our hate period — but Peter got me in the draw."

Through the years since the childhood sweethearts were married in that church where they'd met and carved their initials the Holts have settled solidly into their love phase, with each other and with whatever sports they've come upon as Peter's job with the N.C.R. Corporation moves them around the world.

Currently home for the Holts and their three children is Dayton, OH, world headquarters for the business information systems giant which Peter now serves as Manager of Systems Service — Far East and Australia.

And the current sport is racquetball.

"We first came across the game in Brazil in 1976," says Peter. "They were using racquetball racquets in the jai alai court. But we played pelota, which we'd learned in Manila in 1971 — and squash."

In 1979 the Holts returned to Ohio, their home four years before, and their neighbors asked them to "come and have a game of racquetball."

The traveling Holts say they'll "introduce racquetball to the whole world."



"Obviously the game had grown tremendously since 1975," Peter says. "We were looking for a new game, so we took out an N.C.R. membership to Dayton Court House."

Now the Holts' sports are golf and racquetball, with Anne playing three times a week and Peter on the courts "one to five nights."

The Holts — both 35 — have always found time for athletics. Rugby, cricket, field hockey and badminton were Peter's sports at the school where he studied medicine before he switched to computers and a job with N.C.R. When she was young Anne excelled at "any type of running and at netball (a game for girls played with a pole and a net)."

Rowing, rugby and soccer preceded Peter Holt's plunge into racquetball.



Who's the better athlete?

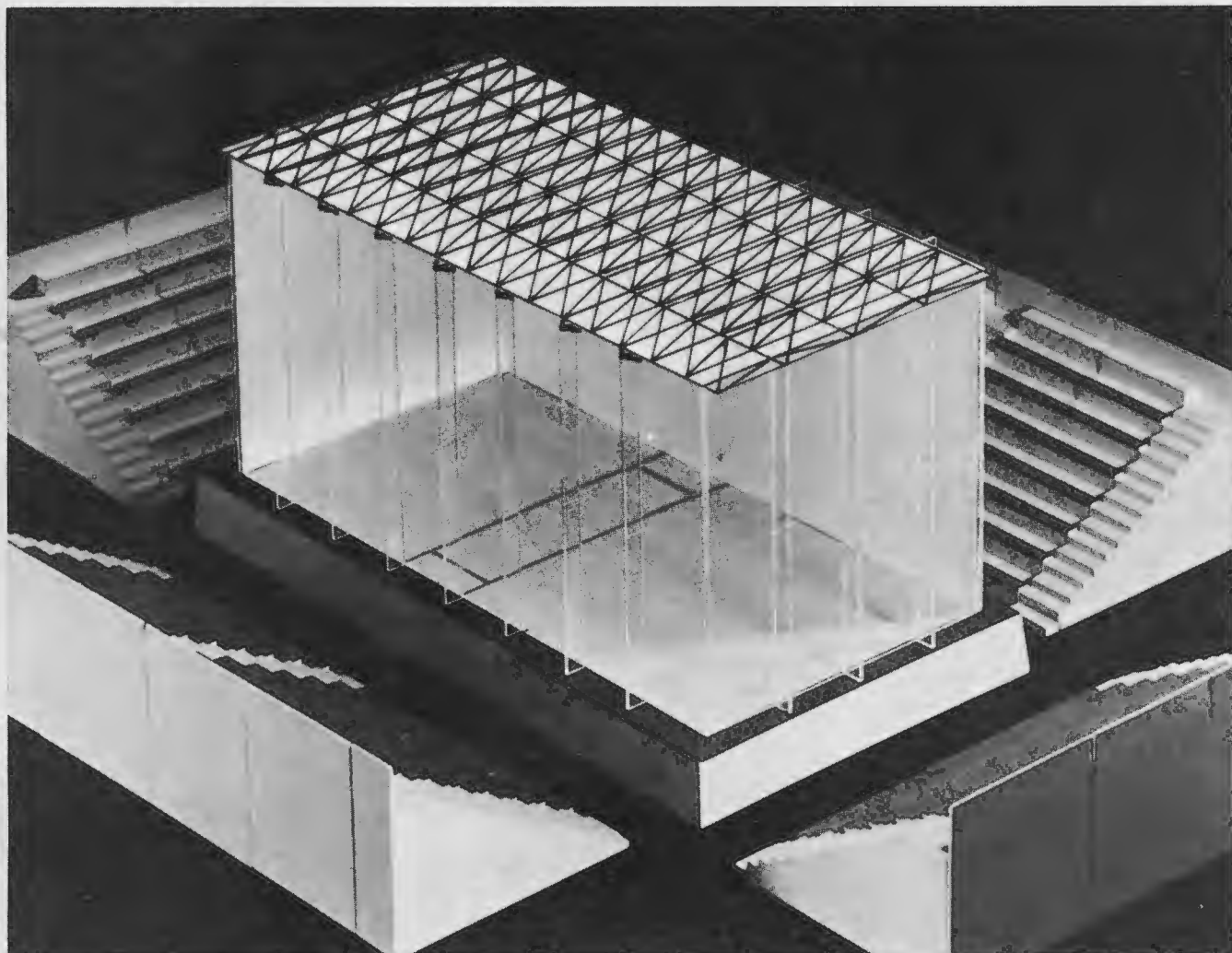
"We're equally good," Peter answers.

"We're both competitors — we put our body and soul into sports." And then that healthy love-hate mixture surfaces. "I hate to lose," confesses Peter, "even to Anne."

If you know a man or woman who plays racquetball and whose job or hobby would make him or her a good subject for this series, send the name, address and phone number to Carol Brusslan, National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

EXTRA!

Camera Ready



Roland Hill, chief engineer for Campbell, Reith and Partners, has completed his model of the Twin-Vue portable glass court that's for sale for \$1,200,000.

The wood and plastic model, one-fortieth the size of the actual court, is on display in the Bramm, England, office of the British company that has

headed such diverse projects as the redoming of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the construction of banks in Tobago.

Twin-Vue Glass, Inc. commissioned Campbell Reith to create a standard size court that can be set up anywhere from TV studios to sports

arenas. Twin-Vue, headquartered in Spring Valley, NY, makes glass court walls clear on the spectators' side, but solid white to players. In the portable court there are no columns to obstruct the view when gallery lights go off and fans peer into the playing area, flooded with 200 footcandles of even light

TV cameras require.

David Pearson says that a number of TV producers have expressed interest in buying the court, but the Twin-Vue president reports that the latest negotiations "were terminated Nov. 10 at 5 p.m."

"Our portable glass court is very much on the market."

Leach's Easy Riders

A ride sharing program that won Leach Industries the President's Award for Energy Efficiency is producing bonus benefits for the San Diego company.

Leach Industries, the nation's leading manufacturer of racquetball equipment and accessories, transports 75 of its 115 production workers between work and home each day in five vans in a program that Leach President Charles Drake says enables employees to conserve an estimated 1,000 gallons of gasoline every week.

Drake says that productivity



has also increased as a direct result of the vanpooling effort.

"Our absenteeism rate has dramatically decreased since the institution of the ridesharing program," Drake says. "Tardiness is virtually non-existent because the vans, which arrive 15 minutes prior to our starting time, ensure that our employees arrive for work on time.

"Most significantly, there is a tremendous morale factor associated with the program. New friendships have resulted from the program and an air of camaraderie is present throughout the plant."

Racquetball on Wheels

Since California began offering personalized license plates, more than 60,000 residents have forked over the extra \$10 a year which benefits the Ecological Association and expresses the driver's unique message to the world.

The object of the game is to come up with a slogan using no more than seven characters. And you may not use something that has been used before. All of this takes a lot of imagination on the part of the racquetball players, since their favorite sport contains 11 characters. The question becomes which four letters to eliminate?

Californians have chosen RACTBAL, RCTBAL, RCQTBAL, RACTBALL, RAC8BAL, RAC8BALL, RAKTBAL, RAK8BAL, RAKIBAL, RAKITBL, RAQTBL, RAQ8BAL, RACABAL, RAQTBL, RACQUET, RACQET, RACQUIT, RBALL, RBALL 1, RBALLS.

The owners of these mutations of the word "racquetball" range from an engineer at AMF Voit to a family of three tournament racquetball players.

And of course everyone knows what RB stands for. Then you have a little more to

USRA Ohio State Chairman Ron Akins' plate, a Christmas present from his wife, Barbara



Ward Lieber



—Carole George Charfauros photo

play around with. Dee Gossick turned it around and said RBPLAYR. Dee says she gets people honking at her on the freeway and holding up their racquets.

Then there are the plates that only a racquetball player could appreciate. The owners of 4WALL and 4WALLS had to get in right at the beginning to reserve that slogan, and so did the ROLLOUT drivers. Others had to settle for ROLLOWT, ROLEOUT and ROLEOWT.

There are many variations on the Z shot, as any club pro will tell you, but even more variation on California license plates ZBAL, ZBALL, ZBALLS, ZBALL I, ZSERVER, ZSERVER, ZSHOT, ZSHOTT.

The censoring committee tries to prevent any sex or violence from disgracing the highways, but they did allow a few "Killers" to slip by: KILSHOT, KILL RB, KILLER Z, KILLIT and KILLSHT.

Dee Gossick



—Carole George Charfauros photo

Vance Lerner owns several racquetball clubs in California's San Bernadino County. When one of his clubs hosted the 1979 USRA Western Regionals, the tournament players got a kick out of Lerner's plates: OLDJOCK. Ken Fujimoto is part owner of Jack Youngblood's South Coast Club in Huntington Beach. But you'd have to be a member of the club to understand Ken's cryptograph: JY SCC.

—Carole George Charfauros

Racquetball for Skiers



New Challenge in Durango

Roy Solomon starts down a slalom course at Purgatory, near his new Court Club of Durango Racquet and Health Spa.

"When you ski, you put everything in it," says Roy Solomon. "The sport becomes part of your life . . . The same with racquetball. If people have the time, they become addicts."

The 26-year-old's addiction to skiing took him from his home on Long Island to Albuquerque, where he became a downhill racer on the University of New Mexico ski team. Now his enthusiasm for racquetball has put him in southwest Colorado, where he's turned his life over to his year and a half old Court Club of Durango Racquet and Health Spa.

Adhering to his philosophy that *"you have to stay on top of things when you own your own business,"* Solomon lives in the attic above the club. Also on hand are two friends from New York—Ralph Kaplan and Barry Kemler—and Karla Barela, who moved out from Albuquerque. Under their direction all runs smoothly in the full facility physical fitness center that includes eight racquetball courts, a beauty shop and the Friar's Retreat restaurant.

His purchase of an Albuquerque restaurant at the age of 22 was the first sign that Solomon would be a business risk addict.

"I was an economics major in college and my hobby was looking at businesses that had gone under. I found the Derby Lounge, paid \$8,000 down, ripped out everything, remodeled it myself and re-named it the Friar's Club."

"Within six months it did so well I opened a second place, bought the owner's \$250,000 liquor license for \$10,000 and with the help of my brother, Jeff opened Friar's East restaurant and lounge. Later we converted an ice cream parlor and dress shop into a 10,000 square foot nightclub that became Friar's North—one of the hottest places in Albuquerque."

Solomon regards his Durango venture as another attempt at *"doing something that on the surface looked as if it weren't going to work. People said Durango was too small (the permanent population is 13,700) and that the people weren't the kind who would go for a club. But we have 700 members just from the town itself, and we're set up to take care of the tourists."*

National Racquetball's Fourth Annual Ski Guide

The A level downhill racer considers himself a B racquetball player, but expects to improve now that he's on the courts every day.



These foothills are snow covered when tourists stop at the Durango Club, open to visiting skiers for racquetball, dining and dancing.

Solomon discovered Durango when he passed through with his college ski team on the way to Purgatory ski area, just outside of Durango, and to Telluride, 160 miles away. The ski team led him to racquetball too.

"George Brooks, my ski coach in Albuquerque, had us pair up and play racquetball. He said racquetball gave us agility, coordination and the ability to respond to the unexpected. When it came to conditioning we were one of the best trained teams."

Unless noted otherwise these racquetball facilities at or near ski areas welcome guests. It's best to call ahead for a reservation, especially in the popular apres ski hours.

California

Sierra Tahoe Athletic Club
2565 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe 95729
916-544-6222

Open 24 hours a day the club is 10 minutes from Heavenly Valley and Sierra Ski Ranch and an hour from Kirkwood. Court time costs only \$3.50 a person from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Snowcreek Racquet Club
Box 12

Mammoth Lakes 93546

Call 714-934-8511 for information about the club due to open March 1.

Colorado

Aspen Club
1450 Crystal Lake Rd.
Aspen 81611
303-925-2531

Though it's members only, you can buy a one week membership for \$50. Non resident memberships are \$200 for the year.

When you play racquetball at the Aspen Club, you might catch sight of club regulars like George Hamilton, along with Jack Nicholson, Andy Williams, Clint Eastwood and Jill St. John.



Aspen Athletic Club
720 E. Hyman
Aspen 81611
303-925-2531

Colorado Court Sports
12120 Ralston Rd.
Arvada 80004
303-422-8001

Depending on the weather Breckenridge, Dillon,

Copper Mountain and Keystone are 60 to 90 minutes away via the Eisenhower Tunnel. It takes 45 minutes to get to Arapahoe and 30 minutes to Loveland Basin.

The Court Club of Durango Racquet & Health Spa
1600 Florida Rd.
Durango 81301
303-259-2579

Tourists are welcome to use the eight racquetball courts, saunas, whirlpools, steamrooms, Nautilus training room and Friar's Retreat Restaurant. The club offers ski conditioning at all levels.

Grand Junction Athletic Club
2515 Foresight Cir.
Grand Junction 81501

303-245-4100

Powderhorn is 45 minutes from this club, where—if you're a USRA member or belong to a club—you can play for \$5 an hour.

Montbello Sporting House
4780 Oakland St.
Denver 80239
303-373-4550

Guests at the nearby Hilton Hotel and Stouffer's Inn can reserve courts through their hotels. The public is welcome when courts are available. Denver is an hour from Loveland and is the gateway to Colorado's major ski areas.

Pilot Nobb Racquet Club
Telluride 81435
303-728-3350

The Racquet Club
P.O. Box 1437
Vail 81657
303-476-4840

Racquetball privileges are included if you rent a condominium here.

Stapleton Plaza Hotel and Athletic Center
333 Quebec
Denver 80207
303-321-3500

Hotel guests, including those in the Athletic Center's Shape-up-for-the-Slopes program, can reserve court time when they book a room. Walk-on courts often are available to the public.

Daily Racquetball Players Michael Gilbert and Kathy Anderson call themselves "friendly locals" who will guide tourists around Steamboat Springs, CO, showing them everything from cross country trails to restaurants and racquetball. To reach their Mountain Local Tour Guide Service call 303-879-6481.



The double workout of cross country skiing (shown here in Steamboat, CO) and racquetball is available anywhere the snow falls. The two sports top calorie use charts and are guaranteed to take off pounds enjoyably.



Steamboat Springs skiers who stay at the Storm Meadows Condominiums can play racquetball at the Storm Meadows Athletic Club.

Storm Meadows Athletic Club
P.O. Box AAA
Steamboat Springs 80499
303-879-1036

Racquetball privileges are included if you rent a condominium here

Vail Athletic Club
352 E. Meadow Dr.
Vail 81657
303-476-1304

Guests at the Vail Athletic Club Hotel can use courts at an hourly rate.

Idaho

The Club House
First and Fourth Streets
Ketchum 83340
208-726-8847

The club has five courts, weight room and sauna to accommodate the influx of skiers at Sun Valley, just minutes away.

Michigan

Little Traverse Racquetball Club
P.O. Box 170
Petosky 49770
616-347-5450

Little Traverse, 15 minutes from Boyne and Nub's Nob, will take guest players in groups only. Write for advance arrangements.

New Hampshire

Hampshire Hills Racquet and Health Club
Emerson Rd.
Milford 03055
603-673-7123

Hampshire Hills is a half hour away from Pat's Peak and Crotchet Mt.

Nevada

Capitol Courts
3759 Gross Cir.
Carson City 89701
702-882-9566

Heavenly Valley is 20 minutes away from this full facility club that includes an indoor running track.

Incline Court House
300 Northwest Blvd.
Incline Village 89540
702-831-4212

This is the closest racquetball for Squaw Valley skiers (an hour's drive) and is 15 minutes away from Ski Incline and North Star.

Pennsylvania

Seven Springs Mountain Resort
Champion 15622
814-352-7777

Four triple chairs and five doubles, as well as surface lifts, serve 19 runs and trails at adjacent Laurel Highlands ski area, and the resort has four racquetball courts.

Utah

Deseret Gymnasium
First North and Main
Salt Lake City 84104
801-328-2071

The Towne House Athletic Club
158 S. 3rd East
Salt Lake City 84111
801-328-8633

Salt Lake City is 30 minutes from Alta and Snowbird and 45 minutes from Park City.

Vermont

Brookside Tennis and Racquetball Club
40 Curtis Ave.
Rutland 05701
802-775-1971

Brookside is 20 minutes from Killington and Pico.

The Court Club
70 Farrell Rd.
South Burlington 05401
802-862-6428

Racquet's Edge
4 Morse Dr.

Essex Junction 05452
802-879-7734

Both Court Club and Racquet's Edge are about 45 minutes from Stowe, Smuggler's Notch, Glen Ellen, Sugarbush and Mad River Glen.

Sugarbush Sports Center
Sugarbush Valley
Warren 05674
802-583-2391

Two racquetball courts are available at this club at the base of Sugarbush Mountain.

Wisconsin

Wedgewood Tennis Center
Berlin 05602
802-223-3218
Stowe, Sugarbush, Bolton Valley and Mad River are 20 minutes away.

Wisconsin

Olympia Resort and Spa
1350 Royal Mile Rd.
Oconomowoc 53066
414-567-0311

The resort's facilities include a ski hill with four chairs and four racquetball courts.

Wisconsin's Playboy Resort ski area features novelties like visits from Santa and Olympic Medal Winner Billy Kidd.



Playboy Resort and Country Club
Lake Geneva 53147

414-248-8811
Fitness Center members or hotel guests can use the six racquetball courts or Playboy's 10 runs including the advanced Hot Dog Mountain.

Wyoming

Jackson Hole Racquetball Club
P.O. Box 2214
Jackson 83001
307-733-3990

Racquet Court club
Star Route
Box 362H
Jackson 83001
307-733-7004

The club is in a condominium complex, The Aspens, four miles south of Jackson Hole ski area.

Canada

Mirabel Racquet Club
Point Claire, Quebec
514-697-4510
Mirabel is 40 minutes from the Laurentians. ●

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- A two-day Trade Show featuring the leading firms in the racquetball industry displaying racquets, balls, gloves, computers, court systems, awards, exercise equipment and much, much more.

Feeding the Racquetball Family

by Sue Smith

Having one or more avid racquetball players in the family can create a few problems in the kitchen. As any mother or wife of a tournament racquetball player knows match schedules have a way of being delayed an hour, two or more. And if your player happens to be on a winning streak, family eating times may be disrupted completely for from two to five straight days. Following the lead of my son, Jeff—the family's head racquetball fanatic—and fitting in my own tennis games I have collected a few recipes which lend themselves very well to the odd hours and appetites of "racqueteers."

Here's a tasty main dish concoction which can be prepared a day or two ahead and can be reheated at any time of day or night by the near-starving racquetball player of any age.

Tournament Taco Salad

2 pounds ground beef
½ medium onion, chopped
1 can (12 oz.) tomato paste
1 can (6 oz.) tomato sauce
1 can (6 oz.) water
2 teaspoons chili powder
1 teaspoon garlic salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper
Salt to taste

(You can substitute a packet of taco seasoning mix or Taco Joe mix for the spices for a hurry-up version)

1 large package of corn chips
2 cups grated cheddar cheese
3 cups shredded or chopped lettuce
2 cups chopped or sliced tomatoes

1. Brown ground beef in a large skillet. Drain excess grease.
2. Add chopped onion, continue browning.
3. Stir in tomato paste, tomato sauce and water.
4. Stir in spices (or packet of taco seasoning).
5. Simmer for 15-20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
6. Add salt to taste.

To serve place a large handful of corn chips on each plate. Spoon on meat sauce mixture. Sprinkle generously with grated cheese, shredded lettuce and chopped tomatoes.

Makes 6-8 servings.



The Tournament Taco Salad that Sue Smith makes in the morning is ready for her son, Randy, no matter when he comes home from his racquetball game.

Microwave Hints

Tournament Taco Salad is especially good when reheated in a microwave oven. Arrange the chips, cold meat sauce mixture and cheese on a plate. Heat 40 seconds on high (or until cheese melts). Garnish with lettuce and tomatoes. (Truthfully, it's *extra* good reheated this way, since it all kind of melts together and blends the flavors!)

You may also make the meat sauce mixture easily in your microwave oven.

1. Crumble ground beef into a large rectangular pyrex baking dish.
2. Add chopped onion.
3. Cover lightly with plastic wrap or waxed paper.
4. Cook on high setting for about 10-15 minutes, until meat loses its pink color. Drain grease and break up meat as needed.
5. Add tomato paste, sauce, water, and spices. Stir until well mixed.
6. Cover loosely and continue cooking until thick at medium setting for about 10 more minutes (less time if your microwave has high speed only). Stir occasionally.
7. Salt to taste.

I hope you will find this recipe as handy as I have, especially during those frantic tournament days. Keep a large dish of it in your refrigerator, and have plenty of prepared cheese, lettuce and tomatoes on hand.

The Sweet Spot

Even a racquetball player who is a real "health food nut" occasionally likes to satisfy a sweet tooth. How about a cookie that has enough healthful goodies in it to be almost a meal in itself? This cookie is especially good for the family racquetball players (also joggers, skaters, surfers, etc.) to grab as they fly out the door, skipping breakfast entirely. Pack a few in your racquetball player's bag on his way to a tournament, and—even if he doesn't win a trophy—he may well be one of the most popular players on the courts!



Jeff Smith samples the Sweet Spot cookies whipped up by his sister, Sharon.



Sweet Spot Breakfast Cookie

- 1 cup soft butter or margarine
 - 1 cup granulated sugar
 - 1 cup brown sugar
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 2 cups unsifted flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 2 cups oats
 - 1 cup coconut
 - 2 cups Rice Krispies
1. Heat oven to 375 degrees.
 2. Cream butter and sugars in a large bowl.
 3. Beat in eggs, one at a time.
 4. Add vanilla.
 5. In a separate bowl mix together all dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, soda, salt, oats, coconut, Rice Krispies).
 6. Gradually stir dry ingredients into creamed mixture.
 7. Drop dough by heaping teaspoonsful onto greased baking sheets.
 8. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes, or until golden brown. Makes approximately 6 dozen cookies.

Both these recipes lend themselves well to changes and additions to suit your family's tastes. So go ahead and improvise.

Happy playing and eating! ●

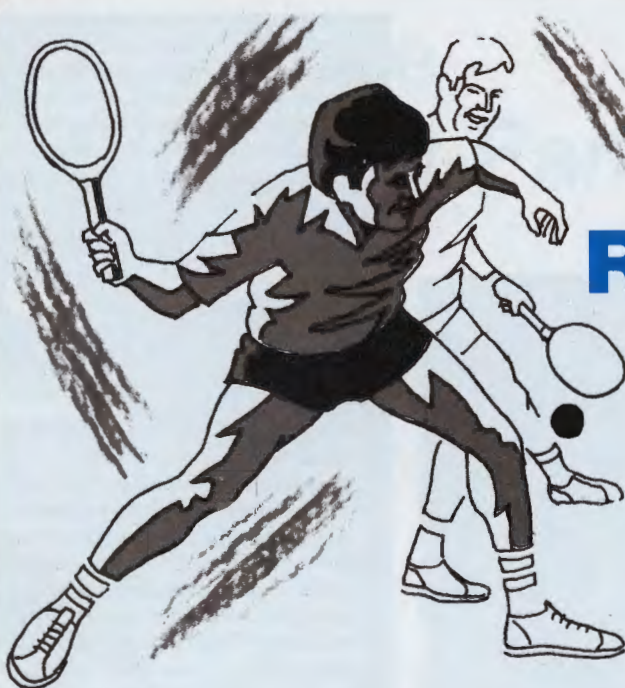
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Early Winters, Ltd., 110 Prefontaine Place South, Seattle, WA 98104 . . . The newsletter of the new Racquetball/Germany club in the Ramstein Kaiserlautern community quoted NRC/USRA National Commissioner Joe Ardito's comments on eye safety that have appeared in *National Racquetball* . . . Two more new hotels — the Franklin Plaza in Philadelphia and the Doubletree Inn in Overland Park, KS — have built racquetball into their facilities . . . Terrico F.R.C. is a new division of Suntec Paint, Inc., of Gainesville, FL, following Suntec's acquisition of Terric, Inc. Terrico's products include racquetball court wall and surface finish coatings . . . Boog Powell, former Baltimore Oriole star currently featured in Miller-Lite TV commercials, played tennis, racquetball, badminton and table



tennis at the "What's Your Racquet" championships at Riverview Racquet Club in Eastlake, OH . . . Omega Sports has extended its five year warranty to its newest racquet, the Galaxy 21, in addition to the Series 21, the Pro-11 and the Century . . . Former St. Louis player and coach, Ron Wickers, has been named racquetball pro at the new Bear Creek Golf and Racquet Center at the Dallas/Ft. Worth airport . . . ●



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Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

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

Watch for the next Ask the Champ, in which Marty Hogan will discuss James Podraza's question about the Z serve.

Marty Talks about Math, Readers Send Him Views on His Single Serve Idea

Question: I'm a friend of Jim Winterton's who wants to find out how math has affected your life or what part it plays in your career.

Ken Pietrowski, Pittsford, NY

Hogan: Though I was a finance major at San Diego State, math courses weren't a big part of my college curriculum. However math was always one of my favorite subjects during my junior high and high school years. It is my belief that math and racquetball do have a great deal in common. In this sense my math background has helped my career.

It wasn't too many issues ago in *National Racquetball* (April, 1980) that a college professor wrote an article on how having knowledge of geometric angles can make racquetball much easier for beginners to pick up. The article was on such a high math level, many racquetball players couldn't understand it. But I think everyone could recognize the tie-in between math and racquetball.

I don't think that having a good understanding of algebra or calculus is as meaningful to the racquetball player as an understanding of geometric formations and the law of physics. When a person can perceive the angle the ball will take off the wall by simply taking into account the angle of the flight of the ball before it hits the wall, the game will at first be much easier for him or her to pick up. It is a standing rule in racquetball that it takes five years to become a pro. The reason most often given for taking up so much time is that's how long it takes to learn the angles. Now if you already have a good idea of the angles before you start playing the game, the time it takes you to become a pro could be greatly reduced.

To this I would say if you want to become a professional racquetball player, take math seriously. Study geometry, and the angle the ball takes will never surprise you. Also stay in close contact with Jim

Winterton because I personally regard him as one of the finer coaches on the east coast.

For those of you who regard me as all brawn and no brains—here's an equation I worked up: Reaction time of play = velocity of ball X distance ball has traveled.

It can be shown from this simple mathematical equation that the two most important parameters in racquetball are the velocity of the ball and the distance from the front wall to the ball. By realizing that the ball comes off the front wall at twice the angle of the approach one can control the distance at which a player must react in order to keep the ball in play. Velocity, of course, is also important and affects the reaction time. By multiplying velocity by the distance—reaction time is calculated. The higher the reaction time the higher the probability of winning the point. Now take this theorem to court with you.

Hogan to readers: What do you think about changing the racquetball rules so there's a single serve? (asked in the October, 1980, "Ask the Champ" page)

Jim Harper: I am opposed to the single serve in singles because it takes away from the advantage the server has been working toward. Serving is part of the player's arsenal in racquetball, just as it is in tennis. He has worked hard on defense to gain the advantage, and under the current rules he should have that advantage.

In doubles I would be in favor of one serve per player because of the length of the game. This would improve tournament schedules, reduce player fatigue and possibly make for longer rallies, although good doubles matches now have many long, exciting rallies.

I think there are other ways the game should experiment with rule changes in an attempt to make the game more exciting

for the fan, and hence for TV exposure.

1. I'm a fan of the 11 point tie-breaker and have been a proponent for the best three out of five games to 11 for a match. This would improve fan interest and keep players concentrating hard for the entire match.

2. Scoring on every rally and alternating serves as is done in tennis and ping pong would equalize the service advantage "problem." Giving each player five serves at a time as in ping pong seems the logical point to start with. In addition to equalizing the service advantage, both players might play more defensively due to the risk of losing a point on every rally, which would lead to longer rallies and higher fan interest. This would also shorten the length of the game, so the format could be taken back to the best two out of three full games to 21. Or—on a more interesting level for the fans—the best four out of seven games to 11.

3. "Zone" serving, as proposed by Charlie Brumfield, would help to reduce the service advantage, but still give the server some offensive punch. It would, of course, eliminate the screen serve, another advantage in terms of refereeing and match length.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my views.

Jim Harper, Chicago, IL

Brian Kravitz: I think racquetball should go to the single serve because there would be an added challenge in getting the first serve in. No one would take the serve for granted anymore because there would be no second chance. The games would go faster because rallies would end in either a side out or a point. People would think more about what they want to do with their only serve. The Z serve would become more popular because it is not quite as daring as a drive, but still can be used offensively with control.

Brian Kravitz, Ames, IA ●

Inside the Master's Mind

by Charlie Brumfield

No Puppetmaster, Please

Equal Rights in Mixed Doubles

This is another instructional article in an exclusive series the four time champ writes for *National Racquetball*.

Mixed doubles is a game which most certainly requires instruction and forethought before even stepping onto the court, especially if you're female. Otherwise what appears to be a relaxed social activity can become a chaotic and potentially dangerous experience.

Mixed doubles is different from both men's and women's doubles. Most boys grow up playing team sports so the transition to doubles in racquetball is natural for them. Girls, on the other hand, have probably participated in individual sports such as swimming, tennis or baton twirling, so playing as a team may be a totally new experience.

So, first of all, I recommend becoming quite familiar with doubles positioning and strategy before every attempting a mixed doubles match. You can learn about doubles by watching experienced "open" caliber teams, focusing not on the ball, but on the players individually and as teams. Or better yet you can read the most thorough and most accurate treatise ever written on racquetball: "Doubles for the Thinking Player, Parts I & II" (*National Racquetball*, May and July 1977) by Charlie Brumfield.

For those of you who were not fortunate enough to have read the entire article or who were not yet introduced to the sport of racquetball at that time, I will now proceed to summarize the major points of doubles.

Both team members are never going to be identical in skill. (This is even more apparent in open mixed doubles because only the top female pros can compete on an even level with a men's A player). Therefore one player is going to be the stronger player. Usually the stronger player will be in charge, developing strategy, calling time outs and designing a system of communication on the court.

Communication is probably the single most important building block in constructing a solid doubles team. You and your doubles partner should always be talking—before the match, during the rally itself, during time outs and between games—and reviewing after the match. During the rally keep your signals short and sweet, such as "yours," "mine," "switch" and "clear." You might even try to come up with hand signals to telegraph which serve you're going to hit.



Stronger on Left

The stronger player, especially if both partners are right handed, will be the one to play the left side for two reasons. First of all the left side player will cover more of the court because his or her forehand will be towards center court. So the left side player covers all the balls on the left wall and the center while the right side player returns the balls on the right side. Many times weaker singles players can be terrific in doubles, simply because their backhands are virtually unnecessary when they play the right side.

Secondly the stronger player is more effective on the left side because most of us have acclimated ourselves to hitting everything to the left side. This is a carry over from singles play against a righty whose backhand would be on the left side.

The most basic doubles strategy—the isolation theory—encourages "ganging up" on the weaker player. The usual result is the weaker player becomes exhausted and even weaker, while the stronger player gets antsy and tries to "poach" (taking shots which are the partner's duty to return). From there it's downhill all the way because teamwork breaks down and the weaker partner has been injured mentally because the "poacher" has no confidence in her or his ability.

Jimmy and Kathy Pool of San Marcos, CA, talk over mixed doubles strategy.

—Carole George photos



But as long as the weaker player is positioned on the right side, it will be more difficult for the opposing team to recondition its thinking and hit everything down the right. (This is similar to the problems one encounters when playing a lefty in singles).

The isolation theory also succeeds in cooling off the stronger player who sees very little action of the game and will probably overreact when the ball finally does end up on the left side of the court.

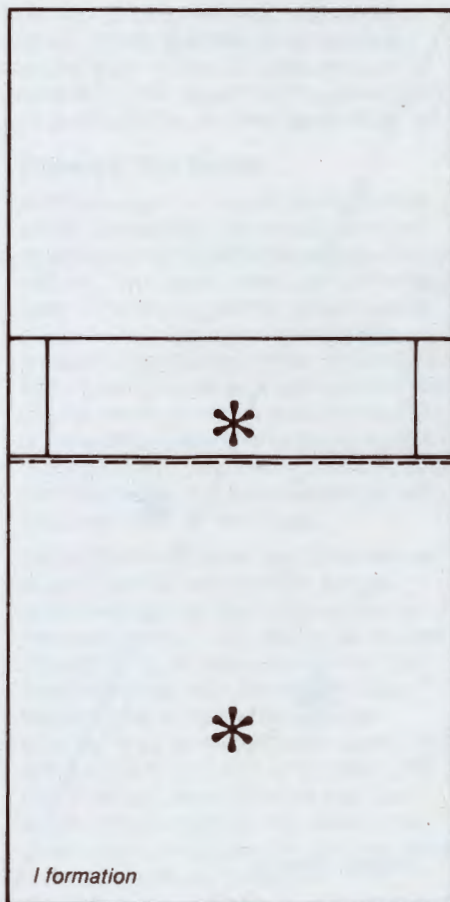
Front and Deep Division

Partners also must decide who plays front court and who plays deep.

The "I"

The "I" formation puts someone in front court ready to rekill anything that doesn't roll out. The player in deep court is there as a backup for anything that gets by the Killer in Front Court.

If you're playing a team that's using the "I" formation, you can defend yourself four ways: (1) Move the person in back court from side to side until exhaustion sets in. (2) Serve to the person who usually covers up front and then kill the next ball before the coverer gets a chance to move up. (3) Kill the ball low and hard up the middle. The front court player will probably not react in time and it will be too late for the back court player to move up. (4) Hit ceiling balls to the back left corner and



wait for a weak return. Then shoot to whichever corner is least guarded by the offensive partner in front court.

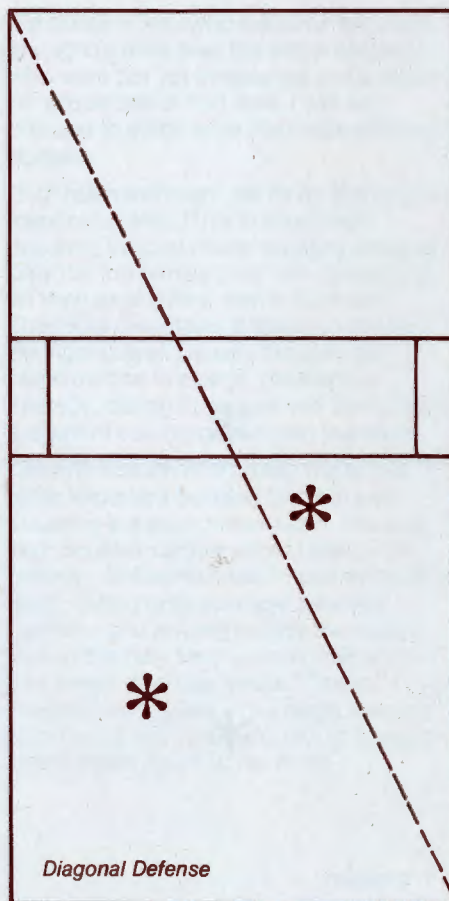
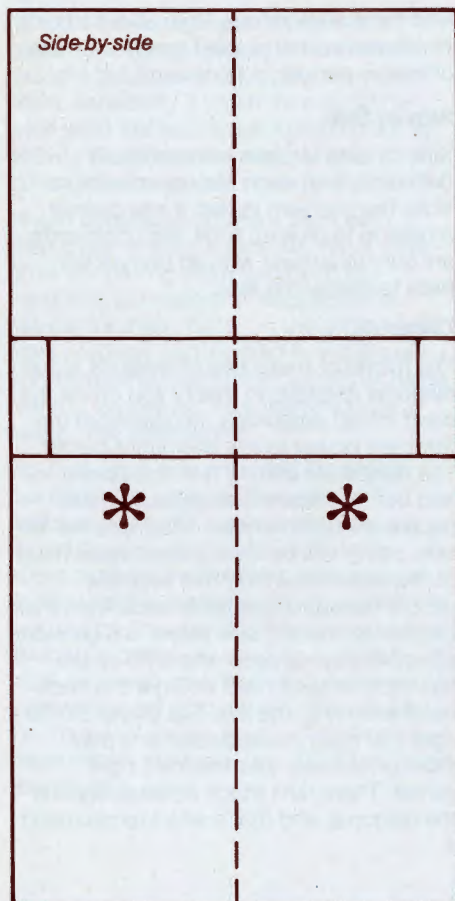
Side by Side

Side by side is clean cut and easily definable, with each partner covering a side. The problem is that if one partner moves in to pick up a kill, the opponents are sure to answer with an unmerciful pass to that same side.

Diagonal

The hybrid of these two formations is the diagonal defense. In theory you divide the court in half diagonally, usually from the front left corner to the back right corner. The reason for cutting it in this direction and not the opposite is because most people are right handed. Therefore the left side player will be hitting backhands most of the time. Assuming that very few people have stronger backhands than their forehands, the left side player will be more effective playing deep where he or she has more time to react and get the backhand around to the left. The player on the right can react more quickly and play more offensively into the front right corner. There isn't much defense against the diagonal, and that's why I recommend it.

Out of position mixed doubles players are in danger of hits from a partner as well as opponents.



The "J"

Peculiar to mixed doubles is the "J" formation, named for its foremost proponent, Jay Jones. What Jones would do is position his partner in the back right corner, while he covered the entire court by himself. Not only is this unfair to the poor woman who entered into the competition under false pretenses, but it's unsportsmanlike to everyone and can be dangerous. To be the ultimate "poacher" and apply the "J" formation takes tremendous stamina. It's like playing one against three because the partner becomes another obstacle rather than part of the team. It also takes a lot of gall.

Beating the "J" formation depends on how good the court hogger is. Unfortunately the court is small enough that a better than average player can cover it quite well alone. About the only thing you can do is attack the hogger's side in critical areas of the court—the corners.

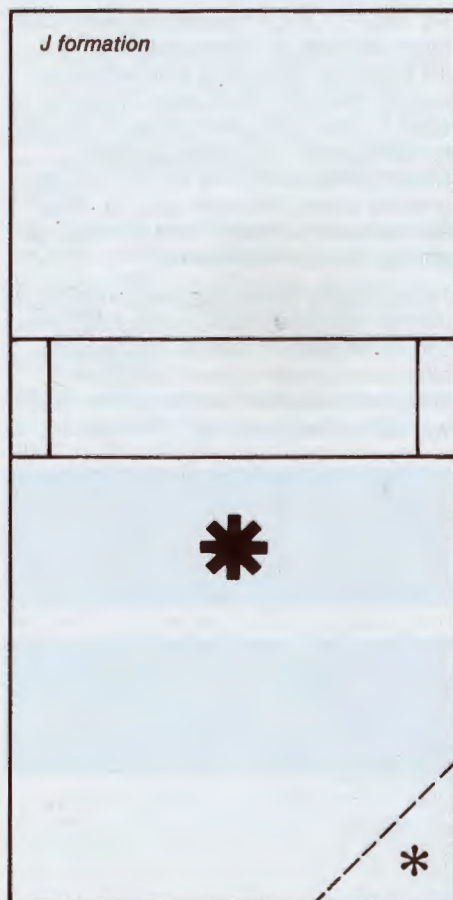
Staying in Touch

Part of the fun of mixed doubles is the camaraderie of the sport. In any team competition communication and morale maintenance are crucial. But all communication should be positive; otherwise you might as well be playing the "J" formation. Be sure that any criticism is constructive and only given during the privacy of a time out or briefly between rallies. As partners you are there to keep

A call of "yours" or "mine" avoids situations in which both partners go for the same ball.



J formation



up the morale of the team. Because so much of your success in racquetball depends on mental attitude and concentration, this aspect of the game cannot be overlooked—so cheer each other on!

Protecting Your Partner

Another aspect of morale maintenance, which is especially necessary in mixed doubles, is the physical protection of your partner. Two cases come to mind immediately. First if your partner makes a great get up in front court, be considerate enough to get the ball to the ceiling at the first opportunity so your partner will have time to return to proper position. Nothing is more discouraging than being caught in "no man's land" and having not only your two opponents, but your partner as well, whizzing shots by your head.

Secondly do not serve hard drive serves directly behind your partner, almost guaranteeing that she or he will be hit by the service return. It's okay to lob to that side of the court because with the five foot safety rule your partner will have enough time to make the decision whether to jump out in center court if the serve stays on the wall, or to stay in the box if the serve hits the side wall and angles into the center. (But even in this latter case you still want to get into center court as quickly as possible).

I realize that one of my earlier articles was entitled "*Blasting the Center Court Theory*." But this was in reference to singles with a super ball. In that case you want to position yourself deeper in the court and flow in to hit the ball on the run to generate the most power.

But doubles is a different game. Keeley's proposed solution was to post signs outside the courts, stating "*Maximum occupancy capacity: 2*" and eliminate doubles entirely from the 20 by 40. It can get a little crowded in there with four people.

Safe in Center

I think that mixed doubles is more enjoyable with the slower ball so everyone has time to react and be in a safe position on the court. This safety zone where you should be most of the time is center court. The only time during the rally when you should leave the general proximity of center court is when you are taking a shot or when the ball is behind you in center court.

For someone who has never played doubles it's a little intimidating to be packed into center court with two other players. In intense moments, with aggressive players, there can be some elbowing and feet getting stepped on in center court, especially since the referee is watching the offensive player.



Wayne Weightman, on the left, takes the ball in the center with his forehand while his partner, Peggy Gardner, is ready to back him up. Here Weightman has succeeded in moving Bruce Radford out of center court and Wayne will win the rally with a pinch shot to the front right corner. Radford's partner is Laura Martino.

On the Fly

But it's the team which controls center court which usually controls the game. Therefore there should be more shots taken on the fly, rather than letting them go to the back wall. If you wait to hit the ball off the back wall you are taking yourself out of center court, shooting from a greater distance to the front wall, and giving your opponents more time to react and reposition themselves in center court.

Cross Court Passes

It is also important to position yourself in center court to allow your partner to hit cross court passes. Nothing is more embarrassing to you, (or frustrating to your partner) than being hit by your partner's perfect pass shot because you are out of position. It's also a matter of safety. If you get between your opponent and the ball—watch out!

A Good Time

Even in practice games I usually stress the importance of trying to win. This is for your ego as well as for getting used to maintaining a high level of intensity any time you step on the court. But I think mixed doubles should be the exception. If your only concern is winning at all costs, mixed doubles will no longer be a fun, social sport, which is what it's intended to

be. Winning is still a nice byproduct, but it shouldn't be your sole objective if all four players are going to have a good time and leave the court on good terms, with bodies still intact.

Women just can't compete with men on an even scale. It's like the woman who tried out for the Pacers basketball team. When they were just shooting baskets and practicing, she was fine, but get her in a real pro competition and they'd have to call in the paramedics. My long time observation has convinced me that men are just plain quicker with their hands and feet.

Therefore I feel that it's only fair to require that the man serve to the man and the woman serve to the woman to equalize the competition. Otherwise the men will try to take advantage of the women. You might also experiment with alternating hits as in ping pong, though I'm afraid this would end up in the man's getting the point every time he hit to the woman.

Men should watch out so they don't spend their time directing and becoming the puppetmaster—getting so involved in directing their partners that they end up not watching the ball. One time my wife Pat and I were playing mixed doubles against Ron Starkman and Ann Delaney. While he was busy telling her to get out of box as he served, the lob he'd just served came down and hit him on the head.

My wife, Pat, and I have attempted to play mixed doubles on a few occasions. But it's especially difficult to play with your spouse. We call this situation "divorce court." I remember when Bette Weed used to team up with her former husband, Chuck. Bette would play the left side and give the orders. (Her shirt said "B. Weed" and his said "C. Weed," which is how he got his nickname "seaweed.")

Though Bette Weed may have overdone it, women who participate in mixed doubles should be ready to take on the responsibility—to do their share. If a woman is timid and dependent on her partner, it's no wonder he resorts to the "J" formation. ●

Around the Wall Confusion

by Mike Yellen

In this exclusive *National Racquetball* series Mike Yellen, second place winner at the 1980 Nationals, discusses topics that come up in clinics he runs for his sponsor, Ektelon.

At times indecision will get the better of even the best of us.

It was indecision, you will recall, which caused Hamlet his miseries; and it's your opponent's indecision which is your chief hope when using the around-the-wall ball (ATWB).

To be or not to be: that is the question. Whether it is nobler in the mind to suffer this turkey to bounce all around the court or to cut it off and, in cutting it off, end it. The real question is when and where to cut it off?

The ATWB changes direction at least three times before coming to earth. You hope your opponent is changing direction right along with it, trying to chase down the proverbial greased pig.

Confusion is the active ingredient in the ATWB. In fact it may be the only advantage to the shot. This isn't the brand of offensive racquetball we are all used to; no picture perfect pass or invisible killshot.

You can only hope that your opponent will become confused and blow it. All in all the ATWB could be put into the category of "garbage" racquetball (were it not for the fact that "garbage" is a term reserved for a type of serve).

It's the kind of stunt Roger Staubach used to pull on fourth down late in the final quarter with him on the 25 yard line and his team lined up on the 50. It's a Meadowlark Lemon lay-up where he drives for the baseline with the ball in his shorts.

The ATWB is strictly on-a-wing-and-a-prayer stuff and not a shot we've seen very much of on the pro tour, at least not until recently.

The around-the-wall ball can be hit from virtually anywhere on the court. Here I contact the left side wall with the ball rebounding to the front wall, the right side wall and across center to deep court, where I hope it will get jammed in a corner or spin out along the back wall like a Z ball. You'll notice that the ATWB is, in fact, the flipside of a Z ball in that it follows a path similar to the Z ball but contacts the side wall rather than the front wall first.





The best defense against the ATWB is to cut it off as it crosses center court. You, therefore, want your ATWB to arc higher over center court than the one shown here which is going to drop within my opponent Leslie's reach. At the same time you don't want the ball to contact the ceiling, so it is better to get height by hitting the ball sharply rather than relying on the arc achieved by hitting it high up on the first side wall.

However even if your ATWB drops within your opponent's reach, it might not spell total disaster. As shown here the ball which is just about to pass in front of Leslie's face will contact her racquet at such a difficult angle that it is hard to imagine her being able to hit an offensive shot. It may even be difficult to hit a good ceiling ball here. (However don't build a game plan around your partner's problems.)



Some of the pros have been throwing in an ATWB or two lately at critical junctures in their matches. Amateurs can have even more success with a shot like this because they are playing opponents who are less accustomed to the freak twists and turns the ball can take during a game.

Basically, the ATWB is the flip side of a Z ball. Instead of striking the front wall first the ball strikes the side wall about three feet back and three feet down from the ceiling. It then contacts the front wall, the other side wall, arcs high over center court and, if all goes well, lands deep in the back court.

The ATWB's principal advantage over the Z ball is that it can be hit from the back

court. In fact it can be hit from anywhere on the court and against any side wall.

Like snowflakes no two are exactly alike. The ball's path depends on your position vis a vis the first side wall, the pace of the ball and how high up on the wall you hit it.

You don't have to worry too much about execution. There's plenty of room for variation.

There are two dangers, though, in using this shot. The first is that you will hit it too high and/or too hard and that it will come off the back wall for a setup.

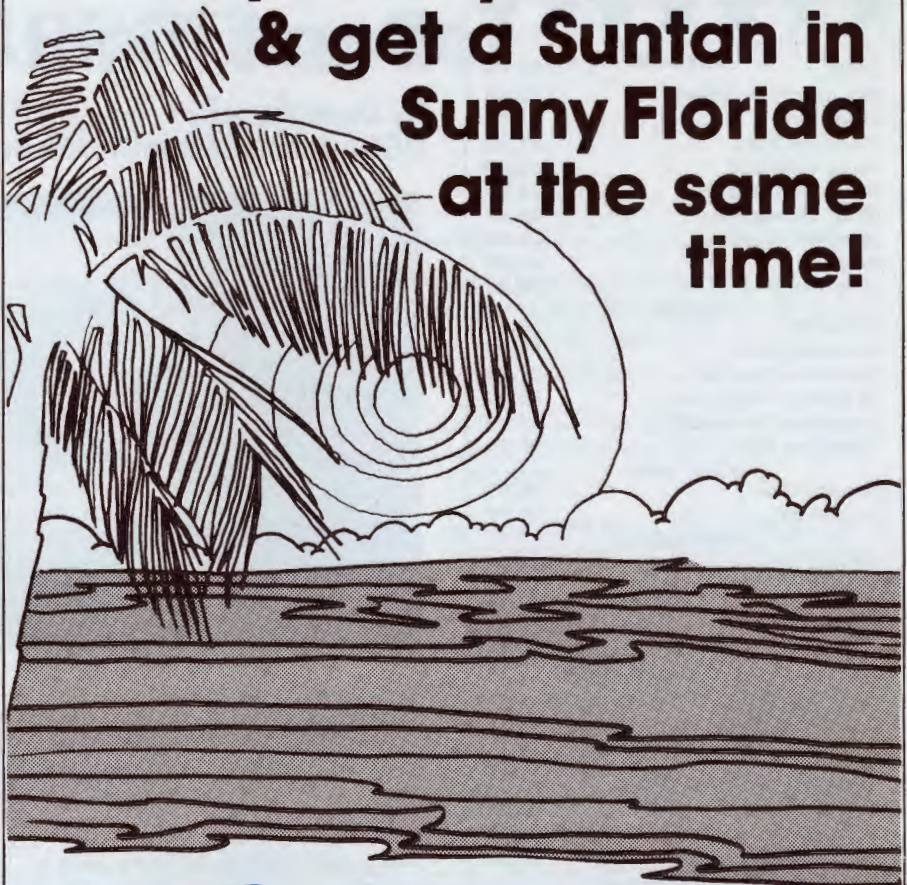
On the other hand it can just as easily jump off the back wall at a crazy angle for a tough shot. Snowflakes, right?

The second thing you have to worry about when using this shot is that your opponent will know what he is doing. As with Z balls your opponent isn't likely to be overwhelmed by an ATWB. If he keeps his head, he can cut the ball off as it crosses center court.

Won't the ball be too high to cut off? Yes, unless you don't execute correctly, providing an opportunity for a pinch or roll corner kill.

Likewise we've been seeing an uncomfortable increase in fly kills lately. The saving grace of the ATWB is that, even if it does cross center court a little low, it still will

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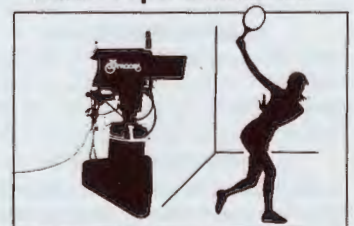
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be heading downward at an oblique angle instead of more or less straight ahead as with most shots.

It won't be easy for an opponent to get off an offensive shot, but it can be done. Therefore you want to choose your opening carefully.

I wouldn't recommend trying the ATWB when you are off balance or digging for the ball. A ceiling ball is a much better defensive choice when you are in a jam. So when do you use the ATWB?

Well since you are relying on the element of surprise, a good time to spring this on your opponent is when he is mentally and physically tired.

Fatigue makes poor court generals of us all. When an opponent is good and winded, you can hope that, instead of stopping to think about the right way to handle the ATWB, he'll get greyhound in his blood and try to run the rabbit down.

Late in the second game is a good time to look for this to happen. Both players should be going all out by then; the winner of the first game will be trying to put the match away, while the opponent is trying to hang on for the tie-breaker.

Another potential ATWB opening is when you and your opponent are in the middle of a slam bam contest. When the kill light turns on, the brains of a lot of killshot artists turn off, leaving them open for a little change of pace shot.

How should you handle an ATWB from your opponent? Cut it off, naturally. You may be able to chase it down, but why waste the energy?

I don't recommend taking an offensive shot when you cut the ball off, though. Another ATWB or, better yet, a ceiling shot is a better way to handle this turkey.

In summary use this shot with caution. It won't replace your pass, kill or pinch and, in defensive situations, the ceiling ball will serve you better.

It won't hurt to sneak an ATWB or two into a game, though, when you think your opponent isn't ready for it.

Who knows, you may get lucky. ●

Don't Fight It—Join It!

by Deno Paolini
USRA Alaska State Chairman

Photo A



To explain the relationship between racquetball and handball players to the uninvolved I might use comparisons such as the Americans and the Japanese on December 7, 1941 or the North and the South at Bull Run.

The questions about why one sport is better than the other or why one is more difficult to play than the other will probably never be resolved during my lifetime.

However when all the smoke clears, it has become apparent to everyone that more and more racquetball players are now playing both sports.

A big reason for the dual role of the racquetball players is the new Bob Kendler family handball. The softer ball makes the transition from racquetball to handball a lot easier (Photo A). The original handball is much harder, bounces slightly higher and usually requires a fair amount of conditioning to prevent the hand from swelling. Men and women can use the family ball without any hand conditioning.

Consider the family ball as a training tool. Think of the hand and eye coordination and the concentration required to hit the small ball with the surface only as large as your hand.

Striking the handball requires the same form as racquetball—knees bent, upper body level, eyes in constant contact with the ball and feet parallel to the side walls (Photo B and C). Take your eyes off the ball and, most assuredly, you will miss not only the placement of the ball but also the ball itself.

Photo B



Photo C



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APRO Teaches . . . The Clinic

by Jim Winterton

Pinch shots, ceiling shots, mid court strategy, the kill shot, and the pass shot and others are all part of both games. In handball you must always hit the ball low and straight for the kill shot to be effective. A pass shot must be executed precisely or it probably won't begin to pass your opponent. In racquetball you can often out power your opponent. With the handball, it isn't quite as simple.

Training with the family handball forces you to concentrate and watch the ball. There is more time to think before you actually execute. However executing your chosen shot is not easy matter. Playing with just your hand reminds you that in the swing a continuous follow through is essential.

You'll also find that well executed soft lob serves require just the right touch. Too often in racquetball, the second serve is designed to simply make it over the service line. Players begin to realize the true effectiveness of the lob and use it on the first and second serves (Photo D).



Playing the family handball you will have to run to more areas of the court. You'll no longer have the advantage of an 18 inch racquet. That additional conditioning of the lungs might take the place of the jogging you never seem to have time for.

We all know that training can get monotonous at times. The switch to playing handball can help provide that new stimulation. It works, and it's fun, try it! ●

Members of the American Professional Racquetball Organization write this regular *National Racquetball* feature for club pros and other racquetball teachers. Jim Winterton teaches at All Sport Fitness and Racquetball Club in Poughkeepsie, NY.

The American Professional Racquetball Organization in cooperation with the United States Professional Tennis Association will hold a racquetball/tennis clinic at the Long Beach Convention Hall in Long Beach, CA Jan. 24 and 25.

For more information write or call the American Professional Racquetball Organization (APRO), 730 Pine Street, Deerfield, IL, 60015, 312-945-4678.

In outlining an instructional program the teaching professional must provide instruction for as many members as possible. At All Sport Racquetball and Fitness Clubs in Poughkeepsie and Fishkill, NY our teaching programs, under the guidance of owners Mike Arteaga and Bill Austin, are constantly changing to meet our customers' needs.

The clinic is a teaching option to consider. It's designed for you to reach as many people as possible in one presentation. Here are four types of clinics:

- **The Beginner or Introduction**

This clinic, which gets everyone started in racquetball, should be free of charge to get a maximum number of people started. In this clinic the club pro should not only teach basics, such as rules and equipment, but also explain club programs that students will be able to use. Safety and court etiquette should also be taught here.

- **The Fixit**

In the Fixit Clinic the pro gives quick adjustments to members' games in short private sessions of five to ten minutes. (Hint: This clinic is best used after your competitive leagues are finished and the league competitors need help!)

- **The Stroke of the Month**

No this isn't a session for a clumsy club member, but a clinic that offers a special shot each month. It is suggested that you change the shot each month so some new aspect of racquetball is dwelled upon. (Hint: Avoid the splat shot the first month unless you enjoy explaining

advanced techniques. Stick to your basic forehand, backhand, ceiling ball and Z serve stuff.)

Members of All Sport 1 in Poughkeepsie get expert advice from Top Touring Pro Dave Peck.



- **The Visiting Pro**

In this clinic outsiders who are accomplished tournament players come into your club. They give a short instructional clinic usually followed by an exhibition match with the local club hot shot. (Hint: Be sure the visiting pro is better than your club hot shot! Somehow the outside authority loses his or her air of superiority when they get blown away in an exhibition.)

- **APRO**

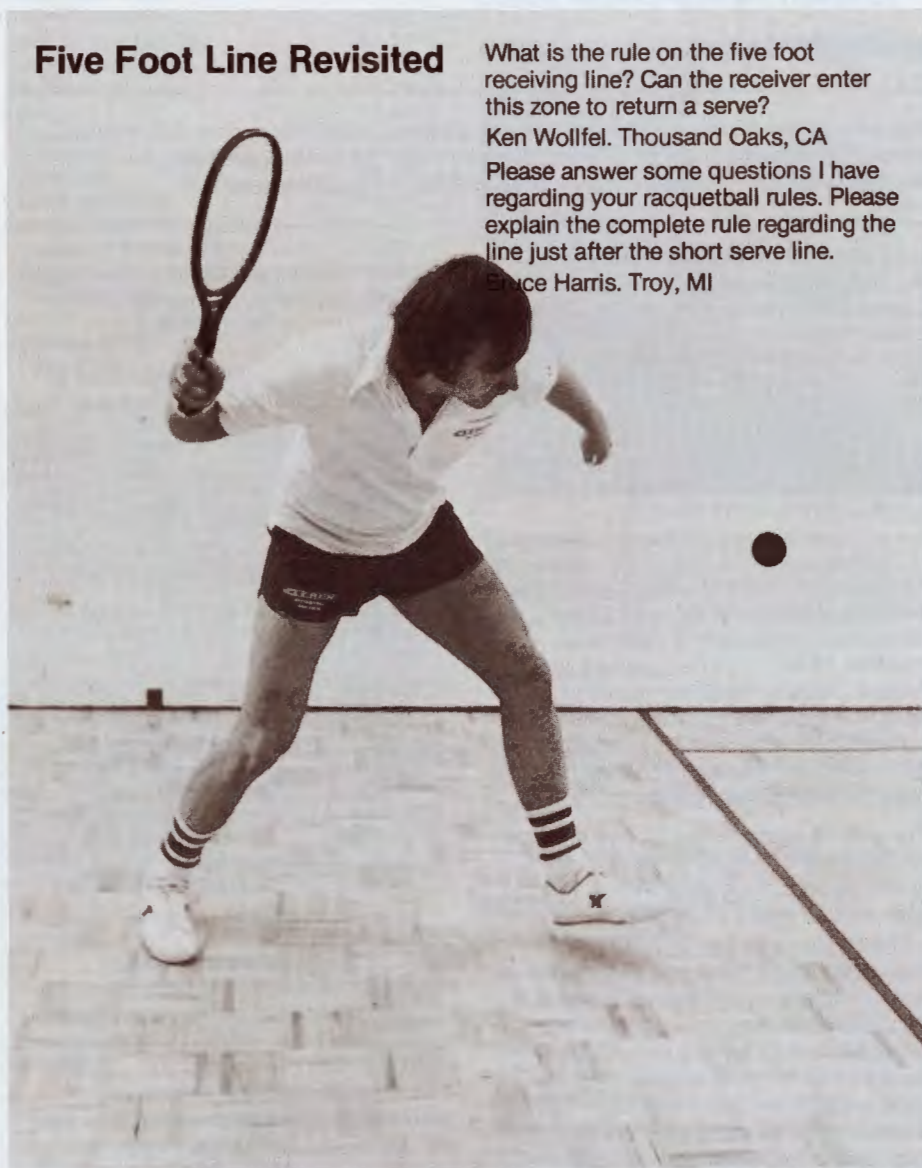
The best type of clinic is our APRO clinic. It is designed to teach you, the racquetball teacher. It is also designed as a forum to allow you to exchange ideas with us. After the clinic you can take the APRO exam certifying you in one of three categories: recognized teacher, certified instructor or certified professional.

If you like these ideas or would like to know more about how other people teach racquetball in their clubs, consider this: These clinic ideas all came from APRO members who shared them with me! ●

What's the Call?

by Dan Bertolucci

Five Foot Line Revisited



What is the rule on the five foot receiving line? Can the receiver enter this zone to return a serve?

Ken Wollfel. Thousand Oaks, CA

Please answer some questions I have regarding your racquetball rules. Please explain the complete rule regarding the line just after the short serve line.

Bruce Harris. Troy, MI

These are just two of the inquiries we still receive about the five foot line. So as to clarify once again the exact interpretation of the rule let me direct myself to Rule 4.7 Return of Serve (a), (c). It reads as follows: *"Rule 4.7 (a) Receiver(s). The receiver or receivers may not infringe on the Receiving Lines until the ball has either bounced beyond the Short Line or passed the Receiving Lines. Therefore, the receiver(s) may not execute a Fly Return within the five foot Safety Zone. Violation by the receiver(s) results in a point for the server. (c) Fly return. In making a fly return it is illegal to strike the return of serve on the fly in front of the receiver's five foot restraining line. After the server has struck the ball the receiver may cross the five foot line to return the serve if the ball bounces between the short line and receiving line. If the ball does not bounce the receiver cannot hit it. Any serve that passes the five foot line in the air may be returned on the fly. Violation by the receiver results in a point for the server."*

What this basically means is that the receiver(s) may not break the imaginary plane created by the five foot line with any part of the body or racquet unless the ball has done one of two things either (1) bounced within the five foot zone or (2) passed the five foot zone on the fly. Only after either one of the above has occurred can the receiver(s) enter into the five foot zone.

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

Gary B. Smith of Belfort, ME describes another situation that requires some interpreting.

A server initiates a long ball serve, the receiver attempts to hit the fly ball and fails to touch it completely. The ball continues on to hit the back wall without touching the floor first. Question: Is it considered a long ball (a fault against the server) or because the receiver attempted to return the ball and fails to touch it, is it a point for the server because the receiver failed to return the serve?

Since there isn't a rule governing the exact situation Gary describes, we must treat this "swing and miss" as a fault serve and interpret it under rule 4.5 (e) Long Serve. *"A long serve is any served ball that hits the front wall and rebounds to the back wall before touching the floor."* In the situation Gary refers to I'm sure the receiver wasn't attempting a fake, but he or she was lucky and benefited by one of those breaks of the game. ●



Beyond the Open

51-Year-Old Blue Banner Flies around the Court

by Marilyn R. Abbey

What does an ex-Frontier Blue Banner do when he hits the age of 50? Just furl up in a corner?

"As the guy said, 'If I'd known I was going to live this long, I'd've taken better care of myself,'" laughs Leo Rodriguez of Reno, NV, a compact, trim former semi-pro baseball and hockey player who has made it all the way to 51.

Rodriguez played hockey for the Banners up in Fort Erie, Ontario, in the late '40s, after growing up in Kenmore, NY. Now a repair supervisor for Nevada Bell he has lived in Reno for eight years, after working close to 20 years for the phone company in California.

"I've been playing racquetball ever since it came into this area," says Rodriguez. Reno now has three clubs with racquetball courts. Supreme Courts, where he plays, has been open about three years.

"There's no game like it," he says emphatically. *"Racquetball has got me feeling young again. I'm in as good shape now as when I was playing semi-pro ball."*

Rodriguez found racquetball via the handball route, and admits to feeling the effects of age in that game. *"In handball you use all your muscles, your back gives out, you get arthritis . . . Then you say, 'What are you gonna do?' I cannot believe that because a guy gets over 50 he has to stick to golf,"* says Rodriguez who plays in tournaments on a telephone company golf team.

Now as long as he does his stretching exercises, and wears a rubber brace for his back while playing, he can burn up the court every day. *"I've introduced a lot of people to this game, and none have ever beaten me,"* says Rodriguez with the grin of a champ.

"Here, because racquetball is fairly new, we're not up to California, not at all," he acknowledges. *"Our A players would be about like their B or C. But I think I'm as good as anybody in this state."* He has competed in Boise, ID, Sacramento and San Francisco, as well as Nevada, and is on the A ladder at his club.

Racquetball fits in with a whole new lifestyle for Rodriguez, who has five children and four granddaughters, and was divorced for a number of years. He now has a new bride, Cheri, 33, who



Leo Rodriguez is a tough opponent for Ed Howden, one of the younger players the ex-pro athlete competes against regularly at Reno's Supreme Courts.



brought to the marriage a boat equipped for water-skiing. They ski on weekends at one of the brilliant blue-green lakes in the mountains, and Cheri has taken up racquetball, too.

Rodriguez comes to the courts after work every day and plays fast ball for an hour. Then he might play a game with Cheri as a slowdown, and have a beer, or two. After that a Jacuzzi if there's time, and a shower, and it's easy to understand Rodriguez' puzzlement when he says *"I don't know why there aren't more people over 50 playing racquetball; I just don't know."*

One of the main benefits for him is the chance to unwind from the pressures of a job where he supervises a crew of eight, and spends much time dealing with customer complaints.

"You get on a court, and it's so fast you don't have time to think about your job," says Rodriguez. That gives racquetball a definite edge over running (*"You're always thinking"*), tennis (*"You rent a court for an hour. How much are you actually playing, 40 minutes? You spend the rest of the time picking up the ball"*), or even his early favorite, baseball (*"You're standing out there in the field between pitches; you're always thinking about something"*).

As far as competition is concerned, Rodriguez met his match, temporarily at least, in one of the old handball crowd. He played the local champion, age about 38, in racquetball and got trounced.

"Don't take anything away from those handball guys. They're good. But if I played him some more," says Leo the Lion, *"I know I could beat him."* ●

—Cliff Cheathon photos



National Teenage League Program

by Mort Leve

USRA President Bob Kendler has announced that Summertime National Teenage Racquetball will be part of the Association's activities. The format is similar to that of Little League baseball in that local leagues compete in team matches and then players form all-star teams to participate in area, state and regional events and a national World Series.

Boy and girl teams will consist of four players, 14 years of age and under. In local league play a team must have at least two players under the age of 14. There will be no such restrictions on all-star teams.

As in nationally organized youth baseball, basketball, football, hockey and soccer programs, volunteer adult leadership is the key to the success of league operations. The court facilities, which will promote this summer program as a natural means of gaining more court occupancy during dormant months, will invite adults to participate as coaches, referees and administrators. Local sponsors will provide the glamour incentive uniforms, sanction fees and possible assistance in court fees if such is necessary. Eyeguards will be mandatory for all participants.

The one variation from official racquetball rules will be an "everything counts" scoring as in ping pong. This moves the games faster, gives more emphasis to defensive skills and will ultimately present a more attractive potential TV package.

National sponsors will help pay expenses for national playoffs.

Kendler, in adopting this program, said, "It is obvious that the future of racquetball is with the grass roots—our youth. They will be the club members of tomorrow. Tennis and golf have long recognized the values of strong youth promotions. This summer program gives juniors two ways to compete—one as a team and the other as an individual in USRA-sponsored events that culminate in the Junior Nationals.

If you want more information on the program or want a charter application, write or call me at the USRA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076, 312-673-4000.

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Mort Leve is the USRA's new marketing and promotional director.

National Racquetball's Most Improved Players — Vermont, Oregon, Maryland and Colorado



John Bostwick, who's 36, started playing racquetball in a makeshift non-regulation court at the Owl Club in St. Albans, VT, began competing in tournaments in November of 1979 and has finished in first place in every competition he's entered since then. His crowning achievement was winning last May's Vermont State Doubles Championship C division with Bob Cronin in a tournament at the Racquet's Edge in Essex Junction, where he's now a member.



The Baltimore Sun, in a Jan. 16 story, summarized the achievements of Maryland's Mark Levy. "One of the brightest talents on the area racquetball scene is 13-year-old Mark Levy of New Carrollton, near College Park. A mark of his progress is that he recently won the Men's B division in the annual club tournament at Supreme Court in Columbia, where the competition runs at a high pitch." Mark, who won the men's Open division at the Laurel Racquetball Club in February of 1980, has taught junior clinics and classes at his home club and at summer camps.



Stacey Snyder, a 16-year-old player who won the 1980 Most Improved Player title in Colorado, has been traveling from her home in Arvada all around her state picking up tournament experience and improving her level of play. After tying for third in the women's C division at an in-club tournament at Colorado Court Sports, where she's a member, Stacey went into the Bs and since November of 1979 has been entering the A and AA categories. Though she hadn't been a winner in that division as of June of 1980, in several tournaments Stacey had made the semi-finals.



Oregon's Ed Burns is playing in Open events now, but only nine months before he was a C level player, taking a second at Gresham Courts' Hush Puppy Racquetball tournament. A member of the Beaverton Racquetball Club 23-year-old Burns won a first in Men's B at the May, 1980 Viking Miller Beer tournament and two more firsts in the Bs until his most recent victory—a first in the As in an American Cancer Society benefit at Lloyd Center Courts in Portland.

Honest Winner

Dear Editor:

In reference to the "Most Improved Player" article in the October issue of *National Racquetball*, there was an error made in the write-up about myself, and I feel I must correct it.

My husband, Russ Joiner, sent an article about my tournament wins and concluded with the statement that I had won third place in my division at the 1979 State Championships. The truth is that at the state championships, with four months experience, I won third place in the D division. Since that time I have progressed and won the open division in several tournaments, but the sentence about the State Championships was incorrect.

I sincerely regret the trouble this may have caused, and hope this will settle everything. I am aware that this could nullify the title I have received. However I feel that if you are really seeking the Most Improved player, it will not. And this year at the State Championships I will prove you made a wise decision.

Pat Joiner
Sherman, TX

No nullification, Pat—and keep playing and improving. ED

More Winners Coming Up

You'll meet more winners of *National Racquetball's* 1980 Most Improved Player Contest in future USRA Amateur sections.

In the meantime save your own records so you can be a candidate for *National Racquetball's* Third Annual Most Improved Player Contest. Scorecards, tournament write-ups and other evidence of your achievements will document your racquetball progress between June of 1980 and June of 1981. Each state's Most Improved player receives gifts that include a lifetime subscription to *National Racquetball*, with its built in membership in the USRA.



Wyoming's Dan Sell Tournament Results



Dan Sell, USRA Wyoming chairman, won the racquetball games he played against 12-year-old Nickey Lawrence, but he lost to Nickey in a wheelchair race, all part of a September fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Sell's 24 hour marathon at the Teton Courts in Riverton, where he's the club pro, raised more than a thousand dollars for the charity.



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

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

Nebraska

The Coors Grand Prix I Pro/Am took place at the Sports Courts of Omaha October 8-12.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Kenny Kaihlanen d. Mike Larsen 21-13, 21-10, Dan Factor d. Craig Wagner 21-14, 17-21, 11-8, Dave Negrete d. George Vierra 21-12, 18-21, 11-3, Ed Andrews d. Mark Martino 21-9, 21-13

Semis: Kaihlanen d. Factor 8-21, 21-18, 11-2, Andrews d. Negrete 21-8, 21-3

Finals: Andrews d. Kaihlanen 21-7, 21-14 **Third:** Negrete, Cons: Irv Rodin

Men's B/A

Quarters: Jeff Plazak d. Wes Gradin 21-12, 16-21, 11-9, Erick Runge d. Lyle Goug 21-20, 21-17, Pat Braunstein d. Gene Kidder, Paul Kennedy d. Dave Olsen 21-12, 21-13

Semis: Runge d. Plazak 21-8, 21-11, Braunstein d. Kennedy 21-9, 21-19

Finals: Braunstein d. Runge 21-15, 14-21, 11-8 **Third:** Kennedy, Cons: Jim Smith

Mens B/B

Quarters: Joe Newland d. Jerry Brosius 21-9, 21-15, John Baratta d. Al Arnold 8-21, 21-16, 11-8, Murray Wilson d. Dick Kirschenbaum 21-12, 21-14, Scott Brase d. Terry Morrison 21-6, 21-20

Semis: Baratta d. Newland 20-21, 21-9, 11-8, Wilson d. Brase 21-9, 21-18 **Finals:** Wilson d. Baratta 21-14, 21-15 **Third:** Brase, Cons: Dennis Mihelich

Men's C/B

Quarters: Andy Gross d. Bill Whippis 21-11, 21-15, Rick Bezousek d. Dennis McGranaghan 21-5, 21-17, Jim McKeown d. Al Herrera 21-13, 21-14, Walt Froehling d. Gary Witkowski 21-8, 21-19

Semis: Gross d. Bezousek 21-20, 21-8, McKeown d. Froehling 21-15

Finals: Gross d. McKeown 21-19, 14-21, 11-10 **Third:** Froehling

Men's C/C

Quarters: Dick French d. Keith Johnson 21-20, 21-5, Steve Illingworth d. Forfelt Doug Van Nispen d. Roger Legrand 21-19, 21-17, Mike Merkel d. Doug Nicoll 21-7, 21-8

Semis: French d. Illingworth 21-14, 21-3, Van Nispen d. Merkel 21-8, 11-21, 11-2 **Finals:** French d. Van Nispen 18-21, 21-15, 11-6 **Third:** Illingworth, Cons: Dale Miller

Men's C/C

Quarters: Steve Carle d. Phil Schenck 16-21, 21-4, 11-5, Dick Marsh d. Chuck Janousek, Bob Thompson d. Brian Van Ormer 21-13, 11-21, 11-7, Bob Wieck d. Dave Beck 21-4, 21-14

Semis: Marsh d. Carle 21-9, 21-3, Thompson d. Wick 18-21, 21-10, 11-5

Finals: Marsh d. Thompson 15-21, 21-18, 11-9 **Third:** Carle, Cons: Steve Knott

Men's D:

Quarters: Terry Tonkin d. Marwin Goff 13-21, 21-12, 11-9, Dave Stewart d. Bob McGowan 21-20, 21-7, Wayne Wall d. Bill Miles 21-18, 21-14, Mike Dodge d. Tim Tighe 21-9, 21-11, Dwayne Paul d. Gary Drake 21-12, 21-11, Jim McCoy d. Larry Voreadis 21-9, 21-13

Semis: Dodge d. Stewart 21-8, 21-10, Paul d. McCoy 13-21, 21-13, 11-10

Finals: Paul d. Dodge 10-21, 21-13, 11-8 **Third:** McCoy

Men's Seniors (35+)

Quarters: Craig Olsen d. Wayne Nelson 21-4, 21-14, Vic Dyck d. Don Glanzer 21-6, 21-17, Bernard Nielsen d. Forfelt, Frances Christiansen d. Ron Siemens 21-14, 21-12, Obed Oas d. Fred Mabsen 21-17, 20-21, 11-10

Semis: Olsen d. Dyck 21-13, 21-7, Oas d. Nielson 5-21, 21-18, 11-10

Finals: Olsen d. Oas 27-7, 21-16 **Third:** Nielson, Cons: Paul Milloy

Women's A

Semis: Lauri Ogden d. Peggy Woods 6-21, 21-16, 11-4, Lydia Emerick d. Jennifer Dahir 21-6, 21-9

Finals: Lydia Emerick d. Lauri Ogden 21-16, 21-17 **Third:** Woods Cons: Tamara Kennedy

Women's B

Quarters: Pat Mickesh d. Beth Finley, Laurel Davis d. Lynne Wiedman 21-5, 21-2, Jane Davin d. Kalo Heldt, Sheri Gross d. Suki Stamp 21-0, 21-1

Semis: Davis d. Mickesh 21-20, 21-11, Gross d. Davin 21-15, 21-7

Finals: Gross d. Davis 21-20, 21-7 **Third:** Mickesh, Cons: Finley

Women's C/B

Quarters: M.J. Hellum d. Paulette Peterson, Linda Sykora d. Cathy Dake 21-10, 21-13, Peggy Haller d. Roxanne Doty 21-12, 21-18, Marilyn Booth d. Susan Sealy

Semis: Hellum d. Sykora 11-21, 21-7, 11-10, Booth d. Haller

Finals: Booth d. Hellum 21-5, 21-10 **Third:** Haller, Cons: Paulette Peterson

Women's D

Quarters: Amy Tatelman d. Julie Tully 21-3, 21-13, Deb Snook d. Deb Dewald 21-3, 21-2, Pat Zimmer d. Amy Farnam 21-14, 21-10, Christine Shank d. Ella Reinig

Semis: Snook d. Tatelman 21-18, 21-7, Shank d. Zimmer 21-11, 21-7

Finals: Snook d. Shank 21-8, 21-4 **Third:** Tatelman, Cons: Cheryl Ridpath

Women's CC

Quarters: Maria Whippis d. Debbie Williams 21-10, 21-7, Marilyn Burr d. Ann Everett 21-16, 21-11, Betty Miles d. Mary Wieck 21-12, 21-18, Carol Schuessler d. Pat Clancy

Semis: Whippis d. Burr. Miles d. Schuessler 21-12, 21-13

Finals: Miles d. Whippis 21-3, 21-6 **Third:** Schuessler, Cons: Mary Wieck

Upcoming Events

Dec. 11-13

Leukemia Racquetball Classic at five Orange County, CA racquetball clubs: Los Caballeros, Fountatin Valley; Santa Ana Athletic Club, Santa Ana; Wallbangers, Buena Park; University Athletic Club, Newport Beach, and Racquetball USA, Laguna Hills. Entry information available at each club or the Leukemia Society 714-539-9511

Jan. 9-11

Playboy Pro Invitational Racquetball Tournament, Lake Geneva Fitness and Racquet Centre, Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Jan. 9-11

Connecticut Open, Downtown Racquet Club, 230 George St., New Haven, CT 06510, 203-787-6501

Feb. 28-March 1

Union Trust/March of Dimes Tournament, Downtown Racquet Club, Tournament Directors Wayne Bruno and Will Verhoeff



Canada

The 10th annual Klondike Canadian Open Racquetball Championship took place July 16-19 at The Court Club and the Racquet House in Edmonton, Alberta.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Lindsay Myers d. Mike Szkorupa (default); Brad Kruger d. Wendell Talaber 21-18, 21-19; Cliff Hendrickson d. Bob Daku 20-21, 21-20, 11-8; Wayne Bowes d. Wayne Davidson 21-18, 21-16

Semis: Myers d. Kruger 21-15, 21-11; Bowes d. Hendrickson

Finals: Myers d. Bowes 21-18, 13-21, 11-10

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Wayne Bowes/Bob Daku d. Mike Szkorupa/John Robbins 21-3, 21-13; Wendell Talaber/Doug White d. Nick Bakay/Ron Kennedy 21-11, 7-21, 11-6; Bill Waddell/Cliff Hendrickson d. Ed Phillipchuk/John Van Riper 21-13, 7-21, 11-6; Wayne Davidson/Brian Valin d. Joe Morin/Brian Kowalski 21-11, 21-7

Semis: Bowes/Daku d. Talaber/White 21-17, 21-6; Davidson/Valin d. Waddell/Hendrickson 21-12, 21-15

Finals: Bowes/Daku d. Davidson/Valin 13-21, 21-15, 11-5

Women's Open

Quarters: Heather McKay d. Heather Stupp 21-8, 21-10; Dena Rassenti d. Taffy Savard 21-5, 21-8; Carol Dupuy d. Chris Cummins 21-15, 21-9; Monique Parent d. Linda Forcade 12-21, 21-14, 11-5

Semis: McKay d. Dupuy 21-5, 21-14; Rassenti d. Parent 21-12, 21-14

Finals: McKay d. Rassenti 21-6, 21-10

Women's Open Doubles

Quarters: Dena Rassenti/Heather Stupp d. Danielle Shaienks/Sylvia Morin 21-11, 21-2; Monique Parent/Suzanne Robert d. Dorothy Jeffrey/Leona Lysack 21-11, 21-20; Gail Kincaid/Taffy Savard d. Shirley Ripplinger/Linda Scharf 21-15, 5-21, 11-4; Carol Dupuy/Susie Khan d. Gail Hartfield/Wanda St. Laurent 21-13, 13-21, 11-7

Semis: Rassenti/Stupp d. Parent/Robert 21-7, 21-17; Kincaid/Savard d. Dupuy/Khan 21-16, 21-13

Finals: Rassenti/Stupp d. Kincaid/Savard 21-14, 21-16

Men's Senior A

Finals: Dave Overand d. Stan Tamre 21-9, 21-11

Men's Senior B

Finals: Al Gordichuk d. Ian Archibald 12-21, 21-18, 11-7

Men's Senior Doubles

Finals: Dunc Stockwell/Dave Overand d. Rolf Maas/Al Gordichuk

Men's B

Finals: Jeff Bennerman d. Greg Ramsay 21-7, 21-12

Men's B Doubles

Finals: David Stewart/Jeff Swartz d. Russ McLaughlin/Gene Basara 21-14, 21-5

Men's C

Finals: Rob Dixon d. Bryan Crockford 21-14, 21-16

Men's Masters

Finals: Roald Thompson d. Dunc Stockwell 21-19, 3-21, 11-6

Men's Junior - Under 16

Finals: Paul Shanks d. Roger Harriersad 21-4, 16-21, 11-7

Men's Junior - 16-18

Finals: Iain Mant d. Daryl Labach 21-20, 12-21, 11-9

Women's B

Finals: Carol McFetridge d. Danielle Shaienks 21-15, 21-18

Women's C

Finals: Maggie Bourgeois d. Linda Markowski 13-21, 21-9, 11-4

Women's Seniors

Finals: Lindsay Robinson d. Ann Young 21-8, 21-14

Women's Juniors

Finals: Belinda Archibald d. Nichola Rodham 21-4, 19-21, 11-7

Indiana

The Full Court Club in Anderson hosted the Indiana State Racquetball Association Junior Championships July 25-27.

Results

Girls

12 and Under: 1st-Jeannie DeMaree

15 and Under: 1st-Dina Pritchett; 2nd-Brigitte Huff; 3rd-Kim Stephenson

17 and Under: 1st-Linda Green

Boys

10 and Under: 1st-Jason York; 2nd-Jason Edwards; 3rd-Curt Mikulla; 4th-Mike Chickedantz

12 and Under: 1st-Keith Pritchett; 2nd-Jack Mallon

15 and Under: 1st-Jeff Zipes; 2nd-Mark Mikulla; 3rd-David Lasbury; 4th-Scott Pufahl

15 and Under Consolation: 1st-Tom Grinsfelder; 2nd-Mike Thomas

17 and Under: 1st-Mark Lasbury; 2nd-Mark Waldorf; 3rd-Brad Beauchamp; 4th-Chip Harmeson

17 and Under Consolation: 1st-Jim Kern; 2nd-Alan Disher

Michigan

National Court Clubs Amateur Racquetball championships got underway August 1 — 3 at three Racquettime clubs, with local qualifiers being eligible to compete in the National Finals in Lombard, IL in September.

Southfield Racquettime Center

Men's A

Semis: John Tocco d. Steve Jerzorski 21-9, 19-21, 11-7; Dan Dutcher d. Steven Labret 21-13, 21-10

Finals: Tocco d. Dutcher 21-14, 21-16

Men's B

Semis: Michael Simons d. Arthur Douglas 21-11, 21-8; Mike Constantine d. Mike Kaufman 21-18, 21-12

Finals: Constantine d. Simons 21-8, 21-12

Men's Novice

Semis: Brian Webster d. Jonathan Schmidt 21-3, 21-18; Barry Lipson d. Edsel Thornhill 21-9, 21-8

Finals: Lipson d. Webster 21-12, 21-8

Women's A

Semis: Donna Henry d. Karen Miller 21-1, 21-9; Debbie Erhart d. Barb Swaab 21-3, 21-6

Finals: Erhart d. Henry 21-16, 17-21, 11-4

Women's Novice

Semis: Sandra Johnson d. Michelle VanderBrook 21-6, 21-6; Kristina Reilly d. Celeste Ozimek 21-11, 12-21, 11-3

Finals: Reilly d. Johnson 21-18, 21-11

Livonia Racquettime Center

Men's B

Semis: Mark Young d. Tom Varga 12-21, 21-3, 11-4; Chuck Swaney d. Mark Ginnebaugh 21-12, 21-10

Finals: Young d. Swaney 12-21, 21-3, 11-4

Men's Novice

Semis: Mike Moroney d. Ned Aloe 21-9, 21-18; Roy Marvel d. Steve Brandt 21-11, 21-12

Finals: Marvel d. Moroney 21-18, 21-9

Women's Novice

Semis: Georgette Wenger d. Jean O'Malley 21-12, 21-8; Barbard Gauthier d. Jo Zechel 21-11, 21-16

Finals: Gauthier d. Wenger 21-9, 21-9

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Men's B

Semis: Steve Marx d. Bob Szuch 21-5, 21-11; David Rodriguez d. Rob Fobar 21-4, 21-14

Finals: Rodriguez d. Marx 21-12, 21-10

Men's Novice

Semis: Glen Benart d. Ken Beatty 21-20, 21-15; David McElroy d. John Gervasi 21-11, 21-18

Finals: McElroy d. Benart 21-16, 21-8

Women's B

Semis: Robin Froman d. Cynthia Sieders 21-17, 21-4; Pina Finazzo d. Lois Hamel 21-20, 21-14

Finals: Froman d. Finazzo 21-14, 21-14

Women's Novice

Semis: Diane DeAngelis d. Sylvia Martin 21-1, 21-6; Nancy Burtka d. Catherine Cain 21-13, 21-3

Finals: Burtka d. DeAngelis 21-15, 21-15

Hawaii

The Hawaiian Regional Navy Racquetball Tournament, hosted by Commander Naval Base Hawaii, took place August 1-12 at the Navy Submarine Base Courts at Pearl Harbor. The double-elimination tournament was open to all active duty navy and coast guard personnel stationed in the Hawaiian region, which includes all of the Hawaiian Islands, Midway Island and the Marshall Islands.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Bill Gadino d. Phil Weyrick 21-17, 21-10; Ken Hooley d. Paul Hollebeke 21-6, 21-4; E.J. Krouse d. Ric Smith 21-3, 21-18; Phil Lenfant d. Rich Mackendrick 21-17, 21-14

Semis: Gadino d. Hooley 10-21, 21-18, 11-6; Krouse d. Lenfant, default; Gadino d. Krause 21-14, 20-21, 11-1

Men's Senior

Quarters: Jim Hodge d. Stephen Shelby 21-0, 21-0; Harold Mullins d. Chuck Lindsay 21-17, 21-5; Terry Mahoney d. Jim Holty 21-10, 21-9; John Burlage d. Bob Gaudette 21-7, 21-5

Semis: Hodge d. Mullins 21-1, 21-3; Burlage d. Mahoney 21-16, 21-12; Hodge d. Burlage 21-17, 21-14

Women's Open

Quarters: Barbara Chase d. Susie Marshall 21-7, 21-5; Linda Tyldesley d. Terry Palmittier 21-11, 21-6; Barbara Gleason d. Jenell Miller 21-3, 21-3; Cynthia Price d. Renee Selby 21-6, 21-8

Semis: Chase d. Tyldesley 21-1, 21-10; Price d. Gleason 21-16, 21-12; Chase d. Price 17-21, 21-7, 11-8

Connecticut

The 1980 Seamco Open was held at Lakewood Racquetball Club in Waterbury Aug. 15-17

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: R. McKinney d. P. Wicha 21-17, 21-20; B. Burnett d. J. Peterson 21-10, 19-21, 11-0; P. Panarella d. J. McKinney 21-17, 21-8; B. Dehm d. H. Packer 21-11, 21-10

Semis: B. Burnett d. R. McKinney, forfeit; B. Dehm d. P. Panarella, forfeit

Finals: B. Dehm d. B. Burnett 21-14, 21-15

Men's B

Quarters: J. Gershaw d. R. Stoker 21-9, 21-11; C. Rozansky d. L. Demaida 21-4, 21-5; J. Mendela d. J. Luciw 21-20, 10-21, 11-3; H. Mann d. J. Cicco 21-4, 21-10

Semis: C. Rozansky d. J. Gershaw 21-18, 21-9; H. Mann d. J. Mendela 21-3, 21-9

Finals: H. Mann d. C. Rozansky 21-15, 21-13

Men's C

Quarters: L. Baross d. M. Levesque 21-15, 13-21, 11-4; G. Hilditch d. G. Hurwitz 20-21, 21-13, 11-9; C. Cressy d. F. Canatelli 21-7, 21-3; D. Cardillo d. M. Freisor 21-14, 19-21, 11-9

Semis: L. Baross d. G. Hilditch 21-14, 21-19; D. Cardillo d. C. Cressy 21-4, 21-3

Finals: D. Cardillo d. L. Baross 21-17, 21-2

Men's Novice

Quarters: W. Vagolygyi d. J. Forenza 21-8, 21-4; A. Latanza d. R. Norton 21-3, 20-21, 11-2; E. Seybold d. C. Aiers 21-5, 21-11; A. Rosenthal d. C. Smith 21-9, 21-12

Semis: A. Latanza d. W. Vagolygyi 21-10, 21-16; A. Rosenthal d. E. Seybold 21-3, 21-12

Finals: A. Rosenthal d. A. Latanza 21-18, 21-12

Men's Senior (35+)

Quarters: J. Nocera d. R. Burdo 21-6, 21-8; B. Daly d. C. Henzy 12-21, 21-14, 11-2; K. Karney d. H. Adler 21-20, 13-21, 11-5; J. Coyle d. P. Royston 21-11, 21-11

Semis: J. Nocera d. B. Daly 12-21, 21-14, 11-2; K. Karney d. J. Coyle 21-12, 21-9

Finals: J. Nocera d. K. Karney, forfeit

Men's Veteran (30+)

Quarters: J. Nocera d. J. DiBenditto 21-10, 21-4; G. Bardoff d. B. McDermott 10-21, 21-15, 11-7; S. Sirico d. G. Jones 21-4, 21-12; P. Hess d. J. DeVito 21-10, 21-12

Semis: J. Nocera d. G. Bardoff 21-10, 21-12; P. Hess d. J. DeVito 21-10, 21-8

Finals: J. Nocera d. P. Hess 21-9, 21-13

Women's Open

Semis: J. Adler d. J. Lauder 21-18, 21-17; S. DiNicola d. L. Petrowski 21-10, 21-17

Finals: S. DiNicola d. J. Adler 15-21, 21-10, 11-10

Women's B

Quarters: J. Lauder, bye; L. Demars d. M. Sudol 21-19, 21-9; L. Ward d. P. Dziubina 21-7, 21-3; K. Taylor d. J. Domian 21-16, 2-21, 11-9

Semis: J. Lauder d. L. Demars 21-17, 21-4; K. Taylor d. L. Ward 21-20, 5-21, 11-9

Finals: J. Lauder d. K. Taylor 17-21, 21-17, 11-2

Women's C

Quarters: J. Domian d. R. Andreoli 21-14, 21-18; A. Sharrett d. C. Quinn 21-12, 21-18; R. Friedman d. L. Demars 21-7, 21-20; T. Kubich d. P. Dziubina 21-5, 21-9

Semis: A. Sharrett d. J. Domian 21-17, 21-14; R. Friedman d. T. Kubich 3-21, 21-13, 11-4

Finals: R. Friedman d. A. Sharrett 21-13, 21-5

Women's Novice

Quarters: D. Brundo d. J. Carey 15-21, 21-13, 11-10; H. Adler d. B. Sirico 18-21, 21-5, 11-5; R. Zola d. C. Norton 21-1, 21-8; S. Narus d. R. Famigletti 21-19, 18-21, 11-8

Semis: H. Adler d. D. Brundo 21-12, 21-9; R. Zola d. S. Narus 21-2, 21-9

Finals: R. Zola d. H. Adler 21-8, 21-14

Juniors 16 and 17

Quarters: N. Katz, bye; K. Seybold d. C. Kulesa 21-11, 15-21, 11-5; D. Heston, bye; B. Mastrobattista d. D. Fauherly 20-21, 21-20, 11-3

Semis: N. Katz d. K. Seybold 21-1, 21-20; D. Heston d. B. Mastrobattista 8-21, 21-16, 11-2

Finals: D. Heston d. N. Katz 2-21, 21-20, 11-1

Juniors 14 and 15

Quarters: R. Pugliese d. S. Brown 21-20, 21-20; M. Velleux d. M. McGovern 20-21, 21-14, 11-8; V. Peco d. E. Hernandez, forfeit; E. Seybold d. H. Fischthal 21-6, 21-2

Semis: R. Pugliese d. M. Velleux 21-13, 21-17; V. Peco d. E. Seybold 21-16, 21-8

Finals: V. Peco d. R. Pugliese 12-21, 21-15, 11-8

Juniors 11-13

Quarters: L. Rimkus d. T. Peco 21-10, 21-20; C. Cola d. M. Royston 21-20, 21-10; D. George d. E. Geiger 21-5, 21-8; H. Adler d. A. Hernandez 21-16, 21-18

Semis: C. Cola d. L. Rimkus 11-21, 21-18, 11-8; D. George d. H. Adler 21-8, 21-12

Finals: C. Cola d. D. George 21-10, 21-16

Open Doubles

Quarters: Nocera/Packer d. Hatten/Rosenblatt, forfeit; Horton/Tora d. Lahoud/Nikora 21-8, 21-20; Kidder/London d. Coyle/Rizzley 21-11, 21-8; Rozansky/Schniedman d. McKinney/Panarella, forfeit

Semis: Nocera/Packer d. Horton/Tora 21-4, 21-20; Kidder/London d. Rozansky/Schniedman 21-20, 21-19

Finals: Nocera/Packer d. Kidder/London 20-21, 21-13, 11-2

B Plus C Doubles

Quarters: Davis/Salvagno d. Lewis/Poudrier 21-16, 21-16; Abate/Marrone d. Barbino/Lanza 21-14, 8-21, 11-7; Jones/Kearney d. Cash/Schulman 21-18, 21-14; Latanza/Peterson d. Adler/Rinaldi 18-21, 21-12, 11-3

Semis: Davis/Salvagno d. Abate/Marrone 14-21, 21-4, 11-9; Latanza/Peterson d. Jones/Kearney, forfeit

Finals: Latanza/Peterson d. Davis/Salvagno 21-15, 21-12

Louisiana

Westbank Courts Racquetball in Metairie, the newest facility in the New Orleans area, held its first club ranking tournament Aug. 15-17.

The seven court club, which opened for business in May, drew about 60 men and 15 women. Men began in the B bracket, with losers dropping to lower B, C and D brackets, while the women began in the C and D brackets.

Mike Thibodeaux, president of the Westbank Courts, earned first place in B, with Mike La Bonne second; Don Campbell scored first in C, with Chris Rittiner second; Lenny Thibodeaux took first in D, with Phil Mariande second. Louise Billings captured first in women's C, with Debbie Wall second; and Lori Colgan won first in D, with Jill Joia second.

California

Courtsports of San Diego hosted the \$2,000 Seamco Pro-Am Classic Aug. 22-24. Larry Meyers and Lynn Adams each won \$450 in the Open Singles. Steve Mondry and Steve Trent split \$450, while Lynn Adams and Laura Martino split \$225 for Open Doubles.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Larry Meyers d. Howie Solomon 12-21, 21-5, 11-4; Craig Doud d. Jim Harper 18-21, 21-14, 11-2; John Manson d. Steve Trent 13-21, 21-8, 11-9; Jeff Bowman d. Mark Martino 21-17, 21-16

Semis: Meyers d. Doud 21-7, 21-17; Bowman d. Manson 21-9, 21-8

Finals: Meyers d. Bowman 7-21, 21-10, 11-8

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Dan Factor/Gary Merrit d. Roger Souders/D.C. Charlson 21-16, 21-8; Wayne Weightman/Howie Solomon d. Jeff Bowman/Mike Maddocks 21-12, 15-21, 11-5; Charlie Brumfield/Ward Leber d. Gary Lusk/Fern Galarza 21-13, 21-10; Steve Mondry/Steve Trent d. Bill Stevens/Larry Handley 21-3, 16-21, 11-7

Semis: Weightman/Soloman d. Factor/Merrit 15-21, 21-16, 11-7; Mondry/Trent d. Brumfield/Leber 21-9, 21-12

Finals: Mondry/Trent d. Weightman/Soloman 21-16, 14-21, 11-2

Women's Open Singles

Quarters: Lynn Adams d. Annie O'Sullivan; Peggy Gardner d. Mary Dee; Karin Walton-Trent d. Laura Martino 14-21, 21-11, 11-10; Marci Greer d. Teresa Nunn

Semis: Adams d. Gardner; Greer d. Walton-Trent 14-21, 21-15, 11-3

Finals: Adams d. Greer 21-17, 20-21, 11-10



Lynn Adams, right, beat Marci Greer in the Seamco Pro-Am Classic Aug. 22-24 at Courtsports of San Diego.

—Charlie George photo

Women's Open Doubles

Semis: Laura Martino/Lynn Adams d. Mary Dee/Bonnie Stoll 21-20, 21-8; Kathy Pool/Peggy Gardner d. Karin Walton-Trent/Cissy Paredes 21-12, 10-21, 11-5

Finals: Martino/Adams d. Pool/Gardner 21-11, 21-16

Men's A Singles

Semis: Mike Pawka d. Bob Matthews 21-11, 21-8; Rich Desmond d. Bill Paxton 21-18, 19-21, 11-6

Finals: Desmond d. Pawka 21-8, 14-21, 11-9

Men's B Singles

Semis: Al Mant d. Dale Curtis 21-9, 21-15; Dave Walker d. Bill Ackermann 21-20, 21-20

Finals: Walker d. Mant 21-6, 21-11

Men's Senior Singles (35 +)

Semis: Bill Paxton d. Sams 21-13, 21-4; Dave Walker d. Tom Carlyon 21-10, 21-17

Finals: Walker d. Paxton 21-7, 19-21, 11-10

Men's Master's Singles (45 +)

Semis: Bud Gutzmer d. Cameron 21-9, 21-12; Bob Ardoin d. Tom Frost 21-4, 21-12

Finals: Ardoin d. Gutzmer 21-2, 21-12

Men's C Singles

Semis: Linder d. Romero 21-16, 21-10; Plummer d. Griff 21-11, 21-7

Finals: Plummer d. Linder 7-21, 21-11, 11-10

Men's Novice Singles

Semis: Freeman d. Alcamo 21-11, 21-15; Drew d. Gionfrido 21-9, 19-21, 11-9

Finals: Freeman d. Drew 21-12, 21-8

Men's Beginner Novice Singles

Semis: Banaga d. Galeana 21-13, 21-15; Stephenson d. Castillo 21-14, 21-7

Finals: Banaga d. Stephenson 21-6, 13-21, 11-3

Men's Senior Novice Singles (35 +)

Finals: Freeman d. Bailey 21-9, 21-5

Men's B Doubles

Finals: Nathan Martin/Paul Martino d. Dale Curtis/George Zadrozny 21-17, 21-11

Mixed Doubles: Mike Pawka/Leslie Clifford d. John Brumfield/Sally Hirst 21-17, 21-14

Men's C Doubles

Finals: Elliot/Mitchell d. Plummer/Griffith 21-18, 21-18

Women's B Singles

Finals: Schaefer d. Thomas 21-6, 21-1

Women's C-Novice Singles

Finals: Gutzmer d. McCormick 21-11, 21-12

Women's Beginner Novice Singles

Finals: Wham d. Schmidtke 10-21, 21-16, 11-9

Illinois

The Stokers Racquetball Club held three-wall Racquetball tournaments at Rainbow Beach in Chicago in June, July and August.

Results

June 27-29 Open Singles

Quarters: F. Hawkins d. Ken Cook 21-17, 20-21, 11-7; Fred McNeal d. Tom Creek 21-18, 21-15; Reggie Robinson d. Ron Spencer 21-17, 21-17; Horace Miller d. K. Crawford 21-7, 21-7

Semis: McNeal d. Hawkins 21-16, 20-21, 11-1; Robinson d. Miller 21-20, 21-20

Finals: McNeal d. Robinson 21-7, 18-21, 11-3

August 29-31 Two on Two (Doubles)

Quarters: G. Mandel/J. Segal d. K. Crawford/R. Robinson 21-18, 21-14; H. Miller/C. Crawford d. G. Gray/F. McNeal 21-18, 21-14; E. Smith/G. Murphy d. K. Cook/W. Venerable 21-18, 21-14; L. Meade/R. Willis d. B. Vincent/M. Smith

Semis: Mandel/Segal d. Smith/Murphy 21-12, 21-9; Miller/Crawford d. Meade/Willis 21-12, 21-8

Finals: Mandel/Segal d. Miller/Crawford 21-18, 21-10

July Novice Tourney: 1st-Leonard Simms, 2nd-George Medellinh

Pennsylvania

Rt. 30 Racquetball Club held its Fall Classic Sept. 5-7.

Results

Men's Open A Singles: 1st-Jeff O'Malley, 2nd-Stan Lindner, 3rd-Mike Magdic

Men's Open A Doubles: 1st-Stan Lindner/Steve Mihalko, 2nd-Rudy VanHulten/AI Schattner, 3rd-Mike Magdic/Jeff O'Malley

Men's B Singles: 1st-Jack Gartley, 2nd-Chuck Thomas, 3rd-Bob Fairgrievs, Cons-Janna Sam

Men's C Singles: 1st-Robert Holderbaum, 2nd-John Pugliano, 3rd-Rick Lacina

Men's Senior Singles: 1st-Stan Obremski, 2nd-Joe Goffus, 3rd-Jack Gartley

Women's B Singles: 1st-Sharon Watson, 2nd-Connie Harrity, 3rd-Cathy Kerber

Women's C Singles: 1st-Cathy Kerber, 2nd-Bev Lintelman, 3rd-Sharon Truxall

Junior Singles: 1st-Mark Weiskercher, 2nd-Karen Obremski, 3rd-Beth Barker



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

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ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be current USRA members in good standing. Membership applications and renewals should accompany entry fee at time of mailing. Membership fee is \$12. Proof of membership will be required at registration desk or may be purchased at tournament.

ENTRY FEE: \$30 in professional event, \$20 in amateur event. Limit one amateur event per player. Players may enter on pro event and one amateur event. No refunds after January 3, 1981

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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Honolulu Club, 932 Ward St. Honolulu, HI 96814 — Attention: Dave Glander.

INFORMATION ON ACCOMMODATIONS: For information on accommodations and transportation contact International Sports Travel, Ron Watson, 1015 Bishop, Suite 222, Honolulu, HI 96813, Phone: 808-536-3547

GENERAL INFORMATION: All players competing in Men's Pro qualifying/Men's Pro/Men's Open, Women's Open be prepared to pay January 14, 1981. All other amateurs should be prepared to play January 10th. Parking available at public lot across the street. USRA/NRC rules on bracket eligibility applies. Tournament Director reserves the right to change players brackets in accordance with these rules. Twelve players are necessary to complete a bracket and each bracket is limited to the first 64 entrants. In the event of an incomplete bracket the Tournament Director reserves the right to move players into next youngest applicable bracket.

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Heather McKay Pops Back in First

Toronto's Champ Defeats Marci Greer In Finals of W.P.R.A. Escondido Tournament

Heather McKay goes through the quarters with a 21-6, 21-13 win over Fran Davis. In other quarter-final matches Marci Greer defeated Sarah Green and Shannon Wright beat Rita Hoff.

by Carole Charfauros George

"I was particularly pleased with the way I played all weekend," said Heather McKay, who regained her number one ranking by defeating Marci Greer in the finals of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association's pro stop Sept. 25-28 in Escondido, CA. *"I think I played some of the best racquetball I ever have since I started competition."*

The surprise of the tournament was not that McKay was able to defeat Greer, but that Greer was in the finals at all. It has been over a year since Marci won the NRC pro stop in Chicago by defeating Rita Hoff in the finals and Shannon Wright in the semis.

This time Greer felt her best match was in the quarters against Sarah Green who lost 21-8, 21-13 before Greer went on to beat Wright in three games. Wright, number one seed coming off of an August victory over McKay at the Newport Beach (CA) Sporting House, had a simple explanation: *"You just can't get up for every tournament."*

Obviously Marci was up for this one. In fact she was the person behind the whole pro stop at the Escondido Athletic Club. Marci suggested the site, organized the tournament and stepped on the court to play in it.

"I wanted to see if I could put together a women's pro stop with all the trimmings," Greer said after it was all over. *"I learned a lot by making some mistakes, but it was great business experience for me."*

Marci also gained some experience by taping a commercial for 13K, a local radio station which donated air time for advertising and provided a light and music show following the Saturday night barbecue. Three times a day the disc jockey announced that 13K and the Escondido Athletic Club were bringing to San Diego the top female racquetball pros in the world, including Marci Greer. That was Marci's cue to say *"Hi, this is Marci . . ."*

Listeners who'd come to see the voice weren't disappointed. The semi-final match between Wright and Greer was an exciting battle between two emotional players.



Comparatively the finals was a lot mellow. Heather seemed to have total control of the match, winning 21-5, 21-16. One fan congratulated McKay afterwards and commented that she looked just like a machine out there. McKay winced at that label people often apply.

"It's a very difficult word to live up to. A machine just goes out and performs at a very high standard all the time and that's what people start to expect of you. I'm just another human being. I have my good days and my bad days. I can't perform like a machine all the time."

Just the same McKay has had the look of computerized perfection as she won the 1979 amateur title and the 1980 professional title, following 18 years of squash experience. *"That match play experience makes me look cool, calm and collected. But underneath it all I get nervous just the same as anybody else. I just don't show it."*

Lynn Adams, left, makes it a 21-7, 21-11 quarter-final victory over Bonnie Stoll, whose W.P.R.A. ranking had jumped from qualifying to number seven in just six months.

None of the quarter-finalists were pushed to the tie-breaker. Wright handed Rita Hoff a 21-16, 21-8 defeat. Greer beat Green while Lynn Adams took out Bonnie Stoll. Stoll's ranking has shot up to the top 10 just in the past six months. McKay gave Fran Davis a rematch after defeating her in the quarters of Newport Beach. Davis made it a little closer this time with scores of 6 and 13.

A few first round upsets included Laura Martino slipping by Karin Walton-Trent before losing 11-9 to Stoll and Mary Dee taking out Peggy Steding in two games.

In the amateurs Brenda Poe, a juniors player who traveled all the way from Florida, upheld her number one seeding by defeating Vicki Rossi of San Diego 11-4 in the tie-breaker. ●

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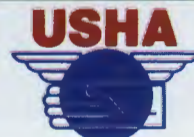
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Yellen Is

by Tom Morrow



—Arthur Shay photos

Number One

Solemn Faced Mike Shakes Marty Hogan From His Four Year First Place Niche

The consistently calm, but powerful play of Mike Yellen vaulted him into the number one spot in professional racquetball Oct. 12 as he defeated Don Thomas of Mesa, AZ for the \$4,500 top prize money at the \$15,000 Coors Racquetball Gran Prix I tournament at Omaha's Sports Courts.

The 20-year-old Southfield, MI professional won the Atlanta and Boston tournaments of the Leach/Seamco NRC events last season before losing to racquetball's all time money winner, Marty Hogan, in the Las Vegas Nationals finals.

Yellen stumbled in the semi-final round of the 1980-81 National Racquetball Club opener last August in Westminster, CA, bowing to Dave Peck of El Paso. But the NRC's new top seed came back strong in Omaha with his usual steady, quiet, determined manner to defeat Mike Levine of Rochester, NY in the first round, Ben Koltun of St. Louis in the second, Steve Strandemo of San Diego in the quarter-finals and Rich Wagner of San Diego in the semi's before downing fifth ranked Thomas in the final round.

As it turned out Yellen seemed to be the only predictable player at this second Leach/Seamco NRC stop. Top 10 seeds crumbled before lower ranked players, several of them rookies in professional racquetball.

El Paso's Peck brothers supplied some major supprises. Dave, who came into the tournament ranked number four, went down 17-21, 21-5, 11-4 in the first round to Gary Berberet of Fullerton, CA, who held a 26 NRC ranking.



Mike Yellen, left, hits an unexpected winner from back court to put Don Thomas off balance in a Yellen-dominated finals match.

After a year and a half of disappointing performances Rich Wagner regains his concentration, though not sufficiently to beat Mike Yellen in the semis.



Dave's little brother, Gregg, ranked 31, pulled off the tournament's biggest shocker. He defeated long time number one seeded Marty Hogan of San Diego 21-13, 20-21, 11-10. Hogan, holder of three straight national titles and the top pro ranking for more than four years, was eliminated in the quarter-final round by Peck, who had won the 17 and Under Boys Championship at the USRA 1981 Junior Nationals.

The Peck-Hogan bout was one of racquetball's most gripping matches. The high school senior from El Paso beat the champ at his own game— power racquetball. Peck matched Hogan shot for shot and point for point after Hogan had stumbled in the first game 21-13.

Hogan had the youngster 6-0 in the second game, but allowed Peck to out-score him 21-3 before the champ got back on track with an eight point scoring drive. With Hogan leading 20-13 Peck ran seven points on the top seed and threatened to take the match in straight sets after tying the score 20-20 before skipping the winning point to Hogan.

The tie-breaker proved more thrilling than the first games with each player making difficult, well directed pinch and kill shots as they traded points. Hogan jumped 2-0, but let Peck follow with eight straight points. Then it was Hogan's turn to run eight points before Peck found the mark again. With the score 10-8 at Hogan's advantage, the young rookie ran three straight points to ice the match and to deny the champ a berth in the semi-final round.

Ironically before the tournament began, Hogan had told a television sportscaster that it was the young players he was most concerned about.

"It's not the fellas I've been playing against these past few years who worry me," said Hogan to WOWT-TV's John Knicely in Omaha. "It's the young 16 and 17-year-old players who are coming up through the ranks that I worry about."

In the semis— his best match of the Coors Open Grand Prix I — Don Thomas outmaneuvers Gregg Peck for prime court position.

In the quarters Marty Hogan finds himself where he usually puts opponents—in back court—while Gregg Peck takes over the center.



Gregg Peck had beaten 11th seeded Dave Bledsoe of Aurora, CO in the first round 21-9, 21-12 and seventh ranked Craig McCoy of Riverside, CA 21-13, 21-17 in the second before meeting Hogan. But in the semi-final round the youngster from El Paso's Irvin High School froze as fifth seeded Thomas stopped him 21-10, 21-3.

Thomas, who had great success last season in coming from nowhere to the top 10, downed Ross Harvey of Montreal in the first round; Kyle Kamalu of Provo, UT in the second and practice partner-friend Bobby Bolan of Tempe, AZ in the quarter-finals. Kamalu gave Thomas one of his best matches after defeating Steve Serot of St. Louis in the first round. Kamalu is definitely a player to watch this season.

Bolan's loss to Thomas should not discount the fine play the nation's 18th seed turned in at the Sports Courts. Bolan ousted ninth seed Charlie Brumfield of San Diego 21-8, 21-16, in the first round and Berberet 21-20, 11-21, 11-9 in the second.

Other tournament standouts in Omaha were John Eggerman (24th seed) of Boise, ID and Bruce Christiansen, of Nashua, NH. Eggerman knocked off eighth ranked Doug Cohen of St. Louis in the first round 21-10, 16-21, 11-6 before losing to Steve Strandemo, the San Diego veteran, in the second 21-15, 21-11. Christiansen (13th seed) defeated Beaver Wickam of Oceanside, CA in the first round 21-7, 21-13 before losing to a tough Jerry Hilecher of Solana Beach, CA 21-8, 21-3.



Hilecher's loss in the quarter-finals to Rich Wagner of San Diego came as a surprise to NRC fans. The 26-year-old was expected to finish strong in the Omaha meet after upending Hogan in the semi-final round of the Westminster tournament and outlasting Dave Peck to take top money in the season's opener.

But after clobbering Wagner 21-3 in the opening game of the Omaha quarters the third seeded Hilecher seemed to freeze, allowing Wagner, who is known for his quickness and strong play, to outscore him 21-10 and 11-2 in the tie-breaker.

Shortly after Marty Hogan tells the ref "This guy can put it away blind," a grinning Gregg Peck wins his first quarter-final pro tour encounter, and the three time champ makes a quick exit.



Steve Strandemo's weak return gives Mike Yellen an opportunity to respond with a winner in the quarter-finals.

Don Thomas gets ready to answer Bob Bolan's drive as the two Arizona Athletic Club alumni meet in the quarters.



Hilecher's game in the quarter-finals was marred by a number of uncharacteristic skip shots. Hilecher gave up seven points in the second game on skip shots alone.

Wagner, who had been ranked in the top five last year before being injured in an auto accident, showed strong signs of returning to the high caliber of play he has exhibited in past years.

But in the semis he and young Peck—looking as if he were developing into an upset tournament champion—were losers against Yellen and Thomas, who certified themselves as two of the nation's top players.

Thomas, who had problems getting past Kamalu in the second round and Bolan in the quarter-finals, played nearly perfect racquetball in the semi-finals to stop Gregg Peck's steam rolling play.

Yellen's calm, almost solemn expression never changed through all his matches, including the finals. For Thomas his Omaha performance was both triumph and frustration. It marked his first professional final round play, but one more defeat at the racquet of the ice man, Yellen.

Thomas began the match in that final round playing Yellen point for point, continuing the strong, fine play he had exhibited in the match the evening before against young Peck. However with Thomas having a 13-12 advantage Yellen began a nine point scoring spree, the beginning of the end for Don.

The 21-year-old who now lives in San Diego, seemed to freeze more and more with each point scored by Yellen. Thomas skipped the final point to the 20-year-old Yellen giving him the first game of the match 21-13.

The second game saw Yellen in complete control, limiting Thomas to only seven points after Yellen ran the score 11-1 in the first half and 8-2 in the second stanza. Thomas had only a 4-1 scoring run in between.

The Coors Racquetball Grand Prix I was the first in a series for the Coors Grand Prix of Racquetball which culminates with finals in St. Louis in May. Finalists for the series will be qualified from points earned during the NRC tour.



Rich Wagner outlasts Jerry Hilecher's steady game in the quarter-final round of the Leach/Seamco pro stop in Omaha.

Coming into home stretch Mike Yellen predicts the outcome of the tournament that puts him on top of the men's pro rankings.



\$15,000 Coors Racquetball Grand Prix I Oct. 8-12

1st Round: Marty Hogan d. Dave Fleetwood 20-21, 21-8, 11-5; Keith Dunlap d. Mark Morrow 20-21, 21-11, 11-4; Gregg Peck d. Dave Bledsoe 21-9, 21-12; Craig McCoy d. Jerry Zuckerman 12-21, 21-14, 11-2; Don Thomas d. Ross Harvey 21-12, 21-15; Kyle Kamalu d. Steve Serot 21-9, 21-8; Bob Bolan d. Charlie Brumfield 21-8, 21-16; Gary Berberet d. Dave Peck 17-21, 21-5, 11-4; Jerry Hilecher d. Larry Meyers 21-8, 21-15; Bruce Christiansen d. Beaver Wickham 21-7, 21-13; Rich Wagner d. Dan Factor 21-5, 19-21, 11-6; Scott Hawkins d. Lindsay Myers 6-21, 21-20, 11-7; John Eggerman d. Doug Cohen 21-10, 16-21, 11-6; Steve Strandemo d. Dennis McDowell 21-15, 16-21, 11-5; Ben Koltun d. Ken Kaihlanen 21-19, 21-16; Mike Yellen d. Mike Levine 21-6, 21-15

2nd Round: Hogan d. Dunlap 21-13, 21-14; G. Peck d. McCoy 21-13, 21-17; Thomas d. Kamalu 12-21, 21-20; 11-4; Bolan d. Berberet 21-20, 11-21, 11-9; Hilecher d. Christiansen 21-8, 21-3; Wagner d. Hawkins 21-15, 18-21, 11-10; Strandemo d. Eggerman 21-15, 21-11; Yellen d. Koltun 17-21, 21-8, 11-6

Quarters: G. Peck d. Hogan 21-14, 20-21, 11-10; Thomas d. Bolan 21-19, 18-21, 11-6; Wagner d. Hilecher 3-21, 21-10, 11-2; Yellen d. Strandemo 21-14, 21-15

Semis: Thomas d. G. Peck 21-10, 21-3; Yellen d. Wagner 21-18, 21-13

Finals: Yellen d. Thomas 21-13, 21-7

National Racquetball Club Rankings (coming out of the October stop in Omaha)

1. Mike Yellen
2. Marty Hogan
3. Jerry Hilecher
4. Dave Peck
5. Don Thomas
6. Steve Strandemo
7. Lindsay Myers
8. Craig McCoy
- Rich Wagner
10. Bruce Christiansen
11. Ben Koltun
12. Dave Bledsoe
13. Doug Cohen
14. Bob Bolan
15. Gregg Peck
16. Charlie Brumfield
17. Mark Morrow
18. Scott Hawkins
19. John Eggerman
- Jeff Bowman
21. Larry Meyers
22. Dave Fleetwood
23. Steve Serot
- Gary Berberet

Notes of the Tournament . . .

This Coors Grand Prix series opener, part of the Leach/Seamco NRC tour, benefited from a capable overseer—Glenn Eaton, Coors Omaha distributor. Eaton opened the spigots on the kegs of Coors beer at the Saturday night players' party hosted by Tom Schussler, owner of the Sports Courts of Omaha. Johnny's Cafe, a famous Omaha beef restaurant, catered the party . . . Sports Courts staff members generous with their hospitality included Maidy Urbanek, Brian Van Ormer, Roland and Erma Dickey, Sue Cordell and Kim Devoss . . . The NRC uncovered three efficient referees who served at this pro stop and will be called on again during the 1980-81 season. The new NRC refs are Bo Champagne of Baton Rouge, LA;

Gary Merritt of San Diego, and Tony Perrone of Omaha . . . Ed Andrews of Carolitos, CA, who had finished second to Las Vegas' Brett Harnett in both the Nationals and the pro tour opener, finally came into his own, outclassing the entire field to win the Men's Open (Harnett had defaulted prior to the tournament) . . . Lauri Ogden, of Lincoln, NE, who was a junior up-and-comer in the 1979 USRA Junior Nationals in Tuscon, reached the finals of the Women's Open, where she was beaten by Lydia Emerick of Denver . . . Omaha outdid itself as far as the weather was concerned. The balmy days in the 70s were a sharp contrast to the last NRC pro stop at which the women pros met 22 below zero temperatures. ●

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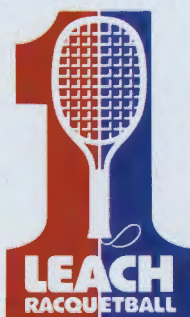
Collectively, our Leach racquets are the winningest graphites on the pro tour. Bar none. With the largest selection of graphite racquets available from any single source.

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National Racquetball Club

Pro/Am Tour • 1980-81

Co-sponsored by Seamco/Leach

Tanner/Coca Cola RB Classic

Dec. 10-14

Memphis State U, Memphis, TN
Open

Catalina RB Classic

Jan. 10-18

The Honolulu Club, Honolulu, HI
Open

Coors Grand Prix II

Feb. 18-22

Chancellors, Houston, TX
Open

Kunnan/Leach Tournament of Champions

March 18-22

Sportrooms, Miami, FL
*

Seamco RB Classic

April 8-12

To be announced
Open

Coors Grand Prix Final

May 6-10

Town & Country Racquet Club, St. Louis, MO
Open

USRA National Amateur Championships

June 6-13

To be announced
Open

NRC Professional Championships

Late June or early July

To be announced
Top 32

USRA Regionals

April 2-5

USRA Junior Regionals

July 9-12/July 16-19

USRA Junior Nationals

Aug. 10-15

CBC Racquetball Classic

To be scheduled late April or May

*Format for T.O.C. will include top eight based on year ending '79-80 results along with '80 USRA Men Open Winner, '80 Canadian Open Winner and two at-large sponsor choices.



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