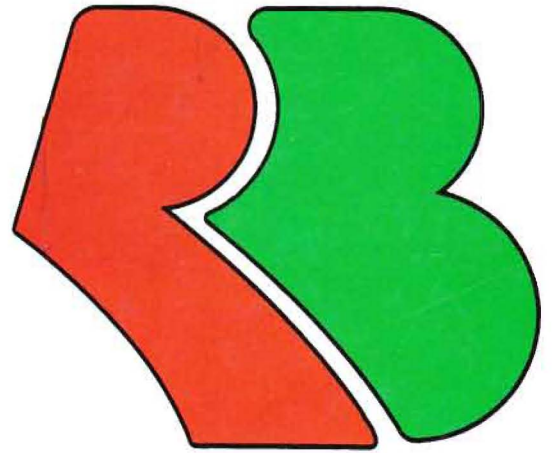


INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL

July (August) 1983 Vol. 1 No. 3 \$2.00

Mike Yellen's Nationals Sweep



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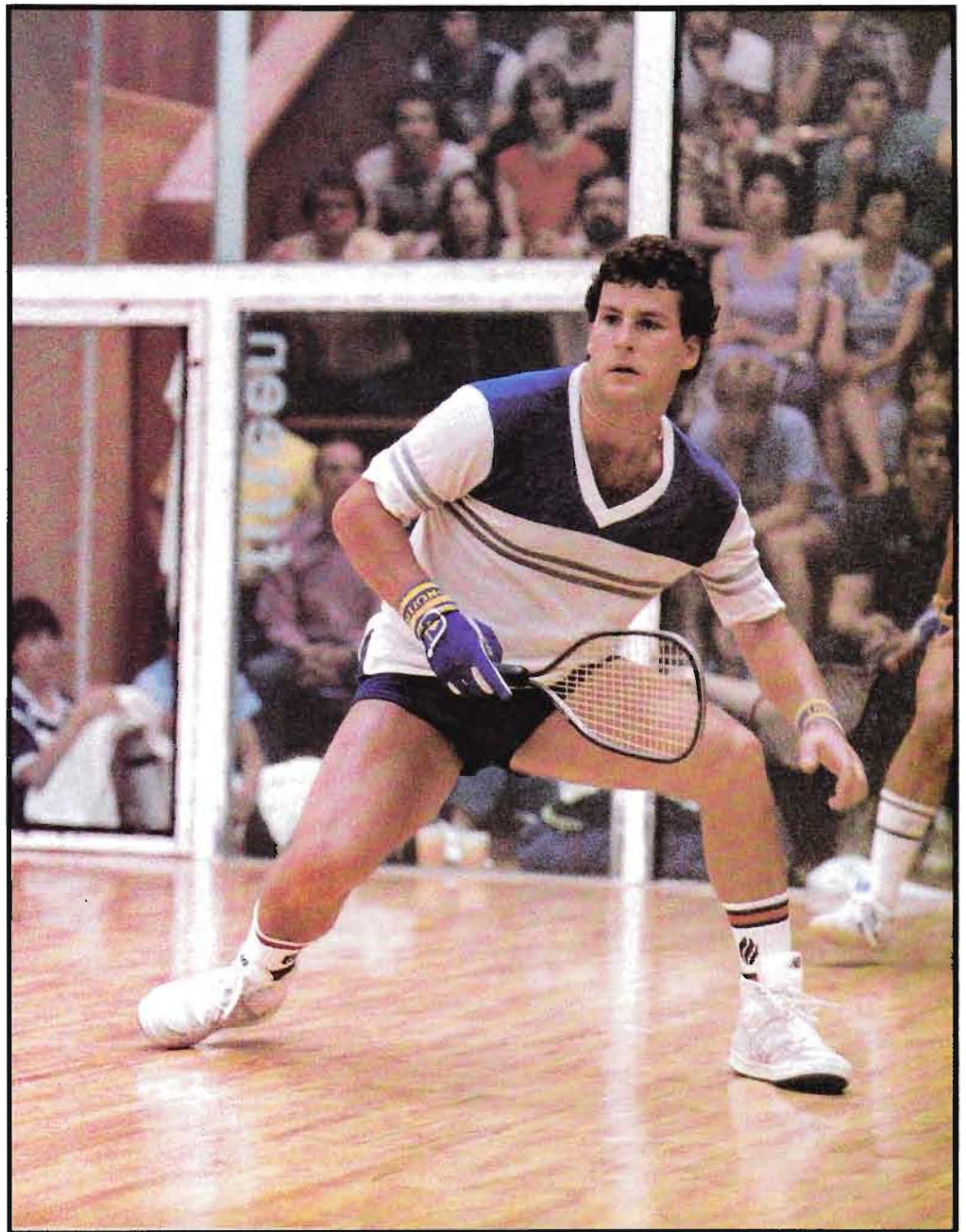
Profile:

Ruben Gonzalez

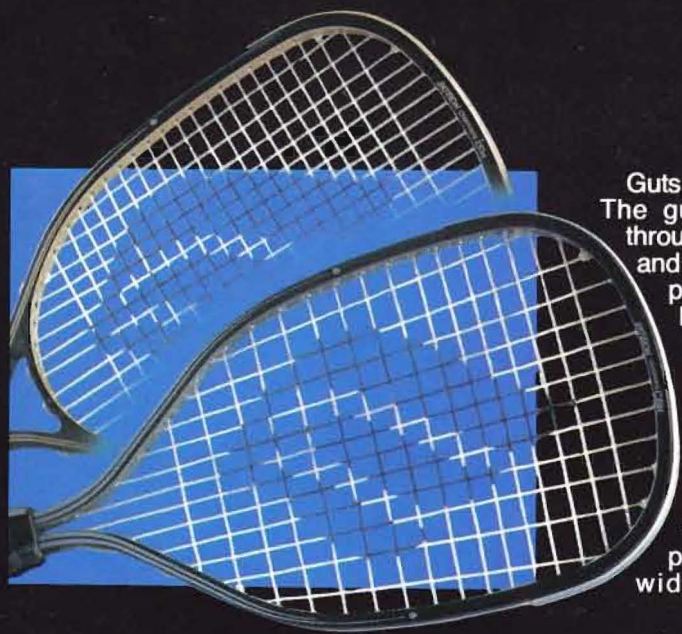
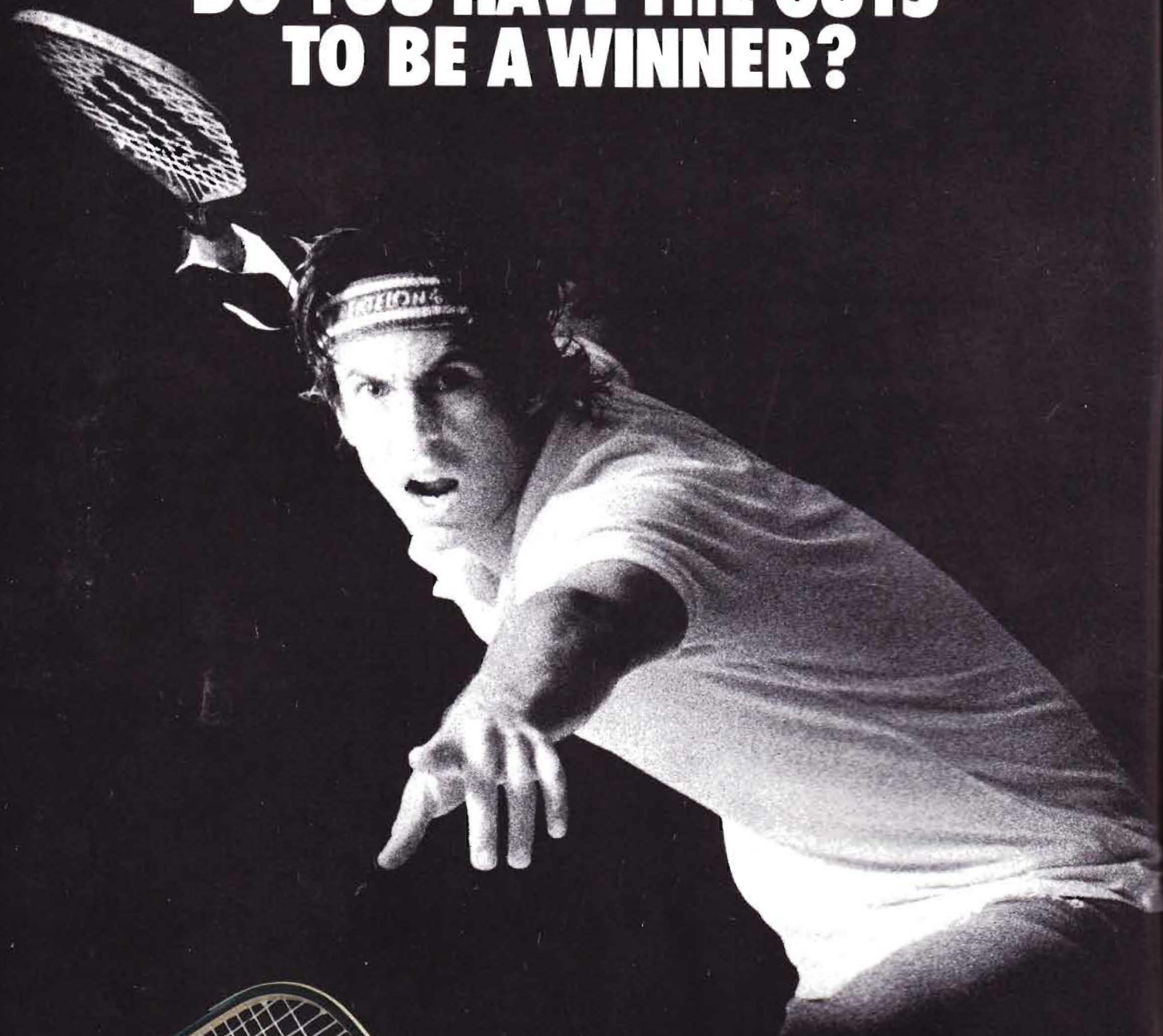
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Official Rankings
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Vol. 1 No. 3

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Hey, You Can't Do That!



Jason Holloman
Publisher

I love it when people are jogged off their high horses, when Jack comes along and fells the Giant and when the impossible becomes fact. It's been happening a lot lately in racquetball. The Olympic Gods of Racquetball, that is, the seeded professionals, walk out on the court swinging against the underdogs and when the dust clears, lo and behold we have some new heroes. Such is the story of Ruben Gonzalez in this issue.

Then, of course, there is Mike Yellen. No underdog he, that's true. But who would have thought that in the Clash of the Titans Mike would emerge the new King of the Mountain. It certainly wasn't in the cards a few months ago. And how about the P.R.O.? "A player's organization for the men?" scoffed some powerful people, "hey, it can't be done!" Like I say, it tickles me right here in my typewriter. Come to think of it, we've heard the same line a few times here at International Racquetball. "Another racquetball magazine?" laughs an old-timer in the sport, "you guys must be crazy! You just can't do that. Nobody is interested." I just have to chuckle.

Nobody interested. Nothing could be further from the truth. Did you know how many people turned up in Atlanta and signed up for a chance to play the Big Boys? 750! Do you know how many people turned out to watch the Nationals? The fire department had to clear the isles there were so many. From personal experience via my telephone I know that people from Paris, Idaho to Tokyo, Japan want to know what's happening in professional racquetball. Some have said the heyday of racquetball has passed. Bullpucky. It's just getting started, so stay tuned, folks, we're going to give you some mighty exciting stuff, at least after vacation.

Yeah. International Racquetball is taking a little vacation. Probably up to Lake Louise in Canada. If you're a little confused why this issue is called the July/August issue, it's because the tournaments we have covered in the last three issues have been in the latter parts of the month when we usually would be

printing, and, after three months of being late to press, we need to catch up to our proper cover date. Consider this issue a sort of "Daylight Savings Issue" for International Racquetball. Watch out for our September issue. It will be full of surprises and interesting feature coverage.

Speaking of coverage, some kind people have shown us a few errors in our typesetting. Misspelled words and the like. Would you believe we put those errors in there to keep you on your toes? Well, I must admit a few get by us in the proof-reading stage, but in our effort to get you the news fast, we do a little too much rushing. Thanks for your input, though, at least we know we're being read.

Read our Editor's Column on "The Other Side of Marty." It's about the timely and touchy subject of "appearance fees" and it seems like a good time to take a look at this subject considering all the press it's been getting in the tennis world.

I'd like to thank Sandy Genelius for the fine work she does for the WPRA. She sent us the women's Head to Head Competition Chart you can gawk at along with the men's on page 44. She also gave us the inside info on the women's tour for 1983-84. Looks as if the women, as usual, have got their act together. The P.R.O. is still trying to solidify their fall schedule and by the looks of it, the men are going to have a split Fall and Spring season. More of that inside this issue.

I'd also like to thank Carol George for her article on what's cooking in Japan. Our neighbors across the Pacific are baking up a surprise for us. I can just smell it. Carol also sent us the info on the AARA tournament results plus some pictures. Next time you see Carol with camera, smile.

That's it for now. I hope everyone has a great vacation this summer, but don't forget to write us here in the City of Salt. We really are interested in what you're doing in the world of International Racquetball.



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THE OTHER SIDE OF MARTY

The myth of one's own indispensability is the cruelest form of self-deception.



Drew Stoddard
Editor

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Just prior to press time, well after the following article was written and in place, International Racquetball received information indicating that there may currently be some positive movement on the part of Marty Hogan toward the actualization of a men's players' association. In light of that possibility, it should be noted that the information that follows was never intended to cast aspersions on Marty Hogan's potential for leadership, but simply to point out that he has thus far failed to exercise any such ability.

We believe that the formation of a legitimate men's players' association is absolutely crucial to both the short and long term survival of professional racquetball, and we will support any effort that is able to achieve that end. However, we also believe that to claim legitimacy, a players' association must, in some way, speak for all professional players. We welcome and encourage any efforts in that direction on the part of Marty Hogan.



I have some friends who believe that those of us who have the chance to speak to the racquetball community have a responsibility to dwell on things that are positive. I want them to know that they are right. To them only do I apologize for what follows. But it is not always possible to remain positive and yet say what must be said.

One of the longest running gags in professional racquetball concerns how Charlie Drake used to insist that Charlie Brumfield always travel in the company of Marty Hogan to "assist" the young phenom whenever Marty would make a personal appearance. The wisdom of racquetball's traveling dynamic-duo was simple; whenever in public, Marty would hit the ball and Charlie would do the talking. Drake was of the opinion, so the story goes, that when it came to expressing one's self in public, Marty was indeed a great racquetball player.

Well, times have changed. Charlie Brumfield has retired from the pro game and Marty Hogan has gotten older. And apparently Marty has decided that it is time that he begin speaking his mind. Oh, Charlie, where are you now that we need you?

The latest example of Marty's self-expression came in an almost unbelievable exchange between Marty and John Egerman at the professional player's meeting in Chicago, during the Catalina Nationals. Here's an account of what took place, recreated from the reports of a number of players who were present; during the meeting Jerry Hilecher was discussing the need for the player's association to act as a clearing house for potential pro-tournament sponsors. At that point Marty offered his already well-known view that he did not personally need a player's association.

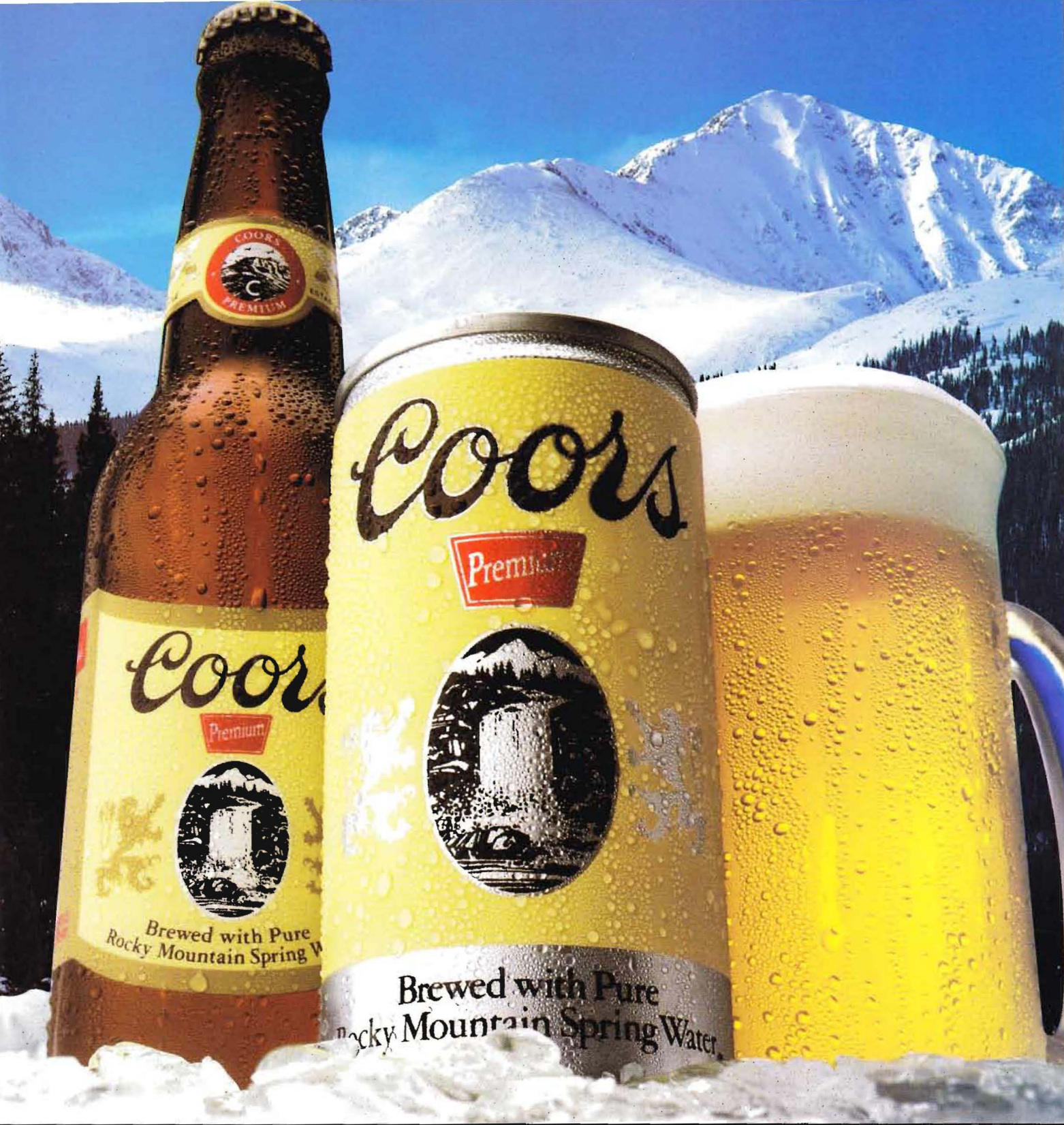
"I have six sponsors who are ready right now to sponsor me in a tour anywhere I want to play," he expounded to the group.

"Oh really, Marty?" the usually reserved, but obviously agitated Egerman asked, "and are people going to come out and pay to watch you play with yourself?"

"Well," Hogan shot back, "it would be a lot better for them to watch that than to have to watch me play you guys."

Now, that statement is not particularly disturbing in itself to people who have watched and listened to Marty over the last few years. He has from time to time been known to speak

Continued on Page 10



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imprudently. What is disturbing about the Chicago incident, however, is that it probably says less about Marty's diplomatic skills than it does about his grasp of reality.

This latest incident comes against the backdrop of the formation of the PRO (Professional Racquetball Organization), which constitutes the latest attempt by the men to form a successful player's association. In his efforts to derail the progress of the PRO, Hogan, who has likewise resisted every similar attempt in the past, has proceeded on the assumption that it cannot possibly succeed without the sanctification of his personal approval. What he does not understand is that in the current negotiations of professional racquetball's powerful new coalition, which is composed of the PRO and the newly formed Racquetball Manufacturer's Association, little if any time has been spent discussing what disaster might occur should Marty Hogan choose not to endorse their efforts. What he needs to know is that professional racquetball is evolving, and that it is already bigger than any one player. Marty Hogan's great reputation notwithstanding, players come and go in every sport, but the game always goes on.

The key to understanding this whole situation, of course, lies in the answer to one simple question; why has Marty Hogan so steadfastly opposed the formation of a player's association? Thus far, Marty has chosen not to answer that question publicly, opting instead to undermine while keeping his motives to himself. One need not be a genius, however, to decipher the obvious reason: money.

Should the coalition of the PRO/RMA reign successful, which now seems a virtual certainty, the PRO will likely become responsible for controlling the two most abusive practices in professional racquetball: top-heavy prize money distribution and appearance fees. When they are allowed to take place, these schemes, which have become common in the pro game, have the effect of funneling most of the available money to the top players. To some degree they are responsible for making Marty Hogan a rich man.

Here's how it works; at the recent pro event in Toronto, I was personally told by Clive Caldwell, the tournament director, that in order for his club to secure a ranking professional tournament he was required to not only raise the \$15,000 in prize money, but also to pay a \$5,000 appearance fee to Charlie Drake's company, OI&D. According to Caldwell, it was his understanding that the sole purpose of that fee was to guarantee the appearance of two players: Marty Hogan and Bret Harnett. He also confirmed the logical assumption that the \$5,000 was necessarily siphoned from the prize money itself. What makes that situation truly incredible is that neither of those players even made it to the finals: Harnett lost in the quarters and Hogan lost in the semis.

Two things should be noted about the above incident. First, there is nothing illegal about appearance fees, and, because professional racquetball has never really addressed the subject, even the ethics involved are a matter of personal opinion. Second, during a manufacturer's meeting in Anaheim last May, Charlie Drake vigorously denied receiving any such fee.

The same problem, only on a much larger scale, exists in the sport of professional tennis. In tennis, however, the practice has been forbidden by three different player's associations. So seriously is the infraction taken that just this month Guillermo Vilas of Argentina was fined \$20,000 and suspended from professional tennis for one year for accepting appearance money to play in a tournament in Rotterdam. Noted sports writer Pete Axthelm summarized the situation in a recent *Newsweek* article; "...is it wrong for a promoter to pay a star to help his show make a profit? In the short term, such frequent deals are misdemeanors, unlikely to affect the star's incentive or performance. But in the long run, such promoters could also slash the overall purses that enable lesser players to make a living - in the knowledge that they can always buy an attrac-

"Marty Hogan has been the defacto figurehead of racquetball for the better part of a decade, and for most of that time his peers have looked in his direction and yearned for some sign of constructive leadership."

tive group at the top."

No doubt there are many who would come to Marty's defense by claiming that what he earns is commensurate with his standing in the game. In fact, on two recent occasions, one in Beaverton and the other in Atlanta, Marty himself has publicly claimed that his earnings are justified because of what he has "done for the sport of racquetball." Since he has chosen to bring that subject up, perhaps it is time for all of us to examine exactly what he has done.

Often it seems that an inordinate number of reports find their way into the press with references to the gargantuan amounts of money Marty has earned. A recent tournament program, written by his sponsor, DP Leach, touts the often quoted statistics; "Pro racquetball's only millionaire, Hogan is the game's richest player, winning more than \$650,000 in prize money and signing the most lucrative contracts in the sport." Although the numbers are hard to come by, it is probably safe to assume that Marty Hogan has earned 5 to 10 times as much as any other player. It would also be fair to say that much of what he made was justified, inasmuch as he won it by playing the best racquetball in the world. But the real question is, how much has he given back to the game. It certainly appears that he has not put back 5 to 10 times as much as any other player. In fact, I would personally challenge Marty to list five specific things he has done to benefit the sport of racquetball that have not in some way resulted in his financial gain. Indeed, there is a lot of evidence to suggest that he has in fact taken so much of the limited amount that professional racquetball has had to give, that he has nearly sucked the sport dry.

Ultimately, Marty Hogan's problem is simply one of perspective. Perched at the pinnacle of his sport he looks down upon his less fortunate and frequently less talented colleagues, and sees only the difference in stature. What he does not see is that the pedestal upon which he stands was constructed, in a very real way, of the abundant debris of their desperate careers. Had it not been for the sacrifice of hundreds of aspiring professional players who were willing to dedicate their total effort for what turned out to be no apparent gain, not a single professional tournament would have ever taken place. Marty Hogan, the hero, would not exist.

All of this is not to suggest that Marty Hogan does not belong where he is. One would be a fool to question his ability on the court. He is a brilliant, creative, and entertaining athlete. Without question, racquetball has been fortunate to have him. But along with the rewards come responsibilities.

Marty Hogan has been the defacto figurehead of racquetball for the better part of a decade, and for most of that time his peers have looked in his direction and yearned for some sign of constructive leadership. In its absence, they have now reluctantly decided they must proceed on their own. So far, it seems to be his position that they do not have the right.

The lasting judgement of Marty Hogan's words and actions will be made by future generations of racquetball players. And, since his earnings and his record are likely to be unimpressive by their standards, I suspect that Marty's legacy will be written as much by what he does off the court as on. ❧

Mail Order: Yes and No...

We are interested in your magazine and would like to offer it to our members. Do you have any special rates for 24 or 30 copies per issue? Would you please send us information and prices as soon as possible?

Maurice Morin
Cumberland, Rhode Island

Enjoyed reading your complimentary copy of International Racquetball and thank you for same. The contents appear to be a step above the rest of the publications that appear in this industry.

I have a significant question at this point. Is your publication considering running the advertisements of the mail order houses that sell all of the pro shop items at pretty close to the club's cost? If your answer is negative, then we would indeed be interested in working with your publication.

Some specific thoughts I have in this regard are: We will be happy to purchase a supply of these each and every issue and make them available to our members in the club, and/or, if you like, we would purchase them for resale, such as introductory copies with a view that our racquetball members may and should subscribe to you for future issues, unless, in fact, you prefer a distribution system. Our relationship with other leading clubs in this area is such that I believe we can also be helpful to you in establishing a similar format there.

May we hear from you soon?

Charles H. Adler
Pompton Plains, New Jersey

In answer to these above letters, first let's take the question about whether or not International Racquetball will accept mail order advertising. No, we do not accept mail order advertising and for the very reason Mr. Adler mentioned. Mail order ads compete directly with the club pro shops where we would like our magazine to appear. Our magazine has a lot to offer racquetball clubs and pros, and for us to have competitive advertising would be at cross purposes.

As for bulk orders of International Racquetball, we do have a program available. The rates are as follows.

*3 to 9 copies of IRB sent monthly at \$1.50 ea.
10 to 19 copies of IRB sent monthly at \$1.25 ea.
20 to 39 copies of IRB sent monthly at \$1.00 ea.
40 to 99 copies of IRB sent monthly at \$.75 ea.*

All bulk orders are billed on a monthly basis. If you wish to order, just write to the address at the end of this page.

SORRY, OUR MISTAKE!

Congratulations on what appears to be the birth of a high quality racquetball publication. I certainly wish you good luck and continued success with your project.

I did want to point out an error on page 42 of the June 1983 issue, though. You have listed the final two events of this year's WPRO schedule and have labeled this listing "Schedule of Events - 1983-84 Season." Obviously, these tournaments comprise the conclusion of the 1982-83 tour, and I understand how this simple oversight probably occurred. However, I do not wish your readers to believe that there are merely two events on the upcoming 1983-84 WPRO schedule.

On behalf of the women players, we appreciate the support of your publication and, if there is anything any of us can do to help you in the development of International Racquetball, please let us know. I will make sure that you receive the actual 1983-84 WPRO schedule as soon as it is finalized.

Sandy Genelius
International Management Group

Thanks for pointing out the mistake, Sandy; it was rather stupid for us to miss that. As of press-time, we had not yet received the new WPRO 1983-84 schedule, but if it made it, you can see it on page 41.

INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS?

I would appreciate a lot if you would send me first the July issue featuring the Nationals in Atlanta. It's very important for me. I receive National Racquetball magazine, but when I get it here in Canada, it is always too late. So I would like to know if the same will happen for International Racquetball. If yes, tell me how much it would cost to send it express mail each month.

Martin Gervais
Trois-Rivières
Quebec, Canada

Your July/August issue should get to you around July 26th. We mail international subscriptions first class, otherwise it goes by banana boat, and for that reason, we must charge an additional \$12 U.S. dollars to cover the postage for the year. Below are listed the cost for a year's subscription to International Racquetball (\$36 U.S.) for our international friends.

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LAUDS AND A PROUD FATHER

Congratulations on a truly professional, colorful, and attractive magazine. Your hard work and dedication to racquetball is evident from cover to cover. Your success is well deserved and should put you on the top very soon. Good luck and please send us a subscription!

The Gillette Wyoming Racquet Club
Clint, Karen, Robin & Yvonne

Thanks, gang.

I would like to see the stories about my son, Mike, at both the Chicago and Atlanta tournaments. Please start my subscription with July.

Simon L. Yellen

We'd be more than happy to oblige, Mr. Yellen, and we wish your son continued success in the up-coming year.

Send your comments to:

International Racquetball, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 11755, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84147. All letters will become the property of International Racquetball and may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

YELLEN TAKES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mike Yellen swept the final two tournaments of the season, upsetting Marty Hogan in both Chicago and Atlanta, to earn himself the title of National Champion for the first time in his career. For the second straight year Hogan was edged out of the title and finished in the number two position.

In Chicago, Yellen defeated surprise finalist Ruben Gonzalez of New York City, the first unseeded player to ever reach the final of a National Championship.

ADAMS WINS SECOND WPRO CROWN

For the second year in a row, Lynn Adams won the WPRO National Championships, held this year in Lombard, Illinois. She defeated Heather McKay in the final, and also teamed with Terri Gilreath to win the WPRO National Doubles Championship.

The Women's Professional Racquetball Association announced the winners of its 1982-83 player of the year awards and the new Board of Directors of the Association at their annual banquet held this year at the Chicago Nationals.

The AMF Voit Most Improved Player award, a new honor added this year by one of the WPRO's tour sponsors, was won by Vicki Panzeri, who is currently in the number five position on the WPRO ranking list. Panzeri earned three quarterfinals, one semifinal and one runner-up finish on the 1982-83 circuit in addition to earning a victory at the Ft. Worth event in February where she defeated Heather McKay in the final.

The prestigious Steding Cup, bestowed upon the player who has contributed the most to women's racquetball both on and off the court, went to Jennifer Harding, who has served as the WPRO's Vice President for the past two years. The award was initiated by and named in the honor of Peggy Steding, a 47-year-old longtime supporter of the sport who still actively competes on the tour.

The WPRO Sportsmanship Award was given to Peggy Gardner, of San Diego. Each of the player awards was voted on by the membership via secret ballot.

The WPRO Board of Directors for the 1983-84 tour year was also announced at the banquet. Jennifer Harding will serve as President, replacing Fran Davis, who stepped down after a two-year tenure. Lynn Adams will serve as Vice President. Lynn Farmer, Terri Gilreath and Caryn McKinney complete the five-

member governing panel of the women's pro sport.

FERRIS WINS AARA CROWN

Dan Ferris, of Minnesota, won the men's division of the American Amateur Racquetball Association National Singles Championships in Houston, Texas, May 26-30. Cindy Baxter, of Pennsylvania, swept to the women's title for her second consecutive year.

HOGAN SQUARES OFF AGAINST AARON



Marty Hogan slipped behind early in the game and was unable to rebound in time before losing his marginally intense exhibition match with former Atlanta Braves great Hank Aaron, prior to the start of the DP Leach Nationals in Atlanta. Aaron, who is considered one of the greatest baseball players who ever lived, showed the young Hogan what eye-hand coordination is all about. Pictured here, the baseball legend demonstrates the importance of eye contact and staying on your toes.

STRANDEMO AND MUEHLEISEN CAMPS SCHEDULED

Steve Strandemo and Bud Muehleisen have announced the dates and locations of their summer racquetball camps for 1983.

The Strandemo camps for this year have been set for Aspen, Colorado, and Woodbridge, New Jersey. The Aspen camps are scheduled to begin on June 27, July 4, July 11, and July 25. The Woodbridge camps will begin August 1, August 8, August 15, and August 22.

Each camp lasts 5 days. For prices and information call 619-268-8707.

The Muehleisen camps will be held this year at four locations: Atlas Health Club, San Diego, beginning June 13 and July 17; The Decathlon Club, Santa Clara, beginning August 8; The Telegraph Hill Club, San Francisco, begin-

ning August 15; and The Incline Courthouse, Incline Village, beginning August 22.

The Muehleisen camps are five days in length. For information, interested parties should contact the hosting clubs.

P.R.O ORGANIZES MEN'S TOUR

The Professional Racquetball Organization is currently assembling the men's pro-tour for the 1983-84 year. That schedule will be presented to a combined meeting of the PRO and the newly formed Racquetball Manufacturer's Association in Chicago, on July 25.

According to Bud Muehleisen, one of the three members of the PRO executive committee, the manufacturer's have held two organizational meetings, in Chicago and Atlanta, and negotiations are currently proceeding between the two groups for the purposes of establishing next season's tour.

Both groups are working together to establish a central clearing house for the sport of racquetball that will be headed by a commissioner. It is now expected that the office can be established shortly after the Chicago meeting.

According to sources inside both groups, progress on forming next year's tour was slowed somewhat from the original timetable because of legal concerns about the formation of the Racquetball Manufacturer's Association.

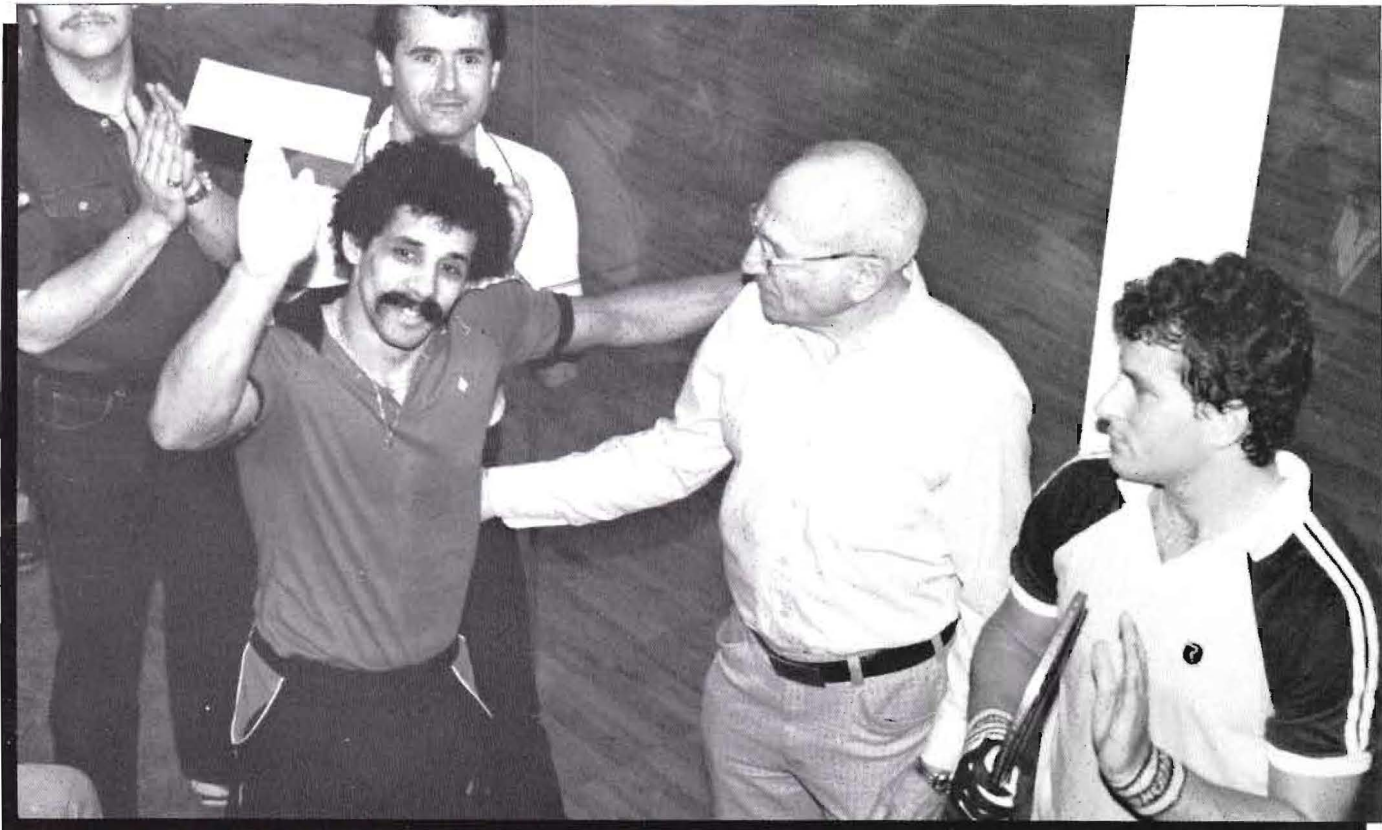
"Everything is still going well," one of the members of the RMA told International Racquetball. "We just realized that we needed to take the time to structure the new association in a way that would leave no questions about what we were trying to do. We don't see any problems with next season's tour, but we won't be able to announce anything until later in the summer."

The first men's Pro-Stop for the 1983-84 season has been set. It will be the \$15,000 Natural Light Open at the Davison Racquet Club, in Davison, Michigan. Dates for the tournament are September 1-4 with qualifying rounds held on August 31, if necessary. The tournament has been officially sanctioned by the PRO and the AARA. For information call Jim Hiser at the Davison Racquet Club, 313-653-9602.

KALB BECOMES TV PRODUCER

Former Racquetball Illustrated editor Ben Kalb has left the racquetball industry and is now working as a producer for the popular television program PM Magazine. Kalb has already produced two segments and is working on his third at this time. We at International Racquetball congratulate Ben, who is a good friend, and wish him great success in his exciting new field.

PROFILE:



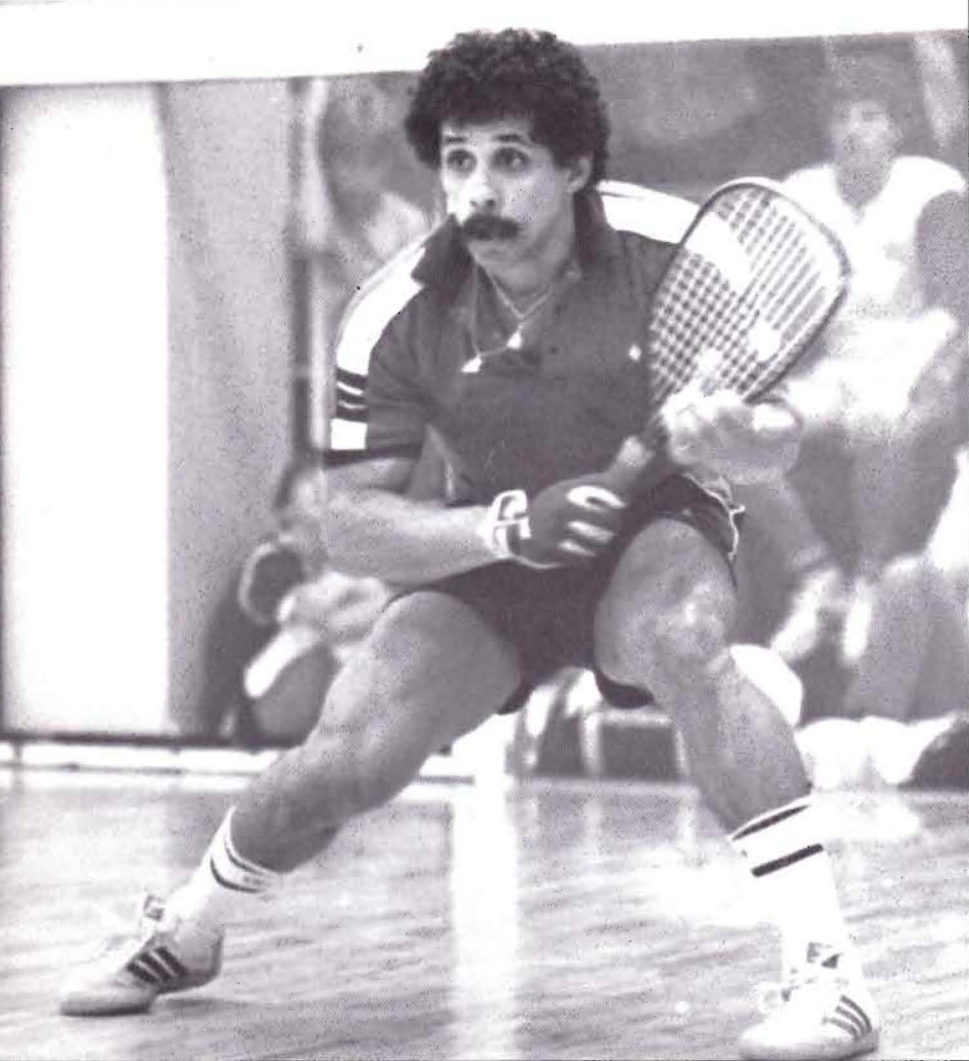
Ruben Gonzalez

From the streets of Spanish Harlem to the top of Professional Racquetball

The 1982-83 professional racquetball season produced a number of remarkable stories, not the least of which was Mike Yellen's thrilling sweep of the nationals "grand slam." But the understandable excitement of crowning a new National Champion has overshadowed one of the most amazing achievements professional racquetball has ever seen. Playing in his first season as a professional, 32-year-old Ruben Gonzalez, from the Spanish Harlem section of New York City, rose from virtual obscurity to be ranked at year's-end in the top ten players in the world.

What makes this accomplishment truly astonishing is that, because he was not a Catalina contract player, Gonzalez was allowed to participate in only five tournaments all season, compared to twelve or more for most players. Last October he played in his first professional event, the Catalina stop in New Haven, Connecticut. After qualifying (the New Haven stop was the Catalina event for Northeast region), Gonzalez advanced all the way to the semi-finals before he was finally stopped by Mike Yellen, who went on to win the event. That finish marked the first time any qualifier had ever advanced to the semifinals of a major event, and he did it in his first professional tournament! After losing a close match to Bret Harnett in Toronto, Gonzalez traveled to the West Coast for the Ektelon Championships in early May. There he upset Lindsay Meyers and Jerry Hilecher before losing a five game match to eventual finalist Rich Wagner in the quarterfinals. He also played in, and won, the men's open division.

But Ruben saved his best for the DP Leach/Catalina Nationals in Chicago, the second biggest event of the season. Playing from an unseeded position he upset Gary Merritt, John Egerman, Steve Lerner, and fifth-ranked Gregg Peck, advancing all the way to the finals where he was beaten again by Yellen. His



Ruben in his dive-ready crouch

finish in Chicago, combined with his two other strong tournaments, thrust him all the way from nowhere to number 6 in the Catalina rankings. Few, if any, players have ever soared so high in the rankings in so short a time.

The soft-spoken Gonzalez hardly fits the mold that has cranked out most of the pro players in the past. At 32-years-of-age he is the oldest professional player on the tour, even in his first year. In fact, he didn't even start playing racquetball until he was 25, two years older than Mike Yellen is right now.

"I started playing handball (one wall) when I was 9," he recalled in a recent interview. "I grew up in Spanish Harlem and we played handball as a street game. I played it for about 14 years before I quit."

The reason he quit was that he had won everything there was to win in his sport. When he was 23 he became national AAU and USA one-wall handball champion, and repeated both titles the following year.

"I knew I couldn't make any money playing handball, and there was nowhere else to go so I quit playing. Then when I was 25, two friends of mine, Russ Manino and Lew DeSantis built a racquetball club on Staten Island." Racquetball intrigued Ruben

Gonzalez exhibits his great retrieving ability



Ruben with family and friends in Chicago



both because the skills needed to play it were similar to the ones he had perfected on the handball court, and because he had heard about the relatively large purses that were being offered on the pro tour. But learning to play racquetball was hardly a simple task for him.

"The club was about 2 hours from where I lived. To get there I had to take a train, a boat, and a bus, and then do it again to get home after I played. I did that every day."

After Ruben began to master his new sport DeSantis built a new 15-court club call Courts of Appeal and hired Ruben as the teaching pro, a position he holds to this day.

"I really owe both Lew and Russ a lot. They lent me money so I could get my first apartment (on Staten Island). Now Lew sponsors me and, obviously, without his help I couldn't even get to these tournaments."

With little question in his mind what he wanted to do for a living, Ruben began to play tournaments every weekend to get as much experience as possible. His first successes were realized in mixed doubles, where he teamed with Melanie Taylor and Laura Martino to win two pro mixed-doubles titles. With that sweet sampling of success Ruben decided it was time to enter a full-fledged tour-stop. He did, and earned his astounding semifinal at New Haven.

"I think my strength is basically in my speed. I'm a good retriever. If I can run down enough of a guy's shots in a match, sooner or later he's going to say to himself 'what do I have to do to beat this guy?'"

Indeed, it was his retrieving ability that had the crowd buzzing in Chicago. And his incredible diving ability is both loved by the spectators and hated by his opponents. As one of the top-ranked pros said after playing him, "When you play Ruben you find out really quick that there isn't anything he won't go after. That puts a lot of pressure on to make your shots perfect."

But you get the feeling when you talk to Ruben that his real strength lies in something much more fundamental than his physical ability. He seems oddly secure among his much younger colleagues. Listening to him discuss his goals, and watching him play, one cannot help but be reminded that one of the few advantages of being 32 is the clarity that comes with age; most of the gargantuan struggles of adolescence are gone. In a sport that often seems dominated by

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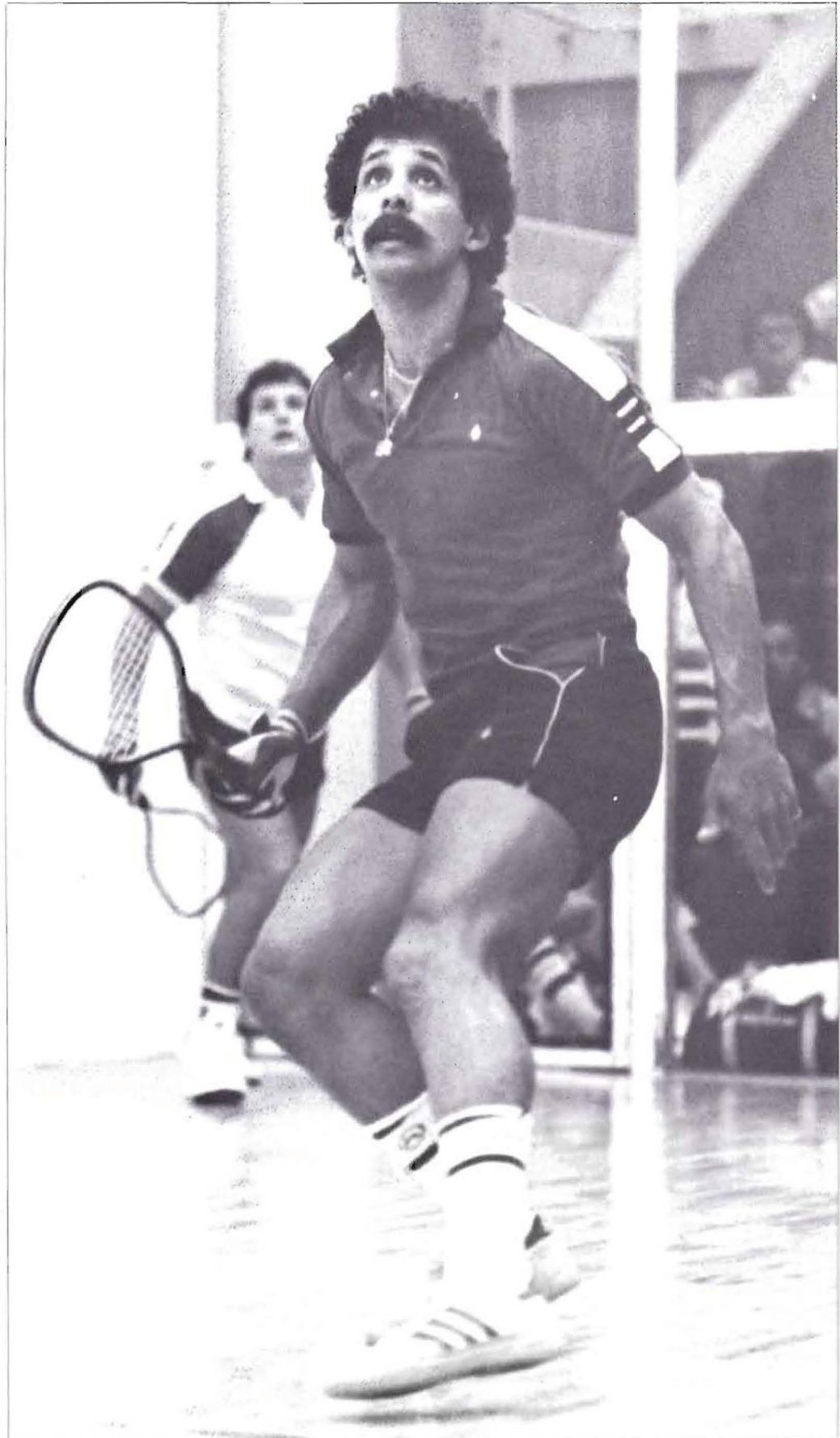
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THE DP LEACH/CA

CHICAGO:



Surprise finalist Ruben Gonzalez against winner Mike Yellen

TALINA NATIONALS

CHICAGO BECOMES 'UPSET CITY' AS MIKE YELLEN MAKES IT THREE IN A ROW!



Mike Yellen sets on a backhand in his upset of Hogan

Generally speaking, when the professional racquetball season winds down to its last two tournaments, those to which we reverently refer as the "Nationals," we are supposed to expect very few surprises. When the prestige and money of the Nationals are at stake, conventional wisdom tells us, you can depend on the superstars of the sport to justify their high ranking. It's a principle that is respected by the lower ranked players as well. They know if they're going to upset one of the big guns, they had better do it during the season, because they won't at the Nationals. So much for

conventional wisdom.

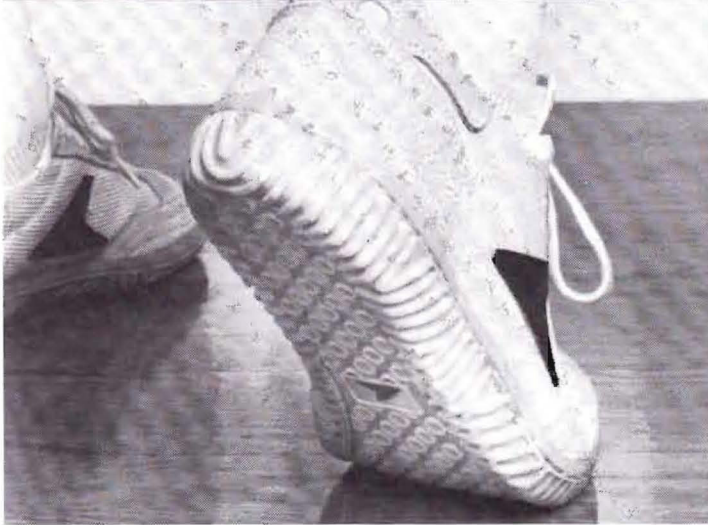
In a tournament that was expected to run according to the seedings, the \$40,000 DP Leach/Catalina Nationals at The Charlie Club in Palantine, Illinois (May 30-June 4) produced more upsets and surprises than any professional event in recent memory. Third-seeded Mike Yellen notched his third consecutive pro victory by shocking top-seeded Marty Hogan in a tremendous semifinal battle before crushing surprise finalist Ruben Gonzalez of New York City in three games, 11-6,

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Chicago Nationals from Page 17

11-10, 11-3. Incredibly, Gonzalez was not seeded in the tournament and was playing in one of his first professional events. In route Gonzalez ousted Gary Merritt, John Eggerman, Steve Lerner and number 5 seed Gregg Peck.

Ruben Gonzalez's trip to the finals was no doubt facilitated by the staggering elimination of the number 2 seed, Dave Peck, in the round-of-32 by Mark Martino of Los Angeles, who was also unseeded. Tied at two games each, and trailing 10-7 in the decisive fifth game, Peck's frustration level reached a possible all-time high. His verbally vicious attack on referee Dan Bertolucci resulted in a string of technical fouls that increased Martino's margin to 10-0 and ultimately resulted in Peck's ejection from the tournament. Officially the score card recorded Martino's victory as, 11-9, 11-7, 3-11, 4-11, 10-0.

Also in the round-of-32, Ed Andrews and Mike Levine very literally put on a show that few in the crowd will ever forget. Their vitriolic four-game match erupted into personal hand-to-hand combat twice before Levine prevailed, 7-11, 11-5, 11-10, 11-8. The two did not shake hands following the match.

In another important upset, Gregg Peck turned the trick again and ousted number 4 seed Bret Harnett with an impressive four-game win in their quarterfinal match, 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6. It was Peck's second consecutive triumph over Harnett.

If surprises were the rule, though, it should be noted that the Chicago event also produced some great racquetball. The best match of the tournament, and probably one of the best matches of the 1982-83 season, was the semifinal contest between Mike Yellen and Marty Hogan. Armed with the knowledge that Ruben Gonzalez had already earned his way into the final, racquetball's two greatest talents duelled for more than 3½ hours on the Charlie Club's court #15 for the right to meet him.

The match began with a shock. In a first game that lasted only 9 minutes, Yellen obliterated Hogan with his worst pasting of the year, 11-0. Game two started out the same as Yellen shot to a 4-0 lead before Hogan decided to call a time out and consider for a moment what was going on. "Can you believe this?" asked someone in the crowd. Yellen was playing perfectly and Hogan suddenly realized that his entire season was in danger if he didn't get something going. He did. Marty walked back into the court and, with Hoganesque style, reeled off 11 points to Yellen's 2 and stole the second game, 11-6.

The pivotal third game was a barn-burner. As Hogan tried to crank up his game and gain the momentum he needed, Yellen did everything he could do to slow the game down and throw off Hogan's tempo. At times during the game, Yellen's stalling tactics became so obvious that the crowd got visibly upset at the snail-like pace of play. But Yellen's tactics worked. After over an hour of some very intelligent racquetball, Yellen edged out an exasperated Hogan 11-9. Yellen had the lead in games 2-1. But more importantly Mike had sent a clear message to Hogan that he was going to have to do more than hit the ball hard to win this match.

Marty answered the challenge beautifully in game four. With a combination of hard and soft serves and his most accurate shot-making of the day he won quickly 11-4, and threw the match into the tie-breaker.

Thick tension filled the exhibition court as the players returned for the deciding game. The stakes were high. From a monetary standpoint, the winner of this game, and hence the match, would likely earn the \$10,000 first prize, leaving the loser with \$3,000. But more importantly, a Yellen victory here would put him within striking distance of Hogan for the national championship, and would give him a surprising 3-1 win/loss advantage over Hogan heading into Atlanta.

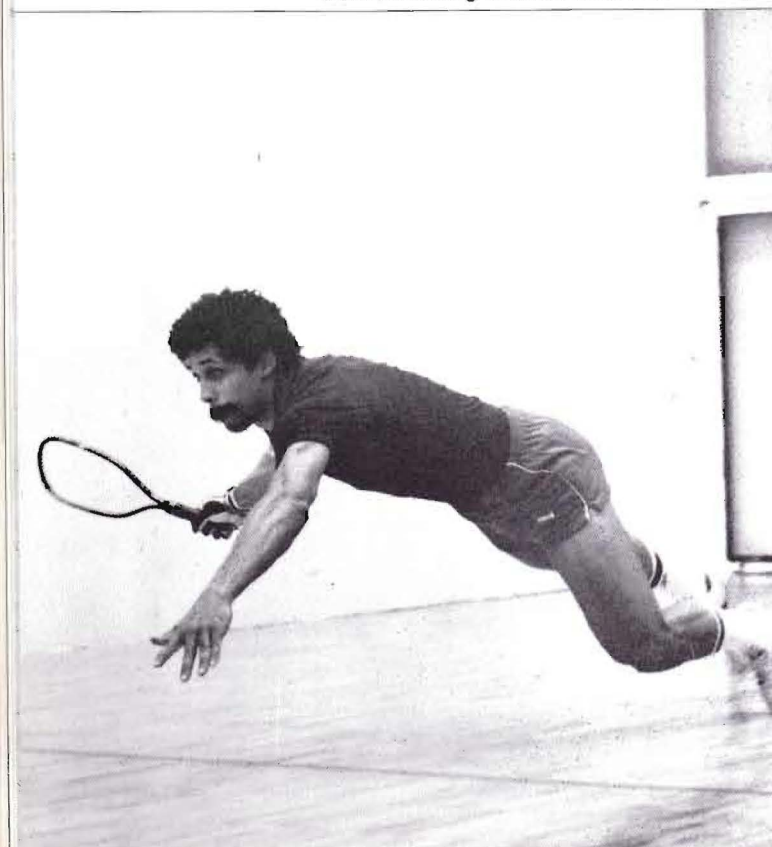
Everything Hogan could give it was not enough. The score remained very close, but once again Yellen consistently played a more precise game in every area: positioning, shot selection, and shot execution. Mike broke an 8-8 tie with three unans-



Gregg Peck—concentration under pressure



Hogan goes for backhand kill in the semis
Gonzalez doing what he does best—diving



wered points and dispatched a drenched and dazed Marty Hogan, 11-8.

"No matter how far you get ahead of Marty he's always capable of coming back," Yellen observed after the marathon, gulping his Gatorade between words. "I'm never out there to embarrass anyone. Like in that first game, I just wanted to get as far ahead as possible in case he did come back, which he did in the second and fourth games."

Mike also commented on the lengthy delays during the third game: "I know everyone thought I was stalling, but the floor was really wet. On this court, when you get 600 people watching all day, it gets really hot and stuffy. You have to take the time to keep the floor dry because you don't want to lose a game because of a wet spot, especially a game as important as that third one."

The other semifinal match, between Gonzalez and fifth-seeded Gregg Peck, was even closer than the Yellen/Hogan matchup. Few observers gave Gonzalez any chance against the younger of the Peck brothers who has, over the course of this season, become one of the most consistent winners on the tour. Their match was a stunning show of intensity, concentration, and fine sportsmanship.

After winning the first game 11-8, Gonzalez began to wear down under the relentless pressure of Gregg Peck's poisonous combination of power and high percentage shot selection. Peck won the second and third games, 11-6, 11-5. But Ruben's ability to extend the length of the rallies also began to grind down the usually inexhaustible Peck. With both players sweating profusely under the heat of the special exhibition court lighting, Gonzalez outlasted Peck in game four, 11-7.

The final game was outstanding, pitting the rookie drive of Gonzalez against the experience and mental toughness of Peck. Ruben broke their early 4-4 deadlock with three unanswered points, and Peck followed suit by tying the game again at 7-7. Again Ruben bolted ahead and this time went to match point before Gregg was able to stop him at 10-7. Incredibly, Gonzalez served 9 times at match point before he finally overcame the intense resistance put up by Peck, 11-8.

Gonzalez defeated Lerner in the quarters



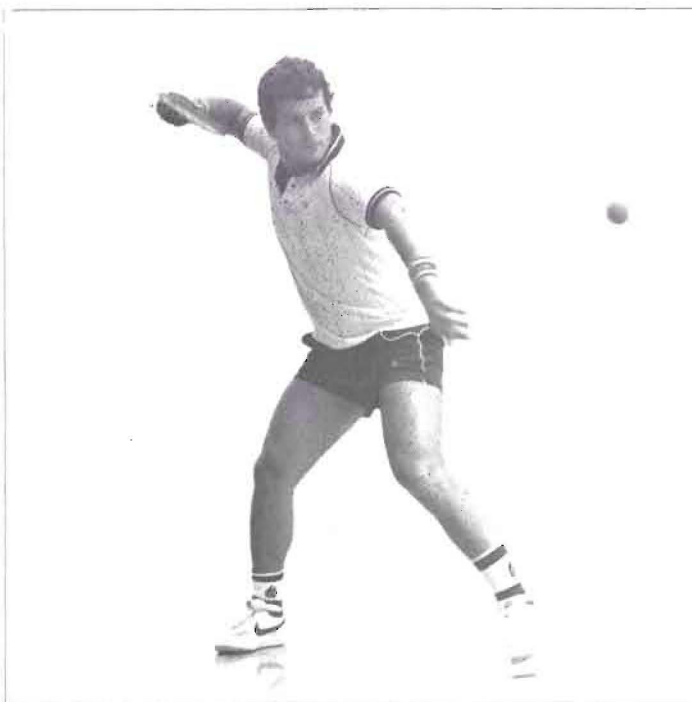
Gregg Peck taking Harnett for the second time



Peck shoots over Gonzalez



An exhausted Gregg Peck





An anguished Marty Hogan

**DP LEACH/CATALINA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - MAY 30-JUNE 4, 1983**

ROUND OF 32

Hogan def. P. Britos, 11-3, 11-10, 11-6; Newman def. Navarro, 11-6, 11-7, 11-6; Levine def. Andrews, 7-11, 11-5, 11-10, 11-8; Thomas def. Lau, 11-6, 11-5, 11-2; Hilecher def. Ginsburg, 11-1, 11-5, 11-0; Brysman def. Cohen, 11-2, 6-11, 11-10, 7-11, 11-7; Price def. J. Britos, 11-3, 11-6, 2-11, 11-7; Yellen def. Mondry, 8-11, 11-2, 11-1, 11-2; Harnett def. Cascio, 11-7, 11-10, 11-8; McCoy def. Ferris, 11-10, 11-6, 11-4; Wagner def. Kamalu, 11-4, 11-7, 11-6; G. Peck def. Koltun, 11-4, 8-11, 11-3, 11-2; Egerman def. Sacco, 11-9, 11-4, 11-7; Gonzalez def. Merritt, 2-11, 11-8, 11-10, 11-2; Lerner def. Phillipy, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9; Martino def. D. Peck, 11-9, 11-7, 3-11, 4-11, 10-0.

ROUND OF 16:

Hogan def. Newman, 11-5, 6-11, 11-5, 11-8; Thomas def. Levine, 11-8, 3-11, 11-9, 11-7; Hilecher def. Brysman, 11-3, 11-5, 11-4; Yellen def. Price, 3-11, 11-3, 11-5, 11-6; Harnett def. McCoy, 11-6, 11-6, 11-9; G. Peck def. Wagner, 11-10, 11-7, 11-9; Gonzalez def. Egerman, 11-9, 3-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-4; Lerner def. Martino, 11-7, 0-11, 11-6, 11-7.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

Hogan def. Thomas, 11-4, 11-3, 11-9; Yellen def. Hilecher, 11-9, 11-4, 9-11, 11-9; G. Peck def. Harnett, 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6; Gonzalez def. Lerner, 11-5, 0-11, 11-1, 5-11, 11-3.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

Yellen def. Hogan, 11-0, 6-11, 11-9, 4-11, 11-8; Gonzales def. G. Peck, 11-8, 6-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-8.

FINAL ROUND:

YELLEN def. Gonzalez, 11-6, 11-10, 11-3.

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| First Place | \$10,000 |
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| Semifinalist | 3,000 |
| Quarterfinalist | 1,250 |
| Round of 16 | 750 |
| Round of 32 | 500 |

The changing of the guard



It was a well-earned victory for Ruben Gonzalez. But, it would be grossly unfair to overlook the fight that was waged in the process by Gregg Peck. The simple fact was that on that particular day no one was going to beat the inspired underdog, but Peck's display of quiet concentration under fire as he tried to hold back the charging Gonzalez was awe-inspiring.

In retrospect, it's probably safe to say that Ruben Gonzalez never had a chance against Yellen in the final. Although Ruben had scratched his way back from a number of difficult predicaments during the tournament, Yellen had too much firepower for the native of New York's Spanish Harlem. Yellen countered Gonzalez's great retrieving ability, which had been responsible for most of his victories in the tournament, by virtually locking him in back court. The spectators, who were anxious to witness another exhibition of Gonzalez's spectacular diving ability, were amazed as Mike ended point after point without even giving Ruben a chance to move. Demoralized, Gonzalez served only eight times in the third game before succumbing to his more experienced opponent, 11-6, 11-10, 11-3.

After the match Mike Yellen commented on Ruben's ability: "He's very quick. What I tried to do was move him backward and forward a lot by mixing up my passes and pinches. I didn't pass as much as I usually do because he can run down a lot of passing shots."

It was arguably the most important tournament victory in the six-year professional career of Mike Yellen. After a mediocre first half-season, the Chicago victory constituted his third consecutive tournament win and his fourth overall this year.

"I don't really know if I'm playing better than I ever have," Mike said as he relaxed at courtside, "but this certainly has to be the high point of my career in terms of tournament victories."

The Chicago win was also Mike's second national title, having won the Ektelon Nationals in May. A victory at the DP Leach Nationals in Atlanta would give him an unprecedented "grand slam" of the three national championships, a distinction no professional racquetball player has ever earned.

In the amateur division David Gross, of St. Louis, defeated Ray Navarro, of Texas, for the men's open crown.



ATLANTA

All The Marbles

Mike Yellen Shocks Marty Hogan At The DP Leach National Championships

Considering its short history, professional racquetball has probably seen more than its share of storybook finishes. But it is likely that few will ever eclipse the home stretch of the 1982-83 season. This is a story that belongs to Mike Yellen.

At the end of March, when he was beaten in the quarterfinal round of the Austin tournament by Gregg Peck, Mike Yellen seemed headed toward his second disappointing season in a row. He had won a single tournament and had fallen to fourth in the Catalina rankings, behind Hogan, Peck and Harnett. The pro season had fewer than 60 days to go. Only four tournaments remained, three of which were National Championships. And worst of all, Marty Hogan was playing like a man possessed, appearing virtually unstoppable on his way to avenging the loss of his National Title to

Dave Peck in 1982. In order for Yellen to become National Champion, a thought that seemed almost blasphemous to consider, it would be necessary for him to win every remaining tournament. Of such circumstances are storybook finishes made.

Mike Yellen sent shock waves through the world of professional racquetball by upsetting heavily favored Marty Hogan in the final of the DP/Leach National Championships in Atlanta, Georgia, June 14-19. The stunning come-from-behind victory capped a four tournament sweep for the 23-year-old from Southfield, Michigan, earned him the \$20,000 first prize, and made him professional racquetball's undisputed National Champion for 1982-83. For Hogan, it was the second consecutive year he has failed to hold the number one spot.

Yellen required all of five brutal games to wrest the title from five time defending champion Hogan, 1-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-2, 11-6. Hogan, who had not lost this tournament since 1977, made little secret, prior to the event, of his feelings that no player could challenge him for this title.

"Nobody would dare say I wouldn't win this," Hogan claimed to one reporter early in the week. "I'm not going to have any problems here. For someone to beat me in this tournament, he would have to play the best racquetball ever played."

Indeed, early in the final match it appeared Hogan was right. Cranking up his powerful serve, and taking full advantage of the fast Penn ball, Hogan rifled four aces and bolted to a quick 11-1

Continued on Page 26

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Atlanta Continued from Page 23

victory in the first game that left the crowd panting, and Yellen wondering if he was even going to get in the match. Game two started out the same -Hogan roared to a 4-1 lead before Yellen could pause long enough to call a time out.

The huge crowd (which was so large that at one point the final match was halted by the local Fire Marshall until the aisles and stairways could be cleared) began murmuring the words all racquetball players fear - "blow out."

If there's one thing Mike Yellen has proven in the past, however, it is that he knows, perhaps better than any other player, how to counter Hogan's massive power. When play resumed he was a different Mike Yellen. He won the serve and scored six straight points with hard drive serves, an unusual strategy for Yellen. With a surprising number of Hogan-style aces he won game two, 11-7, and tied the match.

"I just had to adjust to the speed," Yellen said after the match. "Marty came out smoking. My original strategy was to get him into ceiling ball rallies, but I didn't even get to play. After that time-out I decided to drive serve, which I haven't really done all year."

Game three was the most exciting, and the longest, of the match. With neither player really able to develop any lasting momentum, the score was tied at every point from 5-5 to 9-9 before Hogan finally put it away 11-9. Again it appeared Hogan was on his way to the championship.

But an unusual thing happened in game four. Instead of coming out with confidence and blasting his way to the title, as everyone expected, Hogan seemed tired. He changed his hard drive to a lazy-Z to Yellen's forehand, a serve that fit perfectly into Yellen's original strategy. Mike proceeded to take advantage of Hogan's unexplainable shift in gameplan. With pinpoint ceiling shots he forced Hogan deep into the backhand corner time after time and methodically dismantled every ounce of Hogan's confidence.

So drastic was the shift in momentum that on two occasions toward the end of the fourth game Hogan committed errors, a type of which he is almost never guilty; he hit two very shaky, nervous backhands from deep court. Something was wrong. At the very moment he should have been most confident, Hogan had become tentative and was getting worse. The champ was in trouble.

Yellen was magnificent in game five. Exhibiting the extraordinary mental toughness that is his trademark, Yellen out-mastered the master in everything Hogan tried. The final game was never as close as the score indicates.

To add to the drama of the final game,

play was halted by local police and firemen just as Yellen was serving at 9-4. The overflowing crowd had filled every aisle, stairway, and hallway, and the officials, fearful that fire might break out during the final two points, refused to allow play to continue until hundreds had moved. After a very tense quarter-hour that had all the appearances of a South American soccer riot, the crowd shuffled around enough to comply, and the match resumed.

Hogan, now well-rested, scored two quick points and looked as if he might still make a charge, but it was too little, too late. Mike Yellen had smelled blood. Two rallies later Yellen delivered professional racquetball its new National Champion.

"For some reason he came out in the fourth game and wasn't hitting the serve hard," Mike said after the match. "I'm not sure why. It may be that he was tired, or maybe he felt the pressure. I just knew that if I could get him into

some rallies I could win the majority of them."

"It's a great feeling to finally beat Marty for the National Championship, particularly to beat him head-to-head in this tournament. Last year there was some question about who was #1 because Dave (Peck) won the season but Marty won this tournament. This year I beat him in every area."

Actually, the victory put Yellen in a point-tie with Hogan for the season, but under the Catalina ranking system ties are settled by examining the head-to-head records of the players. In the case of Yellen/Hogan it was not close. Mike ended the season with an astonishing 4-1 advantage over Hogan and Yellen's earnings for the season (\$57,750), although not figured into the rankings, far outdistanced second-place Hogan's (\$38,200).

Yellen made a few observations about Hogan after the match: "I think Marty's problem has been that he still thinks it's

Dave Peck grimaces from the pain of injured leg in semis



Harnett and Price in the quarters



Hilecher dives for a Hogan drive



like it used to be. He wants to sit back and ride on what he did at one time in his career, when he dominated the game. He can't do that anymore. The competition is much greater. He only won three tournaments this year. I beat him four of the five times we played. He just can't do it anymore."

The pro division of the DP/Leach National Championships, which was open, drew an incredible 78 players. 46 players spent Tuesday and Wednesday in qualifying matches vying for eight spots in the main draw of 32. The difficulty of the qualifying rounds was evidenced by the names of some of the casualties: Jerry Zukerman, Brian Hawkes, Peter Britos, and former National Champion Dave Bledsoe. Oddly, it was Bledsoe who last defeated Marty Hogan in the Leach Championships in 1977 in San Diego. Bledsoe, who now makes his home in Georgia, fell victim to the giant-killer of the tournament, Bill Sell of Huntington Beach, California, who was playing on one of his first major pro events.

Sell, who is a national open doubles champion with partner Brian Hawkes, had a spectacular tournament, ousting along the way Bledsoe, Rich Wagner, and Don Thomas. Only Mike Yellen was able to stop him in the quarterfinals, and there Sell nearly did the impossible by stretching Yellen to five games before falling, 7-11, 11-5, 11-8, 4-11, 11-5.

The other qualifiers, Navarro, Sacco, Ray, Koltun, Almerico, Serfio Gonzales, and Dave Negrete (who is a dead ringer for George Lucas), all fell in the round-of-32.

Larry Fox of Michigan, this year's AARA national runner-up, ousted Craig McCoy in the 32's before losing to Dave Peck in a good four game match in the 16's.

Doug Cohen injured a muscle in his shoulder forcing him to default to his round-of-32 opponent Corey Brysman. Brysman lost to Bret Harnett in the 16's.

The most exciting match of the 32's was the rematch of Ed Andrews and Mike Levine. It was the Andrews/Levine match in Chicago that erupted into two on-court fights with Levine emerging the victor (at least in points). Their match in Atlanta was only slightly less venomous. This time, however, Andrews came from behind to win the five-game physical and verbal war, 5-11, 4-11, 11-3, 11-5, 11-4.

In the quarterfinals Marty Hogan and Jerry Hilecher produced one of the weirdest matches in recent memory. After breezing through the first two games, Hogan was serving match point at 10-6 in the third. A Hilecher mis-hit gave Hogan an easy forehand set-up, and Marty predictably blasted it into the right corner, a shot which should have rolled out and ended the match. Instead



Mike Yellen sends Hogan running for another perfect pass shot

of rolling out, however, the brittle Penn ball shattered and flew all over the court as it had been doing throughout the tournament. When the point was replayed, Hilecher not only regained the serve but won the next two games suddenly threatening Hogan for the first time in the tournament. Hogan finally ended the match with a fifth game 11-0 victory.

Once again Dave Peck defeated his younger brother Gregg Peck in the quarterfinals. Although it used to be a rare occurrence, the brothers met four times this season with Dave winning all four contests. This time, however, the scores were much closer than they were in the brothers' other three meetings. Gregg won the third game and nearly stretched the match to five, 11-3, 11-2, 6-11, 11-10. Gregg's quarterfinal finish

capped the best season of his professional career, a season which saw his ranking rise from tenth to number five.

In the other two quarterfinal matches Mike Yellen squeaked by Bill Sell and Bret Harnett simply overpowered Gerry Price, setting up Saturday's semifinal matchups of the top four seeds; Hogan vs. Harnett, and Yellen vs. Peck.

Marty Hogan played his finest racquetball of the week in the semis against Brett Harnett. In another of their great exhibitions of power racquetball, Harnett's best effort in three tournaments was not enough to hold back an inspired Hogan, who won convincingly in four games, 11-6, 11-9, 9-11, 11-8.

The Yellen/Peck semifinal was expected by many to be one of the best matches of the tournament, and the crowd seemed eager to see a replay of

Bret Harnett and Marty Hogan put on another spectacular blasting show



**THE DP/LEACH
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JUNE 14-19, 1983**

ROUND OF 32:

Hogan def. Martino; Lerner def. D. Gross; Oliver def. Egerman; Hilecher def. Sacco; R. Gonzalez def. Ray; Price def. Koltun; Brysman def. Cohen (inj); Harnett def. S. Gonzalez; D. Peck def. Navarro; Fox def. McCoy; Andrews def. Levine; G. Peck def. Negrete; Thomas def. Mondry; Sell def. Wagner; Newman def. Almerico; Yellen def. Nolan.

ROUND OF 16:

Hogan def. Lerner, 3-0; Hilecher def. Oliver, 3-2; Price def. Gonzalez, 11-4, 11-4, 11-4; Harnett def. Brysman, 11-8, 11-6, 11-9; D. Peck def. Fox, 3-1; G. Peck def. Andrews, 10-11, 11-6, 11-1, 11-9; Sell def. Thomas, 7-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 11-6; Yellen def. Newman, 11-10, 11-2, 11-4.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

Hogan def. Hilecher, 11-5, 11-10, 10-11, 6-11, 11-9; Harnett def. Price, 11-1, 11-8, 11-4; D. Peck def. G. Peck, 11-3, 11-2, 6-11, 11-10; Yellen def. Sell, 7-11, 11-5, 11-8, 4-11, 11-5.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

Hogan def. Harnett, 11-6, 11-9, 9-11, 11-8; Yellen def. D. Peck, 11-6, 11-10, 11-8.

FINAL ROUND:

YELLEN def. Hogan, 1-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-2, 11-6.

PRIZE MONEY:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| First Place | \$ 20,000 |
| Second Place | 7,000 |
| Semifinalist | 3,500 |
| Quarterfinalist | 2,000 |
| Round of 16 | 1,000 |



The brothers Peck dual for the fourth time this year

their last meeting, a five game marathon at the Ektelon Championships which Yellen won 11-10 in the fifth game. This time, however, it was not to be. A freak collision between the two players in the first game ruptured a blood vessel in Peck's right leg just above the knee. In obvious pain, Peck played out the match but was never really a factor as Yellen won, 11-6, 11-10, 11-8. Although Peck thought the injury was minor the pain continued to increase throughout the day and until he was finally taken to the hospital in Atlanta at about midnight Sunday night.

"It was strange," Yellen said later. "We didn't even hit each other very hard, but my knee caught the upper part of his leg just right."

Peck underwent surgery on Monday and was expected to remain in the hospi-

tal for about two weeks. According to doctors, the injury is expected to heal well and should not affect his play next season.

It was a disappointing end to a disappointing season for Peck, who last year became the first player in five years to dethrone Hogan. To those who watched him this season, however, there is little doubt that the drive and skill that made him last year's champion are still there. Three things hurt him this season; his clashes with officials, some very bad breaks, and, of course, Mike Yellen.

In other tournament action, Brian Hawkes of Huntington Beach, California, won the men's open division defeating Andy Roberts in the final.

Perennial champion Bud Muehleisen earned his 65th national title by winning the men's 45+ division.

Mike Yellen finally stopped Bill Sell in quarters



Marty Hogan tells the crowd to expect him back on top next season



AARA NATIONAL Singles Championships

Dan Ferris and Cindy Baxter capture National Amateur crowns

by Carol Charfauros George

How the draw is seeded can often be the topic of hot debate during tournaments. For the National AARA Singles Championships in Houston, May 26-30, AARA Director Luke St. Onge seeded according to the results of the regionals. However, neither Dan Ferris nor Cindy Baxter, this year's winners, even entered their regionals.

"It wasn't publicized that the regionals would determine the seeding for the Nationals," commented Baxter, 28, of Pennsylvania. "I don't think the seeding was fair at all." Baxter won not only the women's open division but also the recently-added pre-veteran division for ages 25+. Consequently she ended up playing a lot of her opponents twice before defeating Milia Kamahoahoa in the finals, 17-21, 21-10, 11-1.

Dot Fischl, who was seeded first in the women's open division, was also unhappy with the draw. She lost in the quarterfinals to Marci Drexler, the

reigning AARA junior champion from California.

"It wasn't fair for Dot to be seeded number one just because she'd won her regional," commented Dot's mother following the loss. "I think it was too much pressure for her."

In the men's open final Dan Ferris of Minnesota defeated Jim Cascio, 21-14, 12-21, 11-7. Ferris also had some comments about the seeding; "I'll bet I had the toughest draw of the tournament. I had to play in the round of 128!"

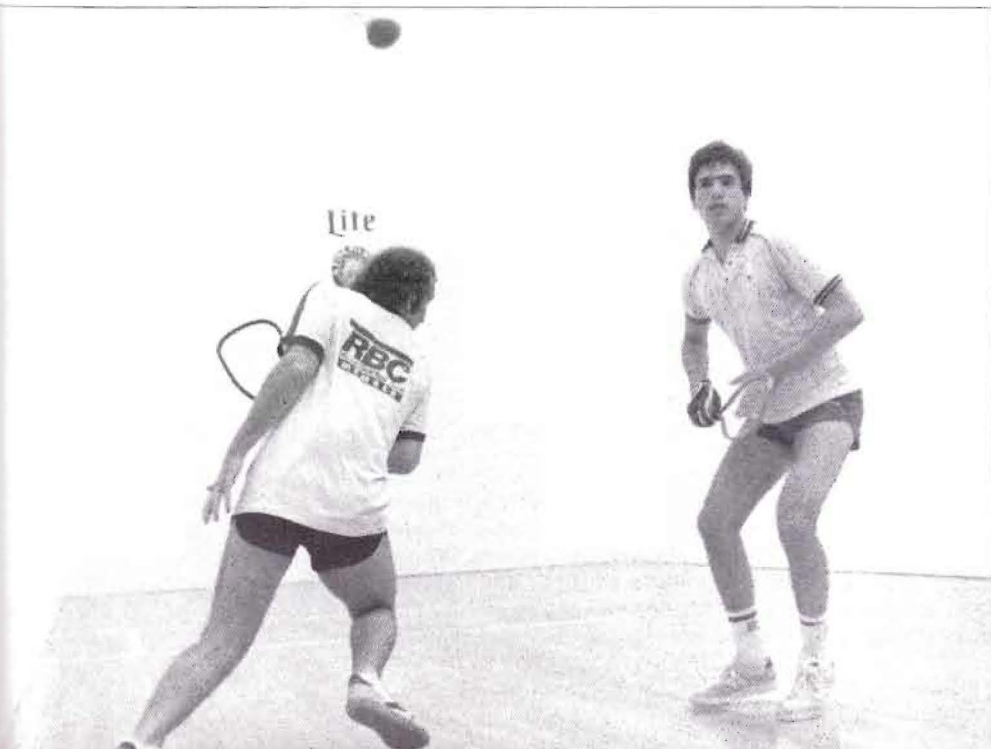
On his way to the title Ferris played seven rounds and faced tough opponents that included Jeff Kwartler in the 32's, Ken Kailanen in the 16's, and top seed Larry Fox in the quarterfinals, before facing Cascio in the final.

The regionals for Ferris were held at a sight on the far side of North Dakota from his Minnesota home. Most of the players in that region are from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, but,



Kathy Donoho—second place finisher in the women's wheelchair division

Dan Ferris upset number one seed Larry Fox in the quarters



according to Ferris, few players went.

St. Onge defended the decision to seed according to the regional tournaments: "The AARA Board of Directors felt that we should favor the players who support the AARA tournaments."

Next year, due to the continued growth of the national tournament (which this year included a draw of 750), all players will have to participate in their regional if they wish to enter. According to St. Onge the new policy will be well-published ahead of time.

Throughout the tournament many spectators asked, "Who is this Ferris kid?" According to the draw it appeared that he had come from nowhere to defeat the top seeds. However, the "kid" is a 23-year-old college graduate who has been playing racquetball for 12 years and now works in financial planning and investments.

Ferris won the Minnesota state championships once, placed third on two occasions in the Intercollegiate Nationals, and qualified twice for the Catalina Nationals. This year was the first time he has entered the AARA Nationals.

One of the most exciting matches of the tournament was between Ferris and top-seeded Larry Fox who had just returned from three months of teaching racquetball in Japan. Their only previous meeting was in the 1977 Junior Nationals, which Fox won, and neither had forgotten. The crowd cheered as the underdog blasted kill shots from every area of the court. After letting the first game go, Fox came back on the court determined to fight for the match. He was, however, never able to challenge Ferris in the second game either.

Ferris' final match with Cascio was much closer. Cascio led the first game

14-2 when Ferris suddenly began to connect with his shots. After taking the first game 21-14, Ferris grinned. "It's called getting on a roll," he said.

In game two it was Cascio's turn to put on a shooting exhibition. He rolled up an early 13-11 lead and won the game 21-12.

The tie-breaker saw Ferris jump to a seemingly match-ending lead of 9-1. But Cascio made one last charge, scoring six straight points before finally bowing out, 11-7.

"Usually I make the other guy earn all his points, but that time I didn't," said Ferris. "I gave him some freebies."

The women's open final also went into a tie-breaker. But Cindy Baxter's awesome play in the tie-breaker practically left Kamahoahoa off the scoreboard, 11-1. For two years Baxter has proven herself to be the top amateur player in the country. Yet she has no ambition of turning professional.

"Whsy should I?" she asks. "I have the best of both worlds now. I can play on the pro tour as long as I don't accept the money. And by retaining my amateur status I can still compete for national AARA titles and in international competition." At the end of last year's WPRA season the three-time Pennsylvania state champion had a pro ranking of 24 even though she'd donated all of her prize money to the YMCA.

Baxter felt that she put too much pressure on herself in the first game of the finals, but her experience saved her in the tie-breaker. She hadn't realized that the games in the tournament would be to 21, so playing in two divisions really demanded a lot of her. "If I think too much I'm in trouble," she revealed. "I just have to play instinctively.

Another division which attracted large audiences was the wheelchair division. Defending champion Jim Leatherman, 23, came back from Maryland to claim his second title. This was the second time the men's wheelchair division was offered in the Nationals, but thanks to the recruiting efforts of Bob Kafka of the Southwestern Wheelchair Athletics Organization, this year four women played in a women's division for the first time. Other than Leatherman and two-time runner-up Tony Dean of Maryland, all of the other entrants were locals who had only been playing for a few months.

All of the participants were excited about the growth of wheelchair racquetball and hope to compete again next year. Already the number of entrants has grown from three to 22 and next year there are plans for a junior division, a multiple bounce division for beginners, novice, intermediate, and advanced. This year they allowed the women three bounces and the men two,



Women's winners: Malia Kamahoahoa—2nd, Cindy Baxter—1st, Marcie Drexler—3rd

but Leatherman has even won a "C" division with able-bodied players and only one bounce.

Stacy Norman, 14, lost the use of her legs three years ago in an accident when a drunk driver crashed into her father's car. Since then she has adapted well to the change, especially by getting more involved in sports. Besides racquetball she also plays in a men's wheelchair basketball league, runs, skis, lifts weights, and plays tennis. "The first time she got on a racquetball court," remembered her father, "we couldn't get her off." Norman finished undefeated in the round robin competition.

This was also the first year for the Golden Masters 65+ for the men and Masters 50+ for the women. But that still isn't going far enough for some players. John Pearce, 72, of Texas and Mary Low Acuff, 63, of Virginia both had to give several years to their opponents. As long as the interest keeps growing, so will the divisions.

There was also quite a bit of action off court. A player's meeting was held at the hotel to discuss possible improvements and changes in the format of the Nationals, as well as to vote for new officers. Saturday was the big banquet at the Astro Dome, where all tournament participants received free tickets to watch the Houston Astros defeat the St. Louis Cardinals. In an exhibition match, hero Earl Campbell challenged fellow footballer Ben Davidson to a game of racquetball. Davidson was lucky enough to score two points.

A.A.R.A. NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS HOUSTON, TEXAS MAY 26-30, 1983

RESULTS:

Men's Open - Dan Ferris (NM), 2nd Jim Cascio (NJ), 3rd Evan Terry (AZ), 4th Gary Mazarooa (NM)

Women's Open - Cindy Baxter (PA), 2nd Malia Mamahoahoa (NC), 3rd Marci Drexler (CA), 4th Marci Lynch (PA)

Men's B - Mitch Nathanson (MA),
Women's B - Paula McDermott (PA),
Men's 25+ - Mark Morrison (FL),
Women's 25+ - Cindy Baxter (PA),
Men's 30+ - Joe Wirkus (WI), **Women's 30+** - Brenda Loube (MA), **Men's 35+** - John Hennen (TN), **Women's 35+** - Barb Tennesen (MN), **Men's 40+** - Jim Austin (TX), **Women's 40+** - Renee Hebert (LA), **Men's 45+** - Al Ferrari (MO), **Women's 45+** - Kathy Mueller (MN), **Men's 50+** - Bud Muehleisen (CA), **Women's 50+** - Noel Dingman (MD), **Men's 55+** - Floyd Swenson (CA), **Men's 60+** - Floyd Swenson (CA), **Men's 65+** - Luzell Wilde (UT),
Men's Wheelchair - Jim Leatherman (MD), **Women's Wheelchair** - Stacy Norman (TX)

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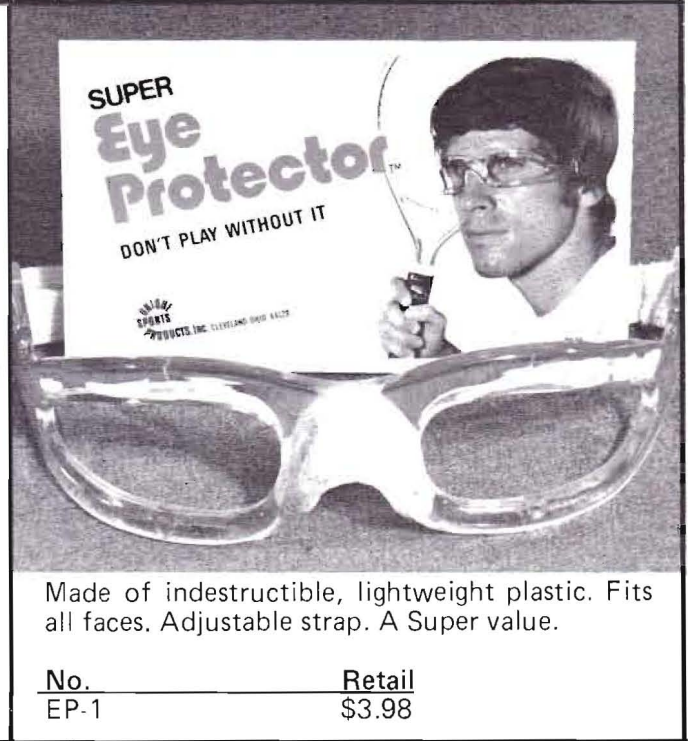
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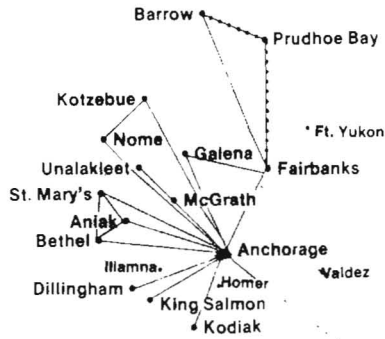
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WPRA NATIONALS

Lynn Adams Repeats As WPRA Champion

Second seeded Lynn Adams of Costa Mesa, California, outlasted top ranked Heather McKay, 21-17, 16-21, 21-18, 21-11, in the May 26 final of the 1983 Budweiser Light U.S. Open National Racquetball Championships, the culmination of the 1982-83 Women's Professional Racquetball Association tour. Adams, 25, has now claimed back-to-back national championship titles as she defeated Shannon Wright for the crown in 1982.

The match, played before a standing room only crowd at The Glass Court Swim & Fitness Club in Lombard, Illinois, just outside of Chicago, had the qualities of a battle of heavyweight boxers. Each of the players desperately wanted the title: McKay to prove that her number one WPRA ranking and top tournament seed was justified, and to resolutely conquer her younger nemesis, Adams; Lynn, a fiercely determined competitor, was out to avenge a loss to McKay 11 days earlier at a WPRA event in Anaheim, California, and to prove that her 1982 National Championship was no fluke.

The audience was treated to an outstanding display of racquetball skill, physical conditioning and emotional intensity. The level of play was consistently high throughout the match with several remarkable rallies highlighting play, which the crowd responded to enthusiastically. As is often the case when two top athletes meet in an important competition, however, one player seemed to pull out the big points when necessary. Such was the unfortunate fate of McKay, as Adams was at the top of her game and proved to be invincible this day.

Both women handled the post-match award ceremonies with grace. McKay, although bitterly disappointed, acknowledged the fine performance of her rival. "Lynn played about as well as I have ever seen her play, and it was more than good enough to win tonight." Adams, who was unable to hide her joy in the victory, said, "I think the sport of women's racquetball is fortunate to have two champions competing at the



WPRA Champion Lynn Adams

same time. I consider myself a champion but Heather is also a true champion. She has contributed so much to our sport and has taught me many lessons I will never forget, not only on the court but off it as well."

Adams won a double dip in Chicago as she teamed with Terri Gilreath to claim the WPRA National Doubles Championship with a 15-11, 15-7, 15-5 victory over the hard-hitting duo of Vicki Panzeri and Bonnie Stoll.

Eight of the WPRA tour players, including Adams, will head to Anchorage on July 8-10 for a special event at the Alaska Athletic Club. The tour will then offer a rest month in August before kicking off the 1983-84 season in Atlanta in September.

**BUDWEISER LIGHT WPRA
NATIONALS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
MAY 23-26, 1983**

SEEDINGS:

- 1 - Heather McKay
- 2 - Lynn Adams
- 3 - Shannon Wright
- 4 - Laura Martino

- 5 - Vicki Panzeri
- 6 - Terri Gilreath
- 7 - Janell Mariott
- 8 - Marci Greer

ROUND OF 32:

McKay def. Woods, Bullard def. Davis, Gardner def. Stoll, Marriott def. McKinney, Wright def. Clifford, Kuhfeld def. Lynch, Harding def. Clark, Gilreath def. Steding, Panzeri def. McDonald, Jackson def. Pranka, Barrett def. Powers, Martino def. Robson, Greer def. Evon, Pritchett def. Paese, Fletcher def. O'Brien, Adams def. Farmer.

ROUND OF 16:

McKay def. Bullard, 21-10, 21-12, 21-12; Mariott def. Gardner, 14-21, 21-15, 21-13, 21-13; Wright def. Kuhfeld, 21-10, 21-10, 21-14; Harding def. Gilreath, 15-21, 21-16, 20-22, 21-18, 15-9; Panzeri def. Jackson, 12-21, 20-22, 21-18, 21-9, 15-8; Martino def. Barrett, 21-14, 24-26, 21-10, 11-21, 15-11; Greer def. Pritchett, 21-15, 21-9, 21-16; Adams def. Fletcher, 21-12, 21-10, 21-15.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

McKay def. Marriott, 21-12, 21-16, 21-16; Wright def. Harding, 21-16, 22-20, 21-19, Panzeri def. Martino, 21-7, 21-15, 21-17; Adams def. Greer, 21-1-, 21-14, 21-10.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

McKay def. Wright, 21-7, 21-13, 21-18; Adams def. Panzeri, 21-10, 21-14, 21-10.

FINAL ROUND:

ADAMS def. McKay, 21-17, 16-21, 21-18, 21-11

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY - \$12,000

by Sandy Genelius

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used with his employees was the promise of a free graphite racquet for anyone who could score three points off of Ms. Nard. She always felt the pressure to play hard against them and even though no one ever did attain the goal, all seven were eventually given a racquet at the end of the month. Sometimes Tsumura would announce that if anyone could score even two points that day against Mo, that he would give them eyeguards. Such were the incentives and they paid off. After teaching them the rules of racquetball, Ms. Nard commented. "They're the best referees I've ever seen because they're such perfectionists. I'd try to get away with all kinds of things to test them, and they would call technicals. And when you took a 30 second time-out, they wouldn't give you a second more!"

At first the company had planned to send women over as well, but there were two reasons they decided not to. First of all, most Japanese parents wouldn't let their daughters travel to the United States, and secondly, the company was afraid it would invest all the money in the women and then lose them to American husbands. Tsumura said that 90 percent of the racquetball students in Japan are women, so he feels it will be important to train some female instructors. However, they will probably import a coach such as Mo Nard rather than exporting the players.

The next World Championships will be in July 1984 in Sacramento, California. AARA Director St. Onge says that the point system is set up so that no team can possibly win without bringing both men's and women's teams, so Japan will have to train some of their more promising female players to compete. In 1985, England will host the World Championships and the following year Japan hopes to land the honors.

At the end of the training period, the Japanese players either returned to Japan or opted to stay on at their own expense to learn more before going back. Construction plans are going ahead for four or five clubs with six courts each. But that is only the beginning. If Tsumura's hunch is right, racquetball will quickly become one of the most popular sports in Japan, and Japanese players will become a challenge in international competition. Who knows? Maybe Toyota will begin making racquetball racquets and Sony will be sponsoring the International World Cup!



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RACQUETBALL AND JAPAN

by Carol Charfauros George

It seems that whatever the Japanese get into lately, whether it is cars or electronic equipment, they have a knack for doing it right. Recently, many Japanese are turning their attention toward racquetball. Because speed and agility rather than physical size are assets in racquetball, Japanese athletes have an opportunity to excel in the sport. Also, with the ever-growing stress of living and working in a competitive society, the Japanese need more outlets for releasing tension. Racquetball seems ideally suited to the densely populated islands where real estate is at a premium.

The first courts in Japan were on American military bases. Only in the last few years have any public courts been built, but the supply is way behind the demand. But like any other business venture, the Japanese investors aren't just going to slap something together without thorough research.

A pioneer in Japanese racquetball court construction is Yasushi Tsumura, 30, of Nagoya, Japan. He and his father own Nissin Kanko Company, Ltd., which builds saunas, pachinko machines (whatever they are), and tiny hotel rooms barely bigger than a bed which offer businessmen economical overnight lodging.

An American pilot got Tsumura excited about the sport, and acting as a guide, they visited various American court clubs in California. After meeting with club consultants and shooting dozens of rolls of film, Tsumura decided that the next step would be to bring over seven new employees of Nissin Kanko for a one month intensive training camp with racquetball coach Mo Nard of Spare Time racquetball courts of California.

Now, maybe to Americans the thought of a female racquetball coach wouldn't raise an eyebrow, but in Japan, it's still a man's world. The seven employees were all men and older than the eighteen-year-old Ms. Nard. A coach is highly respected in Japan, so Tsumura broke the news to his men before they arrived and coached Ms. Nard about the Japanese culture. It was decided that the best thing to do would be to play every one of them right away. She didn't let them score even one point. Needless to say, Ms. Nard gained their respect from that first day.

She also credits her sense of humor with helping to bridge the gap across cultures. When she was called "Buta" or "Buta-sama," which is an affectionate term for "little piggy" or "pleasingly plump," she could easily laugh it off. After all, her 5 foot 3 inch height put her



Yasushi Tsumura, far right, in Houston with parents and interpreter Jimmy Tanaka

eye-to-eye with the Japanese men, and in racquetball she is their master. Mo is probably the only player in the country to compete in all four AARA national tournaments: the intercollegiates, where she finished second; the national doubles, where she and her partner Mona Mook took third; the national singles, which she doesn't want to talk about and the upcoming national juniors, in which she was runner-up last year.

"I knew this was going to be my biggest challenge ever," confessed Ms. Nard, "Most of them did not speak English. But the scariest part was that I knew the Japanese attitude toward women, so I'd really have to work to gain their respect. I was so excited I couldn't sleep the night before."

The daily schedule started at 9:00 am and included staff meetings, warm-up periods, drills and games. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays there was an hour set aside for weight-training. On

Tuesdays and Thursdays that period was spent in aerobic exercise. Evenings the Japanese guests spent time with their hosts, various American families, and on weekends, Ms. Nard took them to racquetball tournaments. This went on for a month.

The progress of the players was phenomenal. They went from absolute beginners to solid "D" tournament players. But remember, these aren't your ordinary players who have a job and play racquetball on the side. Playing racquetball is their job. They were getting paid to learn and their employer was learning right beside them. In Japan, apparently, when an employee is hired it is a permanent relationship. Rather than firing an unproductive employee the company will use counseling, retraining, and redirecting to increase motivation.

One of the incentives that Tsumura

Continued on Page 34

Instruction:

FOREHAND PASSING SHOTS



by Mike Yellen

(Editor's Note: Mike Yellen, currently ranked number one in the 1983 ratings, is a five-time winner on the pro tour this year. He is a valued member of the Ektelon Pro Advisory Staff.)

Next to the kill shot, the forehand passing shot is probably the most effective offensive weapon you possess.

Of course, you can also hit a passing shot off your backhand; but I don't know anyone, professional or amateur, whose backhand is as effective as his/her forehand.

Backhand or forehand, the technique is much the same, so let's concentrate on forehand passing shots here.

Like a kill shot, a passing shot is a rally ender, leaving your opponent no opportunity for a return when properly executed. Ideally, you want your shot to pass your opponent, out of his reach, and die in the back corner.

Even if it doesn't die, it might still be a good shot because it will take your opponent into the back court, yielding the coveted center court position to you. He will probably be left with the possibility of only a weak return, setting you up for a kill.

The circumstances under which you should hit a passing shot are always a product of your position vis-a-vis that of your opponent. Here are two general rules of thumb: If you are in the back court and he is in the front court, ALWAYS PASS, never go for a kill. On the other hand, NEVER PASS when your opponent is in the back court, regardless of where you are. Pinch it in a

corner, kill it, whatever. If you pass the ball, you will be hitting it right into his vicinity.

The other possibilities are that you will both be in the front or center court areas and, under these circumstances, you can judge for yourself whether you have a clear kill shot or one that will send your opponent scurrying toward one of the back corners.

Generally, if he is in front of you in the fore court, any kill shot you hit had better roll out or he will be in position to put it away. A passing shot is ideal for this situation. But watch out if he is behind you; your passing shot had better be a good one in that case.

There are two types of passing shots: down-the-line and cross-court. Obviously, you will choose the shot that puts the ball where your opponent ISN'T.

For the sake of simplicity, let's assume that both you and your opponent are right-handed. Select a down-the-line pass when he is in the middle to left side of the court.

The stroke is the normal forehand stroke and the ball should hit the front wall two or three feet up and rebound back to die in the right back corner. It should not contact the side wall on its way back or it will rebound out into the court where your opponent will have a chance at it. Don't hit it so far up on the front wall that it hits the back wall, or again, he will have a crack at it.

Just how far from the side wall you want the ball to contact the front wall depends on your position in relation to the side wall. Both of you may be way over to the left side of the court or you may be right next to the right wall.

A particularly difficult variation of the pass, both for you and your opponent, is when the ball travels all the way back, only an inch from the side wall. It's called "wallpaper" and that's what your opponent usually gets a racquet full of when he tries to scoop up your ball.

If both you and your opponent are positioned from the middle-to-right side of the court, don't hit a down-the-line pass because he will already be halfway to the ball. Go to the cross-court pass instead.

The cross-court pass, like the down-the-wall pass, is hit two to three feet up on the front wall. Once again, you want it to bounce in front of the back wall in the corner on the opposite side of the court and die, so angle it accordingly.

If the ball happens to hit the side wall on its way back, it might still be a good shot if it doesn't hit too far from the back wall. Otherwise, it will roll into the center of the court where your opponent will pick it up and show you how to do it right. When successful, though, you can have your opponent running from one side of the court to the other.

You'll find that your passing game can really help your kill game. When an

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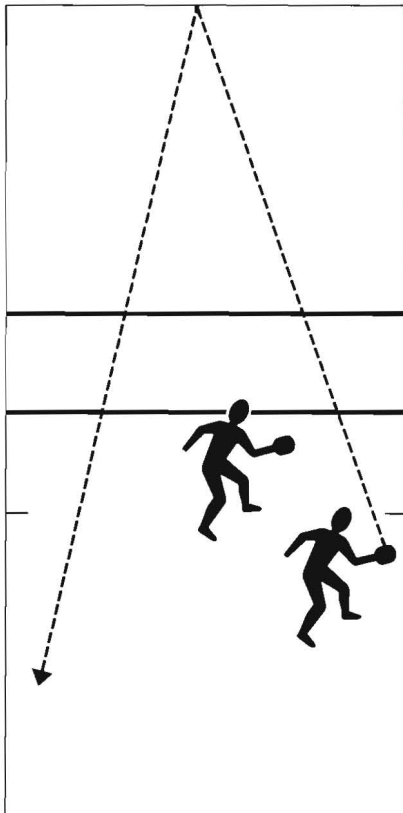
opponent knows you have more than one weapon, it prevents him from anticipating your shots. It keeps him honest.

You can also increase your chances of success with a kill shot by hitting a pass-kill. Hit a low kill shot on an angle so that if it comes off the front wall too high, it will still be a good pass shot. The down-the-line is my favorite and I always go for a pass-kill. I give myself a much larger margin for error that way.

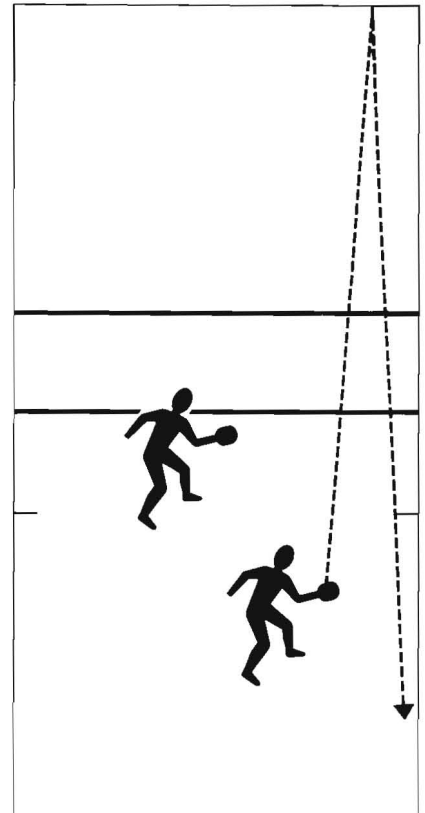
The only ways to defend yourself against someone who is hitting passing shots against you is to maintain perfect court positioning to reduce his opportunities, be able to kill the ball from anywhere on the court or try to turn the tables on him. Actually, it helps if you have all of the above, but concentrate on positioning and capturing the momentum of the game. Unless your kill shot is really "on" and you have a good shot opportunity, it is better to take the ball to the ceiling.

Once you've gotten back into the game, take charge with your own passing offensive and let him chase the balls into the corners. Remember, this is the era of a shortage of energy. Let your opponent use his gas. Save yours.

Cross-court pass



Down-the-line pass



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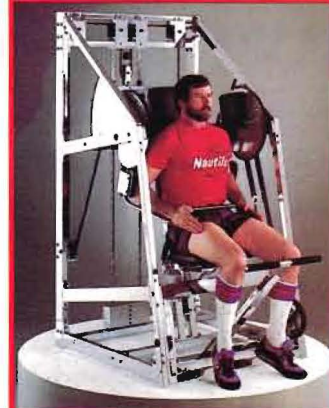
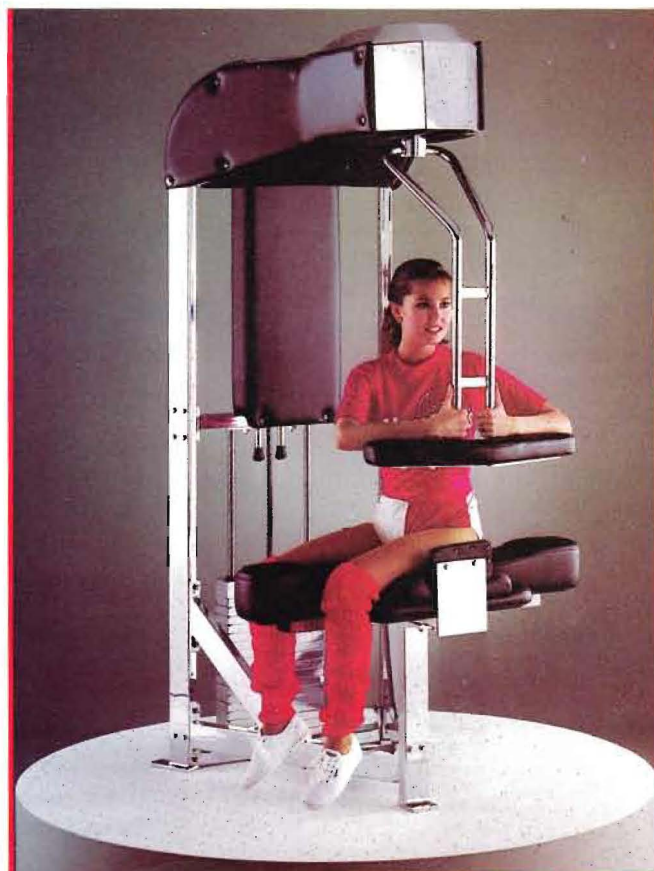
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Schedule of Events

Tentative WPRA 1983-84 Pro Tour

| DATE | LOCATION |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Sept 1-4 | Atlanta, GA |
| Oct 6-9 | * , MA |
| Oct 20-23 | * , IL |
| Nov. 10-13 | Vancouver, CD |
| Dec 9-11 | Plymouth, MA |
| Jan 26-29 | Lafayette, LA |
| Feb 2-5 | Quebec, CD |
| Feb 16-19 | Seattle |
| Mar 8-11 | Bangor, ME |
| Apr 12-15 | Toronto, CD * |
| May 3-6 | * , MA |
| May 17-20 * | Anaheim, CA |
| May 24-27 (Nationals) | Fort Worth, TX |
| July 12-15 | Anchorage, AK |

* Pending

Tentative Pro 1983-84 Pro Tour

Sept 1-4 Davison, MI

The dates and places of the additional tournaments we listed in last month's International Racquetball are currently being negotiated with the PRO. At press time, the Davison tournament was the only one definite. If you need to know about the other upcoming tournaments, feel free to call our offices at 801-531-1484. Our September issue should have definite dates, cities and prize monies for both the WPRA and the PRO.

Ruben Gonzalez

Continued from page 15

young men who are still crippled by the confusion of youth, Ruben Gonzales radiates the peace of a man who has already survived most of the gruesome battles of life.

"For most of these guys out here, this is just a game. It really doesn't mean that much to them. But I started with nothing. Everything that happens to me from here is an addition to my life. I see it as a great opportunity."

All I want to do is to go out there and show people what racquetball is really all about. I want them to see that you don't have to argue with the referee, or with your opponent. Most of all I just want people to like me. When I walk out there on the court I want as many people to like me as possible."

If the reaction of the crowd in Chicago is any indication, that won't be any problem at all.



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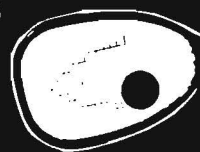
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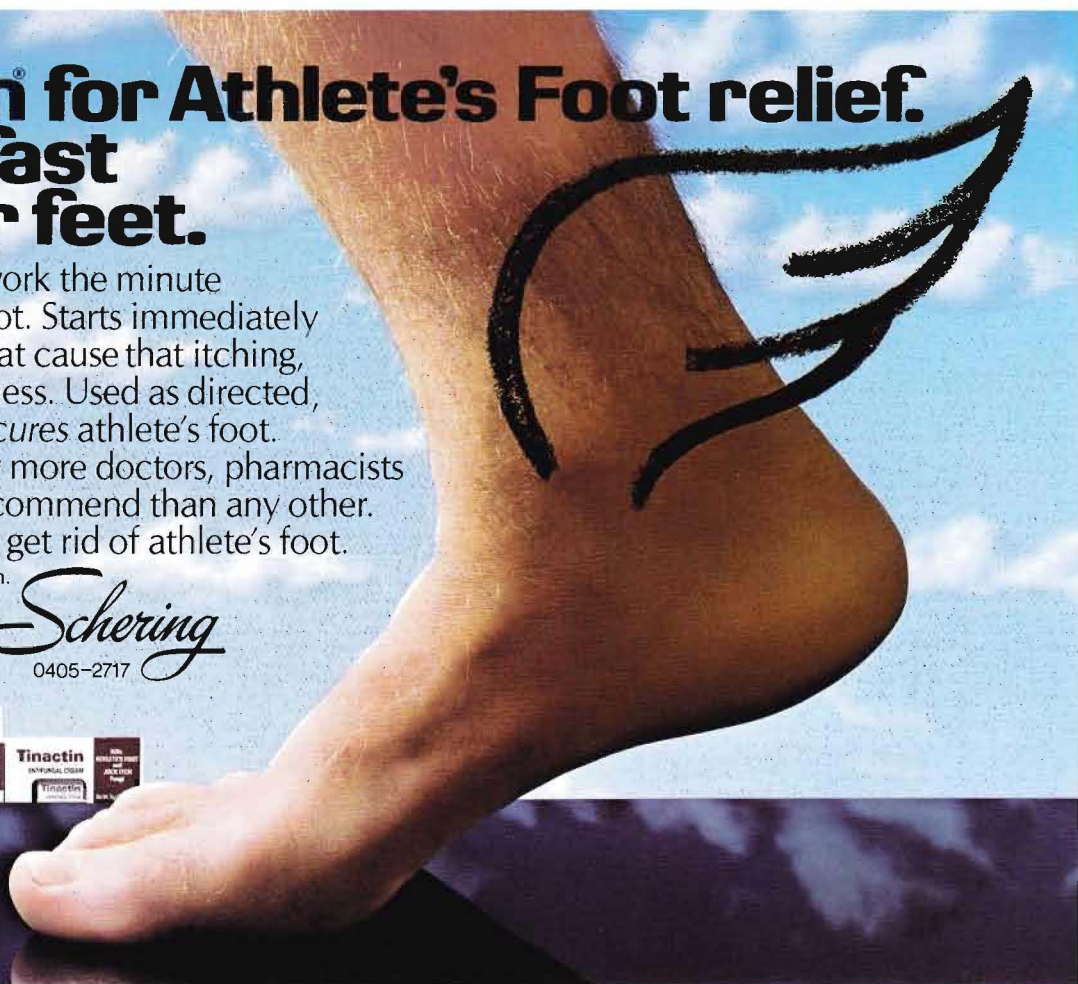
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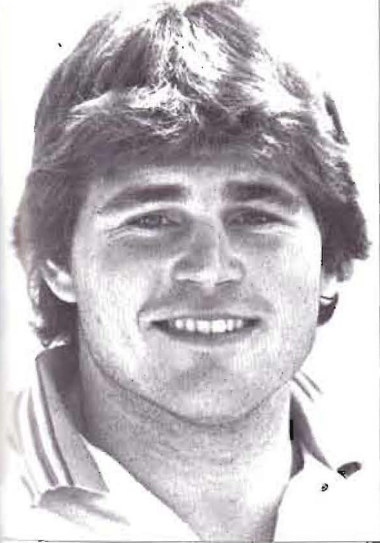
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Instruction:

GETTING A GOOD START

By Dave Peck

(Editor's Note: Dave Peck, 1982 National Champion, was voted Pro Racquetball Player of the Year of 1982 by Racquetball Illustrated magazine. He is ranked number three in the 1983 ratings and is a valued member of the Ektelon Pro Advisory Staff.)

I believe in good, basic, correct racquetball strokes. Nothing fancy, because consistency is what wins, and understanding the different strokes will make them easier to learn.

The most basic stroke in racquetball is the forehand. The forehand can be broken down into three basic categories: grip and racquet, upper body and lower body. I'll talk about each different part, but be aware that they all flow together for a powerful forehand.

THE GRIP AND RACQUET

Your grip is very important to your whole swing. A wrong grip makes it impossible to have a proper stroke. First, hold your racquet out in front of you with the strings facing the side walls. Now, take the "V" of your hand, between the thumb and first finger, and place it on the top ridge of your racquet. The butt of the handle is placed in the lower meaty part of your hand. Leave some space between your first and second fingers to allow control. The reason you want to use this grip is to allow your racquet face to go through the ball flat and parallel. The ball should go in straight to the wall and come back straight. The key word here is parallel.

THE UPPER BODY

Your upper body should always be relaxed and smooth as you stroke through the ball. Starting at the top, make sure you have your racquet in a cocked, ready position. To imagine a cocked position, try this: when someone shows off his/her bicep muscle, they raise their fist up and flex. That's basically the ready position, except you have a racquet in your hand and you don't bend your wrist over.

As you start to bring your racquet into the ball, think of two things. One, drop your forehand shoulder. And two, point the butt of your racquet toward the front wall. By pointing the butt of your racquet, you are assured that your wrist is cocked. Then you lead through with your elbow and forearm.

When your racquet reaches the area of your front foot, snap your wrist (bring your racquet around) and follow through *completely* behind your body. Your upper body stays pretty upright through the stroke. Make sure you rotate your shoulders around and that you're not bending at the waist, facing downward.

Really work on snapping your wrist. It gives you a big source of power. There are two ways to tell if you're snapping your wrist. One is to swing without the ball. If you snap, you'll hear a *loud* whooshing sound. Second, hit the ball to the wall. If you don't snap, you'll hear a dull thud sound when it hits. If you do snap, the ball will make a crisp, loud crack when it connects. It's an exciting sound. Strive for it.

THE LOWER BODY

You can't imagine how many people forget to use their legs, other than to get to the ball. It's when you get to the ball

that your legs really start to work.

First of all, always step into the ball, shifting your weight from your back leg to your front leg. You want your momentum going toward the front wall. As you step, your front (or lead) foot steps toward the right corner (if you're right-handed). Make sure you keep your toe open and not pointed into the side wall.

By keeping your toe open, you allow your knee to bend naturally. If your toe is closed off, you put unnatural stress on your knee, and you'll stand up straighter when you hit the ball. Your back leg also bends at the knee by pivoting up on your back toe. Both legs bending together control the height at which you hit the ball.

Your hips should rotate easily from facing the side wall, to facing the front wall. It takes more stamina to use your legs like this, but you broaden your margin for error and you start controlling the ball better.

I hope this will help you improve your forehand. Any stroke takes practice, and drilling is very important. Right now, simply drop and hit the ball, experimenting with the different parts of your body, seeing what it feels like to use your legs, etc.

Good luck!

«



Head to Head

| Women's | McKay | Adams | Wright | Martino | Panzeri | Marriott | Greer | Gilreath | Gardner | Stupp | McKinney | Harding |
|----------|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|----------|-------|----------|---------|-------|----------|---------|
| McKay | | 3-4 | 4-1 | 2-0 | 2-0 | 5-0 | 1-0 | 2-0 | 2-0 | 2-0 | 2-0 | 3-0 |
| Adams | 4-3 | | 3-0 | 2-0 | 1-2 | | 4-0 | 4-0 | 1-0 | 2-0 | 1-0 | 2-0 |
| Wright | 1-4 | 0-3 | | 1-0 | 2-1 | 2-1 | | 1-1 | 1-0 | | 4-0 | 2-0 |
| Martino | 0-2 | 0-2 | 0-1 | | 1-2 | | 1-1 | | 1-0 | 0-1 | 1-1 | 1-0 |
| Panzeri | 0-2 | 2-1 | 1-2 | 2-1 | | | 2-2 | | | | 1-0 | |
| Marriott | 0-5 | | 1-2 | | | | | 1-1 | 2-0 | 1-0 | | |
| Greer | 0-1 | 0-4 | | 1-1 | 0-1 | | | | | 1-1 | | |
| Gilreath | 0-2 | 0-4 | 1-1 | | 2-2 | 1-1 | | | | 1-1 | 1-0 | 0-1 |
| Gardner | 0-2 | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-1 | | 1-2 | | | | | | |
| Stupp | 0-2 | 0-2 | | 1-0 | | | 1-1 | | | | | |
| McKinney | 0-2 | 0-1 | 0-4 | 1-1 | | 0-1 | | 0-1 | | | | 2-0 |
| Harding | 0-3 | 0-2 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 0-1 | | | 1-0 | | | 0-2 | |

| Men's | M. HOGAN | D. PECK | M. YELLEN | B. HARNETT | G. PECK | J. HILECHER | G. PRICE | E. ANDREWS | D. THOMAS | S. LERNER | J. EGERMAN | R. WAGNER | S. STRANDEMO | D. COHEN | C. McCOY | R. GONZALES | S. HAWKINS | M. MARTINO | S. OLIVER | L. MYERS |
|-----------------|----------|---------|-----------|------------|---------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| MARTY HOGAN | | 3-1 | 1-4 | 3-1 | 2-0 | 3-0 | 1-0 | 2-0 | 3-0 | 2-0 | 2-0 | 1-1 | 1-0 | 1-0 | | | 1-0 | 2-0 | | |
| DAVE PECK | 1-3 | | 3-3 | 1-3 | 4-0 | | | 1-0 | 1-0 | 2-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | | 1-0 | 1-0 | | | 0-1 | | 1-0 |
| MIKE YELLEN | 4-1 | 3-3 | | 1-1 | 2-1 | 3-0 | 1-1 | 1-0 | | | 1-0 | 1-0 | | 2-0 | 2-0 | 2-0 | | | 1-0 | |
| BRET HARNETT | 1-3 | 3-1 | 1-1 | | 0-2 | | 2-0 | 1-0 | | | | 0-1 | 0-1 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | | |
| GREG PECK | 0-2 | 0-4 | 1-2 | 2-0 | | | 1-0 | 1-0 | | | 1-0 | 2-0 | | 1-1 | 1-0 | 0-1 | | | | 1-0 |
| JERRY HILECHER | 0-3 | | 0-3 | | | | 0-1 | 1-0 | | 1-0 | | 1-0 | | 0-1 | | 0-1 | 1-0 | | 1-0 | |
| GERRY PRICE | 0-1 | | 1-1 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 1-0 | | | 1-0 | | 1-0 | 1-0 | | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | | 0-1 | | |
| ED ANDREWS | 0-2 | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-1 | | | 1-0 | 0-1 | 0-2 | | | 1-1 | 2-0 | | | | 1-1 | |
| DON THOMAS | 0-3 | 0-1 | | | | | 0-1 | 0-1 | | | 1-1 | 0-1 | | | | | | | | |
| STEVE LERNER | 0-2 | 0-2 | | | | 0-1 | | 1-0 | | | | | | | 1-0 | 0-1 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 2-0 | |
| JOHN EGERMAN | 0-2 | 0-1 | 0-1 | | 0-1 | | 0-1 | 2-0 | 1-1 | | | | | 0-1 | | 0-1 | 1-0 | 0-1 | 0-1 | |
| RICH WAGNER | 1-1 | 0-1 | 0-1 | 1-0 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 0-1 | | 1-0 | | | | | 1-0 | | 1-1 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 0-1 | |
| STEVE STRANDEMO | 0-1 | | | 1-0 | | | | | | | | 0-1 | | 1-0 | | 0-1 | | | | |
| DOUG COHEN | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 1-1 | 1-0 | 0-1 | 1-1 | | | 1-0 | | 0-1 | | | | | | | |
| CRAIG McCOY | | 0-1 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 0-1 | | 0-1 | 0-2 | | 0-1 | | | | | | | 1-0 | | 1-0 | |
| REUBEN GONZALES | | | 0-2 | 0-1 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 0-1 | | | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-1 | 1-0 | | | | | | | 1-0 |
| SCOTT HAWKINS | 0-1 | | | 0-1 | | 0-1 | | | | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-1 | | | 0-1 | | | | | 0-1 |
| MARK MARTINO | 0-2 | 1-0 | | 0-1 | | | 1-0 | | | 0-1 | 1-0 | 0-1 | | | 0-1 | | | | | |
| SCOTT OLIVER | | | 0-1 | | | 0-1 | | 1-1 | | 0-2 | 1-0 | 1-0 | | | | | | | | |
| LINDSAY MYERS | | 0-1 | | | 0-1 | | | | | | | | | | | 0-1 | 1-0 | | | |

HOW TO READ CHART: For any player the won/loss record against every other player is read horizontally opposite his name. The tournaments used are the same as those used for the IR Computer Rankings and are listed on page 46.

Rankings

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL COMPUTER RANKINGS JUNE 26, 1983

| THIS MO. | LAST MO. | PLAYER | POINTS |
|----------|----------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 | 3 | Mike Yellen | 166.43 |
| 2 | 1 | Marty Hogan | 160.00 |
| 3 | 2 | Dave Peck | 134.09 |
| 4 | 4 | Bret Harnett | 98.42 |
| 5 | 5 | Gregg Peck | 77.50 |
| 6 | 14 | Ruben Gonzalez | 57.78 |
| 7 | 7 | Jerry Hilecher | 55.18 |
| 8 | 8 | Gerry Price | 53.88 |
| 9 | 12 | Steve Lerner | 47.06 |
| 10 | 6 | Rich Wagner | 42.00 |
| 11 | 10 | Don Thomas | 40.58 |
| 12 | 9 | Ed Andrews | 33.42 |
| 13 | 11 | John Egerman | 30.23 |
| 14 | 13 | Doug Cohen | 24.04 |
| 15 | 15 | Craig McCoy | 22.29 |
| 16 | 21 | Corey Brysman | 18.38 |
| 17 | 18 | Scott Oliver | 18.29 |
| 18 | 23 | Jack Newman | 18.13 |
| 19 | 16 | Steve Strandemo | 17.00 |
| 20 | 18 | Mike Martino | 15.94 |
| 21 | — | Bill Sell | 15.63 |
| 22 | 17 | Scott Hawkins | 13.70 |
| 23 | 20 | Lindsay Myers | 9.23 |
| 24 | 22 | Jack Nolan | 7.66 |
| 25T | 24 | Wayne Bowes | 6.25 |
| 25T | — | Larry Fox | 6.25 |
| 27 | 25 | Ben Koltun | 3.38 |

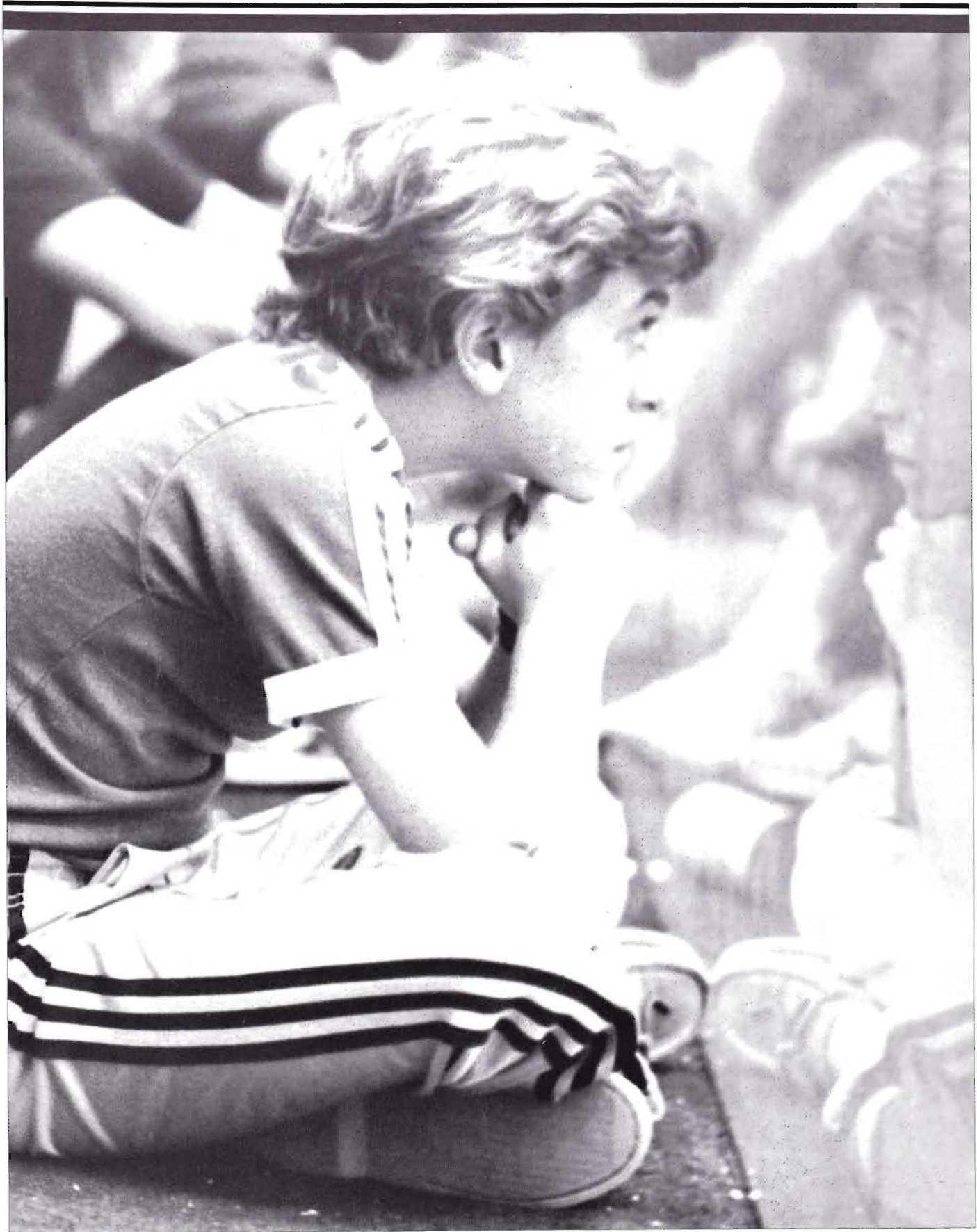
FINAL 1982-83 WPRA RANKINGS MAY 27, 1983

| THIS MO. | LAST MO. | PLAYER | POINTS |
|----------|----------|--------------------|--------|
| 1 | 1 | Heather McKay | 585.38 |
| 2 | 2 | Lynn Adams | 511.42 |
| 3 | 3 | Shannon Wright | 384.38 |
| 4 | 4 | Laura Martino | 273.38 |
| 5 | 5 | Vicki Panzeri | 271.13 |
| 6 | 7 | Janell Marriott | 169.29 |
| 7 | 8 | Marci Greer | 164.63 |
| 8 | 6 | Terry Gilreath | 163.75 |
| 9 | 9 | Peggy Gardner | 122.50 |
| 10 | 11 | Heather Stupp | 116.00 |
| 11 | 10 | Caryn McKinney | 111.90 |
| 12 | 13 | Jennifer Harding | 98.25 |
| 13 | 14 | Joyce Jackson | 97.50 |
| 14 | 12 | Brenda Poe Barrett | 93.33 |
| 15 | 15 | Stacey Fletcher | 85.38 |
| 16 | 16 | Bonnie Stoll | 69.00 |
| 17 | 18 | Diane Bullard | 67.43 |
| 18 | 17 | Francine Davis | 52.63 |
| 19 | 20 | Gail Woods | 42.67 |
| 20 | 23 | Carol Pranka | 41.00 |
| 21 | 24 | Molly O'Brien | 40.33 |
| 22 | 19 | Martha McDonald | 38.13 |
| 23 | 21 | Barbara Maltby | 35.00 |
| 24 | 22 | Jean Sauser | 34.86 |
| 25 | 25 | Leslie Clifford | 34.34 |
| 26 | 26 | Elaine Riley | 31.00 |
| 27 | 27 | Val Paese | 30.33 |

JUNE 26, 1983

DP/LEACH CATALINA RANKINGS

| THIS MO. | LAST MO. | PLAYER | POINTS | EARNINGS |
|----------|----------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| 1 | 3 | Mike Yellen | 91.00 | 57,750 |
| 2 | 1 | Marty Hogan | 91.00 | 38,200 |
| 3 | 2 | Dave Peck | 76.66 | 26,500 |
| 4 | 4 | Bret Harnett | 63.00 | 20,150 |
| 5 | 5 | Gregg Peck | 54.00 | 12,750 |
| 6 | 6 | Steve Strandemo | 50.00 | 3,250 |
| 7 | 7 | Jerry Hilecher | 45.55 | 11,350 |
| 8 | 12 | Ruben Gonzalez | 45.00 | 8,000 |
| 9 | 8 | Don Thomas | 41.11 | 7,650 |
| 10 | 8 | John Egerman | 35.55 | 5,250 |
| 11 | 10 | Ed Andrews | 33.33 | 5,900 |
| 12 | 11 | Rich Wagner | 32.50 | 5,050 |
| 13 | 13 | Gerry Price | 31.67 | 2,000 |
| 14 | 13 | Doug Cohen | 26.00 | 2,150 |
| 15T | 15 | Craig McCoy | 25.00 | 2,000 |
| 15T | 16 | Scott Hawkins | 25.00 | —0— |



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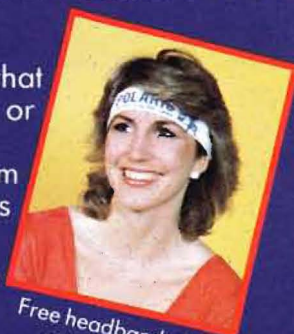
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