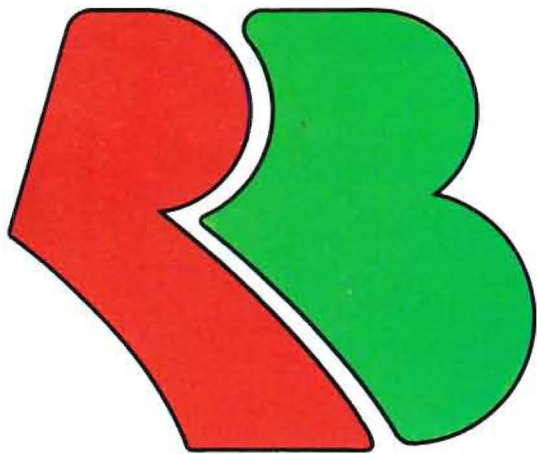


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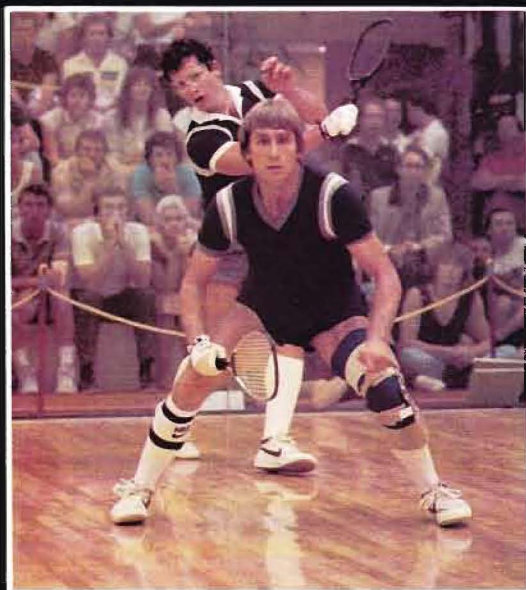
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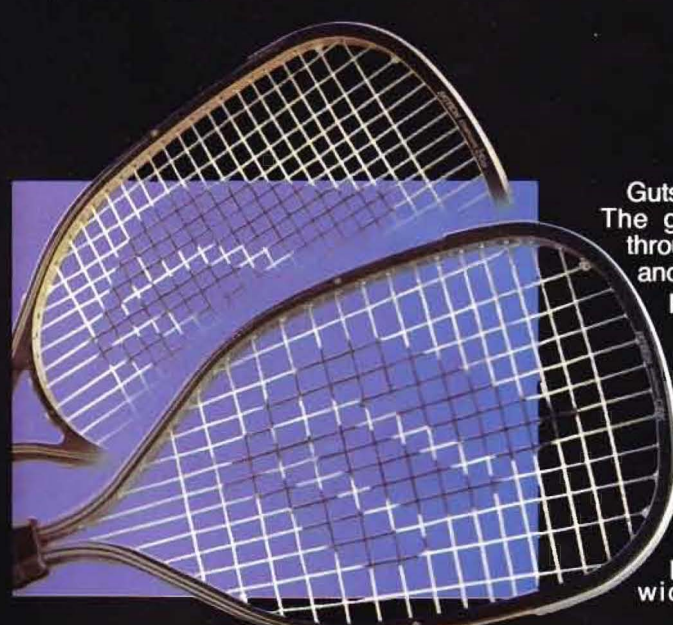
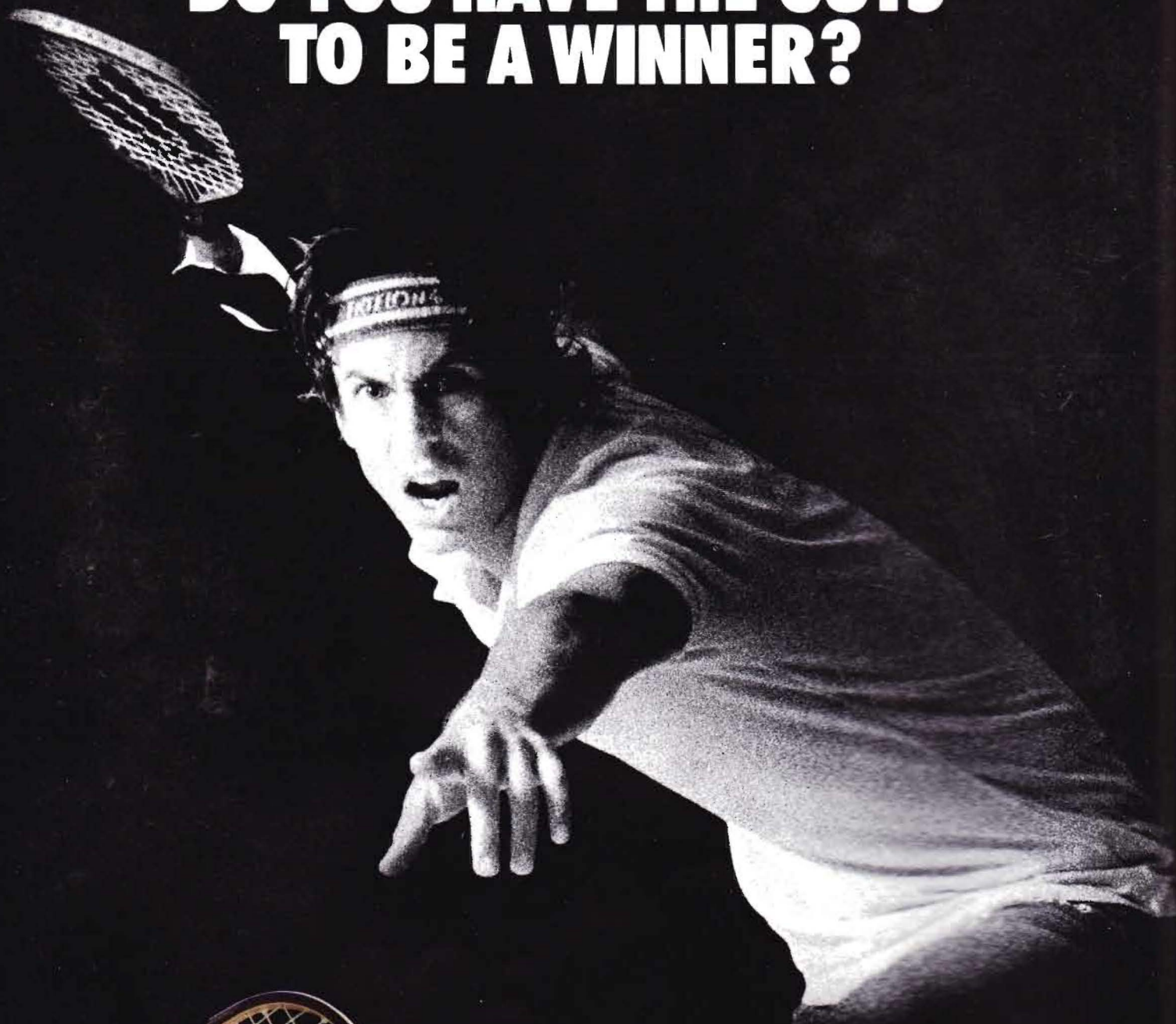
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PUBLISHER: STODDARD & HOLLAMAN, 70 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111 801-531-1484. Editor: Drew Stoddard; Managing Editor/Advertising: Jason Holloman; General Manager: Bill Stoddard; Art Director: Greg Mason; Contributing Editors: Elaine Riley, Kyle Kamalu, Carol George, Lynn Adams, Bud Muehleisen; Contributing Artists: Karl Hepworth, Ted Henninger, Dale Killborn; Circulation: Gina Holloman, John Barlow.

International Racquetball is published monthly by Stoddard and Holloman. Subscriptions for U.S. and territories are \$24 a year for 12 issues. Foreign subscriptions \$36 U.S. currency payable in advance. Subscriptions and Letters to the Editor should be sent to: International Racquetball, P.O. Box 11755, S.L.C., Ut., 84147. Advertising inquiries should be addressed to: 70 East South Temple, S.L.C., UT 84111, or call 801-531-1484

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Happy New Year!

Ring out the Old Year and ring in the New! The 1982-83 racquetball season is over, consequently, we present to you this special issue that includes our Player of the Year Awards and a special section on the 10 Best Men and Women in professional racquetball! If you've ever wondered who won which tournaments and why, we're sure your curiosity will be sated with this excellent review of the year.

The new 1983-84 season is already under way September 1-4 with the first pro-stops in Davison, Michigan, for the men, and in Atlanta, Georgia, for the women. (See our October issue for in-depth photo coverage of those tournaments.) Racquetball is entering what will be a banner year. Why? Well, everything is poised for action. The main-spring is wound so tight you can feel the tension of excitement. Racquetball is ready for another tremendous growth spurt and this next year will bear me out. Young amateurs are champing at the bit to turn pro this year. They've been held back for two years and have honed their skills and set their sights. The fight for the top rankings is going to be a bloody battlefield filled with exciting new talent. The AARA, thanks to the efforts of Luke St. Onge, is on the verge of organizing the explosive growth of amateur racquetball played in 36 countries world-wide. Is racquetball headed for the Olympic Games? It's only a matter of time. The P.R.O., racquetball's first professional men's players' association, will shortly offer to racquetball something that is sorely needed: organization, communication and fraternity for America's top men players. Out of this simple beginning will arise better exposure, more prize money and open negotiations. A definite improvement! This year will also see the return of an amazingly strong WPRA tour. Add to that new products and new manufacturers that will be entering the market with exciting advertising campaigns and promotions for the first time and we're going to have one incredible year!

(To learn more of what is in the wind, turn to our editorial by Drew Stoddard called "In the Same Boat." It covers some inside information pertaining to

amateur and professional racquetball that you should know about.)

Speaking of the great year ahead, I have recently been corrected in my thinking as to the length of the racquetball season. I used to believe that racquetball was mainly played September through early June. This is not the case, at least in the Sun-Belt States where a surprising number of our subscribers are located. It seems that in the Sun-Belt States where August is 275 days long, a racquetball work-out, followed by a pleasant get-together in the club, is preferable to the blistering heat other outside recreation requires. In fact, California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Florida are veritable "Hot Beds" (excuse the pun) for racquetball through the summer and year around. And in the light of world-wide participation, one can hardly say that racquetball is just a nine-month sport anymore.

Who will be the future champs? Historically it has been the winners of the AARA Junior Nationals. Look inside for who won this important event that took place in New York this past July.

In this issue we are proud to have an interview with Jennifer Harding who is this year's new president of the WPRA. Jennifer has worked hard for her fellow women pros and we hope you will take a minute to get to know her. Coverage of the WPRA Anchorage, Alaska tournament is on page 31.

To give you a good start on improving yourself this year, we have included some excellent features. Kyle Kamalu gives us a short tip on "Keeping Your Shots on the Level," while Dave Peck offers us "The Art of Return of Serve." And lastly, "Avoiding No-Man's Land" by Mike Yellen is one not to avoid.

Don't forget our regular features—*Letters to the Editor*, *News*, *Head to Head Competition*, *Schedule of Events* and *Professional Rankings*—which should be perused for useful facts. And, please, take a look at what's happening *Next Month*. It will be an extra special issue you shouldn't miss. Happy reading.



Jason Holloman
Publisher

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In The Same Boat



Drew Stoddard
Editor

Back when the civil rights movement was at its peak, I remember reading about a conversation between a prominent black man and a very self-righteous white fellow. In his attempt to persuade the black man that white people have a certain ancestral claim to supremacy, the white man asserted that his forbears had traveled to this country upon the glorious decks of the Mayflower, not in the dingy hold of some slave ship. "Well," replied the black man, "we may have come here on different ships, but we're all in the same boat now."

I first read that story many years ago, but it keeps coming back into my mind as I watch, and think, and write about what is taking place in the sport of racquetball at this moment. Our sport is emerging from a decade of turbulent and almost unimaginable growth, going from total obscurity to household word in less time than it takes to age a good bottle of wine. And, as one might expect, that explosive growth has come with some pain. Yes, there have even been

casualties. What has evolved is a sort of fragmented sport—a strange patchwork quilt of groups and individuals who have survived by their toughness, and who now hover proudly, and sometimes jealously, over that which they view as their private domain within the sport of racquetball.

There seems to be a growing feeling within the industry that it may be time to bring the various appendages of the sport back together again. We at International Racquetball believe it is time. Racquetball is now preparing to take the final steps that are necessary to become "big league." But we will never be able to do that if we are not unified. As the black man said, we may have arrived at this port on different ships but we are all in the same boat now.

Who are these groups? They are names with which you are probably familiar:

Amateur Racquetball—This is the group that is concerned with the "grass roots" players. The battle for control of this segment of the sport has been among the bloodiest in racquetball, but the survivor is now uncontested. The American Amateur Racquetball Association, or AARA, led by Luke St. Onge and based in Colorado Springs now dominates American amateur racquetball and is rapidly spreading its influence around the world. One of the goals of the AARA is to establish racquetball as an official Olympic sport.

Women's Professional Racquetball—One of the great success stories of racquetball is the Women's Professional Racquetball Association or WPRO. Born amidst a virtual disaster in 1979, the WPRO has become one of the most vibrant and creative forces in the sport and stands in total control of the women's professional game. The WPRO is currently headed by its newly elected third president, Jennifer Harding.

Men's Professional Racquetball—While the jury may still be out on this one, it appears that the Professional Racquetball Organization, or PRO, will reign as the controlling force of men's professional racquetball. The battles in this area are legend, and the stakes are high. But all indications are that PRO will finally bring some much needed order to the sport's most visible group. The PRO is currently headed by racquetball pioneer Bud Muehleisen.

Manufacturers—One of the most welcome occurrences in the history of racquetball was the recent formation of the Racquetball Manufacturers Association, or RMA. This powerful group, which is composed of representatives of virtually every major racquetball manufacturer, has massive resources and should be able to act as the most effective possible industry watch-dog, as well as the sport's strongest proponent of unity. Although no president has yet been selected, the accepted interim leader seems to be Norm Peck of Ektelon.

Club Owners—Because of the unique nature of racquetball itself, this group plays an extremely important part in the growth of the industry. Although its membership is by no means unanimous, the International Racquet Sports Association, or IRSA (formerly the NCCA), has emerged as the chief voice for racquetball club owners. The current president of the IRSA is Richard M. Caro Jr.

We believe that these groups should be recognized as the defacto governing bodies of their respective areas of the sport and that future decisions which affect the sport of racquetball as a whole should be made by a body composed of representatives of each. It is no longer possible for one area of the sport to suffer without affecting everyone else. We need to pull together.

These observations will, no doubt, come as a surprise to many of our readers. Since the publication of our first issue, the public response to International Racquetball has been far beyond anything we could have ever reasonably expected. But it seems that our emphasis on men's professional racquetball has given many people the mistaken impression that we do not recognize the importance of the other areas in the sport. In light of this fact, we have re-evaluated our own editorial stance and have come to the conclusion that in order for International Racquetball to be a viable voice for the industry, we must speak to, and for, all areas of racquetball. As evidence of our desire to expand our editorial coverage, in this issue you will find an interview with WPRO President Jennifer Harding, and next month's issue will include an in-depth, behind the scenes report on Luke St. Onge and the AARA.

While we will continue to provide the most complete professional coverage possible, we believe it is time that we give proper recognition to the others in the boat. And, we feel it is time that everyone in the boat start rowing in the same direction.

Dear Mr. Stoddard:

As the player representative for several of the game's top players, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on your article "The Other Side of Marty." After having witnessed the efforts of various groups and entities in their attempts to form a players' union, I have arrived at two (which I feel are important) observations:

1. No players' association can adequately represent the game's top players when such group is composed of both amateurs and professionals.
2. For any players association to be successful, it must be composed of the game's top players and their involvement either personally or by representation must be from the association's inception. It is ludicrous to believe that any association can establish itself and then seek the participation of the game's top players.

Having attended the meeting with the representatives of PRO and the manufacturers in Anaheim, I was once again dismayed to learn that PRO had not even established criteria for membership yet they had elected a board and were representing themselves as the new players' association. This association is taking on a very striking resemblance to that formed in Tucson during the 1979 Nationals wherein anyone could join and thereby be eligible to vote. Furthermore, with respect to appearance fees, I take issue with your statement that Charlie Drake denied receiving an appearance fee for Marty to participate in the Toronto event. While I was not at all pleased that such payment was in fact made (especially after Clive Caldwell had personally assured me that no such appearance fees would be paid to any player) Charlie Drake informed those in attendance that he told Mr. Caldwell that because Marty would be returning from Europe just prior to the event and because he felt that participation could in fact jeopardize Marty's ranking, he would require an appearance fee in the amount of \$5000.00. He further advised the group that including Bret in such fee was merely an afterthought. I am neither a proponent or an advocate of appearance fees and the Toronto event should merely serve as a lesson to us all. Any complaint that prize money is distributed unequally merely evidences the fact that the majority of players do not feel they are capable of achieving the number one ranking.

While I wholeheartedly endorse the

various entities attempting to establish a players' association, it must be absolutely certain that such organization does not attempt to take away the individual bargaining position of a particular player.

Sincerely,

Jerry Day
Attorney at Law
Oklahoma City, OK

Note: Jerry Day serves as the agent and representative for Dave Peck and Gregg Peck.

Mr. Stoddard responds:

First of all, Mr. Day's letter gives me a chance to address the one error that regretably appeared in my article "The Other Side of Marty." In that article I stated that Charlie Drake had denied receiving any fee from the Toronto tournament. That information was obtained from certain parties who were in attendance and was, as Mr. Day points out, in error. Mr. Drake openly acknowledged and discussed the payment of the fee during the Anaheim meeting. Since the item was included in the article for the benefit of Mr. Drake and Marty Hogan, it never occurred to me that the information might be inaccurate. I apologize for the error and stand corrected.

With respect to which players shall receive voting within PRO, it is my understanding from conversations with Bud Muehleisen that such a policy has not yet been determined, and that it will be addressed in the near future by the players themselves. I know of no one, however, who has suggested allowing amateur players the same voting rights as touring professionals. The obvious problem that confronts the players is deciding what constitutes a professional player. It is a question for which I have no answer, but let me state once again that I believe the purpose of a players' association is to protect the legitimate rights of all professional players. To be more specific, it is my feeling that probably 25 to 35 players qualify at this moment as professional men players. Any fewer or more than those numbers would, I believe, be an invitation to abuse. I regard as ludicrous the recent suggestion by some of the top players that all professionals be controlled by an association composed of only the top four players.

It appears to be Mr. Day's understanding that PRO has already voted on a number of issues. Again, I have not been present at all PRO meetings but it is my understanding that the only vote that has thus far been taken was the vote at the Anaheim PRO meeting in which three players were selected as an ad-hoc committee to make some basic recommendations

Continued on Page 42

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NAVARRO AND RASMUSSEN TAKE JUNIORS TITLES

Ray Navarro of El Paso, Texas, won the 18-and-under division of the AARA Junior Nationals by defeating Andy Roberts of Memphis, Tennessee, in the final, 15-7, 15-10. Trina Rasmussen of Jacksonville, Oregon, ousted Becky Rush of Sherwood, Arkansas, for the Girls 18-and-under title. The tournament, which is considered the most prestigious junior event in Racquetball, was held at the All Sport Racquetball and Fitness Club in Fishkill, New York, June 21-26. For complete results see story on page 17.

WPRA BEGINS PRO DOUBLES

The Women's Professional Racquetball Association will add pro doubles divisions to each WPRA event for the 1983-84 season, according to newly elected WPRA President Jennifer Harding. Each pro doubles event will pay total prize money of \$2000 which is being contributed from WPRA funds. The purpose of the additional division, according to Harding, is to provide more matches for spectators, to give early round losers a chance to cover their expenses, and to keep the pro women around the tournament longer.

The WPRA will also be giving a \$200 credit to the winner of the amateur division at each pro stop. That credit will be used towards travel expenses to the WPRA Nationals in Ft. Worth, Texas.

HOGAN LEAVES DP LEACH TO JOIN PRO-KENNEX

One of the longest standing relationships in professional racquetball came to an end with the announcement that Marty Hogan has discontinued his relationship with DP Leach, effective July 15. Hogan will be joining Pro-Kennex, one of the world's largest manufacturers of tennis equipment, to form a new racquetball racquet line that will be known as Hogan Racquetball.

According to Jim Thompson, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Diversified Products, DP's approach to promoting racquetball has changed considerably during the past year as the company has become more involved in supporting amateur racquetball events, sponsoring more amateur and professional tournaments, and sponsoring additional players. "Although we have worked to develop a mutually beneficial long term arrangement with Marty for the past year, an agreement couldn't be reached," explained Thompson. "Certainly we are disappointed that Marty will no longer be associated with the DP Leach line, but we wish him well in his future endeavors. DP's commitment to

promoting consumer interest in racquetball remains firm and we feel that our direction is extremely positive and for the betterment of the sport and DP."

According to Pro Kennex, the new Hogan Racquetball division will "initially manufacture two high-technology racquets using the same advanced construction techniques and innovation that Pro Kennex has utilized with graphite and graphite-composite materials in the production of tennis, squash, and badminton racquets. Specifications for the design and construction of both models will be personally overseen by Hogan, as he expands his involvement in the sport beyond basic product endorsement and into the daily business of racquetball equipment manufacturing and marketing."

Marty Hogan's relationship with Leach goes back to the earliest days of Hogan's career and of professional racquetball itself. Most industry observers credit Hogan's name and reputation as largely responsible for building Leach Industries into one of racquetball's largest equipment manufacturers. Hogan has never played a professional event with anything other than a Leach racquet. Hogan's separation from Leach has been rumored since the company was bought by Diversified Products of Opelika, Alabama, in 1981.

EKTELON, OSHMANS ANNOUNCE CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ektelon has joined the Oshmans chain of sporting goods stores to sponsor the first Ektelon/Oshmans California State Championships. The events will feature play in open through novice divisions in two regional qualifying tournaments that will feed into a state finals tournament. First and second place finishers will receive free transportation to the State Finals. The Ektelon Speed-Flite is the official tournament ball.

Ektelon Product Manager Norm Peck explained the rationale for the new tournament series:

"While California is possibly the most enthusiastic racquetball playing state, it is one of the only states that doesn't have its own state championship tournament. The Ektelon/Oshmans California State Championships will fill that void and underscore the commitments of our respective companies to the grass roots racquetball player."

The dates and locations for the events are:

Northern Regional, Schoebers, Fremont, CA, **Sept 15-16**; **Southern Regional**, King's Court, Westminster, CA, **Oct 8-9**; **State Finals**, Sports Gallery, Anaheim, CA, **Oct 29-30**.

AARA ANNOUNCES EVENTS

The American Amateur Racquetball Association, the governing body of amateur racquetball, has announced the dates and locations for its major tournaments for the 1983-84 season. They are as follows:

Central American Games, Costa Rica, **Oct 9-14, 1983**; **AARA Doubles**, St. Petersburg, FL, **Oct 27-30, 1983**; **AARA Singles**, Houston, TX, **May 24-28, 1984**; **AARA Juniors**, Davison, MI, **June 20-24, 1984**; **World Games**, Sacramento, CA, **July 16-22, 1984**.

For more information contact Luke St. Onge, AARA, 815 North Weber, Suite 203, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903, (303) 635-5396.

RACQUETBALL MANUFACTURERS MEET

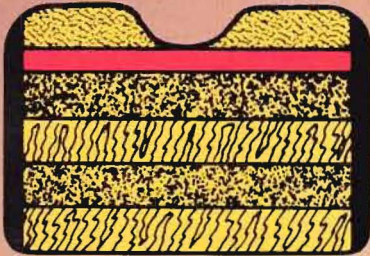
The Racquetball Manufacturers Association (RMA) held a meeting in Chicago on Wednesday, July 27. Attending the meeting were representatives of most major manufacturers of racquetball related equipment and representatives of the Professional Racquetball Organization (PRO), a men's pro player's association. According to members who attended the meeting, good progress was made toward finalizing the parameters of next season's professional tour, as well as establishing a central office for the purpose of coordinating all areas of the sport of racquetball. Because of the sensitive nature of the ongoing negotiations, the RMA and PRO have requested that specific details of the meeting not be disclosed at this time.

"We hope we will shortly be able to make an announcement about the coming season," said a spokesman for the group, "but we're all in agreement that we want everything to be structured correctly before we make any announcement. The best thing we can say at this time is that everything is looking very positive—there's probably more genuine cooperation right now than there's ever been in the sport of racquetball."

JOHN EGERMAN MARRIED

Professional player John Egerman of Boise, Idaho, was married to Elaine Johnston of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on July 26 in Boise. We at International Racquetball Magazine wish to extend our congratulations and best wishes to John and Elaine.

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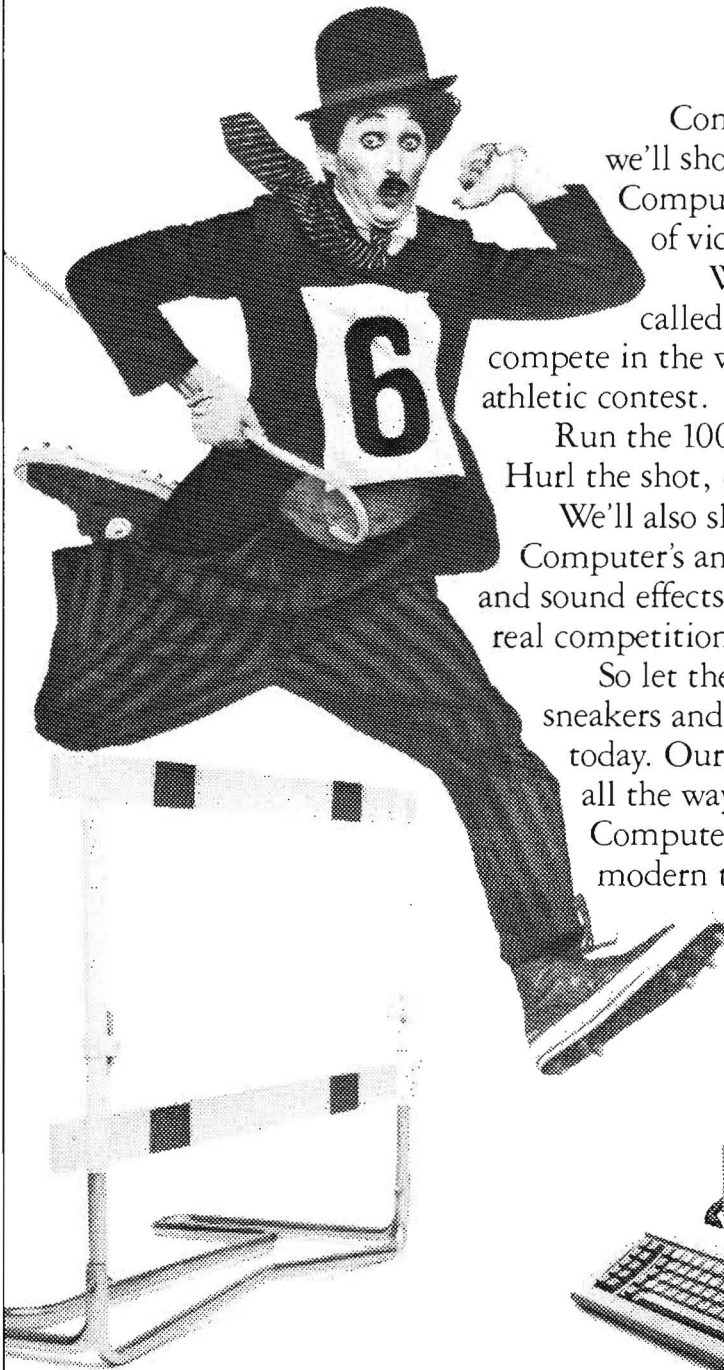
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1983 Professional Player Awards

1983 Player of the Year

Mike Yellen

Iwould be difficult to overstate Mike Yellen's accomplishments during the 1982-83 professional racquetball season. After having a first half-season that was hot and cold, Mike held off his charge for the championship until the last possible second, and then proceeded to scorch the field. Indeed, following his quarterfinal loss to Gregg Peck at the Austin stop in March, he was all but counted out as a serious threat to even reach the top two. Marty Hogan's victory in Austin gave him so large a point lead over the rest of the field, it appeared nearly impossible that anyone, let alone fourth-ranked Yellen, would be able to overtake him. For the rest of the season Mike did not lose a single match, winning four consecutive tournaments, three of which were national championships: Toronto, Anaheim, Chicago, and Atlanta. He beat Marty Hogan and Dave Peck three times each in those four events. He ended the season with five tournament victories, three national crowns, and the undisputed title of National Champion.

For anyone who has followed professional racquetball it seems incredible that Mike Yellen is only 23 years

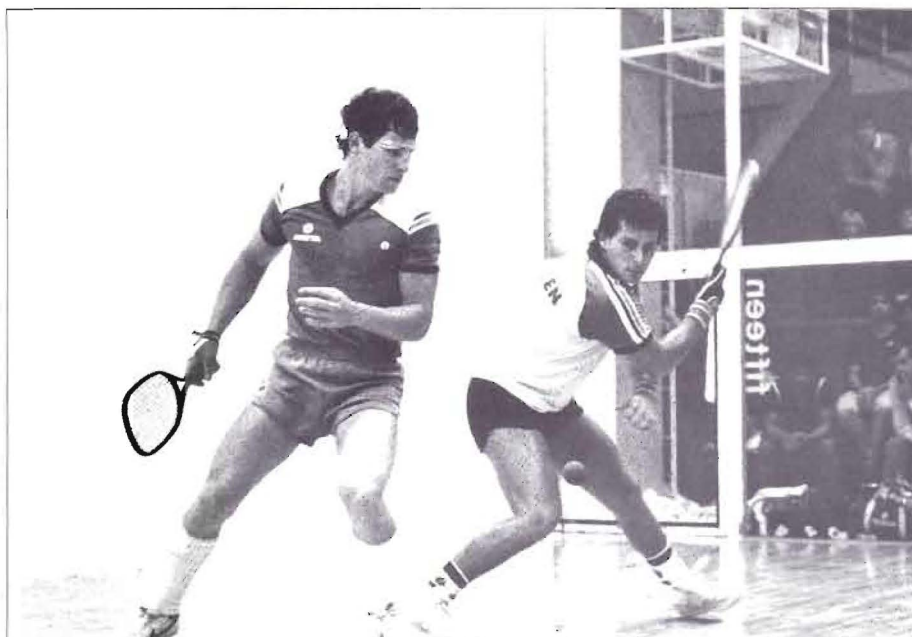


old. He has been playing professionally since he was 16, and has been a powerful force in the game for most of that time. At one time, for a period of about four months in 1980, Mike became the first player to move Marty Hogan out of the number one position when he beat Hogan twice, and won major events in Boston, Atlanta, and Omaha.

What makes Mike Yellen's rise to the top this season really significant is that he did it with a style of play that is

quite opposite that which has dominated the modern pro game. He is the most successful living disciple of the Charlie Brumfield school of control racquetball. The foundations of his game are high-percentage shot selection, consistent execution, and intense concentration. In addition, this season he showed a new aggressive dimension in his game which accounted for much of his success against the powerful styles of Hogan, Peck and Harnett. His game-plan is simple; exert as much pressure as possible by playing solid, error-free racquetball, and then take quick advantage of the errors that pressure produces from your opponent.

The spectre of Mike Yellen in control of the number one ranking has to be somewhat sobering for the handful of other players who possess the talent to reach the top. Nearly everyone agrees that Yellen's accomplishment is no fluke—it is the result of an unimaginable amount of work and experience. He is now the best living racquetball player, and to those who know Mike it is obvious he is not going to let that distinction slip away without a very determined fight.





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1983 Player of the Year

Lynn Adams

This was unquestionably the most difficult choice of all this year's awards, not because Lynn Adams didn't have a good season but because Heather McKay also had such an outstanding year. Together, these two champions so totally dominated women's racquetball that only one tournament in which they participated was won by any other player. They each ended the season with six tournament wins. McKay finished the season with the number one ranking, but Adams won the WPRAs Nationals. The selection of Lynn Adams as the recipient of this year's award was based primarily on her late season performance. Heather McKay should know, however, that the choice was about as close as it could possibly be.

The 1982-83 season was really the second year in a row that Lynn Adams has been at the top of her sport. And though she did not dominate the game as strongly this year as last, that fact was probably due more to McKay's determination than any problems with Adams' game itself. Nevertheless,



Lynn demonstrated again this year that when she is playing well she is the best—she held a head-to-head advantage of 4-3 over McKay at year's end.

Her season might have been even stronger had it not been for early season distractions caused by her preparations for ABC's Superstars

Competition. After missing a couple of tournaments she seemed to have trouble getting back on track, losing twice to Vicki Panzeri. But her season began to improve in San Francisco where she won on front wall glass, and repeated three weeks later in Seattle. She capped her season by defeating Heather McKay in the finals of the WPRAs National Championships in Chicago, where she also teamed with Terri Gilreath to claim the WPRAs National Doubles Championships.

The Ektelon Championships remained her Waterloo. She was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Anaheim tournament, the only major title she has never won. That's all right Lynn; Bjorn Borg never won the U.S. Open.

Lynn Adams is a worthy and popular champion for women's professional racquetball. She shows good sportsmanship and seems universally liked by her peers. She has raised women's racquetball to a new high, and it seems she still has resources to tap.



1983 Most Improved Player

Gregg Peck

Gregg Peck was chosen as this year's Most Improved Player not because he simply got better. A lot of players did that, and Gregg himself has shown substantial improvement in virtually every one of his three years as a professional. But 1983 marked the emergence of Gregg Peck as a major force in professional racquetball. He strongly influenced the outcome of nearly every major event in which he participated. More importantly, he made great strides in two important areas of the game which many talented players are never able to conquer: maturity, and mental toughness. He has been largely overlooked in professional racquetball, partly because of the success of his older brother Dave, and partly because his game-style is less spectacular than some. This year he served notice he will not be overlooked any longer.

Gregg had little difficulty this season with anyone but the top three players. His domination of Bret Har-



nett, which extends back to his victory over Bret in the Junior Nationals, became apparent in Toronto and Chicago. His best victory of the year was his upset of Mike Yellen on his home turf in Austin, Texas. Overall, his well rounded but aggressive game proved

formidable to nearly everyone he faced.

As one would expect, Gregg's game bears resemblances to that of his brother Dave, to whom he attributes most of his expertise. But there are now signs that in certain areas Gregg's abilities may someday surpass those of his immensely talented older brother. Many believe he is quicker—he is one of the best retrievers (and divers) in the game. More importantly, he seems to be mentally steadier and far less volatile than Dave, and therefore seems to be immune to the legendary Peck temperament problems.

Gregg Peck's rise in the pro racquetball ranks is also good news for the sport in general. He is a world-class sportsman, and has earned a long-standing reputation for being one of the best liked and most pleasant young men on the tour. As one pro said recently, "Anyone who doesn't like Gregg has a real problem." He has a great future in a sport that is lucky to have him.



1983 Most Improved Player

Vicki Panzeri

There was little question in anyone's mind this year which player deserved the 1983 Most Improved Women's Player Award. Vicki Panzeri, of Seattle, Washington, brought her year-end ranking up five notches and became a real force among the top women professional players. She defeated Lynn Adams in consecutive tournaments, and won her first major title in Tucson, in February. In addition to her win she had one second, three quarterfinals, and a strong semifinal showing at the WPRAs Nationals in Chicago. Her list of defeated opponents over the course of the year looks like a "who's who" of women's pro racquetball: Lynn Adams, Shannon Wright, Laura Martino, Terri Gilreath, Marci Greer, and Jennifer Harding.



Vicki is finally beginning to realize her tremendous potential after years of fighting it out in the lower ranks and in regional tournaments throughout the Northwest. She has all the tools necessary to reach the top: speed, power, control, and experience. And she is now gaining the confidence that comes only with beating the top players.

In addition to being named the Most Improved Women's Player by International Racquetball Magazine, Vicki was recently awarded the same title by her peers when she received the AMF Voit Most Improved Player Award, which is presented annually by the WPRAs.

Our congratulations go to Vicki on a truly fine year and our wishes for an even better 1983-84 season.



AARA

Junior Nationals

Ray Navarro takes the National Juniors crown in New York.

Ray Navarro, of El Paso, Texas, won the 18-and-under division of the U.S. National Junior Racquetball Championships which were held June 21-26 at the All Sport Racquetball and Fitness Club in Fishkill, New York. Navarro, who is a student of top ranked men's professional Dave Peck, defeated Andy Roberts of Tennessee in the final, 15-7, 15-10. In the girls 18-and-under division Trina Rasmussen of Jacksonville, Oregon, defeated Becky Rush of Sherwood Arkansas, 15-9, 12-15, 15-8 for the title. The Junior Nationals, sponsored by the DP Leach and Penn Athletic Products Company, was held over a five-day period and crowned 22 new National Champions in both singles and doubles.

By winning the event, both Navarro and Rasmussen became automatic qualifiers for the U.S. National Team and will compete for the United States in the Central American Games this October. The title of National Junior Champion is also considered by many to be one of the most prestigious titles in racquetball, and is often the precursor of a successful professional career. Past Junior Champions include Gregg Peck, Doug Cohen, Scott Hawkins, Gerry Price and John Egerman.

This year over 580 entrants vied for the 22 coveted titles.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Boys, 18 and under - Ray Navarro def Andy Roberts, 15-7, 15-10; Peter Chardavoine def. Chuck Teets for 3rd.

Girls, 18 and under - Trina Rasmussen def. Becky Rush, 15-9, 12-15, 15-8; Marci Drexler def Mo Nard for 3rd.

Boys, 16 and under - Cliff Swain def Mike Lowe, 15-10, 15-9; Chris Cole def David Garcia for 3rd.

Girls, 16 and under - Michelle Morrow def Dorothy Vali, 15-4, 15-1. Lisa Anthony def. Shelly Lee for 3rd.

Boys, 14 and under - David Simonette def Todd Kohout, 15-12, 15-13; James Lorello def Oscar Gonzalez, 15-10, 15-11 for 3rd.

Girls, 14 and under - Elaine Mardas def Christine Upson, 15-13, 15-10; Robin Levine def Janet Burke for 3rd.

Boys, 12 and under - Nolan Glantz def John Gilooly, 15-6, 15-8; Duane LeGill def Brian Jorgenson 15-5, 15-5 for 3rd.

Girls, 12 and under - Kimberly Pinola def Stephanie Pinola, forfeit; Heather Adler defeated Alma Fuentes for 3rd.

Boys, 10 and under - John Ellis def Ariel Labra, 14-15, 15-1, 15-4; Chris Conte def Ivan Labra, 0-15, 15-9, 17-15 for 3rd.

Girls, 10 and under - Erica Whillite def Angie Pellegrino, 15-3, 15-9; Debbie Stapleton def Candice Conway, 15-14, 15-8, for 3rd.

Boys, 8 and under - Suds Monchick def. Craig Szyz, 11-5, 11-6; Jon Xynidis def Kullen Dickinson, 11-6, 11-2 for 3rd.

Girls, 8 and under - Kelli fisher def Jill Butler, 11-8, 11-1; Hayden May def Eileen Long for 3rd.

DOUBLES

Boys, 18 and under - Klein/Montalbano def Ganim/Leone; Chardavoine/Rubin def Negrete/Brechon for 3rd.

Girls, 18 and under - Nard/Drexler def Calderon/Friedman; Ginsberb/Winter def Johnson/Rush for 3rd.

Girls, 16 and under - Morrow/Pulis def Healy/Pfau; Anthony/Gilbertie def Terracino/Kuchenreuther for 3rd.

Boys, 14 and under - Doyle/Kohout def Simonette/Uazzano Gonzalez/Lorello def Hangas/Pekovich for 3rd

Girls, 14 and under - Mardas/Levine def Wyble/Russier; Afford/Afford def Anthony/Kamyck for 3rd.

Boys, 12 and under - Glantz/LeGill def Locker/Nelson; Gilooly/Delaney def Ellis/Russell for 3rd.

Girls, 12 and under - Pinola/Pinola def Adler/Doyle; Gillman/Reid/ def Stapleton/Stapleton for 3rd.

Boys, 10 and under - Daly/Hogan def Conte/Meyer; Xynidis/Grelecki def Fisher/Jeffrey for 3rd.

CONSOLATIONS: Boys, 18 - Jim Jeffers; Boys, 16 - Tab Chapa; Boys, 14 - Jon Gilman; Boys, 12 - Bart Turner; Boys, 10 - Derek Locker; Boys, 8 - Matt Lavoie.

Girls, 18 - Corinna Percival; Girls, 16 - Carrie Healy; Girls 14 - Kim Russell; Girls, 12 - Pam Afford; Girls, 10 - Sarah Nesbitt; Girls, 8 - Dana Crawford.

Ray Navarro



Q & A

with

Jennifer Harding

A Candid Interview with WPRA's New President



Jennifer Harding, of Milwaukie, Oregon, was recently installed as the third president of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association. She is, herself, a highly accomplished professional player, currently ranked #10 in the world by the WPRA. She is a two-time National Doubles Champion, was a runner-up for the Nationals Singles Championships in 1978, and has two major tour event titles to her credit.

In addition to her responsibilities as a playing professional and as president of the WPRA, Jennifer is part owner of the East Side Athletic Club in Milwaukie, Oregon. Jennifer is one of the most visible and best liked women professional players of all time.

Could you give us a little of your own background in racquetball?

I started playing along time ago for exercise. In college I was in liberal arts and my time was really limited so I started playing paddleball. It was a good sport for getting a good workout in a short period of time. By the time I graduated there was no such thing as paddleball—people were playing with strung racquets. We just kept playing for fun, and played in a few tournaments here and there. There was no pro racquetball then, of course. We just really played for fun. Who would have ever dreamed that there would be a pro tour one day and that I would end up

making my living at it?

I played in the first amateur Nationals and did fairly well. Ektelon picked me up shortly after that and I've been with them ever since. That's been 10 years ago now.

Why are there separate men's and women's professional tours? Weren't the two together at one time?

Yes, in the early years we were with the men. Then, over the years we just grew and grew and we just got to a point where it was time to part ways. It was not really anything against the men. We just thought we could showcase more men and women in more cities if we were separate.

Also, when we were with the men we didn't feel that we were getting a chance to show off the women's game. We always seemed to have the worst playing times, and every time more money came in it went to the men's side. And there we were trying to tell the younger girls that they would be able to make money, or at least that they would be able to make expenses on the tour. We never really said anyone would be able to make a great living.

So we decided at a national tournament in Chicago that we were going to have to take a chance (and separate), and we sat out for six months while we looked for a viable way to get our own

tour going. The hard part was when we decided to do that we were still unsure whether anyone would pay to see just the women. That was a real question.

Can we assume that you're here now to tell us that time has shown that people do want to see the women play?

Yes, and it's really rewarding for me to see it because I've been in this since its infancy. This is the second year in a row that we have our entire tour announced by the end of July. This year's tour is 14 stops and about \$175,000 in total prize money. The schedule is really strong. We also have a couple more potential stops that are still in negotiation.

But the whole women's professional racquetball thing was viable for only one reason, and that's because all the women agreed to stick together. We didn't have a Marty Hogan who said "Hey, I'm not going to go along with you," or a Charlie Drake who wanted to control everything. The only reason we're where we are now is because we all stuck together.

Are most of the women still upset at the men for the problems that took place three or four years ago, or is there a desire to get the tours back together?

We're all kind of upset that we've

been second rate to the men, but we know that the men are just as important as we are. We know they hit the ball harder and they're faster. That's why there's a difference. But we think people also want to see us play. We all love that Ektelon tournament and think it's important to have the men and women together at times. They do it in tennis. Yet I do think the idea of getting more of us out to more cities is important also. I think the idea of having some tournaments together and some separate is a good one.

What's the current relationship between the WPRA and IMG (International Management Group). They have handled your tour for the last couple of years, haven't they?

Yes. We just signed our new three year contract with IMG this week, and we're very excited about it. In that contract is a new one-year promotional package that we haven't had before. A little while back Lynn (Adams) and I were talking and we both agreed that the promotional effort was the area we had all neglected the most. So this year we have allotted money out of our association that will go to IMG for the purpose of promotion. Now IMG will not only be handling our merchandising and site contracts, but they will be acting as our PR firm also. And, sure, we'll be paying for it, but we feel everything IMG does is done first class. It's been a good relationship. You know, they took us on when no one else would.

Who are the other sponsors for the women's tour?

Besides just finalizing the IMG contract, which includes the PR package, it looks like AMF Voit will go with us for another two years. We haven't signed that contract yet but it looks like we will. We're very happy to have that association. Also, we've just finalized Kangaroo shoes as the official shoe, which is an excellent product deal for the members.

Are there going to be any changes in the WPRA tour this year?

We've done a couple of real exciting things this summer for next year. We're trying to put some things together for the players at the grass roots level. How is a girl going to have aspirations to become a professional racquetball player? It's tough to start out on the tour if you don't have a sponsor, because many of the younger, lower ranked players can't make enough to make expenses. Three years ago a lot of girls lost sponsors due to companies either going out of business or just cutting

I think whether it's us or the men it always goes back to the same theme: are you doing it for yourself or for the betterment of professional racquetball? . . . you have to establish policies based on what is best for the game.

back on expenses. That even included my own sponsor, Ektelon. So we looked at the situation and realized, "Hey, we've got to do some things to help some people." One thing we've done is to restructure the prize money at the tournaments. Lynn (Adams) and the other top players have been extremely supportive, always in the past, of restructuring our prize money—we don't put all our money at the top like the men do. We want the top 16 or the top 32 players at all the events so we've spread out the money so more girls can go. If a girl can get to the 16's she can make back a good part of her expenses.

Also, since we have been fortunate enough to accumulate some money in our association, we're going to use some of that money to run women's pro doubles events at all of the tournaments this year. We tried it a couple of times last year and it really worked out great. It gives people more matches to watch, and it gives the girls who lose early in the singles a chance to make a little more money. Some of girls are really good doubles players, but they get nervous when they play singles. Most importantly, though, the doubles division will encourage the girls to stay around the tournaments longer, which the tournament directors really like.

Then, at our Alaska board meeting in July we decided to allot \$200 to any tournament that would agree to run a women's open amateur division along with the pro event. The girl that wins that open division will get a \$200 credit from the WPRA that can be used toward her expenses to the Nationals. So we're putting up \$200 times 14 events out of the association money to encourage those people at the grass roots level—we want to give those girls a reason to play.

Another thing I should mention is that we have now signed, or will soon sign, a three year contract with the club in Ft. Worth for our Nationals. That's exciting because we'll finally know well ahead of time where and when the Nationals will be held. Every year now we will have a women's pro singles champion, two women's pro doubles champions, and an amateur champion. Those will all be determined the the Ft. Worth Nationals.

You've made a change in your ranking system for the coming season, haven't you?

Yes, we just put a little more emphasis on our tournaments that are between \$6,000 and \$10,000. We wanted, originally, to put most of the emphasis on the \$10,000 plus stops, but since about half of our stops are in the lower bracket we decided we needed to give the lower money tournaments a little more weight. We just decided it wasn't fair to make the rankings so heavily weighted on five tournaments when we were really playing 12 to 14. We've been fiddling with this system now for a few years and it seems to be working really well. We made this one minor change this year but other than that it seems to be real fair. It has to be, because a lot of the girls really keep track.

We also voted this year to retain the scoring system we started using last year.



We know that we'd better make decisions that are best for the sponsors, and we'd better make decisions that make owners happy, or we aren't going to be invited back and nobody's going to come up with the prize money.

How are the policies of the WPRA established.

We have a board meeting and a general meeting at each tournament. The board meets on Wednesday and then we have the general meeting the following day where the board reports to the general body. The board itself is elected once a year. The President and Vice-President have one-year terms, the others have two-year terms. Then we have a number of committees that report directly to the board. It is the board that basically votes on all the specific issues. Usually they will take each issue before the body to try to get some feedback before voting but basically the board controls everything.

When the board is elected, all members of the WPRA get to vote. Those elections take place each year at

our Nationals. The tournament prior to that we take nominations, and then take them again just prior to voting.

As you may be aware, there is quite a bit of discussion right now among the men as to who should be allowed to vote in the association. Many of the men seem to feel that only players who have achieved a certain ranking should have that privilege. Has the WPRA ever encountered any problems by allowing all members voting rights?

No, not at all. You have to give the voting rights to everybody—that's the only way you can be democratic. I think whether it's us or the men it always goes back to the same theme: are you doing it

for yourself or for the betterment of professional racquetball? In the case of the men they had better be thinking about the betterment of the sport because they've already shown that Marty Hogan, or any other single player, is not the whole men's tour anymore. It's always been our feeling that you have to establish policies based on what is best for the game.

I've sat in some of our own meetings that were pretty heated talking about this. And I have to say that Lynn (Adams) and Heather (McKay) have just been so gracious and understanding. It's probably because we've all been through the hassles together. We know that we'd better make decisions that are best for the sponsors, and we'd better make decisions that make owners happy, or we aren't going to be invited back, and nobody's going to come up with the prize money.

So we're happy to have everyone vote. In fact, we almost established a policy at one time that said we had to have a certain number of low ranking players on the important committees because we want their input. If you just let the top players control it you just have a real ego problem—but you can't just let the bottom players control it either. We've been very careful about this. We want those lower ranking girls on our committees. And there are sacrifices for all of us; sometimes you have to attend a board meeting two hours before an important match and it's tough, but we all do it.

How do most of the women professional players make a living if they are unable to make enough on the tour?

I'd say that most of the women hold down jobs. Therefore some don't get to come to all of the stops just because they can't get off work. We've also stipulated in our sight contracts with the owners that they must provide housing for our women. Most of the tournaments really like it. They not only house them, they usually feed them and provide transportation. And then the tournament usually puts on a banquet for all of us. So really the only expense the girls have is getting to the event.

Some girls do have sponsors. Some have clubs that help pay their way. Most of the girls are lucky if they're breaking even but they really believe in what we're doing. The whole thing seems to be helping our attitude. Our ranks are growing: right now we have about a hundred members and by the end of this year we're going to have three hundred, I just know it.





THE TOP 10

A Player By Player Review of the Top 10 Men and Women Pros for 1982-83

Here they are—the ten best men and women players in professional racquetball for 1983. The men's rankings are from International Racquetball's Computer Rankings and the women's are from the WPRA's official list.

The 1982-83 season saw a strong power shift at the very top of men's professional racquetball with Mike Yellen's emergence as the new National Champion, and a definite widening of the overall power base. Where there used to be two or three players who controlled every tournament, there are now five. The season may also be remembered as the end of an era that was dominated by pure power players. Mike Yellen and Gregg Peck made the biggest strides, and they are both well-rounded, per-

centage players, who at times use powerful strokes. In terms of game-style, the name of the game now seems to be "balance." Three new players enter the list this year: Ruben Gonzalez, Gerry Price, and Steve Lerner.

In women's professional racquetball, the dominant duo of Heather McKay and Lynn Adams continued to pull away from the rest of the pack. Here too, the importance of power in the game seems to be diminishing, and the high-percentage game has become stylish once again. Unlike the men's list, the women's top 10 is essentially a reshuffling of the game's top players—only Janell Marriott was not ranked in the top 10 last year.

1-Mike Yellen



The 1982-83 pro racquetball season will always be remembered for Mike Yellen's late-season charge that pro-

Continued on Page 24

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TOP TEN from page 21

duced four consecutive victories, three national titles, and earned him the honor of National Champion. Already the game's premier control player, Mike added a new dimension of aggressiveness to his game which, when combined with his already flawless control game, made him virtually invincible during the latter part of the season. He won every final in which he appeared, and defeated Hogan four of the five times they met.

It could prove very difficult for anyone to move Yellen out of the number one position next season. His game is the most consistent and error-free in racquetball, and he has no serious weaknesses. Most importantly, he is one of the game's most experienced and mentally toughest players. He is only 23, and his is still improving. Mike Yellen could remain on top for a very long time.

1 - MIKE YELLEN

1982 ranking: 5
 Age: 23
 Home-town: Southfield, Michigan
 Sponsor: Ektelon

Season finishes:

Westminster - Quarterfinals
 Burnsville - Semifinals
 CBC - Semifinals
 New Haven - WIN
 Hawaii - Semifinals
 Beaverton - Semifinals
 Cheyenne - Quarterfinals
 Austin - Quarterfinals
 Toronto - WIN
 Anaheim - WIN
 Chicago - WIN
 Atlanta - WIN

2-Marty Hogan



The 1982-83 season marked the second consecutive year Marty Hogan was edged out of the number one posi-

tion at the last moment. Looking at his record for the season it is amazing he ended up number two. The only player he did not consistently beat was Mike Yellen, to whom he lost four times. His power game remains the most devastating in racquetball, but this year his errors and his inability to win long rallies proved fatal.

It is difficult to watch Marty Hogan play and not get the impression that the only enemy he has is himself. He seems, at times, unable to generate the killer instinct that once characterized his game, and that is so crucial to his game-style—without it he is just another player. His greatest weakness is his vulnerability to pressure. Contrary to popular belief, Marty Hogan has never performed well under real pressure, and Mike Yellen is exerting the greatest pressure Hogan has had to face in many years.

It may be that five years as National Champion have taken their toll. Hopefully, his new endeavors with marketing his own racquet line will renew the spark that seems to have gone. If it does, Marty Hogan's 1983-84 season could be a great one. He remains the most entertaining player alive. And, he still possesses the skill to be the best.

2 - MARTY HOGAN

1982 ranking: 2
 Age: 25
 Home-town: St. Louis, Missouri
 Residence: San Diego, California
 Sponsors: DP Leach, Catalina, Nike

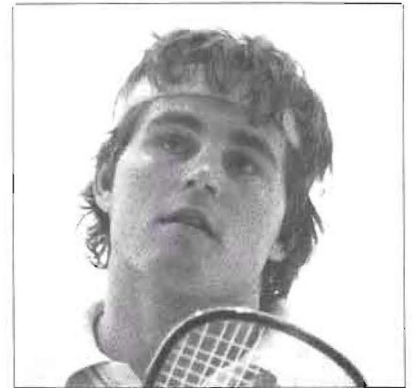
Season finishes:

Westminster - Win
 Burnsville - 2nd
 CBC - WIN
 New Haven - 2nd
 Hawaii - Semifinals
 Beaverton - WIN
 Austin - WIN
 Toronto - Semifinals
 Anaheim - Semifinals
 Chicago - Semifinals
 Atlanta - 2nd

3-Dave Peck

Dave Peck was the biggest casualty of the 1982-83 season. He finished outside the top two for the first time in four years. He was beaten not by any other player, but by the pressure of being number one. That pressure transformed him from a consistent, entertaining, high-level player into a streaky, near-paranoid, on-court terror—

racquetball's version of Ilie Nastase. His confrontations with referees reached



classic levels, culminating in his astounding first-round disqualification at the Catalina Nationals in Chicago. Yet, despite his mental troubles, his innate talent produced a surprising number of high finishes. Excluding the Chicago incident, he was the only player who did not lose to anyone outside of the top four.

Dave Peck was the first player in six years to dethrone Marty Hogan, an accomplishment that has gone largely unnoticed, but one that will be rightfully acknowledged as a landmark in years to come. Peck is an immensely talented young man. He is also the most driven and passionate of all professional players. His greatest asset is his love of the game—his greatest challenge is to maintain that feeling; when it disappears, so does his ability to win.

With last season behind him, and with the pressure of pending contracts over, Dave Peck has reason to be optimistic about the coming season. His injury in Atlanta, from which he is recovering well but which at one time nearly led to the amputation of his lower leg, may well have provided the perspective he needs to recapture the national championship.

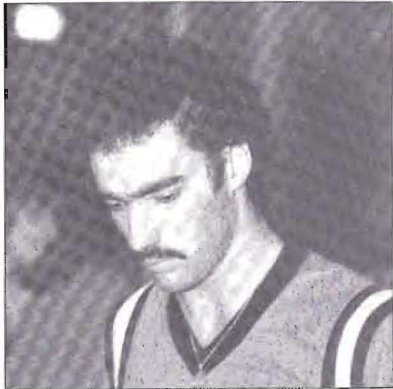
3 - DAVE PECK

1982 ranking: 1
 Age: 26
 Home-town: El Paso, Texas
 Sponsors: Ektelon, Nike

Season finishes:

Westminster - 2nd
 Burnsville - Win
 CBC - 2nd
 Pleasanton - 2nd
 Hawaii - 2nd
 Beaverton - Semifinals
 Austin - 2nd
 Toronto - 2nd
 Anaheim - Semifinals
 Chicago - Round of 32
 Atlanta - Semifinals

4-Bret Harnett



It was a year of ups and downs for Bret Harnett—he had a slow beginning and ending but for a while in the middle he looked like the new number one. If nothing else, he proved that when his game is on he's nearly unbeatable. His successive victories in Pleasanton and Hawaii, where he beat Dave Peck and then Hogan and Peck respectively, marked the current high point of his young career.

But Harnett seems to be falling prey to the same weaknesses that afflict Marty Hogan, the man after whom he has patterned his game. He has problems in the early rounds, as witnessed by his two first round losses. More importantly, his all-out power game leaves him vulnerable to players who are consistent and steady. His first round losses were to Strandemo and Wagner, both highly experienced percentage players. His biggest stumbling block was Gregg Peck, to whom he lost in the quarterfinals of both Toronto and Chicago.

There seems little question that with the added experience and maturity of a couple of years Bret Harnett will soon be putting real pressure on the top three. He may be the most naturally talented player in professional racquetball, and if he doesn't let that fact get the best of him he will probably someday be the national champion.

4 - BRETT HARNETT

1982 ranking: 4
Age: 19
Home-town: Las Vegas, Nevada
Sponsor: DP Leach

Season finishes:

Westminster - Semifinals
Burnsville - Round of 16
CBC - Semifinals
New Haven - Quarterfinals
Pleasanton - WIN
Hawaii - WIN
Beaverton - 2nd
Austin - Semifinals
Toronto - Quarterfinals

Anaheim - Round of 16
Chicago - Quarterfinals
Atlanta - Semifinals

5-Gregg Peck



The 1982-83 season was Gregg Peck's third as a professional, and was by far his best. After a slow start he continued the pattern that has characterized his career—steady, consistent progress. Already a very experienced player at 19, Peck's game has evolved into one of the best all-around games on the tour: he has power, control, and he is not prone to making errors. His victories this year included an exciting upset of Mike Yellen in Austin and two wins over Bret Harnett. His biggest challenge, it seems, is his older brother, Dave Peck. The two faced each other four times this year and Gregg was unable to win any of the four.

Any competent observer of the game would have to conclude that much of the future of professional racquetball will be written by Gregg Peck. His record of progress is typical of the growth patterns that have produced champions in the past. He is physically tough. There are no serious flaws in his game. Most importantly, he seems blessed with a mental toughness that is not unlike that of Mike Yellen. Barring serious injury, Gregg should achieve his first major tournament victory this season.

5 - GREGG PECK

1982 ranking: 10
Age: 19
Home-town: El Paso, Texas
Residence: Austin, Texas
Sponsor: DP Leach

Season finishes:

Westminster - Quarterfinals
Burnsville - Round of 16
New Haven - Quarterfinals
Hawaii - Quarterfinals
Beaverton - Quarterfinals
Austin - Semifinals
Toronto - Semifinals
Anaheim - Quarterfinals
Chicago - Semifinals
Atlanta - Quarterfinals

6-Ruben Gonzalez



The rise of Ruben Gonzalez was the Cinderella story of 1982-83. As a non-Catalina contract player, he was allowed to play in only two Catalina events—New Haven and Chicago. Unseeded in both tournaments, he earned a semifinal in New Haven and an astonishing 2nd at the Catalina Nationals in Chicago. No professional player has ever played his rookie year at 32 and survived. But Gonzalez is unusually talented, and is in tremendous physical shape. His retrieving ability is as good as any tour player, and his intensity is overwhelming. He has the tools to rise even higher than number 6.

But, like any rookie, Ruben's future in uncertain. The pro game has never been kind to inexperienced players, and Gonzalez lacks pro-tournament experience. With the onslaught of young talented players ready to enter the open tour next season, Ruben may find his high ranking difficult to keep.

6 - RUBEN GONZALEZ

1982 ranking: none
Age: 32
Home-town: Staten Island, New York
Sponsor: Ektelon

Season finishes:

New Haven - Semifinals
Toronto - Round of 16
Anaheim - Quarterfinals
Chicago - 2nd
Atlanta - Round of 16

7-Jerry Hilecher

This year marks the first time in memory that Jerry Hilecher has not finished the year in the top five. Indeed, his 1981-82 season was one of his best ever, winning two events and finishing third overall. Jerry did not seem quite as sharp this season—some of the edge seems gone from his game. Whether it's his age, or just that everyone is passing him

by remains to be seen. Nevertheless, he remains a formidable competitor that few players take lightly. As one of the tour's last surviving "first generation" players, he has an unimaginable amount of experience. Though he may never get back into the top four, he should be able to maintain a ranking in the top ten for at least two more years and possibly more.



7 - JERRY HILECHER

1982 ranking: 3
 Age: 29
 Home-town: St. Louis, Missouri
 Residence: Encinitas, California
 Sponsor: Independent

Season finishes:

- Westminster - Semifinals
- Burnsville - Quarterfinals
- Hawaii - Quarterfinals
- Beaverton - Round of 16
- Cheyenne - Semifinals
- Austin - Quarterfinals
- Toronto - Quarterfinals
- Anaheim - Round of 16
- Chicago - Quarterfinals
- Atlanta - Quarterfinals

8-Gerry Price



Of all the young players poised to enter the pro tour full-time next season, Gerry Price is by far the most promising. As a non-Catalina player, he demonstrated his ability to beat all but the top players in the events he was able to play. His playing level was high enough in

Cheyenne to beat Ben Koltun, Doug Cohen, Mike Yellen, and Rich Wagner. In other events he also downed Ruben Gonzalez, John Egerman, Jerry Hilecher, Craig McCoy and Don Thomas.

His game-style is extremely well rounded and he is one of the most accurate shooters around. He is also surprisingly experienced for a young player—he holds three national junior titles and was the National Open Champion in 1982. His only weakness seems to be some inconsistency against the top players, particularly against power players like Harnett. Few players, however, have come to the pro tour with his promise. Stated simply, Gerry Price is going to be a great player.

8 - GERRY PRICE

1982 ranking: 17
 Age: 19
 Home-town: Castro Valley, California
 Sponsor: Ektelon

Season finishes:

- Pleasanton - Semifinals
- Beaverton - Quarterfinals
- Cheyenne - WIN
- Toronto - Quarterfinals
- Anaheim - Round of 16
- Chicago - Round of 16
- Atlanta - Quarterfinals

9-Steve Lerner



Steve Lerner is another of the bright young stars poised to enter the pro game. As one of the top players in Southern California, most of Lerner's experience has come from small, independent tournaments. But he proved an ability to beat a number of high level players when he was allowed to compete in the major events: Craig McCoy, Ed Andrews, Scott Hawkins, Ben Koltun. He also very nearly beat Ruben Gonzalez in their quarterfinal match in Chicago.

With the small but powerful build that typifies many of racquetball's best

players, Lerner needs only a year or two of valuable experience to rise higher than number nine. Look for some high finishes this season.

9 - STEVE LERNER

1982 ranking: none
 Age: 19
 Home-town: Santa Barbara, California
 Sponsor: Eketelon

Season finishes:

- Westminster - Round of 16
- Stockton - WIN
- Pleasanton - Semifinals
- Cheyenne - Quarterfinals
- Anaheim - Round of 16
- Chicago - Quarterfinals
- Atlanta - Round of 16

10-Rich Wagner



Rich Wagner had your basic roller-coaster year in 1982-83. His finishes ranged from a first round defeat in Atlanta to his spectacular final finish before a national television at the Ektelon Championships in Anaheim. Rich is one of the game's most experienced players, but is beginning to feel some of the frailty that comes with advancing age. Although his is hardly over-the-hill at 27, he recently experienced two serious injuries, and in fact played the entire season with a large knee-brace on his left leg.

Rich will most likely find it difficult to stay in the top ten next season. Expect a few good finishes, but most of the fire (and some of the body) is gone. And that's too bad—Rich has turned into a fine sportsman and a pleasant man. Unfortunately, he seems to be showing us all, once again, that maturity is often the death knell of the competitive fire.

10 - RICH WAGNER

1982 ranking: 6
 Age: 27
 Home-town: Patterson, New Jersey
 Residence: San Diego, California
 Sponsor: DP Leach

Continued on Page 28

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TOP TEN from page 26

Season finishes:

- Westminster - Quarterfinals
- New Haven - Quarterfinals
- Beaverton - Round of 16
- Cheyenne - 2nd
- Austin - Round of 16
- Anaheim - 2nd
- Chicago - Round of 16
- Atlanta - Round of 32

- Lafayette - 2nd
- Quebec - WIN
- Melbourne - 2nd
- Ft. Worth - WIN
- Bangor - WIN
- Seattle - Semifinals
- Anaheim - WIN
- Chicago - 2nd

WOMEN

1-Heather McKay



The 1982-83 season was a good one for Heather McKay. Although she did not dominate all aspects of the women's game as she has in some past years, she was amazingly consistent. She failed to reach the finals of only one tournament in which she played. After losing her number one ranking to Lynn Adams last year, Heather is back at the top of the WPRAs rankings.

It would be difficult to overstate McKay's ability—she probably has more court knowledge and better racquet control than any living player, male or female. She plays with consummate professionalism and sportsmanship. Certainly her age will begin to be a factor in the next few years, but her performance this season suggests she may still have a great deal to give the sport to which she has already contributed much.

1 - HEATHER MCKAY

1982 ranking: 2
 Age: 43
 Home-town: Toronto, Ontario
 Sponsor: DP Leach, Nike

Season finishes:

- Toronto - WIN
- CBC - 2nd
- Vancouver - WIN

2-Lynn Adams



Lynn Adams started the 1982-83 season strong, weakened in the middle, and finished strong, winning the WPRAs Nationals in Chicago. She was unable, though, to consistently finish high enough to prevent Heather McKay from pushing her out of the number one position. Once again she was thwarted by the one tournament she has never been able to win—the Ektelon Championships in Anaheim.

Adam's inconsistency, however, was probably caused by the increased number of distractions that come with being on top. When she concentrated she played confident and superb racquetball. Her biggest challenge now is to take the early rounds more seriously. With the WPRAs' new scoring system, even a minor lapse of concentration can be fatal. Minor adjustments are all that are necessary for Lynn to regain the number one ranking. Expect her to do just that next season.

2 - LYNN ADAMS

1982 ranking: 1
 Age: 26
 Home-town: Costa Mesa, California
 Sponsor: Ektelon, Nike

Season finishes:

- Toronto - 2nd
- CBC - WIN
- Vancouver - 2nd
- Lafayette - WIN
- Melbourne - WIN
- Ft. Worth - Semifinals
- Tucson - Round of 16
- Bangor - 2nd
- San Francisco - WIN
- Seattle - WIN
- Anaheim - Quarterfinals
- Chicago - WIN

3-Shannon Wright



Shannon Wright is becoming something of an institution in women's professional racquetball. She began playing professionally in 1975 and assumed the number one position in 1977. Since that time she has remained a dominant force in the game and has the ability and intensity to beat anyone. Her 1982-83 year is probably best described as "the best of the rest." She has simply been unable to stay with Lynn Adams and Heather McKay, but has had few problems with other players. Her single tournament win came in Atlanta, where neither Adams nor McKay participated.

Wright's past makes it obvious she will remain in the top five for quite some time. But she will probably continue to lose ground, both to the top two and to the highly talented younger players that seem to be everywhere.

1 - SHANNON WRIGHT

1982 ranking: 3
 Age: 27
 Home-town: Las Vegas, Nevada
 Sponsor: Independent

Season finishes:

- CBC - Semifinals
- Vancouver - Semifinals
- Lafayette - Semifinals
- Atlanta - WIN
- Melbourne - Semifinals
- Ft. Worth - Semifinals
- Tucson - 2nd
- San Francisco - Semifinals
- Anaheim - Quarterfinals
- Chicago - Semifinals

4-Laura Martino

Laura Martino brought her ranking up two notches in 1982-83, from sixth to fourth, and it appears she is about to make a run at the top. She is without question the most talented and promising young player in women's professional racquetball. Her game is well rounded, and, outside of nervousness

and inconsistency against the top two, she has few weaknesses. She is also one of the best liked players on the tour. Her biggest accomplishment this season was her appearance in the finals of the Ektelon Championships in Anaheim.

A serious betting person would have to choose Laura as one of the game's future superstars. At only 22, her game may not even peak for five years. Expect to see her first major tournament victory soon.



4 - LAURA MARTINO

1982 ranking: 6
Age: 22
Home-town: San Diego, California
Sponsor: Ektelon, Nike

Season finishes:

Toronto - Semifinals
Lafayette - Semifinals
Atlanta - Round of 16
Quebec - 2nd
Ft. Worth - Quarterfinals
Tucson - Semifinals
San Francisco - Round of 16
Seattle - Quarterfinals
Anaheim - 2nd
Chicago - Quarterfinals

5-Vicki Panzeri



Vicki Panzeri had the best 1982-83 season of any player on the women's circuit. Her game reached its all time peak at mid-season when she defeated

Lynn Adams in consecutive tournaments and became one of only four players to win a major event. Vicki plays a highly consistent game, and has the ability to generate surprising power when she needs to. She is also much more experienced than many seem to believe.

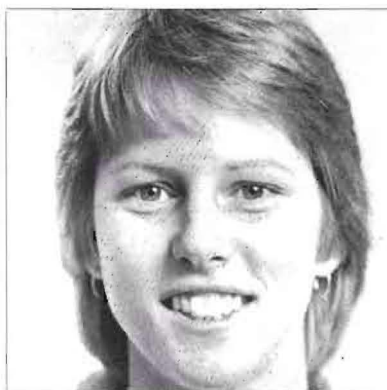
As one of the game's most driven competitors, Vicki's future progress is going to be limited only by her self-confidence. She has already proven her skill to her peers, but she does not always seem to believe in herself. Self confidence is elusive for every human being, but for an athlete it's crucial.

5 - VICKI PANZERI

1982 ranking: 10
Age: 29
Home-town: Seattle, Washington
Sponsor: Ektelon

Atlanta - Quarterfinals
Ft. Worth - 2nd
Tucson - WIN
San Francisco - Quarterfinals
Seattle - Quarterfinals
Anaheim - Round of 16
Chicago - Semifinals

6-Terri Gilreath



Terry Gilreath might have finished the 1982-83 season even higher than sixth—her ranking, and a very good season, were hurt by three consecutive early round defeats at year's end. Prior to Seattle she had lost to no one outside the top four. Then she was defeated by Heather Stupp in Seattle, Janell Marriott in Anaheim, and Jennifer Harding in Chicago.

Gilreath is another of the highly talented mid-career women who could well remain in the top ten, but who are going to feel the mounting pressure of the younger players. If she can regain her consistency she should be able to maintain her number 6 slot, and possibly even move up. She is capable of winning her first stop this season.

6 - TERRI GILREATH

1982 ranking: 7
Age: 25
Home-town: El Toro, California
Sponsor: Independent

Season finishes:

Toronto - Quarterfinals
Vancouver - Semifinals
Lafayette - Quarterfinals
Atlanta - Semifinals
Melbourne - Semifinals
Ft. Worth - Round of 16
Tucson - Semifinals
Bangor - Semifinals
San Francisco - 2nd
Seattle - Round of 16
Anaheim - Round of 32
Chicago - Round of 16

7-Marci Greer



Interestingly, a number of professional men players view Marci Greer as the most naturally gifted female player in the game. But thus far she has only been able to realize that potential in short spurts. This season she dropped three spots, from fourth to seventh. Yet, as her record shows, she remains a very consistent player. Of the ten tournaments in which she participated, she was eliminated by either Adams or McKay in five. She is a threat in every event she enters, and should have no trouble remaining in the top ten next year.

MARCI GREER

1982 ranking: 4
Age: 28
Home-town: San Antonio, Texas
Sponsor: Head, Nike

Season finishes:

Toronto - Quarterfinals
CBC - Quarterfinals
Lafayette - Quarterfinals
Atlanta - Semifinals
Ft. Worth - Quarterfinals
Tucson - Quarterfinals
Bangor - Round of 16
San Francisco - Semifinals
Seattle - Quarterfinals

Continued on Page 36

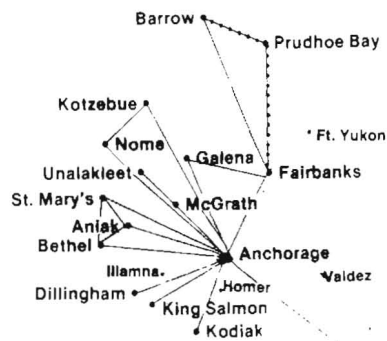
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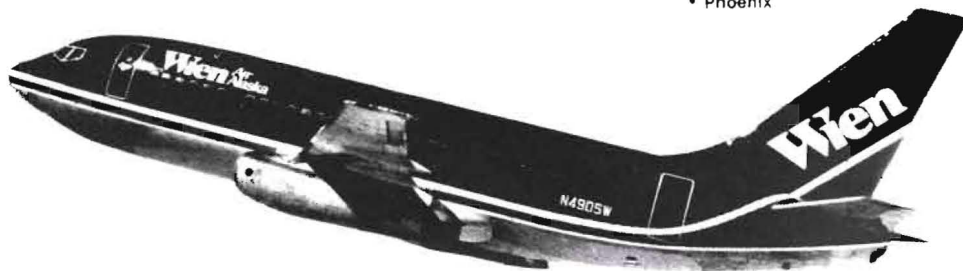
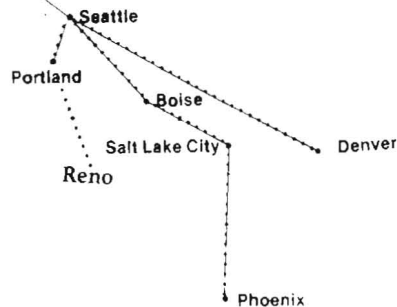
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ANCHORAGE:

ADAMS TAKES MIDNIGHT SUN

When you think of Alaska you usually think of breathtaking scenery, bears, moose, glaciers and bald eagles. But in mid-July, in the city of Anchorage, the Alaska Athletic Club is host to eight top women pros who came to compete in the annual Midnight Sun Tournament.

The Alaska event is a favorite among the women. The crowds are large and responsive, the club puts on a great show, the area is beautiful, and the competition is top-notch. This year the eight woman exhibition field consisted of Lynn Adams, Laura Martino, Vicki Panzeri, Marci Greer, Terri Gilreath, Jennifer Harding, Caryn McKinney, and Gail Woods. The format was a round-of-16 with eight open slots for the local Alaskan women to fill. Each of the pros advanced through the round-of-16 and into the quarterfinals where Adams beat Woods, Greer beat Gilreath, Panzeri defeated McKinney, and Martino ousted Harding. The Martino-Harding match was superb. Jennifer, who looked fast and was in excellent shape, took charge of the tiebreaker and shot to a 14-11 lead. She was serving for the match, but Laura refused to give up. Martino played smart ball, made crisp shots, and pulled the game out 16-14.

The semifinals pitted Martino against Vicki Panzeri. Laura, who had lost to Vicki in the previous WPRA stop, came on the court ready to dig down as deep as she needed to for the win. The match was the best of the tournament. The rallies were intense, the scores were close, and after a see-saw battle the match came down to the tie-breaker. There the girls traded point for point, with Vicki scoring on precise passes and offspeed shots, and Laura going for bottom board. It looked as if Panzeri was going to win again as she took a 13-10 lead, but when the referee made a call Vicki didn't care for, her outburst resulted in a technical foul and the loss of a point. Laura saw the opening and served four quick points to take the lead 14-12. She ended the match moments later 15-13.

In the other semifinal, Lynn Adams was matched against Marci Greer, but Marci was forced to default because of a back injury she had suffered in her match with Terry Gilreath. So what do you do when one player drops out, but



The Alaska fishwomen - Terri Gilreath, Caryn McKinney, Laura Martino, Gail Woods, and Lynn Adams.

you have a packed house waiting for a match? Simple, you play an exhibition or two. Lynn played two matches against the men's open division finalists. The matches were great fun. Laura Martino was the guest referee, and between Lynn and Laura the guys didn't have a chance. Lynn won both matches.

The finals on Sunday were again played to a full house, and the crowd was buzzing with excitement. Adams was playing well, but Martino had gutted out two great matches. Who would win today? The first game was all Adams—she took control with a variety of serves and shots and won 21-11. The second game was very close and the Martino fans were vocal. Laura had Lynn 20-18 and was serving for the match, but an Adams backhand kill made it 20-19 and gave Lynn the serve. She won the game 22-20. The third game was again one-sided as Martino appeared drained from the second game. Adams won the final game 21-20 and won her eighth tournament of the 1982-83 season.

The fun wasn't over yet. As is customary with the Alaska tournament, the club hosts a great party after the finals. The food is pure Alaskan, and the women are treated to fresh salmon and moose meat. But the best was yet to come.

At 4:00 AM Monday morning the women dressed in their grubbiest clothes and packed off for a three hour

drive to go salmon fishing. Everyone was excited and wide awake, even at the early hour. It rained the entire day, but were the women daunted? Never. Instead, they bought fashionable (?) raingear, and with their skipper, Monty, at the helm they headed out to sea. Once they arrived at the designated fishing spot they saw bald eagles and seals. The seals would try to steal the fish, and the eagles waited for handouts. After some patient teaching on Monty's part, everyone got the hang of things and started catching fish. Gail Woods turned out to be the fisherman of the group and even got into beating the fish on the head to stun them. Everyone caught their limit and went home with salmon to share with family and friends.

It was a great tournament, a fun fishing trip, and everyone looks forward to returning to beautiful Alaska next year.

THE MIDNIGHT SUN TOURNAMENT ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Quarterfinal Round:

Lynn Adams def. Gail Woods, 3-0; Marci Greer def. Terri Gilreath, 3-0; Vicki Panzeri def. Caryn McKinney, 3-1; Laura Martino def. Jennifer Harding, 3-2.

Semifinal Round:

Adams def. Greer, (default); Martino def. Panzeri, 3-2.

Final Round:

Adams def. Martino, 3-0.



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PLAYING TIPS
FROM THE PROS:

Keeping Your Shots On The Level

by Kyle Kamalu

Kyle Kamalu is the teaching professional at the Canyon Racquet Club in Salt Lake City, Utah.

If there's one thing I find myself repeating over and over to my students it is "Keep that racquet level." Dipping the racquet head below the horizontal position can be a serious problem for the serious player. It can make an otherwise sound stroke inconsistent, causing the ball to skip or rise even though you've made contact low.

The easiest way to understand this principle is to imagine two types of baseball pitchers, one who throws overhand and the other who throws sidearm. As the overhand pitcher moves through his delivery he tends to release the ball at slightly different points on each pitch. As a result, his pitches tend to be high, low, or right on target, but usually will not vary much from side to side.

This same action takes place when a racquetball is struck by a racquet head that is dipped down toward the floor and "scoops" the ball. Like the overhand pitcher, the player who hits with this type of stroke will usually hit the ball very straight toward the front wall but will often skip the shot or lift it so high that it comes off the back wall for a set-up.

The sidearm pitcher has the same problem of releasing the ball at slightly different points in his delivery, but his pitches tend to stay level and vary only from side to side. On the racquetball court the accuracy that is achieved by this type of stroke is much more desirable than the overhand type. Even though the ball may be hit early or late it will tend to skip less often and will usually strike the front wall at the same level, regardless of the angle of the shot.

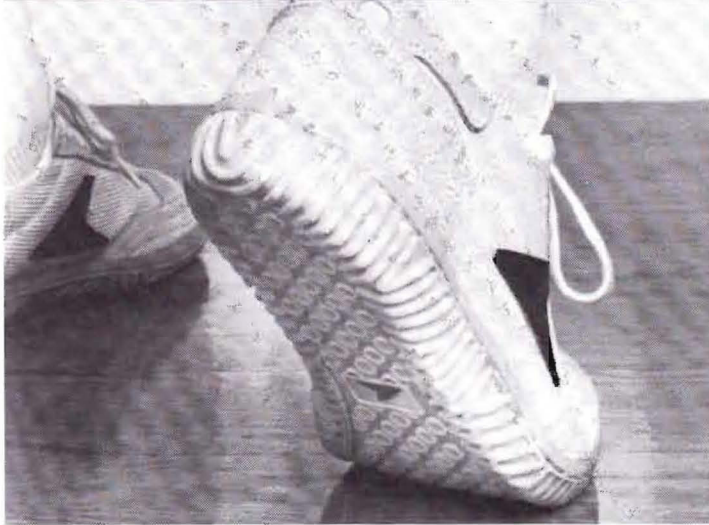
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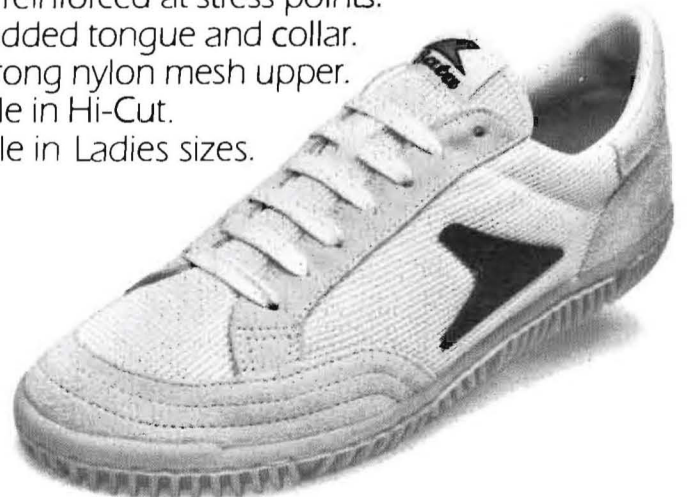
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TOP TEN from page 29

Anaheim - Quarterfinals
Chicago - Quarterfinals

8-Janell Marriott

Janell Marriott staged a surprising comeback in 1982-83. After many observers had written her off, she regained much of the form and consistency that once put her at the top of her sport. She possesses one of the most refined and technically perfect games in all of racquetball. As one of the game's



"elders" she is still physically strong and is vastly experienced.

Once again, Janell is prone to lapses in self-confidence—it remains her biggest battle. Her playing level is influenced very much by the status of her personal life. But it would be as mistake to underestimate her. She was the best once and she still has the skill. Janell was one of the pioneers of the WPRA, and she sacrificed much of her career for the sport she loves. It's good to see her back in good form.

8 - JANELL MARRIOTT

1982 ranking: 14
Home-town: Salt Lake City, Utah
Residence: Warwick, Rhode Island
Sponsor: Independent

Season finishes:

Lafayette - Round of 16
Quebec - Quarterfinals
Melbourne - Quarterfinals
Ft. Worth - Round of 16
Bangor - Quarterfinals
San Francisco - Quarterfinals
Anaheim - Semifinals
Chicago - Quarterfinals

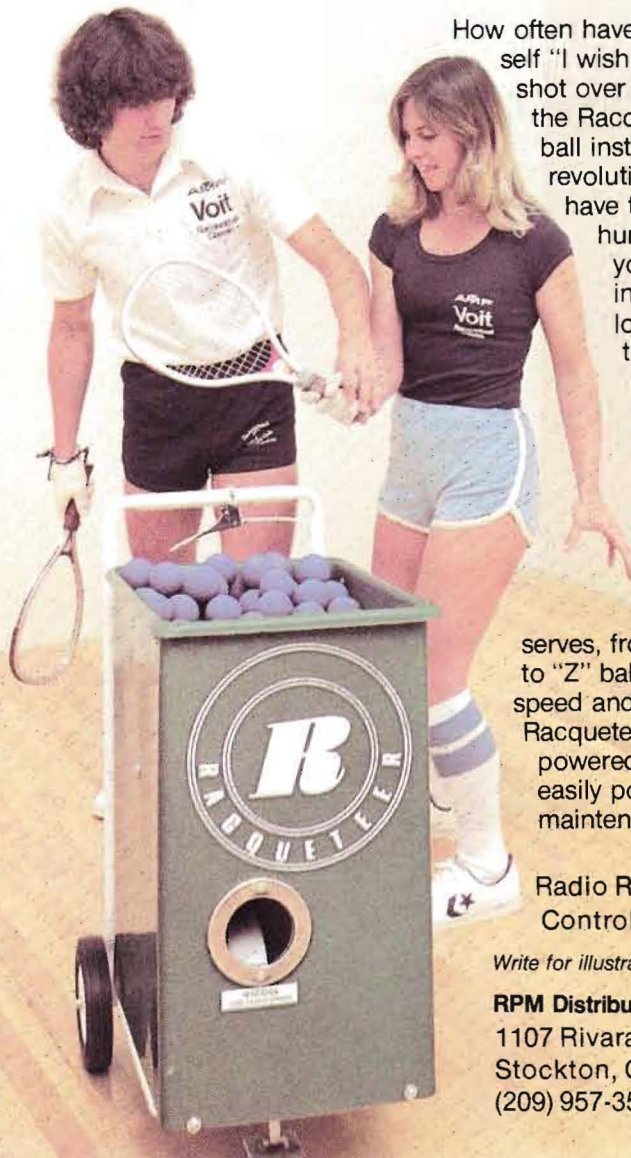
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9-Peggy Gardner



Peggy Gardner was another player whose ranking suffered at the season's end after consistently reaching the quarterfinals in every event. She dropped four places to number 9 after her career-high ranking of number 5 at the end of 1981-82.

Peggy will find it difficult to remain in the top ten if she is unable to advance beyond the quarterfinals next season. There are now too many players with lower rankings who have the ability to make the semifinals once or twice, and that alone could move her out.

9 - PEGGY GARDNER

1982 ranking: 5
Age: 27
Home-town: San Diego, California

Continued on Page 39



by Dave Peck

(Editor's Note: Dave Peck is currently ranked number three in the 1983 ratings. He is a valued member of the Ektelon Pro Advisory Staff.)

If you are waiting to return your opponent's serve, you are:

- a) In the driver's seat;
- b) On the offensive;
- c) Gaining the momentum;
- d) Making the other man play your game;
- e) None of the above.

The correct answer, of course, is the last choice. It's the server who controls where the ball is going, how fast it's going there and what it's going to do on the way there.

If you are on the receiving end of his action, phrases like, "trapped in a corner," "your back to the wall" and "one foot in the grave" more accurately sum up your position. In fact, you have one foot in the grave and someone is trying to kick dirt in your direction.

All of this is just a long way of saying that when you are returning service, you are at a definite disadvantage, which means your opponent has a definite advantage. The point here is to recognize the relative weakness of your position, because that is the first step toward getting out of it.

You have several shot options: a kill shot, down-the-line pass, cross-court pass, down-the-line or cross-court ceiling balls or even a pinch. Of course, the most emotionally satisfying return is a rollout kill, but you will be going for that shot from 35 feet back while your opponent is well up front and in position to scoop up the rebound if the shot isn't quite low enough.

The Art Of Return Of Serve

By now you should be getting the idea that the best return is the safest. Remember, the server has everything his way while you're playing your way out of a hole. It's not enough, though, to just get the ball to the front wall. Your shot must also accomplish several things for you. Your goals are:

- Not to blow it, because every mistake is a point against you;
- To get your opponent out of center court so you can capture it;
- To elicit a weak return so that you can assume control of the game; the momentum.

A ceiling return will accomplish all these things and has a high chance of success relative to other options, regardless of the type of serve. While it's true that a kill shot is a shortcut to accomplishing your goals (in that it simply yanks the server out of the service box and puts you in his place), it is at the other end of the scale from the ceiling ball in terms of percentages. Passing shots are somewhere in between the

two.

Of course, when you're hot, you're hot, and there are some times when you should just go for it, regardless of the percentages. If your opponent blows it and gives you a set-up serve, for example, this is a good time to turn on the kill sign. Believe me, no one likes to lay the ball on the bottom boards more than I do. The reason I have had so much success doing it, though, is that I pick my openings and minimize my desperation shots.

When you are returning service, be aware of your disadvantage. Spend your time against the back wall trying to discern a telltale movement by your opponent that will give away the serve and, as soon as you can see where the ball is headed, get there with your racquet up.

If the serve is a good one, play it safe and go to the ceiling. If the opportunity presents itself, go for a pass or kill.

Generally, don't try to jump out of the hole, though. Climb out. It's a little slower, but certainly surer.



AVOIDING NO-MAN'S LAND

by Mike Yellen

(Editor's Note: Mike Yellen recently won the 1983 National Championships by winning three tournaments in a row, including two national finals. He is a valued member of the Ektelon Pro Advisory Staff.)

Just as on any battle field, there are parts of a racquetball court which can become no man's land once the shooting starts. This area seldom stays the same from rally to rally because its location is dependent on the shifting positions of you, your opponent and the ball. But, one thing always stays the same: no man's land is a place you never want to be.

Because no man's land is always changing, it is difficult to generalize about it. However, we can look at a couple of common specific situations which may yield some generalities.

A good place to start is where everything starts: with the serve. Once again, no man's land's location depends on where the ball goes. But there are only two acceptable places to serve the ball: in either rear corner. Any serve down the middle will be a virtual set-up for any opponent who is half awake.

Assuming for the sake of simplicity that both you and your opponent are right-handed, you will want to hit most of your serves into the left rear corner; this is, to your opponent's backhand. In this situation, no man's land becomes a semicircular area whose axis extends out six or seven feet from the left side wall. If you move into this area following the serve, you will be cutting off your opponent's angle for a down-the-line pass. Nothing wrong with that except that you also will be leaving wide open the much less difficult crosscourt pass.

Should you move over to within six or seven feet from the right side wall, you will be in position to take a crosscourt

pass off the front wall as well as pinches or roll-corner kills which don't stay down. Unfortunately, you will then be giving your opponent too much room to negotiate that more difficult down-the-line pass, so a semicircle here similar to the other becomes a secondary no man's land.

It is better to assume a position somewhere in between these two semicircles, preferably a step or two behind the short line and in the path that the ball would have to travel for your opponent's crosscourt pass, that is, slightly to the left of center court.

Give your opponent that down-the-line shot. It is difficult to execute and you will be close enough to cover it but not too far from the right side of the court should he be able to get off a crosscourt pass.

Forget about trying to cover the pinch or kill on the left side. Many inexperienced players will remain in the server's box to cover these shots (or, perhaps, because they can't get out of the box fast enough, particularly on a hard drive serve).

If the ball is hit the way it should be, there is nothing you can do about it. If not, it probably will rebound into the center of the court close enough for you to dig it out. Likewise, don't worry about hanging back to cover the ceiling return. You will have plenty of time to get back there if need be.

If you serve to your opponent's forehand, all of the above applies on the opposite side of the court and, instead of slightly left of center, your ideal position after the serve becomes slightly to the right of center. Many people prefer to serve from a point close to this position so as to jump in it quickly after the serve. If you do that, though, your opponent will eventually be able to "read" which side you are going to serve to. You

must learn to serve from all over the server's box and to move quickly to your after-service position. You are most likely to get pinned in a no man's land on the Z-serve which many people tend to serve from a spot closer to the wall. You'll just have to hustle to get where you want to be.

If you are receiving the serve, the discussion becomes much simpler. The *only* place to await service is in the middle of the court about an arm's length from the back wall. If you lean to one side, your opponent will simply serve the ball to the other, a difficult shot to retrieve.

During the rally, no man's land once again becomes a function of the relative positions of the players and the ball. The same rule about hitting the ball down the middle applies here: don't do it. If you do, recognize that you have made a mistake and will have to pay a price. Likewise, there is an area which extends from about five feet behind the short line forward and from side wall to side wall in which you don't want your opponent shooting. If he and the ball are there at the same time, recognize again that you will have to pay for it.

There is almost no good place for you to go in that situation since, wherever you stand, he will hit the ball somewhere else. However, there are some places which are worse than others. The rear corners, for instance, are very definitely off limits if your opponent is in front of you. Try to stay "inside" your opponent's swing; that is, between him and the middle axis of the court whether you are in front or behind him. For his backhand, you will be standing to his right, and for his forehand, you will be standing to his left.

As I said, if your opponent is shooting in front of you, your positioning becomes much less a factor than his accuracy. When you are closer to the front wall than he is, though, it's a different story. That's when that inside positioning can make a difference. You cannot stand directly in front of your opponent because it blocks his access to the front wall and will probably cause you a lot of pain in the form of a small, fast-moving spheroid.

But you don't want to get pinned between your opponent and the nearest side wall either as can happen when he is to one side of the court or the other. If he is directly on the middle axis in the back court, you will have to move to one side or the other so choose the side to which his follow-through goes.

As I mentioned before, it's hard to generalize about no man's land for every situation. There are some similarities, though, which we can summarize as follows:

Continued page 42

Continued from page 36

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Season finishes:

Lafayette - Quarterfinals
 Ft. Worth - Quarterfinals
 Tucson - Quarterfinals
 San Francisco - Quarterfinals
 Seattle - Quarterfinals
 Anaheim - Round of 32
 Chicago - Round of 16

10-Jennifer Harding



Jennifer Harding drops one position this season from ninth to number 10, a ranking that should encourage many of the younger players trying to break into the top 10—she did it without ever advancing beyond the quarterfinals. Jennifer is one of the most popular and experienced players in women's racquetball, and was, in fact, elected this year as the president of the WPRA. She has the talent to remain in the top 10, but she may have trouble doing that—those who have served as WPRA presidents in the past have had a very hard time keeping their rankings up.

10 - JENNIFER HARDING

1982 ranking: 9
 Age: 32
 Home-town: Milwaukie, Oregon
 Sponsor: Ektelon

Season finishes:

Toronto - Quarterfinals
 Vancouver - Quarterfinals
 Lafayette - Quarterfinals
 Quebec - Round of 16
 Melbourne - Quarterfinals
 Ft. Worth - Round of 32
 Bangor - Round of 16
 San Francisco - Round of 16
 Seattle - Round of 16
 Anaheim - Round of 16
 Chicago - Quarterfinals

Schedule of Events

MEN'S RACQUETBALL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 1983-84 SEASON

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
SEPT 1-4	DAVISON, MI	15,000
SEPT 23-26	STOCKTON, CA	6,000
OCT 13-16	WALNUT CREEK, CA	9,000
OCT 27-30	ST. PETERSBURG, FL	(AARA Doubles)
NOV 4-6	WHEELING, WV	7,500
NOV 10-13	VANCOUVER, CD	15,000
JAN 11-15	FEDERAL WAY, WN	15,000
JAN 19-22	HONOLULU, HI	15,000
FEB 9-12	PALM DESERT, CA	9,000
FEB 16-20*	BEAVERTON, OR	15,000
FEB 20-24	GILLETTE, WY	7,000
MAR 1-4	CHEYENNE, WY	7,500
APR 5-8*	AUSTIN, TX	6,000
MAY 17-20	ANAHEIM, CA	22,500
MAY 24-28	HOUSTON, TX	(AARA Singles)
JUNE 1984	Undetermined (DP Leach)	40,000
JUNE 20-24	DAVISON, MICHIGAN, MI	(AARA Juniors)
JULY 16-22	SACRAMENTO, CA	(AARA World Games)

WOMEN'S RACQUETBALL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 1983-84 SEASON

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
SEPT 1-4	ATLANTA, GA	\$10,000
OCT 6-9*	NAPERVILLE, IL	6,000
OCT 21-23	AUBURN, MA	6,000
NOV 3-6	DANVILLE, IL	6,000
NOV 10-13	VANCOUVER, CANADA	8,000
NOV 17-20*	S. WILLIAMSPORT, PA	6,000
DEC 9-11	PLYMOUTH, MA	6,000
JAN TBA*	BEVERLY, MA	10,000
FEB 2-5	QUEBEC, CANADA	10,000
FEB 9-12*	PALM DESERT, CA	6,000
FEB 16-19*	SEATTLE, WN	14,000
MAR 8-11	BANGOR, ME.	6,500
MAR TBA*	MIAMI, FL	10,000
APR 12-15	TORONTO, CANADA	6,000
MAY 17-20	ANAHEIM, CA	18,700
MAY 31-JUN 3	FT WORTH, TX (Nationals)	20,000
JUL 12-15	ANCHORAGE, AL	6,000

*Tentative

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Next Month

October in International Racquetball will bring a special surprise, our RACQUET GUIDE. It will be the most complete listing of racquetball racquets ever assembled in any publication. The vital statistics such as weight, composition and list price will be included. If you're in the market for a new racquet, shop in the pages of International Racquetball next month.



The tournament results of the first pro stops for both the Men and Women Pros will appear in our pages in October with splendid photographic excitement. It's the Davison, Michigan tournament for the men and the Atlanta, Georgia stop for the women. If you can't be there in person, the next best thing is to read about these thrilling events in International Racquetball.



Want to get tough on your mental game? Dr. Bud Muehleisen, racquetball's famous innovator and teacher, will write about what it takes to be a top pro. Also, there will be articles on the explosion of racquetball world-wide and how the AARA is shaping the future of racquetball abroad.

Yes, October will be International Racquetball's best issue yet. Don't let your friends see your copy. You may not get it back.

Head to Head Competition

Here are the head to head records of men's and women's professional racquetball for the 1982-83 season.

The women's chart was obtained from the official IMG tournament records. Those tournaments included were: Toronto, CBC, Vancouver, Lafayette, Atlanta, Quebec, Melbourne, Ft. Worth, Tucson, Bangor, San Francisco, Seattle, Anaheim, and Chicago.

The men's chart was tabulated by International Racquetball magazine from tournament records. Those tournaments included were: Stockton, Westminster, Burnsville, CBC, New Haven, Pleasanton, Hawaii, Palm Desert, Beaverton, Cheyenne, Austin, Toronto, Anaheim, Chicago, and Atlanta.

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 DIAMANTI	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	3-2	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.

to the PRO body at a later date, after which time a commissioner and a legitimate board were to be selected by the players. It should be noted that both Gregg and Dave Peck were present in Anaheim and participated in that initial vote.

Where I disagree with Mr. Day is in his assessment of the necessity of the involvement of the top players in a players' association in order for that body to be "successful." I certainly agree that the ideal way for form a players' association would be to have the top players lay the groundwork and take the lead. The whole point of the article, however, was that the top players in racquetball have not been willing to either lead or participate in any such association in the past. On three specific occasions Dave Peck was approached by lower ranked players about spearheading such an association, and he was understandably reluctant because of the distraction such involvement would cause in his game. Similar attempts were made to include Marty Hogan, but were summarily dismissed by him as unnecessary. To carry Mr. Day's claims to their logical conclusion would be to suggest that without the involvement of the top players, a players' association is neither necessary nor possible. And that is a conclusion with which I cannot agree.

I do agree with Mr. Day that any association must be careful not to take away the individual bargaining position of any particular player, so long as that position does not abuse the legitimate rights of other professional players. A players' association should be a positive, not a punitive, influence.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that neither the publishing of Mr. Day's letter nor my reply thereto should be taken as any criticism on my part of either Gregg or Dave Peck or of Mr. Day himself. The differences cited are, I believe, legitimate and healthy differences of opinion. My experiences with these men have convinced me that their concerns for bettering the sport of racquetball in general are at least as genuine as my own.

Drew Stoddard

NO MAN'S Continued from page 38

- The concept is most useful during passing situations for your opponent.
- If you play to cover his passes and stay out of no man's land, you also will be able to pick up his not-quite-perfect pinches and kills. His good shots are a lost cause.
- Always give your opponent the more difficult down-the-line passes as opposed to the crosscourt angles.
- Stay away from the walls while awaiting your opponent's shots. In most situations they are the borders of no man's land.

Pro 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

WPRA RANKINGS AUGUST 1, 1983

THIS MO.	LAST MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	1	Heather McKay	288.63
2	2	Lynn Adams	273.84
3	3	Shannon Wright	196.88
4	4	Laura Martino	133.88
5	5	Vicki Panzeri	114.63
6	6	Terri Gilreath	103.75
7	8	Marci Greer	72.63
8	7	Janell Marriott	69.29
9	9	Peggy Gardner	60.00
10	13	Jennifer Harding	56.00
11	10	Caryn McKinney	52.57
12	14	Joyce Jackson	45.00
13	11	Heather Stupp	44.67
14	15	Stacey Fletcher	38.63
15	12	Brenda Poe Barrett	38.33
16	21	Barbara Maltby	35.00
17	16	Bonnie Stoll	32.00
18	18	Diane Bullard	31.93
19	17	Francine Davis	31.63
20	19	Martha McDonald	23.13
21	20	Gail Woods	23.00
22	23	Carol Pranka	20.15
23	24	Molly O'Brien	19.33
24	29	Rita Hoff Scott	19.17
25	22	Jean Sauser	18.86
26	25	Leslie Clifford	14.67
27	27	Val Paese	14.33

DP/LEACH CATALINA RANKINGS

JUNE 26, 1983

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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