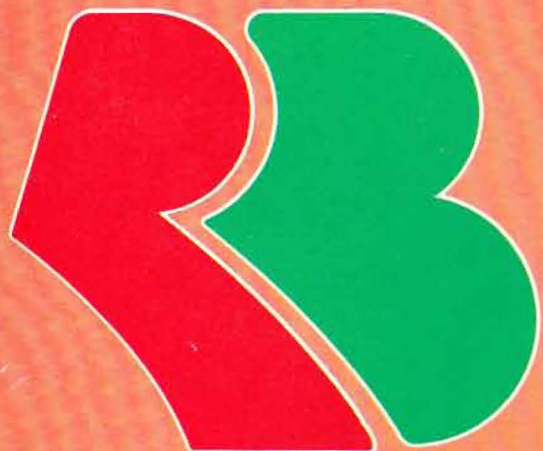


**INTERNATIONAL**



**RACQUETBALL**



DECEMBER 1983

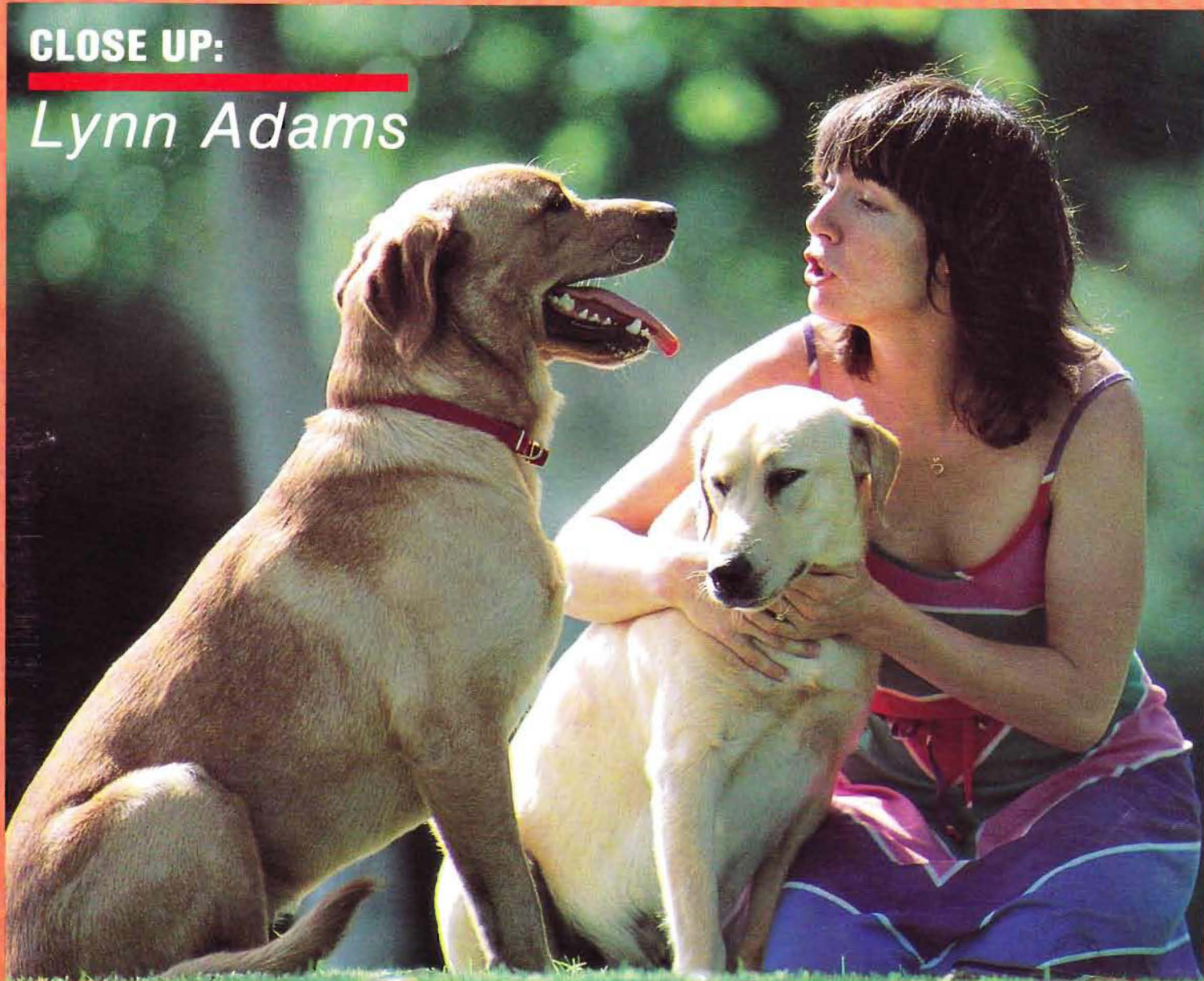
Vol. 1 No. 7

\$2.00

**THE U.S. TEAM WINS IN COSTA RICA**

**CLOSE UP:**

*Lynn Adams*



**RACQUET TEST • HOW TO HOST A PRO TOURNAMENT**



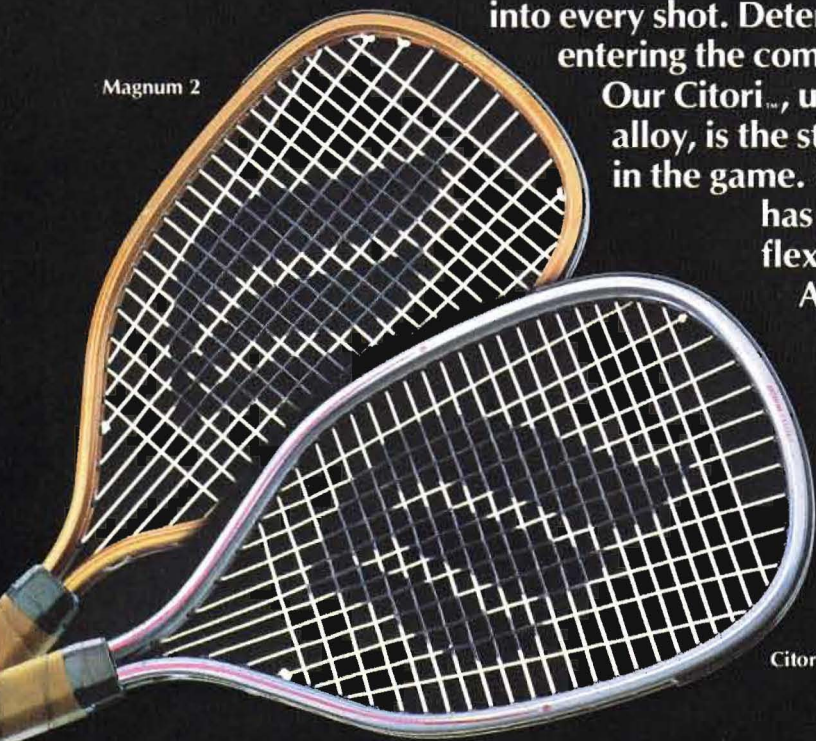
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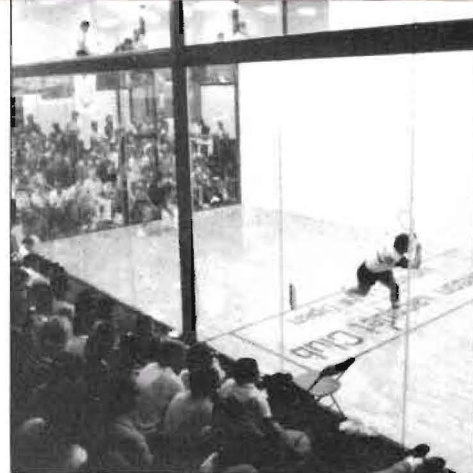
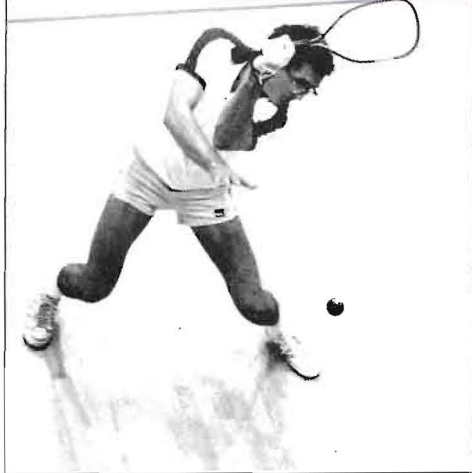


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Vol. 1 No. 7

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# Wishful Thinking

*Make A Wish! It Could Come True.*



Jason Holloman  
Publisher

December brings wishful thinking. It's the holidays, of course. Even before we understood what we were celebrating at Christmas, we understood that by making our wishes known, they could miraculously be provided on that magic day. The wistful feeling of wishful thinking is ingrained now, and as adults, we sometimes try to suppress what we would like in favor of thinking what others would like. It's the gracious and unselfish magic of this Holiday Season. But, a little wishful thinking for yourself isn't really a bad thing. "Hitch your wagon to a star," Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, or in other words, latch on to your dream and pull yourself towards it. The stuff of life really is made of dreams: dreams we try to make reality—fantasies that entertain us—and dreams that escape us. What's important about dreaming or wishful thinking is that it helps us define what we are and what we want to be, but only if we use it constructively.

I would like to do a little constructive wishful thinking about racquetball. Wouldn't it be great if we had professional racquetball teams competing against each other in leagues like what we see in basketball and baseball? Imagine. We could have the New York Rollouts playing the Seattle Rockets on national television in a stadium full of thousands of fans in Madison Square Garden. I could see and hear it all now. The lights would dim and on the stage below us the portable glass court will be lit brightly like a rectangular jewel. The Master of Ceremonies would step out onto the court and announce, "Ladies and Gentlemen! (The crowd would hush.) Tonight for the World Crown of Professional Racquetball, The Seattle Rockets! (The team would stand and wave to roaring fans.) Against the New York Rollouts! (An equally deafening roar would echo through the stadium.) Our first single elimination bout will be between Grant Steele of Seattle against Biff Sturdly of New York. The best team score will win the \$350,000 purse. Gentlemen, take your places."

Yes, it would be a grand spectacle! A heart-stopper as each match produced incredible saves and gets and finally that last match of the evening with the team's scores at a tie. Each team would choose it's respective champion to try to wrest the title. The match would be agonizingly close. People would be on their feet after each point and in a flurry of action Grant Steele makes an effort at what appears to be an impossible return at match point. And the winner is...! Who would be your favorite? Oh, it would be grand.

But wait. This is not as much of a pipe dream as you might think. There is a portable glass court. I'm trying to get information on it now, but I hear it costs about \$65,000. It could easily be set up in any stadium. And the professional teams? Well, glory be! There is an organization (I can't reveal the who and wherefore yet) that is in the process of putting together professional franchises that could be purchased. With a little constructive wishful thinking maybe the NRL (National Racquetball League) isn't far off! It looks as if someone has been doing a little wishful thinking of their own.

Want to make some more wishes? Wouldn't it be grand if we had an internationally competitive sport? The Japan Open. The German Open. The Brazilian Gold Cup. The Canadian Grand Slam Tournaments. That's a nice wish. How about a gold medal in the Olympic Games? Or high school tournaments? Or, what? It's easy to make the wishes and when you think of it, they can come true if you just act on your dreams.

Maybe you would like to bring the scope down a bit. I wish I could master that power forehand pass shot. Or my backhand ceiling shot. Oh, I could make quite a list of wishes. But you know what I wish most of all? I wish that all your wishes will come true and that you will have a Happy Holiday and a successful New Year! And the staff here at International Racquetball would like to thank you for your support. We do appreciate it! See you in 1984! ❧



**CORRECTION: GEORGE WHO?**

As a great many people are now aware, our publisher, Jason Holloman, included the above photograph with his article "What's George Forman got to do with Racquetball?", in the November issue of International Racquetball. Obviously, George Forman has nothing to do with racquetball, and our publisher has nothing to do with boxing—the photograph, and the subject of the article, was Larry Holmes, the heavy-weight champion of the world.

We wish to apologize to Mr. Holmes and to Pony Shoes, for whom Holmes was appearing at the New York SGMA show.

Our publisher would like to thank boxing fans, livid subscribers, and half the population of the United States for graciously calling the error to his attention.

**THREE TOURNAMENTS CANCELLED**

Three major professional tournaments have been cancelled or postponed. The events were to be held in Vancouver (November), Federal Way (January), and Honolulu (January). The Vancouver event, which was to have consisted of both men's and women's professional divisions, was postponed until next spring because of an unusually small number of entries in the amateur categories, according to sources in Vancouver. The new date for the Vancouver event has been tentatively set as April 5-8, 1984.

Both the Federal Way and Honolulu stops were independently organized events that ran into separate, but similar, problems with the respective host clubs.

**TOURNAMENT NEWS**

Heather McKay defeated top-seeded Lynn Adams at the WPRAs Budweiser Light Pro Racquetball Classic, in Auburn Massachusetts. Despite the loss, Adams retained a narrow lead in

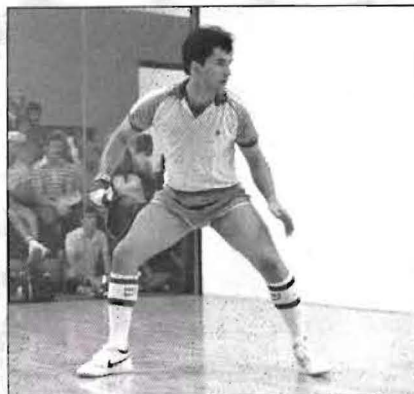
the WPRAs rankings. (Results on page 16)

Don Thomas won two Northern California events—he downed Gerry Price in the final of the Walnut Creek Pro-Am in Walnut Creek, California, and ousted Bill Sell to take the Go Natural Pro-Am in Woodland, California. The two victories gave Thomas the overall point title in the P.A.C. triple crown, for which he pocketed an extra \$1500. (Results on pages 36 and 37)

Ed Andrews beat Steve Lerner to win the Wilson Autumn Blast at Racquetball World in Fountain Valley, California. Brian Hawkes and Bill Sell teamed to take the open doubles title. (Results on page 37)

Doug Cohen, of St. Louis, upset Marty Hogan in the semifinals, and then ousted Jerry Hilecher in the final to win the 1983 Balfour-Coors Pro-Am in Amarillo, Texas. For the victory Cohen walked away with the first prize Balfour ring, valued at \$10,000. (Results on page 34)

*Don Thomas*



Kevin Almeida and Mary Pessagno won the men's and women's open divisions, respectively, of the Ektelon-Oshmans California State Championships at the Sports Gallery in Anaheim, California. In the overall North/South competition, the North earned a narrow victory, 111-109. (Results on page 23)

Stan Wright and Steve Trent teamed to defend their title at the AARA United States National Doubles Championships, at the Tyrone Racquetball Club in St. Petersburg, Florida. Malia Kama-hoahoa and Carol Franck teamed up for the women's title. (Results on page 34)

**RACQUETBALL ARTICLE APPEARS IN PLAYBOY**

Well-known racquetball photographer and writer Art Shay authored an article entitled "High Voltage Racquetball," which appeared in the November issue of Playboy Magazine. The article, which was accompanied by high-tech graphics, included basic

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**B**ack a few years ago, when racquetball was "in" and professional racquetball was "hot," there were a few brave souls who tried, in vain, to tell us all something we did not want to hear. We scoffed. If, they said, we continued to simply take everything we could get without giving any thought to the future of the sport, the time would come when the money would dry up, and professional racquetball would cool, and eventually die. It appears, they may have been right, and the big chill has begun.

If you are one of those who follows men's professional racquetball, you will notice by the time you finish reading this issue that November was not a terrific month for the men's sport. Three major men's tournaments were cancelled—Vancouver, Federal Way, and Hawaii. The schedule for this season started small, and it seems to be shrinking. And suddenly a number of people are starting to ask the unthinkable yet obvious question: "Is professional racquetball dying?" I assure you that, considering my position with this publication, the importance of that question has not totally eluded me.

What we are witnessing in the men's game is a direct result of the failure of the players to unify. While it is true that most of the men have come together in the PRO, there remains some division. The top four players—Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen, Dave Peck, and Bret Harnett—have been unable to even agree among themselves, and have consequently remained either uncommitted or openly antagonistic towards any player's movement.

The result of this standoff is that the major sponsors, who have made men's pro racquetball possible in the past, have disappeared—in fact, they're scared to death. Can we blame them? Three years ago Catalina committed a quarter-million dollars to the men's game and got nothing for it but a bad name. Sponsors are smart enough to know that with the current situation among the top four, any involvement with men's racquetball opens them up to the unacceptable risk of becoming embroiled in controversy.

In the absence of a major sponsor, this years men's "tour" has been totally dependent on independent, locally funded, tournaments. And, raising large sums of money on a local basis can be an extremely difficult, and fragile, proposition—hence, the vanishing schedule.

So, what exactly is the problem among the top four? During a recent interview (which appears in this issue), Lynn Adams gave me her opinion; it's an interesting explanation of the problem. Adams believes that the top men are suffering from an unrealistically

## Is Professional Racquetball Dying?



Drew Stoddard  
Editor

inflated view of their own marketability. They were given so much, she says, for so long, that they have lost all perspective on how much the racquetball market is willing to pay to watch them play—that they have essentially priced themselves out of a job. I believe Lynn is right.

There is some hard evidence to support Lynn's explanation. Last August, Marty Hogan summoned Yellen, Peck, and Harnett to a meeting in Southern California. The meeting had two intended purposes: (1) To organize their own players' association with all of the voting power concentrated in the top four; and, (2) to agree on the minimum prize money for which they, as a group, would compete. It was Hogan's suggestion that they agree on a minimum of

\$18,000! (Oh, really? Earth calling Marty.) That level, of course, would rule out nearly every tournament of the season. While they were unable to unanimously agree on forming the association (Dave Peck was the lone dissenting vote), they apparently did agree on the \$18,000 prize money level, an understanding which fell apart three weeks later at the \$12,000 Davison event.

With the knowledge of what took place at that August meeting, it can't be too difficult to understand why local sponsors are now reluctant to risk \$10,000 to \$15,000 for a professional event.

The top four may be waiting for the newly-formed manufacturers association to solve the entire problem. If that's the case, I think they're in for another shock. While the manufacturers will probably assemble some kind of tour for next season (starting in September of '84), it will not be on a large scale—they simply do not have the resources. And, although they have not officially stated this, I don't believe they will fund a men's pro tour for more than one year. The only possibility of returning to the days of \$20,000+ tournaments is for the sport to attract a major, non-racquetball, sponsor. And that will never happen again, until the players can deliver themselves as a unified group.

Is the men's pro game simply going to die in the standoff? No. I don't believe it will. The law of supply and demand will eventually solve the problem in one of two ways. The first possibility is that the top four will see their income level drop so low that they will be forced to realize that the calls for unity within the sport are not just so much hot air. That seems like a simple solution—it's probably too simple.

Recently, some of the younger professionals have started to suggest a second scenario, and it is this one that, as the editor of a racquetball magazine, just sends chills up my spine. They admit the men's pro game may simply die—hibernate, really—until those who are now standing in the way are no longer an important factor. If you are one of those who believes that it just isn't possible, let me suggest that it is exactly what we are seeing right now.

There is an up side to all of this. Outside of the top four, the men professionals have a good sense of where they are. The young group now coming up is all class—they're concerned about their future, but they're smart enough to know that the world does not revolve around pro racquetball. What a shame it's going to be for all of us if we have to wait for them to take control of the rankings, before we can even start building a viable men's professional game. What a shame.

instruction for beginning and intermediate players. Contrary to rumor, Shay was not the November centerfold.

**AARA NEWS**

The AARA has been granted 501-C3 status by the Internal Revenue Service. "We've been trying for this for a long time," said Luke St. Onge, AARA executive director. "501-C3 status means we are considered a charity in the eyes of the IRS, just like MS, or the United Way. Now, all memberships and donations, along with certain tournament entry fees, are tax deductible." The tax-deductible status is retroactive to May of 1981.

Han van der Heijden, the Holland-based president of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation (IARF), has been elected to the GAISF World Games Council. In addition, van der Heijden was scheduled to meet with the International Olympic Committee on November 25, at which time the IOC will again consider racquetball's application for acceptance. Formal IOC recognition will establish racquetball as a Class A Olympic sport, and will make the sport eligible for the Pan Am and Olympic Games. The IARF has already made formal application to become a demonstration sport at the 1987 Pan American Games in Quito, Ecuador.

**SENIOR TOUR ORGANIZED**

Vincent M. Wolanin, President of the 21st Point Club in Albany, New York, has announced the formation of the Senior Professional Racquetball Organization (SPRO), for the purpose of conducting a reduced scale professional racquetball tour for players over 35 years old. According to Wolanin, the tour will be known as "The Legends of Racquetball Pro Tour," and the first SPRO event will be the SPRO National Championship in 1984.

Any senior player interested in receiving information about SPRO should contact:

Vincent M. Wolanin  
SPRO  
Ten McKown Road  
Albany, NY 12203  
518-489-3276

**DECATHLON CLUB SOLD**

The massive Decathlon Club in Santa Clara, California, has been purchased by Western Athletic Clubs, Inc. In conjunction with the purchase, a pending Chapter XI petition, filed April 13, 1983, was dismissed.

Western Athletic Clubs also owns four other clubs: The Seattle Athletic Club in Seattle; The Texas Club in Houston; The San Francisco Bay Club

and Telegraph Hill Club in San Francisco.

**STRANDEMO CAMPS ANNOUNCED**

Steve Strandemo has announced two winter versions of his highly popular Strandemo/Head racquetball camps. The locations and dates are as follows:

San Diego, CA- January 19-22  
January 26-29  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL- February 16-19  
February 23-26

Contact: Steve Strandemo Camps  
619-268-8707

**New Products**

**UNIVERSAL ANNOUNCES TOTAL HIP MACHINE**

The Total Hip machine is the newest machine from Universal Gym Equipment. The unique machine has applications for figure control, athletic training, and rehabilitation.

Four exercises can be performed on the hip machine; hip flexion, hip exten-

sion, abduction and adduction. The machine is also ideal for post-operative knee rehabilitation because its design eliminates pressure on knee ligaments.

The adjustable resistance arm provides a range of motion to 202 degrees and its length adapts to fit the user's height.



For more information contact Universal Gym Equipment, P.O. Box 1270, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52406, or call 800-553-7901.

*New Products cont. page 9*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**I.R.B. Is Moving!**

International Racquetball Magazine is moving its editorial offices from Salt Lake City, Utah to Reno, Nevada. Our new address will be: International Racquetball, P.O. Box 7548, Reno, Nevada, 89510. If you have inquiries about editorial or advertising, please send your mail to 575 Mill Street, Reno, Nevada, 89502. Our new phone number is 702-329-4511. We look forward to hearing from you in our new offices in "The Biggest Little City in the World." Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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## GIVE INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL

Help Santa give a gift that lives all year. Send a subscription of International Racquetball for only \$18 (12 issues) to your racquetball friends for Christmas. Or, if you want, send a gift to yourself, just drop us the enclosed card and we'll pass it on to Santa. If you want to give more than one subscription, make a list, check it twice and send it on. This offer expires December 31, 1983. Have a Happy Holiday from International Racquetball!



## RACQUETS ANNOUNCED BY PRO-KENNEX

The long awaited Hogan Racquetball racquets, the "Hogan Graphite" and the "Hogan Comp" have been officially announced and should be available in retail outlets by mid-November. Hogan Racquetball is a division of Pro-Kennex, one of the world's largest manufacturers of racquets.

The "Hogan Graphite" (right in photo) is a 100 percent graphite racquet and the "Hogan Comp" is an 80%/20% composite of graphite and fiberglass. Both racquets utilize the patented Pro-Kennex foam core to dampen vibration.

According to the announcement, "Features unique to the Hogan line are an exaggerated teardrop head shape and a "step down" frame construction that



provides flexibility to the throat area and weight on the perimeter of the racquet. The result is lightweight, yet powerful and maneuverable racquets."



Marty Hogan will personally use the "Hogan Graphite" in all competition.

## EKTELON INTRODUCES NEW RACQUETBALL

In a bold new venture, Ektelon has introduced a new racquetball called the New Speedflite. What makes the new ball so unusual is that Ektelon has designed it to be slightly slower than the most popular balls currently on the market. That makes the announcement of the New Speedflite, the first time any ball manufacturer has ever brought to market a ball that is slower than the previous generation. Without question, the new Speedflite is Ektelon's response to the increasing cry within the sport and industry to slow down the game so that it can be more easily televised.

While it has been widely rumored for the last few months that Ektelon was preparing to introduce a new ball, most observers expected a redesign of the original Speedflite, a ball which never really achieved wide-range acceptance in the sport. The New Speedflite, however, is totally different than the older ball—it has a much lighter feel on the strings, is somewhat slower, and is radiant blue (the older ball was very dark).

"We feel that our perfection of the New Speedflite racquetball is comparable in significance to our development of the Composite 250G racquet," said Ektelon Vice President and General Manager Bob McTear.

"The secret to the New Speedflite racquetball is in its formulation," said Ektelon's Director of Engineering Ray



Mortvedt. "The ball itself is manufactured from a new rubber compound that will provide players with a consistent true bounce, and optimum speed at all levels and styles of play."

While we at International Racquetball do not make a practice of testing every new product we receive, we did have an unusual opportunity to play test the New Speedflite during our racquet test (the results of which appear in this issue). It would be a drastic understatement to say that the reaction of our

test panelists to Ektelon's new ball was positive. Perhaps the best way to describe how they felt about the ball is to point out that since the test was conducted, most of the players have continued to play with it.

Most of them loved the speed—it is slightly slower than a Voit Bleu, but it can be powered. It's slower speed results in far fewer shots off the back wall, particularly with ceiling balls—this ball is a ceiling player's delight. It also tends to hang in the air much longer than other balls on the market—it's a difficult thing to describe but the bounce tends to penalize you for making errors, and it definitely produces longer rallies.

The New Speedflite appears to be incredibly durable. We received 10 cans of balls, and most of those have been in constant use for nearly three weeks. As nearly as we could determine at press time, only one ball has broken!

Ektelon appears to have done their homework. If the New Speedflite plays consistently from can to can, this ball is going to be extremely popular.

Here are some of our test panelists' comments: "I loved it!"; "It is just right"; "It is a very consistent ball—very good on the ceiling."; "This ball is a definite improvement over every ball that has been introduced in the last 8 years. If it remains consistent from can to can it should be, by far, the best ball for the masses."



**INTERVIEW:**

# LYNN ADAMS



*Photo by Bud Symes*

## ***SHE HAS PLAYED PROFESSIONALLY FOR FOUR YEARS, AND YET SHE IS ENTERING HER THIRD SEASON AT THE TOP OF WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL***

*Few racquetball players, men or women, have ever achieved a level of prominence within the sport like that of Lynn Adams. She is entering her fifth year as a professional, and her third as the top-ranked women's player. She won the WPRAs Nationals Singles Championships twice, and the first WPRAs National Doubles Championship last year. Lynn has also won the Outdoor National Singles Championships for four consecutive years. Her match-play record over the last three years is an incredible 111 wins to 10 losses.*

*The numerous awards Lynn Adams has received include Rookie of the Year, two Player of the Year awards (Lynn was named 1982-83 women's Player of the Year by International Racquetball), and recipient of the prestigious Steding Cup.*

*In addition to her unquestioned playing ability, Lynn has become one of the most visible of all racquetball players. She has appeared on Good Morning America, ESPN (along with numerous local cable stations), and national TV in Japan. She was part of the ABC Women's Superstar competition last year, and is being consi-*

*dered for a return performance in early 1984.*

*Lynn is one of the most popular, and best liked players in professional racquetball.*

**How did you get started playing racquetball?**

*I was going to Orange Coast College, and a guy in my psychology class asked me out for lunch and to play racquetball—I had never played before. I picked it up pretty quick and beat him on our first date. We didn't go out any*

more, after that, but I really liked the racquetball. So about a week later I played in an outdoor tournament at the college, and that's where I met Jim (Carson).

I picked up racquetball pretty quickly—I've always been fairly athletic, and that helped with the physical part of the sport. I began to work a lot with Jim, but all I really played was outdoor.

Then Jim and I went to a pro stop in Westminster, and I saw Marty Hogan, Shannon Wright, and all those people. I immediately thought, "I could do that—I want to be a pro." So we sat down and talked about it, joined an indoor club and I set out to become a pro. (Laughing) Of course I had no idea how hard that was going to be at the time.

**Did anyone besides Jim coach you in your earlier years?**

For a long time I was searching for someone to teach me a backhand. I had lessons with probably 8 or 9 people and never really clicked with anyone. Finally I started working with Lindsay Myers, and he's the one who taught me my backhand. I used to travel down to San Diego once a week and work with Lindsay—he helped me out quite a bit. Then, after that I worked with Bud Muehleisen for a while. But, really, for the last three years or so it's been strictly Jim and I.

**What is your daily training schedule like?**

I do a lot of running—at least five days a week. It's not a lot of long distance running, but more running for speed—sprints, stairs, and hills. Then, depending on how close it is to a tournament, I

*Lynn with her dogs, Beef and Amber*



**"When I got to the point where I had everything I thought I wanted I found myself saying, 'Well, is that it? What do I do now?'"**

finally do. That, for me, was a very big letdown.

Actually, I think I'm just starting to mature as a human being—just in the last couple of years. And sometimes it seems like maturing really conflicts with sports, because sports can make you very, very egotistical. And when you start maturing you start taking yourself a little less seriously—it's a conflict. When I first started playing



*Playing Heather McKay at the nationals in Chicago*

*Photo by Art Shay*

usually play racquetball for a couple of hours every day. I try to have a drill and a match. I generally last about 45 minutes to an hour in my drill before I phase out.

**Playing that much, and playing so many tournaments, how do you keep your intensity up?**

(Laughing) It's not as easy as people might think. I go through cycles on that. In fact, I've just recently been fighting with it—I had a real down period for a couple of months just after the last nationals.

You know, I think everyone faces the same thing at some time in their life—you set up goals for yourself, and you work for years to attain them, and then

racquetball, everything was me, me, me—my dreams and my goals. Then, when I got to the point where I had everything I thought I wanted, I found myself saying, "Well, is that it? What do I do now?" That was a big blow to me—the season right after I won my first nationals I was a real basket case.

I periodically struggle with it still. I'm beginning to realize that it's something we all struggle with from time to time. And, (laughing) not all the other women want Lynn to be #1 like Lynn wants to be #1, so they don't help me.

**Do you find you're losing some of your competitive fire?**

A little bit, a little bit. Just recently I've started trying to accept the fact that

it's just inevitable—at least for me. And I can't worry about it all the time.

I think one of the reasons Heather (McKay) is so effective and so consistent is that, at this stage in her life, she knows herself so well; she knows her performance level, and she's comfortable with herself. I just have a feeling that she doesn't fight herself anymore. And, as far as I can determine, that just comes with the 25 years of experience she has. It's what I need to learn; I need to relax and be more comfortable with myself, and not get upset with myself if I don't go out and just feel like ripping up the court in the round-of-32.

**When we interviewed Gregg Peck, he talked a lot about the support of those around him, and how crucial that support was to his career. How do you feel about that?**

I totally agree with that. It's one of the reasons why I've gotten where I have so fast. I've just been very lucky. Of course Jim is foremost in my support system, not only as a coach, although that is a big advantage, but just on a human level. He's very much in tune with what I do, and we're very much a team. He's very supportive of my traveling, and that's important. I mean, if you had to travel knowing that someone who's

important to you is at home resenting it, there is no way that you could concentrate on playing well.

I just think that feeling pressure from the people around you would be so terrible. I had to learn that lesson a long time ago. I actually had to quit for a while because my perspective was so out of whack—I thought when I lost everyone hated me and I was a bad person, and when I won everyone loved me and I was a good person. That was something I brought on myself, but you can't function like that.

Fortunately, my parents and everyone around me have always been very supportive of my career.

**How about your dogs?**

(Laughing) Aren't they pretty? They're part lab, part golden retriever. Their names are Beef and Amber (Beef's the darker one).

**You mentioned Heather McKay, earlier. How is it that she continues to keep her ranking so high at 42?**

Very few players, men or women, understand how much of this game is played from the neck up. I have no doubt there are players who can physically do greater things than either Heather or me—but that isn't what wins. Heather's strength is that she never beats

herself—she is never going to choke a match. She's extremely consistent in what she does. I think she has some weaknesses that other players don't exploit (I would guess that half of them don't even know what they are), but she can get around those weaknesses if you let her.

I have a lot of respect for Heather—she's taught me a lot over the years. Obviously, she doesn't lay down for me, and I don't for her. That's what is exciting for me, because there isn't that fight with anybody else.

**Why do you think that is? Why has the women's game been dominated by so few players?**

I really think it takes a different type of personality to stay at the top of any sport, but particularly an individual sport like racquetball. Individual sports are so ego-oriented—you have to have a big ego to stay at the top. And, sometimes you look like a jerk because of it but that's the way it goes. The trick is to keep that ego in check—you need to be able to let it out when you're playing, but still keep it in check in other parts of your life.

There are a lot of physically skilled people, but you can only go so far with that. After a while you have to start facing the really tough questions: "Why

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do I choke?"; "Why am I afraid to go for it?"; "Why does the crowd make me nervous?"; "Why do I blow everything out of proportion when the referee makes a bad call?". You have to go into all those things, and they can be scary.

**Which of the women coming up in the game do you think are the most promising?**

Terry Gilreath—by far. She has an abundance of physical skills. And, (just to give a compliment to Jim) Terry and Jim worked together for years. And that's how we work—we go beyond the physical skills. So, Terry has that background. She's constantly striving to grow. She'll be tough. She already is, but she still struggles with consistency.

**You've been very vocal in your support of the WPRA. You're very proud of the women, aren't you?**

First of all, I think that the women as a group have a lot of guts. We're very united, and I think that gives the women's sport a very strong base. I'm proud that we were able to break away from a very established tour (NRC), and go off on our own with nothing but our principles. I was excited to be a part of that right from the start. It was kind of scary, because I'd just started playing and I wanted somewhere to play! And it was a real struggle—you know, we had a lot of people who tried to split us up.

*Photo by Art Shay*



even after we had organized. Foremost, of course, was when Charlie Drake tried to split us up with his Catalina Tour.

**Are you saying that Charlie Drake tried to include women in the closed Catalina Tour?**

Oh yes. He tried to form an eight-player women's tour as part of his Catalina thing. We got these contracts in the mail you wouldn't believe! He didn't want us to play any WPRA events in certain areas at certain times—it was really pretty funny. But, to a player, everyone said no. And that was a rough time—we had just lost Dan Seaton and had just started talking with IMG. But, we stuck together. We said, "You either

**"I need to relax and not get upset with myself if I don't go out and just feel like ripping up the court in the round-of-32."**



*Photo by Bud Symes*

take all of us, or you take none of us.

**Why do you think the women have been successful organizing themselves and the men have not?**

I think a lot of it has to do with the racquetball community in general. There is always going to be a difference between the women's sport and the men's sport—the men get a lot and the women don't. That's just the way it is. And, when you're automatically handed many things you don't have to work as hard. After a while you tend to get things out of perspective, and you start to think you're worth more than you really are. That's why women in sports in general tend to have a better sense of where they really are than the men. In racquetball you don't have the massive ego problem like you do with the men.

Let me give you an example of what I mean: Even though Lynn Adams is the #1 ranked woman right now, I don't have people come up to me and offer me \$5000 to appear at a particular tournament. Marty Hogan does. Well, in tennis that isn't much, but in racquetball it's a hunk of money. And when you start getting offers like that here and there, you start thinking you're pretty hot stuff. In the men's game you have 5 or 10 players all thinking they're too important to have to interact.

From the standpoint of the sport in general, I really hope the men can work it out, because they reflect on us and we on them. Both sides of the sport need to be strong.

**Suppose the men aren't able to pull it together for a couple of years. Would that affect the women?**

I can't imagine that they would



Photo by Art Shay

flounder for that long. But, yes, I think in some areas it would.

Fortunately, we've built up a pretty good reputation—people know that with a WPRA event they're getting good people, good competition, and good promotion. So, as far as specific tournaments go, I don't think the men's problem will affect us.

But, on a much larger scale, it's a different story. If a large company were to become interested in putting major dollars into racquetball, they would want to have the sport as a whole.

**What types of things do you do for promotion at WPRA events?**

We always give a free clinic at the club, and a free referee's clinic before the tournament. Then we make a real effort to be visible—we have a stop in Plymouth in December, and I'm going in a couple of days early to do some radio shows with the top sportscasters in the area. That's just part of being #1: I love doing that stuff (laughing), it makes me feel important.

**What are the biggest challenges for the WPRA now?**

Our biggest effort now is publicity. We want to let people know that there is women's professional racquetball. And we want them to know the women players as people.

**You've been vocal on that subject as well. Do you feel there's been a conspiracy in the sports' media to ignore the women?**

No (laughing), I don't think there's been a conscious conspiracy. I think it's a general attitude about women in sports, even though it's certainly more

acceptable for women to be in sports today than it was ten years ago.

This doesn't have anything to do with feminism or anything like that, it's just that as a woman athlete, I want to have the same respect as a man. Whether I get it or not is academic—it's what I'm going to strive for. There are so many things that happen in women's racquetball that are exciting, and yet are never talked about. And I just don't believe that what Marty Hogan does is the only valid thing taking place in the sport.

Look at what Vicki Panzeri did last year. For three years no one had beaten Lynn, Heather, or Shannon, except Lynn, Heather, and Shannon. That's a very long time for three players to

always be in the finals. Vicki came along and took me out in the semis and no one ever said anything about it.

Not only is it not fair, but it holds the women's game back. If no one is told about the good things that are happening, then no interest is ever built up.

**Talk about your own future. Do you think you will still be on top at 42 like Heather?**

Well, I'm 26 now, so that's 16 years. No (laughing), I don't think I can last that long. I think she's the exception.

I think I'm playing better now than I ever have, but I still see a lot of improvement—I think I can play better. I really hope I can stay at or better than my current level for another 7 to 10 years. That's my goal right now. Obviously, there are other women who have something to say about that.

**Do you think professional racquetball will ever see really big purses, like tennis?**

I'm really not good at looking way down the line, but I don't see why not. Obviously I'm biased, but to me racquetball is such a perfect sport—there are so many things that happen in a good match that don't happen in some sports that have made it big.

I hope racquetball gets there someday. I doubt that I'll be able to reap the benefits, but I'll enjoy saying that I was one of the pioneers.

Photo by Art Shay

“When you're automatically handed many things you tend to get things out of perspective—you start to think you're worth more than you really are.”



# McKAY AXES ADAMS IN AUBURN

Perhaps it was the full moon shining brightly over Auburn, Massachusetts. . .or perhaps someone got up on the wrong side of the bed... or perhaps someone walked under a ladder. Any way you slice it, there was definitely something in the air during the Budweiser Light Pro Racquetball Classic at the Auburn Racquet and Health Club on October 21-23. A total of five upsets highlighted the 16-player draw, the most notable involving the Sunday afternoon finalists, top-ranked Lynn Adams and current second banana, Heather McKay, who upset her younger rival, 21-12, 21-17, 21-23, 22-24, 15-13, in one of the most closely contested matches the two have played.

The final confrontation provided all the thrills one would anticipate when the two titans of a sport collide. The standing-room-only crowd excitedly anticipated the showdown with the knowledge that McKay and her 26-year-old opponent have met in 14 championship matches over the last two seasons. In that time period, their head-to-head record stands at 9-5 in Adams' favor. The California native emerged the victor most recently on September 4th in the \$10,000 kick-off event of the 1983-84 tour at the Racquethouse in Atlanta.

With the first game of the match being contested evenly and the score tied at 6-6, McKay hit a pinch to go on top and remain there for the rest of the game. Her lateral court movement allowed Heather to reach virtually all of the passing shots attempted by Adams. Not only did McKay reach these balls, but she responded with textbook pinches and kill shots to keep Adams continually off-balance and not permit her to settle into several uncharacteristic errors by Adams allowed McKay to take advantage and score consistently.

Although the score of the second game was closer than the first, the script was similar. McKay's impeccable serving in both games proved to be too strong for Adams to counter. Heather raced to an 8-1 lead in game two on a perfectly executed overhead kill. Adams, fighting to stay in the match, hit a forehand rollout and a pass to pull to within three points at 16-13. With the score 19-15 in McKay's favor, Adams called a time-out. She returned to the court to hit a back-



*A capacity crowd views the final between McKay and Adams*

hand kill shot and once again pull to within three points. An Adams' skip and two wide-angle pinches by McKay, one each from the forehand and backhand sides, closed out the game at 21-17.

"I felt tense and rushed throughout the first two games," commented Adams. "I gave Heather some set-ups and she was very precise with her shots, which put more pressure on me. Although I'm used to the pressure and to someone that good being able to take advantage of my errors, I just couldn't establish a rhythm."

The Lynn Adams who took the court for games three and four was a visibly more determined player. Adams admitted that being down by two games brought out the competitiveness in her character. "I came out determined not to give anything away. I felt that I still had some control over the direction the match would take and that I could almost will certain things to happen, although that state of mind can only take you so far."

This renewed intensity took Lynn as far as was necessary to pull out the next two games by 23-21 and 24-22 margins. Playing more aggressively and relying on her waterbug quickness, she began killing the ball and diving more often than is usual for her. McKay tried to

counter with quick serves but her passing shots, which carried her to victory in the first two games seemed to lose some of their effectiveness. Game three was tied 10 times, the last time on a missed overhead by McKay at 20-21, which leveled the score. Adams hit a backhand pass to reach game point and McKay promptly called a time-out. Both players remained on the court for the break, Adams meditating in the corner and McKay pacing in the back court. Adams then cracked a backhand pinch when play resumed to win the game after having had three match points on McKay.

The fourth game was a see-saw battle equally as close as the previous one. The score was knotted a total of 11 times, including at 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22. The tempo and texture was similar to game three and some dazzling points were played to the delight of the enthralled crowd, with each player having two match points. Adams finally hit three consecutive pinches while down 21-22 to claim the game and send the match into the fifth-set tiebreaker which, under WPRA rules, is played to 15 points. At this juncture, neither player appeared to clearly have the momentum swinging in her favor due to the closeness of the games.

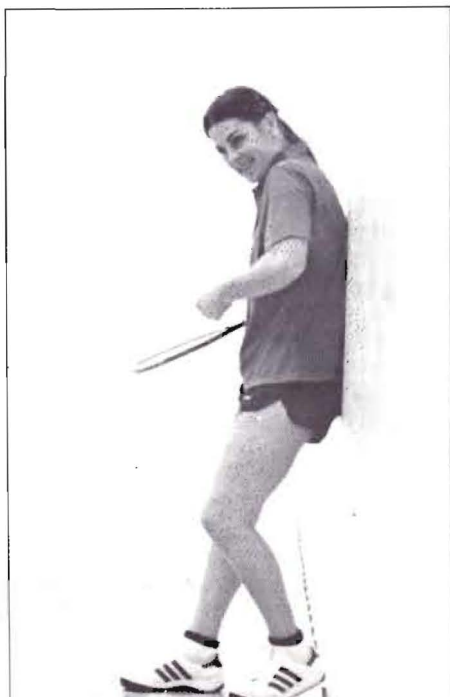
McKay admitted her displeasure with

her play in the third and fourth games. "I was serving and playing extremely well in the first two games, which may have made me feel a bit overconfident heading into the third. To Lynn's credit, she tightened up her game and played more aggressively in the third and fourth."

"I think my competitiveness and determination got me through those games," stated Adams. "During the break before the tiebreaker, I told myself that I was at least even now. I tried to wipe all four games from my mind because I had struggled throughout. I felt lucky to have reached a tiebreaker situation."

After a five-minute intermission, the two women took the court, both with looks of intense concentration on their faces. McKay surged to a 4-1 lead on two Adams' skips. Adams leveled at 4-all on two McKay skips and then hit consecutive wide-angle forehand pinches to pull ahead by two. The lead changed hands two more times before McKay hit a forehand pinch to take a one-point lead at 12-11. After Adams' next shot hit her, she called a time-out to try to regain her composure. She won the next point on a backhand pinch to pull to within one point at 13-12 but McKay countered with a wide-angle forehand pinch to arrive at match point, 14-12. The same shot from Adams brought her to within one point of leveling the score for the sixth time in the game but a carbon-copy by McKay finally sealed the victory. Afterwards, McKay commented, "I was not pleased overall with my play in the match because I changed my play after the first two games. I'm just glad I was able to stay with Lynn and play well enough to win the tiebreaker." The sea-

Rita Hoff Scott during Gilreath upset



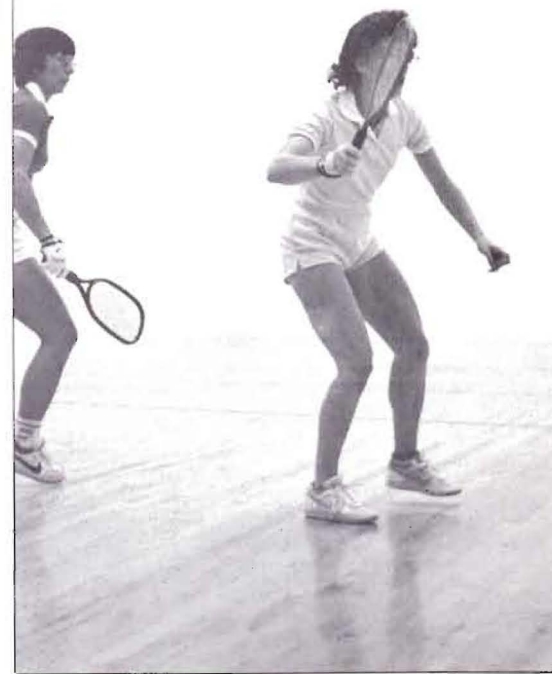
son series is now deadlocked at one victory apiece.

The semifinals were more predictable than the final as McKay disposed of Joyce Jackson in a 21-11, 21-13, 21-11 contest. The Norman, Oklahoma resident played a very strong tournament, however, by claiming two upsets in her first two matches and improving her ranking to 11, the highest position she has ever achieved on the WPRA rankings. She eliminated seventh-ranked Janell Marriott in the first round to the tune of 18-21, 21-16, 21-19, 21-18 score. She then dumped Jennifer Harding, the WPRA's then-11th-ranked player in a fifth-set tiebreaker, 21-19, 16-21, 14-21, 21-16, 15-9. Joyce attributed her vastly improved play to a weight loss she achieved over the summer and improved concentration on the ball and her game and less of an emphasis on the crowd and the officiating.

The other semifinal pitted Adams against Vicki Panzeri, the Seattle dweller who was the only player to have a winning record against Lynn during the 1982-83 season, having claimed two victories in their three meetings. Panzeri, who won the AMF Voit Most Improved Player award for her impressive ledger last year, could not get untracked against Adams this time, however. "My arm felt fatigued but I think it was due to my lack of play over the summer. My drive serve was working well but I missed several opportunities. Because I am beginning to practice more, though, I now feel that I deserve to beat the players ahead of me in the rankings. I know that I will if I am patient on the court."

Other upsets in Auburn included a hard-fought battle between fourth-ranked Laura Martino and Harding. The match saw Harding rebound from a 0-2 game deficit to even the match by 14-21, 20-22, 21-12 and 21-19 scores, and then pull out the tiebreaker, 21-19. The match ended on a protested referee's call by Martino. She claimed that a wet spot on the court had enabled her opponent to win the point and match. According to WPRA rules, such a situation is a judgment call by the referee and is not appealable.

In other first round action, Adams defeated Caryn McKinney, 21-18, 21-19, 21-7; Marci Greer dumped Molly O'Brien, 21-16, 24-22, 21-11; Rita Hoff Scott upset six-ranked Terri Gilreath 21-17, 21-19, 13-21, 24-22; Panzeri ousted Bonnie Stoll 21-12, 21-12, 13-21, 22-20; Stacey Fletcher vanquished Marcy Lynch 21-11, 21-16, 21-11; and McKay breezed past Liz Alvarado 21-17, 21-9, 21-12. In addition to Jackson's upset of Harding, the quarterfinals saw Adams trounce Greer 21-8, 21-11, 21-13; Panzeri



Finals action: Lynn Adams vs. Heather McKay

subdue Scott 21-11, 21-10, 21-14; and McKay rout Fletcher 21-11, 21-18, 21-15.

**BUDWEISER LIGHT  
PRO RACQUETBALL CLASSIC  
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS  
OCTOBER 21-23, 1983**

**PLAYER SEEDS:**

- 1 - Lynn Adams
- 2 - Heather McKay
- 3 - Laura Martino
- 4 - Vicki Panzeri

**ROUND-OF-16**

Lynn Adams def. Caryn McKinney, 21-18, 21-19, 21-7; Marci Greer def. Molly O'Brien, 21-16, 24-22, 21-11; Rita Hoff Scott def. Terri Gilreath, 21-17, 21-19, 13-21, 24-22; Vicki Panzeri def. Bonnie Stoll, 21-12, 13-21, 22-20; Jennifer Harding def. Laura Martino, 14-21, 20-22, 21-12, 21-19, 21-19; Joyce Jackson def. Marcy Lynch, 21-11, 21-16, 21-11; Heather McKay def. Liz Alvarado, 21-17, 21-9, 21-12.

**QUARTERFINAL ROUND:**

Adams def. Greer, 21-8, 21-11, 21-13; Panzeri def. Scott, 21-11, 21-10, 21-14; Jackson def. Harding, 21-19, 16-21, 14-21, 21-16, 15-9; McKay def. Fletcher, 21-11, 21-18, 21-15.

**SEMIFINAL ROUND:**

Adams def. Panzeri, 21-11, 21-18, 21-15; McKay def. Jackson, 21-11, 21-13, 21-11.

**FINAL ROUND:**

McKAY def. Adams, 21-12, 21-17, 21-23, 22-24, 15-13.

**TOTAL PURSE: \$6,000**

# RACQUETBALL SOUTH OF THE BORDER

*A Victory For The U.S. Team  
In Costa Rica - And A  
Look At Racquetball  
In Central America.*

*by Carol George*

When Columbus landed in the "New World" and discovered lands and people that no European had ever seen, his reaction must have been quite similar to that of the United States Amateur Racquetball Team upon arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica for the Second annual Torneo de la Raza (Tournament of the Race), held October 9-14. Before that moment, racquetball in Latin America was little more than a rumor—a vision of Luke St.

*US Team member Dan Ferris*



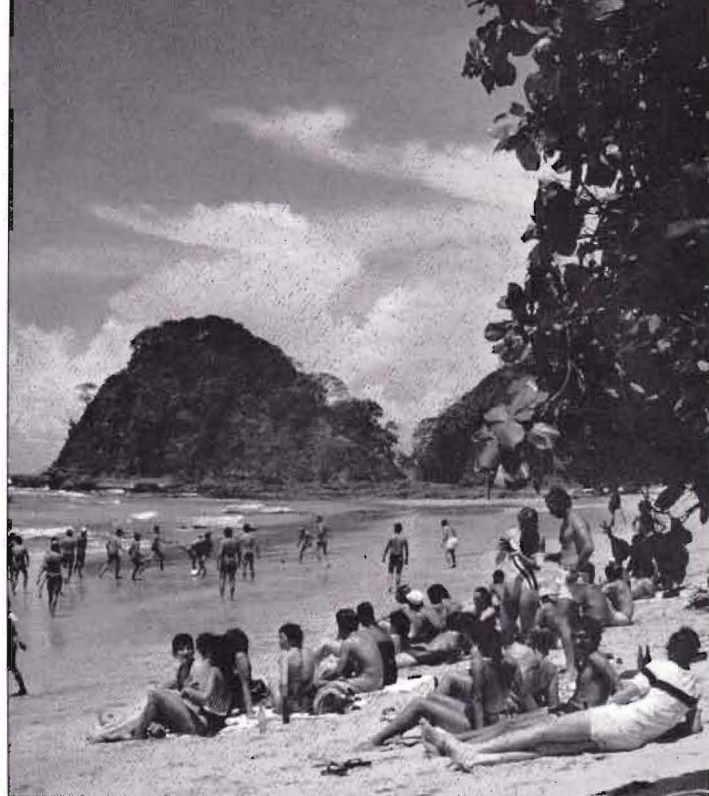
Onge, the executive director of the AARA.

But even St. Onge was shocked to discover just how widespread and how advanced racquetball had become south of the border. At the North American championships last March in Stockton, California, the only teams to join the U.S. were Mexico and Costa Rica. And since all of the Mexicans came from two border towns—Tijuana near San Diego and Juarez near El Paso—it was still assumed that the Latinos were learning in the U.S.

Even Rudolfo Echeverria, the tournament director and presidente of the Asociacion Nacional de Racquetball—Costa Rica, was surprised that nine countries were represented: Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Panama, Bolivia, Costa Rica and the United States. Last year they sent out just about as many invitations and only Ecuador and Columbia showed up.

"We'd like to call this the 'Copa de las Americas' (Cup of the Americas) and make it a permanent event," explained Echeverria. "Other than Canada and Ecuador, who couldn't come because of finances, we have every country on both continents that has organized racquetball. I think we're the most centrally located so that the travel expenses would be most reasonable."

As expected, the U.S. team won first and second in men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, and women's doubles. However, there were a few surprises. The most impressive feat was accomplished by the Costa Rican women. Silvia Portuguez, the three-



*International Racquetballers take a day at the beach*

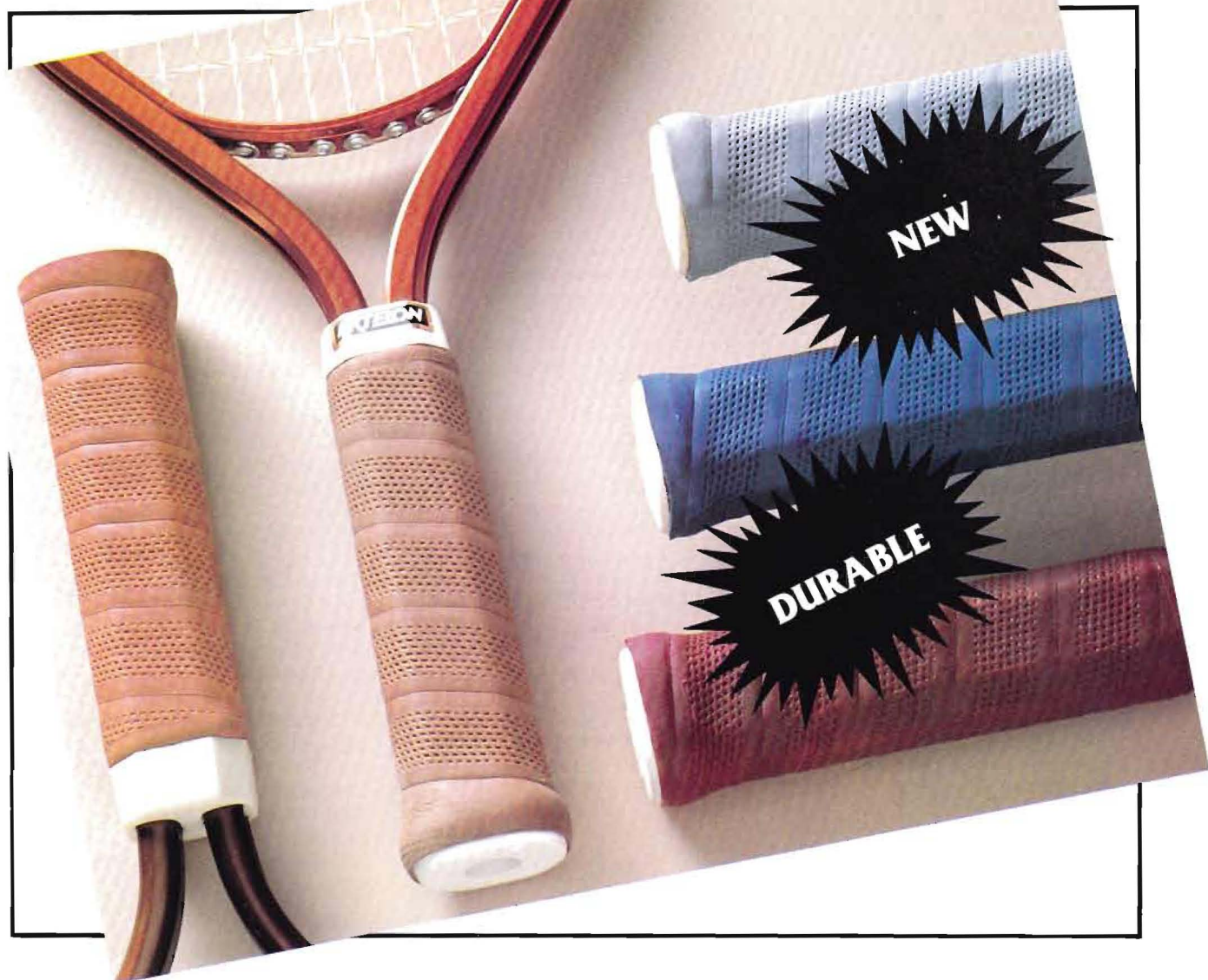
time national champion, defeated Marci Drexler, the third ranked amateur in the U.S. and runner-up in the Junior Nationals. Portuguez also teamed up with Patricia Leiva to upset the U.S. National Doubles champs, Beth Latini and Tammy Hajjar, in two games. Since there were only two women's doubles teams in the torneo, it had been decided beforehand that they would play-off twice and count total points. The next time around the Ticas (Costa Ricans) didn't play as well and the "North Americanas" won, giving the U.S. the most total points and first place.

While the women were represented by only the U.S., Costa Rica and Columbia, the men's competition included all nine of the countries, and the United States was much more dominating in the men's competition. Only Mexico at this point can offer a serious threat to U.S. dominance, but due to an unlucky draw, both of the Mexicans had to meet the Americans long before the semis. Rual Canales and Federico Alvarez, both of Juarez, Mexico paid their own way (approximately \$1500 total for flight, hotel and meals). While they did receive a little help from local sponsors, the Mexican Association, located in Tijuana, failed to come through with government money as they have in the past.

Mexico has competed in three international competitions as has the U.S.: the first World Championships in 1981, the North American Championships in March, 1983, and the Pan-American Torneo de la Raza in October 1983. The next international competition is scheduled to be the second World Champion-

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ships in July 1984 in Sacramento, California. Fifteen to twenty countries from Europe, Asia, and the Americas are expected, according to Han van der Heijden, the president of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation. Van der Heijden and his wife Marianne flew from their home in Holland to Costa Rica for the opening ceremonies and a meeting of representatives from each country before traveling to Monte Carlo for a World Games conference. The first World Games was held in Santa Clara, California, in the summer of 1981 as an alternative to the Olympics. World Games '81 gave newer sports like racquetball, and more obscure sports like tug-of-war, a chance for international recognition. The U.S. racquetball team won quite easily against Japan, Mexico, Holland, West Germany and Ireland. The next World Games is tentatively scheduled for London in 1985.

Money is definitely a major factor hindering international racquetball competitions. All of Latin America is considered part of the Third World. The priorities of these governments are increasing industrialization, improving the standard of living, paying off national debts to the U.S. and Europe. Obviously, sending a racquetball team to the world championships is well down on the list of priorities, especially when so few people are playing the sport in their countries. But the numbers and popularity are growing, and many of the team captains expressed optimism in gaining government support, especially if they can show the type of progress that is being made by tournaments such as the one in Costa Rica.

Unity and communication are also



U.S. team photo. Top row: (L to R) Stan Wright, Dan Ferris, Evan Terry, Ray Navarro, Jim Cascio. 2nd row: Tammy Hajjar, Kathy Gluwna, Trina Rasmussen, Steve Trent. Front row: Malia Kamahoaha, Marci Drexler, Coach Ed Martin, Cindy Baxter, Beth Latini.

"To become a member of a complete athletic country club can cost as much as \$12,000 U.S. dollars for initiation and \$100 per month. So you probably won't find any racquetball players among the 60% poverty class.

major obstacles to the development of racquetball in Latin America. Although the Latin Americans are anxious to learn, there is a real shortage of books, magazines, clinics and instruction. Many of the countries are interested in importing coaches from the U.S.—not necessarily a top player, but someone with many years of teaching experience who likes to travel and isn't expecting to get rich. (Anyone interested in spending a month or more in Latin America should contact Luke St. Onge at the AARA headquarters in Colorado Springs.)

Another problem facing racquetball players in Latin America is the price and scarcity of equipment—with import duties and shipping fees, racquets and equipment cost twice what they do in the U.S. Magazine subscriptions are also inflated in price due to overseas postage, but still everyone was grabbing up gratis copies of International Racquetball and subscription applications.

Here's a country-by-country update on racquetball in Latin America:

**COSTA RICA** is probably the most organized Latin American country, perhaps because it's so small (about the size of West Virginia), and it's easier to get everyone together, unlike the larger countries like Mexico. Also, as the "Switzerland of Central America," Costa Rica is the oldest democracy and the country most open to U.S. involvement and investment. But much of the growth has to be attributed to the elite group of racquetball players who have worked to build up the sport in their country.

Rudolfo Echeverria is the owner of Polymer Corporation and has been pre-

Rudolfo Echeverria (right) sings with the Costa Rica team at banquet.



sidente of the Asociacion Nacional de Racquetball—Costa Rica since its formation in October 1980. Organized with only 18 members, the association has now expanded to 208. Rather than collecting membership fees, the Costa Rican organization tacks on an association fee to the tournament entry fees making membership automatic for tournament players. Approximately 100 people enter the quarterly tournaments, which really taxes the three courts at the San Jose Indoor Club. Plans are now being made for an additional glass court with spectator seating. There are two additional courts in the country, but none of them are open to the public, which seems to be the pattern in Latin America. When courts are only accessible to club members, it becomes difficult to recruit novice players.

Echeverria's secretary at Polymer, Hilda, quickly became the secretary of the association, even though she rarely plays. But she does all the mailing, telephoning, filing, recording, and volunteered to help run the October tournament desk for the entire five days. The other board members are also influential people in the country who can pull together sponsorship for the team and the tournaments. Without these people, the beach party never would have been possible—although all beaches are public in Costa Rica, the land that borders them is most owned by private clubs. But, even with all the sponsor help, the Torneo de la Raza was only a break-even affair.

Silvia Portuguez is hoping to become the first female member of the Board of Directors. She has won the national title every year since she first started playing nearly four years ago. She and her family hosted Ed Martin and his daughter Rudie when they came for a month to help coach the Costa Rican team. With as strong a women's team as Costa Rica has, it would make sense to have a woman on the Board.

The Costa Ricans came up with their own unique tournament format. Four times a year they have national tournaments which count towards the national title, and the serious players enter all four. Each tournament lasts three weeks. During the first two weeks everyone is divided up randomly into groups of four and they play round robins, so everyone is guaranteed at least three matches. Then during the final week, the winners of the round robins are put into an open draw and play quarters, semis, and finals just like any other tournament. They tried this format in their very first tournament and everyone liked it so much that they kept it that way.

The Costa Ricans brought a team of

three men and two women to the North American Championships and have traveled to Colombia and Ecuador for tournaments. They are hoping to find a coach to come work with them for six weeks in the spring of 1984, so they can prepare for the world championships in Sacramento, California, in the summer.

**MEXICO** has by far the best players in Latin America, but lacks the organization to really make the best showing in international tournaments. There is currently a power struggle going on between the organization in Tijuana, and the two top players who live in Juarez, Raul Canales and Federico Alvarez. The organization in Tijuana, headed by Alfonso Inclan and Adan Chavez, claims to be the national organization, yet they never make any effort to inform the players in the rest of the country about tournaments or team qualifications, according to Canales and Alvarez. They say that they find out about the Mexican Nationals by contacting Tijuana themselves. And when they do receive money from the government, it is only used for players from Tijuana. In a country as large as Mexico they really need state representatives and one national director who unifies the country.

Mexico brought a team to both the World Games in 1981 and the North American Championships in 1983. Canales and Alvarez took second in doubles in the World Games, and Martin Padilla was the only player to beat a member of the US team when he defeated Larry Fox in the play-off for third in men's singles. Padilla is another player who should be on the Mexican team, but doesn't live in Tijuana and therefore is uninformed about the tournaments. Canales and Alvarez also paid their own way to the North American Championships where they joined the Tijuana team and played numbers one and two on the singles team. Together they finished second in the tournament, just as they did in the World Games.

But alone, in Costa Rica, Canales and Alvarez couldn't pull it off. They finished fourth behind the U.S., Costa Rica, and Columbia. Mexico even has some pretty fair women players who compete in the San Diego Women's Racquetball League. But Chavez's phone listing is disconnected and Inclan can only be reached by mail, so it wasn't possible to get an explanation for why no one from Tijuana came.

"I got the address in Tijuana from Luke and I wrote them, but got no response," said Echeverria. "Then Luke suggested at the last minute that I contact Juarez directly and I did. They called right away and we got them into the draw."

## TORNEO DE LA RAZA NATIONS TOURNAMENT

|              | Points |
|--------------|--------|
| 1. U.S.A.    | 22     |
| 2. C.R.      | 5      |
| 3. Colombia  | 3      |
| 4. Mexico    | 2      |
| 5. Bolivia   | 1      |
| 6. Guatemala | 0      |
| 7. Rep. Dom. | 0      |
| 8. Honduras  | 0      |
| 9. Panama    | 0      |

### MEN'S OPEN

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| 1. Dan Ferris       | U.S.A.  |
| 2. Ray Navarro      | U.S.A.  |
| 3. Jim Cascio       | U.S.A.  |
| 4. Gustavo Retamozo | Bolivia |

### WOMEN'S OPEN

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1. Cindy Baxter     | U.S.A. |
| 2. Malia Kamahoahoa | U.S.A. |
| 3. Trina Rasmussen  | U.S.A. |
| 4. Silvia Portuguez | C.R.   |

### TEAM TOURNAMENT YANBER

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Andres Marranchini  | Rep. Dom.  |
| Jose Arias          | Costa Rica |
| Malia Kamahoahoa    | U.S.A.     |
| Marcy Drexler       | U.S.A.     |
| Luis Zamora         | Costa Rica |
| Juan Carlos Sarnari | Colombia   |
| Alvaro Gonzalez     | Costa Rica |
| Mauricio Morera     | Costa Rica |
| Jose Ma. Agurcia    | Honduras   |

### DOUBLES MASCULINE

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1. U.S.A.     | Stan Wright<br>Steve Trent             |
| 2. Colombia   | Diego Sanches<br>Juan Pablo Guzman     |
| 3. Mexico     | Frederico Alvarez<br>Raul Canales      |
| 4. Costa Rica | Rodolfo Echeverria<br>Willmer Calderon |

### DOUBLES FEMENINE

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. U.S.A.     | Bess Latini<br>Tammy Hajjar        |
| 2. Costa Rica | Silvia Portuguez<br>Patricia Leiva |

### DOUBLES SENIOR

|                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Guillermo Serrano<br>Zacarias Ayub | Costa Rica<br>Costa Rica |
| 2. Luis E. Gomez<br>Eduardo Mata      | Costa Rica<br>Costa Rica |
| 3. Marvin List<br>Gustavo Ibarnegaray | Costa Rica<br>Bolivia    |

**COLOMBIA** is also having a few organizational problems. They have two national associations, one in Bogota and one in Cali, but during the tournament

all of the Colombians got together and decided to work on uniting the two associations into a national federation. There is one racquetball club in Bogota, the capital city of over six million people, with six courts, and there are plans for four or six more. In Cali there is one club with four courts and plans for two more. There are also three courts and plans for three more in Medellin, a city of two million.

Compared to U.S. standards, the Latin American cities are huge and the number of racquetball courts per capita is miniscule. But the situation is much different, according to Petronio Tam of Cali.

"Here in San Jose, Costa Rica they solved most of their underdeveloped problems," explained Tam who was educated in the U.S. "But sixty percent of the people living in these other cities are living in poverty. And there are no public courts in Colombia." Memberships in a racquetball-only facility cost on the average, 50,000 pesos or \$500 for initiation. Then they pay \$25 a month dues and \$2 an hour for the court. To become a member of a complete athletic country club can cost as much as \$12,000 U.S. dollars for initiation and \$110 per month. So you probably won't find any racquetball players among the sixty percent poverty class.

Six men and one woman from Colombia paid their own expenses to the Torneo de la Raza. Tam estimates that there are approximately 1,000 racquetball players in his country, and about 300 would be considered tournament players. The seven member team doesn't necessarily represent the top players in the country, but those who had enough desire and finances to attend.

Blanca Novoa of Bogota was the only player to compete both years in the Torneo other than the Costa Ricans. She was also the only woman to travel to the tournament other than the U.S. team. In recognition she was awarded a plaque at the awards banquet and made a gracious speech in Spanish, thanking everyone for helping to make this a wonderful tournament.

**BOLIVIA** is also coming along. Four years ago they had no courts. Today they have 23, most of which have glass back walls. Gaston Ybarnegaray estimates that there are 150 players in Bolivia. They pay \$100 a year for a racquetball club membership, or \$2000 a year for a complete country club with racquetball courts. They would like to build more public courts because only one or two of the clubs are affordable to the middle class.

The Bolivians have already organized the Federacion Boliviana de Racquet-

ball. They were able to get sponsors to pay the \$1500 for the expenses of each of the enthusiastic women playing in Bolivia, but expenses prevented them from attending. The reason it cost so much for the Bolivians is that they came from farther south than any of the teams.

The Bolivians, under the leadership of 20-year-old Gustavo Retamozo, finished first in the Torneo Independencia de Colombia in July 1983. Ecuador also sent a team to that tournament but they were unable to afford the Costa Rican tournament. Retamozo, who has played pelota vasca his entire life and only five months of racquetball, upset Costa Rican National Champion Enrique "Chino" Carranza in the finals. In the Costa Rican tournament Retamozo wowed the audience with his unorthodox style which took Dan Ferris, number one on the U.S. team, by surprise and to the tie-breaker before losing.

**HONDURAS** is really trying to make up for lost time. They just opened

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"The Hondurans had never heard of the sport before, but they bought racquets and balls and tried it out. When they returned to Honduras they had the equipment, but nowhere to play."

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the first two racquetball courts in February of 1983, yet they were able to bring seven men to the Torneo de la Raza. David Matamoros, one of their top players, was visiting Florida in August of 1982 when he and a friend met some women who wanted to play racquetball. The Hondurans had never heard of the sport before, but they bought racquets and balls and tried it out. When they returned to Honduras they had the equipment, but nowhere to play.

The courts they build are totally concrete, so Costa Rica was the first time they played on wood floors. Membership is \$100 and \$18 per month and already they have 78 members, 14 of which are women. Matamoros realizes that he and the other top players need to start playing the young kids more before they can really start to build for the future.

Promoting something new like racquetball can be difficult. As of now, about half of the racquetball members are foreigners, such as Juan Gonzalez, an American who is stationed in Hondu-

ras. Gonzalez has done much to organize and promote racquetball all over Latin America. The club also gave free memberships to some reporters and journalists in exchange for publicity, and they've succeeded in getting racquetball on TV twice so far. Matamoros explained that they watch all the American sports on TV in Honduras, but they never see racquetball. What he didn't realize was that with the exception of ESPN, we never see racquetball on TV either.

**GUATEMALA** is also just beginning to discover racquetball, even though the courts have been around for four years. The Club La Via has two racquetball courts in addition to several squash courts. Only about 50 Guatemalans play racquetball, but two of them—Danny Bunak and Gustavo Morales—traveled to Costa Rica. They played in a squash tournament in Costa Rica the same weekend. But the younger players are starting to pick up on racquetball. Horacio Rodriguez, the current national champion, is only 17 years old.

**PANAMA** has nine racquetball courts, but all of them are on American military bases, so very few Panamanians play. Barry Stevens, who is stationed in what used to be the canal zone before the treaty of '79, was the sole representative of Panama. Officially he can't represent Panama because he has a U.S. passport, but since the "torneo" was hoping for as many countries to be represented as possible, Stevens was finally allowed to play for the Canal Zone.

Stevens, 29, has been in the army for nine years and has no plans of getting out. He started playing racquetball when he was stationed in Bremerhafen, West Germany five years ago and plays practically every day. The Department of Defense held a Panamanian tournament for all of the army, air force, marines, and navy, which Stevens won. He expects the army to pay his expenses to the next tournament, but this time he and his Panamanian girlfriend drove 12 hours to San Jose, Costa Rica.

"I didn't realize the importance of this tournament," commented Stevens, "I really didn't expect the quality of the Americans. I just thought there would be a few people who wanted a vacation in Costa Rica—but not the American Amateur Team."

The only two women Stevens ever saw playing racquetball in Panama were American military. There is a Panamanian listed as a representative, but Stevens believes he is just a figurehead because so few Panamanians play. Stevens hopes in the future that he can change that, and help promote the sport among the local population. ❧

# KEVIN ALMEIDA WINS CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kevin Almeida, of Northern California, defeated Scott Morey, 15-13, 15-6, in the final to win the first Ektelon-Oshmans California State Championships. The tournament was the first state-wide championship to be organized by the California Racquetball Association, and was played off in a unique North vs. South format. Those players entered in the event qualified by placing either first or second in two regional tournaments held during the month of September.

In the women's open singles, Mary Pessagno (N) defeated Theresa Nunn (S), 15-3, 15-11.

In the overall North/South competition, the North earned a narrow, and surprise victory, 111-109. The victory by the North was unexpected, because Southern California has long been considered the strongest area of the country for racquetball. "The difference in the overall score," said tournament director Jim Carson, "was that four of the players from the South didn't bother to play off for third place."

## EKTELON-OSHMANS CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS OCTOBER 29, 1983

### MEN'S OPEN SINGLES:

#### SEMIFINALS:

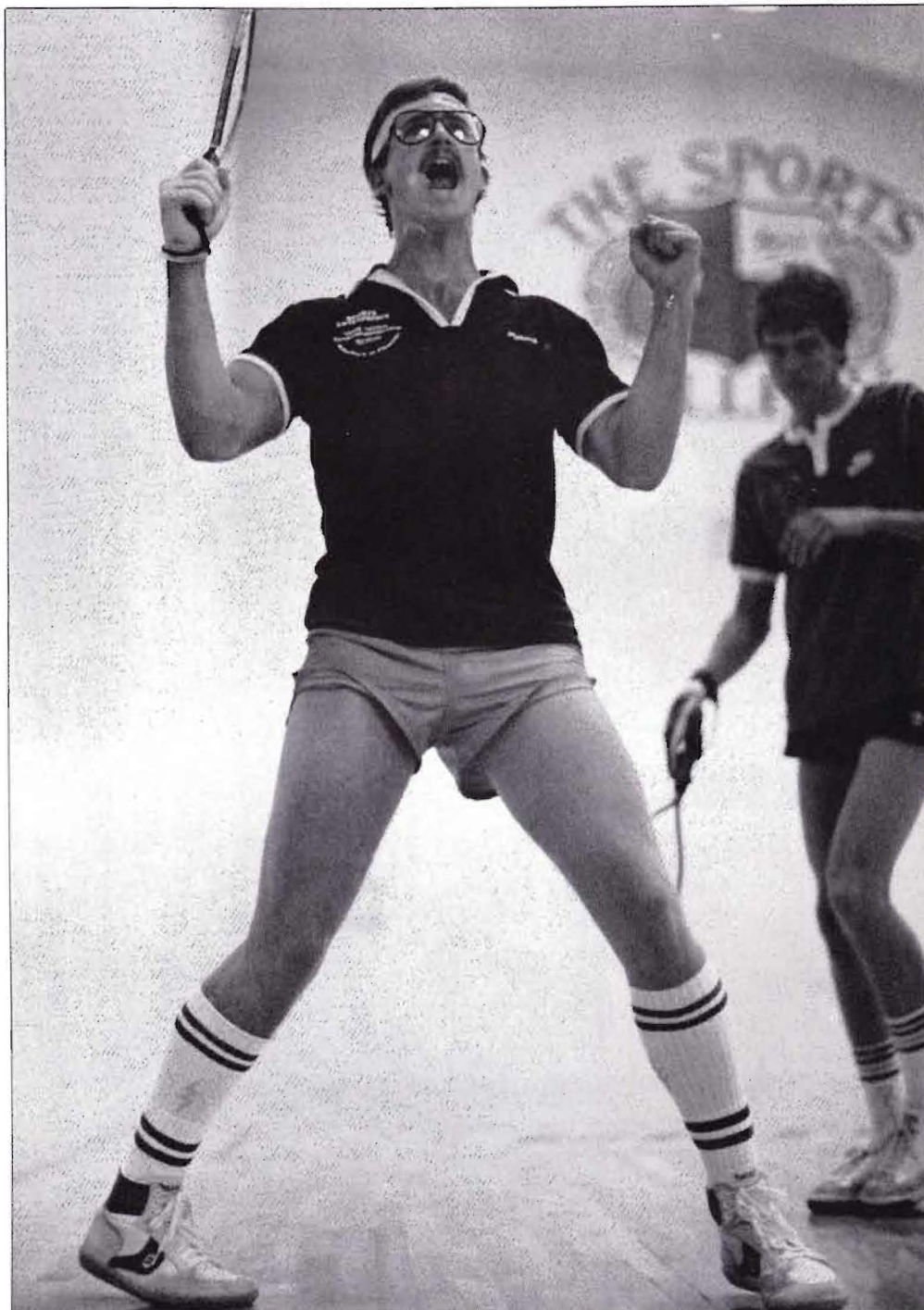
Scott Morey def. Mike Alderson, 15-14, 15-11; Kevin Almeida def. Dave Zuborg, 15-12, 15-1.

#### FINALS:

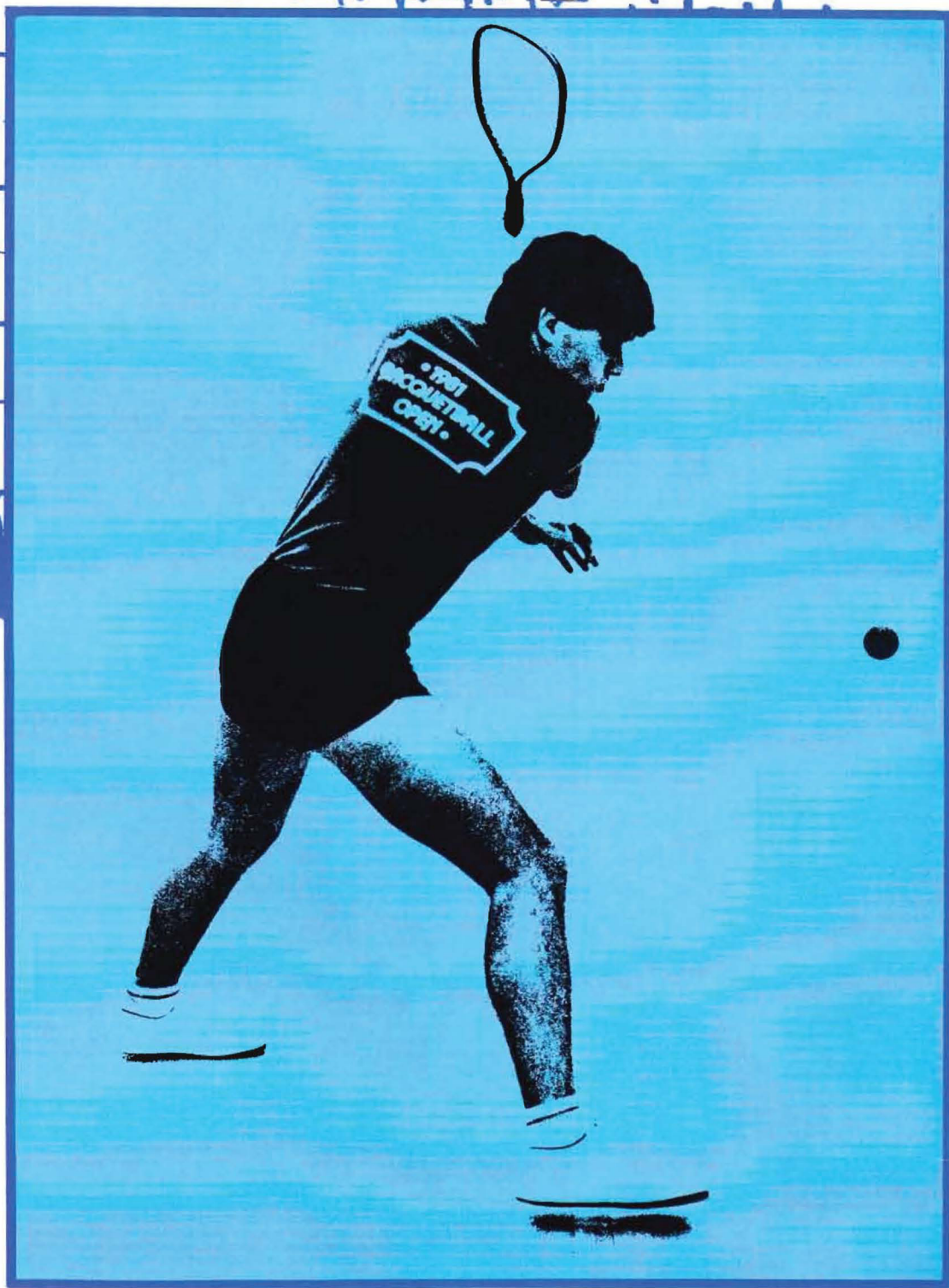
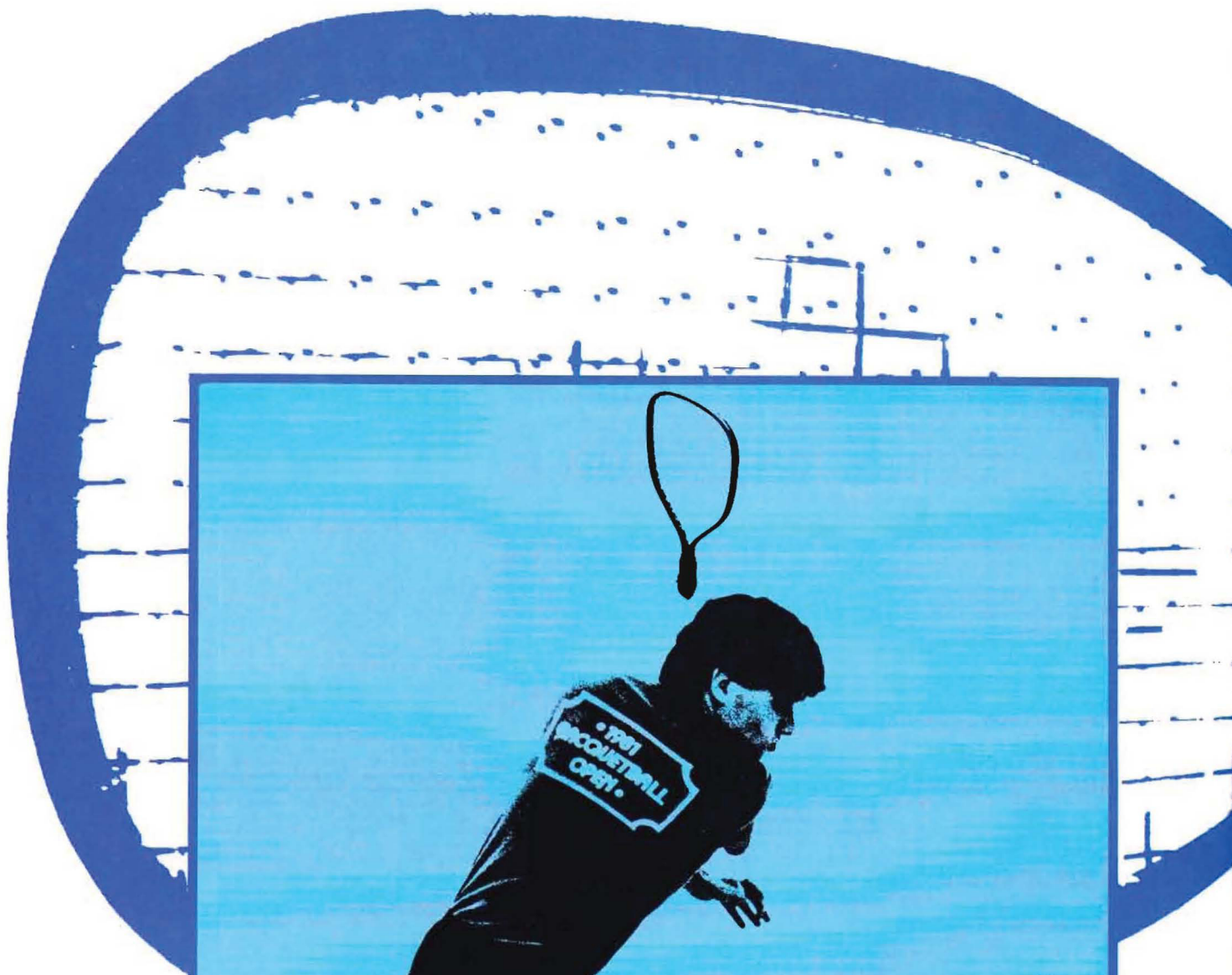
ALMEIDA def. Morey, 15-13, 15-6.

*Almeida continued on page 34*

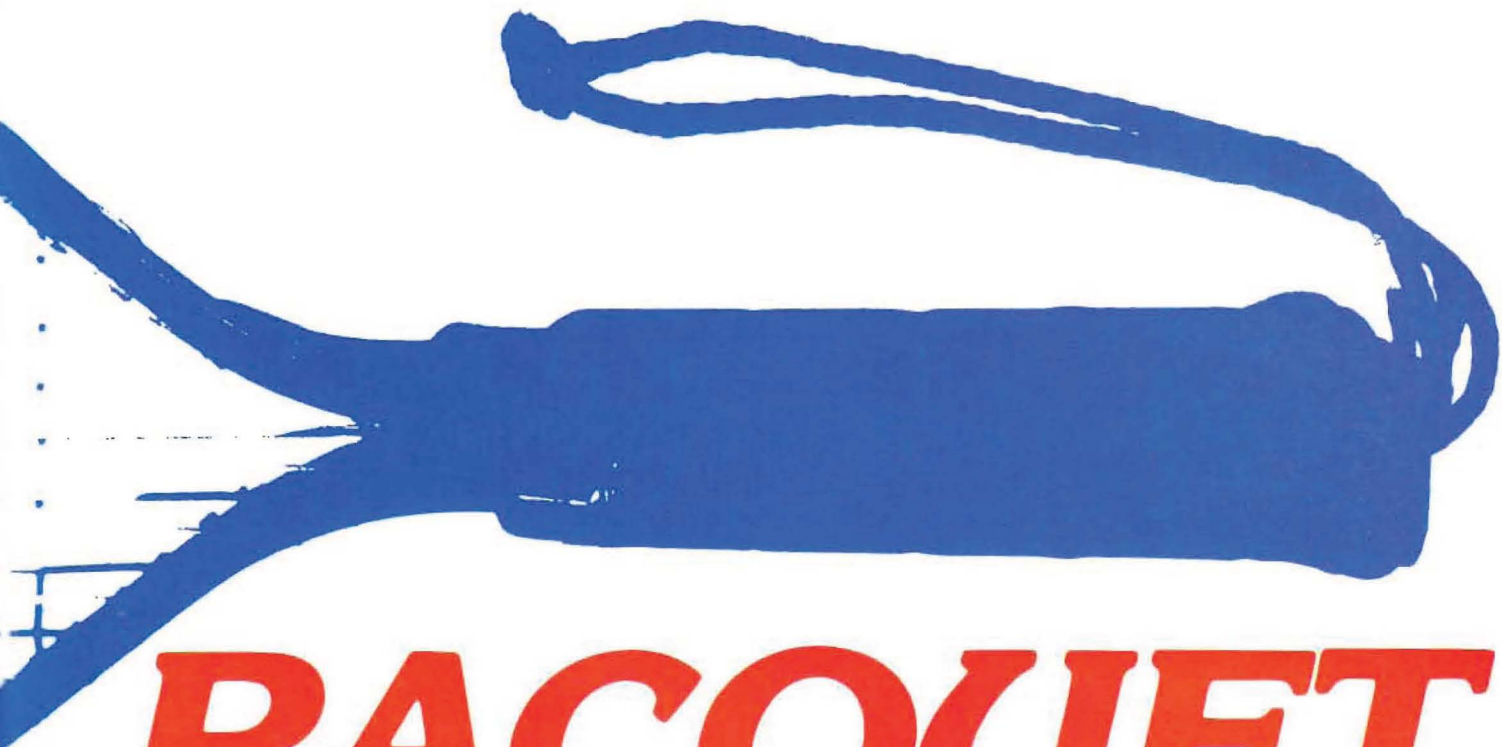
*Women's open winner Mary Pessagno*



*Men's open winner Kevin Almeida*



# THE GREAT



# RACQUET RUNOFF

**INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE  
TEST OF THE FINEST RACQUETS IN RACQUETBALL**

**B**uying a racquetball racquet was not always the complicated ordeal it is today. Not that many years ago, players had a choice of perhaps 20 models, the most expensive of which ranged as high (?) as \$50. Times have changed; today, racquetballers have a choice of nearly 80 racquets, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$200.

Since the introduction of the over-\$100 hand-made composite racquet frames a few years ago (1979), many racquetball players have understandably become confused by the "black art" of

buying a racquet, particularly when considering one of the top models: "Do I really need an expensive racquet to play well, and if so, which one?"

We are proud to present The Great Racquet Runoff—the first comprehensive test of the sport's finest racquets. What follows is a sometimes objective, sometimes subjective, test of nearly every high-end (most are over \$100.00 retail) racquetball racquet on the market. There were 18 racquets tested, representing products from AMF Voit, Blitz, DP Leach, Ektelon, Geostar,

Hogan Racquetball, Olympian, Omega, and Wilson. Two racquets were included (Geostar 240G, AMF Voit Impact I) that did not really belong in the high-end group to see how much difference our panelists could actually detect. The only racquets that were not included were those produced by AMF Head, who requested that their racquets not be part of the test.

The test was conducted by 10 highly qualified players (see "Our Test Panel") in two cities, and was done over a seven-day period. The results that follow are in two sections.

(1) The test chart lists all of the racquets tested and gives the statistics and test scores of each one.

(2) The individual racquets are then each profiled and the general non-numerical impressions of our panel are given.

#### HOW THE TEST WAS CONDUCTED

Each of our panel members was allowed to take each racquet and hit with it for as much time, and under whatever playing conditions they chose. The total time needed to test all 18 racquets varied from a couple of hours for some panelists, to many hours for others. *No player was allowed to test the racquet with which he or she normally played.* They then rated each racquet they tested on a 5-point scale in 5 separate categories: weight, balance, power, control, and overall feel. Each panelist was then allowed to write down any comments they had.

Each panel member tested each racquet privately and there was no general discussion during any part of the test.

#### TEST RESULTS

Perhaps the easiest general conclusion to draw from the testing is that most of these are indeed exceptional racquets - our panelists generally felt they could play well with nearly any one of the racquets they tested. Only three of the 18 racquets in the test received overall scores that indicated "below average" performance.

The most surprising result of the test was the uniformity of the test scores. With a very few exceptions, and without any knowledge of each other's scores, our panelists were amazingly consistent—they agreed on almost everything.

So, is there really any *consistent* difference between the top racquets? Yes. Some racquets seem to be generally better, and some are better for particular game styles.

Who won? The top honors in the test really went to two racquets: the Ektelon CBK Light (1) and the Wilson Composite Plus (2). These two racquets were separ-

| FINAL TEST RANK | RACQUET TESTED            | SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE | ADVERTISED WEIGHT | ACTUAL WEIGHT AS TESTED | STRING TENSION AS TESTED* |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1               | EKTELON<br>CBK LIGHT      | \$200.00               | 230g              | 237g                    | 28 lbs                    |
| 2               | WILSON<br>COMPOSITE PLUS  | \$120.00               | 245g              | 252g                    | 22 lbs                    |
| 3               | EKTELON<br>ST 245         | \$100.00               | 245g              | 252g                    | 23 lbs                    |
| 4               | GEOSTAR<br>240G           | \$ 79.95               | 240g              | 240g                    | 24 lbs                    |
| 5               | DP LEACH<br>8000          | \$102.60               | 250g              | 251                     | 23 lbs                    |
| 6               | EKTELON<br>COMPOSITE 250G | \$115.00               | 250g              | 251g                    | 21 lbs                    |
| 7               | EKTELON<br>CBK            | \$200.00               | 245g              | 251g                    | 21 lbs                    |
| 8               | OMEGA<br>TITANIUM         | \$100.00               | N/A               | 239g                    | 23 lbs                    |
| 9               | HOGAN<br>GRAPHITE         | N/A                    | N/A               | 253g                    | 26 lbs                    |
| 10              | GEOSTAR<br>OPEN T250      | \$120.95               | 250g              | 246g                    | 20 lbs                    |
| 11              | OLYMPIAN<br>XRL           | \$130.00               | 240g              | 241g                    | 18 lbs                    |
| 12              | EKTELON<br>GRC 3000       | \$150.00               | 245g              | 252g                    | 25 lbs                    |
| 13              | AMF VOIT<br>IMPACT I      | \$ 55.00               | 265g              | 258g                    | 20 lbs                    |
| 14              | DP LEACH<br>GRAPHITE 260  | \$ 76.40               | 245g              | 250g                    | 29 lbs                    |
| 15              | AMF VOIT<br>PACER         | \$ 80.00               | 250g              | 246g                    | 17 lbs                    |
| 16              | OLYMPIAN<br>COMPU 245     | \$160.00               | 245g              | 242g                    | 18 lbs                    |
| 17              | DP LEACH<br>GRAPHITE USA  | \$152.00               | 250g              | 256g                    | 10 lbs                    |
| 18              | BLITZ                     | \$175.00               | 315g              | 338g                    | 18 lbs                    |

\*Racquet string tension of each model was tested with a dial-type string tension checker, and is read in actual pounds of tension. The tension check was conducted following the general racquet test.

# Test Results

| CONSTRUCTION TYPE   | AVG. POINTS - WEIGHT | AVG. POINTS - BALANCE | AVG. POINTS - POWER | AVG. POINTS - CONTROL | AVG. POINTS - OVERALL | AVG. TOTAL TEST POINTS |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Hand-laid solid composite of carbon, boron, Kevlar, graphite, and fiberglass. Foam-filled handle.   | 3.9                  | 4.4                   | 4.3                 | 4.0                   | 4.2                   | 20.8                   |
| Hand-laid, hollow tube, composite of graphite and fiberglass. Foam-filled handle.                   | 4.1                  | 4.3                   | 3.9                 | 4.2                   | 4.2                   | 20.7                   |
| TrueTemper "Chrome-moly" steel, hollow tube with varying wall thickness. Foam-filled handle.        | 3.9                  | 3.9                   | 4.3                 | 3.7                   | 4.0                   | 19.8                   |
| Injection-molded solid composite blend of graphite and fiberglass in a nylon matrix.                | 3.8                  | 3.9                   | 4.0                 | 4.0                   | 4.0                   | 19.7                   |
| Hand-laid composite of 80% graphite and 20% fiberglass. Cork filled frame to eliminate air pockets. | 3.8                  | 3.8                   | 3.8                 | 3.5                   | 3.5                   | 18.4                   |
| Hand-laid solid composite of continuous fiber graphite and fiberglass. Foam-filled handle.          | 3.5                  | 3.7                   | 3.5                 | 3.8                   | 3.8                   | 18.3                   |
| Hand-laid solid composite of carbon, boron, Kevlar, graphite and fiberglass. Foam-filled handle.    | 3.6                  | 3.4                   | 3.7                 | 3.6                   | 3.6                   | 17.9                   |
| Extruded "I-beam" titanium alloy.   | 3.7                  | 3.5                   | 3.6                 | 3.4                   | 3.5                   | 17.7                   |
| Hand-laid, varying thickness, all-graphite composite with foam-filled core.                         | 3.7                  | 3.5                   | 3.5                 | 3.1                   | 3.6                   | 17.4                   |
| Injection-molded solid composite blend of graphite and fiberglass in a nylon matrix.                | 3.4                  | 3.1                   | 3.8                 | 3.3                   | 3.4                   | 17.0                   |
| Hand-laid solid composite of 80% graphite and 20% fiberglass.                                       | 3.5                  | 3.3                   | 3.1                 | 3.3                   | 3.4                   | 16.6                   |
| Hand-laid graphite and fiberglass wrapped around a solid graphite core. Foam-filled handle.         | 3.6                  | 3.2                   | 3.2                 | 2.7                   | 3.1                   | 15.8                   |
| "I-beam" extruded aluminum with nylon throat piece. Polyurethane foam handle.                       | 2.8                  | 3.2                   | 3.4                 | 3.1                   | 3.2                   | 15.7                   |
| Solid combination of maple, ash, bamboo, and graphite laminates.                                    | 3.3                  | 3.1                   | 3.3                 | 2.5                   | 3.1                   | 15.3                   |
| Hand-laid solid 100% fiberglass. Polyurethane foam handle.  | 3.0                  | 3.0                   | 3.0                 | 2.9                   | 3.2                   | 15.1                   |
| Hand-laid continuous length carbon/graphite fiber.  | 3.0                  | 2.7                   | 2.9                 | 2.6                   | 2.9                   | 14.1                   |
| Hand-laid all graphite composite with cork-filled frame.  | 2.3                  | 2.1                   | 2.7                 | 2.3                   | 2.5                   | 11.9                   |
| Hand-laid "high filament loading, solid composite."   | 1.1                  | 1.1                   | 1.9                 | 1.6                   | 1.4                   | 7.1                    |

## HOW TO USE THE TEST RESULTS

Listed in the "TEST RESULTS" section of the chart are the average points awarded to each racquet in each of the five categories that were graded by our testing panel. Each panel member was asked to grade each racquet according to their opinion of its weight, balance, power, control, and then to give their overall impression. The grading was done on a five-point scale which represented the following:

- 1 point - poor
- 2 points - below average
- 3 points - average
- 4 points - very good
- 5 points - excellent

The final column, titled "TOTAL TEST POINTS," represents the average total points awarded in all categories by the testing panel. Since a score of 3 indicates average performance in a single category, a total of more than 15 points for all 5 categories indicates the racquet was judged to be "above average." The highest possible total score is 25.

Since certain racquets are designed for particular playing styles, players are urged to look at the scores in each particular category and apply the results to their own game. For example, the Geostar Open T250 might prove to be a better choice for a power player than an Ektelon 250G, even though the T250 ranked lower in overall performance. Similarly, a 250G might be better for a control player than an Ektelon ST245, and so on.

ated by only one-tenth of one point, and were the most universally liked among our panelists.

The biggest shock of the test was the extraordinary performance of the Geostar 240G, an injection molded racquet that carries a retail price of \$79.95. The 240G came in fourth, overall, and trailed the CBK Light by only 1.1 points on a 25-point scale!

Obviously, there are some things a test such as this cannot find; specifically, we were unable to test for durability of either the strings or racquet frame of any of the models (no strings or frames were broken during the testing period).

All racquets tested were supplied to us by the manufacturers and were unaltered before the test. The racquets supplied all had grips of 4", or the closest to that size that was available for a particular model.

Here, with the racquets listed in their order of finish, are the results:

## 1 - EKTELON CBK LIGHT



The CBK Light is Ektelon's pride and joy, and they have reason to be proud. By an extremely narrow margin (over the Wilson Composite Plus), our testing panel selected the CBK Light as the best of the best.

When the CBK was first introduced to the racquetball market a little over two years ago it was met with more than a little skepticism. Not only was it radically different from any racquet the sport had ever seen, but it was instantly the most expensive racquet on the market. There were many who felt that the playing public would never be willing to pay \$150 plus for a featherlight, stiff racquet. They were wrong. For high-level tournament competition, the CBK has become the defacto standard against which all other racquets are measured.

The enormous following

that has been built by this racquet since its introduction was evidenced most recently at the California State Championships Finals, where 61 of the 103 qualifying entrants used some version of the CBK.

Almost without exception, the members of our testing panel were impressed with the CBK Light. Two testers awarded it the highest possible score—25. It received the highest overall scores of any racquet in three of the five categories; balance (4.4), power (4.3), and overall (4.2).

What seemed to surprise the members of the panel most was how well they were able to control the ball with the CBK Light, because the CBK has developed an apparently unwarranted reputation of being a power player's racquet.

At a stiff \$200 it is still the most expensive racquet you can buy. Is it worth it? That obviously depends on whether you have the \$200. But, according to our panel, if price is not a consideration, the CBK Light is the best racquetball racquet you can own.

Comments: "An excellent racquet."; "A little light, but perfectly balanced."; "Wow."; "A very powerful racquet."; "Can I keep this?"

## 2 - WILSON COMPOSITE PLUS

This was the most pleasant surprise of the test. The Wilson

Composite Plus is not a widely known racquet—only one panel member had ever used (or seen) one. It would be an understatement to say that they were impressed—they were enthralled! Although it came in second to the CBK Light, the overall difference was only one tenth of a point. Practically speaking, the title of "best of the best" was a dead heat between the Wilson Composite Plus and the CBK Light.



Panel members actually preferred the weight of the Wilson Composite Plus to that of the CBK Light. And, the 4.2 points it received in the "control" category was the highest score of any racquet tested. When the numbers are interpreted the results seem to suggest that the Wilson Composite Plus may be the best racquet for a player if his or her game involves as much control as power. Its overall "feel" is excellent (4.2), and its price of \$120 is considerably less than

its Ektelon counterpart.

Perhaps the most revealing statistic about this racquet doesn't show up on the chart: 9 out of the 10 members of the testing panel chose the Wilson Composite Plus as one of their three favorite racquets—players take to this racquet very quickly.

For nearly everyone in the test, the Wilson Composite Plus was a delightful surprise. It certainly seems that, given the necessary visibility, this outstanding racquet could set a new standard within the sport.

## 3 - EKTELON ST245



This racquet is new to Ektelon's line this year, and it is their first attempt at marketing an all-steel frame. Racquet companies have been interested in manufacturing with steel for some time, because of its tremendous strength, but until recently they were unable to get the frame weight down to acceptable levels. Recently

# OUR TEST



**SHERYL AMBLER**

Boise, Idaho  
Years played - 6  
Playing Level - Women's open  
-1979 AARA Women's open champion  
-1982 AARA Women's doubles semifinalist  
Racquet normally used: Ektelon 250G  
Favorite test racquets: Ektelon ST245  
Wilson Composite Plus



**PAUL BOMAN**

Salt Lake City, Utah  
Years played - 12  
Playing level - Men's open  
-Former Utah state champion  
-Former teaching pro  
Racquet normally used: AMF Voit Pacer  
Favorite test racquets: Wilson Composite Plus  
Geostar 240G  
Olympian XRL



**EDDIE CARR**

Boise, Idaho  
Years played - 6  
Playing level - Men's open  
-1982, 1983 Boise city champion  
Racquet normally used: Ektelon 250G  
Favorite test racquets: Wilson Composite Plus  
Omega Titanium



**STEVE CUTLER**

Salt Lake City, Utah  
Years played - 5  
Playing level - Men's open  
-Utah State open finalist  
-Teaching pro, Sports Mall  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Racquet normally used: Head Graphite Express  
Favorite test racquets: Wilson Composite Plus  
Ektelon CBK Light



**JOHN EGERMAN**

Boise, Idaho  
Years played - 8  
Playing level - Pro  
-National juniors champion  
-1979 World open champion  
-Top ranked professional  
Racquet normally used: Ektelon 250G  
Favorite test racquets: Wilson Composite Plus  
Ektelon CBK Light  
Ceostar 240G

Ektelon, in conjunction with TrueTemper, developed a new steel alloy, and a new forming process that allowed for varying the wall thickness of the steel tube. The result was the ST245, a moderately priced, light weight, all-steel racquet that apparently lives up to Ektelon's claim of having the "playability of a composite."

The ST245 is very stiff. And, as one would suspect, it ranked extremely high in the power category, somewhat lower in control. There is little question that this racquet was designed for the high-performance power player. Yet with its stiffness, it seemed to have little or no vibration. Many panel members remarked about the extreme head speed, and surprising power, they were able to generate with this racquet (some normally mild-mannered control players spent their time with the ST245 uncharacteristically ripping "photons").

The few complaints about this racquet concerned its weight, and stiffness. Although our test racquet weighed in at a nominal 252 grams, the ST245 does have a tendency to feel much lighter. And, since the ball comes off the strings very fast, some of the panel members needed a little more time than normal to adjust their timing. After a little time, however, almost all panel members became enam-

ored with this unusual racquet.

Although the ST245 is a fairly new racquet, we are probably safe in assuming that one of its best assets will be its durability. Unlike aluminum frames, there should be no problem with deflection (head distortion) after contacting the wall or floor.

Comments: "This is the best metal racquet I've ever used."; "It's just too stiff for me."; "A very well constructed racquet—nice balance."; "It takes a while to adjust to it, but a very solid racquet."

#### 4 - GEOSTAR 240G



Without question, the performance of the Geostar 240G was the greatest shock of the racquet test. The 240G was one of two racquets (Voit Impact 1) that were included in the test to see how less-expensive racquets would fare against the high-priced composites. At a

meager \$79.95 (a fact of which our panel members were unaware), the 240G costs a little more than one-third as much as the CBK, and yet it scored just 1.1 fewer overall points.

The 240G seems to be evidence that a high-quality molded racquet can indeed equal, or come very close to equaling, the performance of the best hand-made design. Its performance in our test was extremely strong. Five testers ranked it in their top three choices.

This racquet should also lay to rest the claim by some in the racquet business that it is impossible to mold a *light* racquet frame. The 240G weighed in at 240 grams, the third lightest of all test racquets, and yet no one thought it was too light.

The only negative comments about this racquet concerned its appearance. Not that it is bad looking, it looks fine. But many felt that the manufacturers tried to copy the design of the original Ektelon 250G. The Geostar does look very much like the older version of that racquet, which could present a problem to some prospective racquet buyers.

Comments: "It isn't exceptional at anything but it does everything well."; "Very nice feel."; "The handle seems a little oversized for a 4."; "Good balance—a little too flexible for me."

#### 5 - LEACH GRAPHITE 8000



The DP Leach 8000 was the top ranked of the three DP Leach models that were part of the racquet test. This is an unusual design for a hand-laid racquet, which utilizes a fiberglass/graphite composite with a cork center to eliminate air pockets in the frame.

Although few were familiar with it prior to the test, most of our panel members responded very favorably to the 8000. Looking over those players who rated the racquet very high, it seems the 8000 was designed for the power player. It is a lightweight frame, but seems to have most of its weight high in the racquet head, giving it a very solid feel when it contacts the ball.

At an overall average of 18.4 points, our panel considered the 8000 to be well above the average racquet. As an indication of how much they liked it,

## PANEL



#### KYLE KAMALU

Salt Lake City, Utah  
Years played - 13  
Playing level - Pro  
-Utah state champion  
Teaching Pro,  
Canyon Racquet Club  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Racquet normally used:  
Geostar Open T235 (T250)  
Favorite test racquets:  
Wilson Composite Plus



#### BOB PETERSEN

Boise, Idaho  
Years played - 13  
Playing level - Men's open  
-1980 AARA Seniors champion  
Highly respected teacher and coach  
Racquet normally used:  
Ektelon 250G  
Favorite test racquets:  
Geostar 240G  
Wilson Composite Plus



#### DAVE OLMSTEAD

Salt Lake City, Utah  
Years played - 8  
Playing level - Men's open  
Racquet normally used:  
Ektelon 250G  
Favorite test racquets:  
Ektelon CBK Light  
Geostar 240G  
DP Leach 8000



#### BARB SMITH

Boise, Idaho  
Years played - 12  
Playing level - Women's open  
-1982, 1982 AARA Women's 35+ national champion  
-1982 AARA doubles semi finalist  
Racquet normally used:  
Ektelon CBK  
Favorite test racquets:  
Wilson Composite Plus  
Omega Titanium



#### DREW STODDARD

Salt Lake City, Utah  
Years played - 12  
Playing level - Open (sometimes)  
-Editor International Racquetball Magazine  
-Forced to pull rank to get on testing panel  
Racquet normally used:  
AMF Voit Pacer  
Favorite test racquets:  
Ektelon CBK Light  
Wilson Composite Plus  
Ektelon ST245

# OMEGA HARNESSES THE POWER OF TITANIUM.

Introducing the only Titanium racquetball racquet on earth. The strength of steel with half the weight.

Titanium is found in the sun. In meteorites. In the earth's crust. Even in the human body itself. It is prized by man because it has the strength of steel with only half the weight.

This rare power has been exploited primarily in the design of the most sophisticated aircraft and missiles. Until now.

Now, Omega has harnessed one of the great powers of the universe into one awesome racquetball racquet. Lightweight. Strong. Flexible.

This forceful instrument is strung like no other racquet on earth. Mad Raq™ is a power and finesse computer-designed stringing system so unique it has been patented.

Lightweight power in the Titanium frame. Total ball control and shock absorption in the Mad Raq stringing. A combination with license to kill, only from Omega.

True power players will want this racquet. It is designed to break lesser spirits on the court. From Omega racquetball professionals. First to introduce the throatless racquet. First with a woman's racquet. First to extend the one-piece frame to the buttcap. First and exclusively with Mad Raq stringing. And now first and exclusively with Titanium.

# OMEGA

Omega Sports, 9200 Cody  
Overland Park, KS 66212



we should point out that the 8000 finished one position higher than the Ektelon 250G, which is one of the most respected and popular racquets ever made.

And, at \$102, the DP Leach 8000 is one of the least expensive of the hand-mades. This is an excellent racquet, and a fine value.

Comments: "A good racquet—maybe a little light."; "An excellent racquet—it has a good feel, particularly on off-center shots."; "Good power, decent control."

#### 6 - EKTELON COMPOSITE 250G



This is the racquet that started the whole composite movement, and it is without question the most popular tournament racquet ever produced. In fact, it's still so popular we had a difficult time even testing it—five of our panel members use the 250G in normal play! If there was one racquet for which this test was a little unfair, it was the 250G. Because only five players graded the racquet, their individual impressions carried much more weight than the testing format intended. Unfortunately, so many people play with the 250G, it would be almost impossible to assemble a knowledgeable testing panel without having that problem.

Nevertheless, the Composite 250G tested out very well. Interestingly, while the racquet ranked high in all categories, it ranked highest in "overall." That indicates what 250G owners have known for years—it has that magical "feel" that is difficult to define.

In a way, the 250G became a victim of the very movement it started. When the racquet was

first introduced in 1979, it was considered radically stiff and feather-light, and immediately became the standard for high-level play. But as racquets have become even lighter and stiffer, the 250G has assumed the role of a control player's racquet.

If you are in the market for a racquet, you owe it to yourself to give the 250G a try. Not only is it well liked by many types of players, but it has proven itself to be one of the most durable racquets ever made.

Comments: "It is still a great racquet."; "Too much flex, but good balance."; "Good racquet for ceiling game and pinches."

#### 7 - EKTELON CBK



This racquet is actually the original design of the CBK—the CBK Light was introduced later, and has since become the more popular of the two. It is interesting that our panelists showed a very strong preference for the Light version of the CBK—we had honestly expected the two racquets to finish in the same position. But the two designs obviously have different playing characteristics.

By Ektelon's own claim, the CBK was designed as a power player's racquet, and it did score very high in the power category, while coming in somewhat lower in control and overall. As with the CBK Light, testers were surprised at the headspeed they obtained with the CBK. Our panelists preferred the CBK Light in every category, but particularly in weight and balance—most of them felt the CBK was a bit head-heavy for their personal tastes.

One explanation for the drastically different feel of the two CBKs could be the variance of

string tension we found. While the CBK Light tested at 28 lbs., about what we expected, the CBK came in at a loose 21 lbs. It seems possible that the racquet we received from Ektelon may have been strung incorrectly. Ektelon recommends stringing the CBK at much higher tensions.

Comments: "Very fine racquet with excellent power."; "Of the two I prefer the Light, but they're both great."; "Good racquet for power—very good feel."

#### 8 - OMEGA TITANIUM



This is an intriguing new racquet that utilizes a titanium-alloy frame and an unusual string pattern called Mad-Raq. Titanium is an exotic element that is used in applications that call for extreme strength with little weight. While it has been utilized for many other purposes in the last few years (particularly in the aerospace industry) this is the first attempt to construct a racquet frame of titanium.

The attempt seems to have been successful. The Omega Titanium was very popular with our testing panel members. Virtually everyone rated it well above average. Most were immediately impressed with its weight—at 239 grams, it was the second lightest of all racquets tested. Yet it seems to be vibration-free, and has an extremely solid feel, some of which could be due to the unusual stringing pattern. Panelists were able to generate tremendous head speed and power with the Titanium—the ball comes off the strings very fast.

The Omega Titanium suits the power player well, and seems to be very strong. With

its light weight, this racquet should become very popular with today's younger players.

Good Job, Omega.

Comments: "Nice product—compliments power players."; "Great power racquet!"; "I liked it better than the ST245—best metal racquet."; "Too stiff."

#### 9 - HOGAN GRAPHITE



This is one of the newest racquets on the market, produced and marketed by the Hogan Racquetball division of Pro-Kennex. It has an unusual "step-up" type, hand-laid frame with an unusually large hitting surface.

Although most members of the panel liked this racquet very much, many were surprised by how it played. Since it is the racquet currently used by Marty Hogan in competition, most expected an ultra-light, ultra-stiff frame. Panelists were pleasantly surprised to find a much more middle-of-the-road feel. The Hogan Graphite is surprisingly flexible, almost "soft," and with its oversized hitting area, it definitely gives the impression of being a control player's racquet. That may indicate that Pro-Kennex is (wisely) aiming this racquet at the largest segment of the playing public—the recreational player. With an overall feel not unlike that of the 250G, most players will probably love this racquet.

Only one thing kept the Hogan Graphite from being rated higher than 9th. Virtually every one of our panelists mentioned a problem with the handle. The racquet has a squared butt-cap, much like that of a tennis racquet, that made it difficult for players to

hang off the end of the grip. Apparently everyone hangs off the end, because everyone mentioned it. It might be worth the relatively simple change for Pro-Kennex to look at using a more rounded butt-cap.

With the selling power of Marty Hogan's name, this will unquestionably become a very popular racquet. It is a fine design, and has a very attractive metal-flake finish.

Comments: "Great feel—needs work on the handle."; "Very large hitting surface."; "If they'd change the grip, I'd buy one of these."; "Take the sharp edges off the grip."; "Terrific racquet."

### 10 - GEOSTAR OPEN T250



This is the second Geostar entry in our racquet test, and this one didn't fare quite as well as the 240G. Nevertheless, panelists liked it, particularly the power players. With 3.8 points in "power" the T250 ranks among the highest of all racquets tested.

Interestingly, the major complaint about the T250 was that it was too heavy. It actually weighed it at 246 grams, quite light in comparison to the other test racquets. The logical conclusion is that it is head-weighted, and that squares with the finding that it generated a lot of power.

The Open T250 is actually a newer version of a racquet that was originally called the Open T235, and that racquet is used by one of our panelists, Kyle Kamalu. Although Kyle was not allowed to test the Open T250, he did swing it and commented that he much preferred the playing characteristics of his T235, which is lighter in weight. Since a number of

panelists commented on the swing-weight, Geostar might be well-advised to consider going back to the original design.

Comments: "Too heavy, but it's OK."; "A very good racquet, very good power."; "I like it—maybe a little top-heavy."

### 11 - OLYMPIAN XRL



The XRL is the first of two Olympian racquets in our test, and our panelists were really divided over it. Some disliked it, many liked it, and two players selected it in their top three.

The XRL is a light (241 grams) hand-made graphite/fiber-glass racquet that has an unusual feel. It is very solid, but because of the light weight it tends to throw your timing off when you first start swinging it, in the same manner as the Ektelon ST245. But those who spent the time necessary, seemed to like it more the more they used it.

Its most unusual feature is its handle, which is best described as a modified hourglass—it's something like a regular roundish handle but with a very noticeable indentation about two-thirds of the way toward the bottom. The panelists seemed to like the design very much—one player literally fell in love with it.

At an overall score of 16.6 points, our panel judged the XRL to be well above average.

Comments: "This is an excellent racquet."; "It has an unusual grip that I'm not used to."; "I love the handle."; "The handle was strange, and it's too light."

### 12 - EKTELON GRC 3000

The GRC 3000 is a fairly recent introduction from

Ektelon and was apparently intended to fill the gap between the 250G and the CBK. Ektelon's own description of this racquet is that it is "optimally flexible for the control game, and balanced slightly head-heavy for increased swing momentum." That description is consistent with the impressions of our testing panel—the GRC 3000 is quite flexible, particularly for a hand-laid composite, and it is definitely head-weighted.



Perhaps the best way to sum up our panel's conclusions about this racquet is to say that, while they felt it was a fine racquet, few of them would choose this type of racquet for normal play. Without question, the GRC 3000 goes against the current movement towards lighter and stiffer racquets. And that indicates that either the GRC 3000 is behind the times, or that Ektelon has detected that there is still a significant market for this type of racquet. If the latter is true, then our testing panel was not representative.

Interestingly, the GRC 3000 scored quite low among panelists in "control," with a below average 2.7 points. Although there's no way to be sure, we suspect that was a reaction to the weight—a number of them mentioned the "heavy" feel of the racquet. While it is really moderate in weight (252 grams), its top-heavy balance does make it feel much heavier.

Most likely, the best market for this racquet is going to be the beginning to intermediate player, and perhaps the advanced player who relies totally on control.

Comments: "Good balance and good power, but too heavy.;"

"Very flexible, very large sweet spot.;" "Good hitting surface, but I prefer a lighter feel."

### 13 - AMF VOIT IMPACT 1



Anyone familiar with the Impact 1, and that should be almost everyone, knows that it did not really belong in this test. At \$55.00, it was by far the least expensive racquet of the test group. We included the Impact 1 because we wanted to see how a good aluminum racquet would fare against the more expensive composites, and the Impact 1 is one of the most popular extruded aluminum racquets ever produced.

It actually fared quite well. Its lowest score came in the "weight" category, which is understandable considering the Impact 1 weighed in at a hefty 258 grams, making it the second heaviest frame in the group. But in every other category it rated quite high, and the Impact 1 scored 15.7 points overall, placing it still well above average.

So what's the conclusion about aluminum vs. composite? Obviously the panel members preferred the more exotic frames, but, particularly considering the low price, the Impact 1 made a very respectable showing where it should have been seriously outclassed.

Comments: "I'm a little biased, because I used this racquet for years—I still like it.;" "It was hard to get used to the weight.;" "Good balance for a heavy racquet."

### 14 - DP LEACH GRAPHITE 260

In terms of construction, this is probably the most unusual racquet of the group. The 260 is built much like a tennis rac-

quet with laminations of various types of wood interspersed with layers of graphite. Our panelists had a fascinating love/hate relationship with the Graphite 260. They either concluded their test quickly and scored it low, or spent a lot of time with it and rated it high. One panelist selected it as one of her top three.

The Graphite 260 is the final word in stiffness—it is totally rigid. The ball comes off the strings faster on this racquet than most of our panelists had ever experienced, and that definitely threw off the timing. But the 260 has a remarkably solid feel, and no vibration at all. It is a power tool, extraordinaire, and its scores bare that out. It's the type of racquet that tends to build a small, but intense, following. The 260 also has an interesting sound when it impacts with the ball—a loud thump, much like a tennis racquet hitting a tennis ball.

The most frequent remarks about the 260 concerned its looks—it is a fabulous looking racquet, with diagonal stripes of deep-gloss red, black, and gold.

Comments: "I like this racquet, but I don't know why."; "Very unusual feel, very stiff, but OK."; "It would take me a while to get used to it."; "Gorgeous."

#### 15 - AMF VOIT PACER



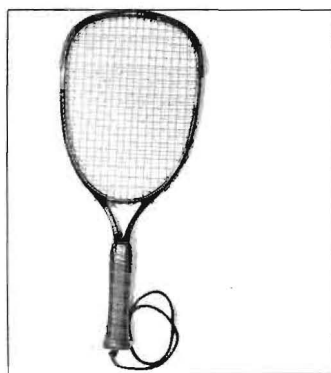
This was Voit's only attempt at a hand-made racquet frame. The Pacer is the only all-fiberglass racquetball racquet ever marketed, and, though it received a lot of praise, it never really sold well (many felt because of its appearance). AMF Voit recently announced that the Pacer has been discontinued.

At 15.1 overall points, our panel rated the Pacer just slightly better than average, but scored it a good 3.2 in overall "feel."

The most unfortunate thing about the demise of the Pacer is that it removes one of the most durable racquets ever made from the market. While that isn't important to everyone, it is crucial to some (like our editor) who sometimes can't seem to hit anything but the wall.

Comments: "Compliments an all-around player."; "Good steady racquet."; "Too much weight in the head."

#### 16 - OLYMPIAN COMPUDESIGN 245



Upon tabulating the scores on this racquet, it was clear some panel members did not care for the way it played, but it was not quite clear why. The CompuDesign 245 is definitely designed for a power player. It is quite head light, and fairly stiff, and on the surface it bears resemblance to the Leach 8000. But, unlike the 8000, most of the weight seems to be concentrated low in the racquet, and some panelists remarked that the 245 had more than average vibration, particularly when the ball was contacted off-center.

Panelists liked the light weight, but disliked the apparent lack of control with the 245. The two testers who praised the 245 were predominantly power players. Again, this is a very fine looking racquet.

Comments: "A good, quick racquet. I would buy one."; "A good looking racquet—I couldn't control the ball for some reason."; "I think this racquet would be better for a power player."

#### 17 - DP LEACH GRAPHITE USA



We are not quite sure how to interpret the test results on this racquet. The Graphite USA (formerly the Marty Hogan Graphite) is the racquet Marty Hogan used to win five national championships. So, prior to the test, we naturally assumed it would score very high, but it did just the opposite, and in the process gave us one of the weirdest experiences of the whole test. Virtually every test panelist had the same problem with this racquet—no matter how much they tried, no one could hit the front wall with a forehand! Every time they would drop the ball, step forward, and swing normally, the ball went into the floor about five feet from the racquet head—the harder they tried, the worse it got. We know that sounds crazy, but that's the way it happened.

Thus far, we have been unable to explain why the Graphite USA acted so strangely. There are a couple of possible explanations: (1) The Graphite USA is an extremely stiff racquet with most of the weight in the handle, and it is possible that the racquet head was coming through so fast that everyone's timing was just shattered—admittedly that really stretches the imagination; (2) The cause may have been what we found when we checked the string tension—the USA came to us strung at 10 lbs.—this may mean we simply got a bad sample from DP Leach, in which case the test results are unreliable.

Whatever the reason, the Graphite USA ranked very much below average. Something is wrong here; we are just not ready to accept the fact that

Marty Hogan became the greatest player in the game with a poor racquet. Does anyone out there have an explanation?

Comments: "I couldn't even hit the wall!"; "I can't tell what it is but something is wrong with this racquet."; "There doesn't seem to be any weight in the head."; "Unbalanced."

#### 18 - BLITZ



The Blitz is a very unusual racquet that has an oversized hitting surface, an unusual oval-shaped handle, and is very heavy. Its massive weight (which is claimed at 315 grams but which actually weighed in at 338, almost all of which seemed to be in the handle) was, no doubt, almost totally responsible for its low finish in our test. It is difficult to understand what the manufacturers had in mind when they designed this frame, but we feel they would definitely do well to redesign it with a much lower overall weight.

Comments: "Way too heavy..."; "Needs some overall improvement—too heavy."; "Too heavy—I can't get used to the handle."

**NEXT MONTH -  
PART 2  
How The Sport's  
Best Racquets  
Are Made!**

*Almeida continued from page 23*

**WOMEN'S OPEN SINGLES:**

**SEMIFINALS:**

Theresa Nunn def. Donna Myer, 17-15, 15-11, 11-8; Mary Pessagno def. Corinne Blanding, 15-11, 15-5.

**FINALS:**

PESSAGNO def. Nunn, 15-3, 15-11.

**WINNERS:**

**MEN'S A SINGLES:**

Carl Buggs (S)

**MEN'S B SINGLES:**

Joe Guglielmo (N)

**MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES:**

Almeida/Skinner (N)

**MIXED OPEN DOUBLES:**

Dziedzic/Hooks (N)

**WOMEN'S B SINGLES:**

Andora Sprechor (S)

*California State champions*



## Cohen Wins In Amarillo

Former national junior champion Doug Cohen, of St. Louis, defeated Jerry Hilecher in the final of the 1983 Balfour-Coors Pro-Am in Amarillo, Texas, October 26-30. Cohen, who is currently number 15 in the men's professional rankings, scored one of the biggest upsets of his professional career when he upset top ranked Marty Hogan in the semifinals in four games, 9-11, 11-2, 11-9, 11-10.

The Amarillo event was Cohen's first tournament victory in some time and earned him the tournament's unusual first prize—a Balfour Championship Ring with an appraised value of \$10,000. The Balfour Company is the same firm that produces the famed rings that are awarded to the Superbowl champions each year in professional football.

In a very close final, Cohen took the first two games from Hilecher, 11-10, 11-8, before Hilecher roared back to tie the match at 2 games each, 11-6, 11-10. Cohen overwhelmed the tour veteran

from Southern California in the tie-breaker, winning with ease 11-1.

For his second place finish Hilecher pocketed \$1500.

The tournament also marked the comeback of third ranked professional, former national champion Dave Peck. Peck has been out of competitive racquetball for nearly four months with a serious leg injury he suffered during a match with Mike Yellen at the DP Leach Nationals in Atlanta last July. His defeat of Ray Navarro in the quarterfinals, and his close semifinal loss to Hilecher, seemed to back up Peck's claim that he will soon be back in top form. Most who witnessed his play agreed that his game was generally sharp, and that his only obvious weakness was his movement, which seemed somewhat tentative.

In the men's open, Ray Navarro, a former student of Dave Peck, beat Scott Cullins.

**1983 BALFOUR-COORS PRO-AM  
OCTOBER 26-30, 1983  
AMARILLO, TEXAS**

**ROUND OF 16:**

Marty Hogan def. Lonnie Flake, 11-6, 5-11, 11-3, 11-10; Scott Cullins def. Tim Pace, 11-7, 11-2, 11-4; Doug Cohen def. Mark Feemster, 11-3, 11-5, 11-7; Michel Davidson def. Gregg Peck, forfeit; Jerry Hilecher def. Jim Latham, 11-8, 11-6, 11-5; Tom Neill def. Ruben Gonzalez, forfeit; Ray Navarro def. Joe Butello, 11-9, 11-10, 11-4; Dave Peck def. Niell Thompson, 11-6, 11-5, 11-4.

**QUARTERFINAL ROUND:**

Hogan def. Cullins, 11-2, 9-11, 11-0, 11-5; Cohen def. Davidson, 11-7, 11-4, 11-6; Hilecher def. Neill, 11-7, 11-5, 11-9; Peck def. Navarro, 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 11-5.

**SEMIFINAL ROUND:**

Cohen def. Hogan, 9-11, 11-2, 11-9, 11-10; Hilecher def. Peck, 11-9, 6-11, 11-5, 11-6.

**FINAL ROUND:**

COHEN def. Hilecher, 11-10, 11-8, 6-11, 10-11, 11-1.

**PRIZE MONEY:** \$3,500  
+ Balfour Championship Ring



*Doug Cohen*

## Trent/Wright Win National AARA Doubles

Over 270 doubles players, from virtually every state in the United States competed in the 14th Annual U.S. National Doubles Championships sponsored by Lite Beer from Miller, D.P. Leach, and Penn Athletics Company. Stan Wright and Steve Trent, of California, returned to defend their national doubles title in the men's open bracket. Wright/Trent defeated the team of Mark Malowitz and Jeff Kartler (TX) in a close final, 21-17, 21-13.

In the women's open, the top seeded team of Malia Kamahoahoa/Carol Franck (VA) defeated Mary Halroyd/Gail Lauteria (FL), 21-11, 15-21, 11-2.

Both the teams of Wright/Trent and Franck/Kamahoahoa earned berths on the U.S. National Racquetball team that will represent the United States in the World Championships, scheduled to be held at the Gleneagles Racquetball Club in Sacramento, California, July 16-22, 1984. The U.S. National Team is sponsored by Lite Beer from Miller, D.P. Leach, and Penn Athletics Company.

**UNITED STATES NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS  
TYRONE RACQUETBALL CLUB  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA  
OCTOBER 27-30, 1983**

**MEN'S DOUBLES**

|      |     |  |
|------|-----|--|
| Open | 1st | Steve Trent/Stan Wright, CA def. Mark Malowitz/Jeff Swartler, TX 21-17, 21-13        |
| B    | 1st | Andy McDonald/Rick Sorenson, CA def. Leo Pinniczka/Sal Scimeca, FL 19-21, 21-8, 11-1 |
| 25+  | 1st | Mark Morrow/Bruce Radford, CA def. Mark Auerbach/Jeff Kwartler, TX                   |
| 30+  | 1st | Bruce Radford/Mark Morrow, CA def. John/Hennon/Ed Reiman, TN/VA 21-10, 17-21 11-8    |
| 35+  | 1st | John Hennon/Ed Reiman, TN/VA, def. Joe Icaza/Mark Auerbach FL/TX 21-10, 21-4         |

**WOMEN'S DOUBLES**

|      |     |  |
|------|-----|--|
| Open | 1st | Carol Frank/Melia Kamahoahoa, VA def. Mary Halroyd/Gail Lauteria, FL |
|------|-----|--|



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the new generation  
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|     |     |                                 |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------|
|     |     | 21-11, 15-21, 11-2              |
| B   | 1st | Beth Ann Aloii/Candy Winter, FL |
| 25+ | 1st | Linda Kennedy/Molly O'Brien, PA |
| 35+ | 1st | Carol Franck/Mildred Gwinn, VA  |

**MIXED DOUBLES**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1st | Toni Bevelock/Dan Obremski, PA def. Melia Kamahoahoa/John Hoogle, NC/TX 21-18, 21-19 |
|-----|--|

## Don Thomas Wins Walnut Creek Pro-Am

Second seeded Don Thomas, of San Diego, won the Walnut Creek Pro-Am, held at The Racquetball Club in Walnut Creek, California, October 21-23, by defeating Gerry Price in the final. Thomas forced his way through an unusually tough draw to reach the final; along the way he ousted Shawn Fitzpatrick, Craig McCoy, and third seeded Ed Andrews.

Price, who was seeded fourth, beat Stan Wright, Scott Oliver, and Mark Martino in the semifinals.

Martino, of Riverside, turned in the best upset of the tournament by defeating first-seeded Jerry Hilecher in the quarterfinals.

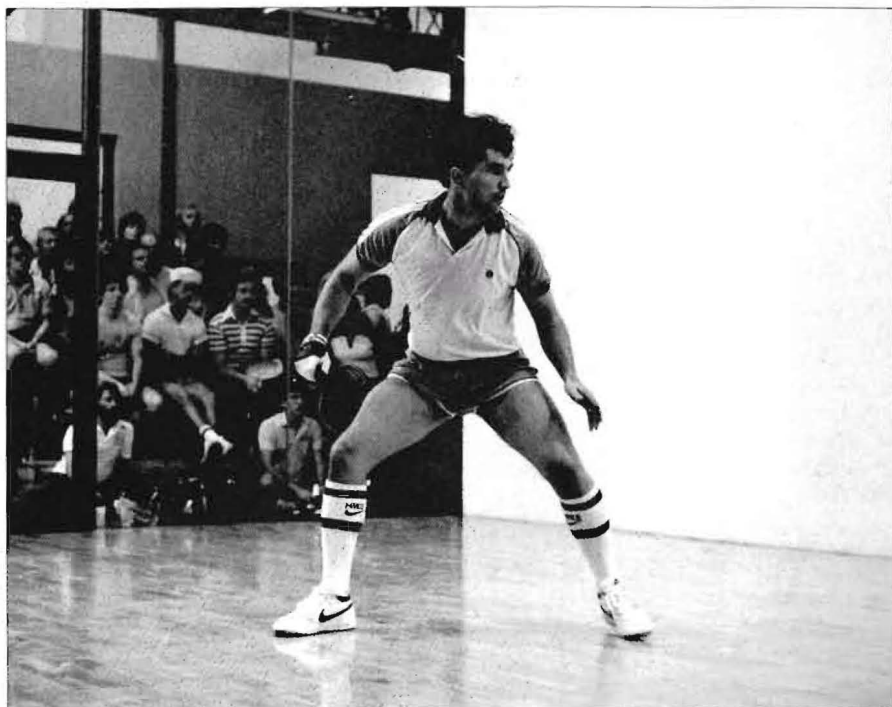
In another upset, Jeff Conine ousted Bill Sell in the round-of-16. Conine is a huge 19-year-old from Southern California who has been causing a sensation of sorts in California racquetball circles. Those who have witnessed him blasting the ball are absolutely convinced that he hits a racquetball harder than anyone alive. Marty Hogan set the record for power in the late '70s at 142mph. Considering the emergence of Conine and a number of other young blasters, maybe it's time to get the radar gun out again.

In the men's pro doubles division, Gerry Price and Scott Oliver defeated the team of Ed Andrews and Mark Martino to take the title. The unusual strength of the men's pro doubles bracket was evidenced by the fact that the team of Stan Wright and Steve Trent was eliminated in the quarterfinals. Wright and Trent are the reigning national champion doubles team.

**WALNUT CREEK PRO-AM  
OCTOBER 21-23, 1983  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA**

**ROUND OF 32:**

J. Hilecher def. A. Hubbard; C. Davison def. J. Barker; C. Brysman def. D. Gualco; M. Martino def. S. Morey; G. Price def. C.



Don Thomas

Rochold; S. Wright def. C. Ballard; S. Oliver def. D. Hall; D. Southern def. M. Bronfeld; D. Thomas def. M. Plotkin; S. Fitzpatrick def. B. Russell; C. McCoy def. M. Lowe; B. Hawkes def. K. Almeida; E. Andrews def. J. Johnston; M. Romo def. B. Hildebrand; B. Sell def. R. Green; J. Conine def. C. Kunkle.

**ROUND OF 16:**

Hilecher def. Davidson; Martino def. Brysman; Price def. Wright; Oliver def. Southern; Thomas def. Fitzpatrick; McCoy def. Hawkes; Andrews def. Romo; Conine def. Sell.

**QUARTERFINAL ROUND:**

Martino def. Hilecher; Price def. Oliver; Thomas def. McCoy; Andrews def. Conine.

**SEMIFINAL ROUND:**

Price def. Martino; Thomas def. Andrews.

**FINAL ROUND:**

THOMAS def. Price.

## Thomas Takes "Go Natural"

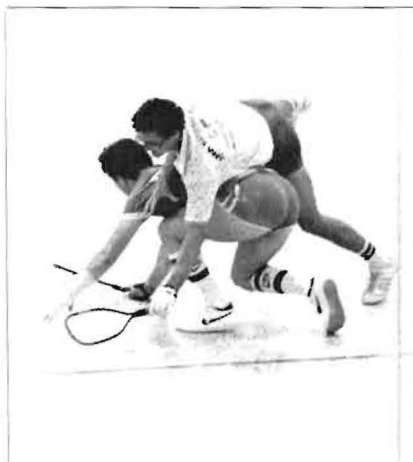
Number 1 seed, Don Thomas, eased his way through a stiff draw to capture the first place prize money at the "Go Natural" Pro-Am Racquetball Tournament, November 3-6 at the Cross Court Athletic Club in Woodland, California.

Thomas, on his way to the finals, gave up no more than 8 points per game including his 15-7, 15-4 semi-final defeat of 4th seeded Gerry Price.

The lower bracket saw unseeded Bill Sell, presently one of California's toughest players, defeat both #2 seed Ed Andrews 15-7, 11-15, 11-3 and Scott Oliver 15-6, 15-5. Oliver reached the semis by defeating #3 seed Jerry Hilecher 15-8, 15-8 in a match that was filled with both emotion and action.

Sell began his finals match against Thomas with the same drive that got him past the quarters and semis. He took an early lead and maintained it to a 14-10 possible game point. Serving game point 4 times he was unable to capture game 1 as Thomas slowly accumulated points to win 16-14. Thomas' years of experience and steady composure seemed to squelch the fire that Sell exemplified during the 4 day tournament.

Thomas' victory earned him not only the \$1800 first prize, but also made him high point winner in the 3 Tournament "Triple Crown" series of the Prestige



Bill Sell climbs over Don Thomas

Athletic Clubs (P.A.C.) Although losing to Scott Oliver in the quarter finals of the Fat City Open in Stockton, California in September, Thomas won the second stop at the Walnut Creek Pro-Am in October defeating Gerry Price in the finals. Winning this third leg at Cross Court Athletic Club earned Don an additional \$1500, while Andrews took 2nd and \$750. Price and Oliver tied for third and \$375 each. His victories at the "Go Natural" and Walnut Creek were made even more impressive as they were both accomplished with a broken left hand sustained during the finals match in Walnut Creek.

In the pro doubles division Scott Oliver and Gerry Price teamed up to take home the \$1000 first place prize money although it took two tie-breaker matches to do so. In the semis they defeated Rich Wagner and Chip Skinner 15-3, 12-15, 11-9. Wagner and Skinner appeared to be taking the match when several unforced skips put an end to an otherwise brilliant match. In the finals Oliver-Price defeated Peter Britos and Ed Andrews again in a 3game match. Ed Andrews teamed with Britos after first round back injury to Andrews' regular doubles partner Mark Martino. Britos proved to be a great partner taking he and Andrews past Bill Sell and Brian Hawkes in the semis 15-4, 10-15, 11-4.

The tournament had a \$5000 purse made possible in large part due to the tremendous sponsorship of Anheuser-Busch and their local distributor V. Santoni Company.

**"GO NATURAL" PRO-AM  
CROSS COURT ATHLETIC CLUB  
WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA  
NOVEMBER 3-6, 1983**

**ROUND OF 16:**

Don Thomas def. Mark Plotkin, 15-6, 15-6; Dean Pherschy def. Mark Martino, 15-10, 17-15; Rich Wagner def. Shawn Fitzpatrick, 15-7, 15-7; Gerry Price def. Brian Hawkes, 15-10, 15-17, 11-9; Jerry Hilecher def. Bill Rissel, 15-4, 15-6; Scott Oliver def. Kevin Almeida, 15-2, 15-7; Bill Sell def. Peter Britos, 15-6, 14-16, 11-8; Ed Andrews def. Craig Davidson, 15-8, 15-11.

**QUARTERFINAL ROUND:**

Thomas def. Pherschy, 15-8, 15-8; Price def. Wagner, 15-5, 15-5; Oliver def. Hilecher, 15-8, 15-8; Sell def. Andrews, 15-7, 11-15, 11-3.

**SEMIFINAL ROUND:**

Thomas def. Price, 15-7, 15-4; Sell def. Oliver, 15-6, 15-5.

**FINAL ROUND:**

THOMAS def. Sell, 15-14, 15-10.

**TOTAL PURSE:** \$5,000 - Tournament  
\$3,000 - Triple Crown



*Winner Ed Andrews following final with Steve Lerner*

**ANDREWS WINS IN FOUNTAIN VALLEY**

Ed Andrews defeated Steve Lerner in the final of the \$8000 Wilson Autumn Blast at Racquetball World, in Fountain Valley, California, November 10-13.

Andrews cranked up his strong serving game to overwhelm every opponent as he won the event without losing a single game. In the final, Andrews dominated Lerner, of Santa Barbara, in the first game 15-2. But Lerner charged back in game two and actually rolled out a backhand kill at game point. But the ball broke, and when the point was replayed Andrews stormed back to win, 15-14.

En route to the finals, Andrews defeated Brian Hawkes and Mike Gustavson, while Lerner took out Bill Sell and Peter Britos.

The men's doubles saw Brian Hawkes and Bill Sell easily defeat the team of Chadwick/Barker, 15-12, 15-6.

In the women's A singles, #1 seed Marci Drexler was shocked by Joy Paraiso, 15-9, 15-6. Drexler is the top ranked woman amateur in the U.S.

**WILSON AUTUMN BLAST  
RACQUETBALL WORLD  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA  
NOVEMBER 10-13, 1983**

**ROUND OF 16:**

Ed Andrews def. Bob Green, 15-9, 15-2; Mike Gustavson def. Dolwain Green, 15-12, 15-12; Guy Texeria def. Craig Davidson, 15-14, 15-11; Brian Hawkes def. Greg Sheffield, 15-2, 15-9; Steve Lerner def. Dave Johnson, 15-2, 15-5; Peter Britos def. Kevin Johnson, 15-10, 15-7; Jeff Conine def. Clay Ballard, 14-15, 15-1, 11-5; Bill Sell def. Mike Alderson, 15-6, 15-8.

**QUARTERFINAL ROUND:**

Andrews def. Gustavson, 15-9, 15-3; Hawkes def. Texeria, 15-11, 15-12; Lerner def. Britos, 15-6, 15-10; Sell def. Conine, 15-2, 15-10.

**SEMIFINAL ROUND:**

Andrews def. Hawkes, 15-8, 15-7; Lerner def. Sell, 15-6, 15-4.

**FINAL ROUND:**

ANDREWS def. Lerner, 15-2, 15-14.



*Andrews and Hawkes*



*Bill Sell cranks a backhand* Photos by Ron Brazil



# THE "B" PLAYER: WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

by Jerry Hilecher

*EDITORS NOTE: Jerry Hilecher was the #1 ranked professional for half of the 1981-82 pro season. He is the originator of "Pros in Motion" clinics and is one of the game's most respected instructors.*

Some studies have recently shown that there are over 14 million racquetball players in the world. Over a third of those would be categorized as "B" level players. Before we can begin to pave the road to success for the B player, let's first define a B player. Most B players have these points in common; they have played racquetball between one and three years, have perhaps won a C level tournament, play about twice a week, and every now and then have visions of greatness. These players make up a large part of the playing public. You can define a novice or C level player as a beginner—a player too new to the sport to have proficiency in either forehand or backhand, and who spends most of the volley catching up to the ball instead of setting up for the shot. On the other end of the scale you find the A or open player. Their game has few weaknesses—they hit with control, possess power, and have very good anticipation. Between these two extremes lies the mass of players, and their game is more difficult to define. They are the "B" racquetball players.

Traveling around the country conducting my "Pros in Motion" clinics, I have noticed some interesting qualities in many B players; they have the same drive, desire, and potential as many A, open, and even some pro players. Their

game doesn't lack dedication, only direction. Well, B players, take heart—it's time to leave your warm comfortable game style for a brave new world. It's time to escape that endless succession of B tournaments and attack the A's!

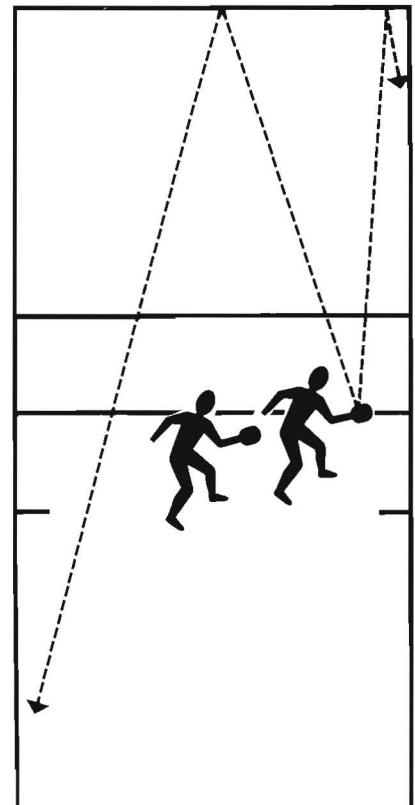
If you are a B player, before you can set your sights on moving up, you must first objectively critique your game. Two of the most common problem areas are footwork and strategy.

Footwork is by far the most important area of improvement for most players. Footwork is the very foundation of your stroke. Professional players spend many hours on the court hitting the ball around, working on footwork. Proper footwork means having the ability to set up for a shot and have the ball be in the correct hitting zone at the point of contact. The B player usually runs into trouble by constantly moving straight into the ball, thereby jamming himself during the stroke. It is important to set up for a shot while remaining far enough away from the ball so that when you step forward, the contact point is even with your lead foot. The ball should be far enough away from the body to extend the swinging motion through the ball. There should be a forward weight transfer, yet comfortable balance at point of contact. By moving too close to the ball during the volley you are forced to hit the ball with a shortened stroke, and that causes a loss of control and poor balance.

My favorite footwork drill is done with a partner. The hitter stands in the center of the court a foot behind the

short line, watching the front wall. The setter stands behind and to one side of his practice partner and hits drives down either side of the court. The hitter moves to hit the return, then quickly moves back to the starting position. The setter should keep a quick pace to the

*continued on page 44*



*Two choices—kill right or pass left.*

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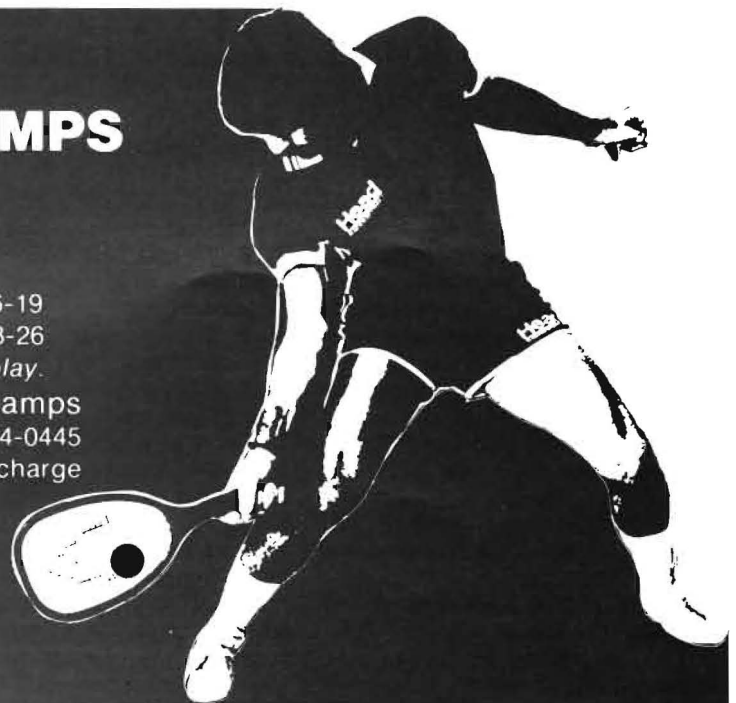
## **1984 WINTER RACQUETBALL CAMPS**

SAN DIEGO, CA.: January 19-22  
January 26-29

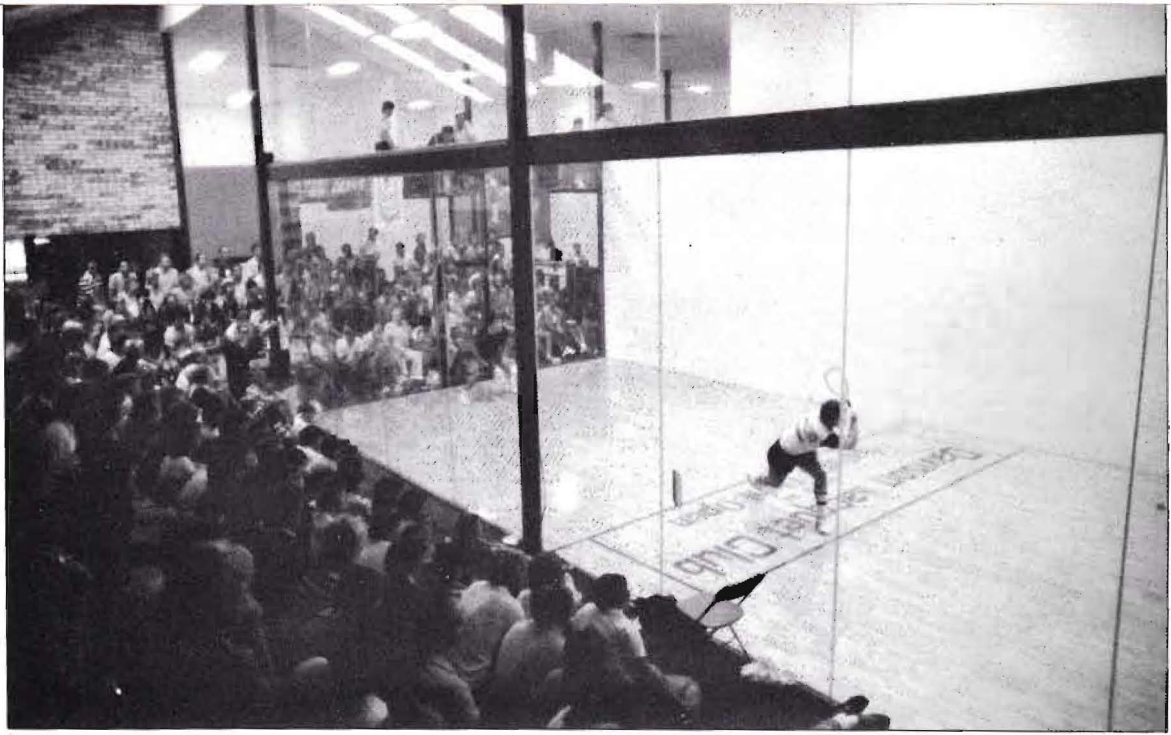
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL.: February 16-19  
February 23-26

*Participant receives video tape of his play.*

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# **STRANDEMO/HEAD**



# HOW TO HOLD A PRO STOP WITHOUT GOING BROKE

## ***A Proven Method For Staging A Successful Independent Professional Tournament By One Of Racquetball's Most Knowledgeable Promoters***

*by Jim Hiser*

*By almost any measure, Jim Hiser, of Davison, Michigan, is one of the most successful independent professional tournament promoters in all of racquetball. In October of this year Hiser hosted the \$15,000 Natural Light Open at the Davison Racquet Club, which was the first professional tournament of the men's 1983-84 season, and featured virtually every top-ranked player in the game. The Natural Light Open has been staged for five consecutive years, now making it the longest running independent professional event in the sport.*

*Due to the large number of people who have requested information about holding their own independent pro tournament, we asked Jim to give us a few of the ideas and methods he has found successful. What follows is his own time-proven method.*

**P**robably the greatest deterrent to hosting a professional tournament, or any tournament for that matter, is money. Club owners must

realize that the mechanics of organizing a professional event are no different from promoting any club event, except of course, everything is done on a larger scale. The following outline will benefit any tournament, but the magnitude of your involvement will be dictated by the size of your event.

The most difficult task in organizing a successful, profitable tournament is accumulating the necessary funds to cover *all* costs, including the prize money. To accomplish this, it is absolutely necessary to recruit sponsors.

Critical to your recruitment of sponsors will be proper preparation and professionalism. Remember, potential sponsors are bombarded daily by individuals requesting a part of their investment dollar. To be successful, you must convince the sponsor that your event will result in high product visibility and thus increased sales.

First, divide your prospective sponsors into major and minor categories. Major sponsors will be those who con-

tribute a large portion of the total prize money—beer distributors, insurance companies, banks, automobile dealers, etc. Of course, more than one major sponsor may be recruited but the total contribution from major sponsors should amount to at least 50% of the total purse. Minor sponsors will be anyone who will contribute \$25 or more—local merchants, club members, etc.

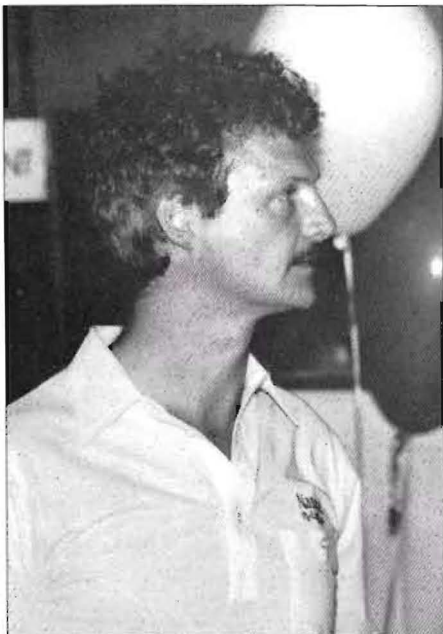
Your major sponsor list should include the business name, address, phone numbers and a V.I.P. contact. The success of your entire proposal may be dependent on finding the proper V.I.P. contact. Proposals directed to business in general inevitably find a direct path to the waste basket. The V.I.P. is the individual who will at least make the initial decision on your request. It may be the advertising manager, special projects director, regional manager or whomever, but it is your responsibility to find the right person and their proper title.

Now that you have a list of sponsors, what do you say to them? A necessity for your presentation is the preparation of a portfolio outlining your tournament objectives, tournament exposure, letters of reference and sponsor benefits. This portfolio is the crux of your presentation. It is something to which the V.I.P. can directly relate, show to his superiors and substantiate his decision, and, perhaps above all, it will show your organizational skills and professionalism.

Ideally you should attempt to make the portfolio presentation in person. This is sometimes impossible, and thus the appearance of your portfolio becomes an important consideration of your total presentation. Design and professionally type-set a cover page for your outline. Keep it simple, such as "Proposal for 1984 Buick Open—Professional Racquetball Tournament." If possible, include the sponsor's logo below the title. This again reinforces product identification.

Your tournament objectives should be precise and complete. Occasionally it may be beneficial to donate a portion of your entry fees (you determine how much) to a local service organization such as Cystic Fibrosis or Big Brothers. The benefits of this are many: it may increase your advertising potential; the service organization will usually assist you in obtaining prizes and running the tournament; and, it helps the service organization. Your objective may read, "To host a five day, \$15,000 nationally sanctioned professional racquetball tournament, attracting over 500 players and 2500 spectators from across the U.S. and Canada. The involvement of Big Brothers and the appearance of the

Jim Hiser



area's best players guarantees an excellent media event and an attractive opportunity for sponsor advertising and visibility."

Another asset to your presentation may be a demographic profile of racquetball players. This is a summary of income levels, ages, marital status and education backgrounds for the typical player. This gives the sponsor a better idea of his target market. The analysis I use was prepared by the AARA for Racquetball in Review.

Tournament exposure will include a record of everything you intend to do, have done, or has been done at other tournaments. If you haven't had previous experience, contact someone who has, make up a portfolio including ideas from various tournaments, and create your own prospectus. In this section, I include pictures and records of anything and everything that pertains to the sponsor and the tournament. Nothing is overlooked. Take pictures of all outside and inside advertising, spectators, shirts,

**"To be successful, you must convince the sponsor that your event will result in high product visibility and thus increased sales."**

award presentations, etc., and include these photographs in your portfolio. Copies of all press releases, letters to advertisers, programs, entry forms, and correspondence that includes the sponsor's name should be included.

The most important part of this section will be a list and explanation of your correspondence with radio, television, newspapers and magazines. If possible include copies of previous racquetball coverage. Personally contact each media person and explain your event. Attempt to get some commitment of coverage, and then include the person's name and affiliation in your portfolio. A local radio station in my area, in exchange for free club memberships for a couple of their disc jockeys, actually prepares and airs a 30 second racquetball advertisement a couple of weeks prior to the tournament. This advertising has many advantages: 1) The sponsors get free local radio advertising; 2) Your club gets local advertising; 3) It costs your club no real



Jim Hiser (left) at the Davison banquet

money; 4) And, perhaps most importantly, it will increase membership sales. (Our advertisement resulted in 60 new memberships!)

Newspapers may exchange ads for their name on the shirts, programs and entry forms. Celebrity matches are excellent incentives for attracting local TV stations. The key here is to be innovative and think of ideas that won't cost you any real money but will guarantee media exposure for your sponsor.

Players and sponsors will often write letters of compliment and thank-you regarding previous tournaments. These should be included. Letters of recommendation and support may also be obtained from local convention bureaus, chambers of commerce, and even elected officials. I also include a map indicating the home cities and states of tournament players. This helps substantiate the national importance of the event.

Sponsors don't like to read through a lot of paragraphs. When possible list and capitalize all sponsor benefits. Be brief in your explanations, but be complete. If asked to personally make a presentation, have definite goals in mind as to money wanted, sponsor involvement, and your own administrative role. If you are prepared and professional, your chances of attracting a major sponsor will be greatly increased.

Let's not forget our minor sponsors. In many cases these individuals provide your tournament with as much money as your major sponsor. Although there are many ways to utilize minor sponsors, the best way I have found is through the tournament program. If AARA sanctioned, you may obtain prepared programs from your state organization and simply sell advertising space which is added as a program supplement. Personally, I prefer to do my own program, thus directing the editorials,

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Jerry Hilecher  
Don Thomas  
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# Moving?



Make sure International Racquetball travels with you to your new location. Fill in the information below and send it in to:  
International Racquetball, P.O. Box 11755, Salt Lake City, Utah 84147

OLD ADDRESS:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

NEW ADDRESS:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_


City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

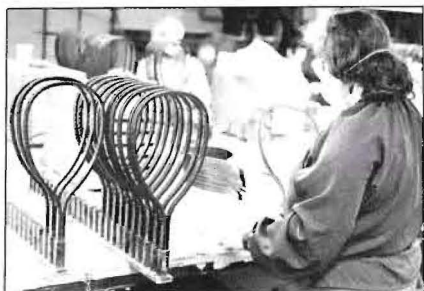
interviews and player profiles to the tournament at hand.

Don't think that just because you're having a tournament, everyone will buy an ad. Realistically, local merchants know that program advertising alone will probably not substantially increase his business. Again, you must be prepared and have a list of benefits to show the prospective buyer. I divide my ads into gold (\$1000 or more), silver (\$500 or more), and bronze (\$25 or more). Each level has a list of benefits, other than the advertisement itself. For instance, the gold sponsor receives five tournament passes for each day, reserved seating for each professional match, sits at the head table during the banquet, makes an award presentation, has a free golf outing and dinner, has his name listed in the club bulletin urging all members to support him, has his name printed on all shirts and trophies, and has a banner or poster placed in the club for up to three months after the tournament. Again, be innovative and include various types of benefits for each sponsor level. Originally, I did all the program soliciting myself. I have since found this too time consuming, and have hired an individual who works on a commission basis. Although this may reduce my profit, I find my employee has more time and thus makes more contacts. Be sure whoever does your soliciting dresses professionally, is articulate, and above all is interested in making your tournament a success. A good program can make you anywhere from \$3000 to \$6000 from local merchants alone.

Of course there are numerous other ways to make money; reserved seating, general admission, dances, shirt sales, pre-tournament clinics, raffles, beer sales, and, of course, entry fees. Since your entry fee may be your greatest income potential, great care should be taken in designing and mailing your forms. Be creative, illustrative, and informative. Most successful tournaments include social events for players and guests. Be sure to include these events on your form, as well as names and pictures of any famous players who will be attending.

Remember, experience is the greatest teacher. Don't be hesitant to ask successful tournament directors for help in organizing your event. Every successful tournament contributes to the overall popularity and growth of the sport. Good luck. 

*In January, International Racquetball will feature the Men's Pro Stop in Pleasanton, California. The photo coverage will be interesting because the club has front wall glass so we will be able to catch some spectacular shots. Plus, it's the biggest tournament since Davison and that means all the big guns will be there in the flesh trying to skin their opponents.*



*Also, next month we will continue our series of articles on racquets. In January, we will look at how racquets are made. We were invited to the factories of some major manufacturers to observe the interesting details. You'll be surprised at the amount of engineering and craftsmanship that goes into that racquet you swing on the court!*



*Is amateur racquetball headed for the Olympics? We'll soon have an update on what the AARA has accomplished and we will include, starting in January the national rankings of amateur players.*

*Start the new year out right with a look at International Racquetball!*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

*Beginning with the January 1984 issue of International Racquetball, we will be listing amateur as well as professional events in the master schedule. All clubs and/or tournament promoters are encouraged to send information concerning any upcoming events. The information should include the tournament name, date, location, phone number, person to contact, and prize money if any. Included on the schedule will be all tournaments listed as AARA events with the AARA in Colorado Springs.*

**MEN'S RACQUETBALL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
1983-84 SEASON**

| DATE       | LOCATION                                    | PRIZE MONEY      |
|------------|---|------------------|
| DEC 8-11   | PLEASANTON, CA<br>(Bill Dunn 415-651-1584)  | 15,000           |
| FEB 9-12   | PALM DESERT, CA                             | 9,000            |
| FEB 16-20* | BEAVERTON, OR                               | 15,000           |
| FEB 20-24  | GILLETTE, WY<br>(Clint Koble 307-682-1437)  | 7,000            |
| MAR 1-4    | CHEYENNE, WY (Steve Galasinni 301-634-8884) | 7,500            |
| APR 5-8    | VANCOUVER, BC                               | 15,000           |
| APR 5-8    | AUSTIN, TX                                  | 6,000            |
| MAY 2-6    | ANAHEIM, CA                                 | 22,500           |
| MAY 24-28  | HOUSTON, TX                                 | (AARA Nationals) |
| JUNE 1984  | Undetermined DP Leach                       | 40,000           |
| JUNE 20-24 | DAVISON, MI                                 | (AARA Juniors)   |
| JULY 16-22 | SACRAMENTO, CA                              | (World Games)    |

**WOMEN'S RACQUETBALL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
1983-84 SEASON**

| DATE          | LOCATION         | PRIZE MONEY |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| DEC 9-11      | PLYMOUTH, MA     | 6,000       |
| JAN 26-29     | BEVERLY, MA      | 12,000      |
| FEB 2-5       | QUEBEC, CANADA   | 10,000      |
| FEB 9-12*     | PALM DESERT, CA  | 6,000       |
| FEB TBA*      | SEATTLE, WN      | 14,000      |
| MAR 8-11      | BANGOR, ME.      | 6,500       |
| MAR TBA*      | MIAMI, FL        | 15,000      |
| APR 5-8       | VANCOUVER, BC    | 8,000       |
| APR TBA*      | TORONTO, ONTARIO | 6,000       |
| MAY 2-6       | ANAHEIM, CA      | 18,700      |
| MAY 31-JUN 3* | FT WORTH, TX     | 20,000      |
| JULY 12-15    | ANCHORAGE, AK    | 6,000       |

\*Tentative

For more information, contact:

|                      |                      |                           |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| AARA EVENTS          | WOMEN'S EVENTS       | MEN'S EVENTS              |
| AARA - LUKE ST. ONGE | IMG - SANDY GENELIUS | INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL |
| 303-635-5396         | 216-522-1200         | 801-531-1484              |

Hilecher *continued from page 38*

exercise allowing the hitter an opportunity to get each shot. The important thing to remember is to extend through the ball.

A player's game plan can be broken down into two general areas: court position and shot selection. The theory for proper court position is to maximize court coverage yet minimize effort. The typical B player tends to waste a great deal of energy chasing every shot because of poor court position—they're either in the back of the court or stuck on one side of the side walls. Center court, as most players recognize, is an imaginary circle encompassing the middle area of the court. This circle's middle is located around eight feet back from the short line and ten feet from either side wall. Standing in this general area, you can reach virtually any shot with one or two steps. You should attempt to move into center court as quickly as possible after hitting each shot. By doing so, your court coverage should be much greater. This, in turn, puts pressure on your opponent to hit better shots, which should result in more mistakes. By concentrating on aggressively moving into a proper position after hitting a shot, you should notice a definite improvement in your overall quickness, court coverage, and, most importantly, in how often you win.

The second area you need to concentrate on is shot selection. The "Box Theory" is probably the best general method of shot selection for players of every level. It basically states there should be only two types of offensive shots hit—kill shots into the closest box (or front corner) and passing shots to the opposite side of the court. For example, using the box theory, an offensive opportunity on the right half of the court has two possible returns—a kill shot directed into the right corner, or a passing shot directed into the left rear portion of the court. Either shot should result in a volley winner. Stick to this simple rule and you should cut down on your mistakes. By having only two shots to think about, you should be able to make quicker decisions and not "over think" during the stroke.

By following these basic rules, you should see some quick and significant improvements in your game. Proper footwork improves your consistency of each shot; improved shot selection cuts down on mental errors and provides a more offensive game style; and, better court coverage puts tremendous pressure on your opponents.

While I can't promise overnight success, I can promise overall improvement and greater consistency. Stay with it and I may just see you on the pro tour in the coming years. ❧

# FOREHAND DRILLS

by Mike Yellen

*(Editor's Note: Mike Yellen recently won the 1983 National Championships by winning four tournaments in a row, sweeping the racquetball grand slam. He is a valued member of the Ektelon Pro Advisory Staff.)*

Perhaps the greatest selling point of racquetball as a recreational activity is the ease in which a player can become competitive on the court.

Unlike tennis, the transition from novice to not-too-bad is often accomplished within one or two sessions on the racquetball court. However, what makes racquetball so easy to learn has often, in many cases, proved the undoing of many a promising player. Once they've reached an adequate skill level—enough to compete without embarrassment—their game never again improves.

There's only one way to improve in racquetball. Practice. And the biggest part of practice is drilling. It's the only way. You need to spend time alone on the court. And you need to know what you're doing and how to do it.

Hopefully, these hints for your forehand will pay off in points sometime in the near future.

## Drilling Without the Ball

You need some masking tape, and if available, a partner to help. First, take a piece of tape and put it on the court floor, far enough back so you can eventually hit the ball. This first piece of tape is where you place the toe of your back foot. Don't move your foot from the tape. Your back toe should pivot, but not come off the floor. Now take some good healthy swings. Notice where your front foot lands each time. Freeze after each stroke to look and adjust anything that's not right. (This is where a partner helps.) When your front foot consistently hits an area which allows you to bend properly, mark it with a second piece of tape. Now you have something constant to look at and step on. Use the tape until your stroke feels natural.

## Drilling With the Ball

Now all you do is add the ball to the



previous drill. Don't change your tape or your swing just because you add the ball. People tend to change all of a sudden when the ball is added. Drop the ball out in front so when you take your step, you're hitting the ball off your front foot. Start out hitting the ball at knee height and gradually work down lower. Your goal is to hit the ball parallel. It should go straight in and straight back to you.

## Movement Drills

There are three basic ways the ball can approach you: toward you from the frontwall, coming out off the backwall, and into your body from the sidewall.

First, toss the ball off the sidewall. This will make you move back and away from the ball. You need to be behind the ball so you have enough room to step into the ball. Your motion should be the same as if you were to drop and hit.

Your next drill is to hit the ball off the frontwall. As the ball is coming toward you, take several steps backward so you can slide into the ball. Don't let the ball get in too close to your body. Keep your swing out and free.

## Creative Drilling

Drills can be extra fun and competitive if you choose to make them so. You can put anything (a can or bag, for instance) at the frontwall and try it. You can have contests to see who can hit it best out of 10.

You can make squares on the wall with tape and try to keep your balls inside the squares. Try calling your shots to see how much control you have. For instance, as the ball is coming off the frontwall, say kill or pass and try to hit what you called. The list can go on and on. These drills are extremely helpful as long as you keep your form correct.

Drilling can be fun and creative and the improvements are exciting. Hang in there and you'll be rewarded. ❧

## Head to Head Competition

Here are the head to head statistics for the top 15 men and women professionals.

The women's chart was compiled by IMG for the Women's Professional Racquetball Association. Those tournaments included on the chart are: (1982-83) Toronto, CBC, Vancouver, Lafayette, Atlanta, Quebec, Melbourne, Ft. Worth, Tucson, Bangor, San Francisco, Seattle, Anaheim, Chicago, (1983-84) Atlanta and Auburn.

The men's chart was compiled by International Racquetball Magazine from tournament records. Those events included on the chart are: (1982-83) Stockton, Westminster, Burnsville, CBC, New Haven, Pleasanton, Hawaii, Palm Desert, Beaverton, Cheyenne, Austin, Toronto, Anaheim, Chicago, Atlanta, (1983-84) Davison, Stockton, Amarillo, and Walnut Creek.

| Women's            | H MCKAY | L ADAMS | S WRIGHT | L MARTINO | V PANZERI | J MARRIOTT | M GREER | T GILREATH | P GARDNER | H STUPP | C MCKINNEY | J HARDING | B POE-BARRETT | J JACKSON | S FLETCHER |
|--------------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| HEATHER MCKAY      |         | 4-5     | 5-1      | 2-0       | 2-0       | 5-0        | 2-0     | 2-0        | 2-0       | 2-0     | 2-0        | 3-0       |               | 3-0       | 2-0        |
| LYNN ADAMS         | 5-4     |         | 3-0      | 2-0       | 2-2       | 1-0        | 5-0     | 5-0        | 1-0       | 3-0     | 2-0        | 2-0       | 0-1           | 3-0       | 2-0        |
| SHANNON WRIGHT     | 1-5     | 0-3     |          | 1-0       | 3-1       | 2-1        |         | 1-1        | 1-0       |         | 4-0        | 2-0       |               |           | 2-0        |
| LAURA MARTINO      | 0-2     | 0-2     | 0-1      |           | 1-2       |            | 1-1     | 0-1        | 1-0       | 0-1     | 1-1        | 1-1       | 2-0           | 1-0       | 1-0        |
| VICKI PANZERI      | 0-2     | 2-2     | 1-3      | 2-1       |           |            | 2-2     |            |           |         | 1-0        |           |               | 1-0       | 1-1        |
| JANELL MARRIOTT    | 0-5     | 0-1     | 1-2      |           |           |            |         | 1-1        | 2-0       | 1-0     |            | 1-0       |               | 0-1       |            |
| MARCI GREER        | 0-2     | 0-5     |          | 1-1       | 0-1       |            |         |            |           | 1-1     | 1-0        |           | 1-0           |           |            |
| TERRI GILREATH     | 0-2     | 0-5     | 1-1      | 1-0       | 2-2       | 1-1        |         |            | 1-0       | 1-1     | 1-0        | 0-1       |               | 2-0       |            |
| PEGGY GARDNER      | 0-2     | 0-1     | 0-1      | 0-1       |           | 1-2        |         | 0-1        |           |         |            |           |               |           |            |
| HEATHER STUPP      | 0-2     | 0-3     |          | 1-0       |           |            | 1-1     |            |           |         |            |           |               |           |            |
| CARYN MCKINNEY     | 0-2     | 0-2     | 0-4      | 1-1       |           | 0-1        | 0-1     | 0-1        |           |         |            | 2-0       |               |           | 1-0        |
| JENNIFER HARDING   | 0-3     | 0-2     | 0-2      | 1-1       | 0-1       | 0-1        |         | 1-0        |           |         | 0-2        |           | 1-0           | 2-1       |            |
| BRENDA POE-BARRETT |         | 1-0     | 0-2      |           |           | 0-1        |         |            |           |         | 0-1        |           |               |           |            |
| JOYCE JACKSON      | 0-3     | 0-3     |          | 0-1       | 0-1       | 1-0        |         | 0-2        |           |         |            | 1-2       |               |           |            |
| STACEY FLETCHER    | 0-2     | 0-2     | 0-2      | 0-1       | 1-1       |            |         |            |           |         | 0-1        |           |               |           |            |

**TO READ THIS CHART:** For any player, the won/loss record against every other player is read horizontally opposite his/her name.

| Men's          | M HOGAN | D PECK | M YELLEN | B HARNETT | G PECK | J HILECHER | G PRICE | E ANDREWS | D THOMAS | S LERNER | J EGERMAN | R WAGNER | D COHEN | R GONZALEZ | S HAWKINS |
|----------------|---------|--------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|------------|-----------|
| MARTY HOGAN    |         | 3-1    | 2-4      | 3-1       | 2-0    | 3-0        | 1-0     | 2-0       | 4-0      | 2-0      | 2-0       | 1-1      | 1-1     | 1-0        | 1-0       |
| DAVE PECK      | 1-3     |        | 3-3      | 1-3       | 4-0    | 0-1        |         | 1-0       | 1-0      | 2-0      | 1-0       | 1-0      | 1-0     |            |           |
| MIKE YELLEN    | 4-1     | 3-3    |          | 1-1       | 2-1    | 3-0        | 1-1     | 2-0       |          |          | 1-0       | 1-0      | 2-0     | 2-0        |           |
| BRET HARNETT   | 1-3     | 3-1    | 1-1      |           | 0-2    |            | 2-0     | 1-0       |          |          |           | 0-1      | 1-0     | 1-0        | 1-0       |
| GREGG PECK     | 0-2     | 0-4    | 1-2      | 2-0       |        | 1-0        | 1-0     | 1-0       |          |          | 1-0       | 2-0      | 1-1     | 0-1        |           |
| JERRY HILECHER | 0-3     | 1-0    | 0-3      |           | 0-1    |            | 0-1     | 1-1       |          | 1-0      |           | 1-0      | 0-2     | 0-1        | 1-0       |
| GERRY PRICE    | 0-1     |        | 1-1      | 0-2       | 0-1    | 1-0        |         |           | 1-1      |          | 1-0       | 1-0      | 1-0     | 1-0        |           |
| ED ANDREWS     | 0-2     | 0-1    | 0-2      | 0-1       | 0-1    | 1-1        |         |           | 1-1      | 0-1      | 0-2       |          | 1-1     |            |           |
| DON THOMAS     | 0-4     | 0-1    |          |           |        |            | 1-1     | 1-1       |          |          | 1-1       | 0-1      | 1-0     |            |           |
| STEVE LERNER   | 0-2     | 0-2    |          |           |        | 0-1        |         | 1-0       |          |          |           |          |         | 0-1        | 1-0       |
| JOHN EGERMAN   | 0-2     | 0-1    | 0-1      |           | 0-1    |            | 0-1     | 2-0       | 1-1      |          |           |          | 0-1     | 0-1        | 1-0       |
| RICH WAGNER    | 1-1     | 0-1    | 0-1      | 1-0       | 0-2    | 0-1        | 0-1     |           | 1-0      |          |           |          |         | 1-1        | 1-0       |
| DOUG COHEN     | 1-1     | 0-1    | 0-2      | 0-1       | 1-1    | 2-0        | 0-1     | 1-1       | 0-1      |          | 1-0       |          |         |            |           |
| RUBEN GONZALES | 0-1     |        | 0-2      | 0-1       | 1-0    | 1-0        | 0-1     |           |          | 1-0      | 1-0       | 1-1      |         |            |           |
| SCOTT HAWKINS  | 0-1     |        |          | 0-1       |        | 0-1        |         |           |          | 0-1      | 0-1       | 0-1      |         |            |           |

## WOMEN'S RANKINGS

The rankings listed for the women are the official rankings of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA). The upper listing shows the current rankings, and the lower listing shows the final rankings and earnings for the 1982-83 season.

The current rankings include the most recent WPRA stop in Auburn, Mass.

## MEN'S RANKINGS

The men's rankings are derived using a temporary ranking system instituted by the Professional Racquetball Organization (PRO). This system will be used only until the PRO ranking committee, and the PRO general body adopt a permanent men's professional ranking system. That system is expected to be in effect by December 1983.

The temporary system used here is a modified extension of the 1983 Catalina ranking, but uses a 10-tournament rotating schedule. For each new ranking event that is added to the list, one event (the oldest event on the previous list) is dropped. Since the Davison tournament was the first event of the year, last year's first event (Westminster, CA) has been dropped from each player's record. Only the major ranking events of last season, and the newly sanctioned major events of this season are used on the 10-event list. This month the ten events used are:

- Burnsville, MN, 1982
- New Haven, CT, 1982
- Honolulu, HI, 1983
- Beaverton, OR, 1983
- Austin, TX, 1983
- Toronto, Ontario, 1983
- Anaheim, CA, 1983
- Chicago, IL, 1983
- Atlanta, GA, 1983
- Davison, MI, 1983

The listing here utilizes the same point system as the old Catalina system. Points per round per event are:

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Winner          | 120 points |
| Second          | 90 points  |
| Semifinalist    | 70 points  |
| Quarterfinalist | 50 points  |
| Round of 16     | 30 points  |

The total points accumulated by a player during the ten listed events are totaled and then divided by the number of events in which he participated. The largest possible divider is 10, and this month the minimum divider is 4.

It should be noted that the men have chosen this ranking system only as a temporary necessity, for the purpose of seeding the sanctioned events scheduled for the next 60 days. The permanent PRO system will be voted on and adopted by the players themselves and will likely be somewhat different than the method used here.

The lower section lists the final rankings and earnings for the 1982-83 season.

## MEN'S PRO RANKINGS OCTOBER 19, 1983

| THIS LAST |     | PLAYER         | POINTS |
|-----------|-----|----------------|--------|
| MO.       | MO. |                |        |
| 1         | 1   | Mike Yellen    | 93.50  |
| 2         | 2   | Marty Hogan    | 91.00  |
| 3         | 3   | Dave Peck      | 75.00  |
| 4         | 4   | Bret Harnett   | 59.00  |
| 5         | 5   | Gregg Peck     | 56.00  |
| 6         | 6   | Ruben Gonzalez | 48.57  |
| 7T        | 7T  | Jerry Hilecher | 43.33  |
| 7T        | 7T  | Don Thomas     | 43.33  |
| 9         | 9   | Ed Andrews     | 35.56  |
| 10T       | 10T | Jack Newman    | 35.00  |
| 10T       | 10T | Gerry Price    | 35.00  |
| 12        | 12  | John Egerman   | 30.00  |
| 13        | 13  | Steve Lerner   | 28.00  |
| 14        | 18  | Mike Levine    | 27.50  |
| 15        | 14  | Rich Wagner    | 26.25  |
| 16        | 15  | Doug Cohen     | 26.00  |
| 17        | 16  | Scott Hawkins  | 25.00  |
| 18        | 17  | Craig McCoy    | 21.25  |
| 19T       | 18T | Bill Sell      | 20.00  |
| 20T       | 20T | Cory Brysman   | 15.00  |
| 20T       | 20T | Scott Oliver   | 15.00  |
| 22T       | 22T | Brian Hawkes   | 7.50   |
| 22T       | 22T | Mark Martino   | 7.50   |
| 22T       | 22T | Cliff Swain    | 7.50   |
| 22T       | 22T | Lindsay Myers  | 7.50   |

## CATALINA FINAL 1982-83 RANKINGS

| RANK | PLAYER          | EARNINGS |
|------|-----------------|----------|
| 1    | Mike Yellen     | \$57,750 |
| 2    | Marty Hogan     | 38,200   |
| 3    | Dave Peck       | 26,500   |
| 4    | Bret Harnett    | 20,150   |
| 5    | Gregg Peck      | 12,750   |
| 6    | Steve Strandemo | 3,250    |
| 7    | Jerry Hilecher  | 11,350   |
| 8    | Ruben Gonzalez  | 8,000    |
| 9    | Don Thomas      | 7,650    |
| 10   | John Egerman    | 5,250    |
| 11   | Ed Andrews      | 5,900    |
| 12   | Rich Wagner     | 5,050    |
| 13   | Gerry Price     | 2,000    |
| 14   | Doug Cohen      | 2,150    |
| 15T  | Craig McCoy     | 2,000    |
| 15T  | Scott Hawkins   | —0—      |

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

*Beginning next month we will publish the national amateur rankings of the AARA. The top 20 men and women will be included.*

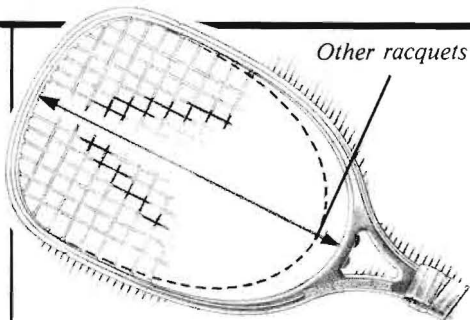
## WPRA RANKINGS OCTOBER 19, 1983

| THIS LAST |     | PLAYER             | POINTS |
|-----------|-----|--------------------|--------|
| MO.       | MO. |                    |        |
| 1         | 1   | Lynn Adams         | 284.13 |
| 2         | 2   | Heather McKay      | 283.50 |
| 3         | 3   | S. Wright Hamilton | 196.88 |
| 4         | 4   | Laura Martino      | 120.88 |
| 5         | 5   | Vicki Panzeri      | 112.46 |
| 6         | 6   | Terri Gilreath     | 96.50  |
| 7         | 8   | Marci Greer        | 77.75  |
| 8         | 7   | Janell Marriott    | 75.57  |
| 9         | 9   | Peggy Gardner      | 62.50  |
| 10        | 11  | Jennifer Harding   | 53.38  |
| 11        | 13  | Joyce Jackson      | 50.00  |
| 12        | 10  | Caryn McKinney     | 45.57  |
| 13        | 14  | Stacey Fletcher    | 38.38  |
| 14        | 15  | Brenda Poe-Barrett | 38.33  |
| 15        | 12  | Heather Stupp      | 34.67  |
| 16        | 18  | Francine Davis     | 31.63  |
| 17        | 16  | Bonnie Stoll       | 29.00  |
| 18        | 17  | Diane Bullard      | 28.93  |
| 19        | 19  | Martha McDonald    | 25.63  |
| 20        | 26  | Rita Hoff Scott    | 23.33  |
| 21        | 22  | Gail Woods         | 23.00  |
| 22        | 20  | Barbara Maltby     | 22.50  |
| 23        | 21  | Carol Pranka       | 20.50  |
| 24        | 23  | Jean Sauser        | 19.33  |
| 25        | 24  | Molly O'Brien      | 18.86  |

## WPRA FINAL 1982-83 RANKINGS

| RANK | PLAYER             | EARNINGS |
|------|--------------------|----------|
| 1    | Heather McKay      | \$17,475 |
| 2    | Lynn Adams         | 18,790   |
| 3    | Shannon Wright     | 9,299    |
| 4    | Laura Martino      | 8,253    |
| 5    | Vicki Panzeri      | 6,895    |
| 6    | Terri Gilreath     | 7,030    |
| 7    | Marci Greer        | 6,896    |
| 8    | Janell Marriott    | 4,314    |
| 9    | Peggy Gardner      | 3,272    |
| 10   | Jennifer Harding   | 5,148    |
| 11   | Caryn McKinney     | 4,063    |
| 12   | Joyce Jackson      | 2,372    |
| 13   | Heather Stupp      | 1,705    |
| 14   | Stacey Fletcher    | 2,090    |
| 15   | Brenda Poe Barrett | 1,764    |
| 16   | Barbara Maltby     | 1,537    |
| 17   | Bonnie Stoll       | 2,714    |
| 18   | Diane Bullard      | 1,749    |
| 19   | Fran Davis         | 1,688    |
| 20   | Martha McDonald    | 1,364    |

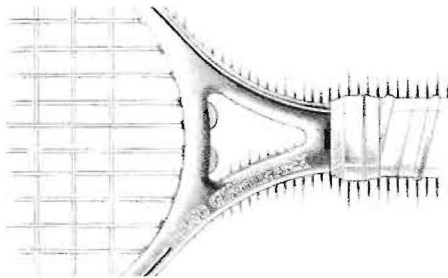
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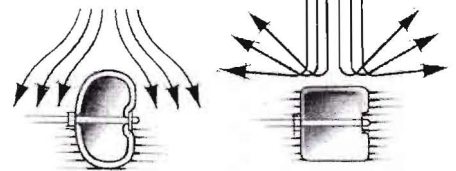
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**HEAD**

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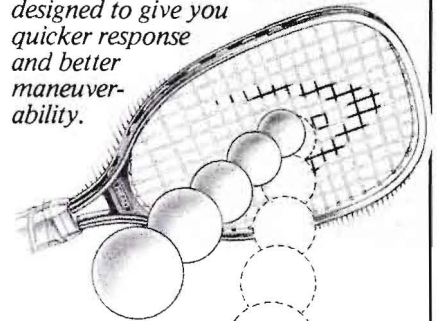


Head

Other racquets

## QUICKER

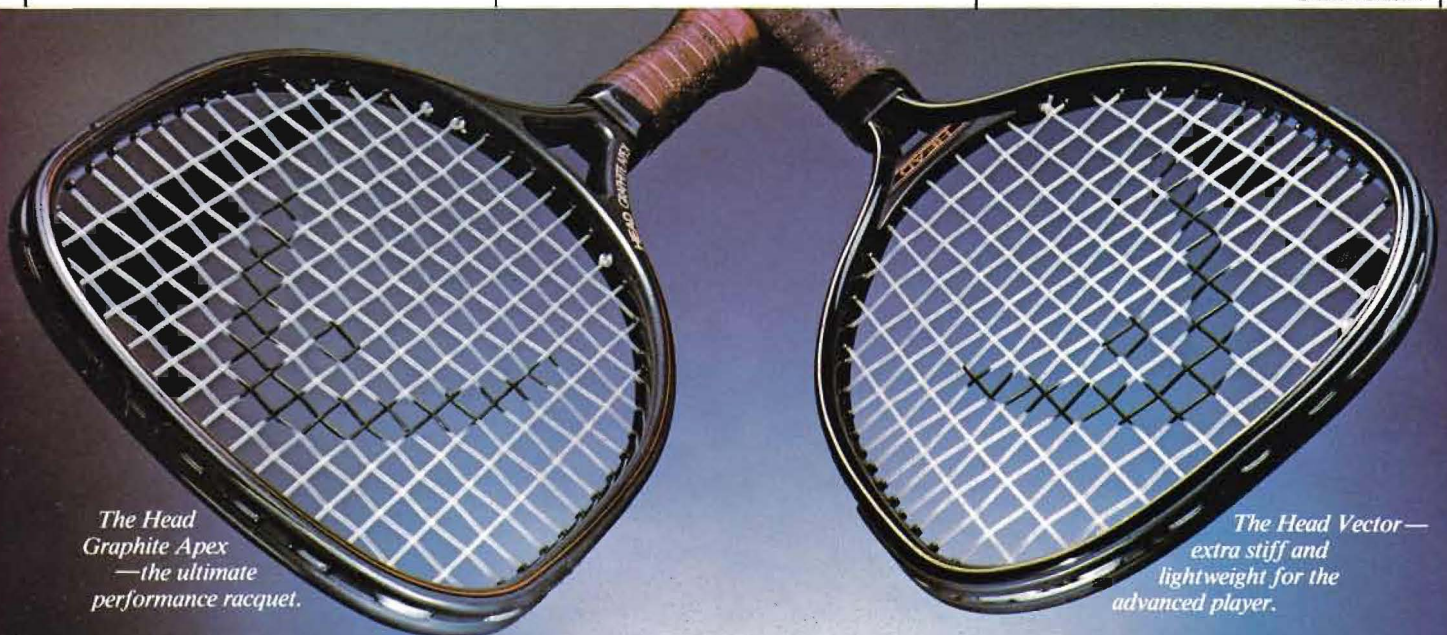
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