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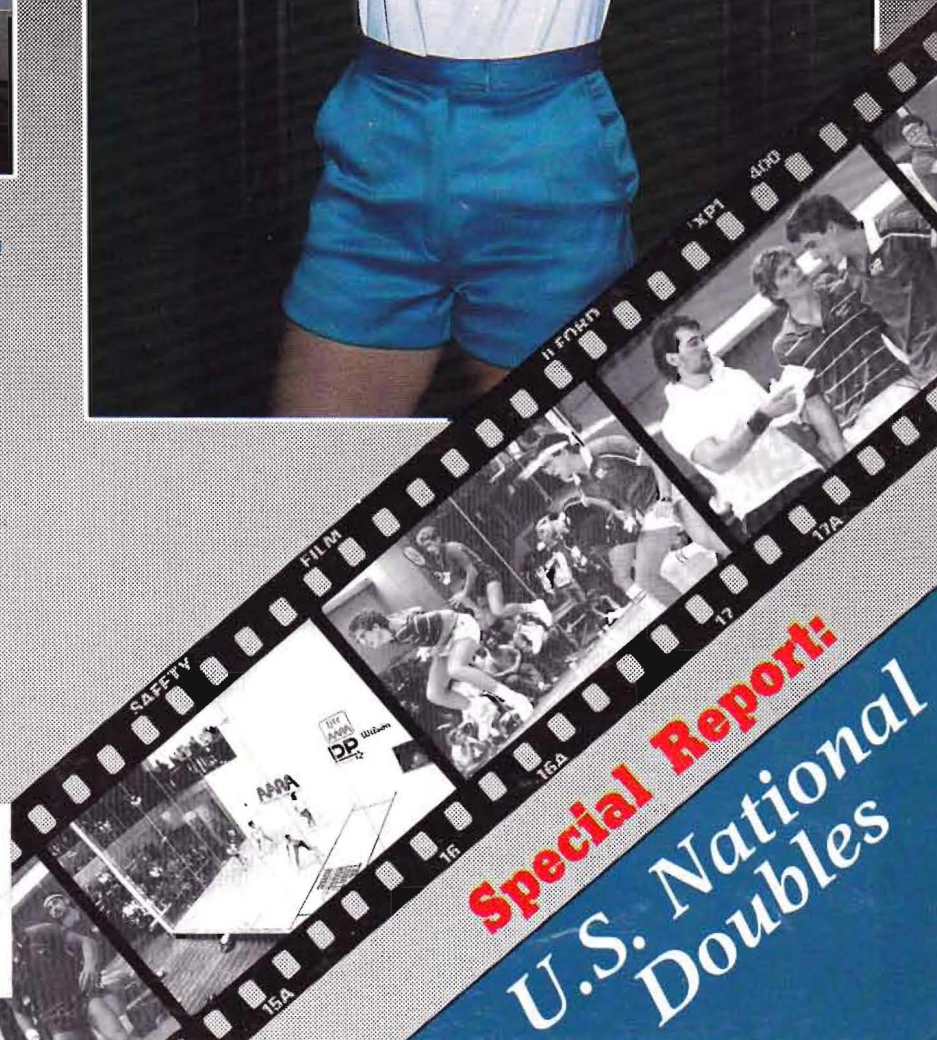
Dec. 1984 Vol. 2 No. 10 \$2.00 Issue #17



*The S/S Norway*  
**Racquetball  
On The Water**

**Lynn Adams  
Wins In Auburn**

**Racquetball In  
Central  
America**



**Special Report:**  
**U.S. National  
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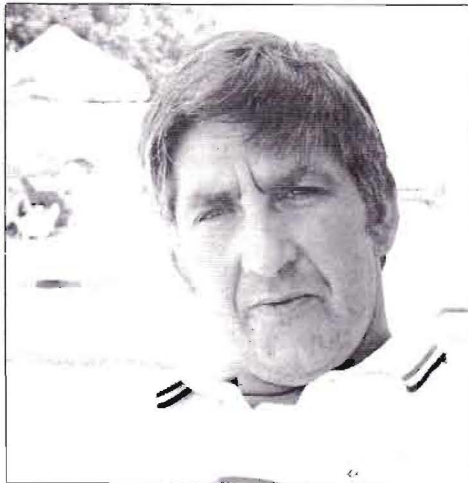
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VOL. 2 NO. 10 ISSUE #17

*Table of Contents*

*December 1984*



Making A List & Checking It Twice ..... Page 4  
Publisher's Column

Racquetball, Inc. .... Page 6  
Editor's Column

New Products ..... Page 8  
From Stinky Pinky's to Crookies

News ..... Page 10

WPRA Pro Stop:  
 Adams Storms Back In Auburn ..... Page 12  
Result of Season Opener

The S/S Norway: Racquetball in the Carribean ..... Page 19

1984 U.S. Doubles  
 A New Pair Of Champs Take The Throne In Boise .... Page 21

The Greatest ..... Page 27  
Jerry Tells Us Who Can Really 'Wup It'

Where Is Racquetball Going ..... Page 29  
Get the Inside Story

Interview:  
 Al Walker—South American Racquetball ..... Page 32

10th Annual Cal State Outdoor Doubles ..... Page 37  
by Carol Herd

Advanced Racquetball: Return Of Serve ..... Page 39  
Strandemo & Bruns

Head to Head Competition Chart ..... Page 43

Schedule of Events ..... Page 44

Rankings ..... Page 46

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# I'M MAKING A LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE



Jason Holloman  
Publisher

**G**onna find out who's naughty or nice. . . Yup. I'm gonna make a list here and see who's been naughty or nice this year in racquetball. If they've been naughty, well, of course, they will get a big lump of coal in their stocking this year, and if they've been nice, their fondest dream will come true. First of all, you deserve to have your fondest dream come true because you are a subscriber. That's probably the nicest thing that could happen to us is having you as a subscriber. Without you, we wouldn't be here and if we weren't here, why, who knows what type of shinnanigans might happen!

Next on my list is a bunch of manufacturers. There's Ektelon and D.P. Industries and Penn and Wilson and Richcraft and Omega and a whole bunch more. These are all good little boys and girls and deserve to have their wishes come true. Because of them we have things like the new oversized racquets, prizes for amateur racquetball, lots and lots of racquetball toys, and the RMA.

The men pros are next on my list. Hmm. It's a toss-up here. They've been good and they've been bad. For the first time in the memory the men have been perfect gentlemen on and off the court. Their pro stops have been pure excitement with little controversial behavior. Quite an improvement over the last few years, indeed, but, they still remain aloof from each other. It still looks like they

hold a selfish banner on high that might read, "All for one, and that one is me." They still can't seem to get it through their skulls that there is safety and power in numbers and unity. They will get a pat on the head this year, but nothing in their stockings.

Ah, the WPRA. Now what a shining example! Each one of those girls deserves a gold star on their foreheads. But, it's a little sad their pockets won't be lined with gold for their efforts. They've had great success with their tour and could have more; unfortunately IMG doesn't seem to be helping much.

Racquetball club owners—with a few exceptions—get a lump of coal this year for their consistent policy of not welcoming juniors into their clubs. Juniors are the future of the sport; singles bars aren't.

The AARA deserves a visit from Santa for all they've done to get racquetball close to an Olympic Sport, but, I wish they would pay a little more attention to grass-roots programs. Well, you can't have everything all at once, I suppose.

I'd like to give some personal thanks to some people who have helped us in this past year. Our contributing editors, Jerry Hilecher and Steve Strandemo deserve a big hand. Greg Eveland of DP, Bob Beebe of Penn, Jacqui Black of Wilson, and Jim Carson of Sports Promotions have all made significant unselfish contributions to IRB. Drew Stoddard, our Editor, Bill Stoddard, our General Manager, and our new Associate Editor, John Barlow, should each get a ride on the Space Shuttle—that's how high they are in my esteem.

My wife deserves a big chunk of coal. One that's a few million years old and very shiny. About 5 carats worth would do the trick. She's been very patient with this whole bunch of workaholics down here at the office. My thanks to her.

So much for playing Santa Claus. Let's get down to December 1984—our last issue of this year, but really the beginning of what is turning out to be a late starting racquetball season. Check out the pro tournament of events schedule if you want to know what I mean. Boy, it's going to be a busy spring!

The WPRA held their first pro stop of

the season in October at Auburn, Massachusetts. ESPN was there along with a big local crowd to watch another tense final between Heather and Lynn. Sports Illustrated was even scheduled to show up, but cancelled. Too bad. The in-depth photographic coverage begins on page 12.

The 1984 AARA National Doubles Championship was also staged in November at the prestigious Courthouse in Boise, Idaho. Because of the great exhibition court, we always get fantastic pictures there. Turn to page 21 for what our cameras caught.

The President of the United States will soon give his State of the Union Address in January, but we're going to beat him to the punch and give you a State of the Racquetball story in this issue. Very interesting. Want to know what's really going on? Turn to page 29 for what the manufacturers told us.

Our interview this month is with Al Walker of Quito, Ecuador. Mr. Walker is the prime moving force behind racquetball in South America. He has some great stories about the "new" sport of racquetball as it is played by our brothers to the south. I particularly like the one about what they did to a certain unsuspecting reporter. Reading begins on page 32.

Want to really get away from it all and still play a little racquetball? How about a little Carribean cruise on the Superliner Norway. Now, this is what I call luxury. Sign me up! Maybe you would like to go, too. Find out on page 19.

December also has a story on an outdoor tournament (compliments of Carol Herd) from sunny California, our regular Strandemo instructional on Return of Serve (a must!), and more if we can squeeze it in before deadline.

Oh, by the way. Some of our subscribers are getting IRB magazine delivered very late in the month. If you haven't received our issues by mid-month, I want to check into it. Please drop me a note at: International Racquetball, P.O. Box 7548, Reno, NV 89510.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Holiday whether it be underneath cloudy or sunny skies, or on beaches or bunny hills. Drive safely home from all those parties, now, because we want you back for our January issue. ●

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# RACQUETBALL, INC.

Most people are aware of the great success stories in the personal computer industry; some of the great fortunes of this generation have been amassed behind the now familiar logos of Apple, IBM, and Hewlett-Packard. But some of the mind-boggling failures are even more fascinating. One of my favorite stories is of a group of marketing experts who formed a Southern California software company in late 1982, raised and spent \$25 million in capital, and then filed for bankruptcy two months ago—all without ever bringing out a single product!

What does all this have to do with racquetball? Well, as I've been watching all of this take place, I've slowly come to realize that most successes in business are connected by a common thread. Those of you with MBA's have probably known this for years: There are certain principles of the marketplace that seem to be inviolable. And it has occurred to me that racquetball has, in part, failed to reach its potential because we have not viewed the sport as a business, and in our ignorance we have violated those principles of success.

Here, according to the Book of Drew, are three important principles of success:

## PRINCIPLE #1

**A great product is no guarantee of success; in fact, it isn't even the greatest determining factor.**

The electronics industry is littered with the death notices of companies who offered products which were superior to those which came to dominate the market. Simply allowing the public to purchase a great product accomplishes little. Behind that product must be an organization that has the ability to effectively promote the product, produce it, deliver it, and support it. It is not at all unusual for a successful company to spend \$10 million developing a product, and \$25 million promoting it.

If there's one thing we have been guilty of in this sport, it has been to assume that racquetball is so desirable an activity that the public would fall all over themselves beating a path to our door. Racquetball is certainly a great product; its consistent growth over the last ten years despite lack of promotion has proven that. But racquetball is a product like any other, and it is competing in a tough sports market;

every day tennis, football, basketball, swimming, golf, etc., are vying for people who are potential racquetball players. It isn't just that we've done too little to sell the sport of racquetball to the public; we have done nothing at all.

## PRINCIPLE #2

**If you try to run before you learn to walk, you're likely to end up crippled for life.**

The alltime classic case of this was the meteoric rise and fall of Osborne Computer Corporation. Osborne was the rising star of the computer industry, soaring from birth to \$200 million in annual sales in just 2 years. Then, in 1983, with demand for many of its machines still outstripping supply, Osborne stunned the industry by declaring bankruptcy. Osborne was not the first company to demonstrate that massive sales does not necessarily equal success. Because the huge demand took Osborne by surprise, the company was never able to construct an organization that was capable of supporting the strain; Osborne literally expanded so fast it exploded.

What happened to Osborne is not too much different from what racquetball experienced in the late 70's and early 80's. Growth was so rapid, we simply assumed that the future would take care of itself. Little thought was given to building a strong base for the sport—no juniors programs, no amateur programs, no professional organization. Then, when the growth sizzled we didn't know what to do. Contrary to what some may say, racquetball is not dying; we are simply being disciplined by the law of supply and demand, and being punished for our own lack of effort.

## PRINCIPLE #3

**Never underestimate the marketing power of an installed user base.**

In the computer industry, an installed user base is defined as that group of people in the marketplace who are already converted to your product. When IBM entered the personal computer market in the summer of 1982, many predicted the large conservative company would fail up against the young lions of Silicon Valley. What the critics didn't take into account was that something like 20 million people had already been using their products for



Drew Stoddard  
Editor

**S**ince computers and business are among the great passions of my life, I enjoy spending much of my spare time reading about the present turmoil in the electronics industry. Watching a handful of the world's most powerful companies slug it out in an industry that changes every 60 days is an entertaining experience. It is also an educational one; observing the experts maneuver for market share during the birth of a totally new, multi-billion dollar industry is like taking a condensed course in how—and how not—to run a business.

so long, they literally had the IBM logo seared into their eyeballs. IBM's personal computer turned out to be a good machine, but the truth is they would have probably dominated the market with an abacus.

It is possible to successfully market a product from scratch; but it is always easier if you have the luxury of building demand from an installed user base. By most estimates, approximately 8 million people in this country play racquetball on a regular basis. That is an enormous user base. Within the sport we frequently talk about the challenge of luring new players, and yet we have done little to tap the market that already exists.

It seems to me that if we really want to accomplish all of these things we spend so much time talking about—television exposure, a healthy pro tour, juniors programs, etc.—all we really need to do is build an organization that is capable of servicing the demand that is obviously there.

As it is currently constructed, the sport of racquetball is divided into five divisions: the club owners, the amateurs, the men pros, the women pros, and the manufacturers. Right now, each is doing an acceptable job in their own area, and yet there is virtually no interaction between them. How long do you think a company would survive if it divided itself into five divisions—say marketing, R&D, ac-

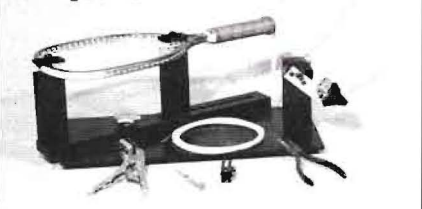
counting, service, and manufacturing—and none of those divisions ever communicated in any way with the others? If racquetball were a corporation it would have filed for bankruptcy years ago.

All talk aside, the simple fact is that racquetball will continue to flounder until we start working together. No large-scale pro tour will ever materialize until the manufacturers and the pro players get together. No juniors program will ever succeed unless the club owners and the AARA begin working in concert. And on it goes.

I believe it may be time to restructure the company. I propose that we seriously consider forming a new body, a type of World Council if you will, a Board of Directors for the sport in general. That body should be composed of equally-powerful representatives of all five groups, and should be forced by rule to meet regularly—say four to six times—throughout the year. Their responsibilities would be to first determine what we want to accomplish in this sport, and then to formulate a marketing strategy and provide the necessary resources.

That sounds simple, but it is the process that every organization competing in a free market must go through if it is to be successful. Isn't it incredible that racquetball has never even attempted it? Isn't it about time we at least tried? ●

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The RCP-1 (shown above) comes complete with instructions and all accessories: vise grip speed clamp, start clamp, long nose pliers w/cutters, stringer'sawl and practice string.

This machine, designed by stringers, is constructed by American craftsmen. At its low cost, your investment can be recovered quickly. The typical payback is 25 racquets. The RCP-1 and RCP-1P are ideal for racquetball and badminton, where lower tensions are required.

For tensions over 54 lbs., the RCP-2 and RCP-2P will fit your needs perfectly and handle even oversized frames. These two models come with a no-flex bar to prevent frame distortion and damage.

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**Ektelon Introduces Extensive Eyewear Line**

Ektelon has introduced the most extensive eyewear line ever developed.

Ektelon's eyewear products include the new Sentinel, the first over-the-prescription eyewear in the game, the new Deflector, an advanced one-piece, hingeless wraparound eyeguard, and the new Eye Sentry, designed to provide the player with a lightweight, shatter-resistant, lensed eyeguard.

Ektelon's new Sentinel is a stylish and easy-to-wear addition to the eyewear line developed by Ektelon to be worn over prescription eyewear. It is a lightweight, strong 3mm polycarbonate eyeguard with contoured fit, foam cushioning and an adjustable headstrap for maximum comfort.

The new Deflector, a one-piece, wraparound hingeless eyeguard, features shatter and scratch-resistant 3 mm polycarbonate lenses, with a safety groove to secure the lenses upon impact. The lightweight trimline Deflector has special venting to resist fogging.

The new Deflector, a one-piece, wraparound hingeless eyeguard, features shatter and scratch-resistant 3 mm polycarbonate lenses, with a safety groove to secure the lenses upon impact. The lightweight trimline Deflector has special venting to resist fogging.

Ektelon's new smoke-gray Eye Sentry is an attractive addition to the tortoise and blue-lined clear Eye Sentry frames. The Eye Sentry is panoscopically angled, with 60mm-wide lenses to provide the player with distortion-free peripheral vision. The lightweight, shatter-resistant lensed eyeguard features a sculptured nose bridge and adjustable headstrap for a close, comfortable fit.

The popular Court Specs and Court Specs, Jr., a lenseless, molded one-piece eyeguard, have been designed to fit the facial

**Stinky Pinkys!**

Stinky Pinky's come in a bright pink box and even though they will be presented in advertising as an impulse "gag gift," Stinky Pinkys are fun, humorous and they perform a real and valuable function. And what is that?

Well, the foot can be washed, powdered, sprayed with anti-itch medication and deodorized, but the shoe retains its malodorous effect permeating lockers, closets, and gymnasiums with what Shakespeare called "the rankest compound of villainous smell that ever offended nostril."

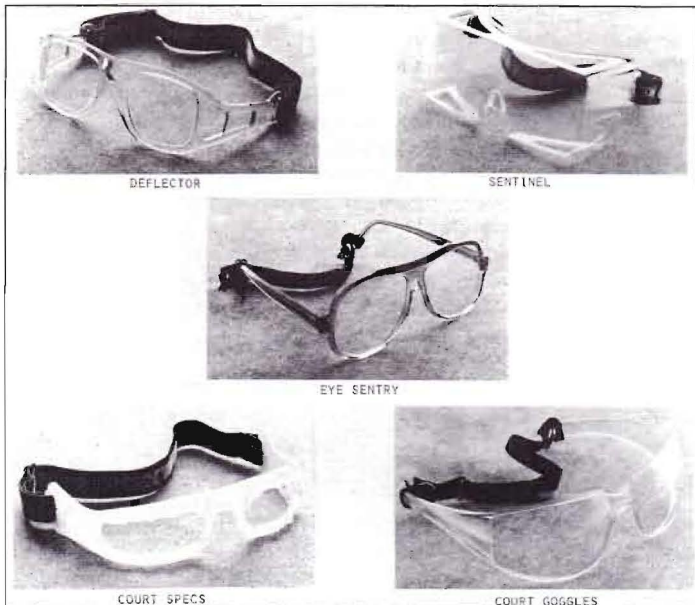
In short, gym shoes stink. Stinky Pinkys get rid of shoe



stink in six to eight hours or overnight, and it's reusable. Just stick your Stinky Pinkys out in the sun for a day and they are ready for your shoes again. Stinky Pinkys may look like a gag, but it's no joke that they

really work. Suggested retail price is \$5.95.

For more information, contact: Don Berghauser, PDZ Corp., 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, CO, 80228, 1-800-362-1534.



anatomy. The Court Specs and Court Specs Jr. have unique orbital scalloped protrusions which maximize energy disbursement of the ball upon impact.

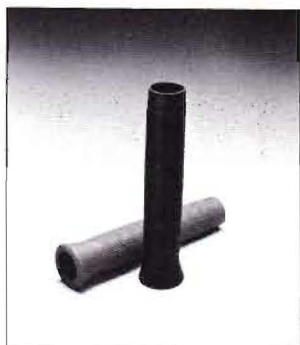
Ektelon's Court Goggles features a one-piece wraparound eyeguard. This product offers the player a larger protective area, and a clear full-field peripheral vision.

Ektelon has produced their eyewear using the very finest high-strength materials. All of Ektelon's eyewear is manufactured using polycarbonate, a shatter-resistant, high-strength material which has been endorsed for use by the Eye Safety Committee of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

**New Power Grip by A'ME**

The Power Grip by A'ME has raised triangles and small dimples that grip the glove so that you don't have to grip the handle so tight. The flare on one end of the grip can be used to add more flare to the butt end of your handle. This helps some players hang onto the racquet better.

If you do not need any flare, then remove the flared portion of the grip. The remaining part of the grip is still long enough to cover the complete handle.



Power Grip comes in 5 colors: red, blue, yellow, grey, and black. A.M.E. Manufacturing 244 Mercury Circle Pomona, CA 91768 (714) 594-1767

**Actively Yours Bra Gets West Coast Distribution**

The tremendously successful sports bra company Actively Yours, Inc., has concluded negotiations for west coast distribution with marketing expert Mitra White. Actively Yours bras have earned a reputation in the east as being one of the top athletic pro-

ducts on the market today. The patented design has eliminated falling straps, moisture build-up, chafing, riding-up and difficult adjustment while maintaining a normal bra appearance.

Mitra White is very excited about what this product will do for women in racquetball. She says it is perfect for the active

woman in sports and looks forward to its distribution in the west. The bra is available in sizes 32A to 46DD and sells for \$20.00 (plus \$2 for shipping by mail). For more information write: Actively Yours, P.O. Box 20026, El Cajon, CA 92021.





**Croakies Anyone?**

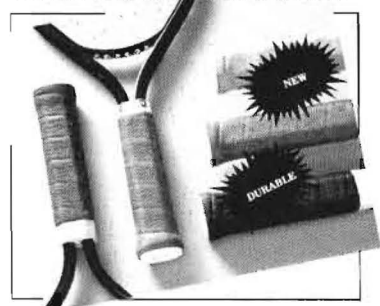
Viking Sports is distributing Croakies. No, Croakies are not alive, but they are helpful. Croakies are an exciting new kind of eyewear retainer for active people of all ages. They are lightweight, comfortable and good looking. Flexible, portable and washable, Croakies are perfect for work, play or anytime you want your glasses to stay

put. Simply slide them on your glasses and you're ready.

Some nice things about Croakies are that they don't tug at strands of hair. They are made of soft neoprene coated with fabric. They won't stretch or sag if they get wet. For more information, contact: Viking Sports, 5355 Sierra Road, San Jose, CA 95132, 408-923-7777.

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**ADAMS WINS IN AUBURN**

Lynn Adams avenged her loss of the WPR National Championship to Heather McKay by defeating McKay, 21-14, 21-16, 17-21, 21-19, in the final of the WPR season opener in Auburn, MA. The tournament was held at the Auburn Health and Racquet Club, October 18-21. The victory brought Adams close to overtaking McKay as the #1 ranked player in the women's pro game. (Results on page 12).

**NEW DOUBLES CHAMPIONS**

Dan Obremski (PA) and Kelvin Vantrease (OH) won the AARA U.S. National Doubles Championships, held October 25-28 at The Courthouse in

Boise, Idaho. Obremski and Vantrease upset the top-ranked team of Steve Trent and Stan Wright in the semifinals, and defeated Andy Roberts and Scott Reid of Tennessee in the finals, 15-8, 7-15, 11-7.

Diane Bullard and Julia Pinnell won the women's open doubles crown by downing fellow-Floridians Mary Lyons and Susan Morgan, 15-5, 14-15, 11-10.

Over 500 players entered 27 different divisions in the tournament. (Results on page 21).

**IRSA CONVENTION SET**

The International Racquet Sports Association (IRSA) has announced that its 1985 Convention and Trade Show will be held at the MGM Grand Hotel in

Reno, NV, from Wednesday, February 27 through Sunday, March 3.

Among the keynote speakers will be Ken Blanchard, author of *The One Minute Manager*; Covert Bailey, author of *Fit or Fat*; and Denis Waitley, author of *Psychology of Winning*.

The IRSA convention is the only time during the year when owners and managers of athletic and fitness clubs congregate in one place to compare notes and exchange ideas about the club industry. The event is expected to attract more than 1,500 persons.

For information about the show contact IRSA, 112 Cypress Street, Brookline, MA 02146, (617) 734-8000.

**BALTIMORE TOURNAMENT SET**

The second Toyota East Coast Classic has been set for April 17-21, at the Racquetball Palace in Baltimore, MD. The tournament, which will be a ranking event for men professionals, offers a Toyota 4X4 truck for first place and \$7,200 in prize money paying into the round-of-16. For more information contact: David Pivec (301) 532-2250. (Complete schedule on page 44).

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor:

I am addressing you in regards to the article "Dubious Achievement Awards" published in the August issue of your magazine. I was very disturbed with the story under the caption "(Look at me now... Please)" Award. Being the individual that broke that particular window, I feel that if you print the story you should at least do so in the correct manner in which it occurred—instead of the incorrect "bogus style" in which it was printed.

I have paid for that window over and over, and will be paying for the next seven months on that mistake. I felt it was important to tell you personally that it was very tasteless and unprofessional and rude on your part as a publisher to print the story incorrectly.

Sincerely,  
Tony McMann  
Anaheim, CA

*So, what is the correct story?*

**PRODUCT SAFETY NOTICE**

Diversified Products Corporation ("Diversified"), in cooperation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, is offering to refund/replace certain older Leach aluminum frame racquets and refurbish certain older Leach plastic molded models. This action is being taken due to reports of injuries which allegedly occurred when a player lost his grip on the racquet during his swing. It has been reported that upon the release of the racquet, the butt-plate has on occasion pulled out of the racquet handle.

The majority of the affected racquets were marketed by Leach Industries, Inc. before Diversified purchased the company in March, 1980. The racquets were sold under numerous labels, each bearing the Leach name. Diversified has agreed to replace, refund or refurbish the affected racquets in accordance with the terms set forth below.

**Eligible Plastic Frame Racquets**

MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- Have been purchased between January 1, 1979 and June 30, 1982;
- Have the Leach or DP Leach name on racquet;
- Have a protruding wrist thong connector on butt plate as shown.

WILL NOT HAVE:

- Only "DP" on racquet (that is, absent the Leach name);
- A metal rivet under leather grip (1 inch above butt plate and detectable with a magnet).

**Offer**

Returned racquets will be equipped with a new butt plate and the existing leather grip and wrist thong re-attached. At the consumers option a new leather grip and wrist thong will be incorporated for \$4.00 prepaid.

**Eligible Aluminum Frame Racquets**

MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- Been purchased prior to December 31, 1980;
- Have the Leach name on the racquet;
- Have an indented wrist thong connector on the butt plate, circular as shown, or oblong.

WILL NOT HAVE:

- Any DP identification on racquet (that is, will have only the Leach corporate name);
- A protruding wrist thong connector on the butt plate (similar to plastic frame racquet shown).

**Offer**

Return racquet and receive a \$4.00 rebate OR return the racquet with \$10.00 enclosed and receive a new DP Eagle aluminum racquet.

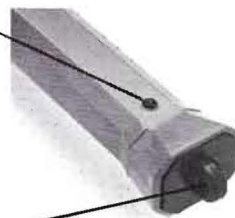
Eligible racquets may be returned to Diversified by the following procedure:

1. Tag the actual racquet with name and address, the words "racquet rebate", and option chosen;
2. Enclose the appropriate fee, if applicable (check or money order);
3. Mark the outside of the box "Racquet Rebate";
4. Ship via UPS or Parcel Post to:

Diversified Products Corporation  
309 Williamson Avenue  
Opelika, AL 36803

Diversified will reimburse you for the shipping charges of **eligible racquets only**. Please allow 4 weeks for delivery. Racquets failing to comply with the description given, and therefore not involved in this program will be returned at your expense.

NO metal rivet in this location



Protruding wrist thong

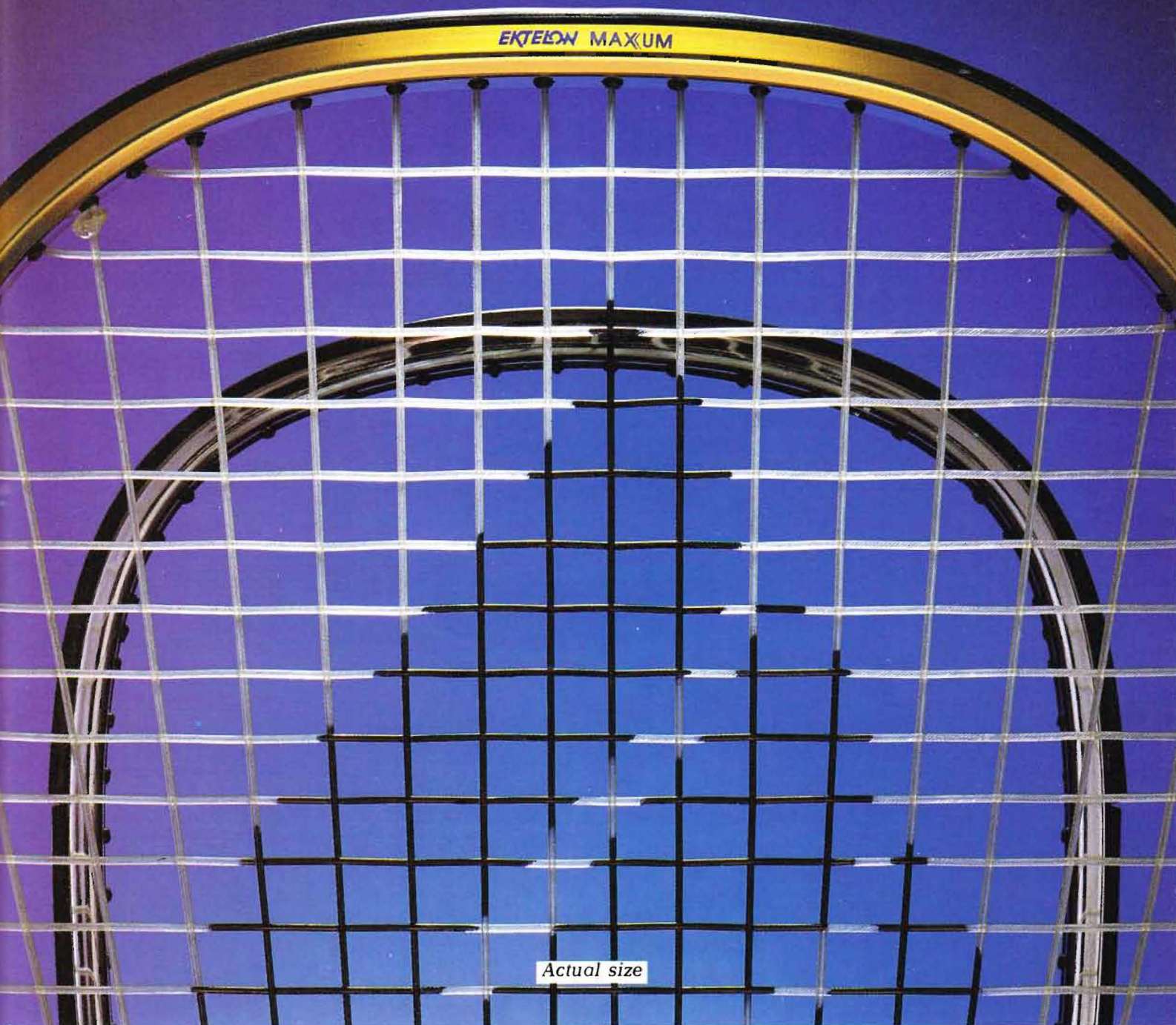
Eligible Plastic Frame Racquets

Wrist thong connector



Eligible Aluminum Frame Racquets

Once in every player's lifetime,  
something comes along that changes everything.



Actual size

### 50% Greater Coverage

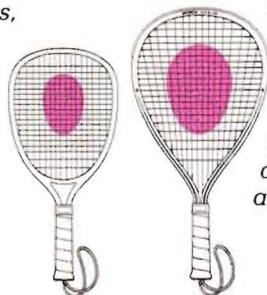
In the same way that "oversized" tennis racquets dramatically changed the game for millions of tennis players, Ektelon's new "oversized" MACRO™ SERIES racquets are going to change the game of racquetball for you.

From the moment you pick it up, you'll hit winners on balls you're not even getting to now.

### 80% Bigger Sweet Spot

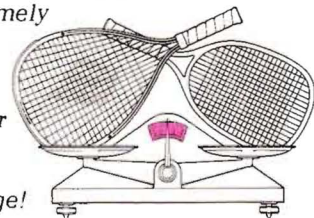
Longer. Wider. And located further from your hand than with standard-sized racquets—out where tests prove you hit balls the most.

It means more powerful, more accurate shots a lot more often.



### Actually Lighter Than Many "Standard-Sized" Racquets

As a result of exclusive new high-strength, aerodynamic aluminum alloys, the MACRO is extremely easy to swing and weighs only 245 grams. Which is, very possibly, lighter than the racquet you're using now. It's time for a change!



The  
**MACRO**  
Racquets Patent pending

The Most Recommended Name in Racquetball

**EKTELON**  
by BROWNING



# ADAMS STORMS BACK IN AUBURN

## LYNN ADAMS UPSETS HEATHER MCKAY IN WPRA SEASON OPENER

**F**ive months after losing the WPRA crown to her Canadian archrival, Lynn Adams set the pace for the 1984-85 women's professional season by blasting top-ranked Heather McKay in the final of the \$12,000 Bud Light Pro Racquetball Classic, at the Auburn Health and Racquet Club, in Auburn, MA, October 18-21. Serving and shooting with the renewed vigor of a dethroned champion, Adams dominated early in the match, and held off a furious last-minute challenge to upset the top-seeded McKay, in four games, 21-14, 21-16, 17-21, 21-19.

While the single victory wasn't enough to boost Adams back into the top position in the women's rankings, the gritty performance made clear Lynn's determination to take back the WPRA National Championship which she lost—for the first time in three years—to the seemingly immortal McKay at the WPRA nationals in Ft. Wort last June.

The Auburn tournament, which was the inaugural event of the 1984-85 WPRA season, marked the seventh time in the last 12 months that the two dominant players in the women's game have faced each other in the finals. Adams' victory brought her close to evening the head-to-head score during that period; three wins, four losses.

Lynn Adams and Heather McKay have soared so far beyond the rest of the field in women's racquetball that a recent article in Sports Illustrated dubbed the women's tour "The Lynn and Heather Show." The show was in top form in Auburn. McKay advanced to the finals without losing a game; she defeated Trina Rasmussen, Joyce Jackson, and Terri Gilreath, none of whom were able to score more than 14 points in any single game. Meanwhile, the Adams racquetball



*A frustrated Heather McKay*

machine hummed through Martha McDonald, Caryn McKinney, and Vicki Panzeri, losing only one game in the process—to McKinney.

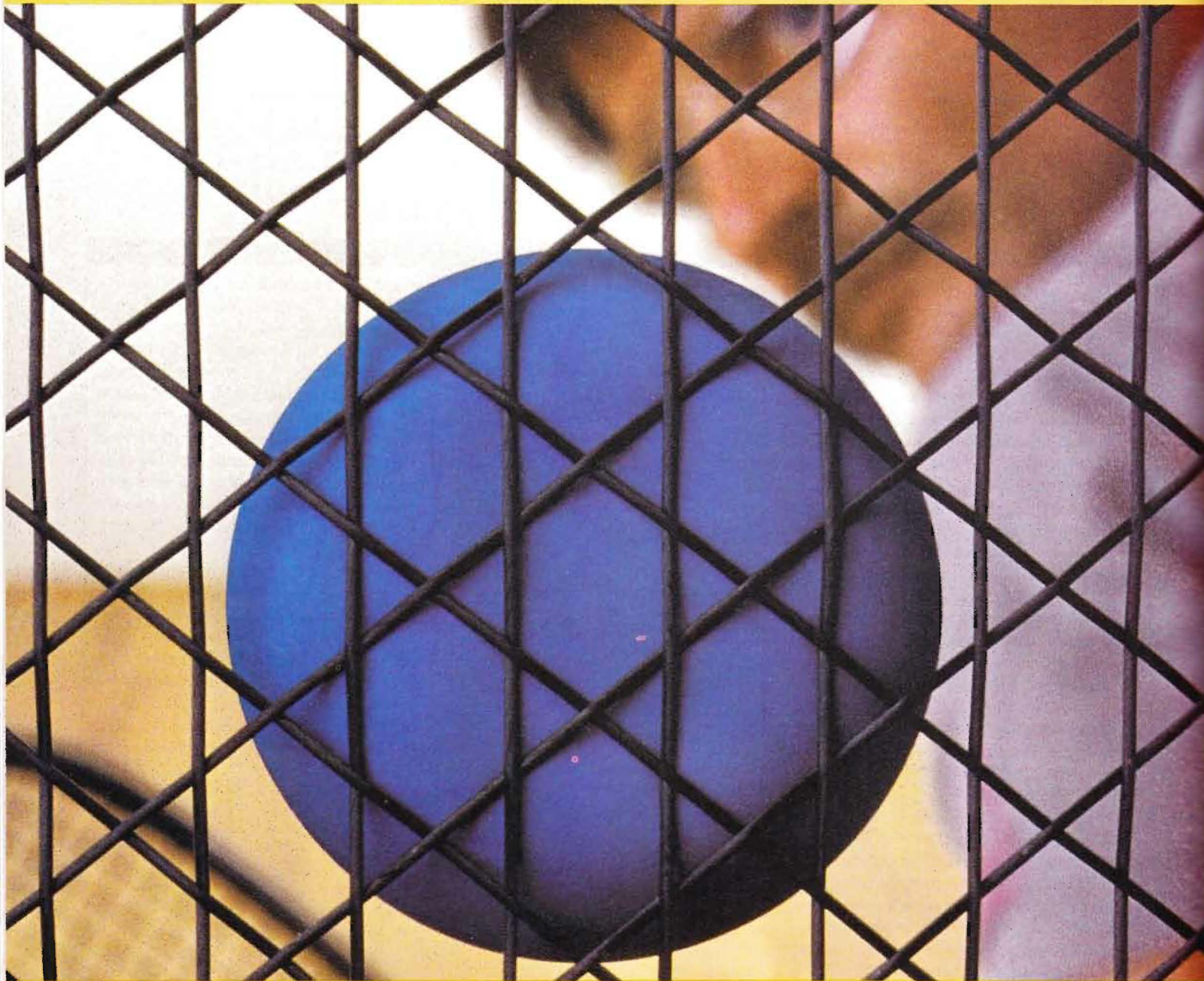
Going into the final, most of the smart money was on Heather McKay to repeat her 1983 Auburn victory—particularly after her overwhelming defeat of #3 seed Terri Gilreath in the semifinals. The relatively low altitude at Auburn, a rural area about 40 miles west of Boston, made the Voit ball slightly slower than normal, which usually favors McKay's control-style of play.

But Lynn's game had been slowly building through the tournament, and she bolted out of the gates in the final by firing a series of near-perfect drive serves to the left. Almost before McKay could plant her feet, Lynn racked up a 7-1 lead. A McKay timeout failed to cool Adams' hot

*Heather McKay during loss to Lynn Adams in the pro finals*



**If you think this funny-looking stringing makes a serious impression on the ball, wait'll you see your opponent's face.**



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**Mad Raq™ is the only stringing arrangement in the world unique enough to have a patent. And only Omega has it.**

Omega knows racquetball is played on the strings, not the frame. So we concentrated on a revolutionary breakthrough in stringing. We succeeded.

The patented Mad Raq™ six-string pattern looks different than the conventional four-string pattern. But it's not just for looks. Tests conducted by an independent research lab prove it can help give players the edge they've never had.

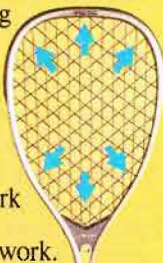
**Six strings give greater ball bite and bite time than four strings.**

Larger "holes" in the Mad Raq stringing pattern, six gripping edges rather than four, and a rougher surface pattern, give greater surface ball bite as well as up to 15% greater bite time than conventional stringing for greater control, finesse, top-spin and slice than conventional stringing.



**Six-string pattern dampens shock better than four-string.**

The Mad Raq stringing pattern deflects vibration six directions instead of just four. This means up to 10% less shock to your wrist, arm and shoulder. And you work less hard, because the strings do more of the work.



**Mad Raq gives you a larger "sweet spot" and "powerzone."**

The Mad Raq stringing pattern gives you up to a 7% larger "sweet spot" than conventional stringing for more controlled hits. And a 10% larger "power zone" than conventional stringing for more power hits.



**The Omega promise: Mad Raq stringing gives a player the edge they've never had.**

Instead of having string tension-adjusted either for power playing or soft-touch playing, as you would have to do with a conventionally-strung racquet, Mad Raq stringing gives the player the capability of playing both styles with one racquet.

Mad Raq. It looks different. It plays with a difference.



Write for easy stringing instructions.  
Omega Sports, 9200 Cody  
Overland Park, KS 66212

hand, and she rolled to a 21-14 win with surprising ease.

Game two was closer, but Lynn continued to force Heather back-and-forth across the court, serving hard to the left to put her off balance and then passing or killing to McKay's sputtering forehand. The strategy produced a shocking series of mis-hits and skips from the player who is generally known to have the most error-free game in racquetball. Adams broke a tie at 16-all and drilled five straight points to win 21-16.

McKay's back was clearly to the wall; Lynn was connecting with everything, and Heather seemed to be giving the match away with her own errors, many of which were unforced. Heather moved to correct the mistakes in game three by returning to basic high-percentage racquetball, but she was still unable to slow the tremendous momentum of her opponent. After a trio of early skips, Heather fell behind again. Then, in a surprising display of frustration for the Canadian, McKay seemed to give up. Her game visibly slowed, and—whether she did it intentionally or not—the new "strategy" worked. With the match seemingly won, Adams slowed her own game—almost too much. Somewhere in the slowdown

Heather found her timing, and she began chipping away at her opponent's lead until she tied the score at 17-all. Lynn was "tanked"; McKay scored four unanswered points, ending the game with a crack ace serve, 21-17.

The crowd settled back, once again convinced the match would go down to the wire.

The fourth game was airtight, with the two players matching each other shot for shot; they were tied eleven times, and were never separated by more than two points. Heather pushed hard to send the match into the fifth game, while Lynn tried frantically to kick her own game back into high gear.

But the game, and the match, was ultimately decided on three crucial—and highly disputed—calls; a change in the official score in Lynn's favor at 16-all, an avoidable hinder called against Adams at 17-all, and then the clincher: Serving to tie the game again at 19-20, Heather fired a serve to the left side that cracked out right at the short line—ace. McKay returned to the service box to serve out the game. But the referee called the serve short, and one linesman agreed sending McKay and half the crowd into hysterics. (Most who viewed a videotape of the serve

# 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 7548, Reno, Nevada 89510.

**OLD ADDRESS:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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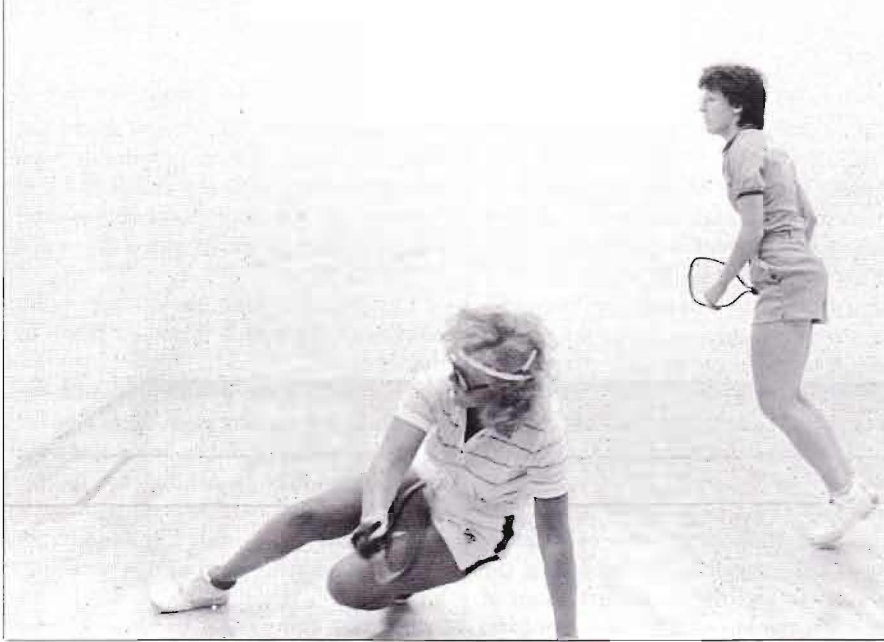
**NEW ADDRESS:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

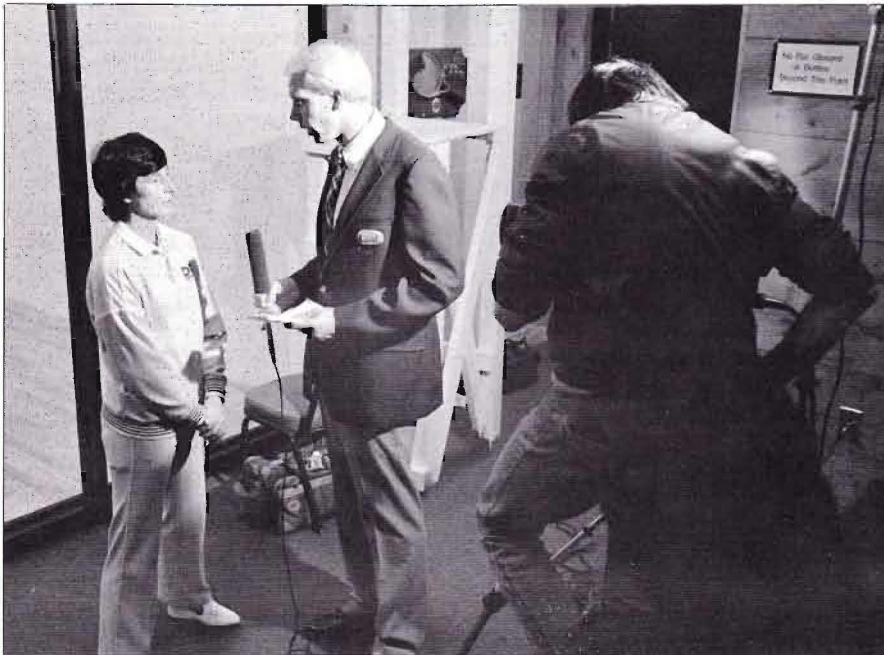
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

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*Caryn McKinney hits the ground during quarterfinal loss to Lynn Adams*



*Heather McKay is interviewed on ESPN*

*Jennifer Harding fought hard but failed in the quarters against Gilreath*



after the match agreed that the call was correct.) Buoyed by the controversy, Adams flattened McKay's second serve to win the game and take the match, 21-19.

"I thought I had the raw end of the deal," said a frustrated McKay, "I still think it was an ace serve. It's very disappointing. It should have gone to the fifth (game)."

Reflecting on why she fell behind so early in the match, Heather said: "I started too slow, that's all. I was trying to do too much with the ball when I should have gone defensive, and I tried to pass too much early in the match. But, there's always next time."

"You can never count Heather out," Lynn said following the match, "because she's so tough and she's such a competitor. I would be very interested to know if she did what she did the middle of the third game on purpose. Her level went way down and that sucked everything out of me. It was very effective."

"I was really enthused to play this whole weekend, and I had a lot of confidence that I was going to win."

In the semifinals Saturday night, Lynn easily dispatched fifth-ranked Vicki Panzeri of Seattle, WA. In front of ESPN cameras—there to do a spot on women's racquetball—Adams took the match and advanced to the finals in three games. In the first game Adams allowed Panzeri to score only twelve times. In the second game Lynn and Vicki exchanged serves regularly until 12-all when Adams launched a killing and passing assault that ended the game 21-16. Lynn finished the third game and took the match 21-14.

The semifinal match between Heather McKay and Terri Gilreath, of El Toro, CA, was a contest of control and timing vs. speed and mobility. Terri, who is considered by many the fastest player in the women's game, was all over the court, but Heather still seemed able to score at will. While watching the McKay-Gilreath battle, Vicki Panzeri quipped that if the match was being scored by caloric consumption Terri would have been the clear winner. But racquetball is scored on points, and Heather McKay had the most. The Canadian was never pushed, and won in three games, 21-11, 21-14, 21-9.

In other matches, number 12 ranked Jennifer Harding played surprisingly aggressive racquetball to upset number 6 ranked Fran Davis, of Middlesex, NJ,

21-15, 22-20, 19-21, 21-14. The victory sent Harding into the quarterfinals where she was overwhelmed by Terri Gilreath, 21-9, 21-16, 21-8.

Caryn McKinney, perhaps the fastest-rising player in the women's game (and current president of the WPRA), was the only player to move substantially in the women's rankings at the Auburn tournament. McKinney defeated Chris Evon in the first round, and then routed Molly O'Brien before losing to Adams in four games in the quarterfinals. Her fifth consecutive quarterfinal finish boosted her ranking from #8 to #6.

Lynn Adams and Terri Gilreath teamed together again to continue their total domination of women's doubles, losing only two games in three matches. They defeated the teams of Marci Drexler/Fran Davis and Jennifer Harding/Caryn McKinney to reach the finals, where they outlasted first-time partners Heather McKay and Martha McDonald, 15-11, 17-15, 15-12.

Prize money totaled \$10,000 for singles play, and \$2,000 for doubles.

This year's Auburn event, which marked the second consecutive season opener for the Auburn Health and Racquet Club, was sponsored by Consolidated Beverages of Auburn, MA.

The WPRA tour is sponsored in part by Voit Sports.

**Tournament notes:** Heather McKay returned briefly to the world of squash—which she once dominated—during the summer. On vacation in her homeland of Australia, Heather entered, and won, the senior's division of that country's National Championships. . . What are you looking for, Terri? During her match with Heather McKay, Terri Gilreath suddenly realized she'd forgotten her eyeguards. As she was looking for them outside the court, the referee asked, "Did you lose your earring?". . . Always concerned with cleanliness, Caryn McKinney halted her match with Lynn Adams to pick up what looked like a piece of broken bumper on the floor. Surprise! It wasn't bumper at all. According to Caryn it was actually "something really yukky". . . The beautiful Auburn Health and Racquet club should get an award for having the best restaurant of any racquetball club in the country—Foggy's. If you're in Auburn, make sure to stop and have one of their lobster rolls (most of the pros had several). . . Finally—Lynn Adams lied! She told an ESPN cameraman that if he came on the court to film her and Heather that



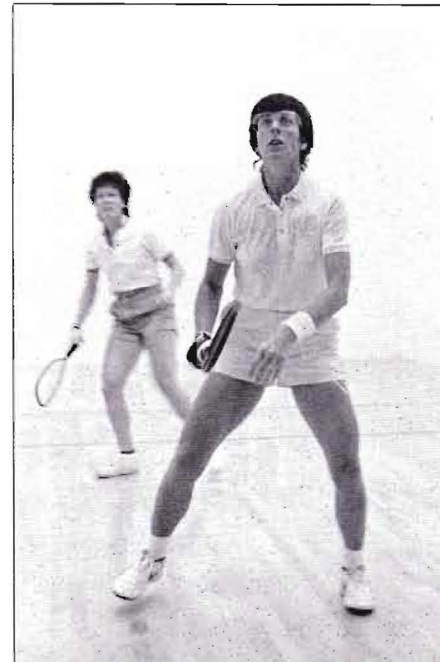
*Lynn Adams sets up in doubles final as McKay, McDonald and Gilreath look on*



*Heather McKay and Lynn Adams ham it up for the ESPN crew*

*Semifinalist Terri Gilreath*

*Heather McKay and Lynn Adams in final*



he wouldn't get hit with the ball. Wrong. Not only did Lynn hit the poor fellow, she gave him a bullseye! (If you don't know what that means, call Lynn.)

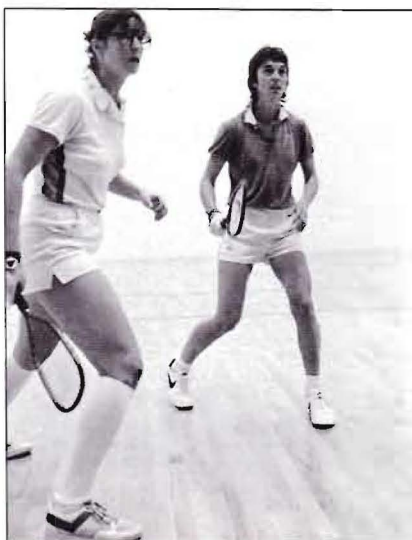
**Bud Light Pro Racquetball Classic  
Auburn, Massachusetts  
October 18-21, 1984**

**First Round**

Heather McKay-bye  
Trina Rasmussen d. Marci Drexler, 9-21, 13-21, 21-15, 21-11, 15-13;  
Cathie Fredrickson d. Laura Martino, 13-21, 21-19, 21-15, 10-21, 15-9;  
Joyce Jackson d. Robin Levine, 21-16, 21-10, 21-14;  
Fran Davis-bye  
Jennifer Harding d. Theresa Pitts, 21-11, 21-16, 21-8;  
Marcy Lynch d. Val Paese, 21-5, 21-10, 21-11;  
Terri Gilreath-bye  
Vicki Panzeri-bye  
Sandy Robson d. Janet Steere, 21-17, 21-15, 21-19  
Mary Dee d. Liz Alvarado, 21-14, 21-18, 21-12;  
Janell Marriott-bye  
Caryn McKinney d. Chris Evon, 21-14, 21-4, 21-17;  
Molly O'Brien d. Bonnie Stoll, 22-20, 22-24, 21-11, 21-14;  
Martha McDonald d. Cathy Nichols, 21-11, 21-17, 21-16;  
Lynn Adams-bye

**Second Round**

McKay d. Rasmussen, 21-11, 21-6, 21-7;



*Vicki Panzeri and Janell Marriott in the quarterfinals*

Jackson d. Fredrickson, 21-15, 19-21, 19-21, 21-11, 15-6;  
Harding d. Davis, 21-15, 22-20, 19-21, 21-14;  
Gilreath d. Lynch, 21-15, 21-13, 21-18  
Panzeri d. Robson, 19-21, 21-19, 21-16, 21-15;  
Marriott d. Dee, forfeit;  
McKinney d. O'Brien, 21-14, 21-10, 21-18;  
Adams d. McDonald, 21-14, 21-15, 21-9;

**Quarterfinals**

McKay d. Jackson, 21-11, 21-12, 21-11;  
Gilreath d. Harding, 21-9, 21-16, 21-8;  
Panzeri d. Marriott, 14-21, 21-15, 21-7, 21-19;  
Adams d. McKinney, 21-11, 13-21, 21-12, 21-16;

**Semifinals**

McKay d. Gilreath, 21-11, 21-14, 21-9;  
Adams d. Panzeri, 21-12, 21-16, 21-14

**Final**

Adams d. McKay, 21-14, 21-16, 17-21, 21-19.

Total Singles Purse: \$10,000

**Doubles**

**Quarterfinals**

Lynn Adams/Terri Gilreath d. Marci Drexler/  
Fran Davis, 15-11, 15-10, 10-15, 16-14;  
Caryn McKinney/Jennifer Harding d. Molly  
O'Brien/Marcy Lynch, 15-9, 15-9, 15-6;  
Heather McKay/Martha McDonald d. Joyce  
Jackson/Janell Marriott, 15-10, 10-15, 15-8,  
15-5;  
Vicki Panzeri/Bonnie Stoll d. Sandy Robson/  
Chris Evon, 15-10, 15-12, 15-9;

**Semifinals**

Adams/Gilreath d. McKinney/Harding, 11-15, 15-9, 15-10, 15-11;  
McDonald/McKay d. Panzeri/Stoll, 15-12, 15-8, 15-13;

**Final**

Adams/Gilreath d. McDonald/McKay, 15-11, 17-15, 15-12.

Total Purse: \$2,000



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Need a vacation? How about a week in the Caribbean aboard the world's ultimate racquetball court?

## ***The S/S Norway: Racquetball On The Water***

**S**o, you say that six feet of snow in the driveway has got you down, and you'd really like to spend a week away from it all in someplace warm, but you won't because you've never gone a week before without playing racquetball? Is that what's got you down, bunkie?

Well, take heart, my friend. Waiting for you at this very moment in the lovely turquoise waters of the Caribbean is the world's ultimate racquetball court. This court is a little different than the one you usually play on—it comes with something a little extra. Attached to its underside is the largest passenger cruise ship in the known universe, a 70,000 ton piece of floating steel known as The S/S Norway.

The Norway is the crown jewel of the five-ship fleet of Norwegian Caribbean Lines, the largest cruise line in North America. Every Saturday morning the S/S Norway sails from Miami to St. Thomas, Nassau, and Great Stirrup Cay, NCL's own private Caribbean island (that's right!).

Located in the center of the massive upper deck of the Norway is a soon-to-be enclosed three-wall racquetball court, believed to be one of only two floating courts in existence. The court is open daily for the use of any of the ship's nearly 1,800 passengers, whether it be for a hard morn-



ing workout with a friend, a lesson in the afternoon from one of racquetball's top players, or a few moments of hit-and-giggle with another friendly couple in the evening.

Of course, should you decide to spend your time with something other than racquetball (and if you wouldn't, maybe you don't belong in the Caribbean), the S/S Norway offers a few other active diver-

sions. In fact, the Norway has more sports programs than the average small city: basketball, volleyball, tennis, golf, ping pong, swimming (three pools), skeet shooting, jogging, weight training (a fully equipped gym), aerobics, horseshoes, ring toss, shuffleboard, scuba diving, windsurfing, water skiing, sailing, and so on.

All this wanton exercise has made you skinny as a rail, you say? Never fear. You can replenish your depleted body with the international cuisine featured at four on-board restaurants and two dining rooms. Later, wind down with a cocktail at any of eleven different lounges before strolling to the theater to see one of the America's top stars, or take in a full-scale Broadway production of "My Fair Lady." After the shows you can head for the disco, listen to NCL's own big band, or relax in the quiet elegance of Club Internationale.

Need to get rid of some of that needless cash? No problem. The S/S Norway is the world's largest floating casino, offering slot machines, roulette, craps, and blackjack.

The daily itinerary aboard the Norway

*The S/S Norway—the world's largest passenger cruise ship*



is unique among cruising lines because of the emphasis on physical activity. Norwegian Caribbean Lines is the originator of the "Fit With Fun" program designed to let travelers go on vacation without going to pot.

"Fitness is important to a lot of people these days," says Peter Compton, NCL Senior Vice President for Product Design and Development, "and many of our cruisers bring their work-out clothes with them. They have a firm resolve to keep up their exercise program, and our 'Fit With Fun' program makes it easy."

To maximize both the fun and the value of working out while on board, the Norway enlists the services of some of the top names in sports to work—and play—with passengers in various sports. Professional and Olympic celebrities like Floyd Patterson, Cathy Rigby McCoy, Dick Leach—the USC tennis coach, Rick Sutcliffe—starting pitcher for the Chicago Cubs, and a front line of NFL and USFL players, are among those who have participated in recent fitness cruises.

Racquetball has not been neglected. Current National Champion Mike Yellen, and ex-pro Steve Strandemo have both recently taken cruises as part of the Norway's "Fit With Fun" program. Yellen took part in an unusual trans-Atlantic (Philadelphia to Southampton) cruise in mid-summer, and Strandemo traveled with his wife Terry on the Caribbean trip in August.

Along with making personal appearances and giving instruction to the passengers, both Yellen and Strandemo were asked for their input about improving the Norway's racquetball court. When originally constructed the court was enclosed with glass, but when excessive heat buildup proved to be a problem the glass



The world's ultimate racquetball court—the S/S Norway

was removed making the court similar to a standard outdoor court. A net was placed along the sides and back of the court to keep the ball—and presumably the players—from going into the water.

At the encouragement of both Yellen and Strandemo, NCL is now in the process of enclosing the court once again, this time with a type of perforated plexiglass that will give the necessary ventilation. According to NCL, that renovation should be completed by December 1.

So get off your frozen duff and give NCL a call. A little racquetball under the tropical sun may be just what you need. Better hurry, though; in the past five years,

every S/S Norway fitness cruise has completely sold out. (Oh, and don't worry about that snow in the driveway. It'll still be there when you get back.)

What does all this luxury under the sun cost? Rates for the Caribbean cruise of the S/S Norway range from \$1,095 to \$2,710 per person, depending on accommodations. Included in that amount is round-trip airfare from over 80 cities in the U.S. For more information about cruises on the S/S Norway, contact:

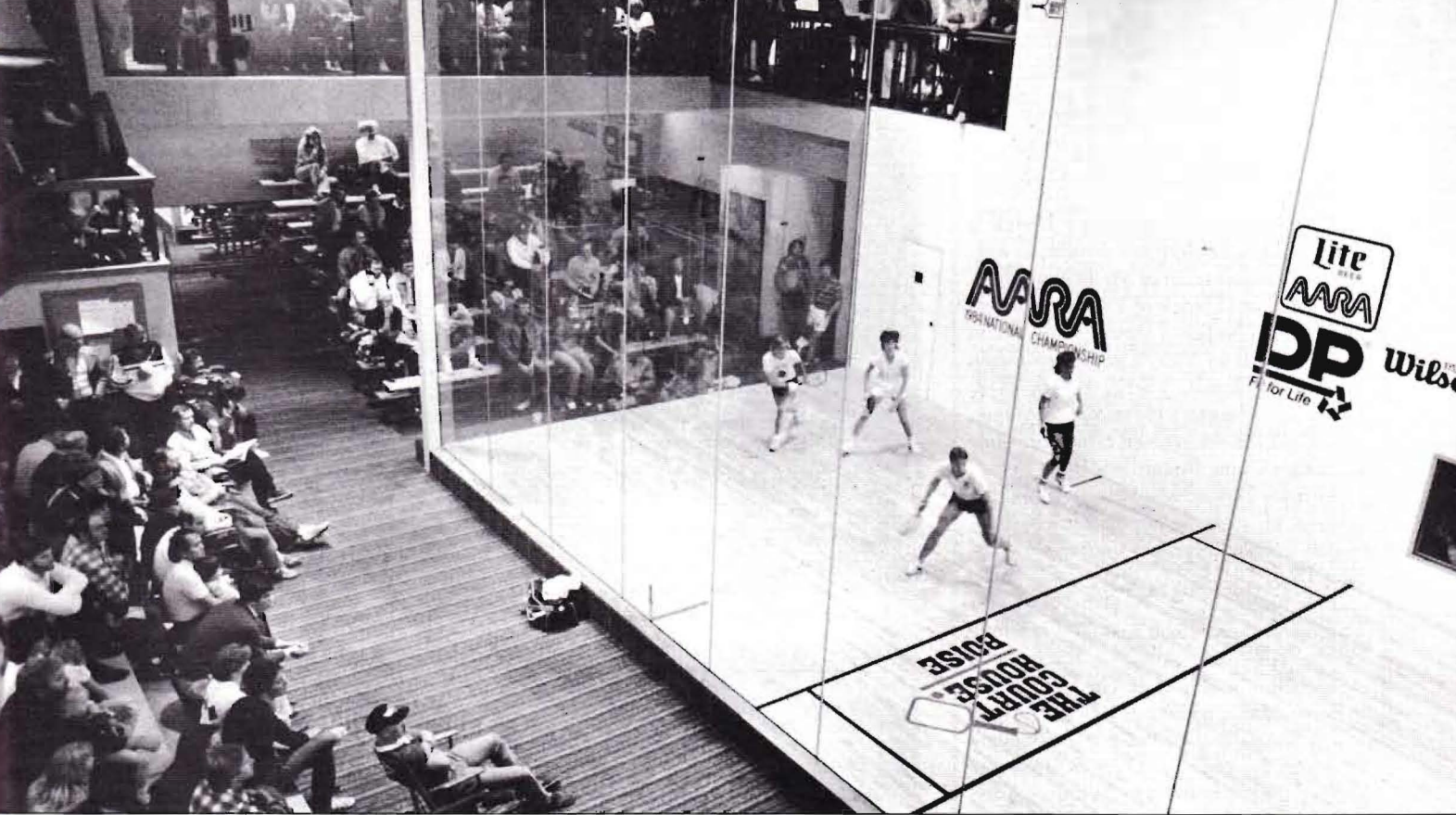
Norwegian Caribbean Lines  
One Biscayne Tower  
Miami, FL 33131  
305-358-6670

Steve Strandemo helps a passenger with his forehand



Guess who Steve Strandemo's sponsor is?





## AARA NATIONAL DOUBLES

# OBREMSKI-VANTREASE CROWNED DOUBLES CHAMPS

**F**or as long as many people in this sport can remember, Steve Trent and Stan Wright of California have reigned as the dominant doubles team in racquetball. Not only have they remained unchallenged while grabbing every major doubles title the sport has to offer, but many credit them with virtually inventing the sport as it is now played on the national level.

On the afternoon of October 27, at the 1984 U.S. National Doubles Championships in Boise, Idaho, the Trent/Wright era came to a stunning end. Two unseeded players, Dan Obremski of Pittsburgh, PA, and Kelvin Vantrease of Cincinnati, OH, teamed up in their first national doubles event ever to overwhelm Trent and Wright in the semifinals, 15-7, 15-9, before a shocked crowd. Obremski and Vantrease then justified the upset by outblasting Andy Roberts and Scott Reid of Tennes-



L to R: Obremski, Reid, Roberts, Vantrease in final

see in a spectacular—and nearly disastrous—final, 15-8, 7-15, 11-7, to win the most prestigious doubles crown in racquetball.

There was a lack of respect for defending champions in the women's division as well. The top-seeded team of Malia Kamahoa-hoa and Carol Frenck of Virginia, winners of the 1983 National Doubles title, fell in the semifinals to Mary Lyons and Susan Morgan of Florida, 15-12, 12-15, 11-2. Lyons and Morgan were unable, however, to hold off the determined attack of fellow Floridians Diane Bullard and Julia Pinnell in the final. Bullard and Pinnell stubbornly refused to yield in an extremely tight match, taking the crown with a heartstopping 15-5, 14-15, 11-10 victory.

This year's U.S. National Doubles Championships, which is staged annually by the American Amateur Racquetball Association, was held at The Courthouse in Boise, Idaho, a massive 27-court facility which boasts one of the finest exhibition courts in the country. Over 500 players entered the tournament in 27 different divisions, including mixed doubles. At stake were prestigious national titles, and births on the U.S. National Racquetball Team to be awarded to the winners of the men's and women's open divisions.

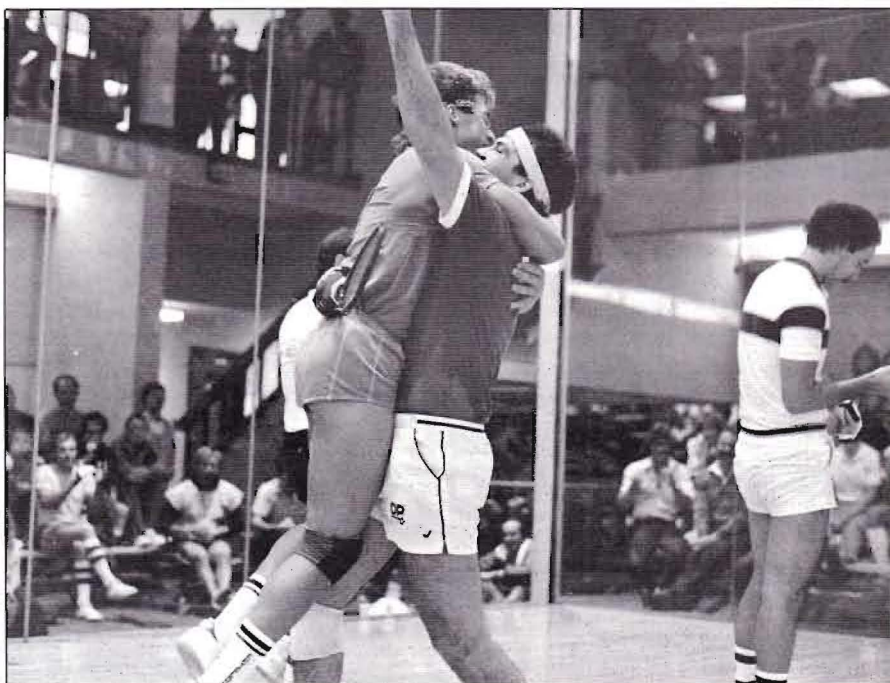
The significance of the Trent/Wright upset goes beyond just a changing of the guard; because of how they won, Obremski and Vantrease strongly challenged the accepted theory of how doubles is most effectively played. For years it has been felt that the ideal doubles team was composed of left and right-handed players, a combination which places a strong forehand on either side wall. Steve Trent and Stan Wright were the ultimate left-right team. The left-handed Wright playing on the left side (whew!) had an uncanny ability to keep every ball in play, while the lightning fast Trent often seemed capable of killing any ball that entered the right half of the court.

But Obremski and Vantrease thought they saw a weakness in that strategy. With forehands on either wall, they reasoned, why not attack the two weaker backhands in the center? At every opportunity Dan and Kelvin drove the ball directly into center court, a feat which is more difficult than it sounds—driving the center is almost never done in singles. The Trent/Wright machine ground to a screeching halt as they remained constantly on defense, waiting in vain for anything that resembled a forehand.

While Trent and Wright were struggling to patch the "seam" in their offense, Obremski and Vantrease, who are both right-handed, had their bases covered.

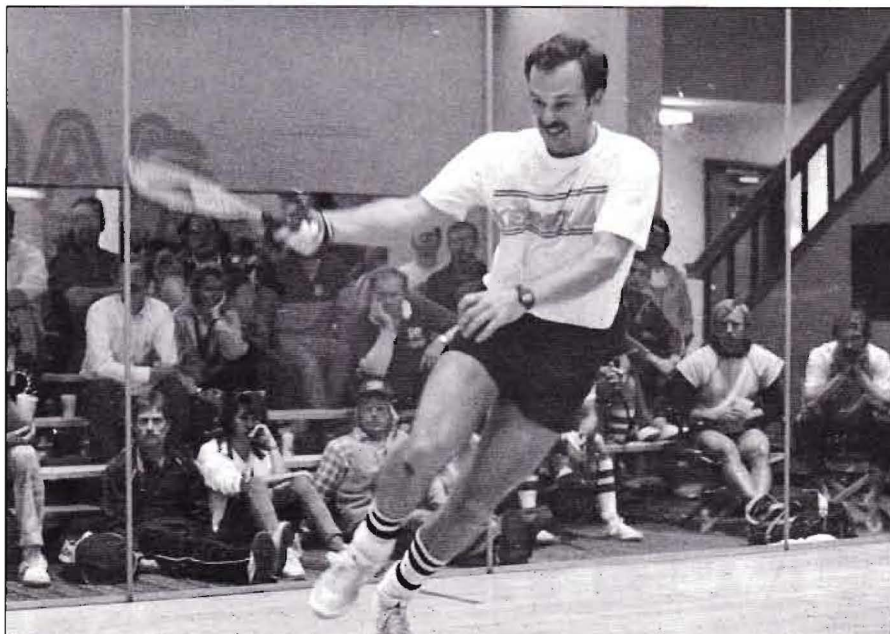


*Vantrease holds center court during upset of Trent and Wright*



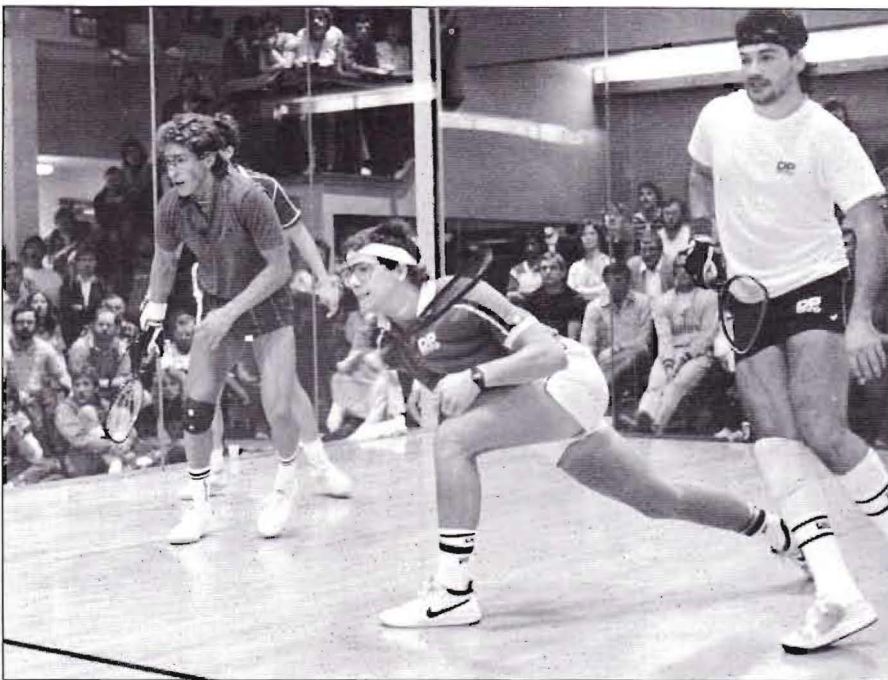
*Obremski and Vantrease celebrate after defeating Trent and Wright*

*Steve Trent was forced to hit his backhand during the semifinal upset*





*In men's open doubles, sometimes the court gets very crowded*



*Andy Roberts stretches for a forehand in the men's open final*

*Julia Pinnell drives her backhand as partner Bullard looks on*



With ultra-quick Obremski on the right wall, and powerful Vantrease on the left (which placed his accurate forehand in the center), the two Easterners were solid in every zone.

Both games of the semifinal match were tense. In game one the two teams were dead even until Dan and Kelvin broke away from from a 5-5 tie, and never looked back, winning with ease 15-7. That single game victory alone was significant; it was the first game lost by Trent and Wright in the last three years of national competition.

Game two was closer; the score was tied at 3, 6, and 9. Two time-outs by Trent and Wright at 9-all failed to rattle the challengers who returned to the court and fired six straight points to win 15-9.

The victors were jubilant. Vantrease—who is large enough to be a linebacker—lifted his smaller partner high into the air in celebration.

"We had a game plan," smiled Obremski. "They are lefty-righty so we tried to keep the ball in the middle instead of passing shots. We used shots right at their bodies so they couldn't give us many difficult (returns). It was the best we've ever played."

"We knew they had a reputation," said Vantrease. "We knew Steve was quick as lightning and Stan didn't hit any ceiling shots. So we tried to keep them deep in the court and make it almost impossible for them to get kills."

Then Kelvin added, "I'm on cloud nine."

While Obremski and Vantrease were celebrating their victory, another unseeded team was storming its way to the finals by scoring two big upsets in the lower bracket. Andy Roberts and Scott Reid, both sudents at Memphis State University, moved through three rounds without dropping a single game. Roberts is one of the most familiar names in amateur racquetball. It was he who, as the top player on the U.S. Team, earned the thrilling victory over Canadian pro Ross Harvey at the World Games in Sacramento that secured the team title for the United States.

In the quarterfinals, Roberts and Reid shocked everyone in Boise by overwhelming the second-seed team of Jeff Kwartler and Mark Malowitz of Texas, 15-7, 15-8. In the semifinals they held off a determined charge by #3 seeds Sergio Gonzales and Joe Icaza of Florida, 15-10, 9-15, 11-5, to advance into the final. The matchup for the championship was set; the top seeds had all been eliminated, and all four finalists were appearing in a national doubles final for their first time.

And, surprisingly, neither team was a lefty-righty combination.

There was little question what Obremski and Vantrease would attempt to do to Roberts and Reid on Sunday afternoon. The logical way to win in doubles is to isolate the weaker player on the opposing team, and everyone assumed that in this match Scott Reid was the weak link. Not only did he have far less experience than Roberts, but he was playing the right side, and on Court 27 at the Courthouse that means trying to pick the ball out of forty feet of glass. Isolating Scott Reid was the obvious strategy; it turned out to be the wrong one. For the first ten minutes of game one Obremski and Vantrease relentlessly pounded the ball to the right side; the young Reid not only took it all, he did a little pounding of his own. In a game of two-on-one the score stayed even, and it became clear that this match was not going to be decided by a weakness on the right side.

Dan and Kelvin decided to try something new. They began to test the waters on the left side, and suddenly the match began to turn. Roberts seemed to be having trouble adjusting to Vantrease's size and power down the left wall. The battle quickly became a shootout between Roberts and Vantrease, with Obremski and Reid both solidly keeping the ball in play. Vantrease was overpowering, and game one ended 15-8.

A determined Andy Roberts pulled his game together and led his team to a 6-5 lead in game two. Then came the unexpected—the secret nightmare of every racquetball doubles player. On a ceiling ball to the left side, Vantrease fired a vicious cross-court overhead that traveled only three feet before striking Roberts on the side of his head. Andy wobbled for two steps and then crumbled to the floor holding his head, where he lay for 10 minutes—out cold. Scott Reid stood dazed as two doctors hovered over his fallen partner.

After a few anxious moments, that seemed like hours to the concerned crowd, Andy rose from the floor and left the court to their sincere applause. Many assumed the contest was over. But, to almost everyone's surprise, Roberts pulled himself together and insisted on playing out the match. He assured everyone that he was OK, and the match resumed.

Andy was better than OK. Suddenly, vintage Roberts was back. For the first time in the match his shots became crisp, accurate, and powerful. Like a Phoenix risen from the ashes of near-disaster, Andy Roberts was on fire.



*Roberts and Reid scramble during semifinal defeat of Icaza and Gonzales*



*Reid and Obremski hover over the injured Roberts*



*Andy Roberts tries to pull himself together after being struck by Vantrease*

Vantrease, meanwhile, was visibly shaken; he became unusually quiet, and his shots were obviously tentative. Roberts and Reid whipped the crowd into frenzy as they drilled 9 of the next 11 points to win the second game, 15-7.

"I was scared," Vantrease would say later. "It broke my concentration and took my mind off the game. I let it get away when I hit Andy."

With Vantrease now in a coma of his own, the tie-breaker was in the hands of Obremski. Dan fought brilliantly on the right, keeping his team in the match while Kelvin tried to forget the horrible overhead. The two teams battled to a tie at 6-all, and Obremski, who had been nearly

silent to the point, began shouting, "C'mon, Kel!"

Slowly, Kelvin turned back into the "animal" everyone had seen throughout the tournament. It took twenty minutes for Obremski and Vantrease to score the final five points, as they held Roberts and Reid in check. They took the championship by winning the tie-breaker 11-7.

"They were stiff competition—much tougher than (Saturday)," said Vantrease. "We tried to pick on Scott because he's the weaker of the two. We tried to make him choke, but he wouldn't."

"The key was that we got more intense in the end than they did," explained Obremski. "We had a game plan, but it



Cindy Baxter takes a forehand in the mixed doubles final



A local doctor checks Andy Roberts' eyes



Mixed doubles winners Malia Kamahoahoa and Kelvin Vantrease

didn't work. We had to fight for every point and fall back on our ability."

The women's open final, though somewhat less dramatic, was even more of a cliff-hanger. After winning the first game with ease, 15-5, Diane Bullard and Julia Pinnell appeared ready to end the all-Florida matchup in two games when they served at 14-13 in the second. But Mary Lyons and Susan Morgan stubbornly held them off to win back the serve and eventually take the second game 15-14.

The tie-breaker was locked up tight all the way to the final point. With Lyons and Morgan serving for the match at 10-all, Susan connected with an overhead smash that appeared to be the end of the match.

But Pinnell made a leaping return, blood-ying her knee but keeping the ball in play.

"When that ball came off the wall, I was saying, 'Please get the ball,'" Bullard said with a smile.

Said Pinnell: "I would've broken my knee to get to that one."

Diane and Julia won the next rally, and ended the match on their first serve, 11-10. For Bullard and Pinnell, the victory was sweet revenge. Lyons and Morgan had beaten them earlier for the women's 25-year-old division championship.

Neither women's team had an easy path into the final. After downing local favorites Sheryl Ambler and Elaine Riley, Bullard and Pinnell were pushed to three

games by the third-seeded team of Mona Mook and Trina Rasmussen in the semifinals, 15-13, 11-15, 11-6.

Lyons and Morgan defeated the strong team of Marci Drexler and Theresa Nunn in the quarterfinals, 15-14, 15-12, before taking out the number one seeds Kamahoahoa and Fenck in a three game semifinal.

The winners of the men's and women's open divisions automatically received spots on the U.S. National Team. The team will travel to Ecuador in December to participate in the regional qualifications for the 1985 London World Games.

Mixed doubles was recently added as a division in the National Doubles Championships. This year's champions, Kelvin Vantrease and Malia Kamahoahoa defeated the team of Dan Obremski and Cindy Baxter.

**U.S. National Doubles Championships  
Boise, Idaho  
October 25-28, 1984**

**Men's Open**

**Round of 32:**

Trent/Wright (CA); bye  
Christensen/Wolanin (NY) d. Graham/Olson (ID); 6,6  
Zirkle/Hegg (CO) d. Driscoll/Petersen (ID); sna  
Klein/Ganim (OH) d. Bates/Hamilton (ID); 1,10  
Mazaroff/Owen (NM) d. Maffioli/Roger (ID); sna  
Obremski/Vantrease (OH) d. Hanson/Weber (ID); 13,7  
Allen/Lockridge (WA) d. Tauton/Tauton (MN); forfeit  
Gautier/Hanson (FL) d. McGurran/Lien (ND); 13,1  
Gonzales/Icaza (FL); bye  
Griffith/Henshaw (WA) d. Cooper/Factor (CA); 9,6  
Morrow/Radford (CA) d. Relendez/na; forfeit  
Swain/Costeich (MA) d. Hincks/Olson (UT); 5,2  
Moody/Ost (CA) d. Jenkins/Kachaturian; 2,5  
Roberts/Reid (TN) d. Gilman/Gilman (OR); 0,8  
Barkey/Thurman (CA) d. Boland/Lunn (MT); 12,7  
Kwartler/Malowitz (TX); bye

**Round of 16:**

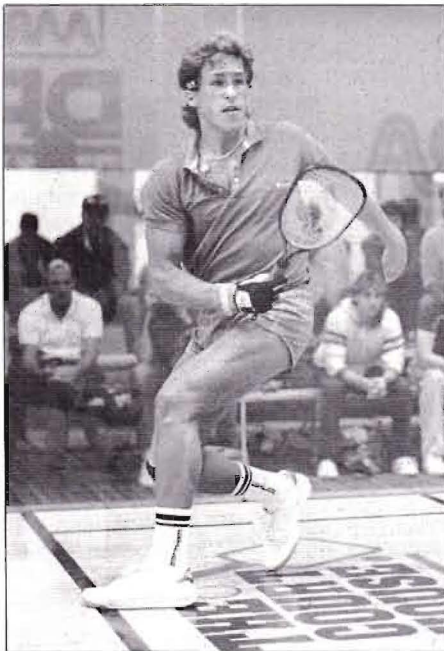
Trent/Wright d. Christensen/Wolanin; 0,2  
Zirkle/Hegg d. Klein/Ganim; (13),5,8  
Obremski/Vantrease d. Mazaroff/Owen; (11),9,3  
Gautier/Hanson d. Allen/Lockridge; 11,11  
Gonzales/Icaza d. Griffith/Henshaw; 4,10  
Swain/Costeich d. Morrow/Radford; (13),12,10  
Roberts/Reid d. Moody/Ost; 11,11  
Kwartler/Malowitz d. Barkey/Thurman; 7, 12

**Quarterfinals:**

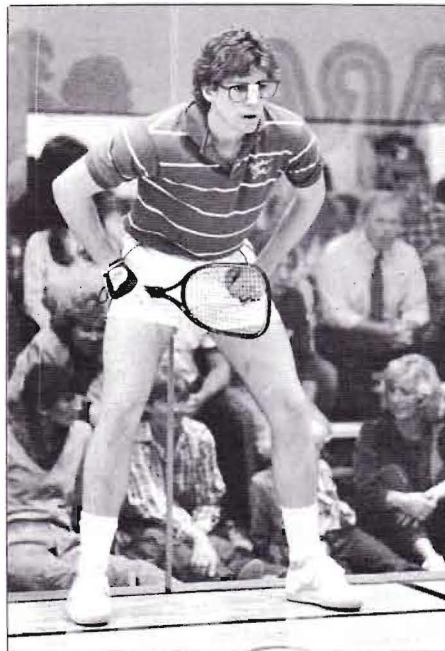
Trent/Wright d. Zirkle/Hegg; 11,7  
Obremski/Vantrease d. Gautier/Hanson; (12),12,9



The new champions shake hands with the old



Dan Obremski



Scott Reid

Left to Right: Darell Swain—Lite Beer, Dan Obremski, Kelvin Vantrease, Scott Reid, Andy Roberts, Luke St. Onge—AARA



Gonzales/Icaza d. Swain/Costeleich; (12),9,9

Roberts/Reid d. Kwartler/Malowitz; 7,8

**Semifinals:**

Obremski/Vantrease d. Trent/Wright; 7,9

Roberts/Reid d. Gonzales/Icaza; 10,(9),5

**Finals:**

Obremski/Vantrease d. Roberts/Reid; 8,(7),7

**Women's Open**

**Round of 16:**

Kamahoahoa/Frenck (VA); bye  
 Gilman/Anderson (OR) d. Cardenas/Pulis (NV); 8,(12),9

Drexler/Nunn (CA) d. Pierson/Robertson (WA); 7,13

Lyons/Morgan (FL) d. Walton-Trent/na; for. Mook/Rasmussen (WA) d. Taylor/Jungen (ID); forfeit

Baxter/Gluvna (TN) d. Mays/Trettel (MN); 2,9

Ambler/Riley (ID) d. Coray/Urza (WA); 13,4  
 Bullard/Pinnell (FL); bye

**Quarterfinals:**

Kamahoahoa/Frenck d. Gilman/Anderson; 13,12

Lyons/Morgan d. Drexler/Nunn; 14,12

Mook/Rasmussen d. Baxter/Gluvna; (2),9,0

Bullard/Pinnell d. Ambler/Riley; 4,11

**Semifinals:**

Lyons/Morgan d. Kamahoahoa/Frenck; 12,(12),2

Bullard/Pinnell d. Mook/Rasmussen; 13,(11),6

**Finals:**

Bullard/Pinnell d. Lyons/Morgan; 5,(14),10

**DIVISION CHAMPIONS**

**MEN'S B:**

Mike Dick (NV) and Armondo Flores (CA)

**MEN'S 19:**

Bubba Gautier (FL) and Tim Hansen (FL)

**MEN'S 25:**

Dan Factor (TX) and Marshall Greenman (TX)

**MEN'S 30:**

Rob Barruck (NV) and Steve Dunn (CA)

**MEN'S 35:**

Joe Icaza (FL) and Van Dubolsky (FL)

**MEN'S 40:**

Mark Wayne (CA) and Jerry Davis (OH)

**MEN'S 45:**

Bud Muehleisen (CA) and Pat Colombo (NY)

**MEN'S 50:**

Bud Muehleisen (CA) and Pat Colombo (NY)

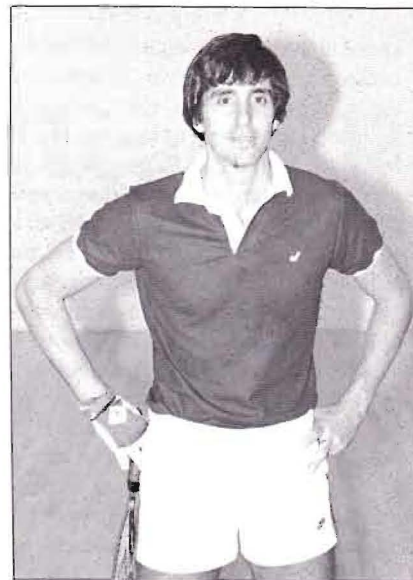
**MEN'S 55:**

Pat Whitehill (CA) and Lake Westpal (CA)

NOTE: The results of the divisions above are the only ones we received from the AARA. While other men's divisions and numerous women's divisions were played, no results of those were provided by the AARA prior to press time.

# THE GREATEST

by Jerry Hilecher



The pros pick the hardest hitters of all time.

- (1) Marty Hogan
- (2) Bret Harnett
- (3) Lindsay Myers
- (4) Jeff Larson
- (5) Dave Peck

**T**he power category is probably the premier and most sought after strength among the top players. Racquetball is a physical game, and nothing else expresses the energy of racquetball better than blasting a shot. Power is the purest of any racquetball category to break down, and either you've got it or you don't. By the time you reach the open class, if you haven't learned how to rip a forehand, you probably never will. Power is racquet speed, pure and simple. The faster the racquet is moving at point of contact, the harder the ball will be hit.

There are aspects other than racquet speed that can have some effect on how fast the ball will move. Years ago, I realized that weight distribution, composition, and the string tension in a racquet can affect how fast the ball will come off the racquet. Weight distribution is important because you want more of the weight to be proportioned toward the end of a racquet where ball contact is made. Weight in the handle of a racquet is basically dead weight, and has a negative effect. Composition of a racquet can affect how fast the ball can rebound off the racquet. The stiffer racquets allow the ball to come off faster than the more flexible ones. Higher string tension has a similar effect on a ball. Having a ball come off a racquet faster doesn't always mean the ball will be moving faster. A good example of this is when you hit a

ball with a solid wooden paddle. Racquets cause a type of trampoline effect, where the racquet actually bends around the ball at point of contact then springs back to its original shape. The faster the racquet snaps back the more effect it has on the ball.

A couple of years ago, I took a radar gun and a few different racquets on the court, to see the differences, if any, the various racquets have on power. At the time I was playing with the Ektelon Hilecher racquet. The racquet was fairly stiff and head heavy at 265 grams and the average range of my shots were between 113 and 118 miles per hour. Next I tried the Ektelon Mike Yellen Flex, a very flexible and slightly lighter racquet than the

Hilecher, and the range was 110 to 115 m.p.h. The last racquet I tried was an Ektelon C.B.K. which weighed around 250 grams and like the other two racquets had a string tension of 27 pounds. I was very surprised to see my shots quickly increase between 118 and 126 m.p.h. The C.B.K. is not as stiff a racquet as the Hilecher, but I was told by research and development at Ektelon that the racquet snaps back into the ball much faster, giving the ball additional power. After the test I contemplated switching racquets, but I didn't want to be considered just another mindless power player. Instead, I'm just another mindless control one.

In my previous articles, I pointed out how the game has been affected by the

*Brett Harnett prepares to powder a forehand against Ruben Gonzalez*



speed of the ball. Hitting the ball hard in the earlier days was done very differently than today. I remember a very young Mike Zeitman on his way to winning the 1969 International Doubles Championships with his partner Alan Hyman. Mike came from Louisville, Kentucky, along with another slugger, Ken Porco. In the earlier years, players that hit the ball hard were of very strong physique. Ken Porco is a perfect example of this. Ken's body was often compared to a fire hydrant and he had forearms larger than Steve Garvey. When he ran into the wall you checked it for cracks. Since the balls of the era were slower, players had to use muscle for power, with a lot more arm movement than in today's stroke. As the ball started speeding up, power players changed to a bull whip motion to maximize racquet speed and power. Power was now generated from strength in the forearm and quickness in the wrist. I remember one article written about 11 years ago rating the top five power players at the time. At the top of the list were two six-foot-tall, scrawny kids from St. Louis who knew the value of the whipping motion. Steve Serot and myself were the top players according to the survey, yet we would not even rank in the top 20 today.

Looking at the top five power players on this month's greatest list, you can see that

there is now a third generation to the power player. Today's hardest hitters are very lean but muscular. With the exception of Jeff Larson, they all have well defined quadricep muscles, strong upper bodies, large forearms, and very little body fat. Hogan is the only shorty at around 5'7", while the others are around 6 feet tall.

Lyndsay Myers: Lyndsay was one of the first new wave pros to generate a great deal of power with a stroke different than the classical bull whip stroke. He would hit the ball farther back in his stance and come over the ball in a pendulum type motion. I can remember him telling me that "the secret is to lock your wrist at point of contact and that power is generated from this stiff wrist." That philosophy had gone against my teaching methods of five years ago, and even of today, yet this is the very motion found in many of today's power players. Watching Lyndsay rotate for a backhand, you could see his shoulders turning all the way to where his back was facing the front wall. His arm would coil so that the racquet was slightly in front of his face. He would then explode into the shot with a motion coming over the ball and causing an over-spin. His wrist and forearm are firm at point of contact with his shoulders rotating smoothly 180 degrees. According to Lyndsay, other aspects that contribute to power are timing, point of contact, and forearm strength.

Andy Gross seems to be the new heir apparent to the power throne. The problem with Andy is he's still growing and getting stronger. Ball manufacturers had better start making balls a little stronger. Andy's backhand comes over the ball more than any other pro. On the positive side, it can mean additional power and ball movement, but on the down side it also means inconsistency and skip balls. Around seven years ago, another St. Louis boy had the same terrible things about him but he didn't seem to suffer too badly. Speaking of Hogan, he set the unofficial speed record of 142 miles per hour around five years ago in Chicago. For some reason that test has become the measurement every gunslinger is shooting for. My experience with radar guns over the years finds that each one gives different readings which causes doubt in measuring exactly how hard a player can really hit a ball. The elevation also has a drastic effect where testing done in the Colorado mountains gives readings at least 10 miles an hour more than those at sea level. If Hogan's legitimate speed was 142 in Chicago then

***“Andy Gross seems to be the new heir apparent to the power throne. The problem is, Andy is still growing and getting stronger. The manufacturers had better start making stronger balls.”***

one can assume a speed in excess of 150 m.p.h. in Denver.

There is a strong indication that there might be a fourth generation to the power game. Dave Peck first coined the phrase "controlled power" and five of the top seven pros incorporate that philosophy in their game plan. Dave wanted to change the "blast every shot" theory and use power sparingly to throw his opponent off balance. This strategy seems to be more prevalent in some of the past power players who can no longer hit every shot hard. Times have surely changed over the years. Early power players were labeled cave men and gorillas while today's are young stallions or colts. Like the pitcher Nolan Ryan, today's power players have three types of kill shots: hard, harder, and forget it.

I have often scratched my head in bewilderment, playing various power players and trying to anticipate their shots. One of my most vivid experiences happened recently last May at the Ektelon National Championships. I was playing Brett Harnett in the finals, and during a very intense volley, Brett hit a photon backhand reverse pinch for a flat roll-out. I turned to him and asked, "Why the bleep did you hit that stupid shot?" His answer was short and simple. In his normal deep voice he replied, "I just felt like rippin'."

My top three choices for "greatest power players of all time are:

- (1) Marty Hogan
- (2) Brett Harnett
- (3) Lyndsay Myers

Marty Hogan



# Where is the Racquetball Market Headed?

Those who are involved in racquetball, both the sport and the industry, refer often—and with great affection—to the “boom” days of the late 1970s. It was, to be sure, a period of incredible growth. Riding the coattails of general economic expansion in the United States, and the entrance into the marketplace of hoards of fitness-conscious baby-boomers, racquetball virtually exploded from a few thousand players in 1970 to perhaps 10 million by the end of the decade. Clubs were built as fast as hammers could fly, the professional game was soaring, and the end was no where in sight.

But, of course, the end did come. When the brakes were thrown on the economy, American’s attention turned to making house payments and our communal love affair with leisure sizzled. The sporting goods industry was devastated, and racquetball’s vigorous growth turned overnight into a vicious shakeout.

Fortunately, most of us seem to have survived the Great Recession—racquetball did too. Most areas of the sport are once again starting to feel the effects of minimal growth. Racquetball has matured, and seems to have settled comfortably into its rightful place as the majorest of minor sports.

As any child knows, a good ride on a roller-coaster can wreak havoc with your perspective. Likewise, many of us who rode racquetball through the boom years and into the slide, now have a difficult time understanding the current state of the sport, and its direction for the future. Depending on whom you ask, the current state of the sport is either dead, stagnant, recovering, promising, or booming.

While different factions in the sport vary greatly in their assessment of racquetball’s direction, there is one group—perhaps only one—whose perspective is created, and backed-up, by cold numbers; the manufacturers. Theirs is an outlook based on fact. There is no need to guess at the health of the industry when your own balance sheet can tell you how many racquets, balls, gloves, or whatever, are going out the door, and how that number compares to a year ago or five years ago.

Like most businesses, racquetball’s manufacturers tend to judge each selling



Greg Eveland of Diversified Products

*“We’re committed to bring new players into the sport. There are two ways to do that. One is through a juniors program and the other is to expose more people to the game. The pro game is a good way to accomplish that.”*

*—Greg Eveland,  
DP Industries*

season by the previous one. Large companies (such as DP, Ektelon, Penn, Wilson, and Head) expect a healthy market to increase by at least a few percentage points each year. They generally do not describe business trends in terms of good or bad; the sales curve is simply down, flat (even), or up. By those standards most manufacturers of racquetball related equipment seem to agree that the current state of the industry is flat or rising slightly.

“The growth is gradual right now,” says Norm Peck of Ektelon, “and we project gradual growth over the next three to five years. The fad is over, and now the people that are playing are relatively serious racquetball players. That core group should continue to expand

and bring some new players into the game.”

Greg Eveland of Diversified Products agrees: “I don’t think that we’ll ever see the fast growth of the late seventies again, but I do think there’s definitely room for steady growth with some increase each year. This year has been a flat year—not really negative or positive, just flat.”

Why has the growth of racquetball slowed so dramatically in the last five years? While the slide in the economy—and the attendant increase in building costs—definitely had a great deal to do with it, many of the manufacturers cite the “bell-curve” theory: Every new sport goes through a cycle of rapid growth which peaks after a couple of years, and the tails off into a period of mild, but fairly constant growth.

“The industry has leveled off,” says Mike Skinner of Head Racquet Sports. “The reason for the drastic downturn was that the sport was just going through the typical bell curve that every new sport experiences.”

“Racquetball is a mature sport now,” adds Norm Peck. “As in any bell curve, there’s tremendous growth and then there’s a drop off period, followed by gradual growth. It’s much the same as happened in tennis.”

Some manufacturers feel that the maturing process to which Peck refers has fundamentally changed the target market for their products. While the sport was growing quickly, the largest market segment was composed of new players, those who tend to buy less expensive “entry-level” equipment. But, with the fad-phase now past, today’s players tend to be serious about the game and their purchases reflect that.

Jim Searcy of Voit explains: “I think the sport has leveled out compared to some of the other years, but it’s not dying. Racquetball is just down now to the hardcore, and everyday players—those who like the game. We don’t see the sport growing a great deal for the next couple of years.”

Perhaps the industry’s largest manufacturer of entry-level racquetball equipment (although they market high-end products as well) is giant Wilson sporting goods. According to Jacqui Black, Wil-

son has noticed a distinct drop recently in the lower-end market:

"1983 was very good, and the beginning of 1984 looked very promising. But the buying season ended earlier than usual, for whatever reason, and it seems to be starting later. Consequently, for us the way that 1984 will look when we come out of it will be at best flat with '83, and possibly a little down.

"People are definitely buying more expensive racquets, and you have to assume those racquets are going to last longer, so they don't replace them as frequently. The dollar value of the market hasn't changed much, but the type and number of units sold has."

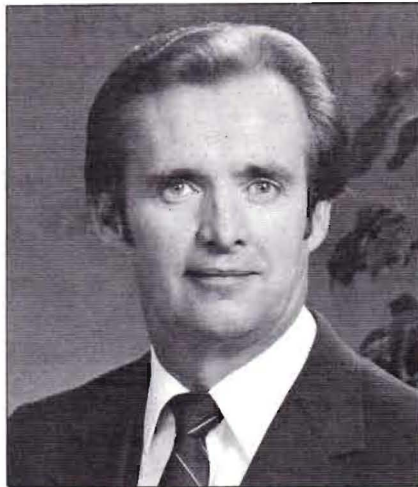
Another cause for the decline in racquetball's growth that is cited by manufacturers is the lack of a visible professional tour. It is now widely accepted that one of the reasons for the sport's rapid growth in the late 1970s was the interest created by the large-scale (albeit controversial) NRC and Catalina tours. Although the women's pro game has survived and experienced some growth, organized men's professional racquetball essentially came to an end in 1983, and it has been in a state of chaos since.

An interesting view concerning the importance of the pro game comes from Scott Rogers of Pro-Kennex, which markets racquetball equipment through its Marty Hogan Racquetball division. Pro-Kennex is also actively involved in the sports of professional tennis and squash.

"I think the lack of a pro tour is causing the sport in general to suffer," observes Rogers. "Compare racquetball to a little sport like squash where the top four players work very closely together. They have about \$600,000 in prize money in a sport that isn't nearly the size of racquetball, and yet squash is incredibly healthy from the pro tour, teaching pro standpoint. They have been a little more successful in organizing the pro players the last couple of years."

Other manufacturers agree. In fact, five of the largest (DP, Ektelon, Penn, Wilson, and Voit) have recently formed the Racquetball Manufacturer's Association (RMA) to initiate a series of programs designed to revitalize the sport, including the creation of a new large-scale pro tour.

Greg Eveland, current president of the RMA, observes: "The challenge now is to bring more players into the sport. There are really two ways to do that, and



Jim Searcy of Voit

*"I think the sport has leveled out compared to some of the other years, but it's not dying. Racquetball is just down now to the hardcore and everyday players—those who like the game."*

*—Jim Searcy,  
Voit Sports*

we're committed to working in both areas. One is to bring more young players into the sport through some type of juniors program. The other is to expose racquetball to more people, and the pro tour is a good way to accomplish that."

To be sure, the RMA has found resurrecting the pro game to be a difficult task. Members of the RMA now expect the tour to finally be in place by September of 1985.

Along with their collective effort to establish a solid professional game, manufacturers are beginning to fix their sights on previously untapped areas of the sport that offer the promise of growth. Two of the most promising are juniors programs and overseas sales.

Virtually everyone in the industry agrees that racquetball has failed miserably to attract and cultivate young players. That failure has been a two-edged sword; not

only has the enormous youth market remained untapped in terms of potential sales, but lack of a strong youth program has put the long term growth prospects for the sport in jeopardy. The RMA has established as one of its top priorities the creation of a strong national juniors program, similar to that of tennis.

One of the true bright spots on racquetball's horizon is the mushrooming growth internationally. In some areas, particularly Canada and Japan, the sport is just heading into the sharp upswing of the bell-curve, much as the United States did the mid-seventies.

"Everyone has now identified that Japan should be the next growth area," observes Norm Peck. "Also, Canada has been left almost alone, and now a lot of manufacturers are beginning to realize that there's a nice size market up there, and it's a lot closer than going to Europe."

A big obstacle to marketing outside the United States, according to Peck, is expense; "It takes a lot of dollars to promote the sport overseas."

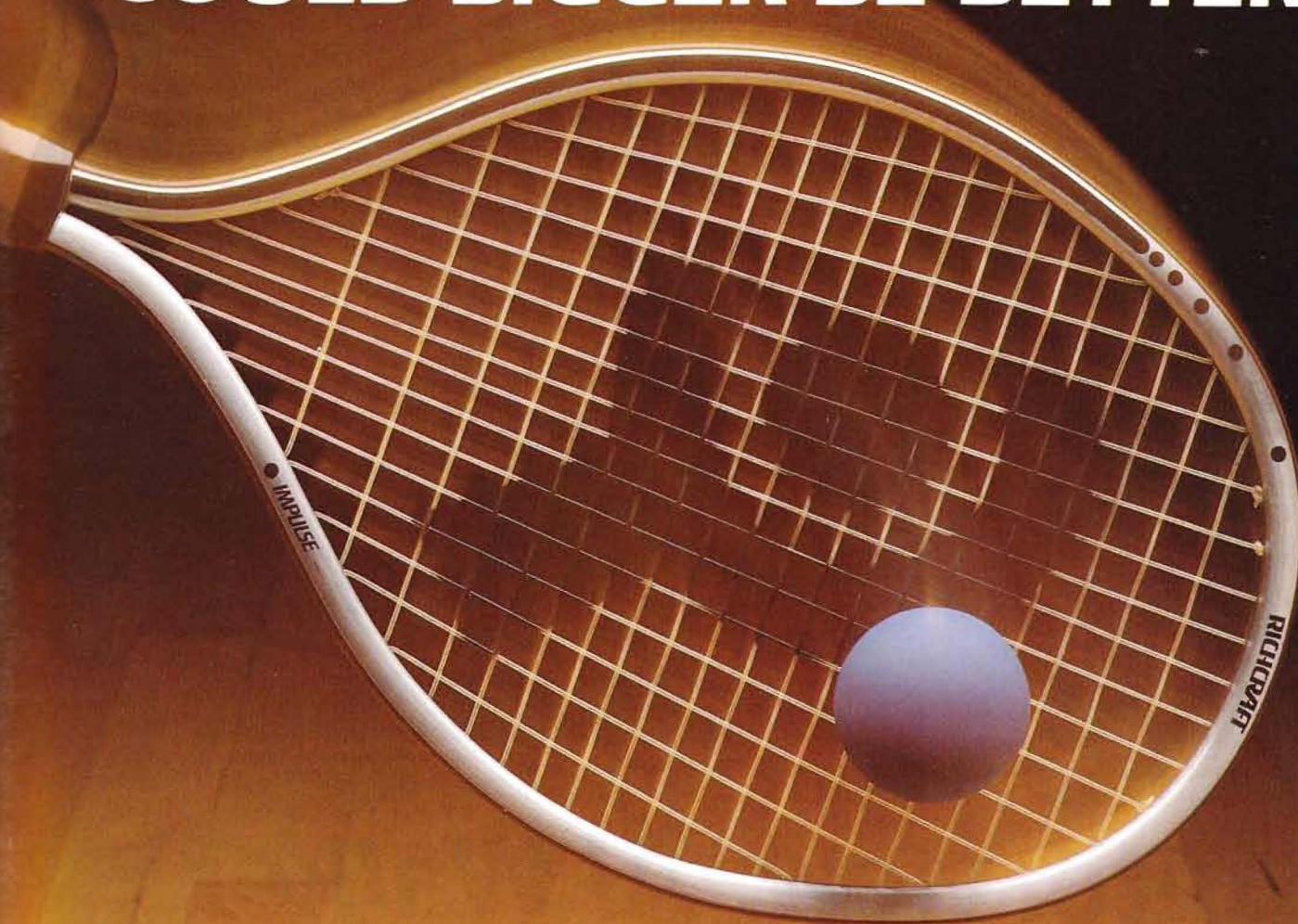
Finally, many manufacturers agree that one reason the industry has suffered is racquetball's failure to identify its own prime market. Incredibly, while everyone guesses at the numbers and the potential, no comprehensive market survey has ever been made of the racquetball industry. Consequently, no one really knows—outside of very general assumptions—who is playing the game, how many there are, what they are like, or who the potential converts are.

Current estimates of the number of active racquetball players vary all the way from 3 to 20 million, with demographics that range from college kids to yuppies. Some manufacturers feel that racquetball's inability to target a specific market is its biggest single obstacle.

"I don't agree with the standard number that's used (8 million players)," says Dick March of Omega. "Using the definition of someone who plays racquetball 48 times a year, we feel there are perhaps 5 million. But it would sure be nice to know."

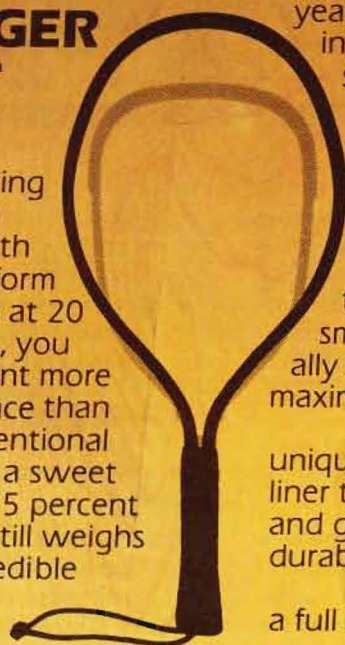
If there is one phrase that sums up how most of the manufacturers feel about the future of racquetball, it has to be "cautious optimism." The great shakeout is gone. The glory days of the late 70's are probably gone forever, but the bell-curve has bottomed out. Barring something unforeseen (such as a portable court, or television exposure), the long-term prospects for racquetball call for minimal, but steady growth. ●

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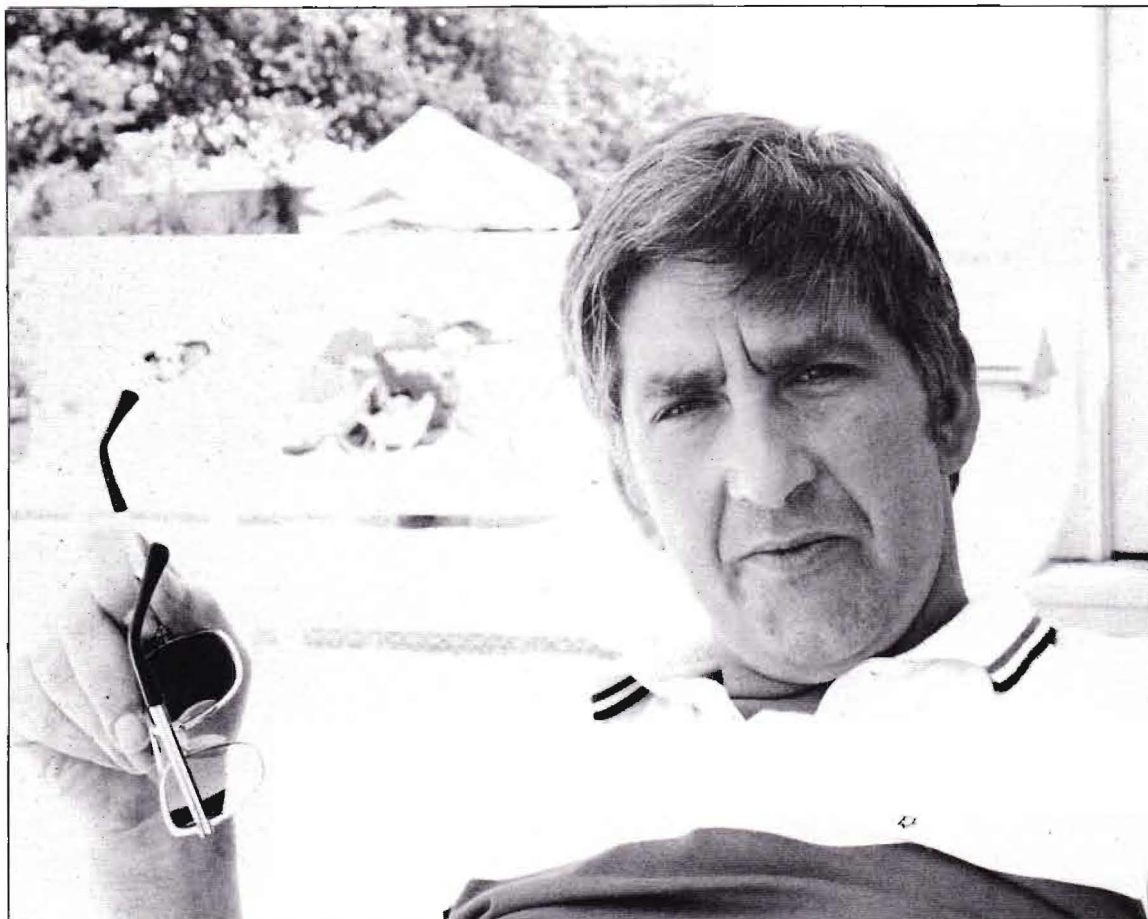
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## ***Interview: Al Walker***

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### *Important Insights From The Man Who Is Pulling South American Racquetball Up By Its Bootstraps*

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*Editor's note: Al Walker is one of the handful of men throughout the world who have taken their love for racquetball and, after much money, time and work, have made significant contributions toward the growth of racquetball in foreign countries. Mr. Walker's effort in South America has produced surprising results. Due to his influence, racquetball will be a demonstration sport in the Pan Am Games in 1987, a full-fledged sport in the South American Games in 1986 and the upcoming Bolivian Games.*

*Al Walker was born in the United States, but has lived the last 24 years in Quito, Ecuador, where he makes his*

*home. He is on the board of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation and is extremely active in his efforts to promote South American racquetball. International Racquetball interviewed Mr. Walker at the World Games in Sacramento last August where his son was playing in the international competition there.*

**How did you start racquetball in Ecuador?**

I built one court for myself. I had to do something. The doctors told me that if I didn't lose forty pounds and start exercising, I was going to be dead in five years.

Well, that scared me. I built a court for myself and we had four or five people playing on my expenses. Then, I would invite other people to play—I would even pay them to come and play!—and from there, we built up a racquetball membership until now we have clubs in many countries that charge membership fees and the whole thing.

**Are you in charge of the clubs in Ecuador?**

Not any longer. When the membership got up to about 500 members, I appointed nine people from among the members and said, "You're the board of directors."

Now, if there are any problems, it goes through the board. I don't even have a vote on the Board. It's been running well now for two and a half years.

**What countries are the strongest in racquetball right now?**

In Central America you have Costa Rica which is strong. The rest of Central America is having a lot of wars right now so it's debatable. Down in South America you have Columbia, which is strong. They have a full team here at the World Games. Venezuela is just starting. They were at our tournament in Ecuador just a month ago. They have approximately 15 courts and they're just building. The man in charge of the sport there is very much in favor of it and is pushing the sport. Argentina has 11 courts. In Ecuador, we have 45 courts in Quito and another half dozen elsewhere and it's starting to build. Peru has two courts in a small town called Piura and they have a club that they're building in Lima which will have 8 courts. In La Paz, Bolivia, at 15,000 feet, they have 6 courts. In Santa Cruz they have more courts, and in Cochabamba they're also building.

**That must be quite an experience to play racquetball at 15,000 feet!**

They are going to have a tournament there in La Paz in February and we are going to have a group from Ecuador go.

**Wouldn't the ball be a little fast at that altitude?**

Well, Quito's at 10,000 feet and the ball is about 40% faster than it is here in Sacramento. We're using Penn and Voit now, but we bring the balls in two to three months ahead of time, open the cans partially and let the pressure out. When you take them out here at sea level, they are a pressureless ball. Take them to 10,000 feet and they have about five pounds of pressure in them. It's worse than a speeding bullet—you don't even see the ball! But if you let them sit there for two to three months, the pressure leaves the ball and it is equalized. The ball is still faster at that altitude with no pressure than it is at sea level. I noticed the same thing when I played in Boulder, Colorado, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Considering the short time that South America has been in racquetball competition, how would you rate its performance?**

The level of play is very acceptable in international competition. We can see it here where the U.S., Canada and Mexico are in one league and the rest of the countries are following in a close second. The

*"The Reporter said after playing, 'I can't believe this. I can't walk up the stair—down the stairs. I go to bed at night and hurt. I wake up and hurt and all night long I hurt!'"*

only way we are to become equal to those top teams is to play in this type of tournament. We need to have more international competition. But to do this we need to have more awareness on the part of the international community, which includes the manufacturers, to help us grow. What's happening with the manufacturers—they're ignorant to what is happening in the sport outside of the United States. And worst of all, they don't recognize that anything exists in South America at all—and I've been talking to these people for three years. They think we're talking about the two itty-bitty courts in a corner somewhere where 50 people play. In Quito alone we have over 3,000 people playing where five years ago we had zero. Five years ago, in South America, there were no courts. Right now, South America is where the States began 15 years ago. We have a total of maybe 250 to 300 courts and there are plans on the drawing board for at least triple that amount in the next three years.

**You have the elimination tournaments for the world games in London coming up soon, too.**

That will take place in Quito on November 28 through December 8 and it will include all the South American countries. In Ecuador, that is the time of the Fiestas of Quito that celebrates the founding of Quito and there will be bullfights—a little bit of everything. Plus, there will be a lot of soccer games.

**Soccer is a very popular game in South America, isn't it?**

It used to be the only game in town, then tennis finally came out of the private clubs and now in Quito we have 40 public courts. I will be opening a new tennis club in two or three months that will be open to the public. The developers there are doing what some developers have done in the States. We are building health clubs

in conjunction with shopping centers and malls.

**Going back to the Elimination Games, who will be there?**

We will have the United States, Mexico and Canada there. Costa Rica and Honduras will be there. Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic will be there. Our press coverage for this tournament will be 5,000 percent greater than it is here in Sacramento.

**That shouldn't be hard. I don't see any press here at the World Games except us.**

For example, in the last tournament we had, the results appeared in three of the national newspapers. We had anywhere from an eighth of a page to a half of a page daily in all three of them. We had five eight-minute spots on TV stations during the tournament and we had two eight-minute spots after the tournament with sort of an overview of the tournament on four TV stations.

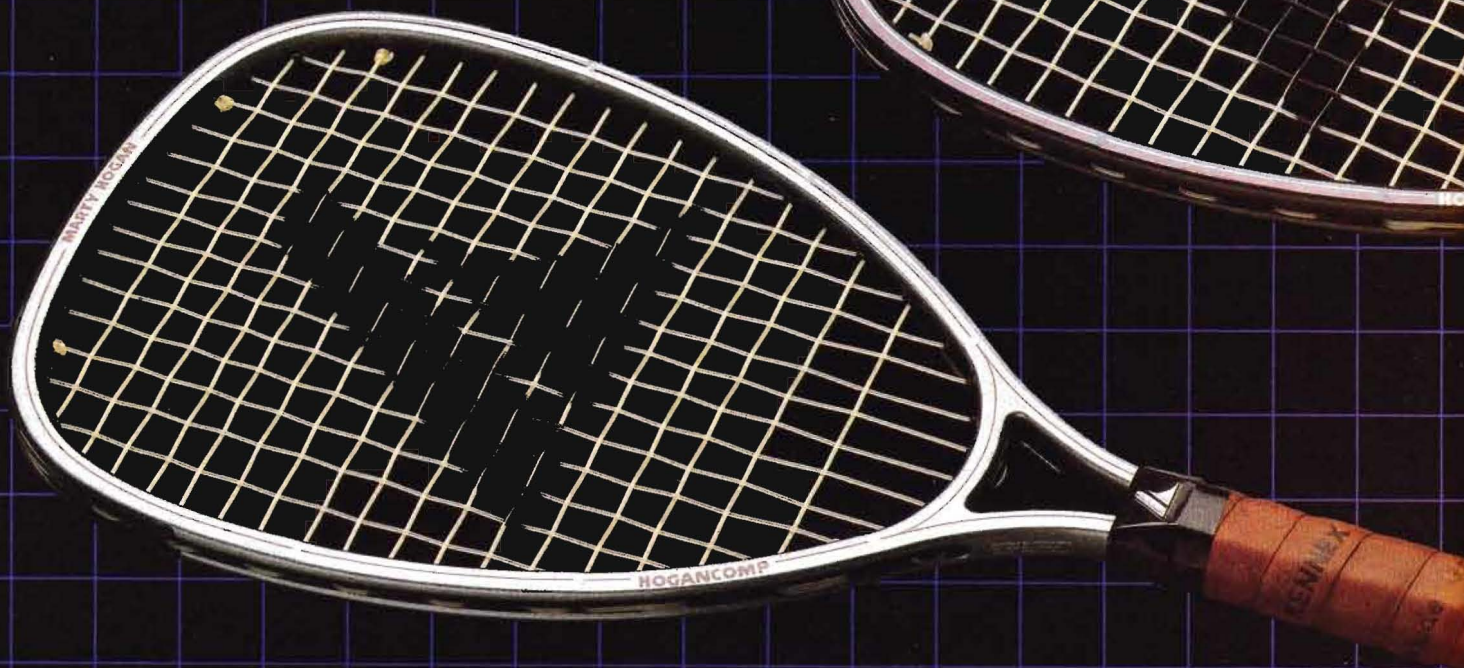
**It appears that the South American media is very interested in racquetball.**

Very interested. One of the newspapers that opened up about three years ago came in and changed the policy about sports reporting. It used to be that all the papers reported was soccer and everything else was irrelevant. Well, this paper started the idea that all sports should be treated equally. Racquetball now receives equal coverage, plus, more coverage for an important tournament, and every month they publish the rankings of all the sports. Racquetball gets good exposure.

One of the reasons that the media gives us good exposure, I suppose, is that we get them involved in the sport also. We took one of the sportswriters that came down to cover a tournament and we asked him if he knew anything about the sport. He said no, so we put him in the tournament! We said, "You're going in the novice division. You're going to have to play a minimum of seven matches. If you're going to have to write about racquetball, you're going to learn something about it." He played and afterwards he was so sore he couldn't walk, but we had radio coverage—we had TV coverage and press coverage and he came out second in his group. He said, "I can't believe this. I can't walk up the stairs. I can't walk down the stairs. I go to bed I hurt. When I wake up I hurt and all night long I hurt."

**But you made a fan out of him?**

# MARTY HOGAN RACQUETBALL...



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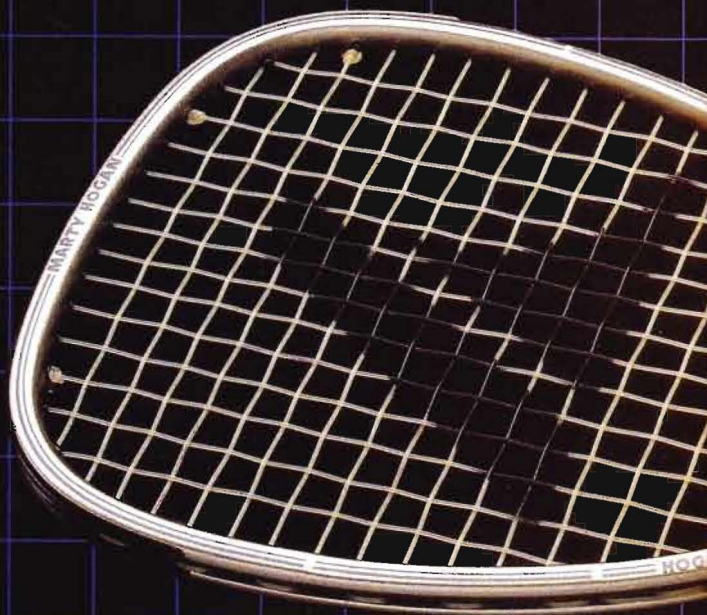
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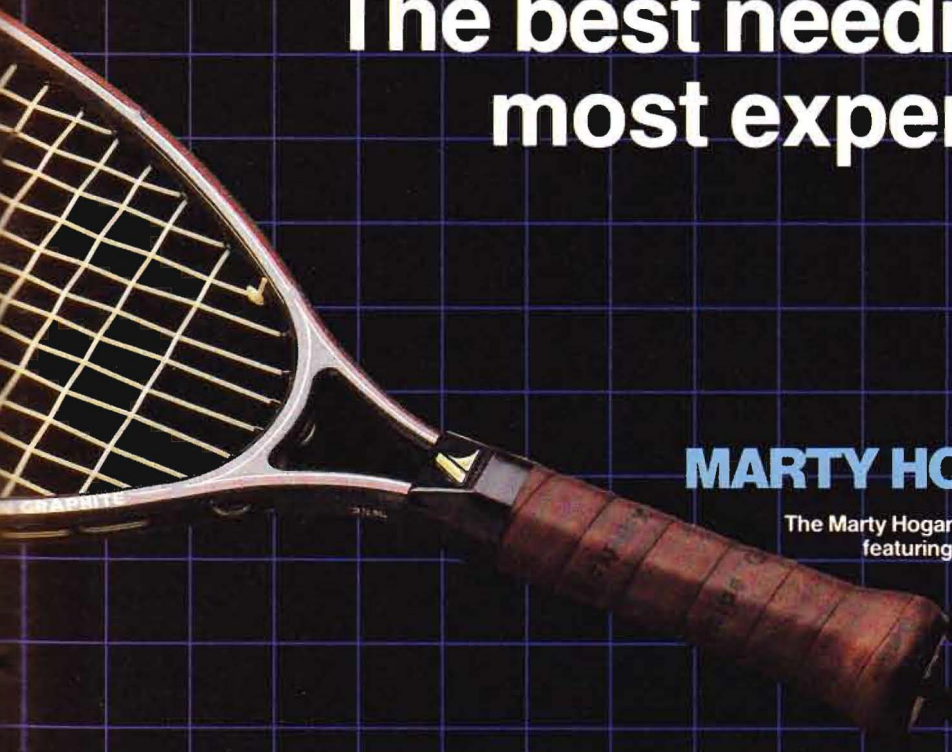
	Grip (inches)	3 3/8	3 7/8	4
Weight (grams)		▲	▲	▲
SL (230-245)				



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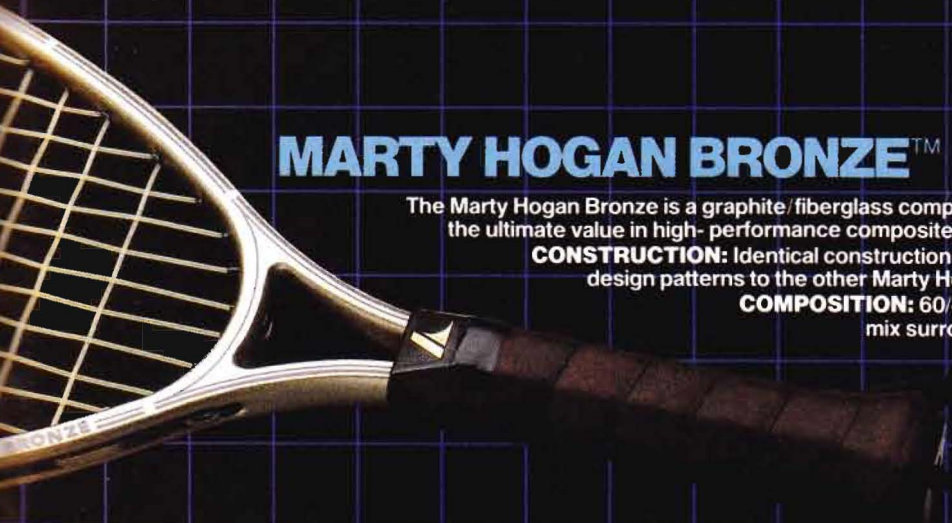
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Weight (grams)	Grip (inches)		
	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	3 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	4
SL (230-245)	▲	▲	▲



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**FEATURES:** Calfskin leather grip; thin gauge synthetic strings; handsome vinyl cover.

Weight (grams)	Grip (inches)		
	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	3 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	4
SL (230-245)	▲	▲	▲

We made a fan out of him. We made a player out of him, and we made coverage out of him.

### **How is Ecuador doing here at the World Games?**

Oh, so-so. I have seen a definite improvement in our players, but they are no match for the U.S. and Canadian teams. The Canadian team in particular was extremely helpful. Instead of really having a game on the court, because of the difference in level of play was so great, they more or less gave our players an hour lesson each time they went into play. You know, they were going to win no matter what happened, so for the top Canadian player, Ross Harvey, to take the time to instruct the other international players, now that is amazing and truly a wonderful part of our sport.

### **And, it says a lot about the quality of the Canadian players.**

Yes, but it wasn't just the Canadians who were doing this. Everywhere you look you find superior players from Germany, Puerto Rico—from all over—taking the time out to instruct other players from other countries who need the knowledge of experienced players.

### **How do you find qualified instructors in your country?**

This is a problem. Many countries now are looking for teaching pros to take back with them. A few years ago, I hired a teaching pro out of the Sports Gallery in California and he was tremendous. He raised our level of play 500 to 1,000 percent and we only had him for three months.

If we could get some of the pros that are sponsored by the manufacturers to come down and help us that would be fantastic, too.

### **Do any of the manufacturers sponsor your tournaments?**

No. We have other private companies that are currently sponsoring our tournaments. It's a shame that we can't attract the American manufacturers to help us now, and we're not looking for money, what we want is help in pros, in teaching, in tournaments—that is where we need their help. If they don't come now, then the Japanese or the Taiwanese or the Koreans are going to start building racquets and balls in competition with the American manufacturers, and if they start helping South America and Europe, then they will be first in our minds when the sport starts to become economically profitable for them. What I can't understand is why the manufacturers send their

*“What I can't understand is why the Manufacturers only send their pros to Europe. We've got more courts in Quito and Columbia than they have in all of Europe.”*

pros only to Europe. Mike Yellen, who is a friend of mine, was sent last year on a tour in Europe with two other pros. We've got more courts in Quito and Columbia than they have in Europe.

### **Some people have gone to South America. If I recall, Steve Keeley and Carole George were down in South America.**

They gave a clinic in Costa Rica, that I know of and another clinic in Bolivia, but they didn't manage to complete their itinerary to give clinics anywhere else. They were having a good time. But that's better than nothing. Anything is appreciated and those two did it on their own without sponsorship.

One of the sponsors, I won't mention any names, came to me and said, “We can do this and that, but we want you to buy a container load.” I said, “Hey, if I buy a container load, I have to pay 120% import duty on it.”

Let me put it this way. The manufacturers' market isn't necessarily shipping a container load to Columbia or Ecuador or Peru. Their market still exists right in Miami. We've got to buy 3,000 racquets and we've got to buy x number of balls and gloves and eye glasses and the rest. So, we're either going to bring a container load in and triple the price or, we're going to buy it in Miami and have it hand-carried in two, three, or four racquets at a time per week. You can buy a good racquet in Miami for \$100 or you can buy the same racquet for \$250 imported. Which racquet would you buy? In my opinion, if the manufacturers try to sell us on container loads, they don't understand the market.

### **That seems unfair. Is there any other way that importing can be done?**

It is unfair, but that is the way things have been going for the last five years.

### **It shouldn't have to continue that way, though.**

No. It shouldn't. Just six weeks ago, we formed a national federation for racquetball. It has been recognized by the

government, although we do have some more paperwork to complete, but the national federation can import sports equipment without paying any duty on it. If you are a private enterprise or person, you have to pay a duty on it. Unfortunately, the formation of a federation requires a fantastic amount of paperwork. We're talking about six months of paperwork for every time you import! Frankly, it's a real pain.

### **Who are the stronger manufacturing forces down there?**

Japan and Germany have been putting money into South America for the past 30 years. About eight years ago the U.S. finally noticed what was happening down here and wanted a slice of the action. But it's going to be tough for them. It's not that their products are inferior, it's just that we have strong long-term working agreements with these other countries who were more far-sighted. I can see that the same thing might happen with racquetball.

### **So, now is the time for people to get in on the ground floor in South America?**

Yes. Eight years ago there wasn't a sports market in South America. There was only soccer. Now it's opening up. Now is the time to begin. There won't be any tremendous market in this next year, maybe, but there will be in five.

### **What type of court construction is taking place in South America?**

The courts have regulation floating wood floors, cement block walls and good lighting, though we do use different types of lights. Many of the courts have glass walls of tempered glass. We would use other types of materials for the glass, such as lucite if it weren't so expensive to import. Also, we must manufacture the glass panels locally if only for the reason that if one of the panels breaks, we can't afford to wait around for three to four months while the panel is shipped from the United States.

My club's first two years were operated at a loss. The third year I broke even and this year it looks like I'll make a profit. As a business venture, that's not real good, but I'm looking to what's going to happen in the future. In Quito we had a meeting of eight club owners from five different countries and they all have the same feeling. There is going to be a loss in the first couple of years because we started a sport that was non-existent five years ago. But we all feel that this sport is going to boom in South America.

# HARDING/OLSEN CLAIM 10TH ANNUAL OUTDOOR DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

by Carol Herd

In one of the most exciting outdoor racquetball doubles matches in recent memory, two long-time friends and doubles partners from Westminster, California, added another title to their sizeable collection.

Mark Harding and Paul Olson claimed the men's open doubles at the 10th Annual California State Doubles Championships at Golden West College in Huntington Beach on the October 12-14 weekend.

They defeated top-seeded Jaime Barker, 25, of Huntington Beach and Bill Chadwick, 30, of Norco, who also have been partners and friends for several years, 21-16, 16-21, 21-12, 21-19.

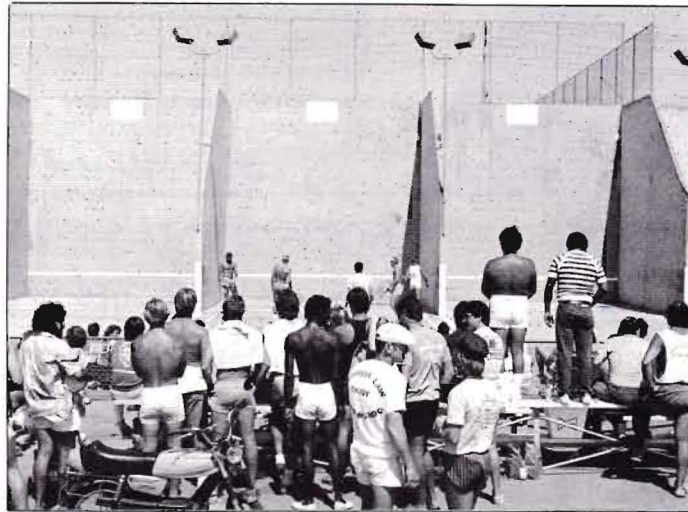
This is the second time in six weeks that this awesome foursome have met in a championship showdown on Southern California's popular outdoor courts, with Barker and Chadwick taking home top money last time.

The Olson-Harding duo were national doubles winners in both 1981 and 1983 and runners-up in 1982. At the 1984 July Outdoor Nationals in Costa Mesa, California, Olson was recovering from an ankle injury and they did not compete as a team.

The 24-year-old Harding, an avid surfer, took a relaxed attitude going into the championship round scheduled for noon Sunday. He got up early and surfed near the Huntington Beach pier, a very popular international surfing spot.

Olson, 25 and also a surfer, on the other hand, had to be up and at the courts to play his mid-morning semi-final mixed doubles match. (Harding only competed in one division.)

In the women's open doubles division, Fountain Valley's 22-year-old Dede Catherman teamed with long-time partner Sherri Knecht, 20, of Huntington Beach to successfully defend



their 1983 state open doubles title. In an exciting five-game match, they downed two other long-time teammates, Lillie Campos of Pomona and Nilsa Martin of La Sierra, (both over 30), 21-19, 20-22, 21-15, 18-21, 15-2. These same pairs met in last year's state championships with the same outcome.

Catherman then teamed with boyfriend Dan Southern to take the mixed open doubles division, defeating Paul Olson and Judy Fettig of Huntington Beach, 22-20, 21-7, 21-19.

Southern, a 30-year-old lefty from Huntington Beach, took first in the men's open doubles at the 1984 outdoor nationals with partner Brian Hawkes, and second in open singles when Hawkes downed him (see Racquetball International, Sept. 1984). Hawkes, unfortunately, couldn't compete in this state championship, due to another commitment.

This is the first time that the Southern-Catherman style of play has been seen in outdoor tournament play. They are both left-handed, and as all outdoor players know, if you have a lefty on the team, he must play the right side for the team to be effective.

Nevertheless, Southern and

Catherman have managed to become a dominant force, with Southern taking the handicapping left side, while Catherman plays her traditional right side, very impressively. They have been playing as a team for less than six months and this is their first championship, although they have also taken a second and a third.

Had the Olson-Fettig team been able to overcome Southern and Catherman, Olson would have had the big double title win. In outdoor racquetball competition, it rarely happens that a woman takes the two top spots in a tournament, as Catherman did.

There was a slight hitch shortly after the tournament got underway Friday night when the lights for the eight outdoor courts did not come on at sunset as they normally do. Play was stopped for nearly an hour until someone from campus maintenance used boltcutters to break the lock on the light-system box.

Players and spectators spent the time milling around in the dark, grumbling a bit, and rightly so, as several matches ended up finishing near midnight, and some of the players had to be back to play at 8 a.m. Saturday morning. The situation was resolved

for the Saturday night matches and the three-day tournament stayed on schedule Saturday and Sunday.

Cablesystems, a Southern California cable TV channel, videotaped the championship matches in the open division for showing at a later date.

## 10th Annual State Doubles Championships

### Men's Open Doubles

Olson-Harding (Westminster) def. Barker (Huntington Beach)-Chadwick (Norco) 21-16, 16-21, 21-12, 21-19.

### Women's Open Doubles

Catherman (Fountain Valley)-Knecht (Huntington Beach) def. Campos (Pomona)-Martin (La Sierra), 21-19, 20-22, 21-15, 18-21, 15-2.

### Mixed Open Doubles

Southern (Huntington Beach)-Catherman (Fountain Valley) def. Olson (Westminster)-Fettig (Huntington Beach), 22-20, 21-7, 21-19.

### Men's B Doubles

Rivera-Kyle (Anaheim) def. Piloo (Huntington Beach)-Eichert (Anaheim), 20-22, 17-21, 21-15, 21-14, 18-16.

### Mixed B Doubles

Friolot (Huntington Beach)-Herd (Westminster) def. Otis (Huntington Beach)-Joannes (Costa Mesa), 21-19, 21-12, 17-21, 21-10.

### Men's C Doubles

Wade (Lakewood)-Gonzales (Hawaiian Gardens) def. Fernandez (Garden Grove)-Boland (Westminster), 21-11, 21-12, 21-19.

### Women's C Doubles

White-Acevez (Buena Park) def. Dunbar (Huntington Beach)-Lidyoff (Downey), 18-21, 21-16, 21-13, 21-17.

### Mixed C Doubles

Snyder (Granada Hills)-Froehle (Huntington Beach) def. Fitzsimons-Studdert (Huntington Beach), 21-18, 16-21, 21-17, 23-21. ●



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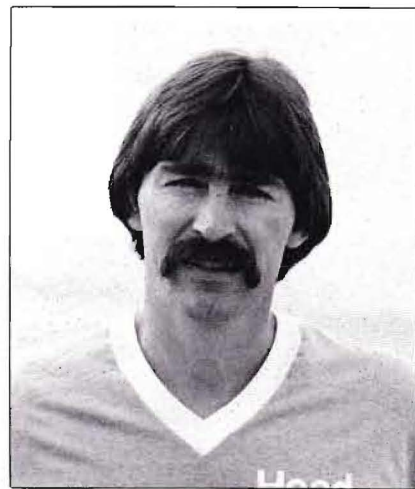
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

QTY.	ITEM (Size)	S	M	L	XL	TOTAL
	RIP IT					
	WALL PAPER					
	SPLAT					
	KILL SHOT					

Add \$1.00 PER ITEM Postage and Handling

BY STEVE STRANDEMO AND BILL BRUNS

# ADVANCED RACQUETBALL



INSTRUCTION:

## PART FIVE: RETURN OF SERVE

**T**rying to get a rally started against a skillful server is obviously a challenging task. On his first serve, you can never really predict what he's going to hit, since he'll be diversifying his serves, ripping a low-drive to your backhand corner one time, then snapping a hard "Z" to your forehand. Moreover, he gives you minimum time to react by camouflaging his intentions the best he can and screening the ball—within the rules—so you may not get a full view of the ball until just before it passes by his body. Nor will you be hitting from the same footwork position after serve: some low drives will go straight in to the back corner, others will just nick the side wall, and others will come shooting off into your body. The same applies for "Z's" with varying speed.

At times, returning the ball in advanced play has to come down to native strength and stretching ability as you extend your body out toward the side wall to dig up a low-drive. Yet there's much you can do to maximize the talent you already have by working on your efficiency in moving to the ball, your shot selection, and your execution.

### Moving to the Ball

Since I want to be able to break easily in any direction, I await serve about a long stride off the back wall, midway between the side walls, with my weight evenly distributed. I hold a backhand grip (because the majority of balls come to our backhand) but I avoid leaning in that direction.

Standing relatively close to the back wall (1) gives you slightly more reaction time to reach a low-drive serve into either corner and (2) enables you to move laterally rather than back on a diagonal, which forces you to hit while actually moving away from the front wall. It's okay to stand a little further forward (5 to 6 feet from the back wall) if your opponent's low-drives and hard "Z's" are continually popping off the walls as setups. But don't try to take a position almost halfway to the short line, thinking this will help you cover crack ace attempt that land just beyond the short line. This serve is Fantasyland, even in the pro game, and is going to occur far less often than an opponent's deep serves that force you to retreat—not to mention the low-drives that can get past you more easily for aces when you're positioned too far forward.

Mentally, you should be studying the server's motion, trying to determine what he's going to hit—and where. Against a power hitter who has good accuracy, and when playing with a live ball, some players might advise you to gamble on the first serve by simply breaking right or left in anticipation of a low-drive serve by simply breaking right or left in anticipation of a low-drive to the corner. But this is to play too much of a hit-or-miss type of game. I feel it's better to simply accept the occasional ace and concentrate on being ready to capitalize on those numerous low-drives he keeps popping off the back wall.

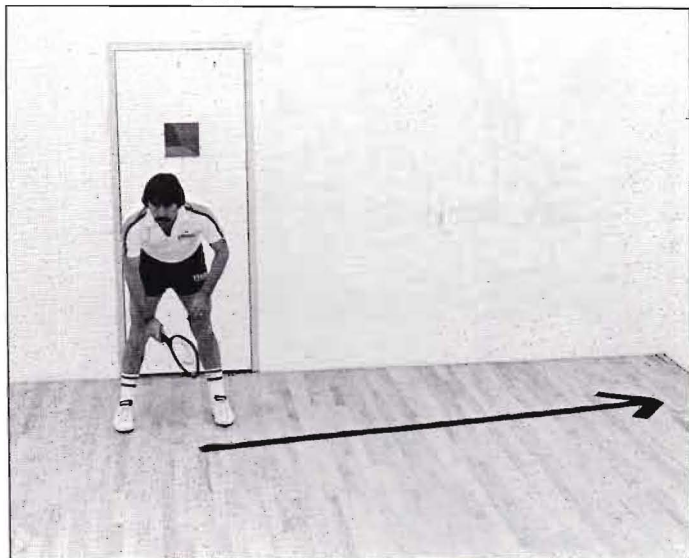
### Covering the Low-Drive Serve

Returns off the low-drive generally fall into these categories:

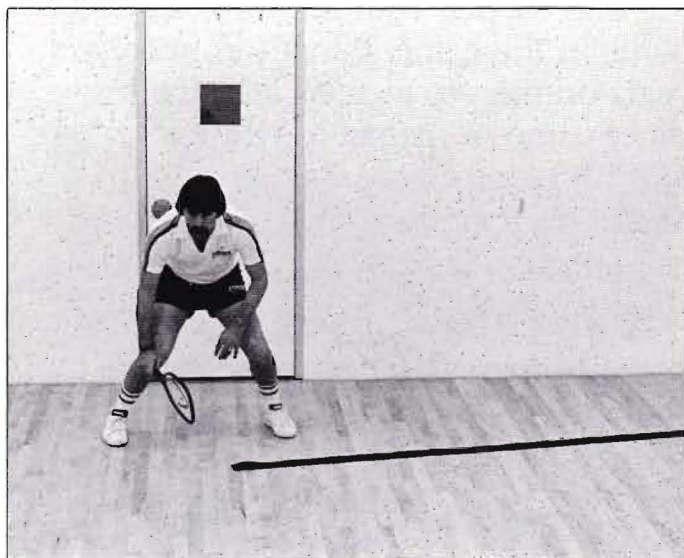
First, when the serve has been hit crisply and is going to stay tight along the side wall without coming off the back wall, you must learn to move over into the corner with a cross-over step, a long stretch, and then an extended reach with your racquet. This cross-over step is essential in advanced play, for there's simply not enough time to take quick shuffle steps to get to

### The Low-Drive Return

*Unusual as it may look, many players hold this ready position until the server starts his movement into the ball.*



*Sensing a low-drive serve, the returner now moves into a lower ready position (by widening his stance and bending his knees), which facilitates moving efficiently to either corner.*



# KILL OR BE KILLED.

**You thought you would never get this serious.**

You started out just playing for the exercise. Soon it became an obsession. The points got longer, the play became more intense. Your head was in the game, but you just didn't have the shots. No touch. No Z. No kill.

Steve Strandemo and Head Racquetball have put together a series of camps designed to make you a winner. Extensive training you'll never forget. Utilizing the latest technology in video replay while working one on one with the most legendary name in the game. Benefit from Steve's years on the pro tour by learning his inner game of mental toughness.

## **1985 Winter Camp Series**

Miami, FL: Jan. 24-27 & Jan. 31-Feb. 3

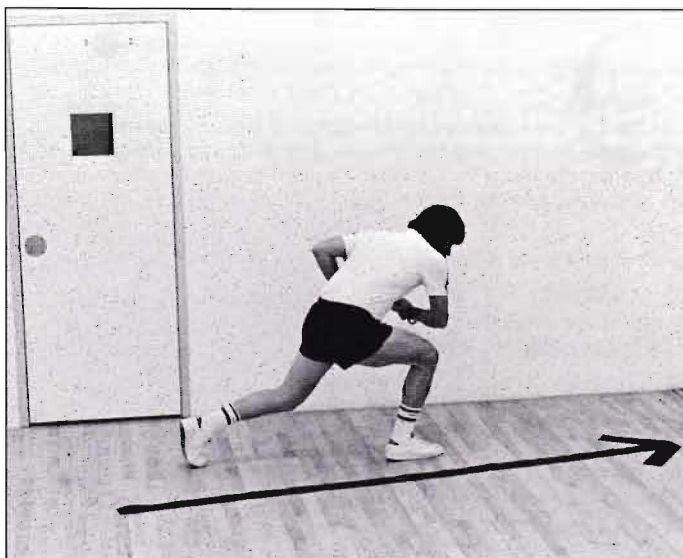
San Diego, CA: Feb. 14-17 & Feb. 21-24



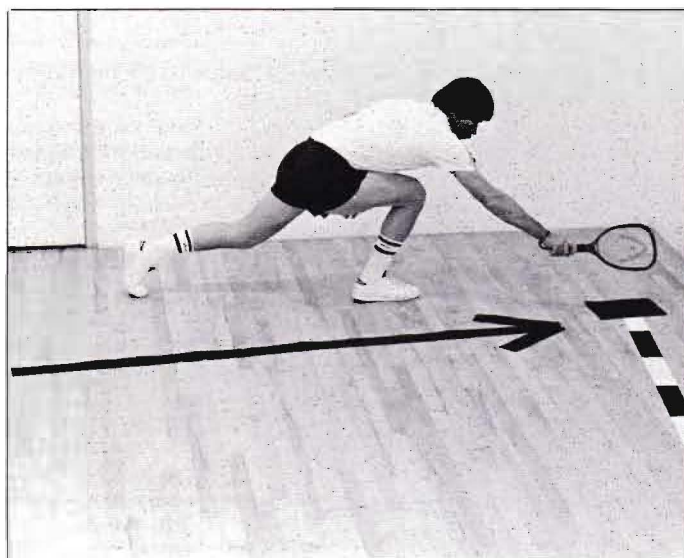
If you're serious enough to change your game, write or call for further information.

## **STRANDEMO & HEAD**

P.O. Box 24445, San Diego, CA 92124-0445, (619) 437-8770



Forced to move quickly to the deep corner, the returner takes a long cross-over step with his right leg as he pulls the racquet back for the hit.



Stretched out with his body, and his arm extended, he relies on good shoulder action and a wrist snap to hit the best return he can manage.

the corner. Strive for a controlled movement toward the side wall so that even when you're stretched out, you can take the ball accurately up to the ceiling, pushing your opponent back while preventing the ace or the weak return.

Second, if the serve is going to stay off the back wall but is away from the side wall, your initial movement to the corner may be a cross-over step, then a stride into the ball, and a strong, forceful swing. Or you may prefer to take quick shuffle steps to get into hitting position. Whatever, this is an easier ball to reach and you can oftentimes be offensive with your return. When the ball comes even more into the middle, you may only have to readjust your feet and rotate your body before taking a solid swing.

Third, when the serve is hit off-target and kicks off one or two walls as a setup, you can use a variety of foot repositions to get behind the ball and then go for a scoring shot. Even the best of servers have trouble hitting hard low-drives that consistently burrow into the back corner, so be ready for more setups than you may realize—and don't be afraid or unprepared to take the offensive.

#### Covering the "Z" Serve

The key here, through playing experience and practice sessions, is to learn to read this serve as it is angling diagonally across the court toward the side wall. Then you can make your shot-selection decisions without any real need for panic.

- If the "Z" is going to be good (contacting the front and side wall at the correct angle and height), you must either (1) move over and cut the ball off after it bounces and before it hits the side wall, or (2) let it come off the side wall. If you hesitate against the perfect "Z," the ball may get too tight into the back corner or along the back wall and prevent you from taking a good swing.

- If the "Z" has been hit at the proper angle into the front wall, but too low, it will carom off the side wall and come in short of the back wall. So move over, let the ball kick off the side wall, then be ready to go for an offensive return.

- If the "Z" is long, it will carom off the side wall and back wall, then come to you as an offensive setup. Just make sure you're ready to go for the winner off this shot.

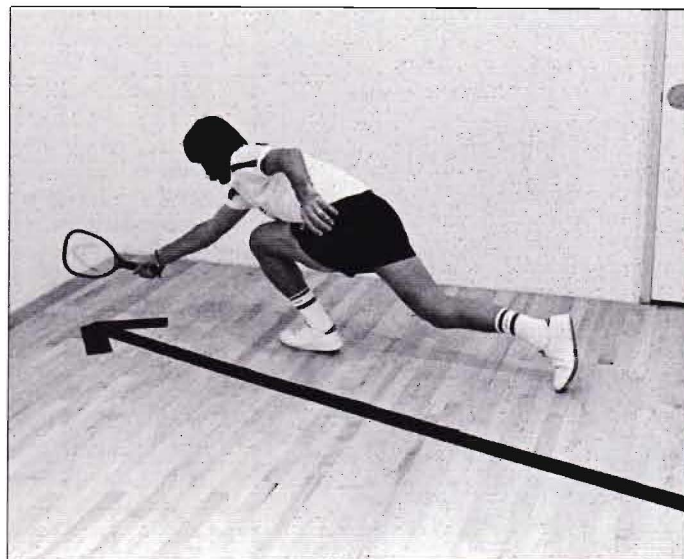
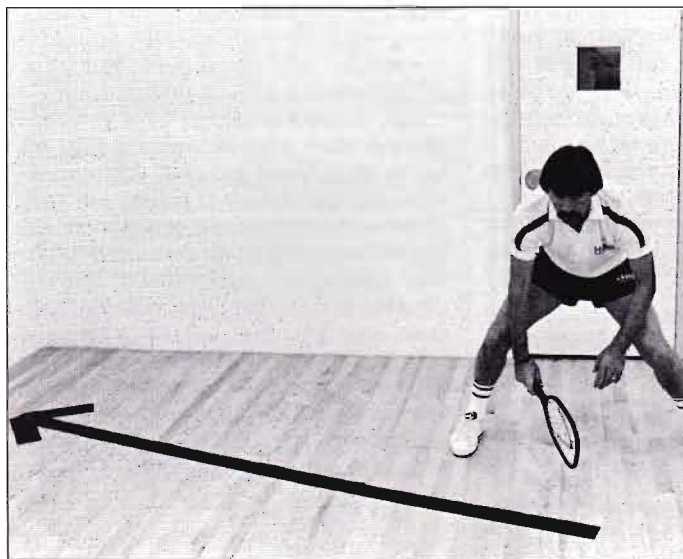
#### Covering Lob Serves

You'll be seeing a lot of lob serves in today's game, even against power hitters, since so many low-drive first serves land short. Therefore, get your ceiling game in precise shape. If your opponent's lob is accurate, just move to the corner and take the ball up to the ceiling as it approaches the back wall. If he's inaccurate, take advantage of your scoring opportunities off the walls. You may be tempted to move up and short-hop the half-lob attempt, but remember: this is a difficult shot to execute under pressure and you lose the point if your racquet travels into the imaginary 5-foot zone too soon.

#### Relocating After Your Return

If you return the ball offensively, move quickly to the best coverage position you can reach, depending upon where your shot is traveling and where your opponent sets up for his shot. If you hit a ceiling return, simply stay back and slide off to the side, allowing your opponent to come back and hit. Then adjust accordingly as you see his intentions.

Notice the same principles at work when the defender must extend out to his forehand corner to reach a serve that goes tight along the side wall.



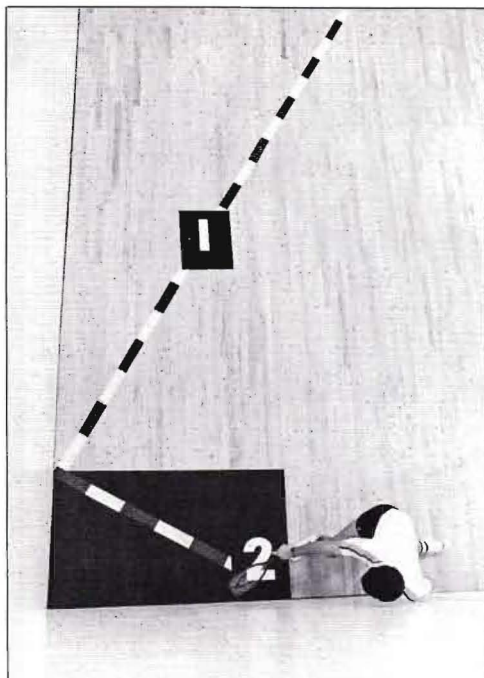
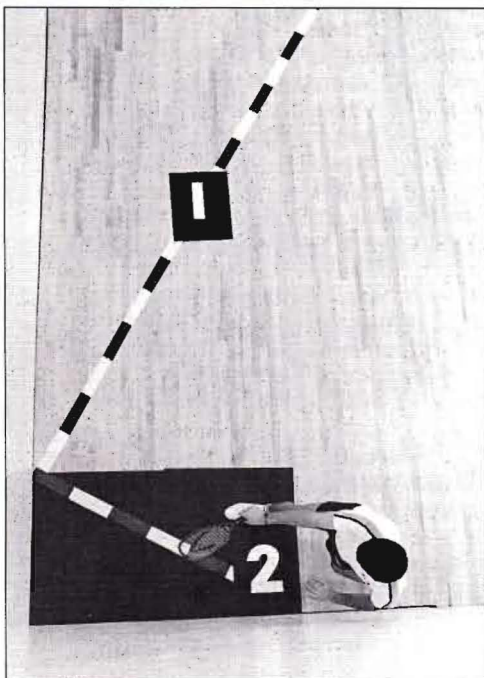
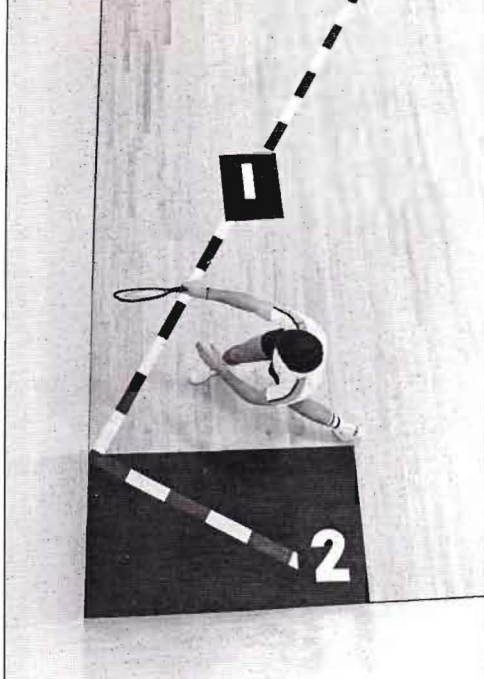
### Covering the "Z" Serve

The numbers indicate where a properly hit "Z" serve should take its first and second bounces if the defender lets the shot run its course.

When the returner reads an excellent "Z" serve as it comes out of the front right corner (one hit with velocity and at the correct angle), he should quickly move over and contact the ball before it goes into the side wall. Hesitating here and allowing the ball to get into the back corner can lead to an extremely difficult return. Advanced players with good anticipation have the ability to move to the left wall and hit this return offensively.

The defender lets the ball carom off the side wall before making contact, generally going to the ceiling with his return.

A hard "Z" hit perfectly, can angle sharply off the side wall and jam the returner tight against the back wall. Here he's trying to flick out the best possible return in a tough situation.



### Serve Return Strategy

In developing an overall strategy for your serve return, keep the following concepts in mind, but when you're actually playing, try to think only about flowing with the serve and trusting your instincts.

1. Before each serve, your mental approach should be that first you're looking for the chance to hit an offensive return, and when that opportunity isn't there you'll use common sense and go to the ceiling.

2. Your opponent should always feel the pressure of knowing that if he fails to execute an accurate serve, you have the skills and the confidence to go for an aggressive return to gain an immediate side-out. *You can't become an advanced player if you're scared to shoot the ball at the appropriate time.* If the serve comes into an area where you can take the offensive, you should be going for kill winners or passing shots. Even if a few of these balls angle into the middle of the court at your opponent, he may not have the necessary efficiency to rekill the ball.

3. However, if you realize that you're leaving up too many shots when you try to be aggressive and your opponent is cutting the ball off for winners, or setting up for too many easy scoring shots, then change your strategy: pop the ball to the ceiling more often and wait for more opportune times to be offensive on your return.

4. Also, don't get caught up in your offensive thinking to the point where you take foolish chances against well-executed serves—low-drives, "Z's," and lobs alike—by shooting every ball. Understand reality and hit the most logical shot: a ceiling ball. Against good players, you can't afford to gamble and consistently leave up your offensive returns in the action zone. Even if you mis-hit your ceiling ball and give your opponent a setup, he's still usually in the back 3 or 4 feet of the court and at least you can move up to cover his offensive attempt.

5. Remember to mix up your returns. Don't allow the server to lag deep because you're always passing the ball, or to stay close to the service box because you try to pinch every return.

### Improving Your Return

Here are some different approaches:

First, evaluate just how effectively you're presently returning the ball under match-play pressure. When a friend is charting one of your matches, have him watch to see if your offensive returns are hitting low enough into the front wall

to either go for winners, jam your opponent in center court, or go by him for effective passing shots. How well are you angling the ball away from him with pinches and passes? By comparison, how often do you leave the ball up and give him scoring opportunities? When you go to the ceiling, do you dictate another ceiling shot—or simply give him a setup?

Second, when practicing with a friend, make sure you take a variety of serves to your forehand side so you're accustomed to reading the ball into that corner and executing from there while on the move or stretched out.

Third, help improve your judgment and reflexes against the "Z" by having a friend hit "Z's" to you for 5 minutes while you call out "good," "short," or "long" before the ball reaches the short line. Also, when watching other matches study where the "Z" tends to travel after hitting into the front corner at different heights and angles—and how the "Z" pattern changes according to where the ball hits on the front wall.

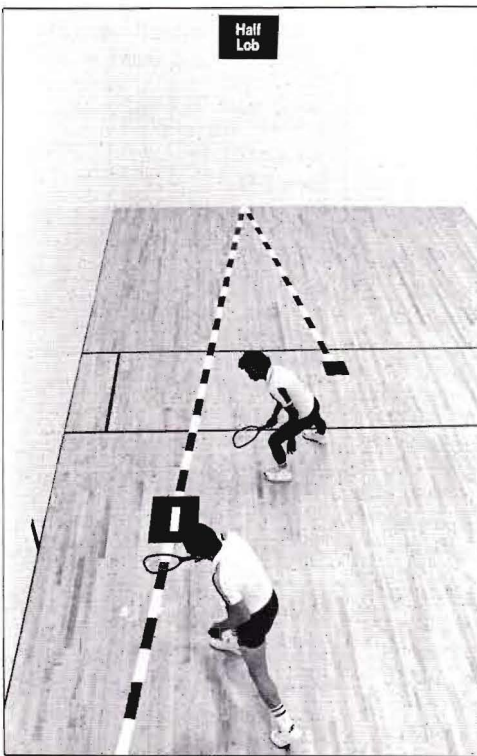
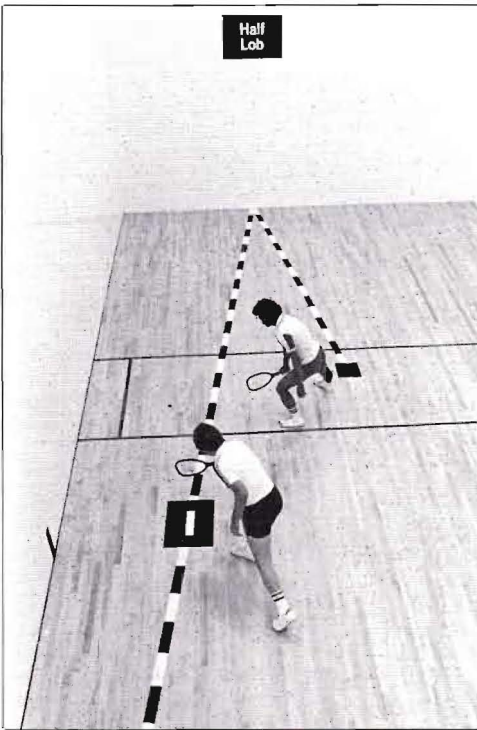
Fourth, expand your capabilities against low-drives deep into the corners so that (1) you can return more shots more effectively to the ceiling, and (2) you can begin to hit offensive returns against serves that are not perfect, but which fail to come off the walls as setups. Since you have little time to get your racquet on the ball, concentrate on mastering that quick, fluid movement toward the side wall—starting with the cross-over step—so you're in a position to cut off some of your opponent's low-drives and take them low zone. At first, practice this complete movement without the ball coming to you. Then, starting from your normal ready position, throw a ball over into the corner and go after it, hitting offensively and defensively as you are stretching out. Finally, work on this total unit as a friend hits low-drives into both corners.

Fifth, in practice matches try to go for the offensive return when you normally might opt for the ceiling return, especially under tournament pressure. Also try to put the ball away instead of always using safer passing shots. Not that you turn the match into a circus by trying to shoot every return, skipping most of them and alienating your opponent, who wants to get into good racquetball rallies. Just stretch yourself a bit to see how effective you can be with a more offensive approach and to gain greater confidence in these shots. You're eventually going to need them to keep moving up the racquetball ladder. ●

## HEAD TO HEAD COMPETITION

This is the Head to Head Competition Chart for the top 15 men and women professionals.

How to read this chart: For any player, the won/loss record against every other player is read horizontally opposite his/her name.



### Cutting Off the Half-Lob

A difficult way to keep from getting caught up in a slower style of play is to move up and contact the half-lob before it carries deep and forces a ceiling return. You can do this by either short-hopping the ball or hitting it on the rise.

The returner moves forward to cut the ball off in the air, but his racquet breaks the imaginary plane 5 feet behind the service box. This is illegal by some of today's rules, and the point is awarded to his opponent.

Here, the defender lets the ball bounce but hits it on the rise, going for a kill-pass either down-the-wall or cross-court.

### Men's

	HOGAN	YELLEN	G. PECK	HARNETT	D. PECK	GONZALEZ	HILECHER	OLIVER	PRICE	ANDREWS	HAWKES	NEWMAN	SELL	THOMAS	LEVINE
M HOGAN		2-5	0-1	5-1	3-0	1-0	2-0	2-0	2-1	3-0	2-0	3-0		3-0	
M YELLEN	5-2		4-1		3-1	2-0	3-0	1-0	1-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	2-1		1-0
G PECK	1-0	1-4		3-3	0-5	1-1	1-0	0-1	2-0	1-0	1-0		2-0		
B HARNETT	1-5		3-3		1-0	2-0	2-0	0-1	2-1	1-0	1-0				0-1
D PECK	0-3	1-3	5-0	0-1		3-0	0-1		1-1	1-1	0-1	1-0			1-0
R GONZALEZ	0-1	0-2	1-1	0-2	0-3		1-0	1-1	0-1			1-0			1-0
J HILECHER	0-2	0-3	0-1	0-2	1-0	0-1		1-0	0-1	1-1	1-0	1-1	2-0		
S OLIVER	0-2	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-1	0-1		2-0	0-1		0-1			
G PRICE	1-2	1-1	0-2	1-2	1-1	1-0	1-0	0-2		1-0		1-0	1-0		
E ANDREWS	0-3	0-1	0-1	0-1	1-1		1-1	1-0	0-1		1-0				1-1
B HAWKES	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1		0-1			0-1					1-0
J NEWMAN	0-3	0-1				0-1	1-1	1-0	0-1					1-0	
B SELL		1-2	0-2				0-2	0-1						2-0	
D THOMAS	0-3											0-1	0-2		1-0
M LEVINE		0-1		1-0	0-1	0-1				1-1	0-1			0-1	

### Women's

	McKAY	ADAMS	WRIGHT	GILREATH	PANZERI	DAVIS	MARRIOTT	McKINNEY	JACKSON	BARRETT	GARDNER	GREER	HARDING	STOLL	STUPP
H McKAY		4-3	2-0	2-0		2-0	1-0	2-0	3-0			1-0		2-0	
L ADAMS	3-4		2-0	2-0	3-0	1-0	1-0	4-0		3-0		1-0		1-0	1-0
S W-HAMILTN	0-2	0-2		1-0	1-0				1-0		1-0		1-0		
T GILREATH	0-2	0-2	0-1					1-0	2-1		1-0		1-1		
V PANZERI		0-3	0-2			1-1	2-0							1-1	0-1
F DAVIS	0-2	0-1			1-1		2-0	0-1	1-0		0-1	1-0	0-1		1-0
S MARRIOTT	0-1	0-1			0-2	0-2		0-1	1-1	1-0			3-0	1-0	
C McKINNEY	0-2	0-4		0-1		1-0	1-0			1-0	1-0	0-1			
J JACKSON	0-3		0-1	1-2		0-1	1-1						2-0		
B BARRETT		0-3					0-1	0-1			1-0	1-0			1-1
P GARDNER			0-1	0-1		1-0		0-1		0-1			1-0		
M GREER	0-1	0-1				0-1		1-0		0-1					
J HARDING			0-1	1-1		1-0	0-3		0-2		0-1				
B STOLL	0-2	0-1			1-1		0-1								
H STUPP		0-1			1-0	0-1				1-1					

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>MEN'S PRO STOPS</b>			<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>PRIZE MONEY</b>
			DEC 6-9	Schoeber's Racquetball Spa Pleasanton Club 44250 Warm Springs Blvd., Suite #9 Fremont, CA 94539 John O'Donovan (415) 651-1584 *Total money tentative	\$12,000*
			JAN 23-27	Arizona Athletic Club 1425 West 14th Street Tempe, AZ 85281 Jack Nolan (602) 894-2281 *Total money tentative	\$10,000*
			FEB 6-10	Tulsa Pro/Am (918) 587-8883 or (918) 254-1843 Mark Farbairn *Minimum prize money	\$10,000*
			FEB 18-24	Griffith Park Athletic Club 4925 S.W. Griffith Drive Beaverton, OR 97005 Devri Doty (503) 644-3900 *Tentative	\$10,000*
			MAR 1-3	Crack Shooter Open Rocky Mountain Health Club 1880 Estland Road Cheyenne, WY 82001 Steve Gallassini (307) 634-8884 *Total money tentative	\$10,000*
			APRIL 17-21	Toyota East Coast Classic Racquetball Palace Baltimore, MD David Pivec (301) 532-2250	Toyota 4X4 + \$7,200
			MAY	Ektelon Nationals STBA	\$22,500
			JUNE	DP Nationals STBA	\$40,000
<b>WOMEN'S PRO STOPS</b>			<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>PRIZE MONEY</b>
			JAN 17-20	Sports Gallery Jim Carson (714) 968-4313	\$10,000
			FEB 15-17	Racquets Edge Recreation Center Vermont Leslie Brenker (802) 879-7734	\$ 6,000
			FEB 22-24*	Stamford RB & Fitness Club 49 Brownhouse Road Stamford, CT 06902 Peter Donahue (203) 324-6160 *Date Tentative	\$ 6,000
			MAY	Ektelon Nationals STBA	\$18,700
			JUNE	WPRA Nationals Ft. Worth, TX Ken Newell (817) 284-3353	\$22,000
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
			Dec. 6-10	Christmas Classic *3 Schoeber's Racquetball Club 534 Owen Ct. Pleasanton, CA 94566 415-846-0950	
			Dec. 6-9	Santa Fe Holiday Classic Santa Fe Courthouse & Spa 1931 Warner Santa Fe, NM 87501	
			Dec. 6-10	Singers '85 International Athletic Club 1630 Welton Denver, CO 80202 Cynthia Howard	
			Dec. 7-9	Family Fitness Center 2510 Oakmont Way Eugene, OR 97401 Dianne Gregoire 687-2811	
			Dec. 7-9	Holiday Classic *3 Buriem RBC Buriem, WA Sid Williams 5227 S. Puget Sound Ave. Tacoma, WA 98409	
			Dec. 7-9	Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop Greentree Racquetball Club Clarksville, IN	
			Dec. 7-9	Michigan Championships Series *4 Blanc Racquet Club Michigan	
			Dec. 7-9	Racquet Power Tournament *3 3390 Kori Road Jacksonville, FL 32223	
			Dec. 7-9	Summit City Open Singles & Juniors Summit City 5928 Trer Rd. Ft. Wayne, IN 46805 Janet Coffey 219-485-1671	
			Dec. 14-16	1984 Space Coast Open *3 Body Tech 1525 W. Nasa Blvd. Melbourne, FL 32951 305-768-2757	
			Dec. 14-16	Grand Rapids Patrons Tour *2 Holland, Michigan Lee Fredrickson 616-672-7736	
			Dec. 14-16	Universal Sports & Courts 715 13th Ave. S. Box 6548 Great Falls, MT 59406	
			Dec. 15-16	MAC Christmas Classic-Juniors Montgomery Athletic Club 5765 Carmichael Pkwy Montgomery, AL 36117 Turby Treadway 227-7130	
<b>JANUARY</b>					
			Jan. 4-6	New Year Open *3 Mountain Valley Court Club Rt. #16 North Conway, NH 03101 Susan Rowan 603-346-5774	
			Jan. 4-6	Sundown East Leukemia Benefit *3 Sundown East 6810 Kinneest East Syracuse, NY 13057 315-437-1303	
			Jan. 4-6	Super 7 *4 Rose Shores Racquet Club MI Jim Hiser	
			Jan. 10-12	New Mexico Invitational Tom Young's Athletic Club & Spa 2250 Wyoming Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87112	
			Jan. 11-13	3rd Annual Adirondack Open *3 Glen Falls YMCA Dennis Bradle Star Route Box 130 Glen Falls, NY 12801 518-789-1036	
			Jan. 11-13	Indy Open-Singles Court Club 3455 Harper Rd. Indianapolis, IN 46240 Sonny Moon 317-846-1111	
			Jan. 11-13	Metropolitan Health Spa *3 Pocatello, ID	
			Jan. 11-13	Michigan Championship Series #6 Oakland Racquet Club-MI	
			Jan. 11-13	New Jersey Mixed Doubles Champs The Atlantic Club 1904 Atlantic Ave. Wall Township, NJ 07719 201-223-2100	
			Jan. 11-13	Powell Open *3	

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mountain West Club  
740 Lane 9 1/2 RR3  
Powell, WY 82435  
754-5775

**Jan. 11-13**  
UCP Benefit \*3  
Supreme Court Club  
155 Ashley Ave.  
West Springfield, MA 01089  
Ken Pulsford  
413-781-0181

**Jan. 11-13**  
Wichita State Univ. Open \*3  
Heskett Center  
Wichita, KS 67208  
316-689-3210

**Jan. 17-20**  
Pepsi Classic \*3  
Fairmont Athletic Club  
3328 W. Genesee St.  
Syracuse, NY 13219  
315-488-3114

**Jan. 18-20**  
Boy Scouts Benefit Tournament \*3  
Oxford Racquet & Golf Club  
Pleasant Street  
North Rockford, MA 01537  
Al Dupont  
617-683-4870

**Jan. 18-20**  
Broadwater Athletic Club \*3  
4920 Highway 12 West  
Helena, MT 59601

**Jan. 18-20**  
Cancer Society Open \*3  
Manchester Court Club  
1 Le Clerc Cr.  
Manchester, NH 03101

**Jan. 18-20**  
Dyna Jet Open  
Gillette Parks & Recreation  
1000 Douglas Hwy  
Gillette, WY 82716  
Jim Crisp  
682-7406

**Jan. 18-20**  
Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop  
Lovers Lane Racquetball Club  
Bowling Green, KY

**Jan. 18-20**  
Lewerenz Classic Invitational  
STBA in Michigan

**Jan. 24-27**  
Earthquake Open \*3  
Salinas Racquetball Club  
20 E. An Joaquin  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Jan. 24-27**  
New Mexico State Juniors Champ.  
Rio Grande Sports Club  
2500 Yale Blvd. SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

**Jan. 25-27**  
Court Club East \*3  
916 S. Gouverneur  
Wichita, KS 67207  
316-686-1442

**Jan. 25-27**  
Grand Rapids Patrons Tour \*3  
Muskegon, MI  
Lee Fredrickson  
616-672-7736

**Jan. 25-27**  
Junior & Adult Doubles \*3  
Sheridan YMCA  
417 N. Jefferson  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
Jay McGinness  
674-7488

**Jan. 25-27**  
New York State Open \*3  
STBA

**Jan. 25-27**  
The Club  
Twin Falls, ID

**Jan. 25-27**  
Wachusett Racquet Club Open \*3  
Routes 2 & 31  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
Mike Luciw  
617-345-5667

**Jan. 25-27**  
WOKQ/March of Dimes Tournament \*3  
Off the Wall Racquet & Fitness  
Albany Street Extension  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
A.J. Prudhomme  
603-431-1430

**Jan. 30-Feb. 3**  
DAC Invitational \*3  
Denver Athletic Club  
1325 Glenarm  
Denver, CO 80204  
Tom Sabus  
303-534-1211

**Jan. 31-Feb. 3**  
AARA Regionals, Region 8  
STBA  
Chicagoland, IL  
Alvin Barasch  
312-673-7300

### FEBRUARY

**Feb. 1-3**  
3rd Annual Genesee St. Valentines  
21st Point Club  
Mckown Road  
Albany, NY 12203  
Vincent Wolanin  
518-489-3276

**Feb. 1-3**  
3rd Annual Tom Foolery RB Classic  
Shrewbury Racquet Club-MA  
Kim Holle  
447-4478

**Feb. 1-3**  
Billings Racquetball Club \*3  
777 15th Street West  
Billings, MT 59102

**Feb. 1-3 & 8-10**  
Bud Light Valentine's Day Massacre \*3  
Sundown Meadows  
4989 Hopkins Rd.  
Liverpool, NY 13088  
Jim Winterton  
451-5551

**Feb. 1-3**  
Playoff Open \*3  
Playoff Racquetball Club  
144 Gold Street  
Needham, MA 02194  
Warren Steinberg

**Feb. 1-3**  
Off The Wall Open  
Singles & Juniors

3100 Willowcreek Rd.  
Portage, IN 46368

**Feb. 1-3**  
Super 7 \*5  
Southfield, MI  
Jim Hiser

**Feb. 6-10**  
1st Annual Aurora Open \*3  
International Athletic Club  
3191 S. Vaughn Way  
Aurora, CO 80014  
Mike Richardson

**Feb. 7-10**  
Supreme Courts Open  
Supreme Courts Racquet & Health Club  
4100 Prospect Ave. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

**Feb. 8-10**  
Michigan Championships #6  
Muskegon, MI  
Diane Drivers  
900 Long Blvd. #423  
Lansing MI 48910

**Feb. 8-10**  
Telegraph Hill Club \*3  
1850 Kearney Street  
San Francisco, CA 94112  
John Aragoni  
415-982-4700

**Feb. 8-10**  
Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop  
Racquetball Plus  
Fern Valley Road  
Louisville, KY

**Feb. 8-10**  
Wheatland Family Activity Center Open  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
David Rodriguez  
322-5646

**Feb. 8-10**  
Women '85 Tournament  
STBA  
Maureen Henrickson  
617-754-6073

**Feb. 14-17**  
6th Annual St. Valentine's Open  
Rallysport  
2727 29th  
Boulder, CO 80302  
Phil Rhoades  
303-449-4800

**Feb. 14-17**  
New Mexico State Intercollegiates

**Feb. 14-17**  
The Club House \*3  
Comanche & Avenue F  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
316-225-0206

**Feb. 15-17**  
Bank of Commerce Tournament \*3  
Sheridan YMCA  
417 N. Jefferson  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
Jay McGinness

**Feb. 15-17**  
Cedardale Shoot-Out \*3  
Cedardale RB Club  
930 Boston Rd.  
Haverhill, MA 01830

## Why you should be a member of the American Amateur Racquetball Association!

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815 North Weber, Suite 203  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

# RANKINGS

## MEN'S RANKINGS

The men's pro rankings are based on a 10-tournament rotating schedule. For each ranking event that is added to the list, one event (the oldest event on the previous list) is dropped. The ten events used this month are:

- Chicago, IL, 1983
- Atlanta, GA, 1983
- Davison, MI, 1983
- Pleasanton, CA, 1983
- Beaverton, OR, 1984
- Anaheim, CA, 1984
- Austin, TX, 1984
- Atlanta, GA, 1984
- Davison, MI, 1984
- Stockton, CA, 1984

The ranking system utilizes the following point system:

- Winner ..... 120 pts
- Second ..... 90 pts
- Semifinalist ..... 70 pts
- Quarterfinalist ..... 50 pts
- Round-of-16 ..... 30 pts
- Round-of-32 ..... 10 pts
- Round-of-64 ..... 2 pts

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

The earliest round of a tournament where points are awarded is the first round in which the top seed appears, even if he draws a bye. No points are awarded for qualifying rounds.

If a player has entered himself in the draw and forfeits, he is awarded 0 points and his divider is increased by 1. (Forfeits are signified on the ranking chart with an "F").

The women's rankings are the official rankings of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA).

The amateur rankings are the official rankings of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA).

## MEN'S PRO RANKINGS OCTOBER 22, 1984

THIS MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	M. Hogan	91.00
2	M. Yellen	81.11
3	G. Peck	65.00
4	B. Harnett	62.22
5	D. Peck	60.00
6	R. Gonzalez	56.00
7	J. Hilecher	47.78
8	S. Oliver	47.14
9	G. Price	45.56
10	E. Andrews	36.00
11	B. Hawkes	30.00
12	J. Newman	28.00
13	B. Sell	27.50
14T	D. Thomas	26.67
14T	M. Levine	26.67
16	D. Cohen	26.00
17	C. Brysman	23.33
18	S. Lerner	22.50
19	R. Wagner	21.67
20	J. Egerman	21.43
21	C. McCoy	17.50
22	A. Gross	17.43
23	C. Swain	16.00
24	M. Ray	15.71
25	M. Antes	15.50
26T	L. Myers	15.00
26T	L. Gilliam	15.00
26T	S. Moskwa	15.00
26T	E. Terry	15.00
30	D. Gross	14.44
31T	B. Koltun	12.50
31T	M. Martino	12.50
31T	D. Obremski	12.50
34T	P. Britos	10.00
34T	B. Valin	10.00
34T	D. Simmonette	10.00
34T	B. Mitchell	10.00
38T	D. Johnson	8.00
38T	J. Sacco	8.00
40T	L. Fox	7.50
40T	D. Ferris	7.50
40T	K. Vantrease	7.50
43T	D. Green	5.50
43T	M. Plotkin	5.50
45T	K. Kamalu	5.00
45T	D. Negrete	5.00
45T	J. Cascio	5.00
45T	G. Texeria	5.00
45T	J. Nolan	5.00
45T	S. Perry	5.00
45T	S. Gonzales	5.00

## WPRA RANKINGS OCTOBER 22, 1984

THIS MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Heather McKay	322.00
2	Lynn Adams	302.50
3	S. Wright Hamilton	127.50
4	Terri Gilreath	117.75
5	Vicki Panzeri	109.50
6	Caryn McKinney	97.00
7	Francine Davis	93.00
8	Janell Marriott	88.50
9	Joyce Jackson	79.00
10	Brenda Poe-Barrett	67.50
11	Jennifer Harding	49.50
12	Peggy Gardner	41.25
13	Bonnie Stoll	40.00
14	Molly O'Brien	31.00
15	Heather Stupp	29.25
16	Marcy Lynch	28.00
17	Liz Alvarado	23.00
18	Marci Greer	21.75
19T	Martha McDonald	20.00
19T	Carol Pranka	20.00
21	Mary Dee	18.00
22	Laura Martino	16.50
23	Trina Rasmussen	16.00
24	Stacey Fletcher	15.00
25T	Diane Bullard	13.00
25T	Val Paese	13.00
27T	Marci Drexler	12.50
27T	Rita Hoff-Scott	12.50
29T	Babette Bell	10.00
29T	Monique Parent	10.00
31T	Suzie Carlos	7.50
31T	Leslie Clifford	7.50
31T	Cathie Fredrickson	7.50
31T	Sandy Robson	7.50
35	Jean Sauser	6.00
36	Suzanne Robert	5.50
37T	Elaine Riley	3.00
37T	Donna Meyer	3.00
39T	Diane Adams	2.50
39T	Cindy Baxter	2.50
39T	K. Bishop-Thulin	2.50
39T	Ellen Campbell	2.50
39T	Lisa Devine	2.50
39T	Cindy Donnally	2.50
39T	Carol Dupuy	2.50
39T	Chris Evon	2.50
39T	Dot Fishl	2.50
39T	Melody Fox	2.50
39T	Terri Graham	2.50
39T	Kay Kuhfeld	2.50
39T	Robin Levine	2.50
39T	Tamara Low	2.50
39T	Cathy Nichols	2.50
39T	Tracy Phillips	2.50
39T	Theresa Pitts	2.50
39T	Karen Powers	2.50
39T	Joyce Robertson	2.50
39T	Beth Slade	2.50
39T	Tanya Spangler	2.50
39T	Peggy Steding	2.50

## AARA NATIONAL MEN'S RANKINGS OCTOBER 19, 1984

NAME	POINTS	
1	Charlie Nichols	220
2	Tim Hansen	185
3	Sergio Gonzalez	180
4	Cliff Swain	150
5	Lee Stocks	130
6	Rick Smith	100
7	Oscar Gonzalez	80
8	Jin Yang	75
9	Kevin Pillion	70
10	Mitch Campbell	65
11	Jeff Bales	60
12	Chris Smith	60
13	Bubba Gautier	58
14	Lee Bentsen	50
15	F. Calabrese	50
16	Jim Cascio	50
17	Jack Emes	50
18	Rick Ferrin	50
19	Dan Ferris	50
20	Doug Ganim	50
21	Brian Polsky	50
22	Mike Ray	50
23	Jerome Trail	50
24	Bill Cottrill	45
25	J. Krall	45
26	S. Dayvault	40
27	Ron Deegan	40
28	Ted Hagen	40

## AARA NATIONAL WOMEN'S RANKINGS OCTOBER 19, 1984

NAME	POINTS	
1	Diane Bullard	120
2	K. Randanzo	100
3	Leesa Smith	100
4	Julie Ginsburg	65
5	Terri Youngblood	65
6	S. Armbrrecht	60
7	Marsha Giglio	60
8	Julie Pinnell	60
9	Anne Barneburg	50
10	Cindy Baxter	50
11	Wendy Crews	50
12	Gini Henderson	50
13	S. Luscher	50
14	Trish Miller	50
15	Mary Jo Murray	50
16	Jean Deschger	50
17	J. Simon	50
18	Karen Walton-Trent	50
19	Debbie Wilber	50
20	Lucy Zarfus	50
21	Beth Aldi	40
22	Gail Troxell	40
23	Paula Truman	40
24	Jan Curtis	38
25	C. Alba	30
26	Kathy Gagne	30
27	M. Holmes	30
28	Shelly Lee	30

# Put an end to sandbagging



You know the problem. Racquetball players have self-declared rankings, like A, B, C or novice. Then, in a tournament, an A plays a C because they thought they were B's. As a result, there are complaints. ARHS can solve these problems.

ARHS is a computerized rating system that provides players with performance ratings based on actual game results over a period of time. So players don't declare their rating — they earn it. Then, in leagues and tournaments, you know that players of similar skill are competing. That means fewer complaints and a more enjoyable event for everyone.

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So put an end to sandbagging. Increase your enjoyment of racquetball by encouraging your club to join ARHS. Club Managers or Activity Directors can contact ARHS toll free at 1-800-328-8322 Ext. 533. Or write to:

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