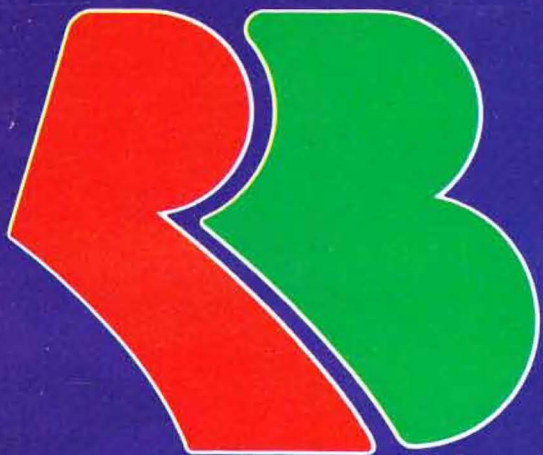


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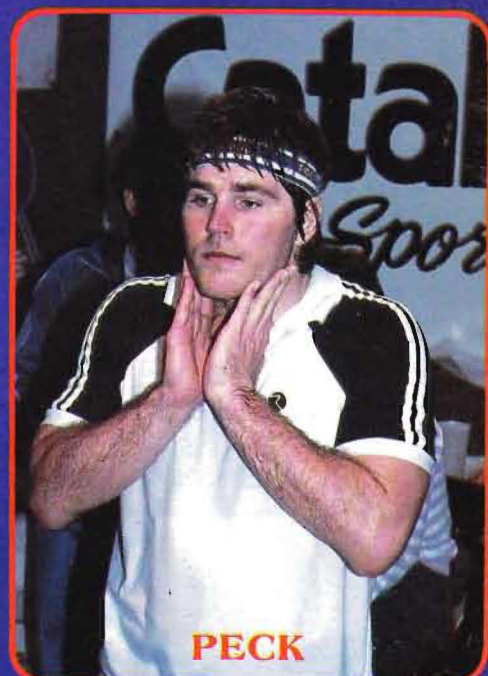
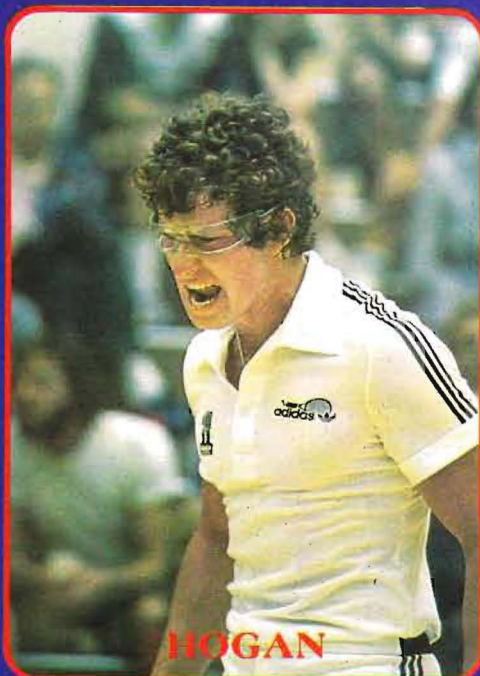
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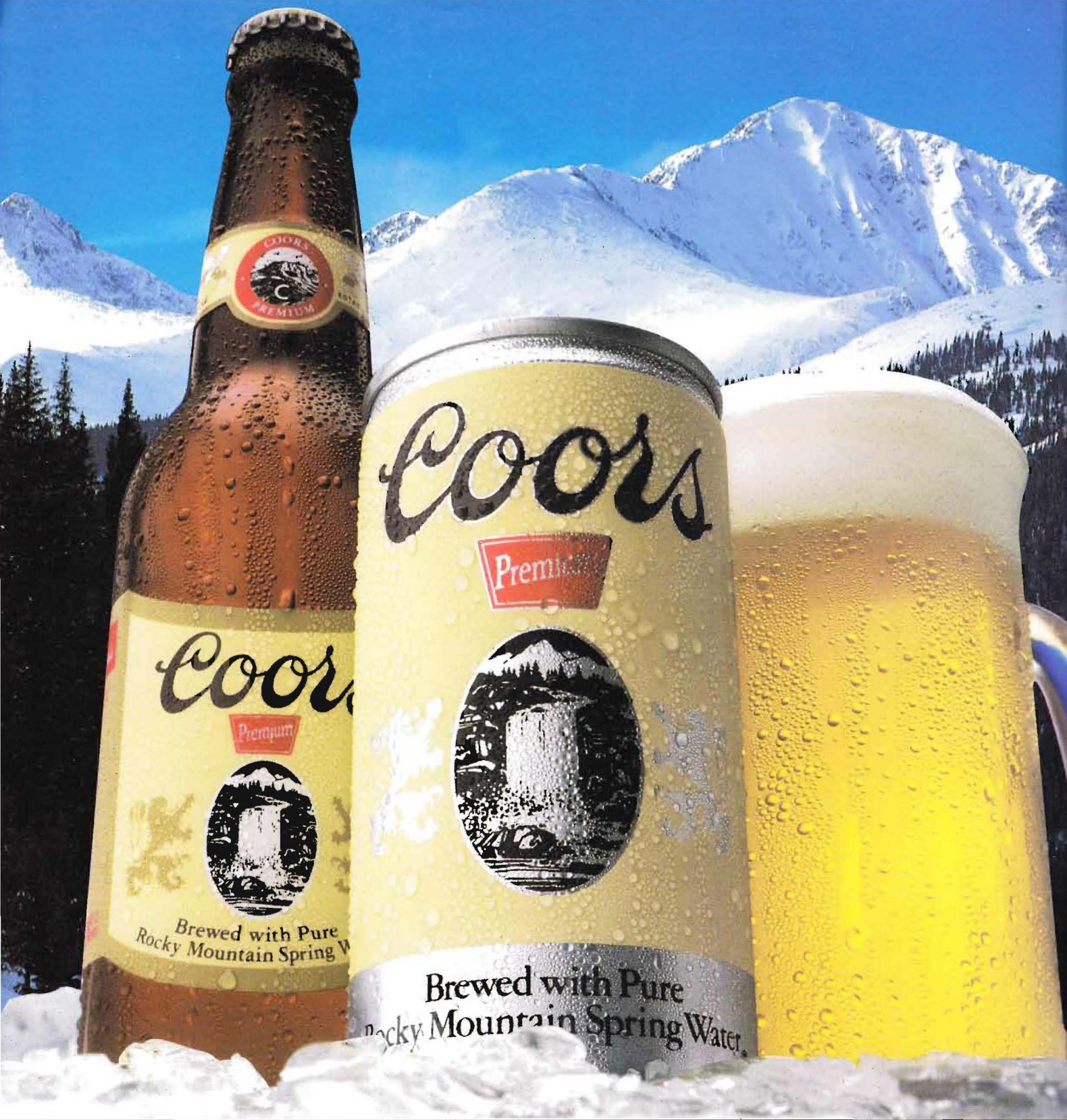
*Splash*



Who Will Win The Ektelon Nationals?



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VOL. 2 NO. 4

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# What! Something New—Again?



Jason Holloman  
Publisher

**W**e always seem to be heralding some “new happening” or “new age” in our editorial columns, but, when you have your ear as close to the ground as we do, every little movement somebody makes seems like an earthquake to us. We are guilty of over-reacting at times, but it is only in your interest that we do so. We just want you to know everything that is going on with our sport and prompt you to think about it a little. So let’s talk about what’s new in our magazine and in our sport.

Computers are making some interesting changes in racquetball. If you look at our article entitled “How Do You Rate?” you will discover that with the help of the computers provided by the American Racquetball Handicap System you can pinpoint your level of play and select better playing partners. No more guesswork as to where you or your fellow players sit in your division. It’s going to make tournaments much fairer and easier to seed. In fact, it will do wonders for your game and your club—if it is implemented.

Computers are also being used by some clubs to tap into a member’s bank account for his membership fees. It’s automatic, efficient and you can cancel the service anytime if you are displeased. No surprises or hassles about your membership. Sounds good for everybody. Ask your club about it.

Has everybody seen the movie **Splash** yet? The reason I ask is that there are some outrageously funny scenes in this spring smash hit and one of the scenes is about racquetball. Touchstone films was kind enough to send us some behind the scenes photos. The movie was directed by the very talented Ron Howard (remember Oppie?). I also hear that there is a new movie in the works that is totally about racquetball. I’ll let you know more when I hear about it.

And look at our schedule of events! Who said this sport was only a September through April affair? Goodness, the Men’s, Women’s and Amateur Nationals in May,

June and July are coming up fast with more entrants and prize money than ever before. But, by the looks of what’s going to happen next year, this year is just a warm up for bigger and better events for racquetball. Check out our Editor’s column, “Professional Racquetball is Back,” for some surprising news about the pro tour and then read the interview with Luke St. Onge about the explosive movements happening in amateur racquetball. Talk about changes!

Some things never change, though, and one of them is good racquetball. In this issue we have coverage for the Women’s Bangor, Maine, pro stop and the Men’s Cheyenne, Wyoming, Crack Shooter Tournament. For some of the women pros, they’re just thankful that they made it to the tournament. It’s an interesting story. As for the Crack Shooter stop, Steve Galassini told me over the phone that it was a very successful and tough tournament for all that entered. A few rookies had it out for the pros and...well, read it yourself.

Speaking of good racquetball, in our continuing series on racquetball’s great matches, read the account of the battle between Davey Bledsoe and Marty Hogan in the 1977 Nationals. There are some surprising facts behind the encounter that you’re sure to enjoy.

Got any bets placed on who might win the Men’s Nationals this year? It might do you some good to take a peek at who may be the the odds-on favorite to win in 1984, or, if you’re going to **play** in the Nationals, you might study our instructional by Mike Yellen to sharpen up your skills a bit. Next month we will feature the odds on the Women’s Nationals.

There’s more that’s new, so go ahead and read on. You’ll find the most up-to-date information on racquetball available anywhere, but, if you think we’ve left something out, why not send us a note?

Feedback on Sportsmanship

Dear Editor,

I've just finished reading your article (February 1984) on sportsmanship. I agreed with a few of your points, but I don't believe that any sports should have to, as you said, "define what acceptable behavior is." Whether I'm on a basketball, tennis or racquetball court, my attitude toward being a good sport doesn't change with each game. I also disagree with people who say, "He has such a bad attitude on the court, but off the court he's different." Whether a fierce competitor or a non-chalant participant, you are who you are on and off the court.

No Sybil here,

Stacey Fletcher

Dear Editor,

Although I am not Drew's mother, I do agree with him. I think I did see his mother at a recent tournament—she was leaving during the finals mumbling something about the players' infantile behavior. She said she could tell they were adults because they weren't wearing diapers.

I agree whole-heartedly that something needs to be done and soon—maybe if there were training for referees or some kind of certification program. I have had some of my matches refereed by someone who hadn't heard of an avoidable hinder or technical foul. Maybe ejecting players with less than appropriate behavior would be a start! Once I thought I was dreaming because I saw and heard a referee issue a technical warning and then (!) he issued a technical foul to a player for using profane and abusive language. If I give you the referee's name could you possibly have him cloned?

Racquetball is now beginning to get positive national exposure (It's featured in three national commercials—well, it's a start. . .). Let's not let the actions of a few spoiled players ruin it for all the rest of us. Imagine the publicity if someone were badly injured or worse while playing racquetball.

The problem is not the lack of rules—just that rules are not enforced. Maybe tournament directors should state on the entry forms that AARA rules WILL be strictly enforced, **especially those concerning technical fouls.**

Well, Drew, tell your Mom "Hi" for me.

Judy E. Lawrence

AND SPEAKING OF REFEREE CERTIFICATION

Dear Editor,

Racquetball is an exciting game that, when played properly, is a safe fitness builder. As the game of racquetball grows into a diverse industry, there appears to be a need for a group whose efforts will focus on long term growth for all aspects of the industry.

Moves are underway to form this group which will be modeled after similar associations in golf and tennis. Our association, the United States Professional Racquetball Association (USPRA), will have as its major purpose:

—To provide more opportunities for the general public to actively and passively enjoy the game of racquetball.

The USPRA, an organization for teaching professionals, will concentrate on 5 programs of major concern to the industry:

- Player Ability Ranking System
- Teacher Certification
- Rules/Referee Certification
- Programming Seminars
- Merchandising Seminars

Each of these programs will profit one or all of the sectors of our market as we move to build a stronger industry. These programs will be in the developmental stage for one year. We will then begin implementing these programs through communication channels that have been developing for 5 years. With your help, we will expand this network during the next year.

We need your help. In order to direct racquetball in a constructive manner, we need a collective body of individuals who will work with us. Whether you are an accomplished teacher or an excited rookie, we welcome your ideas and need your support to benefit from a true sharing of ideas and enthusiasm.

If you will contact the USPRA, care of this address, we will send you more detailed information on our programs. We will also include specific details on how you can contribute your ideas or take a more active role in the actions of the USPRA.

**USPRA**

c/o Michael L. Keel  
Director of Racquet Sports  
The Verandah Club  
2201 Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, TX 75207  
214-744-4270

THANK YOU, MRS. PECK

Dear Editor,

I want to thank you for the well written article on David (February 1984). I can assure you he will come back! I would also like to thank you for doing such a fine job on Gregg's career in an earlier issue (November 1983). I am terribly proud of both of them.

**Mrs. Martha E. Peck**  
El Paso, Texas

Editor,

It's always nice to read about a tournament in your magazine that the reader also got to attend. The coverage of the Beaverton event was better than I had expected. People in this area look forward to this main event every year and were really afraid that with the failings of some of the pro stops that we would lose out this year.

Much thanks go to the sponsors and Griffith Park who always seem to do a first rate job on this event. To see all the players this year and the talent was worth the price of the four day tickets. Will look forward to hearing more of the young players Price, Oliver, and Jack Newman. Many of us felt Price and Oliver really got things going for their one big match but couldn't keep it going for the following one which was even more important. Mr. Hogan just seemed to get better each player he met and appeared to really want the big win. It was the best many of us had seen him play compared to last 2 years he was here. When Marty is on he is really something to observe and you just can't get enough action. This tournament he really seemed heads above everybody else and certainly has his own style that is awesome when its working.

The only disappointment was all the conflicts with the Peck brothers' match. The abuse the linesmen and ref took is a part of the pros action that I wish could change.

Have enjoyed your magazine and hope the prompt coverage of the main events continues. The background article of Price and Oliver was very interesting and could be done on other young and upcoming players. Many of us were very impressed with Jack Newman of Chicago.  
**Mike Curry**  
Vancouver, WA

Letters to the Editor, International Racquetball, P.O. Box 7548, Reno, Nevada 89510.



**McKAY WINS IN BANGOR**

Heather McKay regained her number one ranking in women's professional racquetball by defeating Lynn Adams in a five-set final to win the WPRA Lite Beer Pro-Am in Bangor, Maine. McKay, who has held the #2 position behind Lynn Adams for nearly a year, was the defending champion in the event.

Fran Davis scored upsets over Janell Marriott and Vicki Panzeri to reach the semifinals where she was stopped by Lynn Adams.

Terri Gilreath made her first appearance in the semifinals in two years by defeating Atlanta's Caryn McKinney.

Marcy Lynch defeated Monique Parent to win the open singles division.

The Bangor event offered an overall purse of \$10,000 in the women's pro event. (Story on page 24).

**RMA Announces Pro-Tour**

The newly formed Racquetball Manufacturer's Association has announced its plans to form a large-scale open professional racquetball tour for 1984-85. The tour will begin in September of 1984 and will reach the major market areas of New York, Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle.

No information was given concerning the prize money amounts of each event. The RMA is currently interviewing candidates for the position of commissioner. (Story on page 8).

**DP National Championships Set**

The site and date of the DP Nationals have been set for June 11-17, at the Atlanta Sporting Club, in Atlanta, Georgia. Once again this year the professional and amateur tournament will offer a total of \$100,000, making it the richest event in the sport of racquetball.

Over 1,000 entrants, including 150

professionals, are expected to play at this year's tournament.

Diversified Products (DP) is one of the largest manufacturers of sporting and fitness equipment in the world. A couple of years ago DP purchased Leach Racquetball, one of racquetball's original racquet makers, and have been marketing racquetball equipment under the name DP Leach. DP has announced that it will be dropping the name Leach from its products, and that this year's tournament will be called simply the DP National Championships. (Tournament schedule on page 43).

**Cohen Wins in Cheyenne**

Doug Cohen, professional racquetball's #16 player, won the Crack Shooter Open in Cheyenne, Wyoming, for the second time in his career. Cohen won the title by defeating last year's champion Gerry Price in the final.

Youngsters Andy and David Gross from St. Louis both scored semifinal finishes on the heels of upsets over Jerry Hilecher, John Egerman, and Scott Hawkins. It was the best showing to date for the Gross brothers. (Story on page 35).

**WOMEN INVOLVED IN AUTO ACCIDENT**

Three women were involved in a serious auto accident while traveling to the WPRA pro-stop in Bangor, Maine. Heather Stupp, Monique Parent, and Suzanne Robert suffered minor injuries when their car hit a patch of ice and flipped over several times before landing upright. Although all three went on to compete in the tournament, the vehicle was totally destroyed.

Stupp was in the passenger's seat and credited the seat-belt she was wearing with saving her life. (Story on page 27).

**Adams Makes the Enquirer**

Apparently racquetball and Lynn Adams have arrived. Lynn earned the title of "queen of the tabloid" when her picture and an article on her appeared recently in the National Enquirer. The complimentary article centered around Lynn's struggle with rheumatoid arthritis. It appeared on page 7 of the Feb. 21 issue (for those of you with back copies), just two pages after the now well-known story "I Lived in a Cardboard Box on the Meanest Streets in America."

While at first we thought the whole thing was funny, we later realized that

Lynn's Enquirer article was probably the largest mass-exposure racquetball has ever received from a single source—



circulation 18,000,000.

Our thanks to Jim Carson for calling the article to our attention, and for lending us one of his archival copies.



**Wilson and High School Students Use Racquetball to Benefit the Mentally Retarded**

Over 200 students from nine Chicago area high schools participated in the Sixth Annual Racquetball Round Robin. The participants each played five hours of racquetball to help raise funds for North Shore Association for the Retarded.

Round Robin organizer, Lori Ratcliffe, briefly discussed the history of the event. She said, "The first year we held the Racquetball Round Robin in 1979, thirty-two students from one high school played. That event lasted twelve straight hours and each student played from 7 p.m. on a

Saturday night until 6 a.m. the next Sunday." Ms. Ratcliffe continued, "The kids were wiped out after the event even though they all enjoyed themselves."

One of the first corporate sponsors of the event was Wilson Sporting Goods Company. The first year of the event, Wilson donated racquetballs and racquets. Wilson has been active in the event ever since.

Ratcliffe said the event trimmed down to five hours to save wear and tear on the players.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser will help North Shore Association provide programs for over three hundred mentally retarded children and adults. Students are still collecting from people who made pledges based on the number of points a participant accumulated during the evening play.

Ms. Ratcliffe said, "We hope to realize over six thousand dollars from the Round Robin and we expect to do even better next year."

For information about how to organize a Racquetball Round Robin, contact Ms. Lori Ratcliffe, 2525 Church Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

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of racquetball string  
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# PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL IS BACK

## *The RMA Announces A New Pro Tour*



Drew Stoddard  
Editor

I have been waiting a long time to write this column.

It is a pleasure for me to tell you that pro racquetball is alive once again. September of this year will mark the beginning of the first open, large-scale professional racquetball tour since 1980.

The box at the right contains the text of two press releases that were recently issued from the office of Don Bushor, the Executive Director of the Racquetball Manufacturer's Association, or RMA. If you haven't done so already, please read that text before you go on.

The actions outlined by the RMA in those releases constitute a milestone in the evolution of the sport of racquetball. For those of you who do not understand why, let me give you a little background:

At this time last year professional rac-

### RMA PRESS RELEASE

January 30, 1984

It's official. . . The racquetball manufacturers have teamed together to form the RMA (Racquetball Manufacturers Association). The RMA Board includes Chairman Greg Eveland (Diversified Products), Vice-Chairman Bob Beebe (Penn Athletics), Secretary/Treasurer Jacqui Black (Wilson Sporting Goods), Richard Smith (AMF Voit) and Norm Peck (Ektelon).

The goal of the RMA is to insure the growth of racquetball. The programs the RMA plans to initiate are intended to unite the racquetball community. Hopefully, we can increase the awareness of racquetball and expand participation at the grass roots level.

The headquarters of the RMA will be located in the American Sports Association building along with 17 other sports organizations which promote sports participation in the U.S. Being part of the American Sports Association family will provide the RMA with immediate public relations capability by way of producing television spots, educational film and publication programs, flyers, brochures and other collateral materials to promote the game of racquetball.

Executive Director for the RMA is Don Bushor. Mr. Bushor is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a Masters Degree in Sports Administration. Bushor's professional background includes broad experience in management, communication, program development, product development and fund raising for some 17 sports organizations.

The RMA plans to announce a well-organized and highly visible Pro Racquetball Tour in the near future as well as several grass roots and educational racquetball programs.

For further information on how to become involved, please contact:

Don Bushor, Executive Director  
Racquetball Manufacturers Association  
200 Castlewood Drive  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
305-842-4100

March 9, 1984

As its first official undertaking, the Racquetball Manufacturers Association has announced the formation of a men's professional series.

These pro-only events will take place annually from September through April in the following eight major market areas: New York, Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

The RMA is currently interviewing candidates for the position of commissioner.

For further information, contact Don Bushore, Executive Director, (305) 842-4100.

---

“The tour will apparently consist of 8 regular-season stops in major market areas, plus the Ektelon and DP nationals.”

---

quetball was in extremely serious trouble. Charlie Drake's controversial 12-man invitational Catalina tour was drawing to a close, and his attempts to extend his stranglehold on the pro game for another 6 years was igniting a mutiny among the players. The sponsors were disgusted, and were understandably abandoning the sport at a terrifying rate. Professional racquetball was headed for extinction.

On May 13, a group of 5 individuals representing the sport's major manufacturers gathered in a meeting room at the Sports Gallery during the 1983 Ektelon Nationals, and decided that the pro game—their prime marketing tool—had degenerated far enough. At that tumultuous meeting they formed the nucleus of what would eventually become the RMA.

During the last year, while the pros themselves have been struggling through a sparse “non-season,” the RMA has quietly met more than a half-dozen times to formulate plans for an all new pro-tour. That they have been able to do that in such a short period of time is impressive—it's a tribute to the caliber of individuals who sit on that Board.

As you many have noticed, the actual announcement of the tour itself was fairly brief. That's because the RMA wants to do two more things before a major announcement is made: (1) hire a commissioner, and (2) hire a sports management firm to administrate the tour. I do not know who will be chosen to fill those positions, but the selection is close, and may well have been made by the time you read this.

Let me give you some of the details of the proposed tour as the plans stand right now. I want to emphasize that this description of the tour is not an official statement from the RMA. It is pieced together from information I've received from a number of RMA members who have been kind enough to keep me informed of their progress, and some of it could be changed before everything is finalized.

The tour will apparently consist of eight

regular-season stops, scheduled between early September and mid-April, in the major market areas named in the press release. The two national championships (Ektelon and DP) will continue, making a total of 10 stops spread over 9 months.

The exact amount of prize money per regular-season stop has still not been determined. But sources have told me there is little question within the RMA that the purses will be larger than at any time in the past. That would seem to indicate that each event will offer more than the \$20,000 purse that has been common at tour events in the last five years. If those plans hold, we're talking about total prize money of over \$230,000 per year. There has been some indication that the prize money may be set significantly higher than that.

In a past column I stated my opinion that the RMA would not attempt to underwrite a pro-tour for more than one year. I was wrong and I was right. Current plans call for contracts to be signed with the hosting clubs for no less than three years. (Maybe now we'll all be able to plan our schedules more than 30 days in advance!).

But, while the original plans called for the RMA to fund the first year of the tour themselves, that apparently won't be the case. There seems to be little question now that the tour will be funded by one or more major non-racquetball sponsors. Who those sponsors will be is being kept (appropriately) confidential, and the actual selection may not yet have been made. This is the part of the plan that I find surprising, as no doubt many of you do, but I have been told more than once that there is no shortage of prospective underwriters.

A lot of questions about next year's tour are still unanswered:

Will it involve women as well as men? I don't know, but I have not yet heard

anyone suggest that the women will be included.

Is Charlie Drake's company O.I.&D. one of the prospective management firms? Again, I don't know who the firms under consideration are, but to the best of my knowledge Drake is not involved in the RMA tour in any way.

What about the other independent pro stops that are currently being held? Sources within the RMA have told me that they will continue to encourage outside groups to promote their own non-tour events, and they will make every attempt to schedule around those, but that only major RMA tournaments will be used for ranking purposes. Whether any of the existing events will be considered for inclusion on the RMA tour, I don't know.

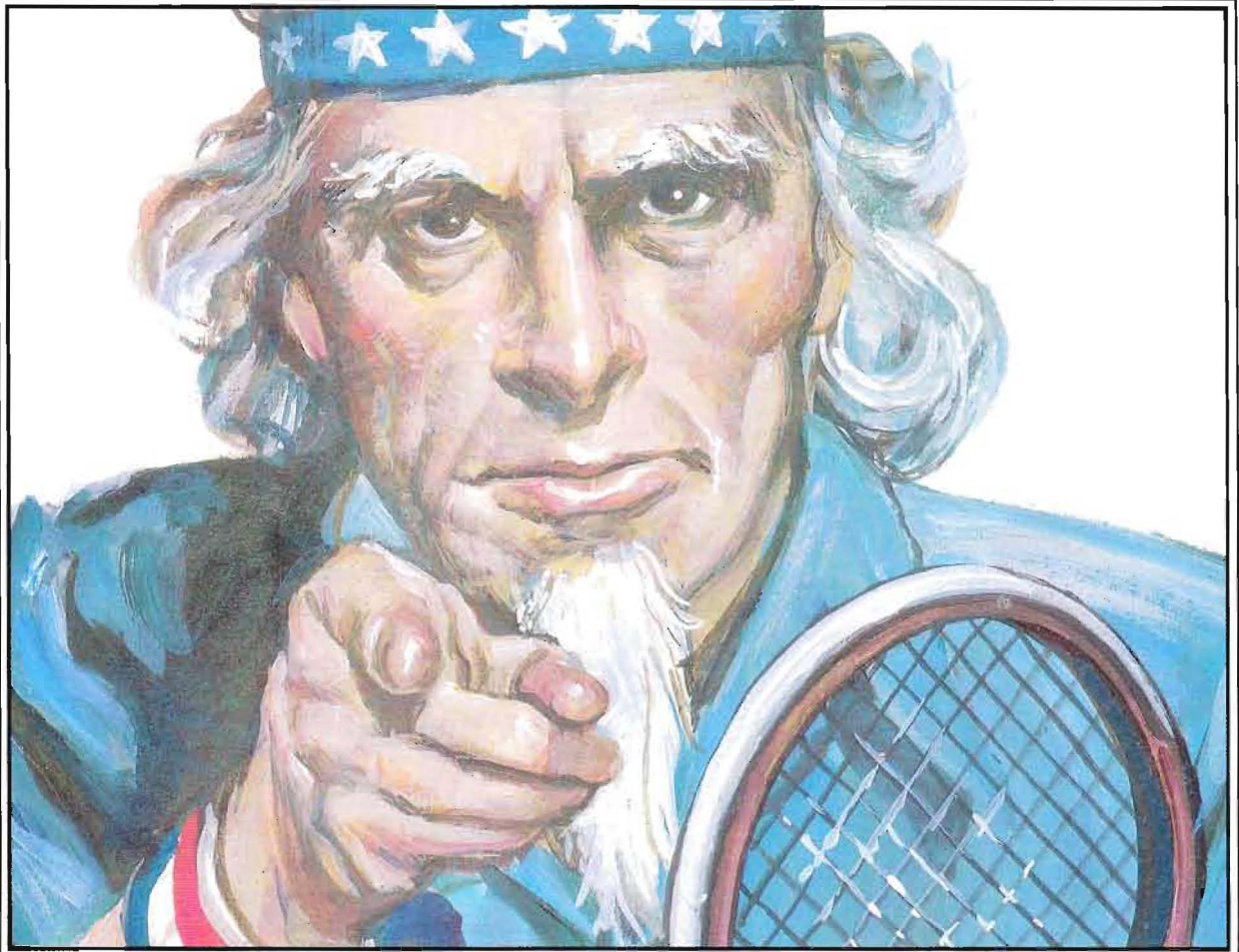
When will the actual schedule be announced? The current timetable is for the RMA to select a management group in early April, and then employ that firm to have the tour in place by September, and to issue future announcements from their offices. I have the impression that a major announcement including dates and sites will not come before early summer, perhaps by the DP Nationals.

Will racquetball be on television? Major media exposure is one of the stated goals for the RMA pro-tour. While there is no way of knowing when that exposure could begin, it may not take long. Remember, at least one of the manufacturers who sits on the RMA Board has had extensive experience in televising their annual tournament on ESPN.

The real importance of the RMA movement is not just in the formation of another pro-tour. For the first time since racquetball was invented, total control of the pro game rests where it belongs. No self-serving individual will ever be strong enough to challenge the power of the RMA—and that should give all of us enough confidence to begin investing in the sport's future.

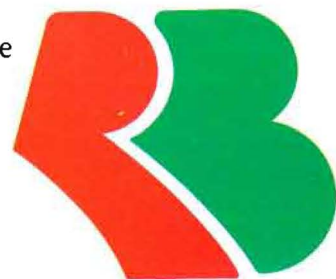
We salute the manufacturers, and applaud their efforts. ●

# JOIN THE PROS



## INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL WANTS YOU!

- We want you to join professional racquetball in its exciting 1984-85 season. Racquetball like you've never seen it before!
- We want you to join the pros behind-the-scenes interviews, in-depth instruction written by the pros themselves, and superb photographic tournament coverage.
- We want you to join the pros as they battle in cities from coast to coast and beyond in the world of **International Racquetball**.





### GREAT MATCHES:

# BLED SOE VS. HOGAN

## 1977 Nationals

### San Diego, California

**T**he first decade of men's professional racquetball has produced many great matches. A handful of those can rightfully be called classics. But only one can qualify as the greatest match of all time.

Among those who have been around the pro game since it began in 1974, there is almost unanimous agreement that the greatest match ever played was the final match of the '76-'77 Nationals at the Atlas Health Club in San Diego, in June of 1977. It was a battle that pitted fleet-footed Dave Bledsoe against Marty Hogan, a brash 19-year-old from St. Louis who was in the process of revolutionizing the sport of racquetball, and who was gunning for his first national title.

To say that Hogan was the overwhelming favorite gives new meaning to the word "understatement."

"Bookmakers would have taken this mis-match off the board," said National Racquetball Magazine in its coverage of the match. Bledsoe, said the current wisdom, was not even in the same league with Hogan—for that matter, neither was

anyone else. Marty Hogan was the undisputed #1 player in the game. He had won every tournament he played during the regular season, and had moved through the first three rounds of Nationals with ridiculous ease. Bledsoe didn't have a prayer. Some said he shouldn't even have been in the final, and he couldn't possibly win. But he was—and he did.

The importance of the match was summed up by one reporter this way: *"Playing to the sold-out, frenzied and screaming fans at the Atlas Health Club on June 11, 1977, Bledsoe put on a performance that will go down in history as the guttiest, most daring, and thrilling execution of racquetball skills ever seen."*

Why was it such an important match? To understand that we have to look at the events of the previous 18 months.

The story begins in Burlington, Vermont. There, on a Sunday afternoon in December of 1975, a wiry-haired 17-year-old boy sent shock waves to the very core of professional racquetball when he blasted his way out of obscurity by beating the world's top player, Charlie Brumfield, and won the first pro event of

his young career.

Some said Marty Hogan's Burlington victory was a fluke. What they did not realize was that Hogan didn't just win a tournament—on that day, he reinvented the game of racquetball.

Two months later, Hogan repeated his miracle in Milwaukee and made everyone a believer. Power racquetball was born.

By the time the '76 Nationals rolled around, Marty Hogan had become the odds-on favorite to replace Brumfield as the game's premier player. But the Hogan steamroller was stopped cold by Brumfield. It was Hogan's second disappointing Nationals—one year before he had suffered a humiliating early-round defeat at the unlikely hands of Victor Niederhoffer, a U.S. amateur squash champion playing in his first pro racquetball tournament (which is a whole story in itself).

With something to prove, Hogan stormed into the '76-'77 season like a man obsessed. He won nine straight tournaments (that's right, nine!), and then chose to sit out the last stop in Newport Beach to train full-time for the San Diego

Nationals. He was adamant to the press about his belief that being #1 by winning every event of the season was not enough. The National Champion, he said, was the man who won the Nationals.

But, while empires are built on strings of successes, they are sometimes lost with a single mistake. And Hogan made one fatal error. When he made the decision to skip the stop in Newport Beach he didn't realize that Charlie Brumfield had decided to do the same thing. And that opened the door for Dave Bledsoe.

Bledsoe had been little more than a footnote during the regular season. He was another of the game's new power players, and, although he had been beaten badly by Hogan during the season, he had managed to move his ranking up to #4 by the time he entered the Newport Beach event.

With the assistance of a watered-down draw, Bledsoe squeaked by Steve Serot and Craig McCoy to win Newport Beach. That victory, which was only the second of Bledsoe's career, not only served to build his confidence, but moved him past McCoy and Brumfield to the all-important #2 ranking going into the Nationals.

Buoyed by his new-found confidence, Bledsoe began talking about the unthinkable—Hogan could be beaten, and he knew how to do it. Marty's invincibility, he said, was a myth.

Hogan was ready to accept the challenge. He stormed to the finals in San Diego unscathed, and got ready to teach the upstart Bledsoe a lesson.

When the two players took the court for the final match, Hogan was rested and ready, while Bledsoe was still reeling from a marathon battle with Jerry Hilecher in the semifinals. (The previous day Hilecher had ended Charlie Brumfield's reign at the top of the sport in another classic match in the quarters.)

The crowd filled every corner of the gallery, with Hogan's mother and grandmother sitting on the front row.

The match began as expected. Marty came out blasting like there was no tomorrow, assuming that Bledsoe would try to slow the game down. But to everyone's amazement, Bledsoe did the opposite—he returned Hogan's bullets with rockets of his own, while using his incredible court speed to neutralize Hogan's game.

The score of the first game inched up to 13-all before Hogan connected with six straight to pull away 19-13. It appeared Bledsoe was in trouble. But instead of retrenching and playing more conserva-

tively, Dave started taking even more risks, shooting from everywhere—deep court, off-balance and on the move. His shot selection was enough to make a teaching-pro wince, but somehow he connected, time after time.

"The big difference," Bledsoe said after the match, "is everybody said don't match power with him. What was I supposed to do, change my game in the finals of the Nationals?"

"I had to play smart for me. I took the first shot I thought I could make. I even forced it. I played power with him. I kept the pressure on."

Hogan's game stalled, and then fell apart under the pounding pressure of

**“Bledsoe put on a performance that will go down in history as the guttiest, most daring, and thrilling execution of racquetball skills ever seen.”**

Bledsoe's determined charge. Marty's most potent weapon—his serve—deserted him.

The crowd, 90% against Hogan, screamed continuously as Bledsoe scored point after point, and came to their feet when he took the first game 21-20.

Marty quieted them down quickly as he bolted to a 7-0 lead in the second game. Again Bledsoe began taking risks, and again he came back—he tied the game at 7-7 and then roared to a 13-8 lead of his own. Hogan's back was to the wall, and he knew it. He began to press even harder. But Bledsoe wouldn't let up and matched Hogan point for point until suddenly he was standing in the service box serving for the match at 20-15.

How was this possible? What was wrong with the great Hogan?

"I tried to control the pace," said Bledsoe. "When he made an error, I'd serve quick. When he made a good shot, I'd take my time. I tried to always make him aware of my presence."

Hogan let it all go. He took back the serve and inched his way back into the match 19-20. It looked like another great Hogan comeback. But this time it was not to be.

A reporter described the final moments: "Marty blew a forehand set up, missing a right corner pinch for side out. Davey immediately set to serve, a three-quarter speed Z to Hogan's backhand. The serve was not too deep, and Hogan, as he has done hundreds of times this year stepped up to shoot the left corner—a 95 percenter.

"But the muscles were tense. The fluidity of the stroke gone. Hogan hit it in the dirt, barely five feet from his body, a massive skip which ended his frustration, 21-19.

"The ensuing scene was drama. Both players released their emotions with tears."

"I couldn't believe it," said Bledsoe. "I had to stop and think of what happened. I figured I'd cry like a baby."

Hogan was shattered. In one of the few public displays of emotion in his career, he moved slowly out of the court and fell sobbing into the arms of Charlie Drake, his mentor and friend. It was a heart-wrenching scene that was immortalized by Art Shay in one of the most memorable racquetball photographs ever published.

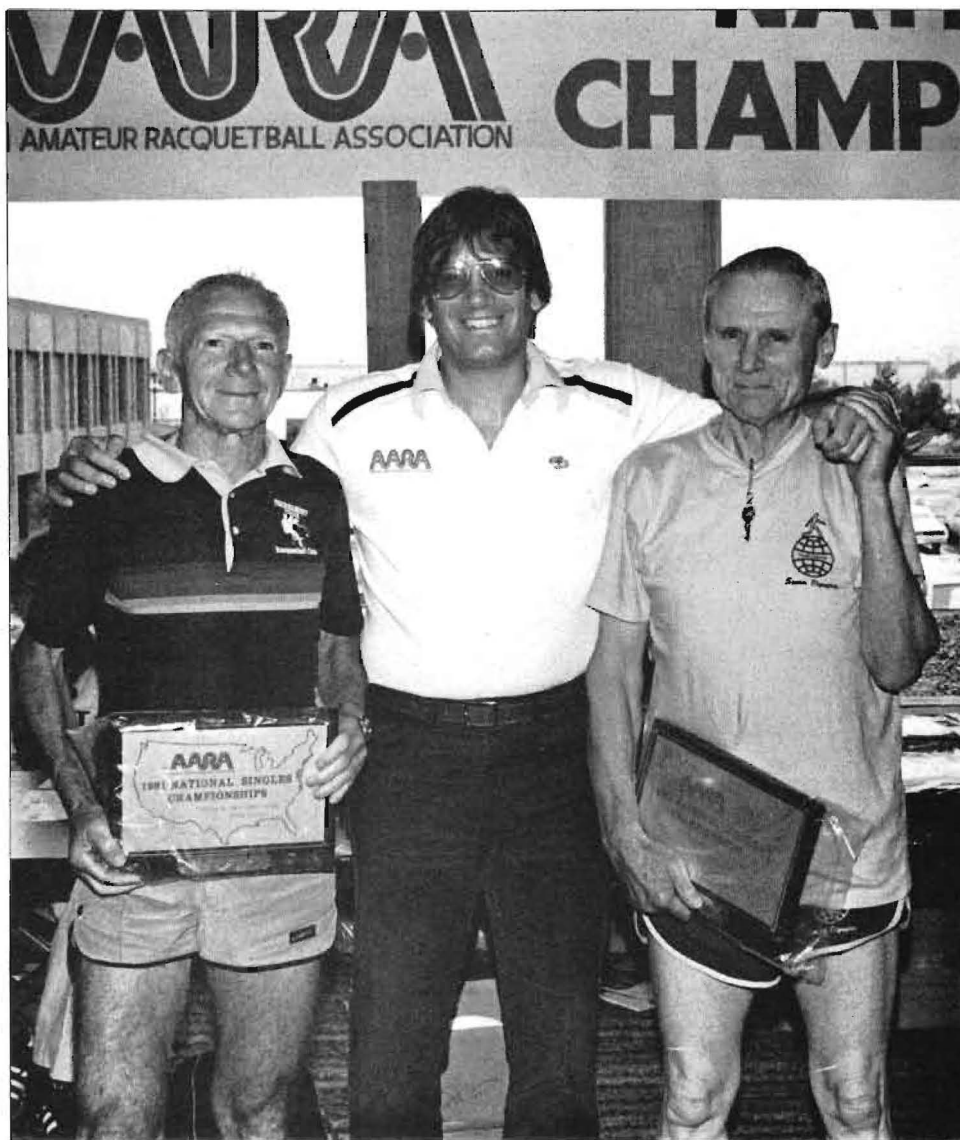
What happened to Hogan? Well, those who saw the match maintain to this day that Marty choked. Some say that the enormous pressure of having to win the Nationals at the age of 19, and having to do it in front of his family was just too much.

Marty Hogan would not lose another national title for a very long time—he went on to win the Nationals in '78, '79, '80 and '81. He continues today, at the age of 25, to be one of the predominant players in the game.

Dave Bledsoe was not so fortunate. Although he defeated Hogan one more time the following season, his rise to the top turned out to be little more than a temporary glitch in the annals of the pro game. For one glorious summer, he was the #1 racquetball player in the world. But he was never able to equal his magnificent performance of that hot June afternoon in San Diego.

For that matter, neither has anybody else. ●

**Interview:**



*Luke St. Onge doing what he enjoys most—delivering awards to amateur players at the AARA Nationals*

# LUKE ST. ONGE

## A LOOK AT THE STATE OF AMATEUR RACQUETBALL AND SOME PREDICTIONS ABOUT ITS FUTURE

*Luke St. Onge is the Executive Director of, and guiding force behind, the American Amateur Racquetball Association, the sole governing body of amateur racquetball in the United States.*

*When St. Onge first traveled to Memphis from his home in Pennsylvania, to take the reigns of the IRA (International Racquetball Association) he found him-*

*self in control of a corrupt, crumbling disaster. His ousted predecessor, William Tanner, had been badly beaten in his struggle with the competing USRA for control of amateur racquetball.*

*With the help of a highly dedicated board-of-directors, St. Onge orchestrated a phenomenal about-face in the direction and philosophy of the organization—a*

*change which included a new name, the AARA, and a new home, Colorado Springs. Since 1978 the membership of the AARA has more than doubled, to nearly 30,000. The bitter aftertaste of the amateur wars of the late 1970s has all but vanished. There are now few states who have not aligned themselves with the AARA. What was once a life-*

less skeleton has now become one of the most vibrant forces in the sport of racquetball.

Luke is probably best known for his relentless drive to put racquetball into the Olympic games. Indeed, his biggest coup and probably the greatest success of the AARA to date came in April of 1982, when racquetball was accepted by the USOC as a Class-C Olympic sport, and the AARA was recognized as the sport's sole governing body.

Luke St. Onge is arguably the most influential man in the sport of racquetball today, but it is a distinction he shuns vigorously. So concerned is he about the potential misperception of his position,

USRA-United States Racquetball Association

USTA-United States Tennis Association

NGB-National Governing Body

**How did you become involved with racquetball and the AARA?**

I had been involved in rugby for about thirteen years and was looking for an alternative. I was at Penn State University, and a friend of mine came back from Viet Nam and introduced me to racquetball on a squash court. That was in 1971 when we still called it paddleball—we didn't even realize there was such a thing

Oh, I love it. My background was in management, and to me the ultimate management is to motivate people to do something for nothing. That's essentially what we're doing in this sport—it's a volunteer organization.

**How has the AARA changed from the old IRA you originally took over?**

The whole philosophy has changed. Back then the sport was ruled from the top down. The state associations really didn't have much say in the development and direction of the sport. We decided to reorganize after the 1978 Nationals in Denver, and we tried to do it in a way that we would become a service to the state and regional organizations, rather than the other way around. And, we feel that



**“Being a Pan Am or Olympic sport virtually guarantees visibility and the attention of the media.”**

that he requested we not run a full-page photo of him on this month's cover—we reluctantly agreed.

Note: Unless you're an expert in acronyms, you'll need this key when reading the following interview:

USOC-United States Olympic Committee

IOC-International Olympic Committee  
AARA-American Amateur Racquetball Association

IARF-International Amateur Racquetball Federation

IRA-International Racquetball Association

as a racquetball court. We went up and played on an old squash court with the old Joe Sobek wooden racquet and I fell immediately in love with it.

I found that people in racquetball were the same kind of people I found in rugby. I got involved in the organization there, and became state director in 1974. In 1977 I was elected to the board of directors of what was then the IRA. Then, in 1978, I was offered the job of Executive Director in Memphis and took the opportunity.

**Do you enjoy it?**

over the last few years we have established some excellent services. The state groups are now autonomous and the national office serves them.

The result of that philosophy is that national must be responsive to the needs of the state associations or it can't exist. There are now only a few states that have separate programs.

**Does the AARA still have an image problem because of the amateur wars in the past?**

There's still a small image problem, particularly in those states that were burned badly by the old organizations. And we certainly empathize with them. We do see those who have been out of the mainstream still nursing old wounds. We

find that if they're not part of everything their membership is in the dark.

Racquetball is an evolutionary sport, moving at an extremely high rate of speed, and that has to be communicated to people through the state organizations.

Also, the old guard has started to step aside. We are now seeing a very refreshing group coming in who have a good feeling for the sport, and whatever the troubles were in the past the feeling now is we've got a great future and let's get behind it.

**A short time ago the AARA headquarters relocated from Memphis to Colorado Springs. Why did you do that?**

At one time the association was based wherever the president was. But when we

at how we've accomplished what we have.

**You've placed a lot of emphasis on making racquetball an Olympic sport. How crucial is that to the AARA?**

I think it's very important that our membership and everyone know that whether racquetball actually becomes an Olympic sport is not the most important thing. Becoming a member of the USOC, and the credibility that has brought us, has been invaluable. We can't forget that the purpose of all of this is to serve the average player. The emphasis on the Olympics gives us the credibility to generate the funds and support we must have

tus is a giant step within the USOC, because we will receive direct funding for development within the sport. Those funds go into relevant programming, be it deferring the cost of the U.S. National Team, exchange programs with third-world countries, junior development, etc. They will be on a direct-grant basis, and will be substantial funds. That would be a major boon to the sport.

Also, being a Pan Am or Olympic sport virutally guarantees visibility and the attention of media.

We feel that we can reach Group A status within two years. A lot will depend on what happens at the Pan Am games where we'll be a demonstration sport in

**“The racquetball Club in this country has become an alternative to the singles bar, and that just doesn't embrace the young player.”**

became members of the USOC we felt our interests would be best served by coming here and becoming part of the amateur sports capital of the U.S. I think it was a demonstration of leadership within the industry; we are now part of the Olympic community, and it has raised the sport to a different level.

**How is racquetball being accepted there?**

They had a standoffish attitude initially. But we've worked hard to build a good rapport with the other NGBs, and now we really feel at home. In fact, five or six other sports have now come to study how we generate our membership. They recognize the need for a good grassroots program and they've come to take a look



*St. Onge (lower left) listens to a discussion at AARA Regional Directors meeting*

to serve that function.

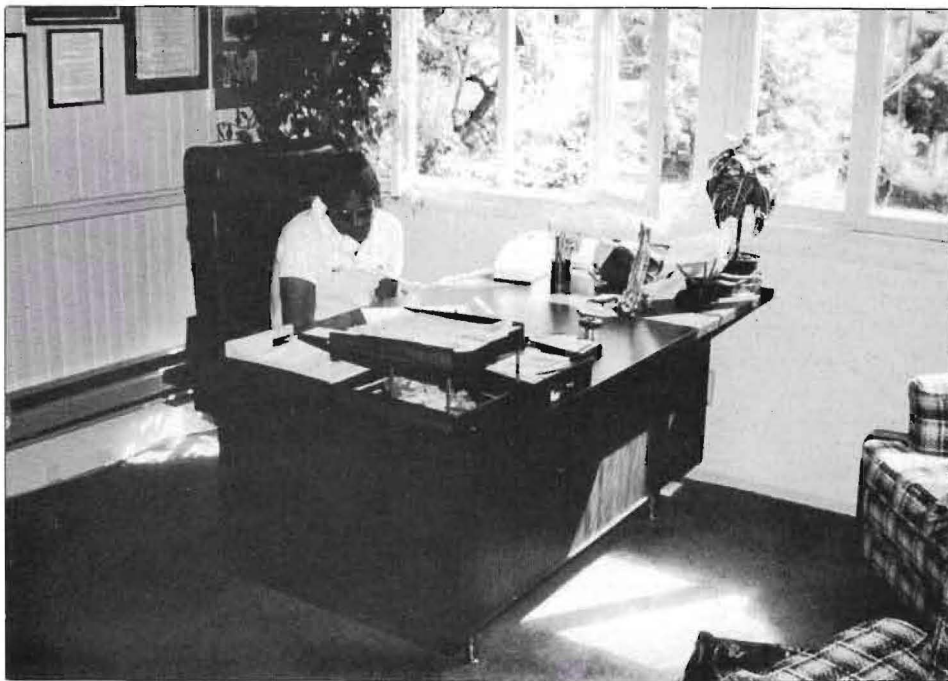
**It now looks as if racquetball will receive full Olympic acceptance soon. How important will that be to the average player?**

What we're really talking about is moving from our current Group C status to Group A. That means that we're on the program of either the Pan American Games or the Olympic Games. It also means that the IOC has recognized racquetball as a potential sport for the summer Olympic Games. Group A sta-

1987.

**When will racquetball be in the summer games?**

There's no simple answer to that—it comes down to politics. There's also been a major change recently in the IOC that we're going to have to live with. The number of countries where a sport has to be organized to qualify for Olympic competition is going up—43 in 1984, 71 in 1988, and 91 in 1992. They are making it extremely tough to get in. Some of the sports that are already in won't even qual-



*At work in his office at AARA headquarters in Colorado Springs*

ify under the new rules, but they'll be able to stay because of a grandfather clause. We've got our work cut out; we're in 41 countries now.

But, again we can't lose sight of our constitutional responsibility—to represent and address the needs of the average racquetball player.

**With the spectre of international amateur competition, keeping one's amateur status is becoming more important. What is the AARA definition of an amateur?**

What we should be discussing is not the word "amateur"—that is a real misnomer, not just in our sport but every sport. The key is eligibility. To be eligible to compete in a sanctioned AARA or IARF event one must have refrained from taking money in a sanctioned professional tournament.

Actually, our rules for eligibility are extremely liberal. Someone can compete on the pro circuit and accept the money if they send the money through us. We establish a trust account for that person and reimburse them for their expenses. They can have the best of both worlds. We're one of the few sports, along with track and field and skiing, that has embraced the entire industry. No player is ever locked out of an AARA event, but they have to follow the rules.

**How much could one earn and remain an amateur?**

A great deal. What we do is put that

**"I think that right now the eligibility rules and amateurism are a sham—a real hypocrisy."**

money in a trust, against which they can draw for expenses whether it be for training, living, lost wages, or whatever. Then, when their amateur time is finished they can draw the rest out, and it's drawing interest all the time. Right now the AARA is maintaining records and trusts for 18 players who have accepted money.

And remember, we're talking winnings only. Sponsorship money doesn't pertain—only winnings. So most of today's pros would either break even or go behind.

**Can someone get back their amateur standing once they have lost it?**

Yes. They must refrain from accepting money from a sanctioned pro event for one year and they must request that their eligibility be reinstated. That request can be made to their state director, regional director, a member of the board, or directly to the national office. Their eligibility is then reinstated on the spot. The paperwork is sent on to National Headquarters where the permanent records are kept, and a letter is sent notifying them of official amateur status.

**Do you think that racquetball will follow the current international developments in eligibility rules?**

I think that right now the eligibility rules and amateurism are a sham, and real hypocrisy. We're going to see those rules change in the next few years to something everyone can live with. I don't know what is going to happen, but there is a general feeling that we have to clean up the whole

*Luke talks with a USOC official during reception at the Olympic Training Center*



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**“To me, the ultimate management is to motivate people to do something for nothing. That’s essentially what we’re doing in this sport. It’s a volunteer organization.”**

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situation and go to open competition. We’re not really in a position to defend it or disagree. We’ll continue under our current rules and modify them as necessary when we see what develops.

**What is happening in racquetball outside the U.S.?**

You can look at racquetball in the U.S. in the period of 1971-1973, and that’s where they are now. The sport hasn’t hit the wildfire stage we experienced from 1974-1978, but there has been systematic growth in areas like Japan, Europe, and South America. The major expansion has been hurt by the lack of money to build facilities. You know, racquetball is not like other sports where you can go out and play in the field or use existing facilities.

Plus, we have very strong competition from the squash community overseas. They don’t want racquetball courts built,

and in some areas have worked pretty hard to keep them out, because they fill up their off hours with women playing racquetball on their squash courts.

But, overall it has grown quickly. Consider that there was absolutely no organized international competition in 1979, and now there are about 50 events going on throughout the world. This summer alone we will have 19 countries represented at the World Championships in Sacramento.

**Who’s going to be our toughest competition there?**

Canada, by far. They are going to be very strong, because they have protected most of their players from going into the pro ranks. We’re going to be hurting because we haven’t done that.

**Does that mean that players like**



**Lindsay Myers can compete in Sacramento?**

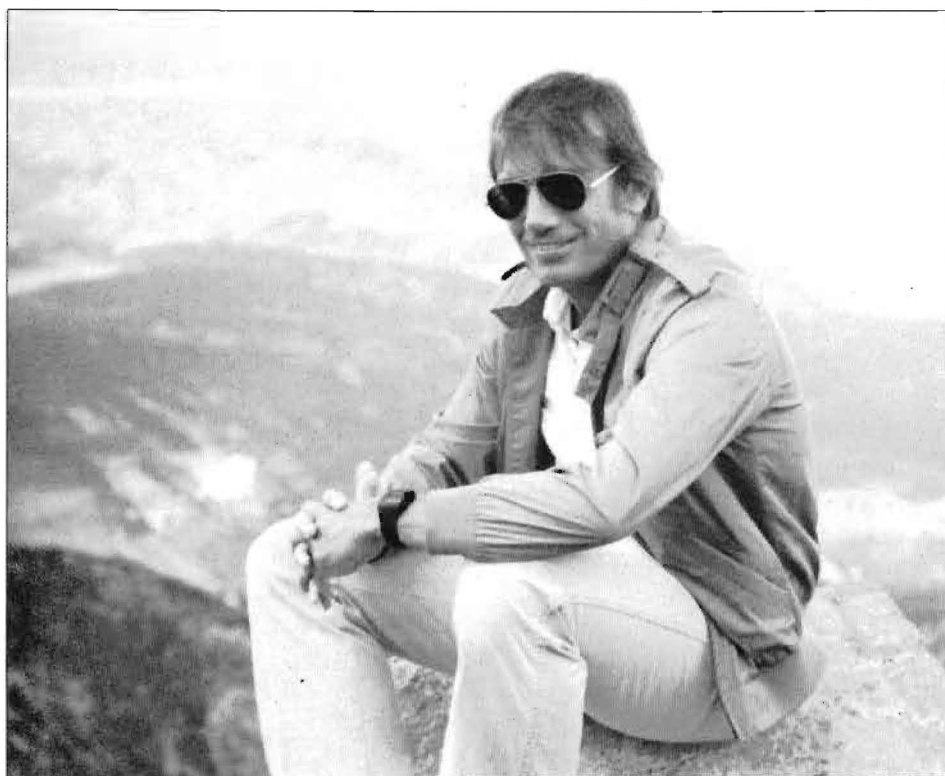
You bet. Of course the U.S. has had some fine players get their eligibility back; Karin Walton-Trent, David Fleetwood, Davey Bledsoe, Sarah Green.

**How does one become a member of the U.S. Team?**

The team is chosen at our four major events; the U.S. Singles Championships, the National Intercollegiates, the National Juniors, and the National Doubles. The team consists of the top three finishers—men and women—from the singles, and the winners of the other three. That gives us a full team with two alternates. Those who actually compete are then selected by Ed Martin, the U.S. Team coach.

**How much competition is there between the AARA and professional racquetball?**

You have to look at that historically. For years the professional game simply outgrew the amateur end. Everyone always talked about a strong amateur base, but it was not a reality. Every sport that has a successful pro game must have a strong grass-roots organization, because that’s the feeder system and that’s where the money comes from. The manufacturers don’t make any money on professionals; they make money selling the identity of the pros to grass-roots players who then buy product. Without a grass-roots



organization the professional game can't survive.

We see a definite need for professionalism in racquetball because there has to be something beyond the amateur game to attract young players. Pro racquetball has a very important role in the sport. We've never felt there was competition between the two.

We want to see a strong professional sport, but we want to see it done intelligently—not what's going on now. You know, everyone talks about getting it on television. That isn't going to solve anything, because the product we would put on TV now would be terrible.

So, we support the pro game, and we will support whoever becomes the leader in that end of the sport.

### **What do you think about the recent work by the RMA to form a pro-tour?**

I don't think they had any alternative. For two or three years the pro game has floundered—most of the players were thinking of their pocketbook instead of the future of the sport—and someone who had the ability had to take control.

The manufacturers, I think, would like nothing more than to bring the pro game to the point where it's so organized they can get out of it and get back to marketing their products. I also think they'll be looking down the road, as we certainly do, to a time when we bring the whole organizational structure of the game under one roof like tennis has. That would be a separate umbrella organization of which we would all be a part. That way we would be pooling our resources so everyone isn't going off in different directions.

### **Are there any real problems in amateur racquetball?**

We have seen a drop off in women participating in the sport in the last two years. We think that is happening because we've put so much emphasis on the competitive side as opposed to the health aspect of the sport. We've built in a kind of self-destruct mechanism for women: when someone wins in a certain class, they're automatically pushed into a higher one where they get killed and lose interest. That doesn't seem to be a problem for the men, but it is for the women.

What we have to do is go back and change our rules at the state level to protect people from moving up in class. We also have to realize that the nature of the sport is different for women and men.

We now have a women's commis-

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**“We see a definite need for professionalism in racquetball because there has to be something beyond the amateur game to attract young players. Pro racquetball has a very important role.”**

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sioner—Maureen Hendrickson—and a separate group working on the problem. They act as an advisory committee to the board so we can take some action and start to build that part of the sport back up.

### **Isn't there also a problem with juniors?**

Yes. You know the USTA is composed of 90% juniors and 10% adults; racquetball is just the opposite. Racquetball is unique because it didn't develop as a youth sport. It still isn't one, because it is played in adult-oriented clubs.

The club owners are our biggest problem. They don't want juniors in their clubs, even though juniors are their future. *The racquetball club in this country has become an alternative to the singles bar, and that just doesn't embrace the young player.*

We're also facing tough competition

for young people from other sports like soccer and tennis. We are making some progress, but it's tough.

### **Give us your personal opinion of where racquetball is going in the next decade.**

The racquetball industry, and the sport as a whole, is a product of our way of life. I think in the next few years we'll continue to put more emphasis on physical fitness, on lifetime sports, and on preventative health maintenance. Racquetball fits this perfectly—it's easy to pick up, and it serves both mental and physical well-being. The organizational structures are now in place and the future of the sport is very bright.

*Racquetball is still in its infancy. We're still in the very early growing stages, and it's awesome what the potential of this sport is.*

*Coach Ed Martin with the U.S. National Racquetball Team*



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# Handicapping The **EKTELON** National Championships

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*Can Mike Yellen Repeat His 1983 Miracle?*



Mike Yellen and Rich Wagner playing in the finals of the 1983 Ektelon Championships

by Drew Stoddard

**Editor's Note:**

Since *International Racquetball* is now a Nevada-based publication, I thought it only appropriate that we take a look at the upcoming Ektelon Nationals from the perspective of a gambler. Please don't think I'm promoting bad habits here. To paraphrase Bill Murray, I'm not advocating gambling as a way of life—it's just that it's always worked for me.

Those of you who might consider placing a friendly wager on the outcome would probably like to know how accurate I have been in the past. Well, my record has been about as good as other "experts." In other words, it stinks.

D.W.S.

**D**uring the week of May 2-6, every top racquetball player in the country will descend on The Sports Gallery in Anaheim, California, to compete in the Ektelon National Championships, the biggest event so far this season.

The Ektelon Nationals has become something of an institution in this sport. It is one of the two richest and most prestigious events in the world, and remains the only racquetball tournament that is annually played before a national television audience (ESPN). For the last three years it has marked the only time during the pro season when the men and women pros compete in the same tournament, making it a favorite social gathering of both players and fans—kind of racquetball's version of

Wimbledon.

For the men, this year's Ektelon competition has added significance:

**MONEY**—The '83-'84 season has been one of chaos. The schedule has been sparse and irregular. Consequently, Anaheim will be the first real chance for the top players to play for big money—a total of \$22,300, nearly double that of any stop thus far.

**RANKING**—There has been a tendency for some of the men to not worry about their ranking because of the light schedule. But, now that the RMA has announced that next year's tour will be the biggest ever, everyone will be fighting to be in the best possible position when the tour begins in early September.

The Ektelon tournament is a high-pressure event. The players who do well here are those with experience. If history holds, there will be many upsets in the first two rounds, with perhaps one major upset after that.

Three men are capable of winning: Yellen, Hogan, and Peck. One thing to remember in the men's division: three out of the last four years, the winner of the Ektelon Championships has gone on to become the National Champion.

The women's division always provides fireworks in Anaheim. Two women should dominate: Heather McKay, the defending champion, and Lynn Adams. Lynn, however, seems to have fits here—she has never won.

Here, then, are our predictions for the men. Each name is followed by the odds against him *winning* the tournament.

Next month we will handicap the women for their biggest event—the WPRAs Nationals in Houston.



**MIKE YELLEN**  
2-1

Current ranking: 2  
Past Ektelon finishes:  
1980 — Semifinals  
1982 — 2nd  
1983 — 1st

Mike Yellen comes into this year's Ektelon Nationals as defending champion, and is unquestionably the man to beat. Over the last 12 months he has played consistently better than anyone else in the game; of seven ranking events he won five, and failed to reach the finals only once—in Beaverton.

Yellen tends to play his best racquetball toward the end of the season. His career record in national-level events is astonishing—so good, in fact, that there is little question he is the greatest pressure player the game has ever known.

As Ektelon's top player and defending National Champion, Mike will be the golden boy of this event. It's a role he plays well. His only serious competition should be Hogan, and that contest will be a fun one to watch. He won last year—he's a good bet to repeat this year.



**MARTY HOGAN**  
3-1

Current ranking: 1  
Past Ektelon finishes:  
1981 — 1st  
1982 — Semifinals  
1983 — Quarterfinals

Marty Hogan is one of only three players capable of winning any event he plays. His strong victory in Beaverton left little doubt about the condition of his game. He has been traveling and playing extensively on his own promotional tour, which seems to have kept his game tack-sharp. The Ektelon Nationals is his best chance to date to prove he is still the game's top player.

But two things will be working against Marty in Anaheim. First—pressure; like most players, the effectiveness of Hogan's game tends to drop in direct proportion to the pressure level. And there is a lot of pressure at Ektelon. It is the only event that is played before a national television audience. Second—history; Hogan has always struggled in Anaheim. Embers from the past political firestorms of this event still smolder. Here, Marty is an outsider—he's on foreign turf, and it shows.

He won't meet Yellen until the finals. If he can play his game, that match could be a real war.



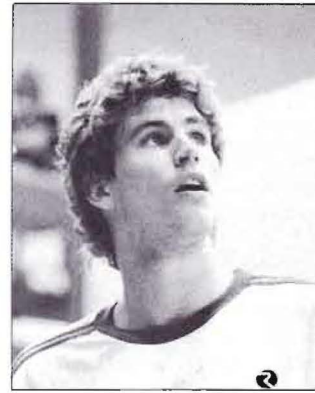
**DAVE PECK**  
4-1

Current ranking: 3  
Past Ektelon finishes:  
1980 — 1st  
1982 — 1st  
1983 — Semifinals

Dave Peck is the real wildcard in this year's tournament—the outcome will be greatly determined by whether he has completely recovered from the serious leg injury he suffered in Atlanta less than a year ago. Certainly, his Beaverton performance indicated he may be close to 100% by the first of May. If that is true, watch out. Peck has, by far, the best record of any player in this event. He won it twice, and lost to Yellen last year by a single controversial point.

Like Yellen, Dave Peck is very much at home in front of the cameras at the Sports Gallery. His game always seems to peak at Anaheim, and this year he wants to prove he is back. Also like Yellen, Peck plays well under pressure.

Dave's chances come down to this: if he's fully recovered, and can push off with his right leg he stands as good a chance as Hogan of winning. If not, he'll go down to Yellen in the semi's. Our guess—semi's.



**GREGG PECK**  
10-1

Current ranking: 5  
Past Ektelon finishes:  
1982 — Round-of-16  
1983 — Quarterfinals

While Gregg Peck's season has probably not been as spectacular as he had hoped, it has been solid. His technique continues to improve with each event he plays. But Gregg is one of the players who seems to have been hurt somewhat by this year's irregular schedule.

The Ektelon tournament is an important one for Gregg. A good finish here—quarters or better—will probably move him into the top four for the first time in his career. But how well he does may be determined by how the draw is made. If Gregg is placed in the upper bracket he'll run into Harnett and Hogan, two players against whom he is very effective. If he is placed in the lower bracket, he'll have to face his older brother David—his eternal nemesis—in the quarter's, a match he probably could not win.

Gregg tends to have his best tournaments when he is tested hard in the early rounds. If that happens, and he finds himself in the top half, he's in the semi's and could go further.



**RUBEN GONZALEZ**  
30-1

Current ranking: 6  
Past Ektelon finishes:  
1983 — Quarterfinals

Ruben Gonzalez also has a good history at the Ektelon Nationals. In his first attempt in the pro division (last year) he lost to Wagner in the quarterfinals, but he has won three open division titles. He also has the ability to stir things up in a big event like this one—he went to the finals of the Catalina Pro Nationals last year.

While Ruben's game is not as strong as those of the top four, he capitalizes on opportunities as well as anyone. And if anyone is going to benefit from a big upset in this event it should be Ruben—as the number six seed, he will most likely be the beneficiary if Dave Peck goes out early.

Ruben's game is fundamentally strong, and error-free. He plays well under pressure, but he doesn't have the experience or the overwhelming gamestyle to go all the way without a little help. If he gets it he'll be in the final four. If not, look for a finish in the quarters.



**GERRY PRICE**  
35-1

Current ranking: 9  
Past Ektelon finishes:  
1982 — Round-of-32  
1983 — Round-of-16

If any young player is going to shake things up in Anaheim, it will be Gerry Price. Price has been making noises for a few years now, but in the last 18 months he has shown an ability to play at a very high level on occasion. He is the only player in the game who holds a head-to-head advantage (2-1) over Mike Yellen in that period.

Price's biggest obstacle here will be his inconsistency. He has trouble with pressure. He is very experienced for a young player, but he still tends to be hot or cold. His game style is most effective against control players, less so against power. He is a rhythm player, and if he can get into that rhythm early he could go far. If not, he'll get blown away.

One thing Gerry always does is put on a good show. He's a pure shooter, and he can be amazingly accurate. He's coming off a strong finish in Beaverton, and should be confident. Quarter's probably—semi's maybe.



**BRET HARNETT**  
15-1

Current ranking: 4  
Past Ektelon finishes:  
1982 — Quarterfinals  
1983 — Round-of-16

Bret Harnett is another player who has been seriously hurt by the sparse '83-'84 schedule. Bret admits that finding competition in his home-town of Las Vegas is impossible. In the past he has refined his game in the fire of frequent pro stops. But this season there just haven't been that many, and it shows in his game.

At an event as important as this one, consistency is everything, and Harnett is the streakiest player on the tour. It is no secret that he has the talent to break open any tournament at any time. But the chances are, he won't do it in Anaheim.

If you want to know how Harnett is going to finish, watch him in the early rounds. If he can get through two rounds, he can raise the level of his game surprisingly fast. And, if he can get into the quarterfinals he is a real threat to everyone.

Bret needs a good tournament. He's the hardest player to predict. Our guess—Gregg Peck will stop him in the quarter's.



**JERRY HILECHER**  
20-1

Current ranking: 7  
Past Ektelon finishes:  
1980 — 2nd  
1981 — 2nd  
1982 — Semifinals  
1983 — Round-of-16

Many of you will disagree with us on this one. But when the chips are down you can't discount experience. Hilecher is now the most seasoned player in the pro game—he has played in nearly every pro event of the last decade. His knowledge of the game is immense. And, given the right circumstances he can go a long way.

Jerry also has an impressive record at the Ektelon Nationals—he's only failed to reach the semi's once.

Admittedly, Hilecher's only chance of scoring big will be with the aid of a major upset. But, at the Ektelon Championships upsets seem to be the rule rather than the exception.

Hilecher has said recently that he may retire from professional racquetball at the end of this season. Everyone wants to go out in style, and Jerry could do it. Look for at least a quarterfinal finish.



**SCOTT OLIVER**  
50-1

Current ranking: 8  
Past Ektelon finishes:  
1982 — Round-of-32  
1983 — Round-of-32

Scott has some great things to show professional racquetball, but it's not likely that he will do it here. He is the least experienced player in the top 10—he's played in a half-dozen pro events. His high ranking is primarily due to high finishes in the last two stops, Pleasanton (quarter's) and Beaverton (finals).

The key to Scott's game is whether his opponent will allow him to dominate center court. He can move from side to side and rekill with unmatched speed and accuracy.

While it's still too early in his career to tell, he appears to be immune to pressure, and that could be important.

Scott has no chance of winning, little chance of a semi, and he'll struggle into the quarters. Scott's a fine player. If he's a smart one he'll view this event as a chance to get some much needed experience.



**DON THOMAS**  
100-1

Current ranking: 10  
Past Ektelon finishes:  
1982 — Round-of-32  
1983 — Round-of-16

Don Thomas is one of the second generation pros who a couple of years ago was ranked in the top five. Now, he is hanging on to a top-10 ranking by his fingernails. No fewer than five players are capable of overtaking him if he doesn't get to the quarterfinals.

Don is another player who seems to have a very rough time at this tournament each year. More than any veteran on the tour, he has fits with young, "no-name" opponents.

His biggest problem here will be that he simply has not been playing. His last pro-stop appearance was in Pleasanton, where he was clobbered in the 32's by rookie Mike Ray.

Thomas has had a good pro career. But the fire now seems to be gone. The game is changing and he isn't. Don has never won a ranking professional tournament, and we don't suspect he will begin here.



# McKay Tops Adams In Bangor

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## *HEATHER MOVES BACK TO NUMBER ONE RANKING*

**I**t was everything you always wanted in a racquetball match... and more. When the dust had settled after the March 11 finals of the \$10,000 Lite Beer Pro-Am at the Holiday Health and Racquet Club in Bangor, Maine, there was no question as to who was the queen of women's racquetball—at least not for another four weeks when the throne could be up for grabs again.

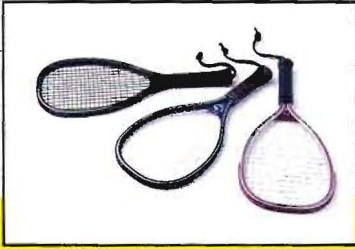
Heather McKay, who entered the tournament as the Women's Professional Racquetball Association's second-ranked

player and as the number two seed, saw her 14-21, 21-15, 21-19, 21-18 victory over then-number one Lynn Adams perpetuate a string of upsets in the final of this event and allowed her to reclaim the top position on the rankings. In each of the last three years of the Lite Beer event, the number one player heading into the tournament has met the number two player and has lost. While Adams began the streak of upsets in 1982, McKay was the beneficiary of the Bangor jinx last year, making her 1984 title the second

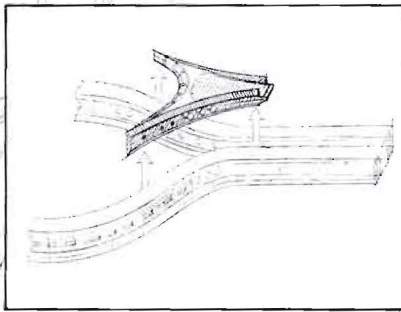
consecutive one for the 42-year-old Toronto resident.

McKay, who served superbly throughout the entire match with crisp, hard drives, ran off six straight points when she was down 1-2 to push to a 7-2 advantage. Adams' offensive game picked up briefly at 4-9, and she utilized two passes and a rollout off the forehand side to pull to within two points at 7-9. After trading shots and at an 8-12 disadvantage, the Costa Mesa, California native ran off nine unanswered points with a beautiful

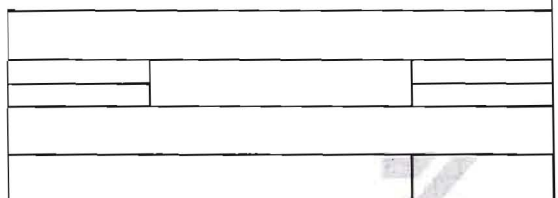
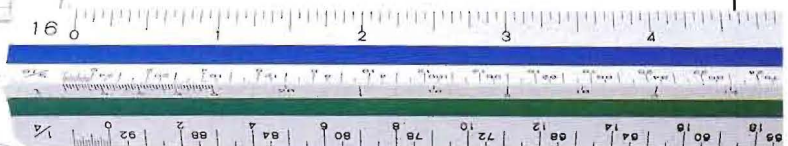
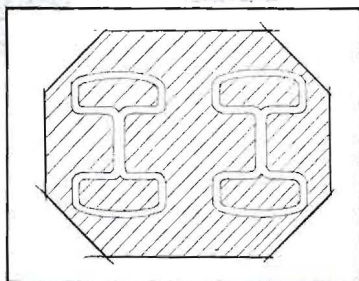
I M P A C T



**IN A GAME  
OF INCHES  
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THE BEST.**



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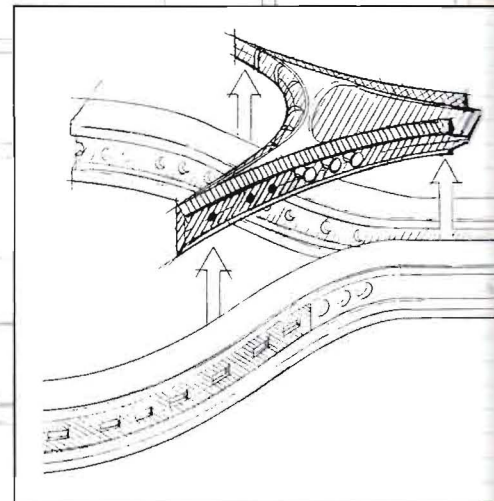
# P R E C I S I O N

## 1XP

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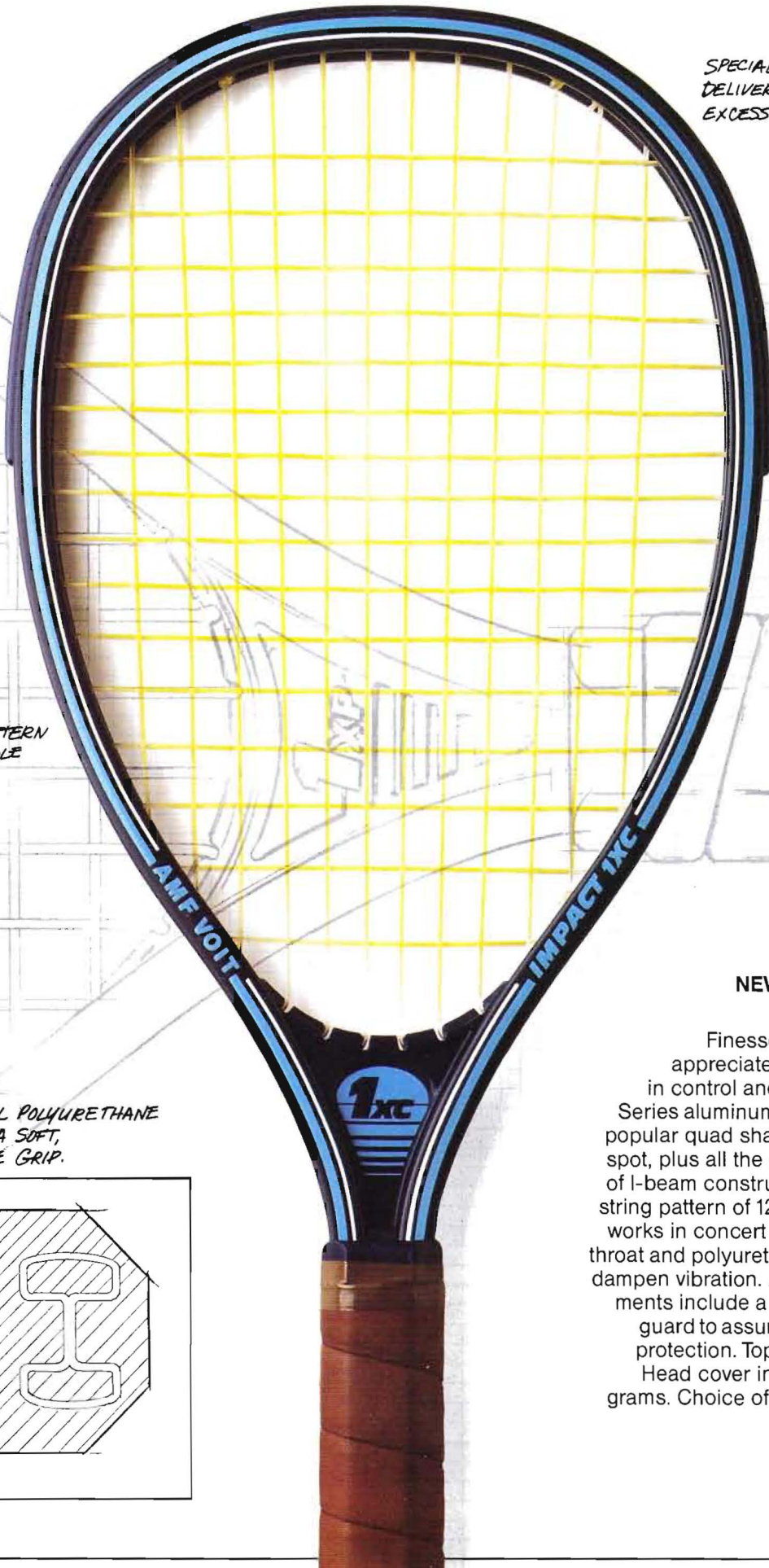
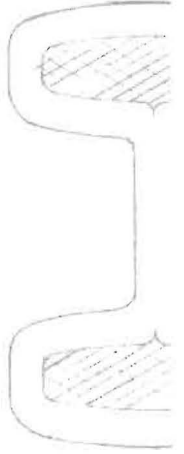
This smashing success for hard hitters starts out strong with a rigid 7000 Series aluminum alloy frame in Voit's proprietary I-beam construction. Its teardrop head shape is perfect for the power player. And its special stringing pattern (14 mains x 20 crosses) is executed in top quality black 16-gauge string to put more impact into each shot. Additional advanced features include a polyurethane foam handle, floating nylon throat piece and stitched-on bumper guard that stays in place. Top-grade leather grip. Head cover included. Weight: 265 grams. Choice of grip sizes: RBR1478 (3 $\frac{7}{8}$ " ), RBR1400 (4").

*PATENTED FLOATING THROAT  
KEEPS THE BALL ON THE  
STRINGS LONGER AND TAKES  
THE IMPACT OFF THE ELBOW*



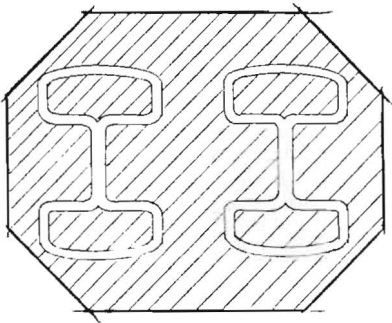
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## 1XC

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Finesse players are sure to appreciate this new dimension in control and flexibility. The 7000 Series aluminum alloy frame is in the popular quad shape for a large sweet spot, plus all the strength advantages of I-beam construction. The 15-gauge string pattern of 12 crosses x 16 mains works in concert with a floating nylon throat and polyurethane foam handle to dampen vibration. Additional enhancements include a stitched-on bumper guard to assure balance and frame protection. Top-grade leather grip. Head cover included. Weight: 255 grams. Choice of grip sizes: RBR1578 (3 $\frac{7}{8}$ " ), RBR1500 (4").

A M F V C I T



## 1XL

### NEW IMPACT 1 XL FOR EXTRA LIGHTNESS

This free-swinging racquet delivers an exceptional blend of power and control. Voit's famed I-beam construction comes into play in a modified teardrop head shape of 6000 Series aluminum alloy. Our lightest aluminum racquet, Impact 1 XL features 15-gauge string in a 12 mains x 20 crosses pattern that keeps the ball on the strings longer for added finesse. Stitched-on bumper guard protects the frame, while assuring precision head balance. Floating throat design provides exceptional stability. Top-grade leather grip. Head cover included. Weight: 245 grams. Choice of grip sizes: RBR1634 (3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " ), RBR1600 (4").


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- Hundreds of club tournaments each year
- Women's Professional Racquetball Association
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of proprietary new court sports equipment including Wallyball®, Court Soccer™, Court Basketball and Smacquetballs®. We also offer a complete line of conditioners and supports. It all adds up to the joy of stepping onto a court fully equipped. And that's just the start of the competitive edge you enjoy with our gear. Check it all out at your AMF Voit dealer.



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combination of kill shots and pinches, primarily delivered from the forehand side, and ended the flurry of scoring with two aces. With Adams now up 17-12, McKay called a time-out to try to get her game back on track. A forehand kill shot and pass cut the deficit to three, but Adams responded with four straight well executed forehand shots—a pass, a pinch and two more passes—sandwiched around another service ace to take the first game of the match.

McKay commented, "I think I played the (first) game too straight, not mixing up my shots enough. My serve also got stronger as the match wore on."

The second game is when McKay's tough serve began to pay off. She continually kept Adams off balance and was able to capitalize on weak service returns from her 26-year-old opponent. The fact that Adams was forced to shoot on the run resulted in many more skipped balls and fewer winning shots in game two, which was one of mini-scoring streaks. McKay began the game with an ace and followed that with a kill shot and two pinches, the last from deep in the back court, to jump to an early 4-0 lead. Up 6-4, she scored six of the next seven points to pull to a 13-5 lead. Four of those points were the result of Adams' skips. McKay added another three-point scoring burst to lead 19-11 and, after a last-ditch effort in which Lynn scored three straight points herself to trail 15-20, McKay nudged a soft forehand dink in the right corner with Adams trapped in the back court to pull out the game and even the score of the match at one game apiece.

Game three was just as close as the 21-19 final score indicated as the players were never more than five points apart at any time. McKay staged a strong comeback when trailing 9-14, scoring the next seven points, to pull to a 16-14 advantage. She mixed V-passes, kill shots and a nifty overhead reverse pinch to keep Adams continually on the defensive, where she was unable to take advantage of the few opportunities McKay afforded her. The score was tied at 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19, evidence of the closeness of the contest. McKay cracked a backhand rollout and a forehand pinch to claim the game and go up 2-1 in the match.

The fourth and deciding game followed the same pattern as the third as the score was tied at all but four junctures leading up to 13-all. The two talented women thrilled the standing-room-only crowd with breathtaking rallies. With Adams leading

18-15, McKay flew across the court, left to right, to hit a forehand kill that proved to be the beginning of the end for Adams. She uncorked another kill shot, two V-passes and an ace to move to a 19-18 lead. Adams skipped the next shot and missed an overhead to end the contest.

Describing the match she played as "mindless," Adams said, "I made most of my set-ups in the first game, especially the second half of the game. After that, though, I felt out of my groove and not able to differentiate when the set-ups were there and when they weren't. I was rush-





The finalists accept their awards: (from left) Heather McKay, Lynn Adams, sponsor representative Stephen Coutts, and tournament director Keith Mahaney

ing my shots and couldn't seem to slow down."

There were many eerie similarities between the 1983 and 1984 versions of the Lite Beer finals, and McKay could not be blamed if she suffered from a slight case of *deja vu*. Consider this: in both years she has entered the event as the

number two player; she has upset the top seed to claim the title each time; she has faced Terri Gilreath in the semis of both events; and she has lost the first game of each semifinal match by identical 16-21 scores before rebounding to win the matches. She also won her first two matches in straight-game fashion each

year, although she gave up a total of 78 points in the first two rounds in 1983 and only 73 points this year. After all, nobody's perfect.

The semifinals provided a showcase for two players who have not made much noise on the WPRA circuit lately. Although Brooklyn-born Fran Davis lost her semifinal encounter with Adams, 21-17, 21-15, 21-10, she was pleased with her overall performance in Bangor, the tournament at which she recorded her last semifinal result two years ago. After scoring an upset of fifth seed Janell Marriott in the round of 16, Davis rolled to a surprisingly easy 21-14, 21-6, 21-11 victory over third seed and 1983's AMF Voit Player of the Year, Vicki Panzeri, in the quarterfinals. Davis was ranked 17th entering the tournament and was understandably elated with her showing. "I've been putting more time into preparing myself for tournaments, both in terms of physical conditioning and mental preparedness. I do a lot of clinics around the country, and I think they help me to analyze my game and my opponent's game better and allow me time to practice specific shots."

The other semifinal match offered the aforementioned duel between McKay and 26-year-old Gilreath, the Flying Walenda of the WPRA tour. Gilreath has a habit of launching her athletic body into the air and performing other similarly impossible feats to reach shots most other players do not come within five feet of. Her acrobatic style of play, coupled with

The crowd gathers to watch the McKay-Adams final



a new-found confidence and aggressiveness on court resulted in what McKay termed a "super good match." The enthusiastic crowd and Gilreath agreed, despite the fact that the elder player prevailed by a 16-21, 21-16, 21-14, 21-16 score. Stated Gilreath, "I was so excited to play Heather. I feel good because I played pure racquetball—I hit low, hard shots, and I played one rally at a time. I now really believe that I can win a rally against anyone. My shot selection is better and I'm seeing the ball so clearly." Gilreath had suffered two consecutive first-round losses heading into the Lite Beer tournament but seems to have turned an important corner in Bangor. McKay agreed that the match they played and Gilreath's quarterfinal victory over sixth-seeded Caryn McKinney were the two best back-to-back matches she has seen Terri play.

In the quarterfinals, Adams pulled out a 21-11, 21-14, 22-20 win over eighth seed Brenda Barrett of Miami, who was one of only two players to post a winning record against the top seed on last year's tour. After Davis' upset of Panzeri, Gilreath defeated close friend and Atlanta native McKinney by a 21-6, 22-20, 21-10 mark, and McKay stopped Joyce Jackson of Norman, Oklahoma, 21-11, 21-13, 21-17, who was coming off an upset of seventh seed Jennifer Harding in the previous round.

The round of 32 preliminary matches saw Martha McDonald of Gainesville, Florida, squeak past amateur Mary Dee of Manchester, New Hampshire, 14-21, 21-16, 21-11, 18-21, 15-9; Marcy Lynch of Philadelphia rolled over local Bangor favorite Terri Graham, 21-9, 21-8, 21-13; Tucson resident Carol Pranka survived a third game scare from Canadian Suzanne Robert to prevail, 21-9, 21-16, 22-20; Molly O'Brien of Sellersville, Pennsylvania, had similar problems with Stamford, Connecticut resident Bonnie Stoll and emerged a 21-15, 21-14, 22-20 winner; and Monique Parent of Quebec managed to outlast Val Paese of the Bronx, 21-12, 21-8, 20-22, 18-21, 15-8, despite a very sore shoulder which she sustained in a serious automobile accident on the way to the tournament. Lynch defeated Parent to claim the Women's Open crown, 15-9, 15-9.

The WPRO tour now moves to the Pacific West Sport and Racquet Club in Seattle, Washington, for another \$10,000 stop on April 5-8 when McKay and Adams will be the top two seeds once again. ●

## Tour Talk: Notes From The WPRO Circuit

By Sandy Genelius

### Trip More Dangerous Than Tourney for Canadian Trio

The big story of the \$10,000 Lite Beer Pro-Am at the Holiday Health and Racquet Club did not occur in Bangor, the site of the event, but happened about three hours outside the city the day before the WPRO tournament got underway. The Canadian contingent of Heather Stupp, Monique Parent and Suzanne Robert was driving to the club to participate in the event in Suzanne's compact car on Wednesday, March 7. In St. George's, about three hours from Bangor, the car hit a patch of ice on the pavement, spun in circles across the road and then flipped over several times, luckily landing right side up in a ditch.

Now comes the uncanny part of the story. The portion of the car's roof over the back seat was completely smashed. Monique, who occupied the back seat, had laid down to take a nap and was therefore not in a position to take the blows which would have been delivered by the smashing of the roof. Even more unsettling was the fact that just five minutes before the accident occurred, Suzanne, who was driving, had a conversation with Heather, who was in the front passenger's seat, in which she insisted that her friend wear her safety belt, a procedure which is law in Canada. Obviously, the act may have saved Heather's life.

The happy ending is that a passing van picked up the shaken trio, took them to the police station and then drove them to the hospital to be checked. Total damage to the players: surface scratches for Suzanne, a bump on the head and soreness on the right side of her body for Monique and, amazingly, no apparent adverse effects for Heather. Damage to the car: totalled.

Undaunted, Monique went on to outlast Mary Dee in a fifth-set tiebreaker the next evening. The unsinkable Ms. Stupp's summation of the adventure was simple. "I was just mad that the trip was going to take more time than we planned."

### Adams Experiments With New Career Possibilities

Although it wasn't mistaken for an afternoon at Sotheby's, Lynn Adams, the WPRO's top seed at Bangor, organ-

ized the first of what she hopes will be a series of WPRO charity auctions. With the generous support of the WPRO's tour sponsors—AMF Voit, KangaROOS and Tecnifibre—plus contributions of equipment from Ektelon, Nike, DP Leach and Head, Lynn held an auction at the Holiday Health and Racquet Club during which the enthusiastic gathering of curious spectators received quality merchandise at substantial discounts. The proceeds went to the Arthritis Foundation, a charity in which Lynn is actively involved. The California native was diagnosed as having rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 19 and still suffers from the disease. With final figures from the proceedings not yet in, but with the take believed to be in the area of just under four figures, Lynn pronounced the event an overwhelming success and was last seen signing up for voice lessons. . . .

### Question of the Tournament

The question posed to several WPRO members at the Lite Beer Pro-Am on March 8-11 in Bangor was "What do you do to combat jitters before a big match?" Their answers are as follows:

Brenda Barrett: "I watch cartoons. I also like to warm up a little longer than usual to get into the rhythm of hitting good shots."

Monique Parent: "I really don't get too nervous before a big match. I try to hit the ball the hardest I can in the warm-up and try to think about the match too far in advance."

Lynn Adams: "I listen to music. Lately it's been up-tempo stuff by Billy Joel and Kenny Loggins. I also keep a diary and write about the upcoming match—more about my strategy and attitude than my opponents."

Caryn McKinney: "Playing racquetball is an outlet for nervous energy for me. I listen to music and try to get completely focused on the match at hand. A small case of jitters is good before a big match to get you going."

Marcy Lynch: "I try to play the match in my mind. I also try to imagine surviving something that really scares me like jumping from a very high cliff into a pool of water. I think this helps me to know that I can survive the fears of nervousness I may feel about a big match."



*John Candy takes a much-needed breather after five minutes of hard-puffing racquetball*

## RACQUETBALL MAKES A

# Splash

If you haven't yet been to see the current hit movie "Splash," go soon. The movie, which was directed by Ron Howard, is not only one of the best and hottest movies of the year, but it contains a six-minute segment that has to be the funniest racquetball sequence ever filmed.

These pictures were provided to us by Brian Grazer Productions, and Touchstone Films (a new division of Walt Disney Productions) who produced the film. They show Tom Hanks and John Candy, who play brothers Alan and Freddie Bauer, playing a somewhat unorthodox game of racquetball.

Here's some of the dialog:

Freddie: "How long've we been playing?"

Alan: "About five minutes."

Freddie: "Oh, god. My heart's beating like a rabbit. You want

a beer?"

(Freddie stumbles to the well-stocked cooler he keeps in the corner of the court, and downs half a can. After a few minutes of conversation about Alan's confused love life, Freddie's ready to go again.)

Freddie: "Okay, you hold the beer—that'll be your handicap."

Alan: "Oh, we're going to play?"

Freddie: "Yeah. . . I'm going to teach you a lesson in humility. I'll serve."

(Alan sticks the beer in his back pocket. Freddie dots himself in the forehead with a drive serve and collapses.)

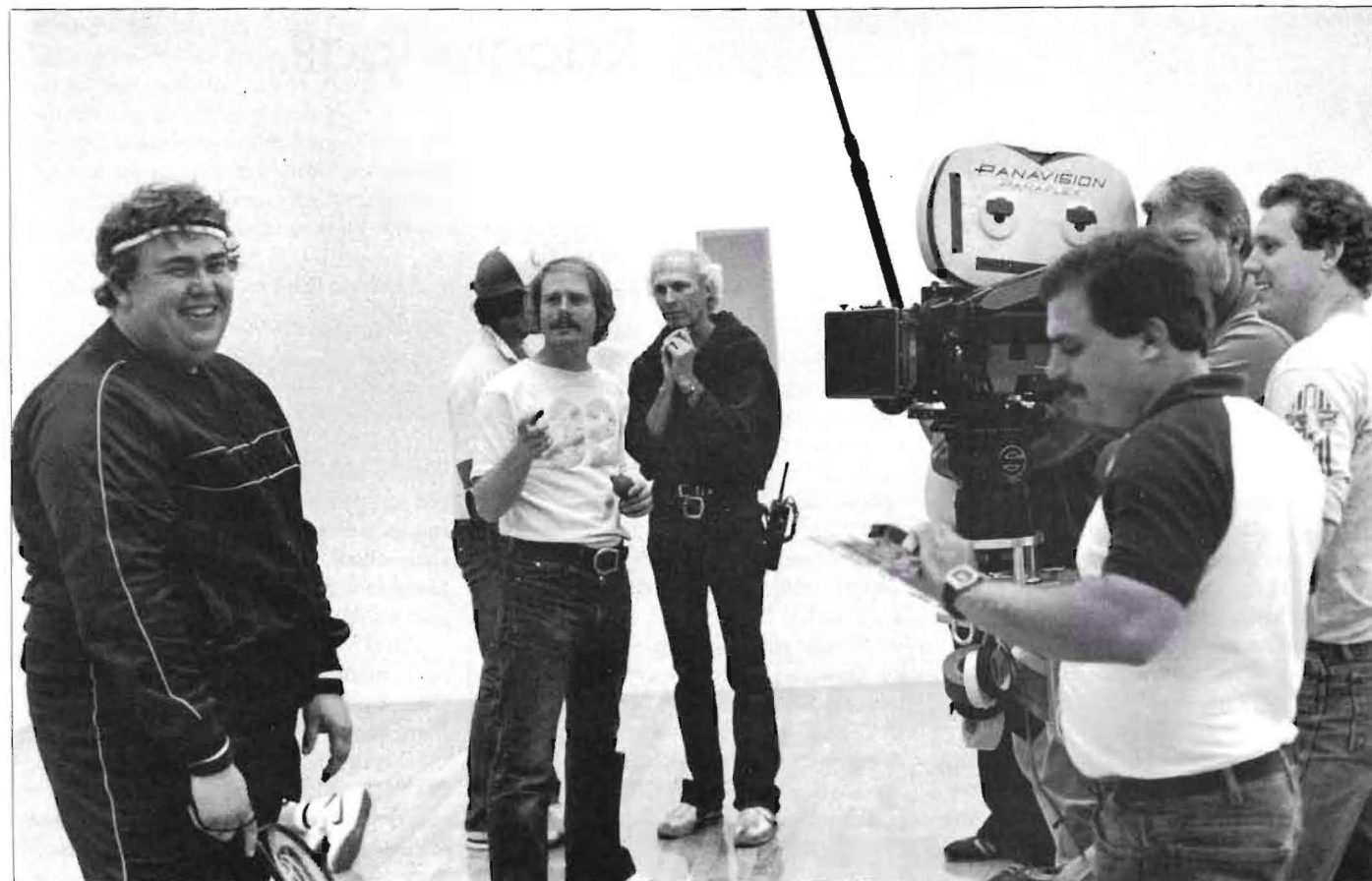
Unfortunately we didn't get any pictures of Daryl Hannah who plays a sometimes mermaid with long blond hair. Her scenes aren't bad either.



*John Candy demonstrates the Marlboro overhead*



*The pure athlete is a joy to behold*



*Director Ron Howard (alias Richie Cunningham and Oppie) sets up a scene with John Candy*  
*Photos: copyright Buena Vista Distribution Co., Inc.*



*Dee Ulman (left) and Cheryl Dullock check out the Match Results and Club Rosters posted on the ARHS Bulletin Board at the Solon Back Wall Club.*

# HOW DO YOU RATE?

Take A Look  
At An Intriguing  
New Handicap  
System For  
Racquetball...

**I**n the past, most racquetball players would answer that question with something like, "Oh, I'm probably a high B!" Today, the high B players at the five Back Wall Clubs of Cleveland, Ohio will tell you that they have a performance rating of 576, 574, or some other number in the upper 500s.

At the Back Wall Clubs, individual player performance ratings and the ability to acutally handicap games have become an integral part of their racquetball playing habits since these clubs joined the American Racquetball Handicap System (ARHS).

ARHS is a national computerized player rating system designed and developed by Standard Competitive Rating Systems, Inc., of Minneapolis, Minnesota. After four years of development, it

has become the first ever, objective player performance rating method for one on one competitive sports. Although it is currently being used by racquetball clubs around the country, the methodology has application to other sports like tennis, squash, handball, etc.

With so much competitive racquetball being played at the Back Walls, a problem that has plagued management and players alike has been the self-declared rating shuffle and sand bagging. The club Activity Directors have always felt that the traditional self-declared categories of A, B, C, and Novice were no longer adequate to organize good, compatible events.

In January of 1983, at the International Racquet Sports Association (IRSA) convention and trade show, Tony Martin, President of the Back Wall clubs, was

introduced to the ARHS system. During the show, Martin spent considerable time discussing with ARHS the programming problems of his clubs and finally concluded that the ARHS rating and handicapping system was the modern solution to this old problem. "The ARHS system struck me as a new dimension for the sport of racquetball," said Martin, "a programming tool that the industry really needs and will benefit players at all levels."

ARHS and the Back Wall staff began implementing the system into these Cleveland clubs in July of 1983. Since then, the program has caught on quite quickly and has drawn nothing but raves. In the first four months, over 50% of the racquetball players at all five clubs have entered the system and are now recording their game scores each time they play.

Martin estimates that by the end of the current season, over 80% of their players will be participating in the ARHS rating program.

"It's great," said Beachwood Back Wall Activity Director/Pro, Ken Zaebs. "This is the first time we've been able to rate players based on concrete information rather than guesswork. Now there's no question as to what division we should place players for leagues and tournaments and the players show more interest because they like to know where they rank within the club."

The ARHS system is basically a rating method that uses the actual scores of games to generate performance ratings. Each player's individual performance rating is a three-digit number between 100 and 999. The highly sophisticated mathematical formula that the computer uses to calculate the ratings makes the system very objective.

Initially, the players fill out an ARHS Information Form. Then it's just a matter of every time they play, they record the game scores and the names of their opponents, using a simple score card system conveniently located in the club.

These game scores are then sent in to ARHS for processing. When a set of scores is entered, the computer first identifies the two players, what their ratings were prior to the game, and then computes the expected game result (point spread), based on their ratings. Then the computer compares this expected result against the actual game scores and makes the calculations necessary to produce the appropriate adjustments to each player's rating.

As a by-product of their performance ratings, there is a method to handicap games which serves to equalize play between two players with unequal ability. Now you can play to win the game and/or beat the handicap. In other words, it isn't necessary to win the game in order for your rating to go up.

Example:

Your opponent's rating . . . . . 545  
 Your rating . . . . . 500  
 Rating difference . . . . . 45  
 Expected game point spread . . . 4  
 (see handicap chart)

Actual game results:

Your opponent's score . . . . . 21  
 Your score . . . . . 19  
 Actual Game Point spread . . 2

Simply this says, based on the player performance ratings, you were expected to lose this game by 4 points. But, you

Information Form

ARHS INFORMATION FORM

NAME: Paulson, Jim A

HOME PHONE: 755-3140

WORK PHONE: 755-3140

OCCUPATIONAL INDUSTRY: SALES

EMPLOYER: XYZ Company

OTHER INTERESTS: Sky-Diving

PLEASE PRINT NAME: Paulson, Jim A

PLEASE PRINT ADDRESS: 1234 Any Street

PLEASE PRINT CITY: Minneapolis

PLEASE PRINT STATE: Mn

PLEASE PRINT ZIP: 55400

DATE YOUR CURRENT RACQUETBALL ABILITY (GAMES DIV-1): 7

PLAYING PREFERENCE (CHECK ANY-1):

BEST TIMES: 1. Sun, 2. Mon, 3. Tue, 4. Wed, 5. Thu, 6. Fri, 7. Sat, 8. All the Above

BEST DAYS: 1. Sun, 2. Mon, 3. Tue, 4. Wed, 5. Thu, 6. Fri, 7. Sat

PLEASE MAIL IMMEDIATELY

The first step for players joining the ARHS program is to fill out an ARHS Information Form as shown above.

Score Card

ARHS SINGLE SCORE CARD

COURT NO: 5

PLAYER NAME: Smith, Larry

SCORE: 11

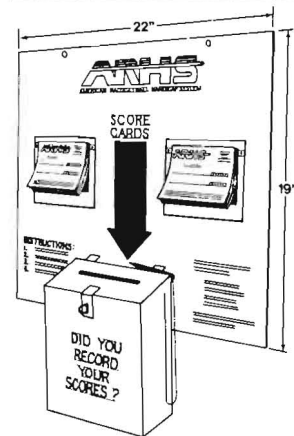
PLAYER NAME: Jacobs, Tom

SCORE: 11

RECORD ALL SCORES INCLUDING INCOMPLETE GAMES

Players on the ARHS program fill out a Score Card every time they play.

Score Card Collection Box



The completed Score Cards are dropped in the ARHS Score Card Collection Box conveniently located in the club.



GAME HANDICAP CHART

Recommended Range for Handicapping*	For Games to 21		For Games to 15		For Games to 11	
	Player's SCR Difference	Game Handicap	Player's SCR Difference	Game Handicap	Player's SCR Difference	Game Handicap
	14	1	20	1	29	1
	22	2	32	2	46	2
	31	3	45	3	66	3
	40	4	59	4	87	4
	49	5	74	5	112	5
	59	6	90	6	139	6
	70	7	108	7	170	7
	81	8	128	8	207	8
	93	9	149	9	249	9
	105	10	173	10	299	10
	119	11	199	11		
	133	12	228	12		
	149	13	262	13		
	166	14	299	14		
	184	15				
	203	16				
	224	17				
	247	18				
	272	19				
	299	20				

STEPS

- 1) Decide Total Game Points (21, 15 or 11)
- 2) Find ARHS Performance Rating Difference
- 3) Player With Lower ARHS Performance Rating Receives Game Handicap

\*To enjoy good, fun competitive games, we suggest that you do not handicap games beyond the recommended range.

REMEMBER - Handicapping is just for fun. IT DOES NOT AFFECT YOUR ARHS PERFORMANCE RATING.

Only Submit Actual Scores to SCR.



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actually lost by only 2 points, therefore, even though you lost, you BEAT THE HANDICAP and your performance rating would go up, while your opponent's rating would go down.

The expected point spread, based on performance ratings, is condensed into a handicap chart and posted at the club so players can handicap games anytime they want to equalize play. Like, for example, that third game in a match when one player says, "Let's play to see who buys!"

ARHS processes scores twice a month and sends back to the clubs a report listing all games for the period and a Club Roster showing everybody's current rating.

The Club Roster is also a valuable tool for players to arrange new, compatible matches. In addition to each player's rating, it shows how they rank overall in the club (based on their ratings), how often they play, their playing preference (time of day, day of the week), phone numbers and occupational categories. "No longer is a player just one of several hundred 'B' players," said Ed Staskus, Activity Director/Pro at the Solon Back Wall Club.

"We think the ARHS system will fast become the standard for the industry," said McGlone, President of SCR Systems, Inc. "In a very real sense, this is the computer age coming to racquetball."

By all reports, management and players both agree that the system has brought order to competitive and recreational play.

"It places people in the right leagues," said league player Jenny Ivan at the Mentor Club. "The days of getting wiped out 21-0 are over."


"The best thing about it for our club," said Scott Rogers, the Activities Director/Pro at the Bath Club, "is that I have an easier time organizing the leagues. Where someone should or can play is determined objectively, according to their rating."

"The system is neat," said Mark Bayzath, one of the Mentor Club's teaching pros, "because you can see exactly where you stand at all times." In addition, players are mailed quarterly and year-end evaluation reports containing a detailed analysis of the player's performance for that period.

"It's an accurate and consistent system," Bayzath continued. "It serves as a reference for people to challenge themselves, to work on upping their rating."

"I like it," agreed Bill Spiss, a racquetball player at the Solon Club, "because it's an effective way to match players

Match Results Report




ARHS  
AMERICAN RACQUETBALL HANDICAP SYSTEM

DECATUR CLUB  
MATCH RESULTS  
PAGE 3  
AS OF 2/12/83

MATCH DATE	LAST NAME	RATING	LAST NAME	RATING	SCORES
FEB 11 83	A. BRUNDEB	215	P. ALDIE	284	21-15 15-21 15-7
	M. CARR	247	A. GAVANAGOR	277	21-15 15-21 15-11
	B. PROCTOR	224	G. DRAFF	262	21-14 15-21 15-15
	D. BOSCH	227	B. FROSTEN	265	21-11 15 21-18
	A. HARRIS	215	J. WEBER	281	21-24 15 14 21-24
FEB 12 83	J. WEBER	287	J. WAIT	274	15-21 21-15 15 15
	G. FRAPAGE	212	C. SCHWENGER	291	18-21 15-21 15
24 TOTAL					143

Twice a month, ARHS processes a Match Results Report which is sent to the club and posted on the ARHS Bulletin Board. This report shows players, "who's doing what to whom."

Club Roster



ARHS  
AMERICAN RACQUETBALL HANDICAP SYSTEM

DECATUR CLUB  
MEN'S CLUB ROSTER  
AS OF 2/12/83

NAME	RATING	PLAYING PREFERENCE	PHONE NUMBER	OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORY
ALDIE, P.	284	1	312-234-1234	PROFESSOR
BRUNDEB, A.	215	2	312-234-1235	TECHNICAL
CARR, M.	247	3	312-234-1236	MANAGER
DRAFF, G.	262	4	312-234-1237	SALES
FROSTEN, B.	265	5	312-234-1238	ENGINEER
GAVANAGOR, A.	277	6	312-234-1239	CONTRACTOR
HARRIS, A.	215	7	312-234-1240	TECHNICAL
PROCTOR, B.	224	8	312-234-1241	SALES
WEBER, J.	287	9	312-234-1242	PROFESSOR
WAIT, J.	274	10	312-234-1243	TECHNICAL
FRAPAGE, G.	212	11	312-234-1244	SALES
SCHWENGER, C.	291	12	312-234-1245	PROFESSOR

A: Rank B: Performance Rating C: Rank Last Played D: Playing Preference E: Phone Number  
Legend: 1=Prof 2=Tech 3=Mgr 4=Sales 5=Eng 6=Contractor 7=Tech 8=Sales 9=Prof 10=Tech 11=Sales 12=Prof

The Club Rosters (both Men's and Women's) are processed twice a month and sent to the club for posting on the ARHS Bulletin Board. The Rosters show players how they rank within the club in addition to providing an easy way to set up new, compatible matches.

Player Evaluation Report

PLAYER IDENTIFICATION CARD

NAME: JAMES GOODLET  
RATING: 287  
MENTOR CLUB # 42449

QUARTERLY EVALUATION REPORT: 07/15-09/83

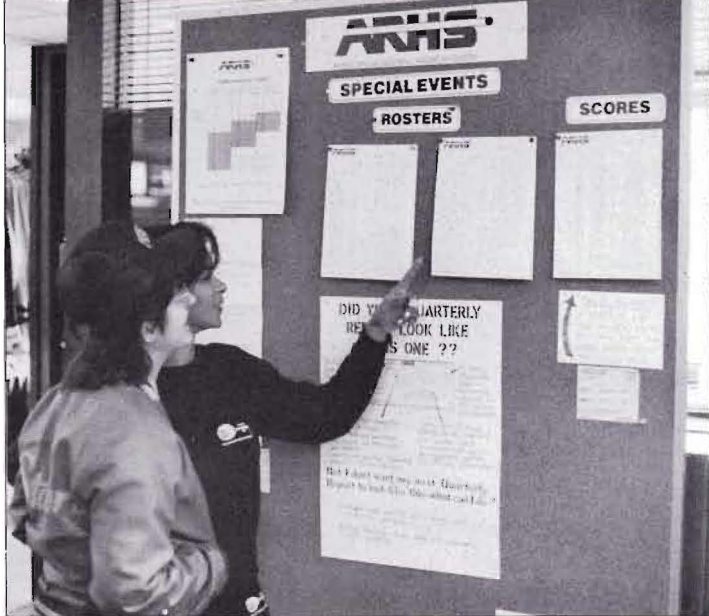
QUARTER	A	B	C	PERCENTAGE
1	283	282	281	282
2	285	284	283	284
3	287	286	285	286
AVERAGE	285	284	283	284

DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE HOUR OF RACQUETBALL BURNS UP 834 CALORIES? HAVE FUN REMEMBER TO THINK IN ALL YOUR SCORES SEE YOU ON THE COURTS!

The Player Evaluation Report is mailed to individuals each quarter (March, June, September & December). This report contains a synopsis of their play over the last three months with the report mailed in June containing information on a full year's play.

ARHS Data Entry Department: Here operators are entering game scores, as well as new member Player Information Forms.





Aurora Vartola (front) and Stacey McGee are shown checking the latest rosters at the Beachwood Back Wall Club.



Solon Back Wall players, Dee Ulman (left) and Cheryl Dulloch, discuss their match while entering their game scores with ARHS.

inside and outside of their class. It's also opened up a whole new horizon in player events."

"Historically, most racquetball events were set up on the winner take all approach to programming," said John Barkan, Activity Director/Pro at the Back Wall in Mentor. "With rating and handicapping, we can now program events for players at all levels and reward them for effort and participation as well as winning."

Some activities found in the ARHS booklet of "Player Events Using Performance Ratings and Handicapping" are: team play, inter-club team play, challenge boards, and handicapped challenge courts, racquetball roulette, rotation racquetball, giant step matches (in which players try to improve their performance rating in one fell swoop, challenging only players with ratings 100 points or more higher than theirs), kill shot shoot-out, musical courts, and a score of others.

In Mentor, Barkan has established a three times per week handicap challenge court, and the results have been better than expected.

"Racquetball players tend to be creatures of habit," Barkan said, "playing with the same handful of players year in and year out. Our challenge court, sponsored by a local distributor who gives free beer to every evening's winner, brings together a diverse group of players, many of whom had never seen or played one another. What makes it work is our ability to quickly and accurately handicap games."

"They also play with more intensity," John Barkan continued, "because, if you are the expected winner but win by less than the projected point spread, your ARHS rating will go down and you lose your position in the challenge court. On

the other hand, if you, as the underdog, lose but do it by less than the expected point spread, your ARHS rating will go up and you take over the challenge court."

"In each case, there is more intensity on the part of both players resulting in more fun and improved player skills."

This year's Back Wall Club Championship will be set up using ARHS rating categories and all the tournament entrants will be required to have an ARHS performance rating that will determine which of the six levels of play they may enter.

"The ARHS system," said Ed Staskus, Solon's Activities Director/Pro, "has solved the problem of sandbagging in tournaments once and for all."

Besides being good for both the core and less active player—due to its programming flexibility—the ARHS system has been good for business at all the Back Wall clubs.

"The rating rosters are good tools," said Beachwood Manager Mark Sundra, "for arranging games between members and it encourages other people to get on the system. A majority of the programming today at racquetball clubs is geared to the hard-core players. But the real potential volume increase in most clubs lies in getting the less active players to play just a little more often. And, as a tool, the ARHS system appears to be accomplishing that."

"My point of view," Sundra continued, "is that if, through the use of the ARHS program, we retain ten to a dozen members who otherwise might have resigned their memberships, then the system is paying for itself."

Linda Kozi, the membership sales director at the Mentor Club, agrees that the ARHS system is a plus marketing tool.

"It's a great selling point to racquetball players."

"When a potential member walks in and worries about finding a match, I take them over to the ARHS roster—which includes telephone numbers—and show them the people in their range. I've had nothing but positive reactions. It's unique."

"Most of our people," said Rob Fairchild, the Manager of the Bath Club, "like the computer rating system because it helps them judge their play against other people. It's also a tremendous aid for arranging games for new members who sometimes don't know anyone and feel lost. Using the ARHS roster, they can get into the flow of the club faster than ever."

"We are very happy with the ARHS system," said Back Wall President Tony Martin. "Our only complaint is that it wasn't developed years ago."

In addition to the ARHS rating system, SCR Systems, Inc., is developing additional computer software for the club environment that will be capable of running on a variety of microcomputers and will perform such functions as:

- Tournament Draw Sheets
- League and/or Team Scheduling
- Club Security
- Player Compatibility Checks for arranging last minute matches due to cancellations.

For clubs not on the ARHS system, the Manager and/or Program Director should contact ARHS for a free, detailed brochure explaining how the system works and how new clubs join. The address is: ARHS, 10237 Yellow Circle Crive, Minnetonka, MN 55343 or call collect (612) 933-8400.

## TOURNAMENT EVENT RESULTS:

# COHEN CAPTURES CRACK SHOOTERS TITLE

**D**oug Cohen playing "the best match in (his) career," defeated defending champion Gerry Price 8-11, 11-1, 11-4, 11-3 to capture the \$8,500 Crack Shooter Open held at the Rocky Mt. Health Club in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The win was Cohen's second Crack Shooter title, his previous one being 1982, and enabled him to make the trip back to St. Louis \$2,500 richer.

Price, who had a relative easy path to the finals, had to settle for the \$1,600 second prize in the 5th Annual Tournament sponsored by Holiday Inn and Coors Light.

In the round of 16, David Gross, St. Louis, announced that he would be heard from in the tournament with an upset of eighth ranked Evan Terry. Terry, who admitted he wasn't prepared for the match, could only get it going the second game, but many felt the upstart Gross would have been too much anyway. Final scores in Gross' favor, 11-2, 1-11, 11-4, 11-6.

Next, Cohen played Jack Nolan, Phoenix, and came within one point of

being eliminated early. The fourth game could have gone either way. Doug was lucky to escape with a 9-11, 11-4, 7-11, 11-10, 11-4 victory.

John Egerman, number 3 seed, did get eliminated in the round of 16, upset by Andy Gross, David's brother, 11-9, 4-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-10. Andy was going to be heard from in this tournament also.

Scott Hawkins went the McEnroe route in his 2½ hour marathon match against rookie Dolwain Green of San Diego. Hawkins appealed call after call, openly questioned the ability of the referee, John Egerman, and his linesman, and turned the crowd completely against him by the final point. Hawkins needed every point to squeak out his 4-11, 10-11, 11-10, 11-10, 11-10 victory.

Mike Romo had the easiest route to the quarterfinals, with a forfeit win over no-show Corey Brysman.

In the quarters, David Gross continued his upsets as #1 seed Jerry Hilecher fell 11-8, 10, 6. Cohen kept on top of Scott Oliver and won in four, 11-9, 11-8, 10-

11, 11-9. Andy Gross, following his brother's footsteps, upset Hawkins 11-6, 3, 7. Price had no problem with Romo, 11-3, 1, 3.

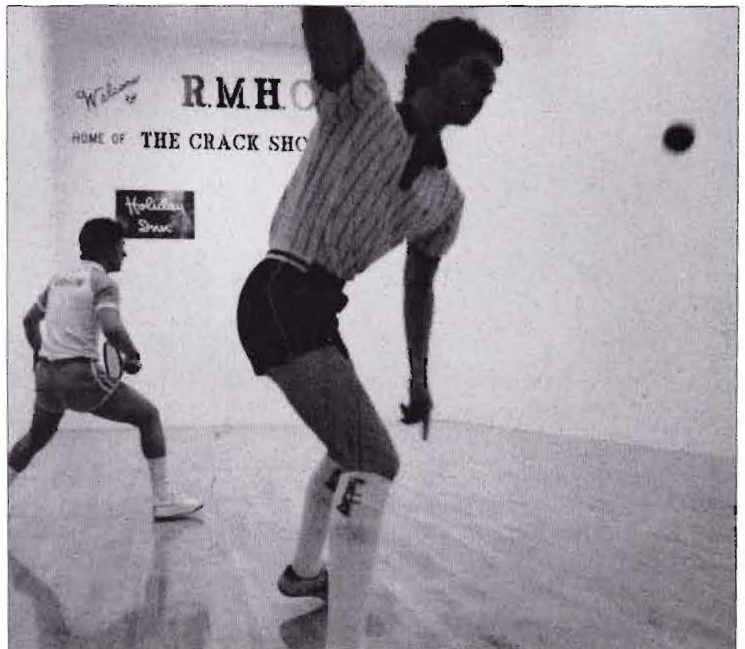
In the semis, the Gross brothers' strings came to an end, Cohen defeating David, 11-7, 8, 2, while Price handled Andy 11-6, 4, 9. But their showing impressed many. One veteran player commented, "One of those two will be a national champion in three years." For their efforts, both went home with \$800.

In the finals, few fans felt Cohen could keep Price from winning his second straight title. Doug won the toss and the first point when Gerry skipped in his backhand drive serve. Gerry captured the serve and proceeded to run off 4 straight points. But Doug retaliated by scoring 3 points to tie the score at 4-4 when he regained the serve. Both players were shooting and points were being scored on aggressive play, not mistakes. Although Gerry had problems getting his first serve in, he ran off 4 more points later in the game to take the score to 9-5. Doug

*Doug Cohen in final victory over Price*



*David Gross playing Cohen in the semi's*



called time-out. Play resumed. It continued to be aggressive as both players hit shot after shot. Gerry kept his lead and won game one with a short corner crack serve to the forehand.

In game two, Price served first, but was immediately broken on a Cohen roll-out. Two serves produced two points for Doug. The players exchanged serves on two good offensive rallies, then Doug ran off three points causing Gerry to call time-out to stop his momentum. Doug was getting hot while Gerry was making unforced errors. Time in—three lob serves—three weak returns—three points for Cohen; score was 8-0. The game ended 11-1 with another Cohen lob serve, setting up a forehand pass.

Cohen opened game three with a surprise forehand "z" serve—score 1-0. After a couple of exchanges and the score 1-1, Cohen scored 6 straight using a z-lob or lob serve to set up his second shot. Price was frustrated with his inability to control the match, and tried to regroup with a time-out. He came back with aggressive play and a strategy of attacking Cohen's forehand: For the next 13 rallies the fans were treated to the best racquetball of the match as both players hit one spectacular shot after another. At the end of it though the score was 9-4 Cohen. Doug surprisingly switched to drive serves, to Gerry's backhand and he got what he wanted, 2 points and game three.

Game 4 started out slow, but eventually followed the pattern of the other games. Trailing 0-1, Cohen's lob serves produced three set-ups and three points. Gerry wasn't going to let this get out of hand early so he called a time-out, but it didn't work. Cohen continued with 4 more straight points, all off set-ups after lob serves and ceiling rallies. The match was history. Gerry tried to extend it, hopeful of finding himself a hot streak, but Doug won it, burying a returned drive serve to Gerry's forehand.

In the presentation immediately following, Tournament Director Steve Galassini made the Crack Shooter trophy presentations while Doug and Gerry accepted their checks from Craig Lewis of Cheyenne Beverage, Inc., local distributor of Coors Light; and Mike Poppewimer, General Manager of the Holiday Inn of Cheyenne, the two major sponsors of the tournament. While the pros battled on court 1, 250 amateur players fought it out on the other nine courts.



Bret Harnett and Corey Brysman receive awards from Greg Sheffield

## Harnett Wins Claremont

While the men's pro tour is offering only a sparse amount of competition, the players are eagerly searching for quality tournaments during this year of struggle.

So, it is no wonder the Wilson Winter Fling in Claremont, California, February 16-19, which offered \$1,000 for the winner, drew seven professionals including Bret Harnett who earned first prize. Besides the open division, the competition was rather slim with only a total of 230 entries.

Harnett rolled past Steve Jenkins, Mike Gustaveson, Mike Romo and Peter Britos on the way to the finals. The only match decided in the tiebreaker was surprisingly in the championship 15-7, 12-15, 11-3 against Corey Brysman, the seventh seed.

"I'm not really surprised (we went three games) because anything can happen in these racquetball matches," said Harnett. "I was disappointed that it went three games because the first game was so much easier for me and the second game was a long drawn out one."

In the first game Brysman looked a little shaky as he skipped in six of Harnett's first nine points. He did come back with a mini-rally worth six straight points, but this display of good shooting was not enough to combat Harnett's 12-7 lead.

The next game proved to be a 30-minute affair that was tied at 12 before two controversial calls gave Brysman the edge. He went on to win the game, but Harnett was philosophical about the referees' decisions.

"They didn't affect me too much," said Harnett. "I think they all evened out. Usually when you get a couple of bad calls you've usually gotten a couple of

good calls or your opponent has gotten a couple of bad calls against him. Some of them are just more crucial than the others. But, I can't complain."

Harnett did not have anything to complain about in the tiebreaker as he took command with his hard-hitting style, 11-3. He scored eight points before Brysman got on the board.

Brysman defeated Wes Snead and John Mack and upset second seed Steve Lerner and sixth seed Mark Martino before losing to Harnett. He advanced to the final round with the comeback win of the tournament. In the first game of the semi-finals, Martino streaked to a 14-5 advantage, but he could not put away the last point. Brysman earned the 15-14 victory and went on to win the match 15-10.

In the other semi-final match, Britos gave the first game win to Harnett, 15-3, when he tried to play Harnett's power game. Britos rallied for a 9-3 lead in the second game on the strength of his high lob serves. But, things turned sour for Britos when Harnett speeded up the pace to regain control, 15-10.

Tournament Director Jim Carson said the open draw was unusually strong. "It's unusual to get all the best Southern Californian players at the same tournament. The round of 16 was so strong it would usually be the quarterfinals."

In doubles action, Bill Sell and Brian Hawkes, who were both hobbled by injuries, overcame the challenge of Steve Lerner and Craig McCoy, 15-12, 15-12.

"I didn't feel that we played that good (individually)," said Sell. "We played good doubles and we made some crucial shots. They missed some easy ones which made the difference."

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Corey Brysman, sponsor George Whitteker, and Steve Lerner

## Lerner Wins Fountain Valley

Steve Lerner came to the Wilson Southern California Club Championships without a car, but after winning the open division he drove home in style. He received free use of a 1984 Datsun Pickup for one year from Auto Express Leasing by defeating Corey Brysman, 15-12, 5-15, 11-7.

The March 8-11 tournament drew 430 entries and ranks as the largest Southern California tournament this year to date. Jim Carson, tournament director, estimated 100-150 more people entered because of the club championships.

The Claremont Club edged Racquetball World of Fountain Valley 206-204 for large clubs (over 25 players) and Huntington Beach Athletic Club overcame Saddleback Court Club 167-165 to win the small division (under 25 players).

The singles championship match was between Lerner and Brysman, who are doubles partners. They played the open final just 20 minutes after they lost a heartbreaker to Ed Andrews and Mark Martino in the semi-finals of doubles, 15-14, 6-15, 11-6. Lerner and Brysman led the first game 14-8, but could not hold off a furious rally in the end. Bill Sell and Brain Hawkes eventually won the doubles event.

"It's always tough playing against someone you play with in doubles," said Lerner, the number two seed. "The main thing is you just have to get out there and keep the intensity up. It's tough playing with a friend. When there's high stakes on the line you just have to go for it."

The match was decided in the tie-breaker which featured a frantic comeback effort by Brysman, the number four seed. He let Lerner take 5-1 and 10-3 leads before he really was in the game. Brysman saved two match points with backhand kills and then scored three points with the same stroke.

The last rally fell short when Brysman skipped in a shot off the back wall just as someone in the crowd took a flash picture which lit up the court. Lerner said he was sorry the match had to end on a controversial note.

"I told him after the match I was sorry, but there's nothing you can do. It was an intense match all the way. Unfortunately, it hurt him at the end," said Lerner. "In the third game I couldn't get the last point. I had to rely on the skip shot and I got the flash. There is no such thing as a flash hinder."

Both Lerner and Brysman dominated their matches on the way to the finals by sweeping all their opponents in two straight games. Lerner beat Stu Appel, Jamie Barker, Dolwain Green and Bill Sell, the third seed.

"There's a lot of competition in this tournament," said Lerner. "Ed (Andrews), Bill (Sell) and of course Corey (Brysman) were here. Those guys are no slouches. They're all in the top 20."

"I felt this tournament I played the most consistent I ever played in my career. Bill Sell gave me a close match, but I was pretty hot and shooting the ball well. I felt really confident with my strokes. I was out with an injury in the early part of the season and I finally feel like I'm coming back. I'm starting to get my strokes back and move a little better."

Brysman made it to the finals by beating Bill Sparks, Clay Ballard and John Mack. In the semi-finals he stopped top seeded Andrews, 15-13, 15-8. He controlled the match by consistently putting the ball away and serving tough z's.

In the club championships both winners were determined late in the last day of competition.

"I was pleased that the divisions were so competitive," said Carson. "I didn't have expectations either way. I hoped

## Britos Takes

Peter Britos captured the Men's Open Singles Division at the 1984 Belmont Shore Open and earned himself the top \$500.00 cash award. Mark Christian had a very successful tournament himself, taking home \$400.00 for championships in the Men's Open Doubles and A Singles Divisions.

For Britos it was his first big tournament championship since he relocated from Hawaii. The final match pitted Britos (Club Pro at Racquetball World, Fountain Valley) against Mark Martino (Club Pro at the Belmont Club). Martino collected \$200.00 for his efforts in a second place finish. Martino had just come off the court from a tough Men's Open Doubles loss with Jim Carson, against Christian and partner Bill Chadwick. Christian and

this would happen. I'm glad it was not a big blow out so Sunday would not be meaningless."

Claremont was a surprising winner in the large division since the facility has only 10 courts. In comparison, Racquetball World of Fountain Valley has 21 courts and attracts the top players in Southern California.

Next year, Carson expects 700 participants and cash will be awarded for the top three finishers in both club categories. This time the large club champion won \$1,000 and the small club earned \$600.

"The clubs were really behind the idea," said Carson. "The best part was the camaraderie within the individual clubs and the support for other clubs. In the men's B finals Joe Paraiso heard a roar when he killed the first point, turned around to look who was cheering and didn't know anyone because they were from Saddleback Court Club."

Saddleback needed Paraiso to win so they could have a chance at the club title. He did come out on top, but Huntington Beach finished first with a victory in the mixed doubles final.

Points were awarded as follows: Each person entering the tournament received three points, each singles player or doubles team earned two points for each match won up to the semi-finals, plus five points for winning the semis and 10 points for winning the championship. Points were awarded equally throughout the divisions.

## Long Beach

Chadwick's opponents in the finals were Sol Wroclawsky and Carl Buggs who received \$100 apiece.

One of the most grueling matches of the tournament was a Men's B Singles Finals match between Ian Fleishman and Allen Keefe. Fleishman defeated Keefe in a 15-12, 9-15, 11-09 see-saw battle and earned a hard fought for \$150.00 cash award.

The tournament sponsors included Labatts' Beer, Penn Racquetball and Head Sports. Besides the \$2,775.00 in cash awards, tournament winners received prizes from Nike, Super Sox, Head, 10K, Legends, Sports Specs, Dolphin, Tacki Grip and Adidas. The other contributing sponsors included Jet America, Rainbow Star, M.E. Balchin Company, Health Kitchen and Sqwincher.

The tournament was produced by Jim Ross of Sports and Fitness Sporting Goods Stores and was sanctioned by the California Racquetball Association.

## Gonzalez Wins In Kentucky

Ruben Gonzalez of New York City, the world's 5th ranked professional, defeated fellow touring pro Jack Newman to win the Starting Gate Open at the World of Sports in Florence, KY.

Gonzalez won the first prize of \$1,000, in an overall purse of \$4,100 which was paid into men's singles, doubles and women's singles.

Andy Roberts and Brian Sheldon of Memphis State University defeated Kelvin and Justin Van Trease for the men's open doubles title.

In the women's open, Dina Pritchett ousted Toni Bevelock, also of Memphis State, in the final.

## Harnet Wins Earthquake Open

Bret Harnett of Las Vegas won the Coors California Earthquake Open Pro/Am racquetball tournament at Racquetball Sports World in Salinas, CA. Harnett won the event by defeating the tournament's defending champion Gerry Price. For his victory Harnett pocketed \$2,000 of the \$3,100 total purse.

The Salinas event drew 9 of the top 20 touring professionals.

Ed Andrews defeated Steve Lerner in their playoff for third place.

In the men's open doubles the team of Bill Sell and Brian Hawkes downed Mark Antes and Corey Brysman for the title.

Plans are being made for next year's event to include prize money in the women's and doubles events, and increased money in the men's pro division.

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## INSTRUCTION:

# RACQUETBALL STRATEGY: BE YOURSELF

By  
Mike Yellen



*(Editor's Note: Mike Yellen, 24, is the defending men's pro racquetball national champion. He is a valued member of the Ektelon Advisory Staff.)*

Okay, so you already know all about court strategy. You know you're supposed to control center court, play the percentages and concentrate on putting the ball wherever your opponent isn't.

Racquetball is a simple game and there is nothing mysterious about basic court positioning and shot selection.

What I'd like to cover in this article is your mental approach to the game, the overall strategy that ties these specifics together.

The most important thing to remember is to play your own game. The second most important thing to remember is to keep your opponent from playing his. These are really just two sides of the same coin.

Each player has his own individual collection of strengths and weaknesses. Most fit into either the control or power categories. But those differing abilities make for infinite variations within those categories.

Are you a power hitter with a great serve and killshot, while your opponent is a good passer and ceiling game specialist? Then you want to make sure that most of the game is played in the serve-and-shoot mode rather than as a contest of control.

You may be so hot that you can beat your opponent at his own game, but don't bet on it. A surer way to go is to be yourself and let the contest be decided on your terms.

I know what you're thinking: "That's easy for Yellen to say. He plays the same guys all the time on the pro tour, while I never know who I'm going to see in an amateur tournament."

That's true to a certain extent, but the

other side of it is that everyone is always adjusting their game. For example, I used to be strictly a control player and the power hitter used to get around that by killing everything. Now I have developed a power game of my own and, with the added pressure, the hitters can't shoot as often on me.

Then too, some days one thing is working for you and, other days, you've lost that strong shot and have to find another strength. Players' abilities even change from game to game in a match. That's what makes the game so interesting.

No, it's better to be able to analyze what's happening with yourself and your opponent as you go along, take an ad hoc approach. Have a game plan going in, but be ready to make adjustments.

Is your killshot skipping? Try more pinches. Is your opponent cutting off your passes? Widen the angle. Is he killing the ball a little too neatly in center court? Get him out of there with passes and ceiling balls.

Early on in the first game, you should have figured out whether your opponent is a control player or a shooter.

If he's a shooter, he will drive the serve, hoping for an ace or weak return. Unless you put the serve away or execute an effective ceiling ball, he'll try to rekill it immediately.

He'll try to speed up the game, keep the pressure on you with hard shots on the theory that you can't hit what you can't see. It's the old serve-and-shoot.

If you're a hitter yourself, you can try to outshoot him. Then it's just a matter of who has the biggest forearms.

If you have weaker shots, you try to pass him, keep him off balance and deep in the back court where the shooting percentages aren't so great. You try to prolong the rallies and wear him out.

You also try to slow the game down. That can throw a lot of power hitters out of the groove, especially in the lower ranks. They thrive on speed and power and sometimes overreact to soft shots or a change of pace.

# THE SPLAT

By  
Mike Yellen

Use your time-outs when your opponent gets hot, even if it's in the first five minutes of the game. You can also lift your racquet for 10 seconds after every point.

A power hitter is in the service box quick, the adrenaline is pumping, he's ready to go. Break it up for him. This is all another way of saying: control the momentum of the game.

You can pretty much reverse the strategy if you're a power hitter in the clutches of a control player. He's passing to one corner, then the other and alternating it with pinches so that you're running from the forecourt to the backcourt and side to side.

Strategy number one is to cut those shots off and put them away. That could be hard to do because you will probably be on the run and off balance. But grab the momentum of the point while you're still in the service box. Serve and shoot.

Never mind those interminable ceiling rallies. Keep it fast and hard.

One word of caution here. There is a fine line to be drawn between risk taking and just plain stupid shots. You want to bend the percentages but not break them.

Some shots, like a chest-high lob, you should just automatically return up to the ceiling rather than try to shoot down. A lot of racquetball situations like that call for automatic responses.

Don't worry, though. There will be plenty of reasonable killshot opportunities if someone is coming at you with a passing game.

It doesn't really matter whether your opponent is a classic power or control player or some combination of both. Most people will be the latter.

Your job is to keep your eyes open, analyze what is going on and come up with a solution to counter it within your own individual shooting abilities.

The real secret to good racquetball strategy is just to think during the match, nothing more and nothing less.

A new offensive weapon is making its mark on racquetball in a big way—SPLAT!

Actually, I'd guess that Marty Hogan has been hitting the splat, with great success, for quite some time now. But it has only been in the last two to three years that the shot has been widely embraced in the pro circles, probably because previously none of us quite knew what we were dealing with.

The splat is really just another variation of the pinch shot—a sidewall-frontwall combination. A typical pinch will first hit the sidewall anywhere from a couple of inches from the frontwall, up to three feet back.

By contrast, the splat hits the side wall from much deeper in the court—usually 20 to 38 feet back. A splat also is hit with more power and more directly into the sidewall, causing the ball to pick up a good spin. That spin helps carry the ball to the frontwall with greater velocity, and then seems to cause the ball to jump a little toward the opposite wall.

Though its name sounds like something akin to the glob from an old science fiction movie, don't let the splat deceive you. The effect is a hard-hitting, spinning ball that from the sidewall shoots low to the floor, hits the frontwall with the intensity of a kill, and then ricochets to the opposite side of the court. Usually unanswered. SPLAT!

And that's nothing to cheer about if you're on the receiving end still trying to figure out what's just happened.

I'm a firm believer in using a variety of shots—not just the one you use best or feel most comfortable with. The splat is an effective weapon that can multiply your options against any opponent.

I first started experimenting with the shot two, maybe two-and-a-half years ago. A number of players were working the splat with great success and I really felt it was one shot I was having particular difficulties with. The added dimension that the splat gave to my opponent's offensive strategy made all the difference

in many matches that I should have easily won. And eventually I had enough. It was time to try the splat.

It's difficult to give specific techniques on the splat because there are numerous subtleties to the shot that will vary according to each player's swing. But when you drill for the splat, concentrate on hitting the ball harder into the sidewall than you would for a typical pinch. From the back of the court, work at placing the ball 20 to 38 feet back on the sidewall, keeping it low and close to the floor.

To get the proper spin I found that I had to make a minor change in my swing that ultimately effected a change in my wrist snap. It also helped to open up the face of my racquet just a little and slice the ball slightly. Experiment with it. Soon you'll get a feel for the shot and will begin using the spin to suit your style.

Keep in mind also that you need to work the shot both backhand and forehand during practice sessions so that your splat doesn't become predictable to your opponent.

The one drawback of the shot is that certain types of balls can simply deaden its effect. You want to choose a ball that will have a natural tendency to stay low to the floor—right where you want it to be. If the ball carries too high, you'll lose much of the momentum of the shot. But if the ball stays low on its flight from the sidewall to the front of the court, you'll have a perfect low impact on the frontwall for an effective splat.

Just being aware of the splat is a tremendous advantage. If you can recognize the shot and recognize also that you're a sucker for it, eventually you'll get so fed up with losing matches that executing a perfect splat will be high on your list of priorities for the season.

## Head to Head Competition

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

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

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

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

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

Men's	M HOGAN	D PECK	M YELLEN	B HARNETT	G PECK	J HILECHER	G PRICE	E ANDREWS	D THOMAS	S LERNER	J EGERMAN	R WAGNER	D COHEN	R GONZALEZ	S HAWKINS
MARTY HOGAN		4-1	2-5	4-1	2-0	3-0	1-0	3-0	4-0	2-0	2-0	1-1	2-1	1-0	1-0
DAVE PECK	1-4		3-3	1-3	5-0	0-1		1-0	1-0	2-0	1-0	1-0	1-0		
MIKE YELLEN	5-2	3-3		1-1	2-1	4-0	1-2	2-0			1-0	1-0	3-0	3-0	
BRET HARNETT	1-4	3-1	1-1		1-2		2-0	1-0			1-0	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0
GREGG PECK	0-2	0-5	1-2	2-1		1-0	1-0	1-0			2-0	2-0	1-1	0-1	
JERRY HILECHER	0-3	1-0	0-4		0-1		0-1	1-1		1-0		1-0	0-2	0-1	1-0
GERRY PRICE	0-1		2-1	0-2	0-1	1-0		1-0	1-1		1-0	1-0	1-1	1-0	
ED ANDREWS	0-3	0-1	0-2	0-1	0-1	1-1	0-1		1-1	0-1	0-2		1-1		
DON THOMAS	0-4	0-1					1-1	1-1			1-1	0-1	1-0		
STEVE LERNER	0-2	0-2				0-1		1-0						0-1	1-0
JOHN EGERMAN	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-2		0-1	2-0	1-1				0-1	0-1	1-0
RICH WAGNER	1-1	0-1	0-1	1-0	0-2	0-1	0-1		1-0					1-1	1-0
DOUG COHEN	1-2	0-1	0-3	0-1	1-1	2-0	1-1	1-1	0-1		1-0				
RUBEN GONZALES	0-1		0-3	0-1	1-0	1-0	0-1			1-0	1-0	1-1			
SCOTT HAWKINS	0-1			0-1		0-1				0-1	0-1	0-1			

# Master Tournament Schedule

## PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL

### MAJOR EVENT SCHEDULE

#### MEN'S PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
MAY 2-6	Ektelon Nationals Sports Gallery Anaheim, CA Jim Carson 714-968-4314	\$22,500
MAY 9-13	Third Annual Austin Pro-Am Supreme Court Austin, TX 512-451-8113	\$15,000
JUNE 11-17	DP Nationals Atlanta Sporting Club Atlanta, GA Caryn McKinney 404-325-2700	\$100,000
JUNE 24-28	Las Vegas Pro-Am Las Vegas Athletic Club Las Vegas, NV Ed Peterson 702-733-1919	\$15,000*
<b>1984-85 SEASON</b>		
AUG 30-SEPT 2	Natural Light Pro-Am Davison Racquet Club Davison, MI Jim Hiser 313-653-9602	\$12,000*
SEPT 10-16	Grand Masters Pro/Am Southern Athletic Club Atlanta, GA Pete Capo 404-923-5400	\$25,000

#### WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

APRIL 5-8	Seattle, WA Bob Bone 206-622-6202	\$10,000
MAY 2-6	Ektelon Nationals Sports Gallery Anaheim, CA Jim Carson 714-968-4313	\$18,500
MAY 18-20	Providence, RI Frank Rawcliff 401-826-1088	\$6,000
MAY 31-JUNE 3	WPRA Nationals Ft. Worth, TX Ken Newell Mary Pat Skienka 817-284-3353	\$22,000
JUNE 24-28	Las Vegas Pro/Am Las Vegas Athletic Club Ed Peterson 702-733-1919	\$6,000*
JULY (TBA)	Alaska (TBA)	\$6,000*

## AARA NATIONAL AMATEUR EVENTS

APRIL 6-8	AARA National Intercollegiate Championships The Racquet Club of Memphis Memphis, TN 303-635-5396
MAY 24-28	AARA U.S. National Singles Championships Downtown YMCA Houston, TX 303-635-5396
JUNE 23-27	AARA National Juniors Championships Davison Racquet Club Davison, MI 303-635-5396
JULY 16-22	IARF World Racquetball Championships Gleneagles Racquetball Club Sacramento, CA 303-635-5396

\*Tentative

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Master Tournament Schedule

## AMATEUR EVENTS SCHEDULE

### APRIL

**Apr. 12-15**  
Durango Racquetball Classic \*3  
Court Club of Durango  
Durango, CO 81301

**Apr. 12-15**  
Lite/AARA Adult Regional, Region 2 \*5  
Sports Club  
333 S. Wadsworth  
Lakewood, CO 80227  
303-989-8100

**Apr. 12-15**  
Ektelon/Perrier Regional - Chicago  
Glass Court Swim & Fitness  
830 East Roosevelt Road  
Lombard, IL 60148  
Lynne Farmer  
312-629-3391

**Apr. 13-15**  
Junior Regionals, Region 10 \*5  
Anderson Full Court Club  
1111 East 40th Street  
Anderson, IN 46014  
Cheryl Sanford  
317-649-7387

**Apr. 13-15**  
Lite/AARA Adult Regionals, Region 12 \*5  
Denver Sporting Club  
5151 DTC Parkway  
Englewood, CO

**Apr. 13-15**  
Lite/AARA Adult Regionals, Region 1 \*5  
Auburn Racquet Club  
Auburn, MA  
Paul Henrickson  
617-754-6073  
20 Oakes Street  
Millbury, MA 01527

**Apr. 13-15**  
Lite/AARA Regionals, Region 11 \*5  
Blaine Racquetball Club  
9919 Central Ave. NE  
Minneapolis, MN  
Mary Pederson  
612-780-1400

**Apr. 13-14**  
President's Council of Physical Fitness & Sports  
University of Tennessee  
Chattanooga, TN

**Apr. 13-15**  
Adult Regionals, Region 1 \*5  
Auburn Racquet Club  
Auburn, MA  
Paul Henrickson  
617-754-6073  
20 Oakes Street  
Millbury, MA 01527

**Apr. 13-15**  
Corpus Christi Racquetball Club Tournament  
1017 Barry  
Corpus Christi, TX 78411  
Johnny Rowe  
512-855-4175

**Apr. 13-15**  
New Jersey AARA State Singles \*4  
Court Time Meadowlands  
205 Chubbs  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071  
Lonnie Algood  
201-933-4100

**Apr. 13-15**  
Region 4 Adult Singles \*5  
The Complex  
1-85 at Sewanee Road  
Buford, GA 30174  
Mike Brookes  
404-945-8977

**Apr. 13-15**  
Spring Fling  
Court House Racquet Club  
1545 Helton Drive  
Florence, AL 35630  
Don Haldemann  
205-764-0034

**Apr. 13-15**  
Humbolt Open  
Holiday Health & Fitness RB Center  
3880 E. Robinson Road  
Amhurst, NY 14120  
716-691-4292

**Apr. 13-15**  
Lite/AARA Adult Regionals, Region 3 \*5  
Athletic Express  
700 Russell Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD 28078  
Bernie Howard  
301-258-0661

**Apr. 13-15**  
Lite/AARA Adult Regionals, Region 6 \*5  
Tulsa Racquetball & Aerobic Club  
4535 South Howard  
Tulsa, OK 74135  
918-749-9347

**Apr. 13-15**  
Montana State Singles  
Universal Sports & Courts  
205 Haggerty Lane  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
Larry Lober  
406-586-1737

**Apr. 13-15**  
West Virginia State Tournament \*4  
Parkersburg Health & Racquetball Club  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
Keith Hawes  
304-277-1452

**Apr. 13-15**  
Wyoming State Singles  
Wyoming Racquet Club  
455 Thelma  
Casper, WY 82601  
307-265-6928

**Apr. 14-17**  
Men's Veterans & Masters National AAU  
Championships  
Minneapolis Athletic Club  
Minneapolis, MN  
Piper Jaffray Hopwood  
612-339-3655

**Apr. 15-17**  
Adult Regionals, Region 11 \*5  
Blaine Racquetball Club  
9199 Central Ave. NE  
Minneapolis, MN  
Mary Pederson  
612-780-1400

**Apr. 26-29**  
ISRA State Doubles  
Tentative Site: Killshot, Ltd.  
Bloomington, IL  
Jim Babbitt  
312-679-2447

**Apr. 26-29**  
New Mexico State Junior Championships \*2  
Executive Court Club  
40 First Plaza at the Galeria  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

**Apr. 27-28**  
Lite/AARA Adult Regionals, Region 15 \*5  
Seattle Athletic Club  
2020 Western Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98121  
206-625-1600

**Apr. 27-29**  
Ashville Tournament  
Ashville Circuit Court

9 Kenilworth Knoll  
Ashville, NC 28805  
Colon Wood  
704-252-0222

**Apr. 27-29**  
Corpus Christi RB Club Tournament \*3  
1017 Barry  
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

**Apr. 27-29**  
Idaho State Junior Championships \*4  
Twin Falls Athletic Club  
RT 6 Poleline Road East  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
John Mooney  
208-734-7447

**Apr. 27-29**  
Lite/AARA Adult Regionals, Region 14 \*5  
Sacramento Handball & Racquetball Club  
119 Scripps Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
916-441-2977

**Apr. 27-29**  
Muscular Dystrophy Tournament  
Tyrone Racquetball Club  
6690 Crosswinds Drive  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Babette Addems

**Apr. 27-29**  
Northwestern Pennsylvania Championships \*4  
Racquet Club of Oil City  
411 Seneca Street  
Oil City, PA 16301  
Harry Miller  
814-676-2776

**Apr. 27-29**  
Nigerian Open \*3  
Downtown YMCA  
526 North 20th Street  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
Dennis McKee  
205-324-4563

**Apr. 27-29**  
Lite/AARA Adult Regionals, Region #2 \*5  
Colony Court Club  
444 Sand Creek Road  
Albany, NY 12211  
Al Seitelman  
518-459-4444

**Apr. 27-29**  
Tyrone Racquetball Club Tournament \*3  
6690 Crosswinds Drive  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
813-381-8711

**Apr. 27-29**  
Players Cup Invitational \*3  
Davison Racquet Club  
G-2140 Fairway Drive  
Davison, MI 48423  
313-653-9602

### MAY

**May TBA**  
Junior Regionals, Region 2 \*5  
Sundown Racquetball Club  
4989 Hopkins Road  
Syracuse, NY 13088  
Al Sietelman  
315-451-5050

**May 1-2**  
Junior Regionals, Region 1 \*5  
South Shore Athletic Club  
288 Wood Road  
Braintree, MA 02184  
Jim Daly

**May 3-5**  
One Last Shot  
Racquetball Unlimited  
Grand Rapids, MI

**May 4-6**  
Junior Regionals, Region 3 \*5  
Racquet Club of Pittsburgh  
1 Racquet Lane  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
Gib Loesel  
412-242-8636

**May 4-6**  
Junior Regionals 4 \*5  
Regency Courts  
2402 Wooten Blvd.  
Wilson, NC 27893  
Mike Dimoff/Jan McVeigh

**May 4-6**  
Adult Regionals, Region 7 \*5  
Racquetball & Handball Club of San Antonio  
849 Isom  
San Antonio, TX 78216  
Bruce Hendin  
512-340-0364

**May 4-6**  
Adult Regionals, Region 8 \*5  
Downtown Court Club  
441 North Wabash  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Meolody Weiss  
312-644-4880

**May 4-6**  
Leukemia Benefit Tournament \*3  
Off the Wall Racquetball Club  
230 Osser Ave.  
Hauppauge, NY 11787  
516-231-3322

**May 4-6**  
Minnesota State Singles \*5  
Burnsville Racquet Club  
Burnsville, MN 55378  
Harral Chastain  
612-425-7401

**May 4-6**  
Taylor St. Bar & Grill Really Wide Open \*3  
Schoeber's Racquetball Spa  
425 Eccles Ave.  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
Mary Sazio-Garcia  
415-589-0773

**May 4-6**  
Wyoming State Doubles \*5  
STBA  
Wyoming Racquet Club  
455 Thelma  
Casper, WY 82601  
307-265-6928

**May 10-13**  
Region #5  
Sportplex  
500 Gadsden Highway  
Birmingham, AL 35235  
Bob Huskey  
205-838-1213

**May 11-12**  
Junior Regionals, Region 6 \*5  
Pleasure Park Athletic Club  
2303 Hwy 70 East  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
Tom Wilkins  
501-623-5559

**May 11-13**  
Anamatopoeia Open \*3  
Lakeland Family Y  
3620 Cleveland Hts. Blvd.  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
Grace Page  
813-644-3528

**May 11-13**  
Junior Regional, Region 14 \*4  
Fairfield Court Club  
1771 Holiday Lane

# Master Tournament Schedule

Fairfield, CA 94533  
707-429-4363

**May 11-13**  
Adult Regionals, Region 9 \*5  
Mt. Clemens Racquet Club  
40501 Productions Drive  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48048  
Jim Hiser  
313-239-7575

**May 18-20**  
AARA New Jersey Closed Championships \*2  
(Residents except for open division)  
Ricochet Racquet Club  
219 St. Nicholas Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
Jon Denley  
201-753-2300

**May 18-20**  
UAB Spring Classic \*3  
UAB Gym  
601 13th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 32215  
John Jones  
205-934-5008

**May 18-20**  
Junior Regionals, Region 2 \*4  
Sundown Racquetball Club  
4979n Hopkins Road  
Liverpool, NY 13088  
Jim Winterton  
315-451-5551

**May 18-20**  
Junior Regionals, Region 9 \*5  
Davison Racquetball Club  
G-2140 Fairway Drive  
Davison, MI 48423  
313-653-9602

**May 18-20**  
Junior Regionals, Region 15 \*5  
Griffith Park Athletic Club  
4925 SW Griffith Drive  
Beaverton, OR 97420  
Lynn Thompson  
503-644-3900

**May 18-20**  
Monte Carlo Classic \*3  
Sacramento Court Club  
947 Enterprise Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
916-920-1933

**May 18-20**  
Wisconsin State Junior Championships  
The Falls Racquetball Club  
North 85 West 15960 Appleton Ave.  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
414-251-1420

**May 18-20**  
Women's East Coast Championships \*4  
Racquetball International  
350 Sall River Ave.  
Seekonk, MA 02771  
617-336-5600

**May 19-20**  
Alabama State Championships \*4  
Montgomery Athletic Club  
5675 Carmichael Parkway  
Montgomery, AL 36177  
205-277-7130

**May 24-28**  
US National Singles Lite Beer Championships \*6  
Sponsored by DP Leach & Penn Athletics Co.  
Downtown YMCA  
1600 Louisiana Street  
Houston, TX  
Dick Bagby

**May 25-27**  
New Mexico State Doubles  
Rio Grande Yacht Club or

Executive Club  
Albuquerque, NM

**May 25-27**  
Junior Regionals, Region 11 \*5  
Front Wall Racquetball & Swim Club  
1123 Kuhn Drive  
St. Cloud, MN 56301  
Greg Hayenga  
612-252-8000

## JUNE

**June 1-3**  
AARA Junior Regionals, Region 8 \*5  
The Glass Court  
Lomard, IL  
Alvin Barasch  
312-673-7300

**June 1-3**  
Junior Regionals, Region 12 \*5  
Flatiron Athletic Club  
505 Thunderbird  
Boulder, CO 80303  
Connie Young  
303-499-6590

**June 1-3**  
Billy Bowlegs Classic \*3  
Racquetball West  
125 Miracle Strip Parkway  
Fl. Walton Beach, FL  
Mike Wood  
904-244-6106

**June 1-3**  
Rhode Island State Doubles  
STBA  
Call Maryilyn Ellis  
404-434-3600

**June 7-10**  
Indiana State Singles \*5  
Racquetball of Greenbriar  
1275 W. 86th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46260  
John Franks

**June 8-10**  
Junior Regionals, Region 7 \*5  
RB & Handball Club of Houston  
9651 Glenfield Court  
Houston, TX 77096  
Gary Cohen  
713-721-6800

**June 8-10**  
Sunshine State Games \*2  
Quadrangle Racquetball Club  
2160 University  
Coral Springs, FL 33065

**June 8-10**  
Sunshine State Games \*2  
Capitol City Courts  
2697 Capitol Circle E.  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

**June 8-10**  
Sunshine State Games \*2  
Omega 40  
1 South Kings Road  
Ormond Beach, FL 32074

**June 8-10**  
Sunshine State Games \*2  
Suncoast RB Club  
Tampa, FL

**June 8-10**  
Surf 'n' Sun Open \*3  
Center Court Athletic Club  
2026 South 16th Street  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
Alison Kingsley  
919-343-0294

**June 9-10**  
Junior Regionals, Region 5 \*5  
Montgomery Athletic Club

5675 Carmichael Pkwy.  
Montgomery, AL 46177  
Jack Sorensen  
205-277-7130

**June 22-24**  
Georgia State Doubles Tournament \*4  
Southern Athletic Club  
754 Beaver Ruin Road  
Liburn, GA 30247  
Kevin Semenas  
404-923-5400

**June 23-27**  
AARA Junior National Championships  
(Qualifying Required)  
Davison Racquetball Club  
Davison, MI  
Jim Hiser  
313-653-9602

## JULY

**July 13-15**  
Sunshine Games Finals \*4  
The Club  
825 Courtland Street  
Orlando, FL 32804  
305-644-5411

**July 16-22**  
World Championships  
Gleneagles Racquetball Club  
5051 College Oak Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95841  
916-338-1850

**July 20-22**  
July Jam  
Court House Racquet Club  
1545 Helton Dr.  
Florence, AL 35630  
Don Haldemann

**Jul. 29-Aug. 25**  
National Elite Training Camp  
U.S. Olympic Training Center  
1750 East Boulder  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

## AUGUST

**August 13-15**  
Tournament  
Omega 40  
1 South Kings Road  
Ormond Beach, FL 32074

## OCTOBER

**Oct. 5-7**  
5th Annual Lite Beer Columbus Day Shootout  
(Pro Division in this tournament)  
21st Point Club  
KcKown Road off Western Ave.  
Albany, NY 12203  
Vincent M. Wolanin  
518-489-3276

**Oct. 13-15**  
Oktoberfest Open  
Colony Court Club  
444 Sand Creek Road  
Albany, NY 12211  
Al Seitelman  
518-459-4444

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AMATEUR  
EVENTS, CALL 303-635-5396

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

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## MEN'S RANKINGS

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

- Honolulu, HI, 1983
- Beaverton, OR, 1983
- Austin, TX, 1983
- Toronto, ONT, 1983
- Anaheim, CA, 1983
- Chicago, IL, 1983
- Atlanta, GA, 1983
- Davison, MI, 1983
- Pleasanton, CA, 1983
- Beaverton, OR, 1984

The ranking system utilizes the following point system:

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

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

## WOMEN'S RANKINGS

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

The current rankings include the most recent WPRO stop in Plymouth, Mass.

## AMATEUR RANKINGS

The men's and women's amateur rankings are the official rankings of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA). The AARA publishes state, regional, and national rankings of all AARA members monthly. For information about amateur rankings, contact your state AARA director, or the AARA headquarters in Colorado Springs.

## MEN'S PRO RANKINGS FEBRUARY 14, 1984

THIS MO.	LAST MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	2	Marty Hogan	94.00
2	1	Mike Yellen	93.00
3	3	Dave Peck	65.56
4	4	Bret Harnett	61.00
5	6	Gregg Peck	58.00
6	5	Ruben Gonzalez	55.71
7	7	Jerry Hilecher	44.00
8	14	Scott Oliver	42.00
9	10	Gerry Price	41.43
10	9	Don Thomas	37.50
11	8	Ed Andrews	36.67
11T	11	Jack Newman	36.67
13	20	Rich Wagner	33.33
14	12	John Egerman	32.00
15	14T	Mike Levine	30.00
16	13	Steve Lerner	26.00
16T	16	Doug Cohen	26.00
16T	17	Bill Sell	26.00
19	18	Scott Hawkins	24.40
20	19	Craig McCoy	23.33
21	21	Corey Brysman	18.00
21T	22	Ben Koltun	18.00
21T	22T	Brian Hawkes	18.00
24	24	Lindsay Myers	17.50
25	25	Kyle Kamalu	13.00

## WPRO RANKINGS MARCH 12, 1984

THIS MO.	LAST MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	2	Heather McKay	298.00
2	1	Lynn Adams	289.00
3	3	S. Wright Hamilton	165.00
4	4	Laura Martino	109.71
5	5	Vicki Panzeri	106.25
6	6	Terri Gilreath	99.88
7	7	Janell Marriott	82.93
8	8	Marci Greer	82.82
9	12	Brenda Barrett	65.83
10	10	Caryn McKinney	62.00
11	9	Peggy Gardner	58.57
12	11	Jennifer Harding	54.88
13	14	Joyce Jackson	50.13
14	17	Francine Davis	46.63
15	13	Stacey Fletcher	45.83
16	15	Heather Stupp	39.67
17	16	Diane Bullard	30.50
18	19	Martha McDonald	28.13
19	18	Bonnie Stoll	26.50
20	24	Molly O'Brien	21.00
21	25	Carol Pranka	20.36
22	26	Marcy Lynch	19.33
23	22	Gail Woods	18.33
24	23	Jean Sauser	17.67
25	27	Leslie Clifford	13.33

## AARA NATIONAL RANKINGS MARCH 12, 1984

NAME	ST	REG. POINTS
1. Sergio Gonzalez	FL	520
2. Dennis Aceto	MA	320
3. Jim Cascio	PA	320
4. Dan Obremski	PA	320
5. Andy Roberts	TN	300
6. Tim Hansen	FL	273
7. Dan Ferris	MN	250
8. Cliff Swain	MA	250
9. Mike Lowe	CA	210
10. Tony Gabriel	IN	200
11. Mike Levine	NY	200
12. Bubba Gautier	FL	198
13. Scott St. Onge	MA	195
14. Gene Fitzpatrick	ME	180
15. Fred Calabrese	FL	170
16. Ralph Hackbarth	NY	170
17. Ron Misek	CT	150
18. Bobby Little	NC	140
19. Mark Morrison	FL	135
20. Mike Ray	GA	130
21. Mark Mikulla	IN	120
22. Paul Thiel	CT	120
23. Brian Hawkes	CA	117
24. Randy Olson	ME	117
25. John Bouziss	WY	115

## AARA NATIONAL RANKINGS MARCH 12, 1984

NAME	ST	REG. POINTS
1. Cindy Baxter	PA	550
2. Dot Fischl	PA	300
3. B Crawley	GA	200
4. Marie Younger	IN	190
5. Cathy Gluvma	TN	175
6. Kathy Kamahoahoa	VA	175
7. Melanie Britton	FL	170
8. Chris Upson	PA	170
9. Jessica Rubin	NY	160
10. Jan Curtis	FL	150
11. Mary Dee	NH	150
12. Terry Latham	NM	150
13. Susan Sotelo	FL	150
14. Kate Conway	PA	140
15. Lisa Ecker	MI	131
16. Bev Bell	FL	130
17. Terry Graham	ME	130
18. Jan Mcvie	NC	130
19. Brenda Poe-Barrett	FL	120
20. Trina Rasmussen	OR	130
21. Julie Ginsburg	FL	120
22. Mary Holroyd	FL	120
23. Janet Burke	MA	115
24. Elaine Mardas	OH	115
25. Joy Eon	MA	114

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If you want to cut the fat out of your game, the Skyndex instrument is essential equipment.

*\*Based upon a 180-pound man carrying an extra 8% of his weight as fat (or 18% body fat).*



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