

INTERNATIONAL

1984 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

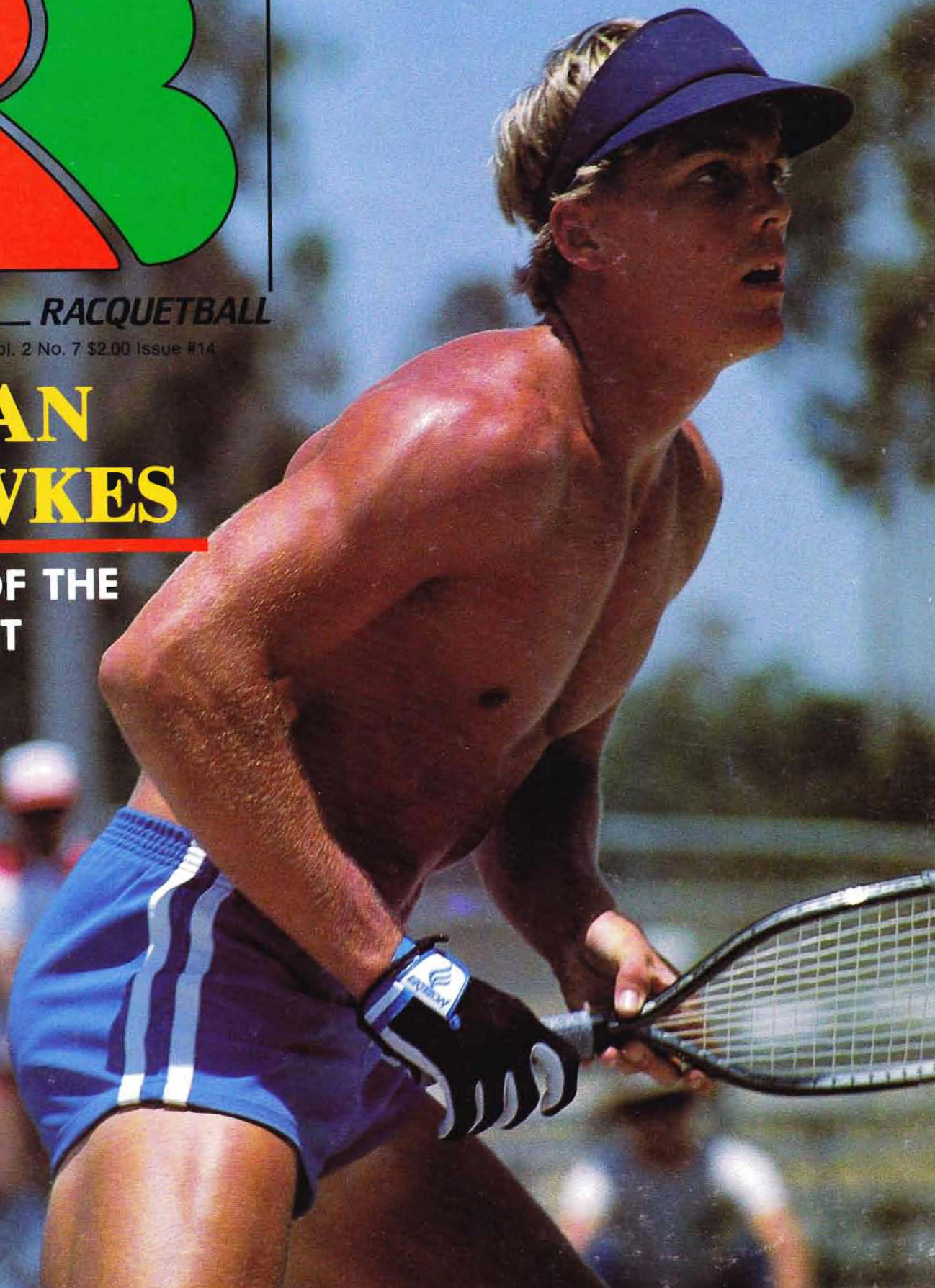


RACQUETBALL

Sept. 1984 Vol. 2 No. 7 \$2.00 Issue #14

BRIAN HAWKES

KING OF THE
60 FOOT
KILL



CARYN MCKINNEY • OUTDOOR NATIONALS • PLAYER AWARDS


DEMOLITION EXPERTS



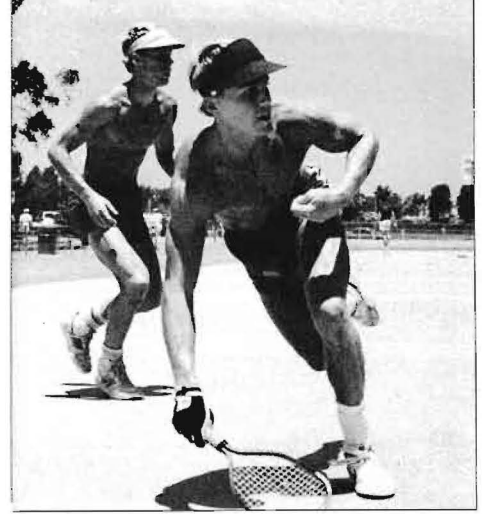
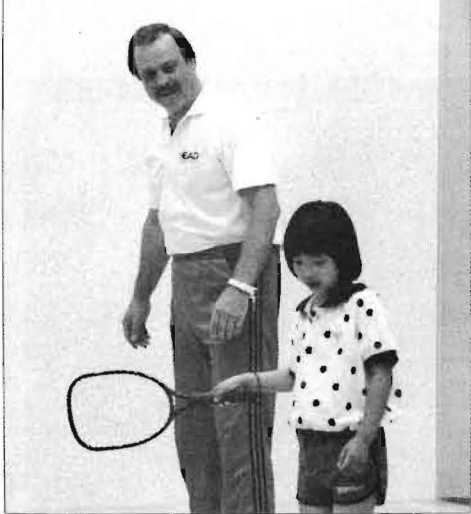
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VOL. 2 NO. 7 ISSUE #14

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RACQUETBALL**



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THIS MONTH IN IRB...



Jason Holloman
Publisher

Yes, ladies, as far as I know the man we have on the cover, Brian Hawkes, is single. There is no fan club established yet, as far as I know, but I think my wife is thinking about starting one. Ah, to be handsome and talented. Strange thing, though, when we went to choose the photo of Brian that we would use for the cover this month, all the really good photos had Brian with his tongue hanging out. My wife thought it was "cute" (a definitely female word), but we thought it lacked dignity for a world-class champion like Brian. Photo coverage of the colorful 1984 Outdoor Championships starts on page 24.

This issue has some really great articles. My favorite is the compilation of humorous and not so humorous jibes at pro players called the "Dubious Achievement Awards." We printed all we had room for and had to cut a few out that were really funny, but, unfortunately, the one about me is still in there. Indubitably, you'll want to turn to page 16 and read them all. If you have any more along these lines, we'd like to hear from you.

Continuing a tradition we hope we started last year, this issue lists the four "Player of the Year" awards for excellence in racquetball for men and women. The awards are based on performance over the last year. Our congratulations to those players who appear on page 22.

I don't get out of the office much, because, after all, with Drew out and about covering all the important tournaments, someone has to mind the store. However, since the World Games was in Sacramento this last month, I popped over there to talk to some of the foreign dignitaries of racquetball abroad. I was lucky to interview several of them. Consequently, we have some splendid insights

about racquetball in Europe and Japan in this issue along with coverage of the World Games.

Our interview this month is with Caryn McKinney. A workaholic if there ever was one, but an excellent leader and racquetball player. You'll find her story fascinating. It begins on page 12.

Jerry Hilecher continues his series on "The Greatest" this month, and this one is about the greatest forehand. His articles are based on a survey he took among pro racquetballers and, Jerry's name came out on top. Jerry disagrees that he deserves such top billing and he makes interesting reading starting on page 35.

Other tournament coverage includes the non-ranking men's Baltimore stop and the Junior Nationals. We're sorry we don't have pictures of the Juniors, but the camera and film that recorded the event were stolen.

Steve Strandemo has another excellent instruction this month on the backhand. We can't stress it enough. These excerpts from Steve's book are as good as they come. Buckle down and read them.

Another important thing you should note in this issue is Drew's column. He talks about the importance of ranking systems. In the news column, there is an announcement by a newly formed marketing company called RichCraft, and guess what they are introducing? An oversized racquet. Looks like we might have a trend similar to what happened with the Prince racquets in tennis.

There's more, to be sure, so enjoy yourself, and remember. Take a look at our advertisers and their products. These are the people that are behind us and behind racquetball. Without them, it would be very difficult to bring you the world of International Racquetball. Thanks. ●

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

We have just concluded the 1984 Toyota-Lite Beer East Coast Classic here in Baltimore, I feel an obligation to pub- John Egerman, Ruben Gonzalez, Corey Brysman, to name a few, were cooperative event. Gerry Price, Ed Andrews, John Egerman, Rueben Gonzlez, Corey Brysman, to name a few, were cooperative and helpful throughout the entire weekend. The Gross brothers, and Jack Newman would be included as well. I would have to say that most all handled themselves very well. They met every starting time and were respectful of the amateur referees that we supplied.

However, the real purpose of this letter is to commend Marty Hogan. A lot has been said about Marty both pro and con. I must admit to being extremely concerned about his attitude at this tournament, since I, like a few others I'm sure, had heard of his supposed "bad" reputation. Without question, Marty Hogan was cooperative, understanding and available at all times. The media in Baltimore were constantly putting themselves upon him for newspaper interviews, "live" TV cut-ins to newscasts, special requests

that meant he had to be available at the club 2 hours before his starting time and, in general, constantly after him. He handled himself as the consummate professional. Every request for autographs was honored. On the court, he displayed professionalism with the amateur (does a professional exist ?) referees and was sportsmanlike towards his opponents. I know I speak for the Baltimore/Washington/Pennsylvania people who attended this tournament. . . Thanks, Marty, for setting an example for racquetball players to follow!

A final note has to include Gregg Peck and his final match with Hogan. Although they were playing for a \$10,000 prize (a 4x4 Toyota Truck) they exhibited racquetball at its finest, both in playing and deportment. It was exhilarating to see tow of the top players, playing for big money, play a match without the crying and complaining that unfortunately has come to be "expected" of our sport. Hats off to Gregg as well.

I hope you will print this letter because I truly feel these players and the sport need more of this type of publicity. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Pivec and Joe Larson
Tournament Directors
The Racquetball Authority of Metropolitan Baltimore, Inc.

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on your first year, you have set goals and succeeded in all areas. You have brought to racquetball a respected publication that is knowledgeable, informative, entertaining, and above all responsible.

I feel that your voice is the voice of the future of the sport. We at Val Halla Athletic Club would like to add our support to your cause. Please feel free to call on myself or the staff at Val Halla Athletic Club to help your magazine become more successful.

Sincerely,

Joe Ciriello
Program Coordinator
Val Halla Athletic Club, Inc.

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A Look At The Ranking Dilemma

THE MAGIC NUMBERS



Drew Stoddard
Editor

The day after the finals of the DP National Championships in Atlanta, I was driving with Bret Harnett to nearby Opelika, Alabama, where we were scheduled to tour the massive headquarters and manufacturing facility of Diversified Products.

Since the Atlanta tournament marked the end of the professional season, Bret and I naturally started talking about how the men's year-end rankings might come out. The final rankings are a much discussed topic among professional players because most of the top-ranked men and women play under contracts that offer large bonuses for finishing high in the rankings, particularly in the top four. In fact, top ranked pros frequently earn more from contract bonuses than they do from prize money.

Bret was aware that he had finished the season in a precarious situation; he had started the year ranked 4th and finished strong, winning the Ektelon nationals and earning a semifinal in Austin. But Bret had only been in Atlanta to watch; two days before play began he was forced to withdraw because of an infection in his left hand, effectively leaving his fate in the

hands of his fellow players.

As Bret was wondering aloud if he might move up to #3 following Dave Peck's quarterfinal loss, I didn't have the heart to tell him what I, and a couple of others, had known for two days; that not only had he not moved up, but that Gregg Peck had passed him in the rankings by making the semifinals. I knew it was not going to exactly make Bret's summer to know that he had been moved out of the top four for the first time in two years.

It's at moments like that, that this job really stinks. You want to be a racquetball magazine editor? Try telling your friend that a five-day infection in his hand has just cost him the price of a new car.

In light of that experience with Bret, and a few others I could relate, I think it's time that I use this column to write about what has become a very awkward situation for me; the men's rankings.

When we started International Racquetball, it was our intention to cover, to the best of our ability, the news of the sport of racquetball. In our attempt to do that, we have somehow assumed the position as the unofficial keepers of the men's professional rankings. Although some won't believe it, that was never our intention or desire. Let me tell you how it came about.

I have always believed, and still do, that a ranking system in any individual sport is the responsibility of the players. In the end, they are the only ones who can protect themselves and the sport against the type of abuses we've seen in ranking systems in the past. Without going into details, let me just say that if an individual wanted to control the pro game the easiest way to do it would be to manipulate the rankings. (That will make more sense in a minute.)

At the time we began publishing, the 12-man Catalina tour was still in progress. Since many of the game's most talented players were not allowed to play in Catalina events, we created our own computerized ranking system which we felt more accurately reflected the relative ability of all the men who were then playing professionally. For three months we

ran the two ranking lists side by side.

When the Catalina tour ended, we became involved with trying to help the men form a players association (the PRO) assuming that once they organized themselves they would create a new system which we would then recognize and publish as the official ranking.

At the pro stop in Davison, Michigan, in August of 1983, a very encouraging players meeting was held, and a committee was selected to begin working on a new ranking system. Unfortunately, by then the season was underway, and we had thousands of readers who were already addicts to the listings on page 46, and more than a few advertisers who were regularly requesting position "opposite the rankings."

In an attempt to come up with a temporary system, I approached a number of the players individually and asked what they wanted to do. The night prior to the finals, I was having dinner with Gregg Peck at a little pub in downtown Flint, when Mike Yellen walked in and joined us. It was there that the current system was really born.

After some discussion Mike and Gregg suggested that the best way to muddle through the non-tour period was to continue using the Catalina system, but to expand it to include all players. That sounded good to me, and most of the players I spoke with agreed; the Catalina system was easy, and it would keep most of the players happy until a new one was created. (A complete description of the ranking system is printed monthly on page 46.)

Only three changes were made from the original system. Catalina had no minimum divider, so a player could stay high in the rankings on the strength of a single performance; we inserted a minimum divider of 4. (The other two were minor changes to adjust the system for forfeits and events that fielded a full round-of-64.)

In February of this year, another players meeting was held in Beaverton, Oregon. After more discussion, the players who were present voted to keep the current system unchanged until the

1984-85 pro tour was announced.

Unfortunately, as most of you are now aware, neither the players association nor the organized tour has yet materialized. And so, like it or not, we continue to be the custodians of the magic numbers. It's an odd dilemma, and one we don't particularly enjoy. Like the players, we're hoping the RMA can put together a pro tour, and a new ranking system, soon.

In the meantime, as I told the players at the meeting in Oregon, we are more than willing to change the ranking system to anything, and at anytime, they wish. We consider it theirs. Most of them seem to feel that the current system is adequate until they see what type of tour will eventually be formed.

(I should add here that there are some players who, by their choosing, have not been involved in the rankings discussions. We consider their input welcome, should they ever decide to give it.)

Keeping the rankings has caused us some awkward moments with the players. But the real dilemma has been dealing with tournaments. Every prospective tournament director wants his event to be counted in the rankings, because ranking stops draw the best players and get the most visibility. Since there is no governing body for the men's game, we have had to decide which of the independent events will be given that recognition. That is not a pleasant task when you're dealing with club owners who frequently have put up \$10,000 of their own money.

For the record, our method of making that decision has been to individually poll as many of the top players as we can, and then try to keep as many people happy as possible. If you think that's easy, you've forgotten what sport we're talking about here.

In my opinion, the current system is adequate but it could be much better. There is no question the 10-tournament span was too long for last season's 6 stops. There are players hanging in the top 16 that should have dropped months ago. The system also gives all 10 tournaments the same weight, which tends to reward players for playing well in short streaks and then drops them quickly.

I believe the ideal system would reflect a player's performance over a twelve month period, while giving greater weight to the more recent events. The best I've ever seen is the computerized ranking system used by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), a system that would be easily adaptable to racquetball.

Continued on page 45

SUPER-KILL



***It's here!
Super-Kill—
the new generation
of racquetball string
that delivers amazing
action on the ball!***

MANUFACTURED IN THE U.S.A.

This sleek 16-gauge multifilament nylon string is jet black in color—the perfect companion for the new graphite racquets. Restring your racquet with Super-Kill and you'll feel the difference in your first game—more power without sacrificing control—and lots more action.

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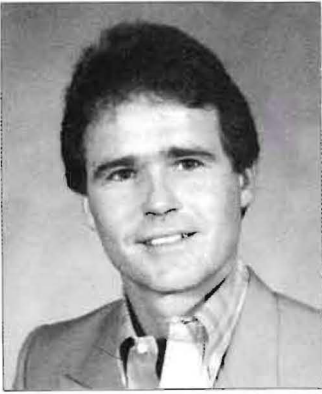
NEW ADDRESS:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____



Mathes Chappell



Terry Zisman



Ron Richards



Mitra White

RICHCRAFT PRODUCTS OFFERS 8 NEW RACQUETS

RichCraft Sports Products, Inc., of California, will start off their first consumer retailing season with the introduction of eight new racquets this fall. The RichCraft line will include six graphite or graphite composite racquets, one fiberglass racquet and, most interestingly, one oversized aluminum racquet. The new company will be headed up by Chief Executive Officer Mathes Chappell, President Terry Zisman, Senior Vice President of Production Ron Richards and Public Relations Officer Mitra White.

Although RichCraft's name is not recognized by the buying public because they have historically made racquets for other

companies, the new marketing company for the RichCraft line will be working with 37 years of experience behind them in aerospace and sporting goods production.

"I am extremely proud of what we have been able to accomplish," commented Ron Richards to International Racquetball, "for in the top of our line, we have captured the excellence of the most expensive racquets but at nearly one third the price."

RichCraft has made a tremendous investment in capital equipment. "With over two million dollars in sophisticated equipment, we have a versatility other manufacturers only dream of

having," stated Mr. Richards. They credit their specialized equipment for reducing hand labor and material waste, thus enabling them to produce a consistent product at less cost.

Also, Mr. Richards pointed out that RichCraft performs all of the manufacturing processes under one roof. From design and conception, through mold and toolmaking, to stringing and decorating, it is all done at one location for all of the racquets. "Other manufacturers 'farm out' some of the steps in making their racquets," informed Richards.

Mr. Mathes Chappell, the Chief Executive Officer for RichCraft Sports Products, Inc., stated, "We will be at the major

trade shows this fall showing our product. Consumer advertising for the RichCraft line will start in October when the product will be available to the general public."

For more information about RichCraft Sports Products, write or call:

RichCraft Sports Products, Inc.
P.O. Box 20735
El Cajon, CA 92021
(619) 447-5260

International Racquetball will report about RichCraft's new racquets in more depth in our October issue.

AARA Changes Five-Foot Rule

The AARA has changed the controversial five-foot "encroachment" rule, with the new ruling to go into effect September 1 of this year.

The new ruling states that the player receiving serve may not enter the five-foot zone until the ball has bounced. This is the version that has been the de facto rule of professional play since 1980.

The AARA board also adopted a resolution encouraging club owners to install a broken line to mark the five-foot zone to make the encroachment rule easier to call. Within two years the line will be required for all AARA sanctioned events.

The old rule stated that the

player could not enter the zone until the serve had broken the plane of the short line, and was considered more dangerous than the new version.

AARA Approves Ektelon Macros

Ektelon has received unanimous approval from the Rules Committee of the American Amateur Racquetball Association sanctioning Ektelon's oversized, new "Macro Series" for use on an experimental basis on AARA sanctioned events, except for regional and national events.

"We are extremely happy and excited about this announcement," said Bob McTear, Vice President and General Manager of Ektelon. "Our main objective in the development of the Macro

Series is to attract new participants to racquetball and encourage players to play the sport more frequently."

Top U.S. Sports Celebrities...

Top U.S. sports celebrities and leading health and physical fitness experts have teamed up to kick-off Norwegian Caribbean Lines' (NCL) first "Fit With Fun" theme cruise aboard the S/S Norway, November 24 to December 1.

Former Olympic gymnast Cathy Rigby McCoy, former heavyweight boxing champion Floyd Patterson, leading collegiate tennis coach (from the University of Southern California) Dick Leach and leading baseball pitcher with the Chicago Cubs Rick Sutcliffe will

join NCL's own on-board professional "Fit With Fun" shape-up staff in turning the world's largest cruise ship into "the greatest spa afloat."

"This special cruise blends the fun of fitness with the exhilarating experience of cruising the Caribbean," said Phil Wilson, NCL's Sports and Fitness Coordinator. "Sports novices, spectators and enthusiasts alike, will find this "all-star" sail refreshing and invigorating."

Mike Yellen recently returned from a week on board the S/S Norway and told IRB that it was a super vacation. For more information contact Bonnie Sparag 305-448-7450.

Special Air-Fare for National Doubles

Bob Petersen of the Courthouse has announced a special offer from Western Airlines for those planning to attend the 1984 United States Doubles Championships in Boise, Idaho, October 25-28. Players can save up to 40% of the regular air-fare by calling a special Western toll-free number:

Inside Washington 800-562-5070

Outside Washington 800-426-5249

Call the correct number, ask for the commercial desk and give this identification code - BSE-012.

The special rates apply for tournament participants and are available for flights from five days before to five days after the event.

Hogan Wins Baltimore

Marty Hogan defeated Gregg Peck in the final of the Toyota-Miller Lite East Coast Classic at the Merritt-Security club in Baltimore, MD, July 20-22. Hogan won the first prize of a \$10,000 Toyota 4x4 truck. Eleven of the top fifteen men's players participated in the non-ranking East Coast event. (Story on page 36.)

United States Wins World Championships

The United States Racquetball Team won the 2nd IARF World Racquetball Championships team competition by defeating Canada and 11 other nations.

Ross Harvey of Canada won the individual men's singles championships. (Story on page 30.)

Hawkes, Adams Win Outdoor

Brian Hawkes and Lynn Adams won the 1984 National Three-Wall Championships at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, CA, July 5-7. It was the fourth consecutive title for Hawkes, and the fifth for Adams. Hawkes defeated long-time opponent Dan Southern in the final, as Adams downed Martha McDonald.

The event is the highest level

tournament for outdoor racquetball. (Story on page 24.)

Correction:

In our May issue, International Racquetball had a very interesting article from Ashaway Line & Twine about racquetball strings. In the article, we told our readers to refer to the string gauge chart. Unfortunately, we didn't include the chart in the article. Below you will find the chart. For more information about racquetball strings, contact Steve Crandall, Ashaway Line & Twine, Ashaway, RI, 02804.

**Gauge Conversion Chart
Racquetball String**

Gauge	Diameter (inches)	Diameter (mm)
15	.058	1.47
L15	.054-.055	1.37-1.38
16	.051	1.30
17	.045	1.15



DP Receives Sears Award

The employees and management of Diversified Products were honored Friday, June 22, for their outstanding achievement in the production of physical fitness equipment for the nation's largest retailer.

Mr. Larry Witherbee, representing Sears, presented Carl James of Diversified Products with the Partners in Progress award which is given to companies who offer superior contributions to Sears "quality triangle" of extrinsic quality, intrinsic quality and product innovation.

DP was one of only twenty-three suppliers to Sears that has been selected for the award in the past three years. Sears uses over 11,000 manufacturers. ●



Sears Simplifies Fitness

Responding to a trend toward using fitness equipment in the home, Sears has introduced a 32 page "Get Fit" insert in its 1984 Fall/Winter general catalog. The catalog-within-a-catalog suits virtually any exercise regime, whether it's geared toward cardiovascular benefits or improved strength and flexibility.

National brands are featured, along with the company's own exercise equipment. Among the brand names offered are DP Industries, York, Huffy, Vitamaster, and Nautilus. Jane Fonda and Arnold Schwarzenegger workout tapes will also be offered in the Sears catalog.

Universal Offers Free Weight Power Rack

Universal Gym Equipment's free weight line includes two models of the Power Rack. One is a free-standing model and the other has base supports which permanently attach it to the floor.

This piece of equipment was designed to accommodate standard power rack lifting movements as well as free lifting. There is enough room between front and back uprights to allow the user to perform cleans, snatches, leg squats, shoulder/chest presses and other exercises with the safety of key bars. The frame has 25 key lock holes 3" apart for a full range of height adjustment.

Outside lifting hooks and one set of key bars are included. Optional equipment available: chin-up bar, additional key bars, and padded bench. Space requirements: 4' x 4' x 99" high.

Write or call toll free: Universal Gym Equipment, Inc. P.O. Box 1270 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406 800-553-7901



Cambrelle Introduces Shoe Linings

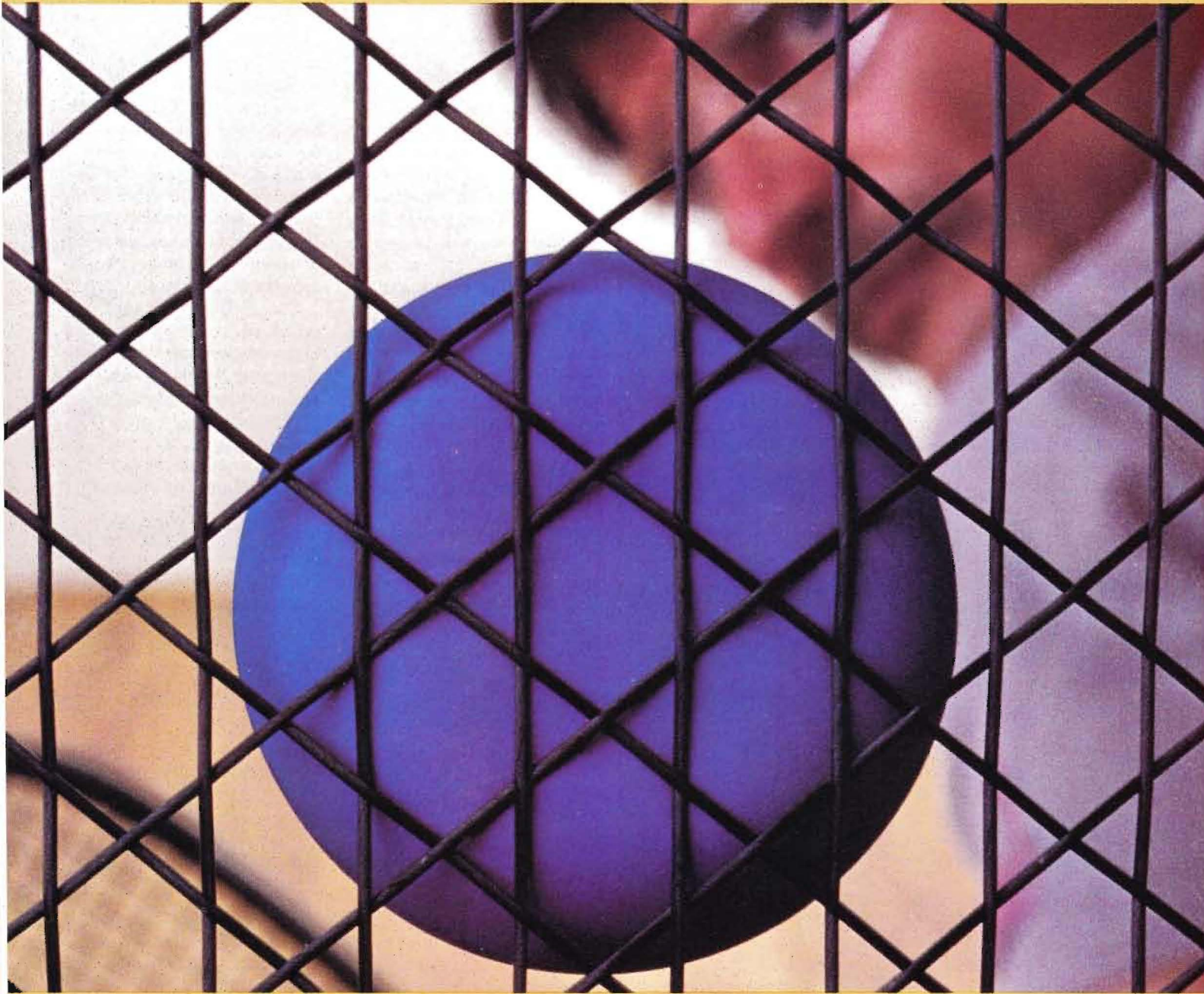
Most consumers don't think to look inside the shoe for factors that affect foot comfort. Yet the type of lining in a shoe determines how much perspiration is absorbed, how cool feet will feel in the summer or how warm in the winter. Mr. William Fay, Sr., of the Faytex Corporation would like to make you aware of his product which is found in Adidas, Foot-Joy, New Balance, Nike and Hyde shoes to name

just a few.

"The Cambrelle lining will last as long as any shoe," explains Mr. Fay, "and it resists odor, rot, mildew and bacteria. In addition, Cambrelle will dry out in just four hours if soaked with perspiration, whereas leather will remain wet for days under the same conditions."

For more information about Cambrelle, contact: William Fay, Sr. Faytex Corporation 617-848-4605 ●

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



Titanium Star 1000 Alpha 1000 Excalibur Olympic 1 Galaxy 100G Astro Boomer II Laser

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

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

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

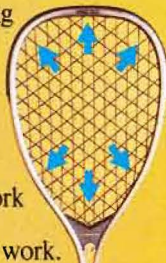
Six strings give greater ball bite and bite time than four strings.

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



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

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



Mad Raq gives you a larger "sweet spot" and "power zone."

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



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

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

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

OMEGA

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

DOUG GANIM WINS 1984 JUNIOR NATIONAL CROWN

*Reprinted from The Flint Journal
by Bill Khan*

What was once a joke between two friends became serious business Wednesday in the U.S. National Junior Racquetball Championships at Davison Racquet Club.

Doug Ganim of Solon, Ohio, and Hugh Klein of Pittsburgh took center stage in the boys' 18-and-under finals, no small feat considering neither was expected to last that long.

Both players appeared tentative in the limelight, but Ganim took control by breaking open two close games to win 15-10, 15-6.

Ganim was also victorious in doubles play, teaming Tuesday with Jim Leone for the title.

In the girls' 18-and-under final, Pennsylvania took home a title on Toni Bevelock's easy 15-4, 15-1 victory over Arizona's Becky Rush.

California, with six champions and two runners-up, was the top team with 136 points. New York was second with 118.

Ganim and Klein had kidded each other about the prospect of facing each other in the finals.

That was good for a few laughs. Klein was seeded eighth, while Ganim was third and it would take some upsets for them to meet.

Those upsets happened when Klein toppled the No. 1 seed in the quarterfinals and Ganim knocked off the No. 2. seed in the semis.

"We're both real happy," said Ganim, a three-time Ohio champion. "We've been friends for a while and we were talking about meeting in the finals. . . jokingly. We figured there was an outside chance that maybe one of us might make it, but not both of us."

The twosome played close until about the halfway point in both games. Winning 8-7, Ganim took charge in the first game by reeling off four straight points. Klein got within two, but Ganim scored the final three points.

In the second game, Ganim led 6-5 before outscoring his opponent 9-1 the rest of the way, including the final six

points.

"Neither one of us was quite putting the ball down like we wanted, which means we were hitting a lot high on the wall and that made for longer rallies," Ganim said. "As the match went on I got less nervous and got shorter rallies."

Bevelock received little pressure, as she became the top girls' junior player.

Her opponent, Rush, reportedly had the flu, and left the court early in the second game because of a stomach ache. She returned to finish.

Bevelock trailed 1-0 in the first game, but ran off 12 straight points. In the second game, she led 2-1 but scored the last 13 points.

Although it was apparent Rush was ill, Bevelock didn't let up.

"I've seen her play before and she's a tough player, so I didn't think about it," Bevelock said. "I just wanted to play real hard and play as good as I could."

Bevelock finished second in the intercollegiate tournament for Memphis State, which won the team title. Racquetball is not an NCAA sport.

Results of Finals

Boys' 18 singles: Doug Ganim (Ohio) d. Hugh Klein (Pa.) 15-10, 15-6.

Boys' 18 doubles: Doug Ganim-Jim Leone (Ohio) d. Tom Coleman-Scott St. Onge (Mass.) 15-12, 15-9.

Boys' 16 singles: Mike Lowe (Calif.) d. Jim Juron (N.Y.) 11-15, 15-8, 15-7.

Boys' 16 doubles: Gregg Borgas-Mike Griffith d. Henry Martiniez-Matt Rudich (Nev.) 8-15, 16-14, 15-9.

Girls' 18 singles: Toni Bevelock (Pa.) d. Becky Rush (Ariz.) 15-4, 15-1.

Girls' 18 doubles: Elaine Maras-Rina Pritchett (Ohio) d. Julie Ginsberg-Becky Rush 15-12, 16-14.

Girls' 16 singles: Elaine Mardas (Ohio) d. Michelle Gilman (ore.) 15-10, 15-5.

Girls' 16 doubles: Michelle Morrow-Kelly Pulis (Calif.) d. Nancy Leurent-Laure Wade 15-10, 15-8.

Team scoring: California 136, New York 118, Ohio 89, Florida 67, Massachusetts 58, Pacific Northwest (Canada) 50, Pennsylvania 40, Colorado 25, Indiana 22, Illinois 22, New York "B" 6, Arizona 5, New York "D" 2, New York "C" 1.



INTERVIEW:

Caryn McKinney

The WPRAs new president is also pro- racquetball's only playing lawyer

Caryn McKinney, of Atlanta, Georgia, is currently the eighth-ranked women's professional, and was recently elected as the new president of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRAs).

Caryn is something of an anomaly in professional racquetball. While most pro players have sacrificed a college education in order to pursue their careers, Caryn didn't even discover racquetball until her first year of law school in 1979. She joined the women's tour in 1981, and for eighteen months was able to maintain simultaneous careers as a professional athlete and a law student.

She graduated from Woodrow Wilson College of Law in Atlanta in 1981, the top student and valedictorian of her class. She is currently licensed to practice law in the state of Georgia, and does so on a part-time basis.

While Caryn was earning honors in law school, she also became known as one of the fastest rising stars of the women's game. She finished her rookie season ranked #16, then jumped to #12 in 1983, and finished this past season in the #8 position.

McKinney had a number of strong finishes during the 1983-84 season, but the most memorable was certainly her near-upset of Heather McKay at the WPRAs Nationals in Ft. Worth. In that quarterfinal match Caryn pushed the national champion to the very limit, finally losing in a thrilling tie-breaker, 19-17.

Caryn currently divides her time between her legal work, the pro tour, leading the WPRAs, and making appearances for her sponsor, Diversified Products.

She is married to Bob McKinney, also a lawyer and a vice president of Days Inns of America.

We interviewed Caryn following the DP Nationals in Atlanta, where she par-



"There was only one time that I almost missed a tournament because of a divorce case. We managed to wind it up a day before the tournament. That was cutting it close."

icipated and also served as tournament director.

How did you get started in racquetball?

I got involved when I was in law school. In college and high school I had been active in basketball, swimming, and gymnastics, and I was looking for something that could give me a good workout. So when they built the Sporting Club in November of '78 my husband and I joined, primarily to play tennis because that was the sport I knew. Then I started playing racquetball because of my schedule in law school—it was something I could work on alone if I didn't have anybody to play with. Besides, it just fascinated me.

We had a little club tournament about a month later and I won that, and then did well in the regionals. It was something I did well. I just enjoyed it and kept working at it.

Why did you decide to go to law school?

It was something I always dreamed about when I was in high school. Then in college I got into physical therapy, and by the time I realized that I was going to be bored with that the only logical thing to do was go three years to law school, because of the courses I'd already taken. I'm really glad now that I went, because I find that I use what I learned there in almost everything I do.

Have you ever practiced law full-time?

No. By the time I passed the bar exam in the summer of '81 I had already been on the pro tour for a year-and-a-half. I started to do a significant amount of legal work, but I realized that my racquetball was really important to me. I knew I could be successful at it, and I felt I couldn't quit because if I didn't put the time into it I'd never know how good I could be.

So it worked out that I was taking clients and cases that wouldn't take the flexibility out of my schedule. That meant

I couldn't really get involved in any litigation.

Has it been difficult juggling the two careers?

There was only one time that I almost missed a tournament because of a divorce case, but we managed to wind it up the day before I left. That was the only time I cut it close. But because of that, I went into partnership with a friend of mine and now all the cases that I can't handle I refer to him. It's worked out really well.

Do you think you'll ever practice law full-time?

To be honest, I really don't think I ever will. Even when I decided to go to law school I never thought I would. But, like I said earlier, once you have that training you find yourself always using it. Particularly since I've become so involved in racquetball with events like this (DP Nationals in Atlanta) and my own contract negotiations. I like to think that racquetball will be good enough to me that I won't ever have to turn to law full-time. Right now my playing is my priority, and the things that I do for (my sponsor) DP.

What is it you like so much about professional racquetball?

It's a lot of things. I remember thinking as I was growing up how great it would be to make a living playing a sport—you know, getting paid to sweat. When I found racquetball, the opportunity was there. I love to travel. I enjoy the social part—I have a lot of friends on the tour. And, I love the competition. If I didn't have racquetball, I'm sure I'd be competing at something else.

Do you enjoy the politics of the sport?

Well, it's something I've sort of grown into. There are politics everywhere. It sometimes amazes me how difficult it is for people to work together. And it's not because anybody's right or wrong, it's just that people have very definite beliefs about things. I think it's a real challenge to try to satisfy as many people and take care of as many needs as you can, and still do something good for the future of the sport. In racquetball we're really still laying the groundwork. And, yeah, it kind of fascinates me to be involved with that.

What are your personal aspirations in the sport?

I've always believed that I can accomplish anything I want to do. The only decision for me is whether I want to put the necessary work into it. I think I've



That match with Heather... that hurt for a long time. I was okay for a while, but when I got home, it was rough. It's so easy to sit back and say 'What if?'



made good progress. After my first year I was 16th, last season I was 12th, and this year 8th.

I believe that I can be number one. I have to believe that. If I go in against Lynn or Heather and don't think I can win then I've already lost.

How do you feel about your game now?

My game has come a long way in the last twelve months. My court sense is rapidly improving, and some of the variety I've been trying to put into my game has been paying off. I did a lot of new things this year, worked with a few people and changed a few things.

I know I don't have the speed or quickness of a Terri Gilreath, but I think I play smarter than a lot of players. I think my strength is my consistency, within a given match and from one match to the next.

My game really took a big jump around October of last year—I had a couple of real good tournaments in Auburn and Plymouth. Then I took another jump in April or May of this year. That was obvious to me in that match with Heather in Ft. Worth.

Yes, that was quite a match.

That match with Heather—that was one of the worst losses I've ever had. I'd never taken a game off her. She usually goes through a whole tournament only losing a game or so. And I know that Heather didn't play that great in that match. But I also know I was doing a lot of things that were putting pressure on her and caused a lot of those mistakes. I was serving great, and that makes a big difference.

Was that a difficult loss for you?

Yeah. . . that hurt for a long time. I was okay for a while, but when I got home it was rough. It's so easy to sit back and say "What if." If I had beaten Heather in that match, that would have been the story of the tournament. And, there was a significant amount of money involved in winning or losing that match, both in prize money and bonuses. It would have been great to beat Heather. But, I didn't win so now it doesn't make any difference.

How do you feel about the future of women's professional racquetball?

I feel good about it. I think things have really come together over the last couple of years. We've put a lot of effort into not just the tour but all the little things that make an organization professional; the rules, the handbook, the dress code, the

ethics and conduct. So now we really have some consistency from tournament to tournament. And when you're playing for a living, like a lot of us are, there's a lot of security knowing what's going to happen when you go to a tournament.

Women's pro racquetball is going to grow slowly, and that's what we're going to have to be content with. That's hard. All of us who are here right now see everything coming together, but it never really comes quite fast enough. We all want to win yesterday.

So I feel good about it. But I don't really believe that in my career it will be feasible to make any really significant amount of money in just prize money alone.

In terms of popularity, how do you think the women's game compares to the men's?

I think the women's game is becoming more and more marketable. I don't realistically think it will ever be as marketable or as easy to sell as the men's game, because people are so amazed—I'm amazed—at the speed and quickness and the power involved in the men's game. But, in general quality of play—executing and putting the ball away—I think the women's game is superior. It's a lot like the difference in tennis; the men don't always have to put the ball away because they're hitting it so hard. Often they don't get any chance to set up, so it's really a different game.

How does the coming season look for the women?

In general terms this season looks good. It looks like we're going to have three stops in the fall before we even start talking about new stops. Then we have the Ektelon and DP tournaments, and our nationals in Ft. Worth. That's the nice thing; we know we're going to Ft. Worth, and we know the prize money is going to go up each year, and they really do an incredible job staging that tournament.

How do you feel about the RMA (Racquetball Manufacturers Association), and their apparent decision to not include the women in their plans for a pro tour?

I think that what the manufacturers are doing is necessary because the professional end of any sport is one of the prime vehicles for the manufacturers to promote their product. In terms of what they're doing for the men, they really have to do it because the men are not going to do it for themselves; there are just too many egos.



Caryn McKinney directs a WPRA players' meeting

A year ago I didn't think anybody was coming up in the pro ranks. But we all feel real good about the crop that's coming up. It's nice to feel pressure from the bottom.

Playing Lynn Adams in Atlanta



I don't disagree with them on that.

At the same time, I think the women are as good a marketing tool as the men, but in a different way. The women have things in perspective. We don't expect to be able to go into a club and play and leave, and just make money. We realize what we have to do to get invited back; to promote and maintain growth within that club.

It's hard for the women to sit here and know all the work we've put in for the sport, and for the sponsors who have supported us, and not be involved. It's a slap in the face. It's like we are being penalized because we've done a good job organizing ourselves. We would like to think that at some point in the future that the RMA might recognize and support us, even if it's only for one tournament. We don't even know, at this point, if we're in the back of their minds—if they even care about us. I know DP cares about the women or they wouldn't be putting the kind of money they do into their sponsored players. I would just like to think that at some point we'll be included in what the manufacturers are doing.

What do you think of some of the young talent coming up on the women's tour?

I'll be honest with you; a year ago I didn't think anybody was coming up in the pro ranks. The last good year of rookies, I thought, was 1981 when Terri Gilreath, Brenda Poe, Diane Bullard, Stacy Fletcher and I came into the game. This year we have a group like that. Molly O'Brien and Marci Lynch are full-fledged pros. They can beat anybody. And there are others; Cathy Gluvna is very talented. And I don't even want to talk about Marcy Drexler. We all know that Marcy is a great player. She's got so much talent she doesn't know what to do with it—she's finding it in her luggage in the morning!

But we all feel real good about the crop that's coming up. It's nice to feel pressure from the bottom.

What kind of life do you have off the racquetball court?

Well, I'm kind of a workaholic. I don't really do much else. I like to do anything athletic or active. I don't cook much; Bob's a better cook than I am. I do enjoy reading to relax. But I just really like a busy lifestyle.

DuBiOus ACHiEvEmEnT AWARDS

Our Salute To The Less-Serious Side Of Racquetball

As we've traveled around the country reporting the news of racquetball over the last 18 months, we've seen a lot of amusing things take place that somehow just didn't seem to fit into our regular editorial coverage. So, in recognition of the fact that all of us sometimes take ourselves too seriously, we are pleased to present our first series of Dubious Achievement Awards for the sport of racquetball.



I mean, really, how big can Michigan be? The **Thrift-in-Travel Award** went to Brian Hawkes and Bill Sell who, when traveling to the men's pro stop in Davison, wisely decided to save themselves the outrageous expense of the commuter flight by taking a taxi from Detroit. Cab fare—\$83.00. Fortunately, the Davison Racquet Club has the nicest lawn for camping you could imagine.



To be honest, you weren't all that great for 18. The **Best Comeback Line of the Year** to Marty Hogan. After thrashing surprise finalist Scott Oliver at the Beaverton tournament, Hogan tried to put his opponent in the best possible light by saying during the awards ceremony, "He's only 18, he's got a lot of time." After being informed by Oliver that he was actually 21, Hogan said, "Oh, you don't really have all that much time then."



Please don't confuse me with the rules. The **Creative Refereeing Award** to the any-



mous referee of an amateur match who made the rather surprising call of "screen serve" on a serve that landed two feet in front of the short line. When the stunned receiving player turned around to inform the referee that the serve was somewhat short he was informed from above that while that may have indeed been true, "It was a screen before it was short."



Doesn't he know it's improper to take the name of an endangered species in vain? The **Don Rickles Two-Bit Insult Award** to Rich Wagner for his expression of displeasure over his

linesman's calls. At one point in his match with Marty Hogan at the 1983 Ektelon Nationals, Wagner stormed off the court, glared at linesman Brian Hawkes and declared, "You are abysmal!" Hawkes looked around in obvious distress with an expression that seemed to ask, "I'm a what?"

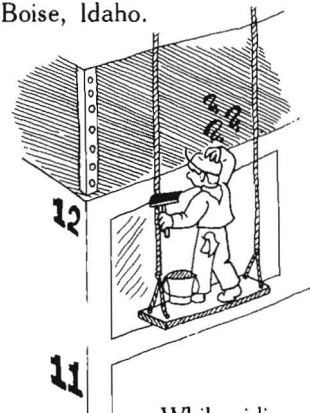


What do you mean this isn't covered in the rule book? The **Weirdest Beginning to a Match Award** to the referee who was assigned to the quarterfinal match in Atlanta between Caryn McKinney and Bonnie Stoll. After taking care of all the pre-

match business with the players, he flipped a quarter into the air to determine serve only to watch in dismay as it rolled around and around the court and finally came to rest... still standing on edge.



Boy that must be tough on the window washers, huh? The **Small Town Boy in a Big City Award** to John Egerman, of Boise, Idaho.



While riding up the elevator to his room at the Downtown Sheraton during the pro stop in Toronto, Egerman noticed that there was no button for the 13th floor. Someone in the elevator explained to him that the 13th level is often eliminated in tall buildings because of superstition. Obviously appalled by such a ridiculous waste of precious space, Egerman exclaimed, "The whole 13th floor?"



You say your name is Dr. Who? The **Guttiest Call of the Year Award** can only go to the nameless referee at the 1984 AARA Nationals in Houston who was blessed with the job of officiating the early round match of Dr. Bud Muehleisen, perhaps



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the winningest racquetball player of all time. After an extremely tight match, with the score tied at 10-all in the eleven point tie-breaker, the referee ended the match by calling an avoidable hinder on Muehleisen. Ah well, so much for tradition.



This guy may need Dr. Who when the crowd gets through with him. The **Gutless Call of the Century Award** to Dan Bertolucci for perhaps the most infamous and debated call of all time in the semifinal match between Dave Peck and Mike Yellen at the 1983 Ektelon Nationals. With Peck serving for match at 10-all in the fifth game, and a shot at the national championship on the line, Yellen jammed himself with his own shot taking Peck out of the play. Bertolucci called a hinder. Yellen, of course, came back to win the match. While the correct call is still a matter of personal opinion, nearly everyone agrees that under any other circumstances Bertolucci would have called an avoidable. That single call opened the door for Mike Yellen, and the rest, as they say, is history.



The next time I play this well I'm going to wear more padding. The **Dented Derriere Award** to Lynn Adams for her embarrassing display during a semifinal match with Marcy Drexler in Atlanta. In front of a packed house on the exhibition court at The Sporting Club, Lynn got so excited about a particularly good kill shot that she jumped high into the air. . . and landed soundly on her rear in center court.



And I say this with all due respect. The 1984 Louis Farakhan Memorial **Media Relations Award** to Marty Hogan who, while speaking to a group of fans in Beaverton, Oregon, commented on a recent article critical of pro racquetball players by saying of its author, "If I could just get that guy, I would just beat the living hell out of him without any problem at all!"



Doesn't it say something in my contract about a maid? The coveted Fred Sanford Memorial **Neatness-in-Travel Award** to Lynn Adams whose legendary hotel rooms have been occasionally condemned by local

authorities. One woman pro who witnessed Lynn's handiwork at the plush Lanier Plaza in Atlanta suggested that, while a maid would certainly be helpful, a backhoe might be more appropriate.



And if you'd like, I can call a doctor. The **Understatement of the Year Award** to Ruben Gonzalez for his somewhat kind assessment of Mike Yellen's near-disaster in the 16's at the DP Nationals in Atlanta where Yellen was defending his national championship. After playing 20 minutes of pure catatonic racquetball and being totally thrashed by fourteenth-ranked Mike Levine in the first two games of the match, Yellen stomped out of the court only to be greeted by Ruben who casually observed, "Gee, Mike, you look a little sluggish out there."

Also, I do occasionally enjoy picking daisies. The Barbara Walters **Personal Revelation of the Year Award** to women's national champion Heather McKay, who is known to most as one of the fiercest competitors in the game. During a recent interview Heather made the somewhat surprising statement that her favorite non-racquetball activities are knitting and cooking a nice roast on Sunday afternoon. No offense, Heather, but somehow trying to imagine you wearing an apron is like trying to picture Martina Navratilova in curlers.



Excuse me, would you mind playing normally for a few minutes? The **Nickname of the Year Award** to Heather Stupp for her assessment of Jim Carson's tennis game after a brief match in Ft. Worth. Referring to Carson's myriad of slices and chops, a frustrated Stupp dubbed her unorthodox opponent the "delicatessen man."



Not only that, it's just the tip of the surface! This year's **Mixed Metaphor Award** to men's pro Kyle Kamalu, who got so excited one day talking about the potential benefits of a players' association that he exulted, "Yeah, and that's just scratching the iceberg!"



It may be obvious to you, but remember I'm dealing with an advertiser here. The **You Can Never Make Yourself Too Clear Award** to Jason Holloman, managing editor of International Racquetball, for his tireless efforts to communicate facts clearly to ad agencies. One day he was overheard in his office describing the demographics of the sport to a potential advertiser by saying, "About sixty percent of the people who play racquetball are men. . . the rest, of course, are women."



That's one guy who didn't clean up in his match! The **Look At Me Now. . . Please, Award** to the amateur player at the Ektelon Nationals who was apparently upset that everyone was over at the exhibition court watching the pros. After one particularly frustrating shot he sprinted full-speed from the front wall, lifted his foot to plant it high on the back wall, and flew through the glass viewing window into the hallway.

Oh sure, but anybody can do it the easy way. The **Most Creative Gameplan Award** to Gregg Peck, who is usually regarded as one of the game's smarter players. In his semifinal match against Mike Yellen at the DP Nationals, a player Gregg has beaten in the past, Peck was either coached or decided on his own, for some unexplainable reason, to play the entire match to Yellen's backhand, a shot most players avoid like the plague. A delighted Yellen dispatched the young Peck in about twenty minutes, 11-7, 11-2, 11-3. Commenting later on Gregg's unusual strategy, Mike said, "I appreciated it."



It wasn't the business part we were questioning. This year's **Overkill of the Obvious Award** is a special group award and goes to all of the professional men, most of whom, at one time or another, have attempted to explain their amazing inability to form a players' association by saying, "Look, we're racquetball players, not businessmen." Oh, really? By special request, this award will be presented at a separate time and location for each player so that no two of them will be forced to be in one room at the same time.



And then I want to talk about the color of the walls. The **Most Inventive Appeal Award** to the anonymous amateur player

who became so frustrated with his losing effort that he decided to try the long trusted strategy of appealing every call to the linesmen. Unfortunately, his lack of experience with the technique was exposed when at one point he turned around and, quite seriously, appealed the score.



And may I say how very disappointed I was when your fine TV series was cancelled. The **I'm New Around Here Award** to Greg Eveland of Diversified Products who, shortly after taking over the pro player program for DP, met one of his players for the first time at the 1983 Ektelon Nationals in Anaheim. "Ah, yes, Lindsay Wagner," Greg said as he introduced himself. "No," replied the player, "Lindsay Wagner is the Bionic Woman; I'm Lindsay Myers."



You may be a big shot in pro racquetball, but. . . The **Andrew Carnegie Public Speaking Award** to Devri Sharp, the tournament director for the Portland pro stop, who dazzled the large crowd at the Griffith

Park Athletic Club by presenting Marty Hogan with his first place prize during the awards ceremony in front of local television cameras with this glowing accolade: "Here's your check, Marty."



Pardon us, but we're right in the middle of efficiency week. The **It's Never Too Late for Safety Award** goes to the Dekalb County Fire Department for their extreme concern over the well-being of the overflow crowd watching the final of the 1983 DP Nationals in Atlanta. After three-and-a-half hours of grueling play by Mike Yellen and Marty Hogan, and just moments before Yellen was ready to cap the most spectacular upset in racquetball history, the Dakalb boys moved in and halted play for twenty minutes until the stairs and corridors were cleared, thus taking care of a situation that had existed for seven full days. If it hadn't been for Cal James we'd all still be there.



Those who can't do, write for a living. Finally, this year's **Egg on the Face Award** to Drew Stoddard, editor of International Racquetball for his on-court performance in Atlanta. Figuring it was time to get his playing career (?) back on track, Drew decided to enter the 30+ division at the DP Nationals, because, really, how tough can that be? Not only did our editor lose, he got the donut in the second game.



THE LONG-AWAITED BOOM HAS BEGUN

JAPAN



For the last few years, there has been a lot of discussion in racquetball critics about the pending boom of racquetball in Japan. The Japanese, so the experts have said, are perfect for racquetball, or perhaps the other way around. They have the perfect body type to play the game, a drastic shortage of land, and they have a habit of falling in love with American games.

It appears that the Japanese explosion has begun. And few Americans are as aware or involved with the growth of racquetball in Japan as Ed Martin.

Martin is the president of Spare Time, Inc., a company in Sacramento, CA, which specializes in the construction, management and promotion of full service sports facilities. Spare Time owns and operates six clubs in Northern California and Nevada, and holds management contracts on a number of others, including clubs outside the United States.

Martin's reputation in the racquetball industry is such that when one group of Japanese businessmen decided to build a group of clubs in Nagoya, they came to the United States to seek his advice. Suddenly, Martin has found himself in the middle of an international racquetball phenomenon that makes the 1970's boom in the United States look slow by comparison.

Ed recently traveled to Nagoya for the grand opening ceremonies of the first of four clubs he has helped develop.

"We're working as consultants with a



Ed Martin and Mo Nard teaching the fundamentals to Japanese juniors

company called Kanco in Nagoya," Martin explains. "The population there is about 2 million, and until now they've had one racquetball court. Kanco has just finished construction of their first six-court facility, and they're now preparing to put up three more in the next 24 months."

"What we are actually involved with is the marketing, sales, management, and training of their people. We had six of their staff in the U.S. for four months training them at our facilities, and they're back in Nagoya now running the first club."

The numbers involved are staggering.

"They have about 30 clubs now, but they're putting up new ones at a rate of nearly one per month, countrywide. The particular group we're working with had preliminary applications signed for almost 3,000 people before they even opened the doors," Martin explained. "The situation is just incredible. These people are having to reserve courts for 30 minutes three weeks in advance, just to play racquetball."

The first club, which was just completed, is a lavish facility called the Sun-

Mastering the forehand



Japanese women watch the play on the exhibition court



pal Sports Connection, and boasts six courts (five of which have glass walls), full Nautilus and aerobics rooms.

"They build them straight up," says Martin, "because land is really scarce. It's one of the reasons they've really taken to racquetball. All American sports have been successful there, but tennis, golf, and baseball just take too much land. You can put six racquetball courts in the space of one tennis court, and you can go up as high as you need to."

Martin says that in working with the Japanese he has discovered one of the reasons why they are so successful at everything they do.

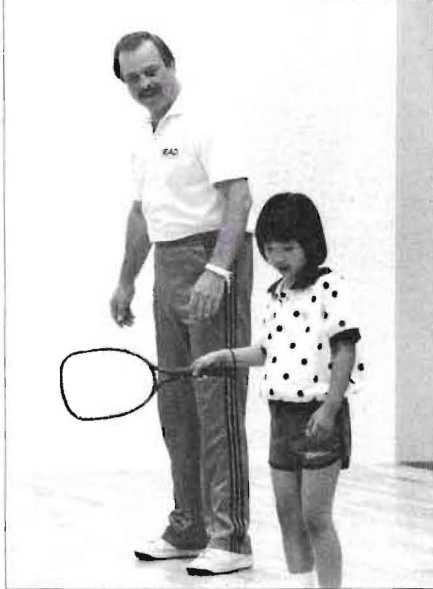
"I think what impresses me most about the Japanese is that they understand, more than anyone I've ever worked with, the value of experience. Everybody says they are great copiers, but I don't think that's exactly right. They say 'why should I beat my head against the wall when I can find someone who's already been down the road and pay them for their knowledge?'"

One of the areas Martin has stressed early to the Japanese is the importance of working with juniors.

"We told them early on that they needed junior players; that you have to fertilize before you can harvest. That's a principle that American club owners refused to understand for many years, and some still do. The Japanese are now looking at our experience and saying 'the Americans made the mistake for 8 years of not working with the juniors and building a base for the sport to grow.' They're not going to do that."

Martin also sees another reason for the Japanese embracing junior racquetball.

"You know, everyone in the U.S. talks about stress. The Japanese have the highest suicide rate among children under 18 of anyone in the world. They put an awful lot of pressure on their children. A



Ed Martin watches the progress

The situation is just incredible. These people are having to reserve courts for 30 minutes three weeks in advance, just to play racquetball.

university degree is mandatory, and in grammar school they have a testing process that decides who will get into which university. In fact, I think they've gone a little overboard. But they really feel, and we agree, that racquetball will be the perfect vehicle for helping to relieve that stress in their young people."

During his recent trip to Japan, Martin took along Mo Nard to help get the junior program started. Mo is an AARA regional director for junior racquetball, and is in charge of all junior programs at Spare Time's own clubs. She is also the coach of the national champion Northern Califor-

nia junior team.

Nard will soon return to Nagoya for a period of three months, where she will live while helping to establish junior leagues and competition throughout the Nagoya area. Current plans call for certain members of the U.S. team to travel to Japan following her trip there.

"We've already started working with the Japanese Amateur Racquetball Association (JARA), one of the best organized groups of its kind in the world," says Martin. "We're setting up junior racquetball teams, and we're working on a junior nationals and other competition."

Martin, who is also the coach of the United States team and is on the board of directors of the AARA, recently had a chance to watch the Japanese team compete at the World Games in Sacramento. He was impressed.

"They were really quite weak a couple of years ago, but they've done remarkably well here. Their women took third place, and they did that without their top player (who had to pull out because of injuries). They're going to be very tough in 1986. They have two years to go back and work, and they have a habit, as everyone knows, of picking things up real fast."

Ed Martin is not the only American who has been caught up in the sudden Japanese surge. Other well-known consultants have been tapped for their expertise, such as Dr. Bud Muehleisen of San Diego, who is currently doing a great deal of work with clubs in Tokyo.

Many of the experts in racquetball have had their eye on Japan over the last couple of years watching for clues that the impending boom was underway. The racquetball industry has been excited, and the American players nervous.

No need to wait anymore. The fuse has been lit, and the Japanese racquetball boom has begun. ●

The staff of the Sunpal Sports Connection



Junior instructor Mo Nard





19 PLAYER

MEN'S AWARDS

MIKE YELLEN Player of the Year

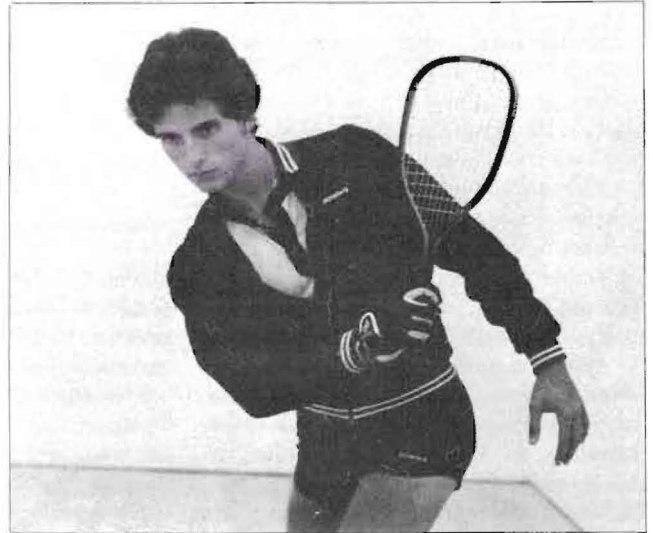


When Mike Yellen beat Marty Hogan to win the 1983 national championship, there were many in the sport who believed it was an accomplishment he could never repeat. That he did is one of the great stories of racquetball history, and it is a testament to the incredible skill and tenacity he has amassed in his career as a racquetball professional, which has now spanned a full decade.

Mike's 1983-84 season was admittedly not a perfect one. He suffered stinging early-round defeats in Beaverton and Anaheim. But just as he did last year, Yellen shined when the chips were down. With everything on the line, he beat Hogan again in the final of the season's last tournament in Atlanta to hold his place as the world's greatest player.

There is no way to overstate the impact Mike Yellen is having on the sport of racquetball. In 1983 he singlehandedly brought the era of power racquetball to an abrupt end. In 1984 he continued to establish the age of the intelligent player by combining the best parts of every gamestyle. There now seems little doubt that future generations will recognize that this was the man who first defined how the sport of racquetball is most effectively played.

GERRY PRICE Most Improved Player



Although Gerry Price has been playing professional tournaments for a couple of years, the 1983-84 season was his first as a full-time touring pro. After ending last season with a ranking of 13 in the Catalina rankings, which in itself is impressive considering he was not allowed to play in most Catalina events, Gerry boosted his ranking this year to 8th on the strength of victories over many of the biggest names in the sport.

Like Yellen, Price had his bad moments (32's in Atlanta and Pleasanton). But when he played well, he was amazing. In Beaverton he handed Mike Yellen his worst defeat in a year. He then put together his best finish ever in Austin, where he upset Hogan (Marty's only loss of the season to a player outside the top four), and manhandled Harnett before losing to Dave Peck in the final.

Since he was very young, Gerry Price has been touted as a future world champion. Like most rookies he has problems with his consistency. But this season he showed for the first time that he does indeed have what it takes to rise to the top.

Photo by Kurt Burton

84

AWARDS



WOMEN'S AWARDS

HEATHER MCKAY Player of the Year



The 1983-84 professional season will go down as another remarkable chapter in the remarkable career of Canadian Heather McKay. After being dethroned as the women's professional champion in 1982 and 1983 by Lynn Adams, Heather stormed back to the top this season by winning four ranking tournaments and beating Adams four of the six times they met, including the Ektelon and WPRAs nationals.

Much has been made recently of McKay's age (she turned 43 in July), and Heather herself has talked of retiring after next season. But what was truly amazing about her performance this year was how fit she seemed—not just for 43 but for any age. In her most difficult matches she never appeared tired. She still looks like she can go forever.

Heather McKay is recognized by the world as one of the great athletes of this generation. She is the consummate competitor and could succeed at any sport she tried. What an honor it is for us all that she has chosen racquetball as her showcase.

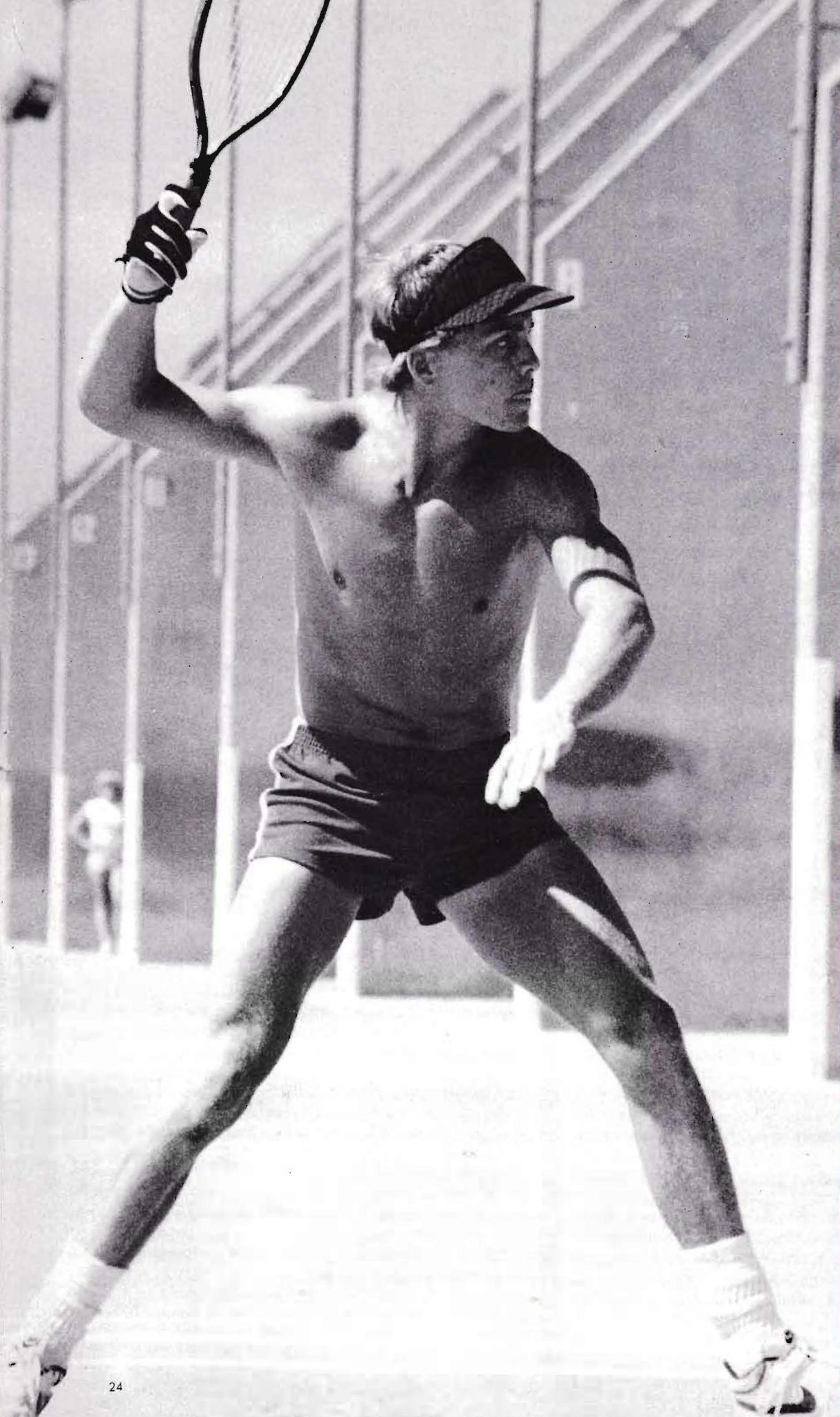
CARYN MCKINNEY Most Improved Player



Caryn McKinney has made a steady climb up the WPRAs rankings since she began her professional career in 1981 (16th in 1982, 11th in 1983) but this season marked her debut as a real force in the women's game. On the heels of a number of strong finishes she ended the season with a ranking of #8.

Most impressive of Caryn's accomplishments were her showings against Lynn Adams and Heather McKay, the game's undisputed top two women players. At the second stop of the year, in Auburn, MA, she narrowly lost to Adams in the first round, then came back to earn her first ranking-stop final in Plymouth the following month. At the final stop of the season, the WPRAs nationals in Ft. Worth, McKinney came extremely close to handing McKay the worst defeat of her pro career, taking the champion to five full games in the quarterfinals before losing 19-17. Many agree it was the most memorable match of the season.

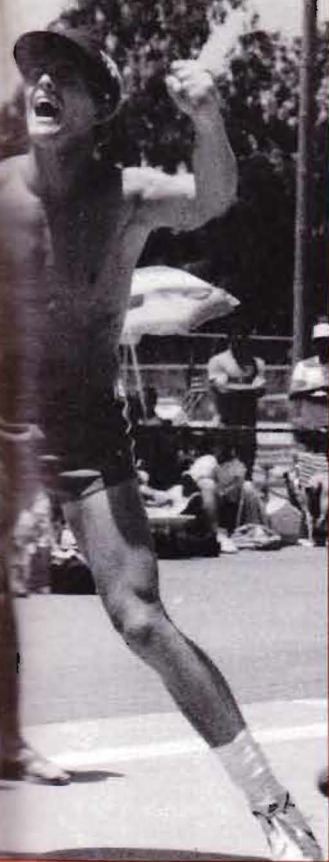
There is little question that Caryn McKinney is about to become one of the top players in the women's game. She has the consistency, the talent, and the desire to do it.



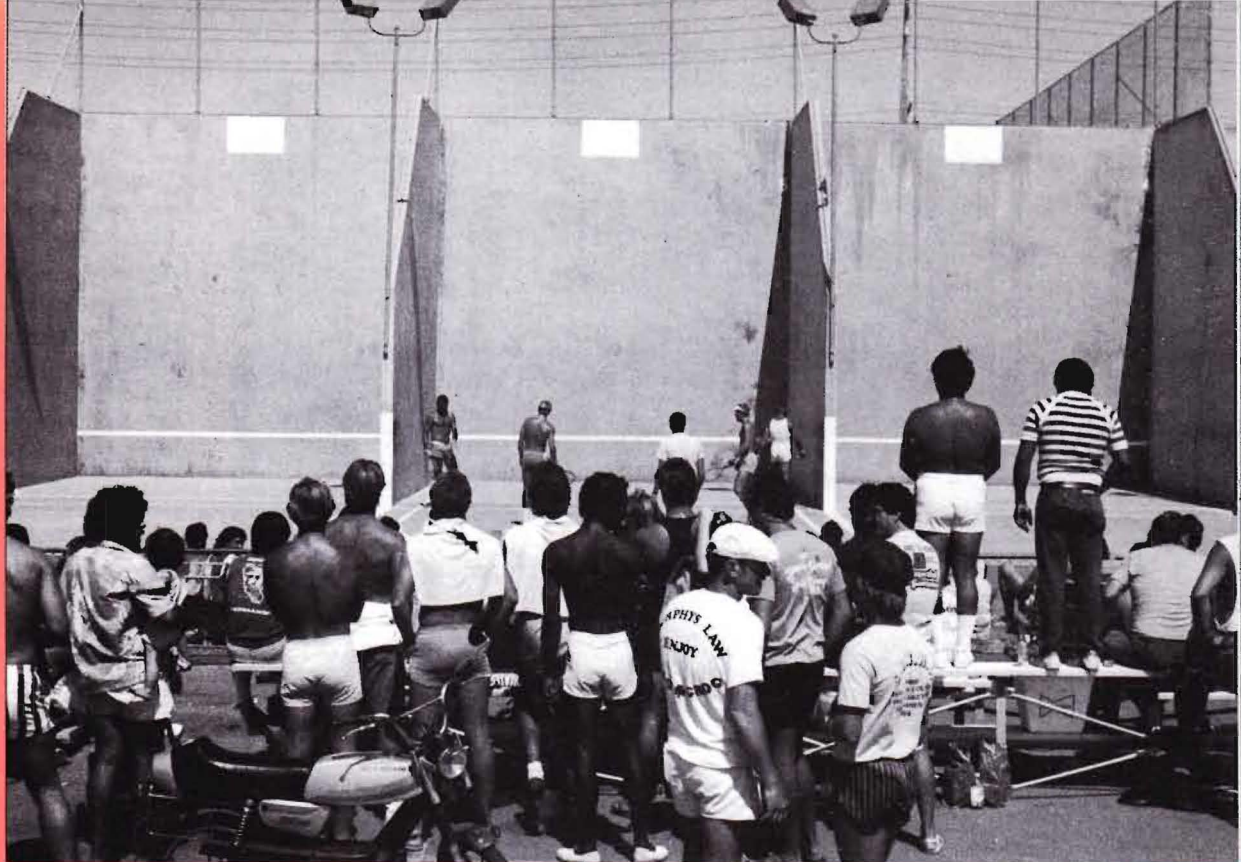
Brian Hawkes following his

1984 OUT NAT

BRIAN HAWKES
LYNN ADAMS
CONTINUE THEIR
AWESOME
DOMINATION OF
3 WALL GAME



over Southern



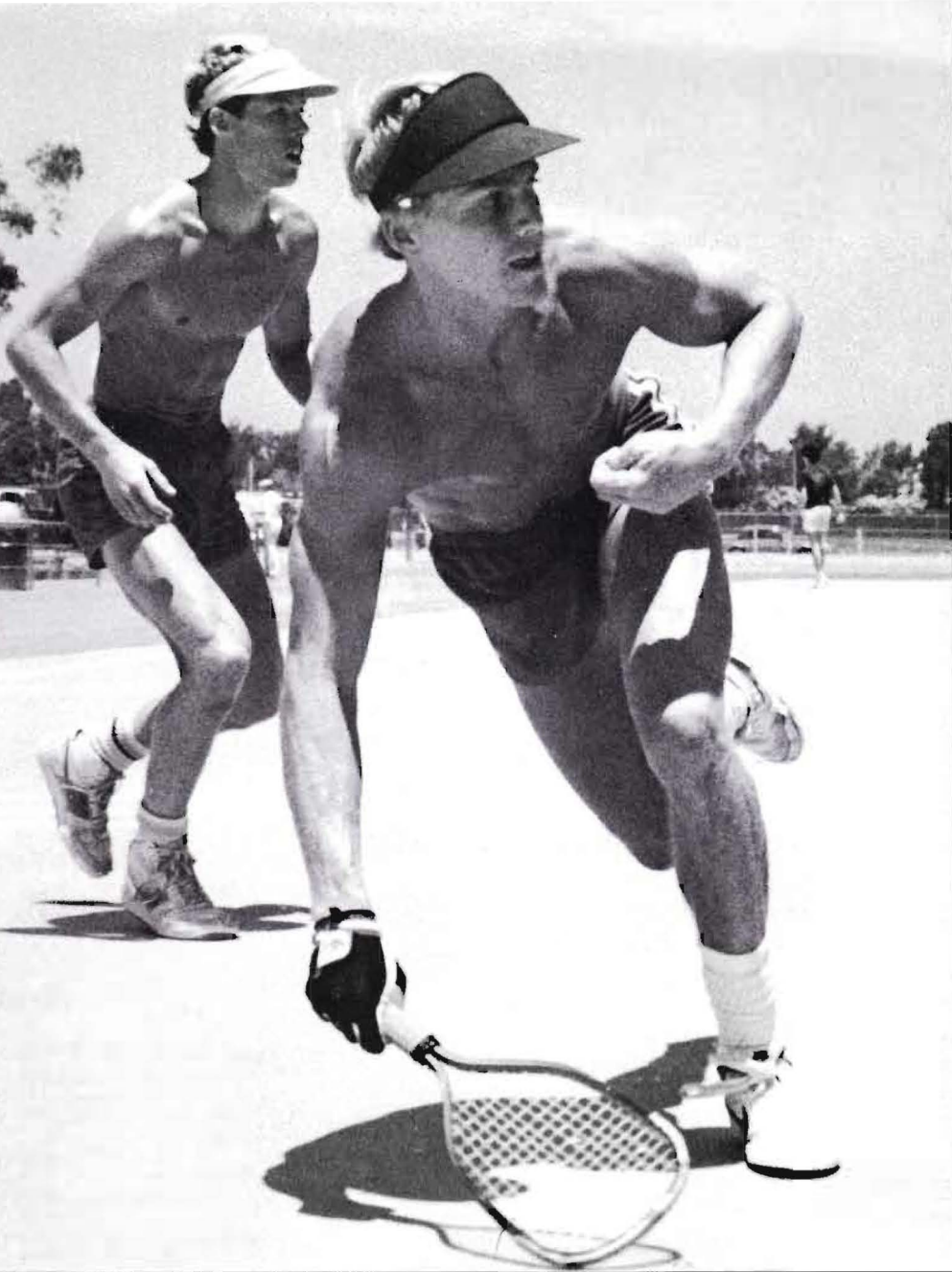
The outdoor crowd watches the men's doubles final

Women's open winner Lynn Adams

DOOR IONALS

O.K. trivia question. In the category of men's open singles racquetball competition, what current champion has dominated his sport for more years than any other. Marty Hogan, right? Wrong. The answer is Brian Hawkes, a handsome 20-year-old student from Huntington Beach, California (where else?). On July 7, Hawkes won the 1984 National Three-Wall Championships at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, marking the fourth consecutive year he has gone without losing a single match in national outdoor competition.





Brian Hawkes and Dan Southern battle in the men's open final

That may come as some surprise to many racquetball fans, because outdoor racquetball is only played in a few areas of the country, and it enjoys only a fraction of the publicity of its indoor cousin. And yet, it may be the most fascinating form of racquetball to watch. And in Southern California, in the month of July, the outdoor game is king.

In a way, the three-wall game is the purest form of racquetball. There is no ceiling, no back wall, and no defensive game. It is the exclusive domain of the pure shooter, where every player lives or dies by the kill shot. Many a professional player has come to conquer Costa Mesa in the last four years, but none has ever been able to survive in the forum of the 60-foot kill. No, this is a game that was invented by God for Brian Hawkes.

This year, Hawkes, who is a student at Orange Coast College, faced his archrival Dan Southern in the finals for the third time in four years. (Hawkes beat Lindsey Myers in the final in 1982). Southern was the last champion of the pre-Hawkes era, and he too is a walking stereotype of the hard-core three-waller; he's blond, tan, strong, and doesn't own a shirt.

Women play outdoor racquetball too. (Yes, they do have shirts). As in the men's game, the best shooters win. And, as everyone who follows women's racquetball knows, Lynn Adams is the best shooter alive. In fact, Adams has actually won the outdoor championships for more years than Hawkes—five titles in five years. This year Adams won her fifth women's open title by beating ex-pro Martha McDonald in the final.

Lynn Adams and Martha McDonald

Hawkes and Southern defeated Trenton and Fey in the doubles final



The Hawkes-Southern final was a dramatic demonstration of why so few players can survive the grueling outdoor game. Under the hot Southern California summer sun, Brian and Dan battled for over two hours, routinely pulling off shots that drew gasps from the small but highly-vocal crowd (which included national champion Mike Yellen who had come to watch).

While the matchup of the two tournament favorites was expected, the first two games were a surprise. Dan Southern started out tack sharp and Hawkes was quickly on the defensive. Southern does not possess the power or flair of Hawkes, but he has good speed, and he took advantage of Hawkes' shakey start by winning the first two games, 15-13, 15-13. (Outdoor matches are 15 point games, win by two, best of 5 games).

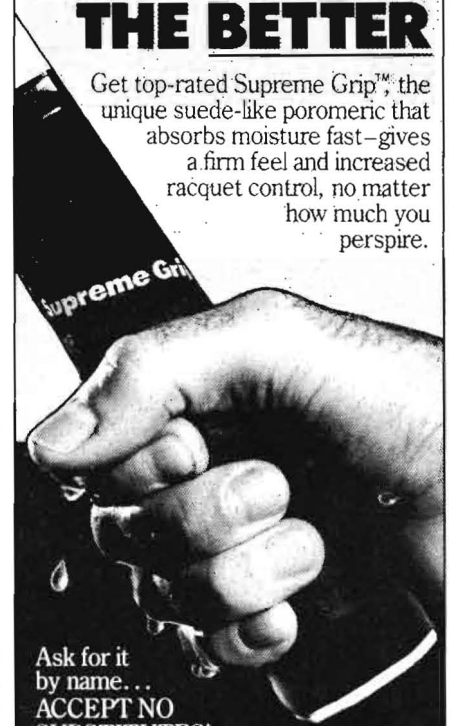
It wasn't until the third game that Hawkes began connecting on the most feared shot in his game; a screaming sharply-angled overhead serve that bounces and then rockets by the edge of the side wall and out of the court. It was enough to get Brian back into the type of game he likes most—holding center court while moving his opponent out of the court on one side and then the other. He



Brian Hawkes

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Cuthbertson and Hawkes in the men's semifinals



National Champion Mike Yellen looks on (center)
Lynn Adams—five titles in a row



won the third and fourth games, 15-9, 15-13.

As they came into the final game, Hawkes looked like he was in control and most of the crowd assumed it was over. But Southern wasn't ready to roll over. He took the lead early and forced Hawkes to use everything he had just to stay close. On the strength of pinpoint drive serves, Dan built his score to 13-10.

Receiving serve at 13, Hawkes connected with one of the most difficult and spectacular shots in the three-wall game. Chasing a high drive he darted past the back line, set up at the feet of the crowd and rifled a 55-foot bullet that caromed off the side wall and rolled obediently to the feet of Dan Southern who was camping in center court.

Going full bore, the two players traded serves and points until Hawkes finally broke the cycle with a perfect pass to win the game and the match, 16-14.

"Dan played a great match," Hawkes said, savoring his victory while frantically gulping water from a small cooler. "I got behind early and just had to work my way back into it. But I really had a lot of fun playing today."

Brian also commented on why he prefers the outdoor game; "I just like being outside, and being in the sun. The only thing I like better about indoor is there's more money."

(Hawkes does play indoor professionally and has moved steadily up the rankings in the last two years. He is currently tied for 16th in the men's rankings.)

Following their singles final, Hawkes and Southern teamed up to win the men's doubles title by besting the team of Trenton and Fey in five games, 12-15, 15-9, 10-15, 15-9, 15-12. It was a fascinating matchup of contrasts; two blond, sleek racquetballers against two dark, muscular, intense handballers. The match may have lacked some of the decorum of the indoor game, but it lacked none of the excitement.

The men's doubles final was also the match that whipped the crowd into a frenzy. Outdoor crowds are, how shall we say, different than indoor crowds. Unlike indoors, where the spectators are separated from the players with a wall of solid glass, the crowd is very much a part of the outdoor game.

While Brian Hawkes was fighting for his title like a street-gang member defending his turf, Lynn Adams looked more like she was out to enjoy a nice summer weekend. Not that she wasn't pushed. Martha McDonald, playing excellent

racquetball, forced her to five full games before finally bowing, 13-15, 15-10, 15-12, 2-15, 15-8. But for Lynn, who was coming off her impressive win over Heather McKay in Atlanta, the outdoor nationals is a welcome break from the grind of the women's pro tour. It's also a break from the traveling; Lynn lives in Costa Mesa—Orange Coast College is only about a mile away.

To reach the final, Lynn defeated fellow professional Marci Lynch in the quarterfinals, 15-9, 15-6, 15-7. In the semifinals she downed Dede Catherman (Dan Southern's girlfriend—also blond, tan, strong), 15-10, 15-6, 15-8. Catherman had previously ousted U.S. amateur champion Marcy Drexler in the quarters, 15-9, 15-7, 15-7.

This year's three-wall nationals drew about 250 participants in numerous skill-level divisions. Although there was no prize money offered, plans are reportedly being made to offer money in the open divisions of next year's event.

National Three-Wall Championships
Orange Coast College
Costa Mesa, California
July 5-7, 1984

Men's Open Division

Round of 32:

Huffman def. Bottne; Britos def. Kowauke; Carson def. Mugridge; Cuniff def. Kruger; Cuthbertson def. Belmonte; Fey def. Hickman; Sheffield def. Kazem; Southern def. Lara; O'Brien def. Mayer; Hysell def. Valavencio; Barker def. Belmonte; Holland def. Hawkins; Inoue def. Taylor; Medina def. McClellan; Gleck def. Herrera.

Round of 16:

Hawkes (1) def. Huffman; Carson def. Britos; Cuthbertson def. Cuniff (5); Sheffield (4) def. Fey; Southern (3) def. O'Brien; Mysell df. Barker; Holland (6) def. Inoue; Medina def. Gleck (2).

Quarterfinal Round:

Hawkes def. Carson; 10,7,12
Cuthbertson def. Sheffield; 10,(2), 10,(1),15
Southern def. Hysell; (13),12,12,12
Medina def. Holland; (14),4,9,11

Semifinal Round:

Hawkes def. Cuthbertson; (11),3,14,11
Southern def. Medina; 14,9,8

Final Round:

HAWKES def. Southern; (13),(13),9,13,14

Women's Open Division

Round of 16:

Marci Lynch def. Wendy Cushing; Marcy Drexler def. Kerri Carr; Sheri Knecht def. Joni Howard; Pam Coppage def. Lorena Mague; Judy Fettig def. Mary Matalian.

Quarterfinal Round:

Adams def. Lynch 9,6,7
Catherman def. Drexler; 9,7,7
Knecht def. Coppage; (12),14,13,13

McDonald def. Fettig; 11,6,12

Semifinal Round:

Adams def. Catherman; 10,6,8

McDonald def. Knecht; 9,11,12

Final Round:

ADAMS def. McDonald; (13),10,12,(2),8

Open Doubles

Round of 32:

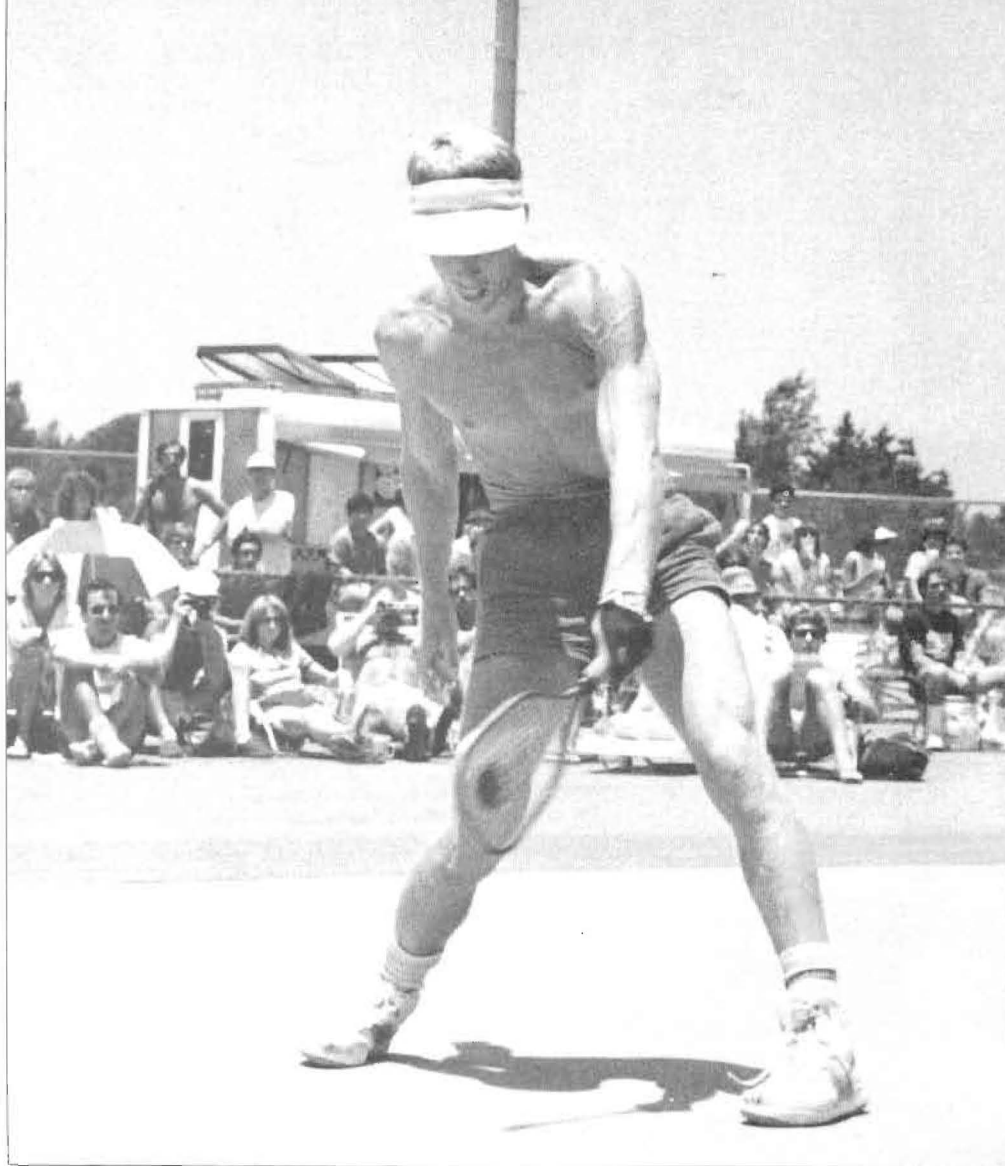
Hawkes-Southern def. Reza-Guenero;
Meller-Poppe def. Long-Gaul; Sell-Flannery
def. Medina-Amazen; Johnson-Johnson def.
Hickman-Christian; Coniff-Steelsmith def.
Louchios-Rossler; Rabin-McDonald def.
Cuthbertson-Zurborg; Bohne-McMasters
def. Hubbard-Leonard; Inoue-Huffman def.
Nysell-Bryant; Barker-Chadwick def.
Booth-Abrigo; McClellan-Sheffield def.
Gleck-Friedman; Wallace-Wetzel def.
Crawford-Keotten; Genevay-Riminar def.
Longnecker-Matsukawa; Andrews-Britos
def. Holland-Perez; Belmonte-Belmonte def.
Hergenreter-Mudridge; Trenton-Fey def.
Greyschock-Chaco; Harding-Olsen def.
Factor-Krueger.

Round of 16:

Hawkes-Southern def. Meller-Poppe; 9,12,5
Sell-Flannery def. Johnson-Johnson;
(15),11,10,11
Rabin-McDonald def. Cuniff-Steelsmith; 14,
(13),14,17
Inoue-Huffman def. Bohne-McMasters;
12,8,9
Barker-Chadwick def. McClellan-Sheffield;
8,(12),9,9
Genevay-Riminar def. Wallace-Wetzel;
13,(9),10,10
Andrews-Britos def. Belmonte-Belmonte; 10,
7,8
Trenton-Fey def. Harding-Olsen; 11,11,(14),
(13),13

Quarterfinal Round:

Hawkes-Southern def. Sell-Flannery; (5),12,
(12),10,9
Rabin-McDonald def. Inoue-Huffman; 14,
(13),3,(16),10
Barker-Chadwick def. Genevay-Riminar;
4,11,(13),12
Trenton-Fey, def. Andrews-Britos; 9,(12),13
(13),12



Dan Southern powders a backhand in his close battle with Hawkes

Semifinal Round:

Hawkes-Southern def. Rabin-McDonald; 14,
10,8
Trenton-Fey def. Barker-Chadwick; 10,15,
(8),2

Final Round:

HAWKES-SOUTHERN def. Trenton-Fey;
(12),9,(10),9,12

Good friends, Lynn Adams and Brian Hawkes relax in the shade



Brian Hawkes shows off the muscles you need for 3-wall play



Lite



International single champion Ross Harvey of Canada dives against U.S. Team member Andy Roberts

Photo by Marchand Axelrad

U.S. WINS IARF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

CANADIANS TAKE SINGLES CROWN

The international development of the sport of racquetball took a quantum leap during the week of July 16-22, when over 120 players from 12 countries gathered at the Gleneagles Racquetball Club in Sacramento, California, for the 2nd International Amateur Racquetball Federation's (IARF) World Championships. The event was the largest international racquetball tournament ever staged.

The United States Team, composed of Andy Roberts, Doug Ganim, Ken Kaihlanen, Steve Trent, Stan Wright, Mary Dee, Cindy Baxter, Marci Drexler, Kathy Gluvna, Toni Bevelock, Carol Frenck, and Malia Kamahoahoa, led the U.S. to a narrow victory in the men's team competition, women's team competition, and

the overall combined world title over a close second, Canada's National Team.

In the individual competition, Ross Harvey of Canada defeated Andy Roberts of the U.S. 15-14 in the tiebreaker, for the international singles crown. Stan Wright and Steve Trent of the U.S. easily downed Mark Kilbreath and Bill Birch of Canada for the doubles title. And, it was an all U.S. women's final as Mary Dee defeated Cindy Baxter for the women's championship.

The countries who participated in the competition were (in order of finish):

Position	Country	Points
1	United States	24
2	Canada	22
3	Holland	18
4	Mexico	16

4	Japan	16
6	Germany	13
7	Costa Rica	11
8	Columbia	10
9	Puerto Rico	9
10	Belgium	8
11	Bolivia	2
12	Ecuador	1

While the powerful team fielded by the United States was the heavy favorite going into Sacramento, it became immediately apparent that the level of racquetball outside the U.S. has risen a much faster pace than anyone had expected. The U.S. Team barely edged by the surprisingly strong play of the Canadian Team to narrowly win the overall title, but lost the top two individual men's titles to the Canadians.

"What we have witnessed here," said Paul Hendrickson, president of the AARA, "has shown us that the rest of the world is catching up to the U.S. very quickly. I think it will be a very short period of time before a number of countries are able to compete on an even level with our players."

Those were not meaningless words. From the earliest moments of the competition, it appeared that the U.S. Team was on the verge of losing for the first time in international competition in a sport that was invented in the United States. Disaster struck early, even before the tournament began, when the top two players on the U.S. men's team, Dan Ferris and Jim Cascio, informed U.S. coach Ed Martin that they would not be able to participate in the event because of other personal commitments.

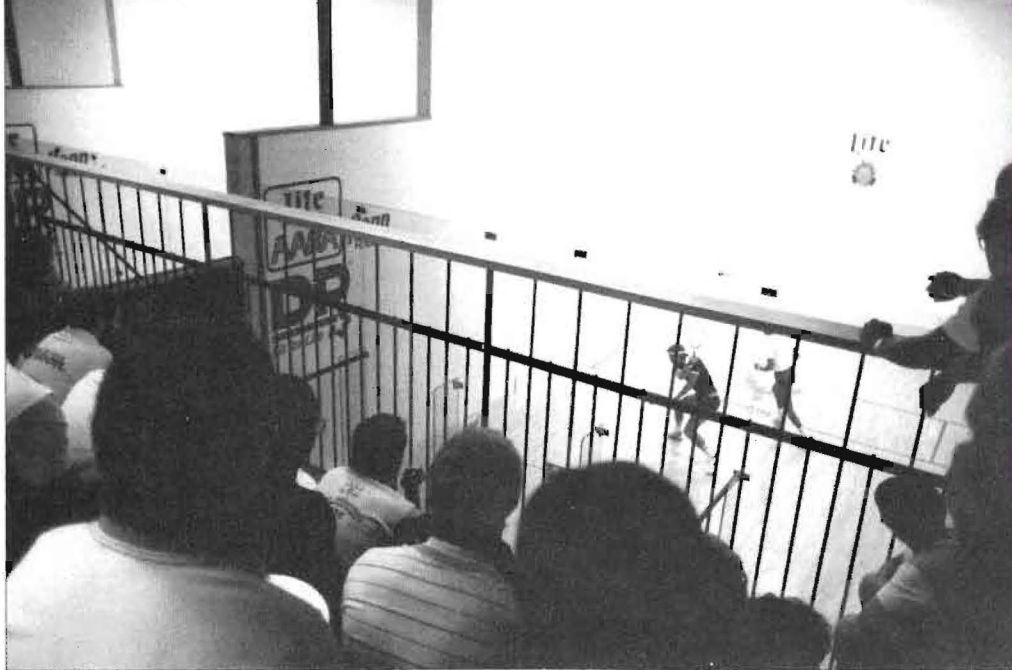
Ferris said he was unable to play because of business considerations, but it was discovered part-way through the event that Cascio's "personal commitment" was his participation in a non-ranking professional event in Baltimore, MD. (Cascio lost there in the round-of-16). The American officials were so insensed by the no shows that they called a special board meeting and voted to remove the two players from the team, and to bar them from further international competition unless they re-qualify.

"I think they did an injustice to themselves as well as our country," remarked Hendrickson, "by not being at such an important event. I'm very upset."

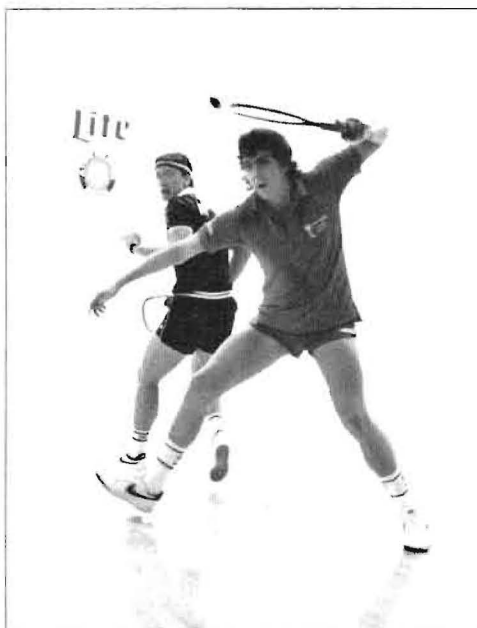
"I don't know about their motives," said U.S. coach Ed Martin, the man who was put on the spot after the two pulled out, "but the only thing I can think is that they didn't understand the caliber of the competition that was going to be here. They're neat guys, and pretty fair people, and I don't think they would have let this team down if they would have understood."

Martin was right about the competition. With Ferris and Cascio out, the top spots on the men's team were filled by intercollegiate champion Andy Roberts, junior champion Doug Ganim, and AARA open finalist Ken Kaihlanen. Of the three, only Kaihlanen had any degree of major competition experience. And the Canadians were there in force, with ex-professional Ross Harvey, Roger Harripersad, and Wendell Talaber manning the top spots.

The tournament was played in two parts; the first was round-robin competi-



The crowd at Gleneagles watches the men's action



Wendell Talaber sets up against Andy Roberts



A Japanese team member watches the competition

A member of the Japanese team talks with Barbara St. Onge

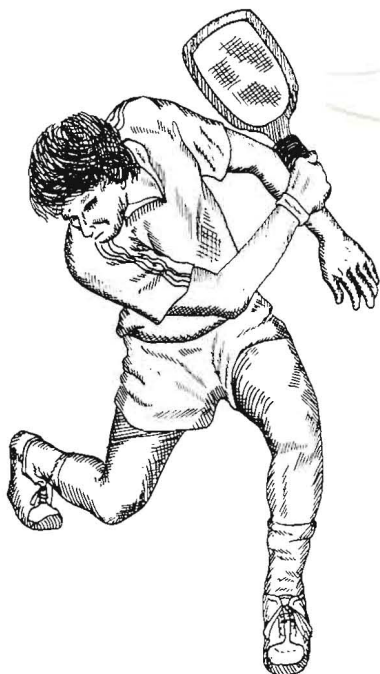


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A player for team Germany



Cindy Baxter



U.S. player Ken Kaihlanen

tion for the overall team title, and the second was one-on-one play for the individual crowns.

The best moments for the U.S. Team came in the team competition when the young American players, fired up by the withdrawal of their former teammates, strung together a remarkable series of victories keynoted by Andy Roberts' two-game pounding of Ross Harvey, 15-13, 15-7.

"I've never seen a team pull together like this," said a satisfied Ed Martin. "This time the controversy really brought the team together. We had some real young men who had to take up the slack, and they met the challenge. I'm just proud as heck of all of them."

Those sentiments were echoed by Doug Ganim at the banquet, when he rose and said to coach Martin in front of the crowd, "I just want you to know that we did it, and we did it without Ferris and Cascio."

But the story changed for the men during the individual competition. The Canadians, who have worked hard to protect the amateur status of their top players, were expected to field a strong team, and they did. The Canadians won all three of the top men's titles.

While the men were struggling, though, the women and the doubles teams played flawlessly, not losing a single match. Mary Dee, Cindy Baxter, and Marci Drexler totally dominated the women's category, as Stan Wright and Steve Trent, generally regarded as the world's top doubles team, went through the event virtually untested.

Much time during the event was spent with the strongest teams instructing those from less developed nations, many of whom had come at their own expense for

the sole purpose of learning. At one point, following their doubles loss to the American women, the Japanese refused to let their opponents leave the court imploring them to "instruct, please."

Perhaps the most surprising development of the world championships was the extremely solid play exhibited by countries where racquetball has only been organized for a very short period of time. While the U.S. and Canada were expected to be strong, Holland, Mexico, Japan, Germany, Costa Rica, and Columbia mounted a number of shocking challenges to the dominance of the North Americans. Their play was evidence of what racquetball fans have said for years; that it is a sport that can be learned and played well very quickly.

The AARA and IARF officials were visibly pleased with the outcome of the Sacramento event.

"This was much more than just a tournament or world championship," said Luke St. Onge, executive director of the IARF. "The competition was significant, but many of these other countries came here to observe how the top teams play. Many of them will take back exactly what they've seen, and that will be the direction of the growth in that country. I feel the court conduct by all the teams has been excellent."

AARA President Paul Hendrickson agreed. "We're excited now about international competition. We're on the verge of developing as an international organization, and racquetball is definitely alive and well outside the United States."

1984 IARF World Championships
Sacramento, California
July 16-22, 1984

Team Competition

Men's

1. U.S.A.
2. Canada
3. Mexico
4. Puerto Rico
5. Holland
6. Japan
7. Colombia
8. Germany
9. Costa Rica
10. Belgium
11. Bolivia
12. Ecuador

Women's

1. U.S.A.
2. Canada
3. Holland
4. Japan
5. Germany
6. Costa Rica
7. Mexico
8. Belgium
9. Colombia

Combined

1. U.S.A.
2. Canada
3. Holland
4. Mexico
4. Japan
5. Germany
6. Costa Rica
7. Colombia
8. Puerto Rico
9. Belgium
10. Bolivia
11. Ecuador

Individual Competition

Men's Singles

1. Ross Harvey, Canada
2. Andy Roberts, U.S.A.
3. Roger Harripersad, Canada
4. Doug Ganim, U.S.A.

Women's Singles

1. Mary Dee, U.S.A.
2. Cindy Baxter, U.S.A.
3. Marci Drexler, U.S.A.
4. Carol Duput, Canada

Men's Doubles

1. Steve Trent/Stam Wright, U.S.A.
2. Mark Kilbreath/Bill Birch, Canada
3. Arno Mooyman/Rob van de Kamp, Holland
4. Willie Rodriguez/Claudio Medina, Puerto Rico

Women's Doubles

1. Carol Frenck/Malia Kamahoahoa, U.S.A.
2. Suzzane Robert/Monique Parent, Canada
3. Mirjam Wieltheesen/Dineke Kool, Holland
4. K. Ohki/P. Hataya, Japan

Han van der Heijden

Han van der Heijden is the President of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation whose world headquarters are in Colorado Springs. Mr. van der Heijden is from Holland and International Racquetball was lucky to catch a few moments with this very busy man while he was at the World Games in Sacramento this past July.



How many countries are represented here at the world games?

We have twelve countries participating here at the World Championships.

How is the sport of racquetball doing in Europe?

Racquetball, first of all, is growing. Not as fast as we had hoped it would a few years ago. We were all hit hard by the slow economy and money is very tight. Squash had its big boom in Europe the same time racquetball had its boom in the U.S. Club owners were therefore more aware of squash in Europe and built squash courts instead. If the club owners had been more aware of racquetball, I'm sure racquetball would have had a similar boom.

However, racquetball is being played strongly in eight European countries. That's France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Ireland is very big in racquetball. I think Ireland has the most racquetball players in Europe. They're not represented here because they lacked the finances to come. England, of course, has some racquetball. Italy will follow by the end of this year and Spain has just some American military courts, I think.

We have heard that some manufacturers have sent pros to Europe, like Ektelon sent Mike Yellen. Has that been helpful?

Mike Yellen was the first one

being sent in this manner. It has been very helpful. It helps the publicity and people come out to see a top American player in Europe. They loved it.

Would you like to see more players come over?

Yes. Of course. Every day. Perhaps if they came every day it wouldn't be that exciting, but if someone were to come two or three times a year, that would be great. We would like to see the manufacturers become more involved with not only Europe, but with South America and Japan and all over the world. I think the manufacturers should realize that racquetball is growing. We have 42 member countries in our federation and I think they should be in the market from the very first and not just when they think it might be profitable. They could help the sport grow a good deal faster if they would participate now.

The companies that already have a name in Europe have a great opportunity to promote racquetball. Ektelon is owned by Browning which has a good name in Belgium where they have a plant. It seems to me that it would be easy for them to promote their name in Belgium and throughout Europe. Slazenger and Dunlop have many racquets in Europe. For them to make advances in racquetball would be easy.

Are the racquets being used in Europe mostly American racquets?

American or Far Eastern racquets seem to dominate. I would like to say that one ball company has been very active in supplying balls to the tournaments in Europe and in Championships. So their name is known.

I don't think the manufacturers know what's going on in Europe. How can you find out? You must go there. AMF Voit and Ektelon are the most active, I think.

(Girl comes up to Han with a large bandage on her leg. She talks to Han in Dutch, then spoke to the interviewer in excellent English. Han explained.)

All the players are enjoying the competition. This girl here, the Dutch #2 girl, she plays doubles as well, but got injured the first day. She went to a physiotherapist and was treated very well. The gentleman didn't charge her for the visit. We would like to thank him for his generosity.

Our women's doubles team (Dutch) is a good example of the improving international competition. Our team beat the Canadian women's double team which is very tough. The whole Canadian team is very good overall. The two top countries are, of course, the U.S. and Canada, but after them, we have several very equal countries—Holland, Japan, West Germany, Costa Rica is very strong and Columbia. I think that is very important for the sport.

How are you going to run the qualifying matches in Europe for the World Games to be held in London in 1985?

We will have a European Championship competition where all European countries will participate. But, a country is limited to four players. The United States will only be able to send two male and two female players. That way we will not get a dom-

ination of one country in the Games.

The World Games were set up to show the elite sportsmen in each sport. It would be easy to fill in 20 American names, no doubt about it, but it would hurt the sport itself to do that.

The total number of players will be twenty men and twenty women. There will be only singles competition in the Games. Asia will supply four players. England will bring only two players, because they are the host country and the rest of Europe will supply 12 more. The remaining 22 players will come from the Americas, which brings the total to 40.

There will be two days of practice and four days of competition. The competition will be held at the David Lloyd Schlesinger Racquetball Center in Heathrow outside of London. Originally, we had put in for a round of 80 people including doubles matches, but due to financial circumstances, the World Games cut down the number of participants in all of the sports involved.

This will be the second annual World Games. The first one was held in Santa Clara, California, in 1981. It will be staged every four years after the Olympic year.

I noticed a lot of the sports listed in the World Games competition are not in the Olympics or the Pan Am Games.

That was the reason the World Games were set up. It gives other sports that are not on the Olympic Program to have the same kind of international competition and fraternity. I think it is very important for people of different sports to associate with each other. There is an important exchange of ideas that occurs when many sports compete together. You could call the World Games the Olympic Games for non-Olympic sports.

THE GREATEST

Greatest Forehand of All Time:

- (1) Hilecher
- (2) Hogan
- (3) Bledsoe
- (4) Muehleisen
- (5) Schmidtke

To compete on the pro tour today, you have to have a great forehand. It's necessary to possess power, a wide variety of shots, and incredible wrist speed. Choosing great forehands is very difficult because so many great players of the past and present have command of this area.

Interpreting the results of the survey offers a couple of interesting points; only two of the five players, (Hilecher, Hogan) are current professionals. Four of the five greatest forehands (Hilecher, Bledsoe, Muehleisen, Schmidtke) belong to players who didn't even get on the ballot for "Greatest Backhands." This last point is very interesting. These four players have a reputation for having horrendous backhands, yet each has won at least one national singles championship. It would seem that having a great forehand is essential for becoming a highly ranked player, and that this strength can help offset weaknesses in other areas.

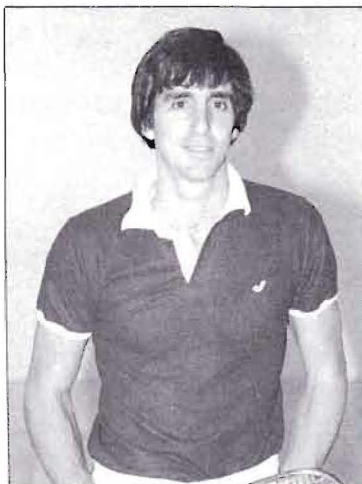
I promised in my initial chapter that I would not only give the results of the survey, but also give feedback from these winners on how they achieved their "GREATEST" status.

Hilecher's forehand:

The single most important aspect to hitting a great forehand is your mental attitude. You have to believe that any kill shot you hit from any height and any depth will absolutely be a winner. This attitude might seem a bit bold, yet it is a characteristic of all great players. You have to be confident in your shots. St. Louis has given birth to many great forehands; Hogan, Zuckerman, Cohen, Koltun and myself, with new greats on the horizon. Each of these players spent hours on the court in their early racquetball careers skipping shot after shot. Their confidence and game plan, however, were never changed. Each of their forehand strokes are different yet they were able to achieve similar results in the end; the ability to shoot their forehand with incredible accuracy.

When I teach hitting strokes, I emphasize points that are important for the average player. Since these articles are intended to discover personal characteristics of individual professionals, it is important to note that the information may not

The continuing series of the greatest players in racquetball by Jerry Hilecher



be an aid to all players.

A person's body type, strength level, foot speed and coordination are all integral aspects in building a stroke suitable to your game style. My honest evaluation of my strengths and weaknesses discovered the following: I have terrible lateral flexibility (broken hip bone when I was four years old), extremely long arms for my height, quick reflexes, and quick wrists. Keying on my strengths, my forehand has two basic yet different strokes. When I have time to set up, my stroke uses the conventional closed stance, with the contact point away from my body so I can transfer my weight into the shot. It is a level stroke that brings consistency to my shots. My primary emphasis is to hit a smooth shot for bottom boards, with minor emphasis on power.

When I have to move quickly for a shot and hit on the move, my forehand philosophy quickly changes. I first determine my optimum hitting area, which in itself is important because my strategy is to hit a shot that has a very high likelihood for success. I can hit the shot a little off yet still score a point. Since my poor lateral flexibility won't allow me to get down quickly for a shot, my stroke in these situations seem to imitate a wounded duck in flight. My arms and legs seem to be going in different directions. Actually I'm going back to my strengths. My long arms, hand-eye coordination and reflexes allow me to hit with an open stance standing fairly straight up. Since I quickly identified my optimum hitting area, I want to hit the ball to that area as quickly as possible before my opponent can prepare for my shot. My weight transfer and hitting area is different than in my earlier

closed stance stroke. Since the ball is closer to my body, my point of contact is higher and further back than when I have time for my closed stance. I feel my true strength in this situation lies in my upper body coordination. My upper body is able to contort in a multitude of gyrations to hit the ball to the proposed area with as much consistency as possible. I am able to beat my opponent with a multitude of misdirection and off speed shots because they are not able to read my body motions. When the ball is up around my waist area, my weight comes up slightly and I come over the ball to bring it down. If the set-up is already low, I try to hit the shot as flat as possible.

There have been many greats in the past that didn't get recognition in the survey. The ball has changed so much since the early years, it is difficult to compare the strokes of the past to today.

The forehands of yesteryear were based on control and touch, power was secondary. Bud Muehleisen had the greatest degree of range with his forehand. He was able to cut off serves, hit on the run, or hit the famous "mule dump in the corner"; an over spin misdirection touch shot into either corner, which left his opponents picking up their gym shorts. Steve Keeley would use his paddleball strokes to slice his forehand softly into the right corner. Charley Brumfield never got recognition for his forehand, but it was very consistent. Charley's shot selection would force his opponents to have to move the greatest distance for every shot giving his opponents his patented tour of the court.

Of all the great forehands of the past, Bill Schmidtke's stands out. In my opinion, Bill had the greatest forehand of all time. He used a great deal of arm motion in his stroke and less wrist snap than many of today's pros. The secret to his shots was how flat he would hit the ball. The ball would hit the front wall and stay down making any return difficult. With our current fast ball, I don't think the slower pace of Bill's shots would be as effective.

So where does that leave power players such as Marty Hogan? Even though Marty finished second in the survey, I feel his forehand is way down the list. His shots are too inconsistent to be placed on my "greatest forehands list."

My top three picks:

- (1) Bill Schmidtke
- (2) Bud Muehleisen
- (3) Davey Bledsoe

TOURNAMENT

HOGAN WINS BALTIMORE

By Larry Harris, Assistant Sports Editor, Baltimore Evening Sun

The Toyota-Miller Lite East Coast Classic marked the first time for racquetball's touring pros to show their skills in the Mid-Atlantic region, but one and all of them, from tournament winner Marty Hogan on down, vowed they will return if a similar event is offered next year.

The tournament took place July 20-22 at Leroy Merritt's 24-court Racquetball Palace at Security Boulevard in Baltimore. Hogan, the #1 seed, drove away with the first prize, a \$10,000 Toyota 4x4 vehicle, but he had no easy road.

All told, 11 of racquetball's top 15 ranked players played in the tournament. Mike Yellen, #1 ranked, had said he would appear, but the date conflicted with a European trip. Bret Harnett, #5, attempted to enter at a late date but his entry was refused.

"Turning down someone like Bret Harnett was not an easy thing to do," said David Pivec, a former Canadian League and NFL football player, "but we felt the tournament had to preserve its integrity if it was to be successful. We had already notified the top seeded players how the tournament was set up, and it wouldn't have been fair to change it."

Pivec and other members of the sponsoring organization, the Racquetball Authority of Metro Baltimore, were ecstatic with the tournament's success. Packed galleries of nearly 1,000 were in attendance at each of the tournament's three days. A satellite tournament for 175 of the area's top amateurs ran concurrently.

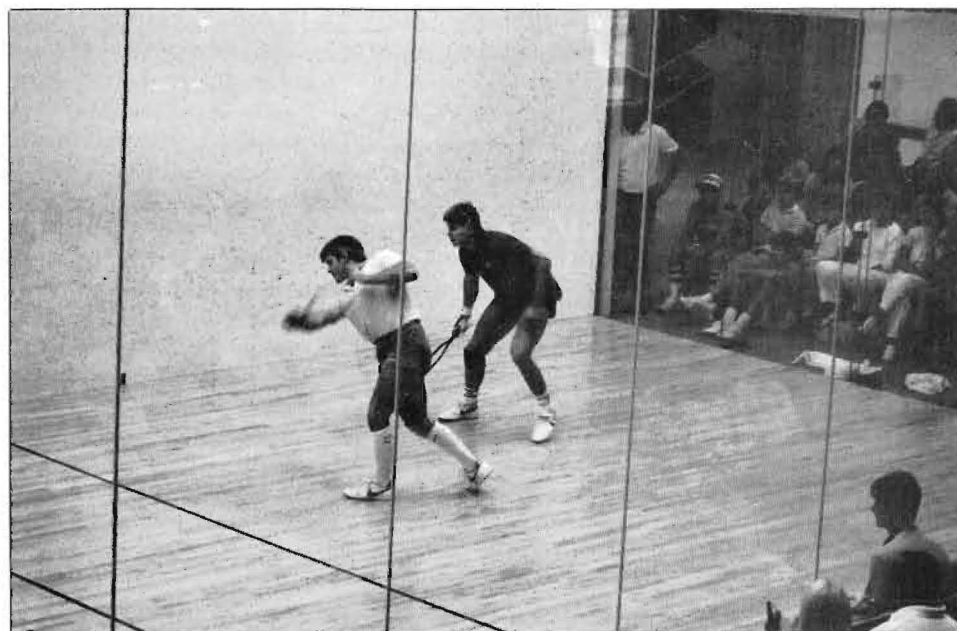
The pro players seemed to especially appreciate the glass show courts at Merritt/Security. Two of them are laid end-to-end with a common front court, thus giving viewers an 80-foot stretch of glass.

"To have a house like this and a gallery like this and not to have a pro tournament would be a crime," said Pivec, whose RAMB outfit has generated \$35,000 in three years for its charity, Kernan Hospital. "Marty Hogan agrees with me and so do the Peck brothers. All have said they'll come back and we know Marty will."

Hogan defeated Gregg Peck in the



Marty Hogan receives 4x4 Toyota from Joe Burdis of Mid-Atlantic Toyota



Dave Peck and Gregg Peck square off in the semifinals

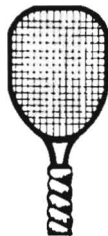
final of the tournament in four games, 9-11, 11-4, 11-10, 11-6, but that was one of his easier matches. He started off with a breeze on Friday, downing Tom Whipple, a local veteran pro who is known as the East Coast's finest teacher, 11-1, 11-6, 11-2.

On Friday night, however, Hogan ran into a skinny little buzzsaw named Cliff Swain, from Braintree, Mass. The 18-year-old lefthander took Hogan to the limit before finally the master won it, 7-11, 11-10, 11-6, 4-11, 11-4.

Things got even tougher in the semi-

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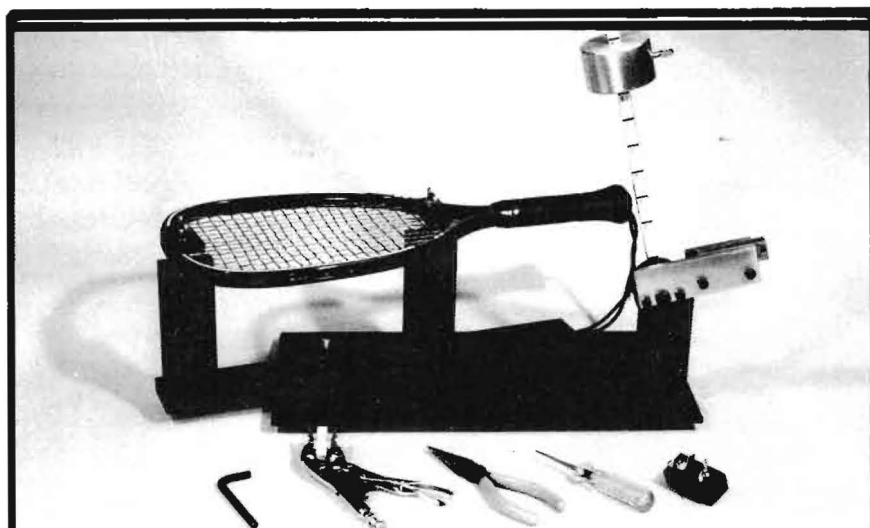
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final. In the tightest match of the tournament, Hogan let veteran Jerry Hilecher have a 2-1 lead in games before coming back to win, 11-4, 4-11, 2-11, 11-4, 11-5. Hogan had beaten another veteran, Rich Wagner, in straight games in the quarterfinals, 11-8, 11-4, 11-1.

In the quarters, Peck, the hulking Texan who was easily the sweetheart of the tournament, continued to win in straight games, bumping off Gerry Price, 11-3, 11-8, 11-4. Then came the semifinal; third-seeded Gregg against his big brother, second-seeded Dave. Gregg had never beaten his brother in competition, but this time he did, 11-7, 11-9, 11-3.

Going into the championship match, 20-year-old Gregg hadn't lost a game and he shocked Hogan by blunting his power serve and winning the first game. After that, however, Hogan changed strategies, going to a high lob serve to the backhand and winning three in a row.

Peck didn't go away empty-handed. He clutched a check for \$2,500 when he promised the crowd he would return. His brother, Dave, and Hilecher split \$1,500 for being semifinalists.

"Gregg Peck is obviously going to be a tournament winner," said Hogan mag-

nanimously after it was over. "This is his first pro final, and my experience was just too much for him. Watch out in the future, though."

Toyota dealers offered to buy the truck back from Hogan, if he so desired, but Marty preferred to take the vehicle. "I've got maybe five more years of hard racquetball left," the 26-year-old said. "The younger guys are taking over. Me, I won't be winning too many Toyotas in five years."

It would be hard to convince Baltimore fans of that, though. After getting to see the king up close for the first time, they got that feeling that he's invincible. Only Mike Yellen and a few others have ever proven that he can be whipped.

**Toyota-Lite Beer East Coast Classic
Merritt Security Club, Baltimore, MD
July 20-22, 1984**

Round of 32:

Marty Hogan (1) def. Tom Whipple; 1,6,2
Cliff Swain def. Kelvin VanTrease; 7,7,7
Jack Newman (8) def. Jim Juron; 3,6,2
Rich Wagner def. David Simonette; 6,4,3
Jerry Hilecher (5) def. Eric Foley; (5),2,(9),2,1
Klein def. John Egerman; 8,2,(9),7
Corey Brysman def. Tom Montalbano; 2,4,8
Ruben Gonzalez (4) def. Craig Davidson; for.
Andy Gross def. Jerry Kristjansen; 2,(7),0,7

Gerry Price (6) d. Sean Molkwa; 1,(6),(1),8,2
Doug Cohen def. Tim Hansen; 3,3,6
Ed Andrews (7) def. Bob Sherer; 6,2,7
Bruce Christensen def. Scott Clark; 7,7,1
Jim Cascio def. David Gross; 6,9,2
Dave Peck (2) def. Craig Powell; 4,9,2
Gregg Peck (3) def. Ed Remen; 4,6,(6),5

Round of 16:

Hogan def. Swain; (7),10,6,(4),4
Hilecher def. Klein; 0,4,8
Wagner def. Newman; (9),7,5,6
Price def. Cohen; 8,7,10
Christensen def. Andrews; (8),4,7,6
Brysman def. Gonzalez; 6,(10),6,(5),7
G. Peck def. A. Gross; 7,4,1
D. Peck def. Cascio; 1,7,6

Quarterfinal Round:

Hogan def. Wagner; 8,5,8
Hilecher def. Brysman; 10,6,6
G. Peck def. Price; 3,8,4
D. Peck def. Christensen; 2,2,(8),(6),0

Semifinal Round:

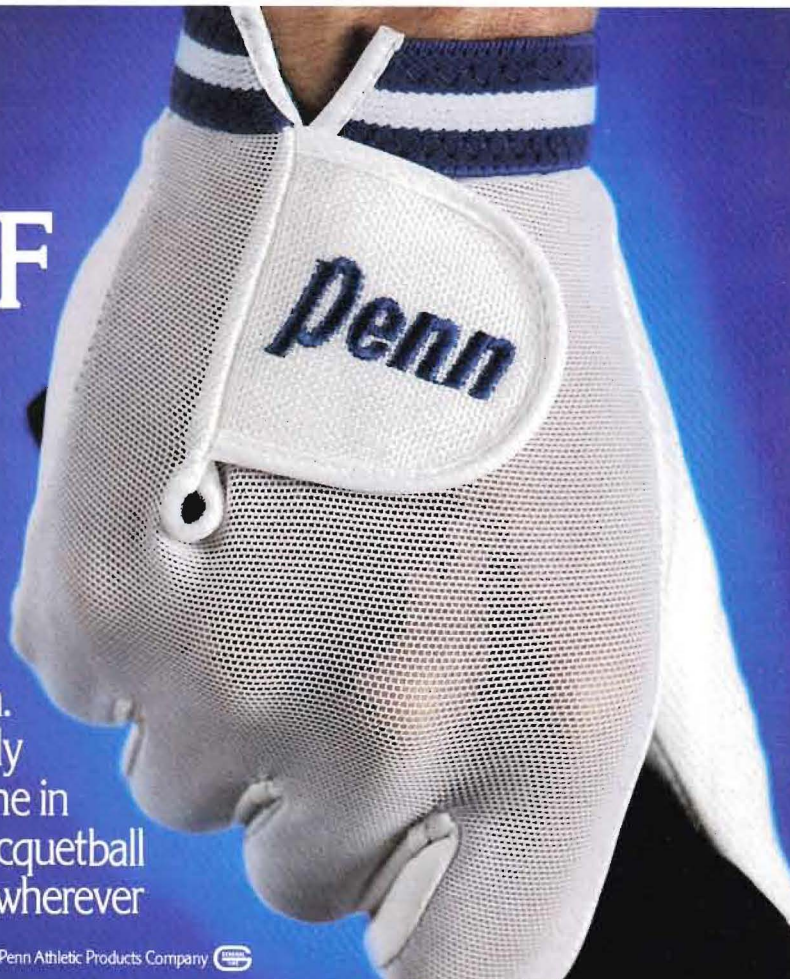
Hogan df. Hilecher; 4,(4),(2),4,5
G. Peck def. D. Peck; 7,9,3

Final Round:

HOGAN def. G. Peck; (9),4,10,6

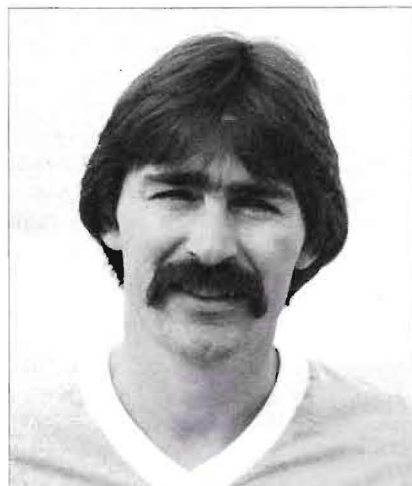
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BY STEVE STRANDEMO AND BILL BRUNS

ADVANCED RACQUETBALL



PART 3: THE BACKHAND

Unless you have great compensating strengths, you can't expect to keep advancing in this game with a backhand that is basically a punching, directional shot. True, an excellent forehand can help shelter your ineffective backhand, allowing you to cover as much as four-fifths of the action zone with your forehand. Yet by taking this approach, you're banking all your hopes on the accuracy of one stroke—and eventually you're going to meet opponents who can direct the ball hard and tight along the side wall and force you to hit your backhand under continual pressure. Why limit your game—and your potential progress—by having such an exploitable area? I know, of course, that few of us have a love

affair with our backhand, and we recognize that fact in other players. When I ask students what they think about in terms of strategy for an important match, one of their main intentions is always: "Go to my opponent's backhand as often as I can." Then as I watch them play I notice that basically they're either afraid to hit out confidently with their backhand or they flail away recklessly with an all-or-nothing approach.

So, let's go to work on a backhand you can swing with accuracy, a stroke that becomes an important weapon in your overall game, not one that is totally defensive or too often results in a skip.

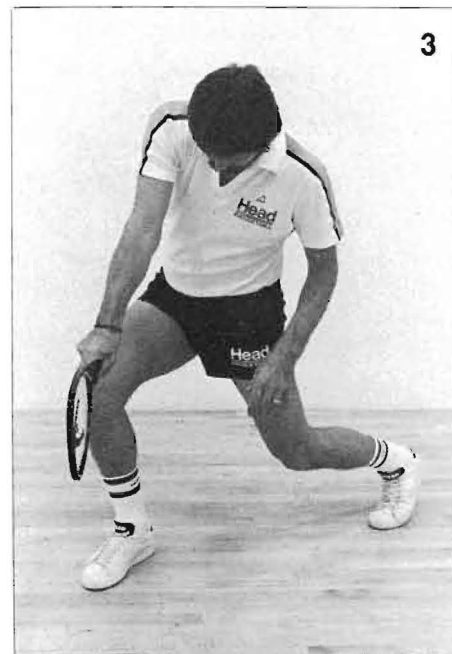
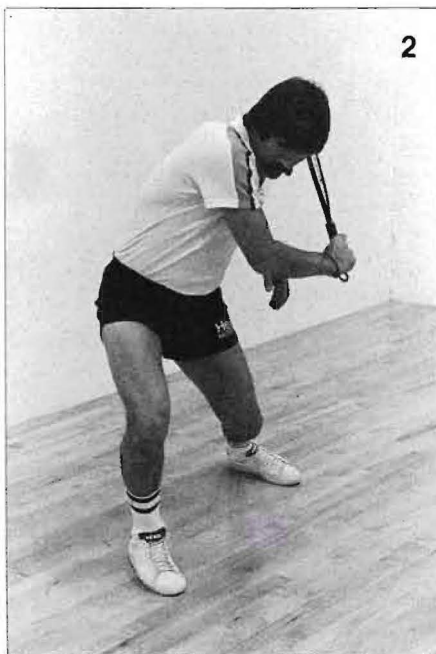
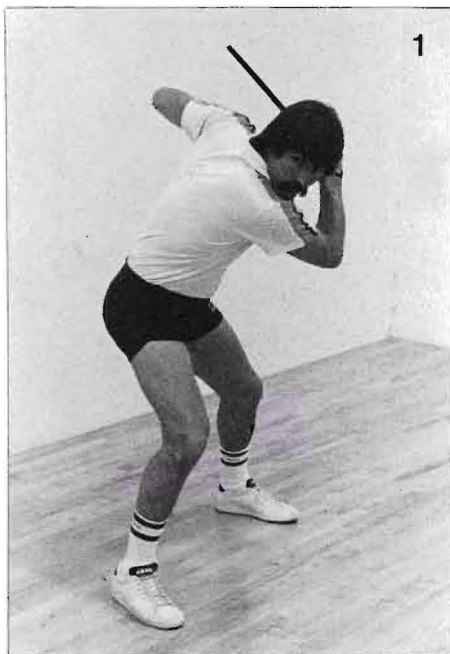
The Grip

To switch grips from a conventional forehand

to a conventional backhand (as I advocated in the previous chapter), move your hand slightly to the left on the racquet handle. Again, this provides a more natural and reliable way to come down through the ball with a vertical racquet face at impact—especially when using the wrist cock I recommend on the backswing. If you're having trouble with your backhand, and you hold the same grip off both sides (forehand and backhand), try learning to hit with the regular backhad grip shown on pages 44-45.

Key Elements of the Swing

When you move toward your hitting position, think to yourself, "Shoulder the ball," and this will help set the desired sequence of actions in





The Wrist-Cock Positions

On the standard setup position (left), the wrist is cocked up, with the hand basically on line with the forearm. Mastering a wrist snap out of this position is much easier than the "curl" backhand and there's less chance for error at impact.

Although some pros like to curl the wrist back (right), this introduces a difficult timing problem. The racket face turns significantly on the setup, forcing adjustments as you curl back in and try to have the racquet face parallel to the front wall when you contact the ball (and not slightly tilted down or up).

motion: (1) a full shoulder rotation to initiate the backswing, (2) a forceful but fluid shoulder motion into the ball, (3) strong hip rotation, (4) and extending of the arm and a snapping of the wrist in the contact zone, and (5) a complete follow-through.

Strive for an Early Setup

Just as on the forehand, it's crucial that you give yourself as much time as possible by having a quick, early backswing. Simply rotate your shoulders and hips toward the back wall and this will automatically set your racquet (with your hitting arm bent at the elbow and the wrist fully cocked), allowing you to now uncoil naturally into the ball. Just make sure you're taking

your racquet back far enough and high enough to insure full swing expansion and good shoulder rotation into the shot. (If you set your racquet early, but you still find yourself "arming" the ball, check that you're actually getting your shoulders into action. With little or no shoulder rotation, you can't utilize the power of your upper body and the best you can do is swing hard and punch at the ball with your arm, which results in arm fatigue as you play a tough match, less velocity, and greater inaccuracy. This excessive strain can also lead to a sore arm.)

Once you feel comfortable hitting from this basic set position, you may be tempted to emulate some of the pros by curling the wrist (that is, wrapping the palm back toward the inside of

your forearm.) This extreme wrist cock can look and feel like it is generating greater power, but beware: *it takes expert timing to get out of this corkscrew position and still hit with power and, most important, accuracy.* The pros who do this have swings that have been grooved through many years of playing virtually every day. Yet I find that most all other players have horrendous problems trying to incorporate this little technique into their swings. So my advice would be: refine the stroke you have, using the standard wrist cock, and concentrate on getting more efficient shoulder action, for this is where the *real power* is derived on the backhand.

Shoulder Rotation

Remember, there's nothing to impede your swing on the backhand—physiologically—so get into that rhythm of rotating your shoulders back and then unwinding into the shot. Although the stroke you seek is clean and compact, you also want an open, free-flowing motion as you snap the racquet through the impact zone and finish all the way around. In rotating your shoulders, make sure to dip your front shoulder low enough to enable your head to move freely while your eyes remain glued to the ball.

Realistically, you'll almost always have all you can handle just setting up and getting through the ball without being jammed. But when your opponent's shot gives you extra time, don't "jump" at the ball in your overeagerness for the kill. Tell yourself, "Wait on the ball and shoulder it," so that you're rotating over your power base as you transfer your weight into the shot.

Contacting the Ball

When you set up strongly with the shoulders rotated back, the hitting elbow comfortably bent, and the wrist cocked, visualize a rubber band being pulled back—and now released as

4



The Backhand Sequence

The hitter will uncoil into the ball from this solid setup position (1). His knees are comfortably bent, the shoulders are rotated, the wrist is cocked, and the racquet is pulled back well above shoulder level.

Coming down into the ball, the hitting arm is still bent but starting to extend, the wrist is cocked, the back leg is bending, and the shoulder are rotating into the shot (2). This shoulder action gets the force of the body into the swing and pulls the racquet through the ball.

At impact off the front foot, the wrist is extended as it snaps through the hitting zone, generating significant additional power (3). Notice how the eyes are down on the ball and the body is in good balance, with the shoulders parallel to the side wall and the left arm trailing the swing.

When you have time and the proper clearance from your opponent, strive to finish with a smooth, complete follow-through (4); stopping abruptly can strain the shoulder.



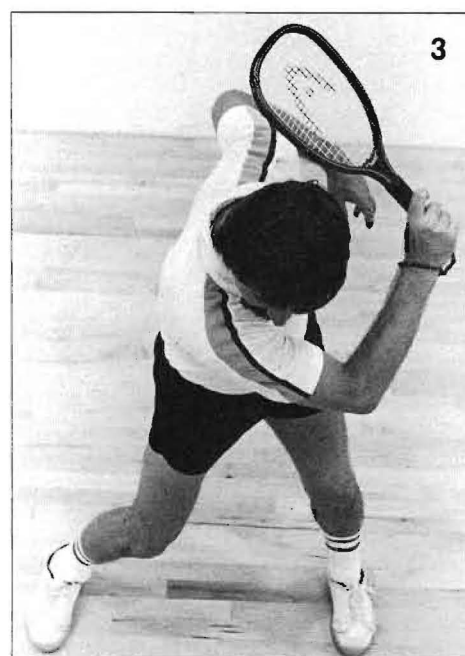
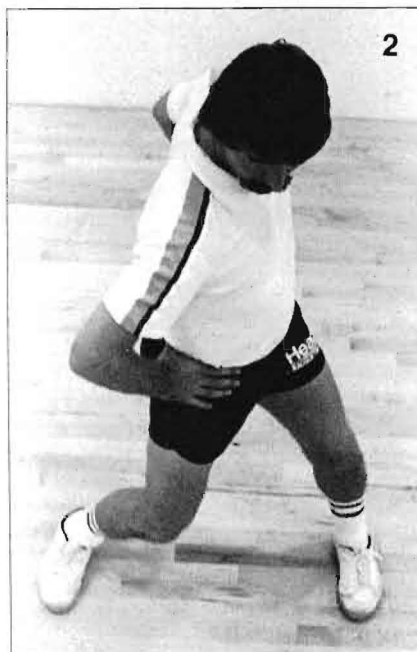
Body Rotation Drill

To practice the desired body rotation on the backswing (1), start by facing the side wall, hands on hips.

Rotate toward the back wall (2) with your eyes remaining focused on the intended point of impact.

Take the same motion with a racquet in your hand (3). Notice how the body should be comfortably coiled—over a solid base—before you swing down through the ball.

Many top players hold their left arm close to the body as they swing—out of habit or for better balance and rhythm. Others prefer to take this arm up in tandem with the hitting arm, as shown. Use whichever style gives you the best results with your stroking motion.



you start your forward motion into the ball. Coming into the contact zone (12 to 18 inches before impact), you're pulling through with the shoulder, the arm is beginning to extend, and the racquet is trailing. Then, almost simultaneously, you want your arm to extend fully—popping into the ball—while the wrist is snapping at impact. This is what delivers maximum velocity to your shots. Meanwhile, the racquet should be coming through on a horizontal plane with the face straight up and down at impact, since you're trying to drive the ball low and hard. Stay down through the shot to avoid inadvertently lifting the ball.

The Follow-Through

A common problem on backhands is a plain lack of confidence, which leads players to stop their racquet out in front of the body—the end result of a punch stroke (and also a jerking action that puts added strain on the elbow). Instead of this hesitant approach, concentrate on a follow-through that takes you all the way around after you hit, completing the aggressive motion you want to master. You'll find that when you strive to finish like this—with the hitting arm coming through freely after impact—you tend to also take a full swing from the beginning.

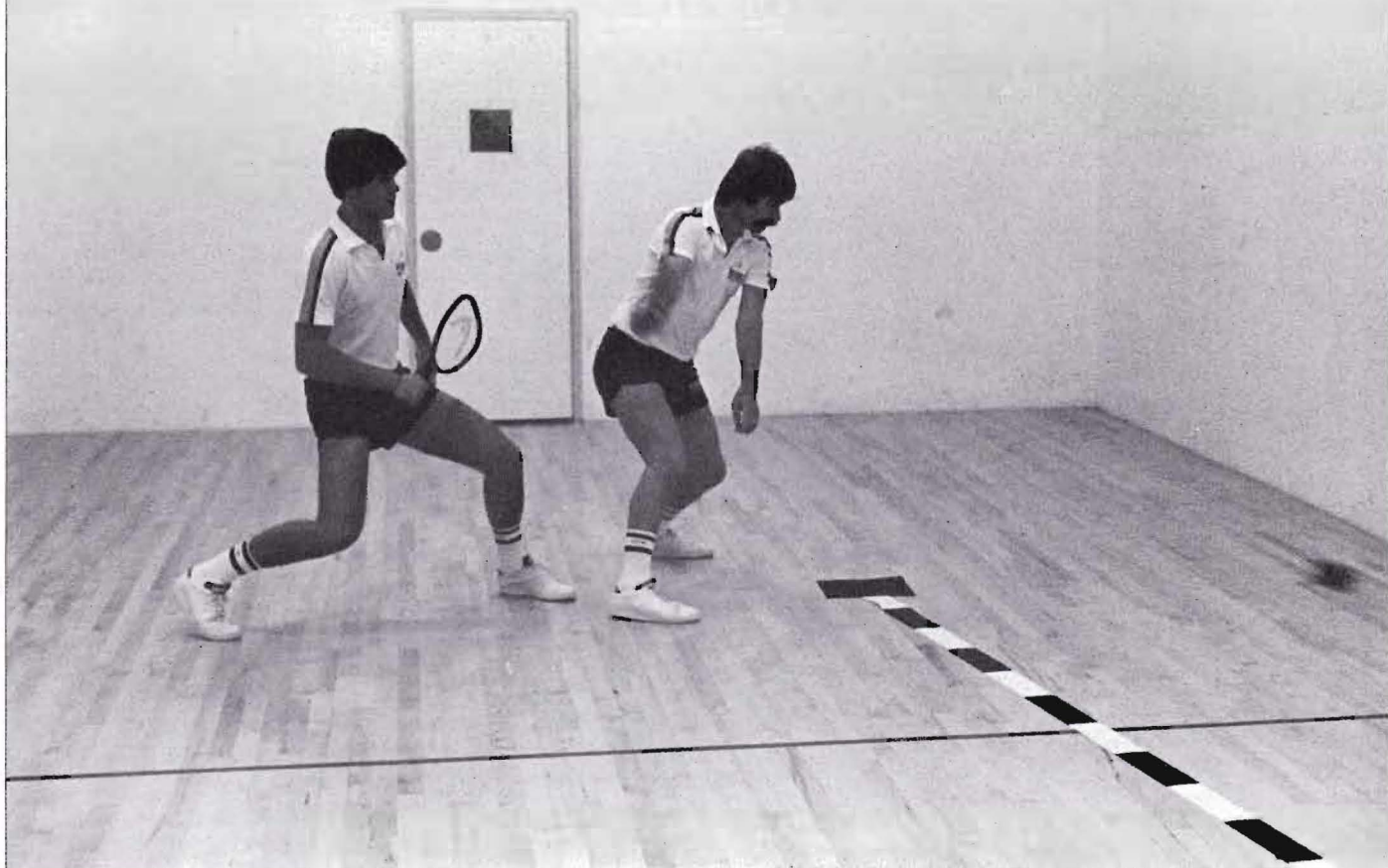
The Non-Hitting Arm

If you already have an excellent swing, then touching your non-hitting hand to the racquet handle as you start your backswing is not likely affecting your efficiency. However, this is a superfluous habit that may be keeping you from

bringing your racquet back quickly enough or far enough and can also limit your shoulder rotation. You may be unaware that you're doing this, so have a friend watch as you play (or use videotaping). As for the non-hitting arm, hold it in a comfortable position where it doesn't inhibit a full extension of your swing—either at your side or brought up parallel with the racquet arm. Taking the arm up may help you swing with a more fluid motion, but it also requires extra energy.

Developing An Aggressive Approach

Along with developing a solid stroke that you can rely on under pressure, you may find that you need a more aggressive attitude on the backhand. In practice, for example, just concentrate on turning your shoulders into the shot and ripping away, regardless if the ball hits a foot high on the front wall or 10 feet. Get that nice feeling of hearing the ball pop against the wall and gain the confidence that you can hit the ball hard—then go to work on also hitting your low-zone targets. In practice matches, try to take a healthy swing at the ball when you have an offensive opportunity, knowing that even if you miss your target—assuming you avoid skipping the ball—your power can still give you a possible ace in the hole. You may end up driving the ball past an opponent who has position ahead of you, or it may come to him hard, at difficult angles, and at least force him to execute a good shot to win the rally. (In tournament and league play, use good discretion when using this aggressive backhand.) ●

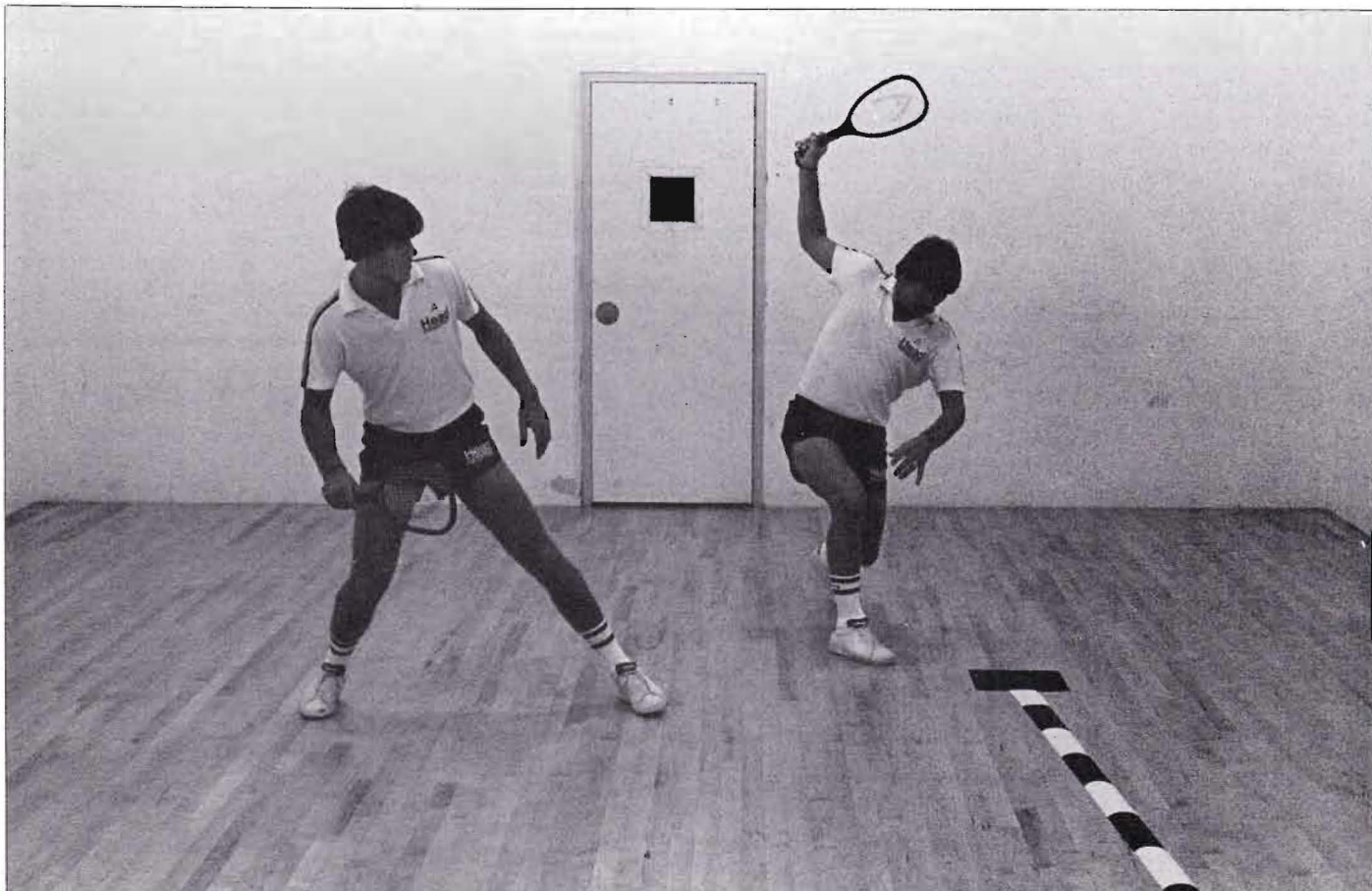


Mutual Respect in Center-Court

Properly played, there's a mutual respect for one's opponent in racquetball that minimizes the chances of injury and leads to more enjoyable play. One example is to have adaptable follow-throughs on the backhand that take into account where your opponent is positioned as you hit.

When he gets caught close to your right side during a tough center-court rally, and you have him momentarily blocked out of the play (1), learn to hit with a shortened follow-through so you can make the appropriate scoring shot.

In a similar situation (2), when you have a little room take a longer swing and hit with full shoulder rotation. But, as shown here, pull your racquet up on the follow-through, safely avoiding your opponent.



TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

MEN'S PRO STOPS

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
AUG 23-26	Natural Light Open Davison Racquet Club Davison, MI Jim Hiser 313-653-9602	\$12,000
AUG 30-SEPT 3	Racquet Club & Fitness Center 1074 East Bianchi Road Stockton, CA 95210 Rob Farrans 209-473-7171	\$10,000
WOMEN'S PRO STOPS		
OCT 18-21	Auburn Health & Racquet Club Route 20 Auburn, MA 01501 Joan Arnold 617-832-3236	\$12,000
NOV *	Sports Gallery Anaheim, CA Jim Carson 714-968-4313	\$10,000

*Tentative

September

Sept. 6-9
Pike's Peak Doubles
The Point Athletic Club
2233 Academy Pl.
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
Don Canella
303-597-7775

Sept. 7-9
3rd Annual Children's Home Society *3 Racquetball and Handball Tournament
Ocala Athletic Club
2120 N.E. 46th Ave.
Ocala, FL 32671

Sept. 7-9
Bellevue Open
Bellevue RB Club
Bellevue, WA

Sept. 7-9
Kentucky Racquetball Association Tour Stop
Athenian Spa
Louisville, KY

Sept. 13-16
Western Cook-out and RB Shoot-out *3
Irvine Court House
17850 Skypark Blvd.
Irvine, CA 92714
714-754-7500

Sept. 14-16
Doubles Warm-up *3
Lakeland YMCA
3620 Cleveland Hts. Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33803
Grace Page

Sept. 14-16
Regionals Doubles Championships *5

Incline Court House
P.O. Box 4107
880 Northwood
Incline Village, NV 89450
702-831-4212

Sept. 21-23
1st Annual Asahi Pro Am *3
Super Fit Racquetball Club
2370 Watson Ct.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
415-856-0211

Sept. 21-23
Tournament *3
Body Express
850 Kelton Way
Yuba City, CA 95991
916-674-8700

Sept. 21-23
Budlight Open
Pennyrile Racquet & Fitness Center
Hopkinsville, KY

Sept. 21-23
Tournament
The Olympiad
21069 Military Trail
Boca Raton, FL 33422

Sept. 21-23
WRA *6
Tyrone Racquetball Club
6690 Crosswinds
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Sept. 28-30
Southeast Regional Doubles *5
Racquet Power
3390 Kori Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223

October

Oct. 1-4
Advance Supply Open

Royal Spa & Court Club
2101 E. Blomfield Highway
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Oct. 5-7
5th Annual Lite Beer
Columbus Day Weekend Shootout *3
21st Point Club
McKown Rd. off Western Ave.
Albany, NY 12203
518-489-3276
Vince Wolanin

Oct. 5-7
Cash Fall Classic *3
colonial Sports & Courts RB Club
1101 Fairy Falls Dr.
Casholoton, OH 43842
Terry Fuharty
614-623-8399

Oct. 11-14
2nd Annual Juniors Only Open
Royal Spa & Court Club
2101 E. Bloomfield Highway
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Oct. 13-15
Oktoberfest Open *3
Colony Court Club
444 Sand Creek Road
Albany, NY 12211
518-459-4444

Oct. 12-14
Gleneagles 5th Annual Open *3
Sacramento, CA 95841
916-338-1850
Pat Hoffman

Oct. 19-21
Cool Cucumber Tournament *3
Lakeland YMCA
3620 Cleveland Hts. Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33801

Oct. 19-21
Clyde Bartlett M/S Open *3
manchester Court Club
1 LeClerc Cr.
Manchester, NH 03101
603-688-8375

Oct. 19-21
Great PUMPKIN Open *3
Sacramento Handball and RB Club
725 14th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-383-3070

Oct. 19-21
Kentucky Racquetball Tour Stop
Autumn Open
YMCA Downtown
Louisville, KY

Oct. 25-28
National Doubles Championships *4

Oct. 25-28
National Doubles Championships *6
The Court House
7211 Colonial
Boise, ID 83705
208-377-0041

November

Nov. 1-4
Tournament *3
Racquetball Club
1908 Olympic Blvd.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
415-932-6400

Nov. 2-4
Budweiser Open *3
Tacoma RBC
Tacoma, WA

Nov. 2-4
Lions Club/Coke Singles Classic
Lovers Lane Racquetball Club
Nautilus Center,
Bowling Green, KY

Nov. 2-4
Rebound Racquetball Tournament *3
Rime Fitness Center
89 Robert Jimmerson Road
Birmingham, AL 35209
Mark Sandlin
205-942-2119

Nov. 9-11
Riva Open Racquetball Tournament *3
Royal Racquet Club
1718 Rollins Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
415-692-3300

Nov. 9-11
WRA #7 *3
Tyrone Racquetball Club
6690 Crosswinds
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Nov. 15-18
Academy Awards
Academy Court Club
5555 McLeod NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Nov. 16-18
4-Wall Outdoor State *4
Recreation Center
202 W. Park St.
Auburndale, FL

Nov. 16-18
Long Island Open *3
Sports Set RB & Fitness

Nov. 16-18
Mr. Steak Open *3
Wall Street Racquet Club
3120 Bradshaw
Sacramento, CA 95827
916-363-4838

Nov. 16-18
RCM Sports Open *3
Kings Court
260 Mayfield Mall
Mountain View, CA 94043
415-965-2409

Nov. 29-Dec. 2
Christmas Classic *3
Schoeber's Racquetball Club
534 Owen Ct.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
415-846-0950
CONTINUED ON DEC. 6

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Cascade Open
Eugene, OR

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Gold Rush *3
Stone Mountain Athletic Club
5895 Memorial Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
404-296-1333

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop
1984 Bluegrass Open

MEN'S RANKING GRID

RK	PLAYER	AVG	TOT	DIV	TOR	ANA	CHI	AT1	DAV	SCH	ORE	AN2	AUS	AT2	RK	PLAYER	AVG	TOT	DIV	TOR	ANA	CHI	AT1	DAV	SCH	ORE	AN2	AUS	AT2	
1	M. YELLEN	94.00	940	10	120	120	120	120	90	120	50	10	70	120	44T	S. MONDRY	5.00	20	4	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	0		
2	M. HOGAN	84.00	840	10	70	70	70	90	120	90	120	70	50	90	56	M. PLOTKIN	3.00	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	0	0	0	
3	D. PECK	64.44	580	9	90	70	10	70	0	30	70	70	120	50	57T	J. CONINE	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	
4	G. PECK	58.00	580	10	70	50	70	50	70	50	50	50	50	70	57T	D. OBREMSKI	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
5	B. HARNETT	57.78	520	9	50	30	50	70	30	70	30	120	70	0	57T	G. MEFRETT	2.50	10	4	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	R. GONZALEZ	54.00	540	10	30	50	90	30	70	70	50	50	50	50	57T	G. BERBERET	2.50	10	4	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	J. HILECHER	46.00	460	10	50	30	50	50	50	50	50	30	90	30	57T	D. BLEDSOE	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
8	G. PRICE	43.33	390	9	50	30	30	50	0	10	70	50	90	10	57T	E. THIBAUT	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
9	S. OLIVER	36.67	220	6	0	10	0	30	0	50	90	10	0	30	57T	B. CHRISTENSEN	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
10	E. ANDREWS	36.00	360	10	50	30	10	30	50	50	30	10	30	70	57T	R. LAU	2.50	10	4	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	J. NEWMAN	34.44	310	9	0	50	30	30	30	30	50	10	30	50	57T	S. GINSBURG	2.50	10	4	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	R. WAGNER	31.67	190	6	0	90	30	10	0	10	0	F	0	50	57T	B. PHILLIPY	2.50	10	4	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13T	D. THOMAS	30.00	180	6	0	30	50	30	50	10	0	10	0	0	57T	ALMERICCO	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13T	M. LEVINE	30.00	150	5	0	0	30	10	50	0	30	0	0	0	57T	JURON	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	B. SELL	27.14	190	7	0	10	0	50	30	10	30	30	0	30	57T	EAGLE	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
16T	D. COHEN	26.00	260	10	30	30	10	10	30	30	30	30	50	10	57T	ANDERSON	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
16T	B. HAWKES	26.00	130	5	0	10	0	0	30	30	0	50	0	10	57T	CERESIA	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	J. EGERMAN	25.56	230	9	30	50	30	10	10	30	30	10	0	30	57T	M. GERVAYS	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	L. MYERS	25.00	100	4	30	10	0	0	0	30	0	30	0	0	57T	B. WILHELM	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	S. LERNER	24.29	170	7	0	30	50	30	0	10	10	30	0	10	57T	C. COLE	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
21T	C. BRYSMAN	20.00	160	8	0	10	30	30	0	10	10	30	30	10	57T	S. FITZPATRIK	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
21T	C. MCCOY	20.00	80	4	0	10	30	10	0	30	0	0	0	0	57T	B. HILDEBRAND	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
23	A. GROSS	16.40	82	5	0	0	0	0	10	2	0	30	30	10	57T	SLAYER	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
24T	M. RAY	15.71	110	7	0	10	0	10	10	30	0	10	10	30	57T	H. MARCUS	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
24T	D. GROSS	15.71	110	7	0	0	0	10	10	10	10	30	30	10	57T	GIFFITH	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
26T	M. ANTES	15.50	62	4	0	0	0	0	2	30	0	30	0	0	57T	B. LAUGHTER	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
26T	B. KOLTUN	15.00	60	4	0	10	10	10	30	0	0	0	0	0	57T	J. HOUSGARD	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
26T	M. MARTIND	15.00	60	4	0	10	30	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	57T	M. HENSHAW	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
26T	L. GILLIAM	15.00	60	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	57T	F. SNOW	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
30	G. TEXERIA	12.50	50	4	0	30	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	57T	J. LARSEN	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
31T	C. SWAIN	10.00	40	4	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	10	0	F	57T	MCGLONE	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
31T	P. BRITOS	10.00	50	5	0	10	10	0	0	10	0	10	0	10	57T	J. BOTHELLO	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
31T	B. VALIN	10.00	40	4	30	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	57T	K. KATHLANEN	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
34	S. HAWKINS	8.40	42	5	30	F	0	0	0	2	0	10	F	0	57T	B. LAND	2.50	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
35T	D. JOHNSON	8.00	32	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	30	0	0	89T	BRUNFELD	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
35T	J. SACCO	8.00	32	4	0	0	10	10	10	2	0	0	0	0	89T	KLEIN	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
37T	L. FOX	7.50	30	4	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	89T	BARGAS	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
37T	D. FERRIS	7.50	30	4	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	89T	GREEN	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
37T	A. LEE	7.50	30	4	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89T	JOHNSTON	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
37T	R. HACKBARTH	7.50	30	4	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89T	LOWE	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
37T	J. CASCIO	7.50	30	4	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	89T	C. BALLARD	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
37T	D. SIMMONETTE	7.50	30	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	89T	N. AKAU	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
37T	MITCHELL	7.50	30	4	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	89T	DOYLE	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	K. KAMALU	5.00	20	4	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	89T	SNEAD	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	D. NEGRETE	5.00	20	4	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	89T	O'BRIEN	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	E. TERRY	5.00	20	4	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	89T	FOES	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	J. NOLAN	5.00	20	4	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	89T	S. APPEL	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	C. DAVIDSON	5.00	20	4	0	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	89T	MOREY	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	S. PERRY	5.00	20	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	89T	CADWALADER	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	S. MOSKWA	5.00	20	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10	89T	BEARDSLEY	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	S. GONZALES	5.00	20	4	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	89T	DEPALMA	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	J. BRITOS	5.00	20	4	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	89T	JOHNSON	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	K. VANTREASE	5.00	20	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	0	89T	BARR	.50	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
44T	R. NAVARRO	5.00	20	4	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	112	J. KWARTLER	.00	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	F	0

Editor from page 7

That system, as I understand it, reflects performance of all ranking tournaments over the previous year, regardless of the number, but reduces the weight of each event with each passing week. They also have no minimum divider; instead they award bonus points to players for participating in a certain number of events. (This is the reason Ivan Lendl is now ranked above John McEnroe.)

In our discussions here at the magazine, we have decided to stay with the current system until mid-September. If, at that time, the RMA has been unable to announce a tour, we will likely attempt to work with the players to institute a new, more equitable, system.

In the meantime, to insure that the rankings on our computer are accurate, we have printed in this issue our records for every player with ranking points (110 in all). We would appreciate it if everyone

who is on the list would check their points to make sure our records are correct. We think we have all of the bugs out of the system, but we want to be sure. (Computers are great, but programmers aren't; one recent bug had poor Rich Wagner bouncing around the rankings like a basketball.)

So there it stands. Everybody in the sport is hoping that an organized tour will soon materialize. Nobody is looking forward to that more than we are. ●

RANKINGS

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. The ten events used this month are:

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

The ranking system utilizes the following point system:

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEN'S PRO RANKING Season's End

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	M. Yellen	94.00
2	M. Hogan	84.00
3	D. Peck	64.44
4	G. Peck	58.00
5	B. Harnett	57.78
6	R. Gonzalez	54.00
7	J. Hilecher	46.00
8	G. Price	43.33
9	S. Oliver	36.67
10	E. Andrews	36.00
11	J. Newman	34.44
12	R. Wagner	31.67
13T	D. Thomas	30.00
13T	M. Levine	30.00
15	B. Sell	27.14
16T	D. Cohen	26.00
16T	B. Hawkes	26.00
18	J. Egerman	25.56
19	L. Myers	25.00
20	S. Lerner	24.29
21T	C. Brysman	20.00
21T	C. McCoy	20.00
23	A. Gross	16.40
24T	M. Ray	15.71
24T	D. Gross	15.71
26T	M. Antes	15.00
26T	B. Koltun	15.00
26T	M. Martino	15.00
26T	L. Gilliam	15.00
30	G. Texeria	12.50
31T	C. Swain	10.00
31T	P. Britos	10.00
31T	B. Valin	10.00
34	S. Hawkins	8.40
35T	D. Johnson	8.00
35T	J. Sacco	8.00
37T	L. Fox	7.50
37T	D. Ferris	7.50
37T	A. Lee	7.50
37T	R. Hackbarth	7.50
37T	J. Cascio	7.50
37T	D. Simmonette	7.50
37T	Mitchell	7.50
44T	K. Kamalu	5.00
44T	D. Negrete	5.00
44T	E. Terry	5.00
44T	J. Nolan	5.00
44T	C. Davidson	5.00
44T	S. Perry	5.00
44T	S. Moskwa	5.00
44T	S. Gonzales	5.00
44T	J. Britos	5.00
44T	K. Vantrease	5.00
44T	R. Navarro	5.00
44T	S. Mondry	5.00
56	M. Plotkin	3.00
57T	J. Conine	2.50
57T	D. Obremski	2.50
57T	G. Merritt	2.50
57T	G. Berberet	2.50

WPRA RANKINGS (season-ending rankings)

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Heather McKay	306.13
2	Lynn Adams	290.25
3	S. Wright Hamilton	165.00
4	Janell Marriott	100.07
5	Vicki Panzeri	99.38
6	Terri Gilreath	90.50
7	Laura Martino	87.33
8	Caryn McKinney	74.86
9	Marci Greer	69.25
10	Brenda Barrett	66.25
11	Francine Davis	64.13
12	Joyce Jackson	60.75
13	Peggy Gardner	56.67
14	Heather Stupp	50.50
15	Jennifer Harding	46.13
16	Stacey Fletcher	37.50
17	Bonnie Stoll	37.13
18	Diane Bullard	28.83
19	Molly O'Brien	24.57
20	Marcy Lynch	21.71
21	Carol Pranka	20.36
22	Liz Alvarado	19.67
23	Martha McDonald	15.71
24	Mary Dee	14.67
25	Val Paese	13.00
26	Leslie Clifford	12.86
27	Rita Hoff Scott	12.50
28	Marci Drexler	11.67
29	Kay Kuhfeld	10.00
30	Elaine Riley	9.67
31	Jean Sauser	9.33
32T	Babette Bell	8.33
32T	Trina Rasmussen	8.33
34	Susie Carlos	8.00
35T	Monique Parent	6.67
35T	Peggy Steding	6.67
37	Gail Woods	5.00
38	Suzanne Robert	4.67
39T	Cindy Baxter	3.33
39T	Kippi Bishop-Thulin	3.33
39T	Lynn Farmer	3.33
39T	Karen Powers	3.33
39T	Sandy Robson	3.33
44	Donna Myer	3.00
45T	Diane Adams	1.67
45T	Ellen Campbell	1.67
45T	Pam Clark	1.67
45T	Lisa Devine	1.67
45T	Cindy Donnelly	1.67
45T	Carol Dupuy	1.67
45T	Dot Fishl	1.67
45T	Melodie Fox	1.67
45T	Terri Graham	1.67
45T	Diana Hardek	1.67
45T	Carrie Healy	1.67
45T	Tamara Low	1.67
45T	Tracy Phillips	1.67
45T	Joyce Robertson	1.67
45T	Susan Sanders	1.67
45T	Beth Slade	1.67
45T	Tanya Spangler	1.67
45T	Kim Tiedeman	1.67
45T	Brenda Young	1.67

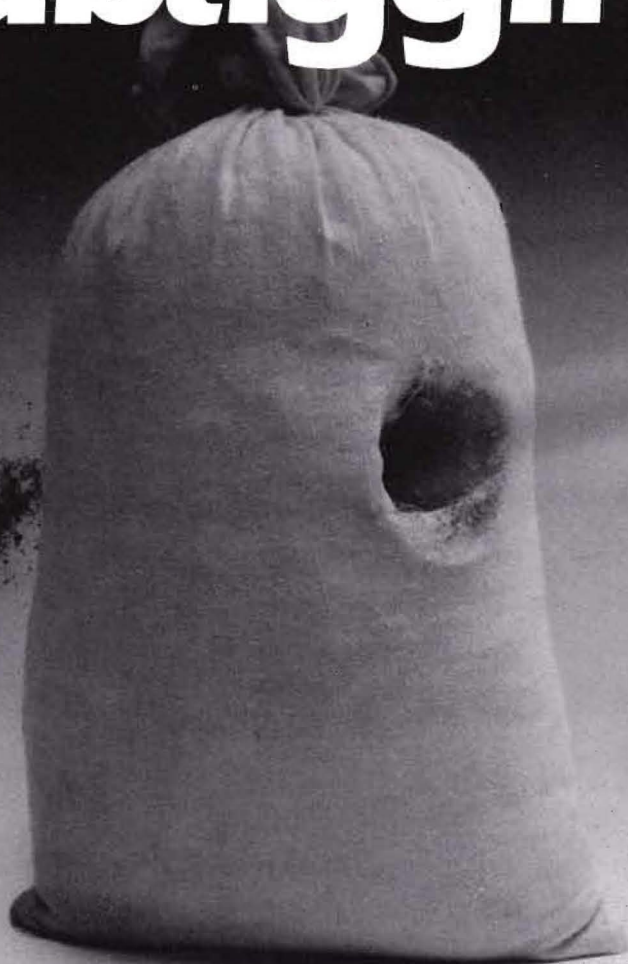
AARA NATIONAL MEN'S RANKINGS JULY 12, 1984

NAME	REG. POINTS
1. Sergio Gonzalez	685
2. Tim Hansen	593
3. Dan Obremski	570
4. Dennis Aceto	550
5. Cliff Swain	550
6. Andy Roberts	480
7. Fred Calabrese	380
8. Mark Morrison	375
9. Jim Cascio	370
10. John Bouchard	317
11. Don Costleigh	305
12. Bubba Gajtner	293
13. Mike Ray	280
14. Brian Titus	279
15. Jim Cullen	260
16. Randy Olson	257
17. Dan Ferris	250
18. Gene Fitzpatrick	247
19. Scott St. Onge	235
20. Mike Lowe	230
21. Jim Owen	220
22. Tony Gabriel	215
23. Tom Neill	210
24. Brian Mitchell	204
25. Don Kelly	200

AARA NATIONAL WOMEN'S RANKINGS JULY 12, 1984

NAME	POINTS
1. Cindy Baxter	550
2. Mary Dee	500
3. Terri Graham	370
4. Susan Sanders	317
5. Joy Eon	314
6. Dot Fishl	300
7. Mary Holroyd	290
8. Joyce Beaudoin	280
9. Jan Curtis	260
10. Kathy Glivna	255
11. Martha Adams	230
12. B. Bell	230
13. Robin Levine	230
14. Chris Upson	220
15. Marie Younger	210
16. B. Crawley	200
17. Terri Latham	200
18. Jessica Rubin	200
19. Malia Kamahoahoa	175
20. Elaine Mardas	175
21. Melanie Britton	170
22. Kate Conway	160
23. Mary Lyons	160
24. Toni Bevelock	150
25. Janet Simon	150

Put an end to sandbagging



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

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

ARHS isn't just for leagues and tournaments. It provides all racquetball players additional incentives that go beyond just winning. They can improve their performance rating, beat the handicap, or arrange new, compatible matches. And generally become more active. More active players are happier players and that is good for the players and the sport.

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

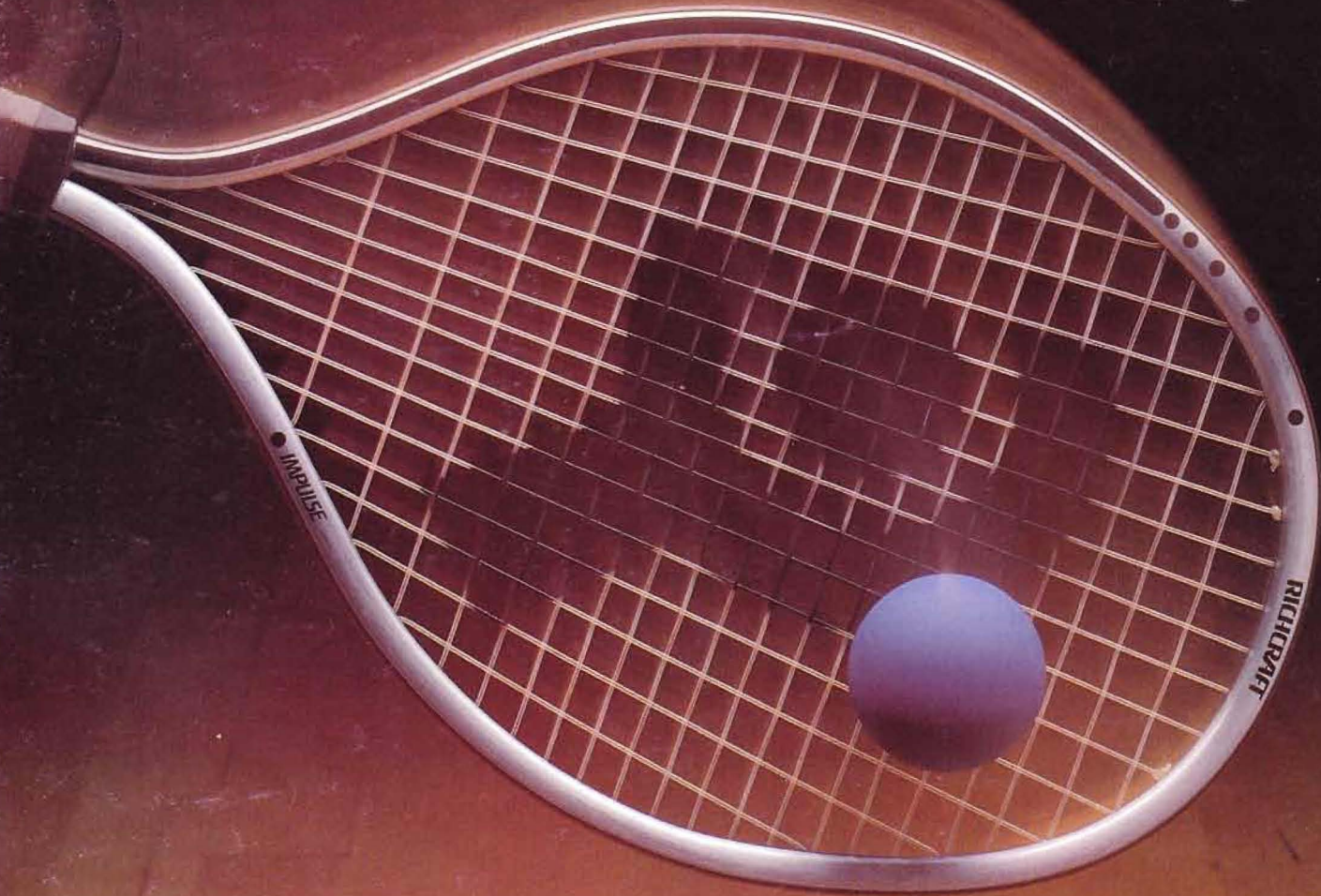


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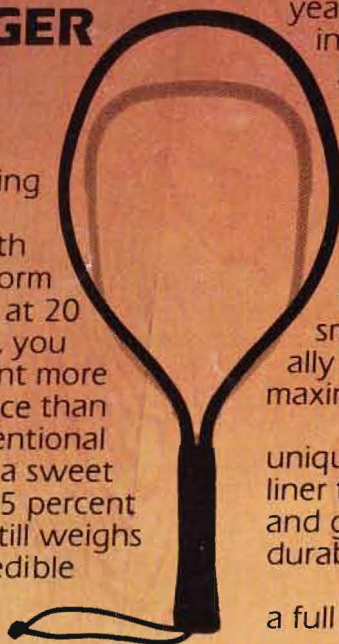
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Introducing IMPULSE by Richcraft. With a string platform measuring in at 20 by 10 inches, you get 50 percent more playing surface than with a conventional racquet and a sweet spot that's 75 percent larger, but, still weighs in at an incredible 245 grams.



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Lightweight, durable, precision-crafted IMPULSE gives you a better chance at the ones that got away.

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