The Sharpshooters . . .

Keeley
Zeitman
Strandemo
Serot
Schmidtke
Hilecher

. . . gunning for Brumfield

Racquetball

Official Voice of the International Racquetball Association

Volume 3, Number 2

March 1974
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MARCH 1974

The sixth annual International Singles Championships of the IRA have been postponed from Memorial Day weekend to June 6-9, because of construction delays at the tournament site.

In announcing the new dates, IRA executive director Myron Roderick apologized to the membership for any inconvenience and declared that no future tournaments would be awarded or scheduled until the prospective facility is complete and ready for play.

The 1974 Championships will be held at Brown's Handball & Racquetball Club, located at 5203 Kearney Villa Way in San Diego.

Tournament headquarters will be the LeBaron Hotel, 250 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, Calif. 92110, telephone 714-291-1777.

Activity will start on Tuesday, June 4, with the annual meeting of the Board of Directors at 10 a.m.

First competition will be the Preliminary Open Singles, scheduled at 8 a.m. Wednesday, a qualifying tournament to complete the 64 bracket in the Open. Eight or more positions will be available.

Entry deadline for all events, including the preliminary, is May 20. Entry fee is $20 with a limit of one singles event. The entry fee for the preliminary singles will cover each contestant who qualifies for the Open.

Anyone who failed to qualify for the Open Singles may compete in the preliminary event, but he MUST register at Brown's from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, or verify his entry by telephone during that time.

The registration desk will open at the LeBaron Hotel from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday.

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The registration desk will open at the LeBaron Hotel from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday.

Thursday's play, starting at 8 a.m., will include Open Singles, Women's Singles, 35-over Seniors and 45-over Masters. All players in those events must register Wednesday.

Friday's action, also starting at 8 a.m., continued on Page 2.
PAGE 7 Regional Reports
Zeitman upset in South, but Garfinkel, Porco, Strandemo, Hilecher and McCoy win Open titles.

PAGE 13 The Masters Touch
John Halverson recovers from a first round defeat to win National Invitation Masters Singles.

PAGE 14 Inside Racquetball
This month’s instructional article covers fundamentals of serve and return, by the book.

PAGE 20 Practice by Yourself
Jan Campbell, a highly regarded women’s star, outlines methods of improving your game.

PAGE 30 Meet Mr. Racquetball
Response to last fall’s recreation survey draws a picture of the “average” racquetball player.

IRA Board of Directors

IRA Commissioners

RACQUETBALL Volume 3, Number 2, March 1974

The official voice of the International Racquetball Association, published bi-monthly at 205 West McElroy, Stillwater, Okla. 74074 (mailing address PO Box 1016, telephone 405-377-2676). Distributed free to members of the International Racquetball Association. Sixty days notice is required for any interruption in case of address changes. Membership rates: United States, Canada, Mexico—$3 per year, $7 for three years. For all other foreign countries, add $1 per year for mailing costs. Postage at control circulation rates paid at Stillwater, Okla. 74074. Postmaster, send Form 3579 to PO Box 1016, Stillwater, Okla. 74074.

San Diego...

Continued From Page 1

includes 18-under Junior Singles, 55-over Golden Masters Singles and Women’s Doubles, the only doubles event in this tournament. Entry fee for Women’s Doubles is $20 per team. These players must register by 8 p.m. Thursday.

The annual general meeting for the IRA membership will be an 8:30 a.m. breakfast on Saturday, June 8, with the business session following at 9:30 a.m. Four positions on the Board of Directors will be filled. Other topics for discussion are outlined in the Director’s Message on Page 4 of this issue.

The official entry blank for the International Singles Championships will be found on Page 5. When completed, send it with the entry fee to Dr. Bud Muehlheisen, 8333 Loren Drive, San Diego, Calif. 92041, telephone 714-442-7333. Deadline for all events is May 20.

Preliminary qualifying is required only in Open Singles. Other events are open to anyone eligible under the rules.

Consolations will be held in each event, open to anyone who loses his first match played. Trophies will be awarded for four places in each class, plus consolation champion.

Reservations at the tournament hotel may be made in advance through the IRA office, PO Box 1016, Stillwater, Okla. 74074. Two types of rooms are available:

In the motor court, singles are $13, doubles $15 and twins (two doubles) $18.

In the plaza tower, singles are $17, doubles $19 and twins $22.

For reservations, send one night’s deposit, your name, home address and arrival date to the IRA office before May 15.

For transportation from the airport to the hotel, advise the hotel of your arrival time and flight number and you will be met at the airport. The hotel must receive this information directly from you by May 15.

If you have any additional questions, consult the IRA office in Stillwater, telephone 405-377-2676.

Daffy Days

The second annual Daffy Open tournament will be held May 24-27 at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. Entry deadline is May 10 and the fee is $8 for one event, $12 for a second event. Classes scheduled are Open, Class B, Class C, Women’s and Masters Singles and Open Doubles.

For information and entry blanks, write or call Sid Williams, 1120 South Seventh, Tacoma, Wash. 98406, telephone 206-272-1029.
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MARCH 1974
Dear Racquetball Friends:

I hope this magazine will find everyone in good health and having lots of fun playing Racquetball.

I would like to apologize for the lateness of the last magazine and I know it caused some problems with the Regionals. The problem we had was getting information from the regions so we could print it in the magazine. I can assure you we will have the next issue out on time.

We have reports back from the Regionals and I think they were a success, but we had some problems in each of them. I am going to recommend to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting the following proposal:

Anyone hosting a Regional must hold all classes, both singles and doubles. Also, each Regional must have a referees' clinic the night before the tournament starts so we can have some uniformity within our organization as far as officiating is concerned.

I also feel it is important to break our Regionals down into more realistic areas. The present breakdown is as follows:


Central—Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa.

South—Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Puerto Rico.

Southwest—Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.


East Canada—Quebec, Ontario.

West Canada—British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba.

I propose to have the breakdown in the United States in eight regions instead of five, keeping the Canadian regions as they are. This is the proposed lineup:


North—Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.

Mid-South—North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Maryland, D. C.

South—Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Puerto Rico.

Southwest—Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana.


West—California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Hawaii.

If you have any ideas or comments concerning this proposal, please let me know. I think this will give us more opportunity for participation and less travel involved.

As you know, our International Championships have been set back to the first weekend in June, due to construction delays on the Brown's facility. I hope this doesn't inconvenience you as far as the tournament is concerned. It will be a beautiful facility and I think you will enjoy playing as well as visiting San Diego.

We have had two offers to hold the International Doubles Championships, one in Dallas and the other in Cleveland. Both facilities are outstanding and the tournament will be held October 10-13.

I hope the ball situation is improving in your area.

Be sure to let me know if you have any ideas that you want presented at the General Membership meeting during the Internationals in San Diego.

If we can be of any further help to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Myron Roderick
Executive Director
Official Entry Blank

Sixth Annual
International Singles
Championships

June 6-7-8-9, 1974
San Diego, Calif.

Please enter me in the event checked:

[ ] Open Singles
Contestant must be an accredited qualifier through one of seven IRA regional championships.

[ ] Preliminary Open Singles
Any contestant who failed to qualify through an IRA regional may compete in the preliminary tournament June 5 from which eight or more will advance to fill an Open Singles bracket of 64.

[ ] Junior Singles, 18-Under
Contestant must have been 18 years old or younger on March 1, 1974.

[ ] Senior Singles, 35-Over
Contestant must have been 35 years old or over on March 1, 1974.

[ ] Masters Singles, 45-Over
Contestant must have been 45 years old or over on March 1, 1974.

[ ] Golden Masters Singles, 55-Over
Contestant must have been 55 years old or over on March 1, 1974.

[ ] Women's Singles

[ ] Women's Doubles

Partner’s Name ________________________________

SEND THIS PAGE WITH ENTRY FEE TO DR. BUD MUEHLEISEN, 9333 LOREN DRIVE, LA MESA, CALIF. 92041

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I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the International Racquetball Association, its affiliated clubs and their respective agents, representatives, successors and assigns for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my participation in Regional or National tournaments.

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MARCH 1974
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Of course, if you prefer wood to metal, we have a whole slew of top quality wooden racquetball racquets, too.

For the best in racquetballs and racquets see ours at your pro shop or sporting goods store. To get our newest catalog write: Seamco Sporting Goods, New Haven, Connecticut 06503.

The best reason for you to buy our racquets is our racquetball.
With a brilliant display of high-pressure racquetball, Charlie Garfinkel of Buffalo, N. Y., came from way out in left field to win the last 11 points and defeat Tom Kutas of Cincinnati in the open singles finals of the IRA East Regional at State College, Pa. The field of 130 players, including 60 in open singles, doubled the 1973 entry list and was the largest East Regional yet. And the finals provided enough excitement to last for years.

The first game went to Garfinkel in a good, close struggle, 21-20, but Kutas zipped through the second, 21-9, and was rolling at high speed in the third until was 20-10, match point serving. The Gar did not break, although Tom had lots of chances to get that last elusive point. Charlie was hitting ceiling balls well to Tom’s right side and waiting for the best percentage opportunity. He pulled slowly to 17-20 and kept applying the pressure. Kutas’ passes were coming off the back wall and Gar didn’t have to run them down as he did earlier. Finally, it was 20-20 and Garfinkel showed absolute concentration as he battled successfully for the final point.

There was only one hinder the entire match, each player called all questionable skips and referee Tom Sweeney had high praise for both the quality of racquetball and the sportsmanship shown by both. There was plenty of competition in the semifinals, too, where Garfinkel turned back Charlie Shapiro of Pennsylvania, 21-19, 21-10, and Kutas nipped Mike Luciw of Connecticut, 21-15, 11-21, 21-18. Shapiro had a bad break in the first game when a ball skidded on a sweat drop on the floor, jumped Gar’s racquet and struck Shapiro. The mishap broke Shapiro’s concentration and disrupted his beautiful soft-touch play just long enough.

Kutas’ speed made the difference over Luciw, whose kills off Tom’s serve made it difficult for Tom to run him as much as he’d have liked. Only a few people saw the third place match between Luciw and Shapiro, but it was a bell-ringer. With Gar expected to go senior singles in the Internationals and a possibility Kutas might not make it to San Diego, there still was a chance for the winner to pick up full cross-country transportation. Luciw won 16-21, 21-19, 21-17, strictly on desirae. Both players were out of gas and played a match of the heart. Shapiro’s soft shots worked well throughout, but in
Porco Overpowers Hennen; Zeitman Upset in Early Round

Veteran Ken Porco of Louisville turned Cinderella's coach back into a pumpkin and stroked to the open singles championship of the IRA South Regional with a convincing 21-7, 21-15. Richie Wagner of New Jersey outclassed a double elimination field of eight to win junior singles, taking Don Salvador of Ohio, 21-10, 21-2, for the title.

After dropping the first game, 20-21, Hennen came back to win the second, 21-19, and kept rolling them out for a 21-15 decision in the finale.

Zeitman did squeeze into the field for San Diego when he was one of the two chosen from the round of 16 to join the eight quarterfinalists among the 10 qualifiers. The other selectee was Jim Cullen of Memphis State, beaten in the 16's by Cooper, 21-14, 21-19.

Hennen downed Cooper, 21-9, 21-18, in the quarters; Ycaza stopped Dave Bedsee, 21-20, 21-15; Porco trimmed Marc Auerbach, 21-7, 21-4; and Steve Smith of Memphis State won his latest duel from Randy Stafford of Tennessee-Knoxville, 21-18, 21-14.

Hennen had quite a struggle with Ycaza in the semifinals before pulling out a

South Porco Overpowers Hennen; Zeitman Upset in Early Round

Gene Grapes, still one of the pure shooters in the game, took masters singles over John Leech of Ohio, 21-7, 21-10. Gene entered only the masters singles and the extra rest proved valuable.

Gerri Stoffregen of Ohio had to go three games to win women's singles over Camile McCarthy of Indiana, 6-21, 21-12, 21-15. Richie Wagner of New Jersey outclassed a double elimination field of eight to win junior singles, taking Don Salvador of Ohio, 21-10, 21-2, for the title.

Jack Bowling of New York won the golden masters round-robin, with Sam Alacca of Ohio second.

The open doubles provided a mild surprise as Luciw and Romano overwhelmed Abrams and Hiudt, 21-11, 21-12. Romano was killing and covering Abrams well. Hiudt couldn't connect with his Z-ball and Luciw didn't have to provide much help for Romano, who killed right side-wall very well.

OPEN SINGLES


WOMEN'S SINGLES


JUNIOR SINGLES


SENIOR SINGLES


OPEN DOUBLES


WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Round Robin: 1—Gerri Stoffregen-Camile McCarthy.
21-17, 13-21, 21-20 decision and Porco passed his only real test of the tournament, 21-6, 15-21, 21-11, over Smith.

Porco, the Senior Invitation champion, suffered a letdown at the start of the tournament, 21-8, golden masters champion and Dean Chambers of Memphis won senior singles, Ike Gurner of Louisville was masters singles, and Alex Gren of Louisville was golden masters champion and Dean Chambers of Memphis captured the junior singles title. Allan Abramovitz and Fred Michels of Louisville downed Porco at the start of the tournament, 21-2, 21-10, in open doubles.

Evie Morguelan of Louisville repeated as women's champion, Bill King of Memphis won senior singles, Herman Abramovitz of Louisville took masters singles, Ike Gurner of Louisville was golden masters champion and Dean Chambers of Memphis captured the junior singles title. Allan Abramovitz and Fred Michels of Louisville downed Porco and Auerbach, 21-8, 21-10, in open doubles.

Nichopoulos of Memphis captured the junior singles title. Allan Abramovitz and Fred Michels of Louisville defeated Porco and Auerbach, 21-8, 21-10, in open doubles.

Randy Stafford, Knoxville, lost to Steve Smith, 21-6, 21-12, in the open singles.

South commissioner Barry Coxe presents award to Ken Porco.

Central

Strandemo Shoots For the 'Big One'

Steve Strandemo, enjoying his best year on the racquetball trail, boomed into the International Championship picture by winning the IRA Central Regional at Minneapolis.

Strandemo defeated home town rival Ron Strom of St. Cloud, Minn., 21-8, 21-14, in the open singles finals.

Starting with the Klondike championship last summer, Strandemo's championship in San Diego has been paying off with a string of victories over the top players and he definitely looms as a high seed and championship contender at San Diego.

The other eight open singles qualifiers:

1. Steve Smith, Columbus, Ohio, 21-6, 21-10, 21-14
2. Allan Abramovitz, Clearwater, Fla., 21-15, 14-21, 21-16
3. Evie Morguelan, Louisville, 21-19, 17-21, 21-19
4. Johnny Hennen, Hennen, 21-11, 21-15
5. Steve Strandemo, Minneapolis, 21-5, 21-11
6. Ken Porco, Louisville, 21-2, 21-10
7. Joe Ycaza, Atlanta, 21-6, 21-15
8. Dave Bledsoe, Knoxville, 21-20, 21-16

OPEN SINGLES
Semifinals: Hennen def. Ycaza, 21-17, 13-21, 21-20; Porco def. Smith, 21-6, 21-11.

WOMEN'S SINGLES
Semifinals: Hennen def. Ycaza, 21-17, 13-21, 21-20; Porco def. Smith, 21-6, 21-11.

JUNIOR SINGLES

SENIOR SINGLES
Finals: King def. Chambers, 21-12, 13-21, 21-11.

MASTERS SINGLES

GOLDEN MASTERS SINGLES
Round Robin: 1-1; Gumer; 2-A; Guerry; 3-K. W. Aungst
OPEN DOUBLES

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

OPEN DOUBLES

MASTERS DOUBLES

OPEN DOUBLES

SENIOR DOUBLES

MASTERS DOUBLES

MARCH 1974
Jerry Hilecher, champion

"Danny's Gang" from St. Louis, led by Jerry Hilecher, dominated this year's IRA Southwest Regional at Fort Worth, with Hilecher defeating home town rival Ken Wong, 20-21, 21-4, 21-12, for the open singles championship.

The 10 courts on the Texas Christian University campus served as the battleground, and a battle it was, although familiar names topped the charts at the close of the three-day event.

With nationally ranked players in nearly all of the seven divisions, the St. Louis crowd found themselves viewing most of the deciding matches from inside the courts.

The 40-man open draw was strong from top to bottom, with names like Luther Bernstein, Tom McKie, Roland Treat and Virgil Thurmond giving the top four seeds all they could handle.

However, when semifinal time came around Saturday night, Jerry Hilecher was matched against Jim Austin of Houston on one court and Ken Wong was paired against Pete Wright of Fort Worth right next door.

Hilecher's power against Austin's smoothness provided an interesting contrast. It was close all the way, but Jerry's devastating rollouts proved the difference, 21-17, 21-15, although Jim continues to show the outstanding backhand control which is his trademark.

On the other side of the bracket, it was a question of Wong's stamina and pass shots against Wright's backhand rollouts. Again, the match was tight but convincing, 21-14, 21-19, for Wong.

From the first game of the finals, won by Wong 21-20, one would have expected another long, drawn-out affair. But Hilecher had other ideas.

Leaving Kenny and everyone else shaking their heads, Jerry shot everything that moved in the second game to the tune of 21-4. The deciding game was not much different. With Wong anticipating kill, Jerry went to the pass with 21-12 results.

Everyone knows who won the women's singles. Peggy Steding is quite simply the best female racquetball player in the world and showed it. Outside of San Diego, it's difficult for her to find a decent match within the ladies' division.

She did find a surprise in newcomer Shannon Sweeney of Fort Worth. Showing an excellent ceiling and backhand game, this young lady put together scores of 5 and 8 against Peggy in the finals.

The St. Louis onslaught was started by Jerry Zuckerman, who dominated fellow St. Louisite Marty Hogan in the junior singles finals, 21-3, 21-9.

Zuckerman was extended only by Houston's Kevin Meyer in the semis, 21-16, 21-15. Meyer came back to take third place over Mark Sandler, 21-8, 21-19.

The Seniors belonged to Myron Rude, Paul Ikier, Gordon Kelly, Tom and Joe Wirkus, Mark Hegg, Jim Santinos and Mike Bergen. Bill Schmidike of Minneapolis, fourth last year, was exempt from the qualifying process.

Kelly, the airline pilot from Michigan who is another top young challenger, captured third place from Hegg of Sioux Falls in a comeback 19-21, 21-11, 21-10 performance.

The tournament drew 187 entries to the Court House facility and so many excellent matches were played that it would be impossible to single out a "best" encounter. The official black ball showed good consistency and only a small amount of breakage.

Schmidike didn't play in the qualifying open singles, but teamed with Strom to win the doubles title over Schultz and Fancher, 21-15, 21-8. Bob Adam, Jr. and Mark Domarque, the junior singles finalists, captured third place in open doubles with a 21-18, 21-5 victory over Gil Schmidt and Moore.

The Adams family produced two champions. Bob Jr. defeated Domarque, 21-9, 6-21, 21-10, in the see-saw finals of junior singles. And Bob Sr. won senior singles over Bernie Nielsen, 21-11, 21-18.

Kathy Williams downed K. Porter, 21-10, 13-21, 21-9, in the women's singles finals with Sue Carrow taking third.

Jim White, who went to the finals of masters doubles in last year's Internationals, won masters singles in the regional with a 21-7, 8-21, 21-9 victory over Diz Kronenberg.

Ben Wirkus downed Don Johnson, 21-7, 21-6 in golden masters singles.

OPEN SINGLES

WOMEN'S SINGLES

JUNIOR SINGLES

SENIOR SINGLES

MASTERS SINGLES

GOLDEN MASTERS SINGLES

OPEN DOUBLES
Roderick of Stillwater, Okla., who just had too much for Bill Sellars in the finals, 21-18, 21-7. Dr. Bill graciously stayed out of the masters division and most players were glad he stayed out of open singles, too, because he's always tough.

In the masters bracket another Hilecher found his way into the finals against Richard Walker of Dallas. Danny scored 15 twice in a row against Richard. Bill Reese defeated Don Van Fossen for third place, 21-17, 21-16.

Perhaps the most exciting match of the tournament took place in the golden masters finals, in which Henry Lesky of Houston put up a courageous fight against David Shoss of Dallas. Dave's superb conditioning outlasted Henry's kill shots for a 21-8, 21-14 score.

The doubles event produced several tight matches and much fan interest, as expected. From the outset, it appeared as though the nationally ranked team of Luther Bernstein and Tom McKie would dominate the event.

After beating Jerry Linton and Wallace Hardy, 21-12, 21-15, in the quarters, they proceeded to destroy a fine Stillwater team of John Jobe and Marvin Keener, 21-7, 21-18, in the semis. The other half of the division found Roderick and Wright in charge after a 21-20, 21-18 semifinal win over Houston's Richard Speer and Bob Hill.

The finals featured the control and hustle of McKie-Bernstein against Roderick and Wright's power. This time Myron and Pete put together the necessary kill shots in a close 21-19, 21-17 win.

Thanks go to referees John Miller, Phil Kolb and V. Z. Lawton, along with Steve Edie and Laura Allen for scheduling and hospitality.

Craig McCoy of Riverside, Calif., survived a first round protest and won the open singles championship of the IRA West Regional at Salt Lake City. McCoy handled Trey Sayes of Logan, Utah, 21-10, 21-7, in the finals.

The protest developed on opening day when McCoy, arriving directly from the airport, was 17 minutes late for his first match. His opponent insisted the match be forfeited, but tournament officials ruled that there were extenuating circumstances and decided the match should be played. McCoy won, allowing a total of nine points in two games.

Rule 3.5 d-3 of the official IRA rules states: "A match may be forfeited by the referee when any player for a singles match, or any team for a doubles match fails to report for play. Normally, 20 minutes from the scheduled game time will be allowed before forfeiture. The tournament chairman may permit a longer delay if circumstances warrant such a decision."

There were 29 entries in the open singles, with 12 qualifying for the Internationals at San Diego.

In the semifinals, McCoy defeated Bob Lund of Portland, Ore., 21-13, 21-9, while Sayes ousted Paul Lawrence of San Diego, 21-18, 21-5. Lawrence had placed 10th in the IRA National Invitation and had won the Montreal Open last month.

Howard Ringwood and Harold Turley of Salt Lake City won the open doubles crown by injury default from Charlie Drake and Steve Trent of San Diego. Drake suffered a severe ankle injury during a semifinal victory over Lund and Pete Lubisch of Portland, 21-16, 21-20, and was unable to play in the finals.

Ringwood and Turley reached the title match by defeating Sayes and Ron Mills of Salt Lake City, 21-8, 21-4.

Other champions in the West Regional were:

Junior Singles—Steve Trent, San Diego

Women's Singles—Jan Pasternak, Tempe, Ariz., last year's runner-up in the International Championships.

Senior Singles—Howard Ringwood, Salt Lake City.

Master's Singles—Rick Warner, Salt Lake City.

Golden Masters Singles—Luzelle Wilde, Salt Lake City.

Women's Doubles—Jennifer Harding and Sue LaLonde, Portland, Ore.

The singles divisions drew a total of 53 entries, somewhat fewer than expected, but the quality of play was generally high.

Tournament director Wayne Player said sportsmanship in almost all instances was really good. "Also, the women added much to the tournament and we are very pleased we added doubles for them," he said.

OPEN SINGLES


WOMEN'S SINGLES


Finals: Pasternak def. Weed, 21-14, 21-16.

JUNIOR SINGLES


SENIOR SINGLES


MASTERS SINGLES


GOLDEN MASTERS SINGLES

Finals: Luzelle Wilde, Salt Lake City, def. Wayne Player, Salt Lake City, 21-6, 21-3.

OPEN DOUBLES


WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Dunn Reigns Supreme

Chabot's Bill Dunn won the Supreme Court's inaugural racquetball singles tournament at Sunnyvale, Calif. The new eight-court facility hosted 120 northern California players for the three-day event which included a clinic by Bud Muehleisen.

Semifinal action in the open singles saw Dunn clash with Deryck Clay, recent fourth place finisher in the National Invitational Seniors at San Diego. Bill jumped to an early lead only to find himself down 20-18 with Clay serving. A backhand kill off the serve, two passes and a kill allowed Dunn to slip by Deryck 21-20. Bill was red hot the second game and raced to a quick 21-7 win.

In the other half of the semifinals, hard-hitting Mark Wayne met Len Stream. Mark's strong drives and booming kill shots kept len off balance as Mark never lost control of the match winning, 21-9, 21-12.

In the finals Dunn, known mainly as a control player, came out shooting. His backhand kill off the serve never allowed Wayne to get an offense started. Bill jumped to a quick 20-7 lead and finally won 21-12. In the second game Bill tried to stay with his game plan, but inconsistent shooting led him astray as Wayne grabbed the lead and never relinquished it to win 21-16. The third game was a carbon copy of the first with Dunn gaining more confidence in his shooting as the game progressed. Again a 20-7 lead gave to a 21-12 win and the singles title.

Steve Dunn, Bill's brother and a nationally ranked badminton player, marched through B singles without losing a game. He crushed a tired Tony Krause, 21-11, 21-6, in the finals. Tony had to scramble for his life in the semifinals to beat John Arrillaga, 21-12, 20-21, 21-12.

There were nine entrants in women's singles which featured a round robin where each gal played everyone else one game to 21. The winner was based on the highest points. Denise Bray from Santa Cruz won the event although she lost one game, 20-21, to third place finisher Linda Siau. Lottie Simon moved into second place as a result of her last match of the tournament as she decisively defeated Siau, 21-11. Lottie O'Neal finished fourth, and Jan Munson took fifth.

The C singles final featured a match between a squash player, Jerry Gitt, and a tennis player from Fresno, Duane Ballard. Gitt came out on top after three tough games, 19-21, 21-9, 21-8. Both players showed lots of promise and they will be heard from again.

TOURNEY NOTES: The Supreme Court is a very pleasant "happening" in the San Francisco bay area. The plush and spacious facility is a great situation for a tournament. Don Jackson's hospitality room was superb, absolutely first class. Bud Muehleisen gave a clinic on Sunday highlighted by a showing of his new instructional film on racquetball. Then Bud and Tom Kutas played an exhibition doubles match against Dave Carlson and Len Stream with DC and Len pulling out a routine 21-20 win. Thanks to Tom Kutas, in the bay area for a job interview, for his invaluable assistance to Bill Dunn in running the tournament.

OPEN SINGLES
Finals: Dunn def. Wayne, 21-12, 17-21, 21-12.

B SINGLES
Third: Schumacher def. Arrillaga, forfeit.

C SINGLES
Halverson Masters

By Joe Zelson

John Halverson of San Diego recovered from a first round loss and won the balance of his round-robin matches to capture the National Invitation Masters Singles championship at St. Louis.

Halverson lost to Giles Coors of Memphis, 31-16, but the other players kept knocking each other off on a head-to-head basis. The match which gave Halverson first place to keep was Bill Sellars' eighth round victory over Richard Walker, who had held the lead from the fifth round.

Halverson amassed 296 points on a basis of one point for each scored in 31-point games and a four-point bonus for each game won. Sellars edged his Dallas rival, Walker, for second place, 290-285.

Other standings:

4—Coors, 279; 5—Gene Grapes, Pittsburgh, 257; 6—Earl Dixon, Indianapolis, 240; 7—Joe Zelson, St. Louis, 208; 8—Chet Howard, Madison, Wis., 193; 9—Sam Caiazza, New Castle, Pa., 161.

Marlowe Phillips of St. Louis, tournament co-chairman, was injured and unable to play on the final day. So, all of his previous results were cancelled and he was placed 10th.

Tournament Highlights: We drew the pairings Friday morning and my first day's schedule was Sellars-Coors-Grapes. How's that for a first-day start?

Coors started out strong with his decisive first round victory over Halverson, who was fresh (?) off the night-hawk flight into St. Louis.

Grapes and Sellars had everyone on the edge of their seats in their second round match. Sellars was in to serve three or four times at 30, but couldn't get that last point—meanwhile Gene kept creeping up, getting to 29 before Bill was able to finally get that last match-winning point.

At the end of the third round, there were only two undefeated players, Sellars and Coors.

Fourth round—Coors left the ranks of the undefeated, losing to Walker, who seemed to play progressively stronger as the tournament went on (as did Halverson).

Howard was involved in probably the two closest matches of the tournament—first, his 31-29 loss to Dixon, which went back and forth, and then later on that same day, his 31-30 loss to Phillips.

Friday night the players were presented with keys to the city by Harold Dielmman, mayor of Creve Coeur.

Fifth round—Halverson beat Sellars (31-10) knocking him from first place into fifth place (with one defeat), putting Walker in first place.

Sixth round—Sellars beat Coors (31-27), moving back up into third place. (Sellars started the day in first place, moved down to fifth, and then up to third by the end of the day). At the end of the sixth round, Walker was in first place,

FINAL STANDINGS


9—Sam Caiazza, New Castle, Pa. (161).

Halverson second, Sellers third, Coors fourth, Grapes fifth.

Seventh round—Grapes came from behind to beat Coors (31-27), to move back into fifth place. As you can see from these highlights, the final standings weren't really determined until the end of the final match.

Eighth round—Sellars beat Walker (31-22), knocking Walker out of first place (down to third), Halverson took over first place which he held through the end of the tournament.

Special thanks: To Phil Smith and Sid Fleischer of the St. Louis JCCA Health Club for their hospitality and cooperation in making the players at home to Bruce Hendin for his efforts in doing all the many things that needed to be done ... to all the others who helped the players in the tournament with rides, with refereeing, with the many other things to be done ... And most of all, to Ann Hillecher who ran the hospitality room with the attitude of a Jewish mother taking care of all of her "children"—the players.

Some personal observations:

John Halverson played strong throughout the tournament. He dug, he chased, he was patient, and when he got his shot, he put it away—that's a pretty good recipe for winning.

Bill Sellars played strong all the way, even including his match with Halverson. Bill's "Sunday shot," his forehand kill around the right wall, was a consistent winner for him.

Richard Walker probably was the dark horse of the tournament. He has improved tremendously, particularly his deep court forehand—he's strong and tenacious. In his eighth round loss to Sellars, Bill got a big early lead which Richard could never overtake.

Giles Coors played well throughout the tournament, being the only one to defeat Halverson. Giles played strong games throughout the tournament, costing himself in letting Grapes overtake him and beat him.

Gene Grapes—one of the fine shooters of the game, but the physical demands of the tournament took their toll on him. Gene's close defeat by Sellars, and his loss to me cost him dearly in his tournament finish.

Earl Dixon—the "road-runner" was his usual quick, hustling self—unfortunately for him, against the players who finished above, their shooting was just too tough.

Joe Zelson—Well, everybody above me deserved to be where they were. An interesting sidelight, I've met Earl Dixon in three different tournaments and I'm currently 0-3. If this keeps up, I'm liable to start believing that it isn't just luck.

Chet Howard had lost some weight, and his game has improved substantially. It showed, as he made real contests out of a couple of his matches, unfortunately ending up losing them close, one 31-30, another 31-29.

Plaques listing all the player-participants were awarded to the top four finishers, as well as Ektelon racquets (courtesy of Ektelon). In addition, a special "Master of Courtsmanship" award racquet was awarded to Sam Caiazza.

MARCH 1974
In racquetball the player who has the serve has the advantage. The server is the only player who can score points during the rally. A good server plans his serve carefully and takes full advantage of his mid-court position to put his opponent in the worst possible situation.

The serve return is also an important factor in determining the winner of the game. Practice and concentration on the proper serve return will prevent you from missing your serve return attempts and will reduce your chances of continually losing games by a slim margin. Often a player loses a game through his overeagerness to attempt difficult kill shot returns instead of making safer defensive shots.

The serve and the serve return are the most important shots in racquetball. If you learn the proper fundamentals of the serve and serve return and practice them constantly, you'll be well on your way to becoming a better player.

**SERVE**

The mid-court serving position (Diagram 3) gives the server an advantage. He can move more quickly and directly to any position on the court for the return, remembering, of course, to keep his eye on his opponent and the ball at all times. When you’re serving, don’t lose the serve and your advantage by being inattentive for even a second.

To serve the ball, you must bounce it on the floor within the service zone at least once, but no more than three times. You may serve from any place in the service zone, but you must stand with both feet within the service zone as you strike the ball. The served ball must then hit the front wall and land in two possible areas: low on the side wall, or deep into the backhand corner of the court. The first area, low on the side wall, is especially effective when your opponent is playing in deep court or if your opponent is expecting you to use a hard drive that hits the front wall and rebounds in a straight line, without the use of any of the other walls. When hit correctly, the drive serve is an ace—a serve that is impossible for the receiver to return, which results in a point for the server.

To execute the drive serve, stand near the middle of the service zone and face the right side wall. Hold the racket in the proper forehand serve position with your weight shifted slightly back on your right foot and the ball in your left hand. Now bounce the ball on the floor about a racquet’s length in front of you and hit it to pivot your lower body forward onto your left foot, shifting your weight forward in a flowing motion. Pivot your body so that your racquet comes into the hitting area as the ball bounces up into the air. Hit the ball at knee level or slightly higher.

If hit correctly, a drive serve will hit the front wall and land in two possible places: low on the side wall just behind the short line in the crotch (point where any two court surfaces join), or low and deep into the backhand corner of the court. The first area, low on the side wall, is especially effective when your opponent is playing in deep court or if your opponent is expecting you to serve the ball with a soft touch. When you hit the ball into the second area, the deep backhand corner, your opponent will have to rush to set up and retrieve it.

Use the drive serve cautiously, however, if you serve the ball so hard that it rebounds high on the side wall, the ball will come off the side wall and rebound to the back wall, giving your opponent time to set up for the return. If your opponent is expecting you to use a hard drive serve, he will get in position to kill the low serve or hit an effective pass shot on either side of the court.

A variation of the drive serve is the three-quarter speed (or off-speed) drive (Diagram 4). This type of serve, hit more softly than a hard drive, is often very difficult to return since the receiver believes he has been set up for a kill return. The ball is hit into deep court, where it begins to slow down. The receiver, overanxious to kill the shot before it drops to the floor, miscalculates
his return, and the ball drops short of the front wall.

**Lob Serve:** The lob serve (Diagram 5) is used often by many of the nation's top players. When correctly executed, the lob serve is a softly hit, low-speed shot to the side of the court opposite the server. When using the lob serve, stand slightly off-center in the service zone. If you want the ball to land in the left court, stand off-center to the right. For a right court shot, stand off-center to the left.

Choosing the exact spot on the front wall where you want the ball to hit and using the proper forehand stroke, hit (don't push) the ball hard enough so that it hits the front wall and rebounds onto the side wall high and deep (about 7-8 feet from the back wall). A lob serve will spin slowly after its impact with the front and side walls and will tend to slow down as it drops in or near your opponent's backhand corner. A proper lob serve must rebound off the front wall onto the side wall, your opponent will rush up into mid-court, take the ball out of the air, and smash it past you. Also, a lob serve that doesn't hit the side wall won't slow down enough and may even hit the back wall, giving your opponent a perfect setup and plenty of time to choose his return shot.

**Reverse Cross-Court Serve (Garfinkel):** The reverse cross-court serve—Garfinkel—(Diagram 7) is a variation of the cross-court serve hit to your opponent's forehand. The serve is named after Charlie Garfinkel, the first player to use this serve in international competition.

To execute the Garfinkel serve, stand slightly to the right of center in the serving zone. Using the forehand stroke, hit the ball with medium-hard firmness toward the left front wall near the crotch. The ball will rebound at a sharp angle off the front wall and will land deep in your opponent's forehand corner.

Since the forehand area of the court is normally a player's strongest hitting area, the Garfinkel serve is admittedly more of a gamble than other serves. If you execute a Garfinkel serve expertly, however, your opponent will attempt a kill return off a ball too high to be killed effectively. If this occurs, you will have challenged your opponent on something he thought he could do quite well. This disturbing fact may cause him to lose a bit of that all-important concentration.

Yet even if your opponent does manage to return your Garfinkel serve, his return is not likely to be an effective one. If the receiver is standing close to the back wall, he won't be able to extend his arm high enough to return the ball offensively. A kill shot return is quite ineffective on such a high and deep serve as the Garfinkel.

The Garfinkel must be perfected before it is tried since there is little margin for error when you use it. Always keep in mind that you are playing into your opponent's strength. A weak Garfinkel usually will be returned, and you may lose your serve.

**Doubles Serve:** Doubles players first must decide which players will be partners. Sometimes a right-handed player will pair up with a left-handed player so neither will have to play his backhand. Whenever two right-handed players pair up, the more skillful backhand player plays the left side of the court.

The serve in doubles, as in singles, is the most important shot in a rally. To serve, the server stands within the service zone. His partner must stand in

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**Diagram 4:** The three-quarter speed drive server.

**Diagram 5:** The lob serve.

**Diagram 6:** The cross-court (scotch or Z) serve

**Diagram 7:** The cross-court (scotch or Z) serve
The reverse cross-court serve is essential in racquetball because it is a good shot to learn. The serve must be hit with the backhand, and it is a good shot to get into the service box. If you have a strong serve, you can use it to your advantage. The serve can be a great shot to use when you are on the defensive. You want to regain the center-court position and the serve. After the ball is served, the receiver must hit the ball back to the front wall before it hits the floor twice. May hit the ball in the air (on the fly) or after it bounces once. If the ball bounces on the floor again on its way to the front wall, the receiver loses the rally. The action stops, and the server serves the ball again for the next point.

The receiver may return the ball directly to the front wall. More often, however, he uses one or both side walls, the back wall, the ceiling, or any combination of these surfaces to return the ball to the front wall.

Many players use both hands to hold the racquet and strike the ball. However, this is a matter of preference. Use one or both hands on the racquet but don't switch the racquet from hand to hand at any time or you will lose the volley, and the server will get the point.

An ineffective serve return gives your opponent the advantage. Practicing effective serve returns will enable you to survive what is often the worst of the battle on the court.

A player may use any of the basic strokes to return serves. Keep in mind, however, that most serves are hit to the receiver's backhand.

The type of serve return you use depends on the type of serve you receive. There are six basic serve returns: the drive return, the ceiling return, the lob return, the kill return, the Z ball return, and the around-the-wall return. Skillful execution of these serve returns will greatly improve your ability to win games.

Drive Return: The drive return (Diagrams 9 and 10) is most successful when used to return a drive serve. The ball already is traveling at a high rate of speed, so that a drive return will give even greater speed and force to the ball, moving the ball past the server before he can react. An opponent is slowing down the game by using three-quarter speed drive or lob serves, a good, hard drive return will quicken the pace of the game enormously.

There are two possible drive returns that the receiver may use: the down-the-line drive return and the cross-court drive return. In the down-the-line drive return, as the ball comes into the backhand hitting area, use the backhand stroke to hit the ball squarely and forcefully in a straight line to the left front wall so that it rebounds deep into the backhand corner. Some players angle the ball slightly toward the left side wall, yet sometimes this is not a good technique. If the ball hits the side wall at too sharp an angle, it may bounce out into the air.

The drive return also may be hit cross-court. This variation of the regular drive return is particularly good when the server is in mid-court. Otherwise, if the server is in mid-court, as he should be, he will be in a perfect position to step into the path of the ball and kill it.

To execute the cross-court drive return, you must use your strongest backhand stroke to hit the ball on an angle to the right front wall so that it comes off the wall and carries into the
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deep forehand corner. If you hit the ball to the front wall at too wide an angle, it will hit the side wall and bounce into mid-court, where the server will pick it off. If you hit the ball to the front wall at too narrow an angle, it will rebound directly to the server in mid-court. Never hit a drive return above knee or thigh level on the front wall. A drive return that is hit too high on the front wall will carry to the back wall and give the server a perfect setup.

Use the drive return to catch the server off-guard. If he always serves from one side of the service zone, use a drive return to the opposite side of the court.

Ceiling Return: Probably the most common serve return used today by tournament players is the ceiling return (Diagram 11). It is used primarily to return lob, three-quarter, or Garfinkel serves. When you can't kill the ball, the ceiling return is your best defensive shot.

The ceiling return is a medium-hard shot hit with the face of the racquet angled upward so that the ball strikes the ceiling about 2 feet in front of the front wall, drops down to the front wall, rebounds out into the court near the short line, and dies near the back corner of the court.

A variation of the straight ceiling return is the front-wall-first ceiling return—a shot in which the ball hits the front wall first, about 2 feet below the ceiling, and then rebounds onto the ceiling and drops into back court. This variation is especially good when the server is close to the front wall in short court.

As with all serve returns, however, if poorly executed, the ceiling return will give your opponent an excellent setup. If you hit the ball too softly, the ball will not carry deep enough, and your opponent will hit the ball from front court. If you hit a ceiling return too hard, the ball will come off the back wall for the setup.

The ideal ceiling return is a wallpaper ball—a ball that clings to the side wall as it drops down in deep court.

A well-hit ceiling return will bring the server out of his advantageous center-court position. Also, a ceiling ball usually can't be returned with anything but another ceiling ball. Thus a good ceiling ball seldom will be killed by the server.

Lob Return: Once the most frequently used return in the game, the lob return has dropped off considerably since 1971 with the invention of the live racquetball. The newer balls bounce higher than the original ones and are more challenging to control. Though still considered an effective return shot, the lob has been replaced primarily by the ceiling return.

The lob may be used effectively to return any type of serve. It is a good defensive shot because it moves the server out of center court and allows you to regain the position.

The lob is hit with a soft backhand from left back court. The ball should hit high on the left front wall and hug the left side wall behind the short line as it bounces on the floor and drops down into the deep backhand corner. If your lob return does not strike or scrape the side wall, it will not slow down in time to avoid hitting the back wall for the setup.

A proper lob return will not hit the ceiling or the back wall. Do not attempt to hit a cross-court lob return; the ball has to travel so far so slowly that your chances of making an effective shot are very slim.

The difficult, delicate nature of the lob return is best summed up by Charlie Brumfield: "When I can't do anything else, I'll lob."

Kill Return: The kill return (Diagram 13) is one of the more difficult serve returns to execute properly. A good kill return will strike the front wall so low that the server will not be able to get to the ball before it rolls on the floor. The ideal kill return is the flat rollout, which is a shot that comes off the front wall so close to the floor that the players barely can see it bounce.

The best opportunity to use the kill return is provided by a hard-hit serve that comes off the back wall in a setup. The kill return also is used to return any poorly executed serve.
Charlie Brumfield estimates that he attempts approximately one kill return out of every 10 balls served to him, "just to keep 'em guessing." His cautious attitude is undoubtedly due to the fact that a kill return is a low-percentage shot—the server is in the optimum retrieving position. If the server anticipates a kill shot, he can return it easily. Since the ball must be returned to the front wall first, it is a skip-in, or skip, ball and gives the server a point.

Z Ball Return: The Z ball (Diagram 14) is extremely effective but is also the most difficult of all the returns to hit correctly. A player must have a great deal of strength and pin-point accuracy to hit a good Z ball return.

The receiver stands in deep left court and strikes the ball backhand to the right front wall near the side wall crotch. If the Z ball return is hit high and hard enough, it will angle to the right side wall, rebound to the left side wall in deep court, and come off parallel to the back wall. An ideal Z ball return will rebound so close to the back wall that the server will find it impossible to return the ball.

Around-the-Wall Return: The around-the-wall return (Diagram 15) is similar to the Z ball but much easier to hit. Like the Z ball, it is used to return lob, scotch, or Garfinkel serves.

The receiver stands in left court behind the short line. The ball is hit backhand to a point on the right side wall. The ball then rebounds on a sharp angle to the front wall, comes off the front wall, and angles toward the left wall, striking the floor at three-quarter court.

Like any good defensive serve return, the around-the-wall return moves the server out of center court and gives you the advantage.

Doubles Serve Return: The objective of the serve return in doubles is to force one or both opponents out of center court. This can be accomplished most effectively by using the ceiling or Z ball return.

In doubles it is usually a mistake to attempt to kill the ball on a serve return. A receiver in deep court has the opposing team in front of him when he attempts to kill the ball. If his kill attempt is not perfect, one of the opposing players will find it quite easy to re-kill the ball successfully for the point.

Serve Return Tips: If followed carefully, these general tips based on the rules will improve your serve return while you are learning the game.

1. When the ball is being served, the receiver must stand at least 5 feet in back of the short line and must not return the ball until it passes the short line.

2. Even if you think the serve was illegal, don’t touch the ball until it hits the floor twice.

3. When you hit the ball on the fly as the serve comes off the front wall, don’t step into the service zone or you’ll lose the rally.

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MARCH 1974
Tips From the Top

Practice All by Yourself

By Jan Campbell

It isn't necessarily the hours put into playing racquetball that lead to improvement (although perseverance is important), but what you do with the time you put into the game.

It is my belief that a player cannot acquire adequate improvement merely by playing hours of racquetball, but must take time by himself in the court, with all stigma of competition removed so he (or she) can concentrate on learning or polishing individual shots, footwork, form or whatever. When one enters the court with another player, there is a tendency to concentrate on points rather than improvement.

I have established my own routine for practice sessions which I'd like to share with anyone interested. It isn't entertaining or exciting to do, and can be tedious, but it has helped me very much.

When I reach a plateau or fall into a slump I stop playing with another player and begin practicing alone. I believe slumps are caused by picking up bad habits which often are hard to detect. These habits are reinforced and magnified if they are not corrected while the player continues playing instead of taking time off to iron out the kinks through critique and analysis.

My routine is divided into four basic parts. As you probably will conclude, I do not cover all parts in any one practice session. The routine must be practiced over and over again to gain any reward from it. This is an over-all program in which I usually can count on finding a cure for any physical problem I might develop in my game.

KILLS

This applies for your front, middle and back-court game.

A. Drop-kill: Women, especially, have a tendency not to get down low to the ground when they shoot. Instead of bending low, they take the ball when it is higher in the air and stroke downward, which-in my opinion-is extremely low or polishing individual shots, footwork, form or whatever.

B. Side-wall Setup: This develops timing and footwork as well as your kill. This involves tossing the ball gently against the side wall and moving backward, around the ball to establish position, stepping into the ball and shooting. The ball should be allowed to drop before shooting.

C. Front-wall Setup: The ball, in this exercise, is set up off the front wall. The player learns how to move backward and diagonally to align himself with the ball, allowing it to drop as he steps into the ball to shoot. I believe timing and footwork are the essentials of this exercise.

D. Side-wall, Frost-wall, Side-wall Set: This, in my opinion, is the BEST exercise for getting your feet to move. Hit the ball into one of the side walls close to the front wall, like a low round-the-wall shot. It will hit that side, front and the other side and come out diagonally into or toward the center court. If you don't move quickly enough, you'll find yourself jammed with the ball much too close for an accurate swing.

E. Back-wall Set: First, toss the ball into the back wall (while standing within three or four feet of the wall), set up by moving around the ball, keeping the ball IN FRONT OF THE FOOT CLOSEST TO THE FRONT WALL, allowing it to drop and shoot. Then practice by standing about mid-court and hitting an off-the-back-wall shot off the front wall, running back, setting up and shooting.

On all of these exercises, I first practice down-the-line kills, then cross-court kills, then pinches. Footwork for each is different. When they get fairly accurate, mix them up and imagine various court situations, setting up the appropriate response.

CEILING BALLS

I think the best way to practice these is to hit a ceiling ball rally with yourself and try these objectives:

Keeping it close along the left wall and deep court.

Keeping it close along the right wall and deep court.

Hitting it deep cross-court.

I have found this to be great for footwork and racquet position while you're setting up. It also can be done by hitting a ceiling ball rally with a partner, alternating shots between the two players, which actually is a lot of fun. Try to hit a ceiling ball your partner can't return.

RETURN OFF CEILING BALL

So what can you do off a ceiling ball? There are a variety of different responses, depending upon the type of ceiling ball you're up against. In this drill, I set myself up with ceiling balls and practice the following shots:

- Down-the-line drive; cross-court drive.
- Down-the-line kill; cross-court kill.
- Down-the-line ceiling ball; cross-court ceiling ball.
- Round-the-wall ball.
- Overhead drive; overhead kill (however, I consider an overhead kill an extremely low percentage shot!).

CEILING BALL OR OVERHEAD FAKE

Since the beginning of their execution is very similar, it often becomes difficult for your opponent to anticipate which you will revert to, the ceiling ball or overhead. Set yourself up with a ceiling ball and work on a smooth alternation between the two shots. Also work on faking one and executing the other.

Aside from the fact that these drills and routines will sharpen up your game, another valuable aspect is that they are done alone and you don't have to depend on getting a partner to do them. Your most valuable improvement is made in the court by yourself.

Uniform Rule Modified

Rule 2.3—Uniform has been amended by the IRA Board of Directors to be more specific on colors and to permit wearing of insignia of any organization within limits on size and location.

The rule now reads:

"All parts of the uniform shall be clean and white or of pastel color. Warm-up shirts and pants, if worn in actual play, also shall be white or pastel color, but may be of any color if not used in actual match play. Insignia no greater than 5 inches in any dimension may be worn only on the front of the shirt and/or pants. No insignia or lettering may appear on the back of the uniform. Players may not play without shirts in tournament competition.

"Doubles partners should always try to wear approximately the same colors for identification purposes. The final decision is up to the referee."
Lawrence Hooks Gar
In Canada

Reversing the outcome of their recent meeting in the National Invitation, Paul Lawrence of San Diego defeated Charlie Garfinkel of Buffalo, N. Y., 21-16, 21-15, to win the singles championship of the second annual Montreal Open.

Sixty-two entries, including many of the top players from New York and the New England states, made up the field and a full schedule of 98 matches was played from Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon.

Garfinkel and Lawrence both had stiff tests in the semis, "Gar" taking out Ivan Velan of Montreal, 21-17, 21-14, and Lawrence going three games to subdue Mike Romano of Massachusetts, 21-16, 18-21, 21-16.

The tournament came to a spirited conclusion in the doubles finals, pitting Garfinkel and Mike Luciw against Velan and Manny Gregorio. Charlie was determined both to win and to catch a 5:30 flight.

The match went 21-20, 21-20, for Luciw-Garfinkel after the Canadian duo had led 19-10 and 20-17 in the second game. The Big Bird made the final point and his plane.

Ed Chalmers of Toronto was awarded the Abominable Racquetman trophy. The tireless police sergeant from Toronto celebrated his first round victories in singles and doubles by participating in an all-night game of chance, then managed to survive to the B singles semifinals before falling asleep in the whirlpool for the rest of the tournament.

Facilities of the new Cote de Liesse Racquet Club were widely praised and no one seemed perturbed by the ceiling did not hinder play at all, except for Charlie Garfinkel, who just realized he has been playing for years in courts where the ceiling was two feet too low.

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JULY 17-18-19-20
ENTRY DEADLINE: JULY 5, 1974.
ALL PLAYERS SHOULD BE READY FOR PLAY MORNING OF JULY 17.
ALL ENTRANTS MUST BE PREPARED TO SHOW CURRENT 1974 IRA & CRA CARDS.
EVENTS: OPEN OPEN DOUBLES SENIOR OPEN NOVICE SENIOR DOUBLES LADIES OPEN LADIES NOVICE
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO UPGRADE ANY ENTRANTS WHO DO NOT ENTER THE CLASSIFICATION BEST SUITED TO THEIR CALIBRE OF PLAY LIMIT 2 EVENTS.

IN
KLONDIKE CITY
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE OR PHONE
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10325 - 114 STREET - EDMONTON, ALBERTA, T5J 1S2
PHONE: 403-426-2885

MARILYN RANKIN

CLASS A SINGLES
Quarterfinals: Garfinkel def. Hill, 21-7, 21-6; Velan def. Tyree, 21-12, 21-17; Romano def. Luciw, 21-18, 16-21, 21-19; Lawrence def. Carderelli, 21-11, 21-4.
Semifinals: Garfinkel def. Velan, 21-17, 21-14, Lawrence def. Romano, 21-16, 18-21, 21-16.

CLASS B SINGLES

OPEN DOUBLES
OFFICIAL ENTRY
4th ANNUAL 'KLONDIKE' OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SITE: University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
FACILITIES: 7 Courts, two with glass backwalls.
DATES: July 17, 18, 19, 20, (All players to be ready for July 17 a.m. play)
ENTRY FEE: $16.00 for one event, $8.00 for second event (Limit 2 events)
ELIGIBILITY: Current 1974 CRA members (Canadian residents only)
ALL entrants current 1974 IRA members.
OFFICIAL BALL: Seamless No. 558
RULES: IRA rules and regulations apply. If two events entered, players may have back to back matches. ENTRIES MUST BE SIGNED.
TROPHIES: To first three places in each event, and first place Consolations.
PLUS: Consolations in all events excluding Senior Open and Senior Doubles.
If you advise your arrival time, we will meet your flight.
NOTE: Entry fee is all inclusive (Banquet, hospitality rooms, souvenir, refreshments, finals viewing). Banquet July 20, 1974 at Kempo's.
Banquet guests $6.00 each.
ENTRY DEADLINE: In our possession by midnight July 5. Prescribed fee must accompany signed entry form. Entries received after the deadline or unsigned, or without the fee will not be accepted.
MAIL ENTRIES TO: Edmonton Racquetball Association,
10325 - 114 Street #22,
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1S2.
Cheque must accompany signed entry form.

Please enter me in:

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We reserve the right to up-grade any entrants who do not enter the classification best suited to their calibre of play.

NAME ____________________________ (PLEASE PRINT) AGE ________ CLUB ______________
ADDRESS ____________________________ CITY ________ PROVINCE ________ ZIP ________
NAME OF DOUBLES PARTNER ____________________________ (PLEASE PRINT) AGE ________ CLUB ______________
ADDRESS ____________________________ CITY ________ PROVINCE ________ POSTAL CODE ________
IRA CARD NO. ____________________________ CRA CARD NO. ____________________________
PARTNER'S CARD NO. ____________________________ PARTNER'S CARD NO. ____________________________

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Canadian Racquetball, Alberta Racquetball, International Racquetball Associations or their respective agents, University of Alberta or any other facility used for this tournament, for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

SIGNATURE ____________________________ PH. ________
PARTNER'S SIGNATURE ____________________________ PH. ________

HOUSING INFORMATION AVAILABLE
BOOK EARLY
Upon arrival, check into the hospitality room at Edmonton Plaza Hotel

Make Cheques Payable to: Edmonton Racquetball Association.
Same must accompany entry.
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<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>IRA National Intercollegiates</td>
<td>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</td>
<td>March 29-31</td>
<td>Limited to matriculated students at an accredited college or university. (AS, BS, D, team scoring on four-man teams.) Dr. Ben Plotnicki, School of Health, PE &amp; Recreation, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 37916.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas YMCA Metro Open</td>
<td>Downtown YMCA</td>
<td>April 5-7</td>
<td>(OS, BS, CS, 45-over Mass, cons all singles, AD, BD, Novice, boys, women play in CS. Limit 15, 1D.) Jim Hamby, Physical Director YMCA, 605 N Ervay, Dallas, Texas 75201.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King’s Court Invitational</td>
<td>King’s Court, Edina, Minn.</td>
<td>April 5-7</td>
<td>(OS, OD, SS, SD, WS, WD.) Wendell Ottum, King’s Court, 7001 Cahill Road, Edina, Minn. 55435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta Open</td>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>April 19-21</td>
<td>Canadians only.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRA International Singles Championships</td>
<td>Brown’s Handball-Racquetball Club, San Diego, Calif.</td>
<td>May 22-27</td>
<td>(Open, 18-under Junior, 35-over Senior, 45-over Masters, 55-over Golden Masters, Women’s, also Women’s Doubles.) Preliminary qualifying tournament June 5 to fill 64 bracket for Open Singles, no qualifying required in other events. Regional qualifiers in Open Singles must confirm entry by May 17. Entry deadline for other division May 31. Dr. Bud Muehleisen, 10325 Camino del Rio South, Suite E, San Diego, Calif. 92110.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRA International Doubles Championships</td>
<td>Brown’s Handball-Racquetball Club, San Diego, Calif.</td>
<td>October 10-13</td>
<td>(Open, 18-under Junior, 35-over Senior, 45-over Masters, 55-over Golden Masters.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian National Championships</td>
<td>Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, Montreal</td>
<td>November 7-10</td>
<td>Ivan Velan, Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, 8305 Cote de Liesse Rd., Montreal, Que. H4T 1G5. For full information on any Canadian tournament, write CRA, 10325-114 St., No. 22, Edmonton, Alta., Canada T5K 1S2.</td>
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Orange Coast College's outdoor facility with 13 oversize courts will host three-wall tournament in June.

**National Three-Wall Tournery Set**

Orange Coast College of Costa Mesa, Calif., will host a national three-wall outdoor singles tournament June 28-30 and has applied to the IRA for sanction as the first annual International Three-Wall Singles Championships.

Competition is planned at present in Open, 35-over Senior, 45-over Masters, Class B, Class C, Women's and Women's B divisions.

IRA sanction as an International Championship is under consideration, according to Myron Roderick, executive director. If it becomes an official IRA championship event, 18-under Junior and 55-over Golden Masters classes must be added, Roderick said.

Orange Coast College is located on the California coast, 39 miles southeast of the Los Angeles Civic Center and 89 miles northwest of San Diego. The school has sponsored singles and doubles state tournaments in recent months with huge success.

Barry C. Wallace, Orange Coast College physical education instructor and director of the tournament, says the school has the best outdoor facility in California.

"We have 13 oversize handball-racquetball courts that measure 23 by 46 feet with 20-foot-high walls. They are ideal for racquetball. Six beautiful indoor courts will be constructed in September to make this the best indoor-outdoor facility in the nation. The college has complete locker and shower facilities in a building adjacent to the courts. Entry deadline is June 21 and entry fee is $10. Further information may be obtained from Barry Wallace, Orange Coast College, 2701 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626, office telephone 714-556-0515, home telephone 714-556-0616.

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**Family Affair**

The Lethbridge Family Y Racquetball Club has been formed in Alberta, Canada, with Stan Pisko serving as president, Enzo Piccini as vice president, Laverne Dzuren as second vice president and Ev Nowlin as secretary treasurer.

"Pie" reports high enthusiasm and at least 50 women players are pleased with their progress. Canadian National Champion Wayne Bowes is from Lethbridge and gives lessons to all players.

**Court Clubs**

Dates for the second annual National Court Clubs Association seminar have been changed to May 17-19 at Steamboat Springs, Colo. For any information concerning the seminar, write Mort Leve, NCCA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076.
Cedar Rapids

Bob Sheldon of Waterloo won the Cedar Rapids Open. Bob got in a little more practice than anyone else, since three of his four matches went three games. But he showed his class and was in complete control at all times, and won going away.

Jerry Lucas of Keokuk was second, Helmut Braun of Waterloo third and Floyd Gallogly of Waterloo fourth. Burdette Hansen of Cedar Rapids defeated Gary Icenogle of Marshalltown in the consolation finals.

The tournament was well run by YMCA program director Gary P. Vangen, assisted by Joe Pusateri.

In a letter to Iowa members, state chairman Hansen strongly endorses the use of double elimination bracketing to assure more competition.

Golden Bear


John Robbins took B singles over Neil Dempsey, with Mike Szkorup taking consolations. C winner was Bill Miller over Jim Groff, Bob Barton winning consolations.

Canadian women's champion Ellie Bell prevailed over Brenda Crockett, with the consolation title going to Gail Hutchinson.

There were 115 entries, 69 in the novice section, with good out-of-town support from Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. Don Crawford did an excellent job in his first try as tournament chairman.

Others who played key roles were Chuck Moser, Marilyn Rankin, John Robbins, John Van Riper and Sandy Shenton.

League Upset

Niagara Falls YMCA, led by Joe Tyree and Joe Tarantino, upset Buffalo Athletic Club to win the Western New York Racquetball Association's league championship with a 26-6 record.

It was the first time in four years Buffalo AC, with Charlie Garfinkel and Jack Bowling, had not won the regular season title. Downtown YMCA was third with a 22-10 record.

Expressway YMCA and Niagara Falls Y No. 2 tied in the White Division of the standings with 33-3 records. The top eight of the 11 teams participating in league play now move into post-season playoffs.

Schmidtke Again

For the second straight year, Bill Schmidtke of Minneapolis dominated the fourth annual Woodson YMCA tournament in Wausau, Wis. Schmidtke beat Paul Ikier of Minneapolis for the singles crown, 17-21, 21-6, 21-2, then teamed with Ikier to win doubles, 21-16, 21-9, over Tom and Joe Wirkus of Fond du Lac.

Schmidtke won both singles and doubles last year, the latter title with Tim Lattimer as his partner.

Ikier took the first game of the finals, but appeared to tire after that, probably because of a tough semifinal with Joe Wirkus, 21-19, 14-21, 21-10.

Joe Wirkus downed Chuck Schafer, 17-21, 21-17, 21-18, for third place and Don Gemoll won consolation over Tom Fancher.

The tournament was under the direction of Ron Peck of the Woodson YMCA.

Bama's First

John Ed Mathison of Montgomery is the first state champion of Alabama, after winning the Alabama championships in Montgomery.

Mathison won both the open singles, 21-7, 21-15, over Jim Jordan of Birmingham, and the masters (35-over) singles, 21-12, 21-8, over Andy Smith of Birmingham.

One of the top matches of the tournament came in the open semifinals, where Mathison handed Bill Slaughter of Maxwell AFB his first loss in two years, 21-15, 17-21, 21-8. Slaughter came back to take third place.

Bill Hotze was third in masters, with consolation titles going to Jerry O'Neal and Mike Clegg.

The first annual state tournament at the Central YMCA drew entries from all over Alabama. Barry Coxe, Jerry O'Neal and Andy Smith helped make the tournament a big success.

Alabama State trophy winners, standing from left: Mike Clegg, consolation; Jim Jordan, second Open; John Ed Mathison, champion; Jerry O'Neal, consolation; Bill Slaughter, third Open; kneeling, Bill Hotze, third Masters; Andy Smith, second Masters.
**Luciw Reigns**

Mike Luciw of New Britain defeated Tom Waltz of New Canaan, 21-17, 21-18, to win the championship of the Connecticut state tournament at New Britain YMCA. Luciw advanced to the finals by downing Jerry Gaudet, 21-10, 21-11, and Jack Olcott, 21-2, 21-6.

Don Wallace and David Yurgaitis captured the sizzling doubles finals from Bob Yellin and Frank DeMauro, 21-14, 21-16.

Co-chairmen of the two-day event, Deniz Fonseca and Phil Panarella, provided a hospitality room for all players where sandwiches and soda were available. Don Anderson, physical director of the YMCA, said more than 200 people watched the 22 matches played.

Anderson also commended chief official Mossy Levine and his crew.

**New Facility**

The Manhattan Athletic Club for Men will open April 1 at 3421 Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach, Calif., with six regulation courts for racquetball and handball. Gallery facilities are included and the club will be open to tournaments.

For information, call Giorlando Castronovo at 213-545-6618.

**Bishop Wins**

Dick Bishop of Keokuk swept through the Iowa state singles tournament at Burlington without giving up more than 10 points in a single game. He defeated Bernie Nielsen of Marshalltown in the finals, 21-8, 21-7. Nielsen didn't lose a game until the finals.

Jerry Lucas of Keokuk was third, Helmut Braun of Waterloo fourth and Steve Chase won consolation over Burdette Hansen.

Lucas, Bill Kelly and Craig Collins combined to run a superior tournament in two days, with both first and second round losers going into the consolation bracket, a popular move.

**Gar Conquers**

Charlie Garfinkel of Buffalo breezed through the early rounds and then won a couple of tough ones to capture the second annual New York state open tournament.

The first real test for “Gar” came in the semifinals, where he defeated Michael Romano of Fitchburg, Mass., 21-14, 21-6. Gar was down 8-1 in the first game, but rallied after a time out and a spirited conversation with himself.

Joe Tarantino put up a better fight than the score indicates, but bowed in the finals, 21-11, 21-8. Tarantino had a big semifinal with Ivan Velan of Montreal, trailing 20-16 in both games before pulling out a 21-20, 21-20 decision.

Pat Colombo of Scarborough defeated Tony Palermo of Fairport, 21-11, 13-21, 21-10, in the consolation finals.
The 32 players and their wives were entertained at a beef-dinner banquet at Howard Johnson's, where various door prizes were handed out. Tournament director Paul G. Traver of Niagara Falls YMCA extended hearty thanks to the referees, scorers and committee members and to Paul Lawrence and Ektelon for donating racquets and charts.

**Waterloo**

Mark Hegge defeated John Rude in the all-SiouxFalls singles finals of the Waterloo tournament, 21-11, 21-5, as the event directed by Helmut Braun drew a strong field of out-of-state talent. Waterloo players dominated the doubles, with Bob Tonkin and Bob Sheldon downing Monte McCunniff and Dean Bradfri ed, 21-18, 21-21, 21-12, in the finals.

**It's Steve Smith**

Steve Smith, a member of Memphis State team, won the Tennessee state championship in Nashville by defeating Davey Bledsoe, 18-21, 21-17, 21-13, in the finals. Smith had downed Randy Smith in the semifinals, 21-10, 6-21, 21-20. Smith's victory over Stafford was a reversal of their outcome in an epic dual meet between Memphis State and the University of Tennessee, won by Tennessee, 4-1. Stafford downed Smith, 21-16, 21-19, in No. 1 singles for two team points. In B singles, Jim Cullen of Memphis and Larry Zeitman of the Vols staged a whirlwind struggle, with Cullen pulling out Memphis' point 21-20, 20-21, 21-20. You can't get any closer. Tennessee wrapped up the dual with a two-point doubles victory by Walter Mullins and Emile Catignani, 21-20, 21-19, over Mike Fleming and A. B. Henry.

**High Point**

Paul Saperstein overhauled defending champion Ed Wheelless in three games to win top honors in the High Point, N. C., tournament. Jerry Williamson was third. Johnny Thomason displayed a strong two games to defeat Milford Nooe for the Senior title. George Athanas took Jimmy Mills in two games for the Masters crown.

**Peggy's No. 1**

International women's champion Peggy Steding of Odessa won the Class A (men's) championship of the second annual Regency Health Club tournament in Lubbock, Texas, defeating Tom Heiting of Odessa in the finals. Max Brownlee of Abilene was third and David Tate of Wichita Falls won the consolation trophy. Jeff Carter of College Station defeated John Mayer of Reese AFB in B singles, with Sam Samples of Hobbs, N. M., third and Rob Almon of College Station winning consolations. In C singles, it was Paul Petterson of Hobbs over Joe French of Lubbock, with Bob Vinson of Hobbs third and Morris Usry of Lubbock in consolations.

---

**Attention, Players**

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for

**International Singles**

Championships

IS MAY 20

FOR ALL EVENTS

Including

Preliminary

Singles

SEE PAGE FIVE

No Late Entries

Will Be Accepted
**It's High Time...**

**Play Racquetball**

By Paul Lawrence

What's Racquetball? If there is any more irritating yet accepted question to a player of racquetball, that's it. In this era of booming leisure sports and in particular, tennis, there are so many new and subtly different racquet sports that the subtle differences are often obscure even to the accomplished veteran.

Depending on whatever is popular in your area, you can play tennis, squash, badminton, racquetball, paddle tennis, paddleball, platform tennis, handball, fatball, or even hybrid combinations of these games. All of these games are similar in that they involve some combination of a ball, a racquet (or paddle), a net, or four walls. However, along with the established giants of tennis and squash, one other sport, racquetball, is showing very strong success all over the country.

To clear up the question of “What's Racquetball?”, racquetball is played in a handball court (dimensions 40 feet long, 20 feet wide, 20 feet high) and each player has a racquet with which to hit the ball. The racquets are about 18 inches long and are specially designed for the sport. The ball is hollow rubber and while being slightly livelier than a tennis ball, it is also designed especially for the sport.

The object is to hit the ball to a main wall, designated the front wall, and then your opponent must return the ball to the front wall before the ball touches the floor twice, as in tennis. The interesting part is that any combination of walls or ceiling may be used in order to get the ball up to the front wall, and when hit hard, the ball can reach speeds of up to 120 m.p.h. The game thus contains all aspects of a truly competitive sport: quickness, stamina, coordination, court sense and strategy.

How racquetball got started is rather unclear, but the reasons for its rapid growth are evident. Somewhere, probably in some YMCA in the East during the 1930's, someone deserves the credit for cutting down a tennis racquet and sneaking it into a deserted handball court. For years, the game existed this way mostly among older men who had grown too tired to play handball. Then as a result of the increased interest in physical fitness during the 60's, many colleges and clubs revitalized the game under various names to the point where younger players became interested and tournaments were being held.

By 1969, an association called the International Racquetball Association (ironically abbreviated the IRA) had been formed to organize and govern the game. In that same year, the first international tournament was held in St. Louis, and the participation even then was encouraging. About the same time, several companies began designing racquets especially for racquetball, and the improvements over the old sawed-off tennis racquet were so overwhelming that the sport now had a pride and identity of its own.

Since then, racquetball has grown consistently at the rate of 100 per cent per year, and all future estimates seem to predict the same growth for several years to come. Why? There are several reasons. Racquetball is excellent physical exercise and it is fun right from the start. The racquet is short enough that it immediately feels like an extension of your hand. It is not as cumbersome or heavy as a squash or tennis racquet. The ball is large enough to follow easily and since you play within four walls (and a ceiling), you don't have to worry about chasing the ball across six courts and a highway or hitting over any fences. In fact, you don't even need an opponent to enjoy just hitting the ball. Just go into a court alone and practice, the real thing.

Since the sport is indoors, weather has no affect on when you can play. Court time is usually cheap, one or two dollars per hour at most clubs or free at most public areas of San Diego and submitted to the editors of Time for publication.

Answers to Rules Quiz

**By Bud Muehleisen**

National Rules Commissioner

These are somewhat unusual situations, but they do happen and the referee must use good judgment and come up with a decision which is fair.

Referees should bear in mind, where there is a situation involving a judgment call and the official is not sure as to a decision, he should rule the point a "lett" and replay it. In this way, a point or side-out is not awarded unfairly. Trouble arises when one makes an award of a point or side-out on a decision where there is a degree of uncertainty on the part of the official.

1. If a player is obviously "trapped" so he is impeded in his attempt or effort to get out of the way, it should be ruled a hinder. Also, if a dangerous safety situation is imminent in any way, a hinder should be called immediately.

2. This is a judgment call on the part of the referee, dependent on the result of the shot. The referee should hold his decision over. In this way, if a player attemps to return the ball was intentionally interfered with.

3. The referee's judgment is final and could only be overturned by the unanimous agreement of all the players involved. A good referee never will be influenced by a gallery, or players.

4. The referee makes his own decision as to his pace of announcing the score between points and should not be influenced by the players.

5. If a referee does not happen to "see" a particular shot and the players are in disagreement over it, then the point is determined to be a "let" and is replayed.

6. This situation occurs quite often in doubles, when one player is attempting to cover areas of the court which normally would be done by his partner. The problem arises because the other team is moving usually in another direction to allow the player normally in the area to play the shot. The judgment call is made depending on: (a) whether or not the players involved were making an attempt to get out of the way, (b) they were constituting a block, or (c) just plain taken by surprise.

7. This is a very difficult situation and is not uncommon. First of all, the rules state that the play should be continuous. However, sometimes a noise does occur which sometimes can be misconstrued to be a "hinder" or "hold it" call. This would have to be up to the judgment of the referee at the time. If a player had not obviously held up on some play that he easily could have made, definite consideration should be given to that player. On the other hand, if a player is looking for "help" or an excuse on a tough play, No!

The referee should always remember his function is to assure smooth, orderly progress of the match, while the players should determine the winner. When the referee's calls tend to help determine the winner, then he is not doing his job correctly.
High Time...

universities, and two businessmen, professors, housewives, students or doctors can get one heck of a workout in an hour. Because the racquet is so intuitive to swing, many women and children, with sparse athletic backgrounds, can rapidly develop enough ability to enjoy the game. In fact, at several universities like Michigan and Illinois, almost 40 per cent of racquetball court time is reserved by women. And obviously, the game is both a teaching instrument and carry-over for games like tennis and squash.

Although the sport is relatively young, June 1974 will bring the fifth annual International Tournament to be held in San Diego, which by the way, is the acknowledged capital of racquetball. The sport is not without its own colorful athletes such as the conservative dentist Dr. Bud Muehleisen, the first singles champion (1969) and the motor mouth Charlie Brumfield who is the reigning singles champion, and will gladly tell anyone of that fact. However, make no mistake, these are each exceptional athletes with talents any professional would admire.

In recent years, the entries to the national tournament had to be limited to only regional qualifiers because the number of entries made the tournament prohibitively long and grueling. If any factor has limited the growth of the sport it is the relatively small spectator capacity of most courts. Because the court is almost totally enclosed, there is barely space for more than 50 people to watch any match through an opening at the upper half of the back wall. However, the advent of glass courts such as the one at the Long Beach Athletic Club and in other cities such as Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, Salt Lake, Minneapolis, etc., have made tournament matches viewable to up to 1,200 spectators.

Also, the number of available courts in the U.S. has nearly doubled in just the past two years and so players and families no longer have to endure the aroma of the turn of the century athletic clubs. So, now that the question of “What’s Racquetball?” has been answered, follow the 1974 IRA slogan and “Take a friend to play racquetball!”
Recreation Survey

Meet Mr. Racquetball

How do you picture the "average" racquetball player? Well, first, there isn't any such animal. But response to the recreation survey sent to IRA members last fall draws this somewhat shadowy picture: Mr. Racquetball is a married man with two or three children, a professional man between 21 and 50 with at least a college degree and an income upwards of $15,000 a year.

He plays anywhere from one to five times a week, feels the court facilities in his area are overcrowded and either pays a fee to play, or is willing to do so.

Only a fourth of the replies show that his wife plays, but a third show that the children do.

The above silhouette is drawn from the majority or high-percentage responses to the survey. More than 1,100 were returned and tabulated, representing approximately one-third of the IRA membership at the time the survey was sent out.

Here is the actual breakdown on the response to key questions. Totals differ for individual questions because not all members answered every question on the blank.

SURVEY RESULTS

1. Marital status:
   - Single: 223 (19.4%)
   - Married: 924 (80.6%)

2. Sex:
   - Male: 1069 (94.2%)
   - Female: 68 (5.8%)

3. Annual income level:
   - Under $10,000: 157 (14.2%)
   - $10,000 to $14,999: 248 (22.4%)
   - $15,000 to $19,999: 221 (19.9%)
   - $20,000 to $24,999: 131 (11.8%)
   - $25,000 or more: 252 (31.7%)

4. Number of children in family:
   - No children: 115 (12.8%)
   - One child: 103 (11.4%)
   - Two children: 315 (35.0%)
   - Three children: 183 (20.3%)
   - Four children: 108 (12.0%)
   - Five or more children: 77 (8.5%)

5. Occupation:
   - Business: 379 (34.1%)
   - Profession: 585 (52.7%)
   - Self-employed: 19 (1.7%)
   - Other: 127 (11.4%)

6. Age:
   - 20 and under: 37 (3.3%)
   - 21 to 30: 331 (29.3%)
   - 31 to 40: 441 (39.1%)
   - 41 to 50: 244 (21.6%)
   - 51 and over: 76 (6.7%)

7. Level of education completed:
   - High school: 159 (14.6%)
   - College: 733 (67.3%)
   - Post-graduate: 197 (18.1%)

8. How often do you play racquetball, per year?
   - 50 or fewer times: 165 (14.8%)
   - 51 to 100 times: 257 (23.0%)
   - 101 to 150 times: 243 (21.7%)
   - 151 to 200 times: 157 (14.0%)
   - 201 or more times: 296 (26.5%)

9. Are court facilities overcrowded in your city?
   - Yes: 763 (72.0%)
   - No: 297 (28.0%)

10. Do you pay to play?
    - Yes: 435 (41.3%)
    - No: 619 (58.7%)

11. Would you pay to play?
    - Yes: 437 (89.2%)
    - No: 53 (10.8%)

12. How often do you play racquetball, per week?
    - 50 or fewer times a week: 872 (94.3%)
    - Not paying now and not willing to pay: 53 (5.7%)

13. Does your spouse play?
    - Yes: 224 (25.8%)
    - No: 664 (74.2%)

14. Do your children play?
    - Yes: 253 (35.7%)
    - No: 456 (64.3%)

Here's Where the Action Is

One of the questions in the recreation survey was, "Where do you play racquetball?" The accompanying list, compiled from survey replies, does not pretend to show all the places you can play and some of the sites listed may not be open to the general public, but the list will give you some idea where the action is.

ALABAMA
- Birmingham—Danville Memorial Rec. Center, YMCA, Jewish Community Center.
- Fort Rucker—Y.M.C.A.
- Montgomery—YMCA.

ARIZONA
- Mesa—Golden Health Club.
- Phoenix—Down Town YMCA, High school outdoor court.
- Sierra Vista—Fort Huachuca.
- Tempe—Tempe Jr. College.
- Tucson—East YMCA.

ARKANSAS
- Little Rock—YMCA.

CALIFORNIA
- Alameda—South Shore Beach & Tennis Club, Jewish Comm. Center.
- Alhambra—Calif. State Univ.
- Anaheim—Orange County Athletic Club.
- Ben Lomond—Univ. Calif. at Santa Barbara.
- Camarillo—Port Hueneme.
- Costa Mesa—YMCA.
- Danville—U. C. Berkeley.
- El Cajon—San Diego Handball & Racquetball Club.
- San Diego State—Sports Complex.
- Emeryville—Clipper Club.
- Escalada—Cost Sports Center.
- Fountain Valley—Long Beach Athletic Club.
- Fremont—Chabot College.
- Hermosa Beach—Manhattan Athletic Club.
- La Mesa—YMCA, Carmen Ranch Club.
- Lakewood—Long Beach City College.
- Livingston—YMCA.
- Los Angeles—Y.M.C.A.

CONNECTICUT
- Bridgeport—YMCA.
- Hartford—YMCA.
- Meriden—YMCA.
- New Britain—YMCA.
- New Canaan—YMCA.
- New London—U.S. Coast Guard Academy.
- Stamford—Port Chester YMCA.
- West Hartford—Hartford Jewish Community Center.

DELAWARE
- Newark—Kirwood Fitness Club, Univ. of Delaware.

FLORIDA
- Clearwater—YMCA, Morningside Rec. Center.
- Delray Beach—YMCA.
- Fort Walton Beach—Base Gym.
- Gainesville—Westwood Park.
- Homestead—AFB.
- Jax Beach—Naval Station Gym.
- Key West—Naval Air Station.
- Lakewoody—Cleveland Heights Cts.
- Miami—Miami Dade Jr. College, YMCA.
- Middleburg—YMCA.
- Orlando—Central Branch YMCA.
- Panama City—Base Facilities.
- Pensacola—Naval Air Station.
- Sarasota—YMCA.
- Tallahassee—Tallahassee Athletic Club, Fla. State Univ.
- Tampa—YMCA.

GEORGIA
- Athens—University of Georgia.
- Atlanta—Jewish Community Center, Nok Hill Club.
- Apts., Capital City Country Club.
- Macon—Macon Health Club.
- Hickman AFB—Hickman AFB Gym.
- Honolulu—Central YMCA.

IDAHO
- Boise—Boise YMCA.

ON AGE GROUPS...

In IRA-sanctioned tournaments, there is no "upper limit" to the Senior, Masters and Golden Masters age groups.

To clarify, any players 35 or over may compete in Senior events, any players 45 or over in Masters and any players 55 or over in Golden Masters, age determined as of the first day of the tournament.

For the IRA International Singles, the age determination date was March 1, 1974, opening day of the first regionals. Any player 18 years old or younger on March 1 may compete as a Junior at San Diego, any player 35 or over on March 1 as a Senior, etc.
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