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A needed "recharge..."

- I would like to thank Lyn and Tom McKee for the great hospitality shown us this past weekend, during the State Chairman's convention in Dallas.

Some of the comments concerning the meeting... I am only able to make a comparison between the St. Louis meeting in 1974 and the recent Dallas meeting. To me, the difference was like night and day. The St. Louis meeting was filled with rumors... side deals on selling equipment, total sell outs by states and a total lack of concern for the average player. I left St. Louis after three days wondering if this was the best thing for my state.

The Dallas meeting was the exact opposite. Some of the people were the same faces but the concern for the grass roots amateur player was evident. There was a feeling that we can change things and that we are a part of things. The socializing and general conversation was as good as the structured part of the meeting and the ideas exchanged along with the contacts made will be invaluable in the days to come. The entire atmosphere was different and the "recharge" needed for those in attendance was achieved. I think it would be a major mistake to eliminate this annual meeting in favor of Regional meetings. The Regional meetings will be conducted regardless of the National meeting.

Name withheld by request
An IRA State Chairman

Welcome all volunteers

- The report on Livonia, Michigan's September Open held at Racquettime court club introduces the name of a very promising junior (in age, only) player—Mike Yellen—who shows great potential for the pro-ranks.

Mike added "up-front" excitement to the tournament but we also want to give some credit to the back-stage activities of co-foreman managers Irene Ackerman and Allen Stortz for their work in handling approximately 237 matches in three days.

Without volunteers neither this tournament, nor any other of which we are aware, could ever be run smoothly. This letter is recognition of all those who helped, and is a reminder to tournament players that volunteers are always needed.

Joe Charette
Livonia, Michigan

Writer's right on rip-off?

- I would like to take this opportunity to express my feelings regarding two different tournaments I participated in recently.

The Royal Court Club, Austin, Texas, held a tournament Labor Day weekend. While the entry fees seemed too high prior to the tournament ($15 first event, $6 for the second), it turned out all participants received their money's worth. Thanks goes to Ed Barziza, manager; Ron Meek, club pro; and Janice Segall, assistant pro for running a super tournament. The matches were on time, the hospitality was great (breakfast, drinks, fresh fruits, home made soup, snack and much more served throughout the tournament, with thanks to Jan Meek and Sally Barziza for this). Trophies were—if anything—too big and too nice. This describes one of the tournaments.

The other one was a different story. As far as I am concerned it was a rip-off for the participants, and a money maker for the owners. The entry fee was $15 for the first event and $12.50 per person for doubles—a total of $27.50.

Many would-be entrants obviously could not afford to enter two events and some not even one. The hospitality was a minimum, the balls were donated, and the trophies couldn't have cost more than $3 each. (I've seen nicer fourth place trophies than their first place.) Because they give the same souvenir t-shirts every tournament, a friend of mine now has five, and they're all alike.

Let's face the facts. The functions of tournaments are to: 1) promote racquetball, 2) provide a meeting place for players to enjoy themselves, and 3) expose new players in competition. When players come away from tournaments with a bad taste because they were "ripped off" they will avoid that tournament the next time. This seemed to be the only topic of conversation throughout this tournament. Many entered the event because it had IRA sanction. Hopefully this club will not be the site of any more IRA sanctioned events.

(Name withheld by request)
Texas IRA Member

Praise from a new convert

- I picked up a racquet for the first time in April. I am 60 years old and it is now July, and I am playing a pretty good brand of racquetball according to my friends. If any of your readers might be interested, I find this sport to be the best conditioning in existence.

So, don't despair, "fat-boys," get out there and hit that ball. You all will be looking good.

(Name withheld)
New IRA member

RACQUETBALL the official voice of the International Racquetball Association is published bi-monthly at 100 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, Texas 75080 (mailing address: P. O. Box 31481, Suite 1012, Dallas, Texas 75231). Telephone: 214-690-0244

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DEAR MEMBERS:

It's always a pleasure to pass along to you an extra special announcement. Our 9th Annual IRA Singles Championships will be held May 28-31, 1977 in a new area of the country (to us) at an exciting new club. Racquetime of Southfield (Michigan) will be our hosts. Nestled in a suburb on the N.W. side of Detroit, Racquetime is a thirty (30) court facility which opened its doors this past September.

The most outstanding feature of Racquetime--after you're able to comprehend 30 courts in one facility--is its "front to front" two three-wall glass courts. Probably the best way to describe them is to visualize an area 80' x 20' of glass walls with permanent seating wrapped around three walls and temporary seating along the fourth. In the middle of this box stands a solid (not glass) front wall thus separating the area into two courts each capable of seating over 400 spectators.

The tournament details will be carried in the next magazine. We're looking forward to what promises to be a great event and to working with owner Pat McPharlin, his partners, and their staff.

Also to be carried in the next issue will be the sites and details of our regionals the dates of which have been set for April 22-24, 1977.

I would like to clear up a misunderstanding which may have occurred concerning state associations as the result of a recent article about the USRA's state programs in their magazine. Our state programs which were organized over three years ago are in most cases doing very well. Obviously with stronger leadership in some states than others we do have some programs that are more active. The USRA has recently begun organizing their own state programs and recently announced the states that have affiliated with them. What this means is they have a person in those states forming a state association—not that our existing associations have switched affiliations. We are proud of the work our people have been doing and the emphasis on the grass roots player will continue to be our main objective.

Sincerely,

Tom McKie
Executive Director
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INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Dear Members --

I have just returned from our national doubles championships in Houston, Texas. As a participant and as your president I was doubly pleased by the tournament and the way it was handled.

My special thanks go to Joe Leach, Dewey Strickland, Jim Austin and the great staff at the Houston YMCA who made the doubles championship such a success. To everyone involved, my congratulations on a job well done!

In addition to announcing the success of the national doubles championships, I have more good news!! As you know, the IRA continually checks racquetballs from various manufacturers to assure the highest standards of the game. Seamco's racquetballs consistently achieved excellent test results.

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Plans are being made for expanding junior programs, state and local programs, and of course our regional and national programs, all of which require extensive layouts of revenue. None of this will be possible without your help. Be certain to ask for and use Seamco Official IRA racquetballs; it is from the sale of these racquetballs that only the IRA receives royalties.

I also welcome Leach Industries back to the IRA team. With the January issue of Racquetball magazine Leach begins a full year's commitment to advertising and product promotion through the IRA. We are indeed fortunate to have had the support of Leach Industries over the years. They have been an important element in developing and promoting the sport of racquetball nationwide, and we look forward to their continued support.

Many of you may not be aware of the increasing activity of the International Professional Racquetball Organization (IPRO), and the development and promotion of professional racquetball. The IRA has worked with the IPRO on several ventures and has been able to work out an agreement with the IPRO to join forces for you. This agreement spreads the influence of the IRA into both amateur and professional racquetball. By working together the IRA and the IPRO will be able to work even more effectively to achieve their mutual goals: the expansion of the sport of racquetball.

Incidently, the IPRO has two pro stops to be held soon. The first will be my own, the Seamco/Leach/Holiday Inn third annual Tanner Pro-Am in Memphis, Tennessee, December 9-10-11-12, and the Tucson, Arizona, Pro-Am to be held at the Tucson Athletic Club on January 20-21-22-23, 1977. I look forward to both of these events, and to others that will be announced later in the January issue...and I would like to see you at these.

The harder we work together, the sooner our goals will be our accomplishments!

Sincerely,

William B. Tanner
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State Championships

State championship tournament results are beginning to come in, and reports on special local events indicate the season is close to its zenith. On this and the following pages are the reports from three states.

Texas
300 entrants converged on San Antonio to compete for state titles. Report begins on this page...

Minnesota
McNamara lost a master's match, but gained a double's title; and Bob Adam, Jr., moves up...

Oklahoma
Sooners pair-up and square off in three day battle for state doubles titles. See page 16...

The Racquetball & Handball Club of San Antonio hosted the Second Annual Texas Championship September 17-19.

Pete Wright of Dallas-Ft. Worth, the defending champion, continued his reign over the Lone Star State by defeating I. R. A. Executive Director, Tom McKie, 15-8, 12-15, 15-3. Wright had defeated Marc Auerbach of Houston, 15-6, 15-7, in the semis while McKie upset Jim Austin, 15-8, 16-14.

In the women's open, Lyn McKie of Dallas defeated Suzanne Storey of Friendswood, 15-7, 15-12; McKie had beaten Susie Duggan, 15-9, 15-7, to reach the finals, while Champion Lyn defeated Janice Segall of Austin, 15-8, 15-7. Storey beat Duggan for third place, 14-16, 16-14, 15-11.

In the junior division (under 15 years), Larry Nitishin, hard hitting Houstonian, beat up and coming Ken Kahlilanel of San Antonio, 5-13, 15-5. Nitishin defeated Mark Pasche of Dallas, 15-5, 15-11, while Kahlilanel was beating David Clark of Dallas, 15-1, 15-7. Pasche won third place, 15-7, 8-15, 15-9.


Men's master singles found Simon Wiederman of Houston edging Jack Hood of San Antonio, 15-7, 16-14, for the coveted crown of those over forty-five years of age. Hood had defeated J. W. Studak of Austin, 15-6, 15-7, while Wiederman defeated Milt Karp of Houston, 15-2, 15-3.

Open doubles: The Houston team of Marc Auerbach and Mike Carr defeated fellow rivals Larry Nitishin and Mark Malowitz also of Houston, 16-14, 15-6. Auerbach and Carr defeated Tom McKie and Rick Walker of Dallas, 15-9, 9-15, 15-10, while Nitishin and Malowitz were handling Pete Wright and Bob Lampley, 15-4, 15-9.


Continued on page 15.
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In women's doubles, Sandy Duggan and Bev Haney defeated Sandy Barker and Janice Segall, 15-8, 15-6. Linda Guerrero and Judy Turlington of San Antonio beat Pam Spann and Libby Bernhard of Austin, 15-4, 7-15, 15-13, for third place.

Three hundred entrants vied for the coveted Texas Championships held annually at the Racquetball & Handball Club of San Antonio. Playing under the I. R. A. proposed scoring change of two out of three games to fifteen points and needing to win by two points, the tournament was run on schedule even with the large number of entrants in the various divisions.

Bob Adam, Jr., takes Minnesota crown from Steve Singer

Bob Adam, Jr., is the new Minnesota state amateur champion. He ousted defending champion Steve Singer, Minneapolis, in the finals, 21-2, 20-21, 21-15, after defeating Mike Weums in two during the semifinals, and eliminating Johnson in two in the quarters.

Adam placed second in the tournament a year ago, and was second in the National Juniors at Walt Disney World last December.

Taking third place was Tom Gonser, a Wisconsin transplant, who survived a first round scare by Scott Litin, Rochester. Litin had Gonser down, 14-9, with the serve at match point, but was unable to put the icing on the cake. Gonser rallied and took the win, 15-14. The first two games were split: Litin in the first, 12-15; and Gonser took the second, 15-6.

Bill Hall pulled the major upset of the day, defeating Bob McNamara, 21-20, in their three game match, but fell to Bob Adam, Sr., in the finals, 21-12, 21-10.

Larry Nielson and Dick Bryan of Minneapolis lost only one game en route to the title over defending champions Mike Beugen and Steve Singer.

Bob McNamara and partner Ron Haskvitz bested Rochester's team of Dick Carpenter and Fred Banfield to take the senior's doubles crown.

The masters division competition saw George Cladky, Edina, march through, undefeated, by besting Ralph Stillman of Minnetonka. Taking third place was Jim Enderson. Amos Rosenbloom, last year's champion was eliminated in a three game match by Enderson, but came back to win the consolation bracket. Additional scores are in this issue's Scoreboard.

NEW SINGLES champion Bob Adam, Jr., upper left (in white jacket) receives congratulations from Steve Singer. At the left, master's champion George Cladky and runner-up Ralph Stillman. In the top photo, Fred Banfield presents winning trophies to Bob McNamara, left, and Ron Haskvitz, center.

Oklahoma Doubles — Next page
Oklahoma has new men’s and women’s doubles champions

Myers and Chambliss played racquetballers’ second most popular game, called Confounding the Seeding Charts, and at the same time took the Oklahoma state doubles championship titles during three days of intense play in Oklahoma City’s Racquet Time club October 15-16-17.

Jerry Myers and Kevin Chambliss met Kent Taylor and Jerry Linton in the finals, turning back the runners-up in two straight—15-12, 15-7. After the match, Taylor was reminded he had predicted the affair would be settled in two games. “Yeah, but what I meant was...”

Taylor, formerly of Wichita, Kansas, and now a Stillwater, Oklahoma, resident teamed with Jerry Linton, one of the state’s foremost singles players. In the quarterfinals they stopped favored Ken Smith and Gary Hinkle (IRA state chairman), 15-9, 8-15, 15-6.

In their quarterfinals match Myers-Chambliss defeated Jim McPherson, former state singles champion, and Mike Gann in two straight, 15-12, 15-11.

For a while in the second game, it appeared Taylor and Linton might make it at least a three game contest. Myers-Chambliss saw their lead of 6-1 shrink to a six-all tie under an attack led mostly with Linton serving and Taylor covering the right side of the court.

Within five minutes of action—from the beginning of the second game—the score was tied at six-all when Linton blew a soft, dump, kill-shot, permitting the serve to go to Chambliss. Chambliss served twice, was put out, and partner Myers broke the tie with an ace serve that drew a challenge from Taylor and Linton, but stayed on the scorecard.

From that point on it was Myers-Chambliiss’ game. Taylor and Linton picked up one more point, but skipped out at 14-7 to give the new state doubles champions their title at 15-7.

Third place in the men’s open doubles went to Jim McPherson and Mike Gann, and in the consolations, Roland Treat-Jim Martin.

HADLEY-FAIRBANKS WIN WOMEN’S OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Cross-state university rivals, OU and OSU, supplied the winning combination of Pam Hadley, Stillwater, and Gwinn Fairbanks, Norman, in the women’s class A, or open, competition.

The university entry defeated the mother-daughter team of Sandy McPherson, and Jody Walker in three games: 15-7, 11-15, and 15-5.


Jerry Linton and Jim McPherson topped the men’s senior doubles title by turning back a rough and tumble onslaught from Rutherford-Sturdivant in three games: 15-12, 8-15, 15-5.

RACQUETBALL
Giordano Retains East Coast Military title


Competition took place at the Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Norfolk, Va., during the weekend of June 11-13, 1976, and attracted over 70 participants. Events included mens A championship singles, mens B singles, mens B singles consolation, women's singles and women's singles consolation.


Third place was captured by Captain Parker who defeated LCDR Glenn Allen, 21-14, 21-20, and Sgt. Allman, 31-10, in the loser's bracket of the double elimination A singles event. Probably the best match of the tournament was the Giordano/Crown winners bracket final which lasted in excess of two hours and was not decided until the final two points of the third game.


The women's singles event attracted 18 service women and dependent wives or daughters of military personnel. Competition was close and exciting in just about all matches, but Sue Cumminger, a navy wife from Norfolk, and 1976 state runnerup, defeated California's 1975 state women's outdoor champion, Linda Crown, Newport News, 21-8, 21-12. Enroute to the finals, Mrs. Cumminger defeated Pam Maltby of Norfolk, in a long and close match, 17-21, 21-5, 11-6, while Mrs. Crown defeated Lt. Mary Anne Bradley, U.S.N., Norfolk, 18-21, 21-0, 11-8, in what was probably the best women's match of the tournament. Third place was won by Pam Maltby who defeated Lt. Bradley, 21-15, 21-15.

ON THE FACING PAGE, upper left, from left to right, Jerry Linton avoids a swing by Kevin Chambless as Jerry Myers stands by; upper right: Sandy McPherson at the start of a round-house swing... Pam Hadley in the foreground. Seniors finalists In lower picture: top row, partners Dumbrowski and Winds, V. Z. Lawton, Bill Sturdevant, Jim McPherson, and in the front row Joe Dorrough, John Rutherford and Jerry Linton. On this page, in the left hand picture is Gwinn Fairbanks, and at the upper right, mens open finalists, top row, left to right, are Mike Gann, Kent Taylor, Jerry Linton, and Kevin Chambless. In front are Jim McPherson, Jim Martin and Roland Treat. (Photos by Berry Guzman.)

Darrough and Lawton placed third (15-6, 15-11) and Dumbrowski-Winds won the consolation title.

In the men's B division first place went to Rippetoe-Curtis over Edwards-Siebert, 2-15, 15-9, 15-12. Second was Slivka-Mitchell (15-11, 15-6); and consolation winner was Carrigan-Tripp.
Round robin of top East Coast players from North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Delaware, New York and Massachusetts places Leo Marsocci at head of list. When asked why he hadn't entered, Charlie, ever the modest, Garfinkel, said he thought the invitational was a qualifying match to see who would challenge him.

Washington, D.C., held the spotlight for the bicentennial this year, as 3½ million dollars worth of fireworks lit the skies. Two weeks later, and ten miles away, fireworks of a different sort highlighted the weekend at the Players Club in Gaithersburg, Md. Twenty top-flight East Coast players were invited to participate in the "Free State Invitational", a round-robin festival of racquetball talent—the best in the area.

Players from North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Delaware, New York and Massachusetts were coming to vie for the top spots in a tournament which would rate players one thru 20 for future seeding in East tourneys.

The tourney format was simple: Every player in competition would be seeded according to past performance and placed in the group corresponding to his seed.

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Also included in seeding considerations were geographic proximity and recent tournament encounters. Each participant would play every other member of his group in order to establish a won-lost record to determine his placement for semifinals and finals on the following day. Thus, in a two-day tourney, there would be four matches on Saturday and two matches on Sunday. On Sunday, each group's number one players competed for slots 1-4, while number two players competed for slots 5-8, etc., etc. What a weekend! A guarantee six matches (with the IRA recommendation of 15 point win by two games) against the best players in the East.

Ed Remen finished third in the 1976 Mid Atlantic Regionals after playing slightly longer than a year. His superb lateral movement and overhand hill make him a threat to veteran players. These factors merely compliment Ed's strong points: an uncanny passing game with endless endurance. In a twenty-one point game, Remen will wear a shooter right down. The question was whether or not not 15 point games would force Ed into a shooting match with the best shooters around.

At first glance, the tournament draw appeared as a pot-pourri of racquetball styles and personalities. All of the ingredients were there: shooters, runners, control players, "court jesters" and everything in-between. The draw was ripe for upsets. With Kutas, Guinter, Marsocci and Remen as the four top seeds, every player saw his chance to break into the top four with a big win in his group.

Certainly the shooters and kill-shot artists would be in evidence. Rich Dreisen (Rockville, Md.), after his first fully active tournament season, was in shape following the loss of 15 pounds. With the Maryland state doubles championship and fine showings in the Burlington Open in North Carolina and Mid Atlantic Regionals under his belt, Rickie threatened the leaders with a cross-court pinch shot equal to Guinter's. Experience would be the deciding factor. Wilkes-Barre, Pa., boasted Jimmy Jones—an optimistic, ever smilin' newcomer to the south who could retrieve as well as he could shoot. The hosting Players Club was behind Tom Whipple, state singles and doubles champ and fourth in Mid Atlantic Regionals. The Whip could be dan-
dangerous of killing well from rear court
and not relinquishing dominance in
center court.

Advocates of the passing and re-
trieving game also made their entrance.
The Maryland House of Delegates' 
hectic spring sessions did little to
discourage Representative Charlie Sulli-
vvan from working hard on his game.
His speed and left-handed prowess
enabled him to win the 1975 IRA Na-
tional Senior Consolation. Having
established himself as one of the better
senior players in the East, he would be
aiming high.

Ron York, a medical school student
from Boston, was fighting a tournament
lay-off but making strong showings with
a quick reflex and strong passing game.
Delaware's Doug Clark, a superb ten-
sis player and racquetball convert, pro-
mised to give much trouble to all
comers with a reach like Charlie Gar-
finkel's and consistent volleying. Mar-
thon running often helped Art St.
Martin to wear down opponents and
display inexhaustible supplies of energy
when he won the 1974 Maryland
singles crown. The running also con-
tributed to a painful slipped disc which
sidelined Art for close to a year.

Flamboyant Paul Saperstein, North
Carolina state champ, rambled into the
competition with high aspirations, and
"Gentleman Jim" Roberson brought
both his disarming humor and charming
wife Dotty with the Roanoke con-
tingent. At "Barney" Baynard, Mary-
land's eastern shore champ, brought his
wife Lori and his bag of kill shots with
him in order to make a strong showing in
the tourney.

Every tourney has its characters, and
this t-ball stop was no exception. Willie
Wang and Rick Scordas were the "resi-
dent studs". Wang's style seems to dic-
tate a fierce silence during games, oc-
casionally mixed with outbursts of angry
reprimands against "misdirected" referees.
Known for tremendous accuracy with
back-court kills, Willie also issued
challenge with durable physical prowess
and court movement. Rick, on the other
hand, keeps his cool well preserved and
unmolested. Mixing off-speed pass shots
with a consistent backhand, Scordas
conducts a "Roberson oriented" off-
fense: run your opponent to exhaustion
while adding kill shots as an occasional
reminder.

The presence of Pennsylvania's Tom
Ranker and Ohio's Jack Sobel added
speculation as to the sanity of refereing.
Both fiery sharp shooters lean to-
wards the side of intimidation and low
tolerance of bad officiating. Sobel's
style is one of free-style shooting, favor-
ing the right side of the court.

Pennsylvania's biggest contribution
to racquetball has been its state chair-
man, Luke St. Onge. The Nittany
Lion Open, the Regionals, and the
Super 16 East (after which the Free-
state Invitational is modeled) are all
tournaments which players in the East
are proud to attend. Luke's game has
been severely hampered by extensive
knee damage. A high placement would
be a tremendous moral victory. Luke's
protege in Maryland, Fred White, was
also hoping for a good showing while
taking on full-time floor managing
duties.

Eight A.M. is early when you have
a long day ahead. Most of the top
seeds were awake as Kutas beat Saper-
stein, 15-4, 15-12, Scordas outplayed
Baynard, 15-8, 15-2, and Marsocci
Onge whittled away at Ed Remen but
couldn't hold on as Ed won, 16-14,
10-15, 15-4. Several key first round
victories saw Will Wang (pronounced
like WONG) battle Rick Scordas,
12-15, 15-10, 15-11. The difference
between a skip and rollout was the issue
for referee Tom Kutas as a controversial
decision gave Jack Sobel game point in
game one, 17-15, over Art St. Martin.
Towson couldn't come back and Sobel
came away with a 15-9 second game.
Ron York extended fired up Tom
Ranker to three games, but Ranker's
experience and speed came through as
he won a tough 13-15, 15-9, 15-10
match.

First or second losses were to be
avoided at all costs in the early rounds.
Group A's fireball Ranker defeated
Paul Saperstein, 6-15, 15-6, 15-10.
Dreisen defeated Scordas, 15-12, 15-4,
and Guinter dispatched Wang, 15-11,
15-8, in two key matches. Jimmy Jones
defeated Jim Robertson, 15-6, 15-9.

Group D also boasted cliff hangers
as Doug Clark played exceptionally
only to lose a three game match to a
consistent Ed Remen, 15-7, 16-18,
Onge, 5-15, 15-9, 16-14.

The top seeds of each division met in
Round Three for what promised to be
the toughest round of the day. Ron
York chased Tom Kutas but lost two
close ones, 15-10, 17-15. Charlie
Sullivan, one and one so far as the day
succumbed to Tom Ranker, who again
was subjected to a rigorous three games,
15-5, 7-15, 17-15. Craig Guinter
showed Richie Dreisen that he knew
Continued on next page.

"You heard me. You play on
court four in one hour!"
Free State Invitational,
Continued from preceding page.

his way around the court, winning in two: 15-9, 15-13.

Leo Marsocci went into his “act” starting with Tom Whipple as they battled for the number 1 spot in group C. Tom came from behind to take game 1, 11-15, but Leo regained his concentration and zeroed in to 15-8, 15-6 victories while talking to walls and screaming in unusual modulations.

Jack Soble couldn’t pull from behind to unseat Ed Remen, who’d had his fill of three game matches. Ed pulled away, 15-8, both games. This match gave Ed a 3-0 record for the day with only Art St. Martin left to play.

Final rounds of the Saturday’s competition proved anything but anticlimactic. Tom Ranker, with 3 three-game victories behind him, went full tilt after Tom Kutas, but Kutas stopped him: 9-15, 15-1, 15-2.

Rick Scordas took advantage of an overly talkative Craig Guinter (“I knew I had him when he said ‘how ya doin’ before the match. He couldn’t concentrate after such a long conversation!”) to win game one, 15-3. Craig came back to win the next two: 15-6, 15-7. With Craig’s first game loss, everybody in the tourney had lost at least one game during the day.


The standings for Sunday, the final day, were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPOTS 1-4</th>
<th>SPOTS 13-16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-0 Kutas (A)</td>
<td>1-3 Saperstein (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-0 Guinter (B)</td>
<td>1-3 Scordas (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-0 Marsocci (C)</td>
<td>1-3 Roberson (C)</td>
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<td>4-0 Remen (D)</td>
<td>1-3 Clark (D)</td>
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<tr>
<th>SPOTS 5-8</th>
<th>SPOTS 17-20</th>
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<tr>
<td>3-1 Ranker (A)</td>
<td>0-4 York (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-1 Dreisen (B)</td>
<td>0-4 Baynard (B)</td>
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<td>3-1 Whipple (C)</td>
<td>0-4 White (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-1 Soble (D)</td>
<td>0-4 St. Onge (D)</td>
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<tr>
<th>SPOTS 9-12</th>
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<tr>
<td>2-2 Sullivan (A)</td>
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<td>2-2 Wang (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-2 Jones (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-2 St. Martin (D)</td>
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There was strong satisfaction expressed for the IRA 15 point games, which helped many to post strong performances for matches against strong competition. The exhaustion factor has for too long made racquetball a question of marathon performance as opposed to racquetball skills.

While not the most prestigious of positions, slots 17-20 were the scene of some fierce competition. Since nobody wants to sit on the bottom of the ladder, the battle resembled sharks smelling blood. Everybody knew that one player would be winless.

In the opening day, Luke St. Onge suffered through a trio of three-game losses. Playing his best competitive ball for quite some time, Luke once again was held down by Ron York, 7-15, 15-8, 15-8. Al Baynard showed fine form against Fred White, 15-9, 15-1.


A strong field were contested for spots 13-16. Paul Saperstein again lost to rangy Doug Clark. Rick Scordas lost to Jim Roberson, 9-15, 15-12, 15-11.

In the finals of this group, Doug Clark defeated Roberson in another marathon contest. Rick Scordas took 15th over Paul Saperstein, 15-0, 15-6.


Consistency was an essential attribute in this tourney as Charlie Sullivan demonstrated with one final three-game victory over an equally determined Jimmy Jones.

A disputed call allowed Will Wang to overcame Art St. Martin’s 13-5 first game lead, and win game two, 15-7, to take hold 11th place.

Tom Ranker broke open for 15-2, 15-9 victories over Jack Soble. At the same time, Tom Whipple was defeating Dreisen, 15-5, 17-19, 15-10.

Tom Ranker lost concentration, points and eventually the match as Whipple whittled away at a 13-5 lead to win back-to-back games, 15-13, 15-9. Jack Soble walked off with 15-13, 15-11 victories over Dreisen to win seventh place.

In the finals, Tam Kutas defeated Ed Remen, 15-10, 15-10.

On the bottom side of the bracket, Leo Marsocci yelled and bullied his way to a 15-10, 15-11 victory over Guinter.

Craig Guinter defeated Ed Remen for the third place in a grueling three games.

Opposites attract, and the battle for the number one spot drew quite a crowd. Kutas, a shy, unassuming player with a wicked backhand, seemed unphased by the rantings and ravings of fastballed Leo Marsocci. Both players hit their share of rollouts, but Leo got greedy as Tam started skipping the ball in for “what should have been points”.

With game one in his pocket, 15-11, Leo was talking to the walls as Tam was chasing him in game two, but could not catch up as Leo came away “numero uno” with a close 15-13 victory.

With over 250 spectators in and out in two days, 21 three game matches, twelve games going to extra points, and many questions most definitely answered, the fireworks abated. Perhaps the happiest player was in 19th place — Luke St. Onge. On the way out, he said, “I knew I could compete with these guys, and I wanted them to know it.” He did . . . and they do.

Seedings — Final placement

<table>
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<tr>
<th>#</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Leo Marsocci</td>
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<td>Tam Kutas</td>
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<td>Jack Soble</td>
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<td>Paul Saperstein</td>
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<td>Charlie Sullivan</td>
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<td>Jimmy Jones</td>
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<td>Will Wang</td>
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<td>Doug Clark</td>
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<td>Tom Ranker</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Rick Scordas</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Art St. Martin</td>
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<td>Charlie Sullivan</td>
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<td>Al Baynard</td>
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<td>Fred White</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Luke St. Onge</td>
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Take a good look inside . . .

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1976
88 PLAYERS—COUNT 'EM—88! And it is proof of Foley's organizational ability to get everyone together at one time. At far left, Mayor Heineman presents singles trophy to Tom Foley. Doubles action at lower left (from left to right) shows Dave Schaeffer, Horace Kackney, referee Dick Gaudette, Lanny Newell and ball boy Dennis McGee during a call from one of the judges. In the picture immediately above cutlines are, Jerrie McGee, Karen Hoff, Connie Munz and Barb Spielvorg.

TOM FOLEY—
Exponent . . .
Proponent . . .
Opponent . . .
IN LOVE WITH RACQUETBALL t-shirts left no doubt in the minds of Neopolitans about the interests of these three. From left, Connie Munz, Debbie Lawrence and Jerry McGee model the favored court apparel. Mrs. Lawrence didn’t participate in the Naples tournament due to a previous reservation she had made at the Community Hospital.

"If you cannot find a handball court, switch to paddleball; if you cannot find a paddleball court, switch to racquetball; and if you can’t find a racquetball court, keep trying!"

Racquetball comes alive in Naples... on the gulf

Somewhere there may be a stronger advocate for the racquetball-cause than Jim Foley, Naples, Florida, but the story of the game’s popularity in this resort area city makes it hard to believe.

Jim Foley does not claim to be the only proponent of the game. There were four out-door courts before he moved to the town. He doesn’t even claim to be the only spokesman for the game. But most of the players in the area consider him the number one exponent, proponent, and if they have to compete, the number one opponent.

At the conclusion of their August tournament, members of the local racquetball association cited the following:

— The largest number of tournament players since the courts were built.
— News media coverage before, during and after the event by four newspapers, and three television stations.
— Weekly racquetball clinics (conducted by Foley) leading up to the tournament.

— Closing of deadlines early because of overwhelming participation.
— Starting tournament play three days early in order to accommodate all who entered!
— 12 divisions of competition (compared to nine in the previous tourney).
— Presentation of trophies by the Honorable Harry Heineman, Mayor of Naples, who had never been aware of the sport.

Jim Foley won first place in his division, too. Before a description of the events surrounding the tournament overshadow the contests themselves, it needs to be mentioned that he defeated Atillo Farkas in the semifinals for the second straight year, and did another repeat performance against Terry Hoff in the finals.

The victory makes it safe to say this was Jim Foley’s tournament. He directed it, promoted it, and played in it. And he did all three superlatively well.

An observer in Naples pointed out that before Foley began playing racquetball, there was never any trouble finding a vacant court. The city provides four, and they are open—without charge—20 hours a day. But that has changed. Now there is a waiting list, and the city is considering building four more.

As a racquetball enthusiast, Foley is a newcomer. He is a native of Lexington, and attended the University of Kentucky on a football scholarship. At 5-foot-11 and 200 pounds he has played all sports.

Now 34 years old, he has lived in Naples nearly three years, being transferred there from Fort Lauderdale. At Fort Lauderdale he played paddleball, as a substitute for the handball he had picked up in college. At Naples he visited the courts and discovered three-wall racquetball, a substitute for paddleball.

"It was by accident," he admits, "But ever since I discovered the game, I have been a nut on it, and try to en-

Continued on next page.
courage as many people as possible to come out and play."

His enthusiasm worked wonders. There were hundreds of spectators out during the six day tournaments, and the longterm effects on them will be the next development this city will have to measure.

A year ago in the Naples summer tournament 24 people entered. In February—Valentine's Day tournament—the list was up to 92 contestants. The most recent event had to be limited to 140 because of shortage of courts.

Compared to some of the game's classics, 140 people isn't very many. But, an increase of 583 percent in less than a year is phenomenal. For one tournament event to cause an abrupt change in the city's attitude toward the sport is almost unheard of. And, on the basis of this one event, the Mayor is working hard to get approval for at least four more courts. To anyone who has ever attempted to fight city hall, this last achievement stands above everything else that could be said.

DIVISION WINNERS

In the open division, other finalists included Gary Tipton who went down in two games during his semifinals match with Terry Hoff. Terry Butera defeated Jon Ramthun in the best two of three to win the open consolations.

B-Singles—Mark Simon breezed through all opposition, and defeated T. J. Smith in the finals, 15-7, 15-11. Scott Lange took the consolation event. Fred Heald lost to Simon in two straight during the semifinals, but had a weird set of scores in his Wednesday match with Don Ramthun. He lost the first game, 15-0; rallied to a 15-13 second game win, then returned the goose egg to his foe, taking the match game, 11-0.

C-Singles—Rain stopped the action Wednesday night, and play had to be completed the next day. Nearly all class C matches went three games, and provided the most excitement. David Turner upset the number two seed, 15-10, 10-15, 11-6 in the quarterfinals; defeated Dee Ramthun in three in the semifinals, and took the division title by downing fourth seeded Harry Qyiles, 15-8, 13-15, 11-7. Consolation victor was "Jeep" Quinby.

Seniors—First and second seeded Bob Munz and Jim McGee went through their brackets just as the seeding called for, met one another in the finals, and emerged as they went in. First was Munz, 15-8, 15-4. Second was McGee. Consolations went to Dick Gaudette over Ron Stahnke, 15-5, 15-3.

Women's open—Marlene Martell defeated Gay Leftwich. Debbie Higgins defeated Maley Shedd in the consolations.

The Interservice Racquetball Championships are now set for the new beautiful ten court facility (two side wall glassed courts) at West Point Military Academy, New York, June 8-11, 1977.

The events will be open, B, senior, masters, women, open doubles and consolations.

The West Point Racquetball Club will be our host and will go all out in support of this tournament. We shall keep the cost as low as possible.

Travel, housing and entry fees will be at the players' expense. From talking to players around the country, the turn-out for this tournament will make it one of the biggest ever run. Applications will be sent to all military bases, one should be in the Racquetball Magazine, or you can write the tournament director:

Major Peter F. Crummey
84-C Walnut Street
Ft. Devens, Mass. 01433
(617) 772-4354 home
Autovon 256-3132 office

Base or post racquetball representatives are still needed, so if you would like to help promote racquetball in your area please call or write your service representative listed below.

The East Coast military racquetball championship will be at Little Creek, Va., again this year. We had 140 players last year and will top 200 this year for one of the most exciting weekends of racquetball. The Doubles have been dropped to make room for the singles players. Events will be open, seniors, masters B, women and consolations. Write Glenn Allen.

If you live in the East don't forget the New England Military Tournament 3-5 December 1976 at Ft. Devens and Hanscomb AFB, Mass. Events will be O, B, S, M, W and Consolation. Write Major Peter F. Crummey for information and applications.

I have been newly elected to the IRA Board of Directors and want to be the spokesman for all military personnel to the board. If you have any suggestions on how to improve racquetball please let me know and I will see if there is anything I can do to help.

The service commissioners are:


MARINES — Cpr. Larry Grandy, Washington, D.C.

NAVY — LtCmdr. Glenn Allen, 633 Bishop Dr., Virginia Beach, Va. 23455. Phone (804) 497-0796.

ARMY — Major Peter F. Crum­mey, 84-C Walnut Street, Ft. Devens, Mass. 01433. Phone (617) 772-4354 home; Autovon 256-3132 office.
Ruth Knudsen

Bette Weed was a gracious hostess, but tough competitor, in the first California women's invitational at Helix Court House. Coming up: Gatorade Open in April...

Ruth Knudsen added another laurel to her string of racquetball accomplishments taking the first Women's State Invitational sponsored by Chuck and Bette Weed's Helix Court House October 15-16 in Spring Valley, California.

Entries were by invitation only, with selection based on past and present performance in regionals, nationals, and other major California tournaments.

Taking part in the round-robin event were Ruth Knudsen, who scored 65-0 to win the invitational. Ruth suffered losses to Bette Weed, third place winner with a score of 60-8; and to Mary Ludwig, who placed 5th with a score of 58-0. This was Ludwig's first win over Knudsen, and one of but few for Weed.

Knudsen has been playing top flight racquetball for about seven years. She was the National amateur champion in 1975 and 1976, and is now playing and teaching at the Santana Courts in Los Angeles.

Second place went to Alicia Moore, considered one of the best players in the San Francisco area. Alicia scored 64-0 in her eight matches. She placed third this year in the IRA Western regionals, second in the "World Championship" tournament, and first in the Helix "Gatorade Open." She plays a smart control-game, relying but little on power, and has placed first in almost every other local tourney she entered.

Third place Bette Weed seems to have staked out a claim for herself. In the last year or two Bette has placed second or third in tournaments all over the country, and in the process has beaten most of the players who are copping the number one spots. In 1971 she placed first in the Western regionals, second in 1972 and again in 1974 and 1976. She was second in the international events in 1972. In 1974 she placed first in the three-wall nationals, but again garnered second place in 1975 and 1976.

Lottie Bain, with a round-robin score of 58-0, earned fourth place in the invitational. She was the only southpaw in the tourney, and is one of the best of the west coast women players. She was third in the NRC regionals this year and third in the National doubles, with Mary Ludwig.

Fifth place winner Mary Ludwig who picked up one of the two wins over Ruth Knudsen has been competing for the last few years in west coast events. She placed second (with partner Bain) in the 1976 regionals and third in the 1976 national doubles.

Sixth place, on the basis of her 55-0 score, went to Linda Siau, a veteran of five years on the courts. She is an excellent doubles player and has placed in the nationals every year. She was invited to the Invitational in 1975. She is also a teacher of the sport, and will be serving in that capacity with the new racquetball club opening in Riverside, California.

Donna Naguchi (seventh: 42-8) is a PE and piano teacher. She placed second in the National Amateur tournament in 1975 and fourth in 1976. She has all the shots and great stamina. Donna's reputation for sportsmanship is one of the best.

Kathy Gardner (33-8) is a PE teacher, and could possibly be an even better player if she had more time to devote to the game. She has competed, on and off, for about four years, and at times has made a strong showing in tournament action.

Ninth place went to Karen Scavello, who took Patti Bernathy's place on the invitational list. Her round-robin score was 32-4.

Chuck and Bette Weed have reminded players of their annual Gatorade tournament scheduled for the first or second weekend in April, 1977. It is always an exciting event, and one that displays some of the best Western players. Entry information can be had by writing Helix Court House, 9617 Campo Road, Spring Valley, CA 92077, or by calling 462-8330.
First announcements of the Bentley Club offered prospective members the use of five racquetball courts which were to be available August, 1975. Potential of the sport is such that the final announcement offered eight courts—a growth of 160 percent before the doors were opened.

Located in a beautiful, natural setting of trees and large landscaped areas, the Bentley Club and Courts is just minutes from the center of town in East Harrisburg, just off Linglestown Road.

Owner James Spooner has announced the grand opening of the racquetball (and handball) courts for this month. He and his staff have been promoting the sport that is as new to Harrisburg as it has been to most major cities, continuously for the past year.

The successfulness of their work can be seen in the report that membership goals are 60 percent completed. New members are being enrolled at the rate of 23 per month.

The only other racquetball/handball facilities in the metropolitan area are located at the JCC, YMCA and Harrisburg Community College.

The Bentley club describes itself as a "private, exclusive club . . . (where members can) . . . relax, exercise, recreate and socialize."

Backing up this claim Spooner and company have provided a $650,000 establishment that includes not only eight racquetball courts, but an olympic size swimming pool, four tennis courts, a well equipped gymnasium plus a schedule of health-programs covering ballet, guitar (?!) lessons, volleyball, and a variety of aerobic-rated events.

Racquetball ladder and tournament affairs have been built-in to the club's activity calendar which calls for a national handicap tournament in the near future.

To help the member relax after a strenuous workout, Bentley affords luxuriously large and handsomely equipped locker rooms, whirlpools, suanas, massage parlors and showers.

And to relax, even further, the club includes a nursery, dining room, and cocktail lounge.

Cliff Meyers, local tennis-pro, is in charge of the fully equipped pro-shop, and Nancy Gingerich is the person to see about memberships and reservations.

Mailing address for the club is 2301 Grimes Drive, Harrisburg, Pa. 17112. The telephone number is 717—545-4231.

The racquetball courts have a viewing gallery for spectators designed by McLean and Smith, architects. Playing surfaces were supplied by Macnaughton-Brooks of Buffalo, N.Y., and Weston, Ontario, Canada. The Macnaughton-Brooks company employs a seamless floor and wall surfacing system, of epoxy reinforced with fiberglass.
Hogan and Green - Top names in Voit's 2nd Summer Open

Top-seeded Marty Hogan of St. Louis spoiled John Lynch's 22nd birthday on the Fourth of July by defeating the university student in the men's finals of the AMF Voit Summer Open Racquetball Tournament.

Lynch, a finance major at the University of Illinois at Champaigne, came up short as Hogan scored a 21-5, 21-16 victory highlighting the second annual event.

The Court House, in Schaumburg, Illinois, played host to some of the sport's top-rated players during the July 1-4 tournament, including Ron Rubenstein, Jerry Hilecher, Mike Zeitman and Ken Wong.

In the women's division, 19-year-old Sarah Green upset top-seeded Sue Carow in a tie-breaker, 15-21, 21-10, 11-5. Ms. Green, playing out of Memphis State University is the International Racquetball Association's national women's champion.

Ms. Carow, from Glenview, Illinois, was defending her title in the AMF Voit tournament.

In a rematch of 1975's senior's finals, Schaumburg's Fred Blaess scored another upset, beating Jerry Davis, 21-19, 12-21, 11-3. Davis, from Shaker Heights, Ohio, captured last year's championship, also in a tie-breaker. Blaess is the current Illinois state racquetball champ.

Winners in each division received a stereo system supplied by AMF Voit. Runners-up were awarded tape decks. AMF bicycles went to third place winners, and trophies were given to players in both final and consolation matches.
SELECTING YOUR
RACQUETBALL
EQUIPMENT

By Steve Strandemo
Member of Ektelon's Team of Champions

Books could be written about racquets—
how they are made, what they are made of
(metal, plastic and wood), stiffness vs. flexi-
bility, shapes of heads, bumper weight, cen-
ter of balance, types of handles, grip size,
right down to the wrist string on the end.

Simplifying the procedure of choosing, a
player should select a racquet he or she can
control: not too heavy, not too light, around
270 grams, with a grip small enough to al-
low you to snap your wrist. The grip is very
important, and too frequently misjudged, as
we shall see.

My first racquet, purchased in 1971 back
in St. Cloud, Minnesota, was wood, be-
cause that was—and still is—the cheapest.
I think it cost $6.95. It had a great big
grip, because that's the kind of baseball bat
I had liked. I was a Nellie Fox-style hitter:
use a thick handle, choke up and make con-
tact.

I won my first tournament, a B-division
event, with that heavy old wood racquet.
Then some of the guys in the A division be-
gan asking me to play. They had different
racquets.

We didn’t know X from Y in Minnesota
about racquetball. All the good players who
came in were using metal racquets. Some-
body lent me an Ektelon. It was among the
first metal racquets ever made, and certainly
the first one I ever used.

I liked it, I bought one, and I used it for
a year or more.
Then fiberglass came along. It felt good,
but it kept breaking on us.

When I moved to San Diego three years
ago, I was using the original metal racquet
again. It was aluminum, actually, as most
metal racquets are. There are also some steel
ones on the market. I tried several different
styles from the major manufacturers based in
San Diego, and they all had different feels.

Then I signed a contract to represent
Ektelon. They had been experimenting with
a metal racquet that had more flexibility. I
tried it and found it gave the ball a “spring
effect” off the racquet. They put it into pro-
duction and put my name on it.

The most important thing I learned about
racquets in those years was that the grip
should be small. A racquetball stroke is
closer to Henry Aaron’s wrist-snapping
swing than Nellie Fox’s punching style, and
you will note that Henry’s bats all had very
slim handles.

If you don’t snap your wrist in racquet-
ball, you are going to hit pumpkin shots
that my gramma could get to.

You cannot snap your wrist if the grip is
too large. I think the reason tennis players
use a large grip is because tennis is played
with almost a non-wrist action. People who
come from tennis into racquetball tend to
want to use the same grip, because the
smaller one feels so foreign to them.

But it is a necessity. In the last year, I’ve
gone from a medium—4 5/16” to a
small—4 1/8”. It’s funny. Most people
imagine their hands are bigger than they
really are.

Grips range from extra small (3 5/16”)
through small and medium to large, which
is only 4 1/2”.

As for racquet weight, the plastic models
are the lightest, at 250 or 260 grams, while
the heavier metal ones go up to 300. Wood
is heavier still. Too heavy.

It’s a matter of feel. You want to have
enough racquet mass to project the ball off
the strings, but not so much that it limits
the amount of time you have to swing.

Length is an integral part of this formula.
About 18 1/4” is the best for most peo-
pie, because it is the easiest to control, and
control is the name of the game. More
length means more power, but if you can’t
control it, power becomes as great a disad-
vantage as the advantage it is supposed to be.
Some heavier hitters prefer a stiffer racquet.

But I am of average power and want the
racquet to do some of the work for me. My
signature model flexes quite a bit for a metal
racquet.

The shape of the head—rectangular, tear-
drop or oval—is a matter of personal pref-
erence. There is a correlation between the
shape of the head and its flexibility, but it is
so vague that it can only be noticed by a top-flight player.

There's no such things as gut strings in racquetball. You don't need them. Most racquets are factory-strung with nylon, at between 25-32 pounds of tension.

If you hit a ball with gut string at 27 pounds, you would have to fish it out of the strings with a soup ladle.

Both leather and rubber grips are available. Size is not the only crucial function of the grip. It must be dry. If it is not, you will not hit anything, except maybe yourself, perhaps in the forehead.

If you can keep your grip dry without using a glove, you are fortunate. Use of a glove sacrifices some feel. Most players, though, must use a glove, or two or three, in the course of a hot match. I will give up a little bit of sensitivity every time to make sure I have a good grip when I hit the ball.

Gloves are not that thick any more, in fact. They are becoming more refined, like everything else in the sport. Champion and Saranac make most of them. Look for a good, tacky glove, and it's best to buy more than one. The same applies to sweatbands for your wrists. Most people can count on drenching two gloves and a couple of sweatbands in a match.

Shoes rank right behind the racquet in importance, but the sport is still so young that shoe manufacturers are just now entering the racquetball market. The first shoes designed specifically for racquetball appeared at buyers' shows only last winter.

I always have worn basketball shoes. Both sports, you know, are played on a wood floor. Sole designs vary—slashes, suction cups, little rubber grabbers all in a row. Whatever you choose, make sure it is a high-quality shoe.

If you are playing on a budget, I recommend that you economize on everything but the racquet and the shoes. Play in old T-shirts and cutoffs if you must, but protect your feet and get a racquet that maximizes your ability.

A word of caution about foreign-made shoes: there are some very good ones, but sizing it not standard, so if you ask for a 9, it may fit like a 10. Try them on. Both feet.

It is a good idea to wear two pairs of socks. Friction will be absorbed between the socks and possibly spare you a few blisters.

For appearance, you can get nice pull-over shirts, 50 per cent cotton for absorption and 50 per cent polyester for durability. I have to change shirts two or three times a match.

Since there's only one ball on the court, and you don't have to chase it very far, your shorts don't need pockets. There's no distinct line of racquetball clothing yet, but racquetball shorts—double-knit, no pockets and very comfortable—are a good start.

There's one more item of equipment that deserves more attention than it gets.

Nobody wears eye protectors and everybody should. You may think it limits your vision a bit, but that is mostly psychological. They won't blind you nearly so bad as a sharply-hit racquetball in the eye.

The pros don't wear them, I know. But our caliber of play is such that we all know when to duck. Still, we're playing with fire.

Speaking of balls and fire, the argument over which ball is best is a heated one. It's a challenge, creating a ball that will not break, much less stay lively, under a constant and vicious pounding.

Seamco, Voit, Vittert and Trenway all have balls on the market. Ektelon also has one ready to market. Other rubber companies are trying.

One company glues two hemispheres together, trapping air inside, and this compression gives the ball its bounce. Another doesn't trog air at all, but punches tiny holes in either side so the air can get out. This ball relies on livelier rubber for its spring. Other balls are seamless. And everybody still is experimenting.

But the test for which ball will be used in a match remains the same: a ceiling ball, hit with regular velocity, that comes off the ceiling just in front of the front lights, then off the front wall, then off the floor (in the service box area), should hit the back wall about two or three feet off the floor. Watch the average player, though, and they'll drop two balls together from a height of about six feet and select the one that bounces higher.
WHAT ARE THE Invitational?
By Tom McKie

Probably you have read accounts of the results of several of the IRA Invitationals in RACQUETBALL magazine and it sparked some questions in you. What is an invitational? Who gets invited? How can I be a candidate?

Invitational are held in both singles and doubles in the different divisions to give the best players a chance to compete against one another. Also since the number of participants is limited the invitationals provide a lot of incentive to the budding top players to improve their game enough to be selected.

The basic format of the invitationals has been to select the top ten players (or teams) in a division and play three days of round robin—three matches per day. The matches are usually one game to 31 and the players are ranked by a point system (they get credit for their points scored and a bonus for match wins).

The invitationals have become very popular. While the same ten players may be competing in the Internationals they don’t all get a chance to play one another. Although the competition at the invitational is keen the camaraderie of the players is one of its biggest features. With only a small number involved everyone gets to know everyone else and many lasting friendships are developed.

Invitational have not been held in the men’s open divisions the last three years as pro racquetball has changed their importance in the eyes of those players. However we are holding or seeking sites to hold all the others.

No article on the invitationals would be complete without mentioning three individuals most responsible for their existence. The first is not really an individual—the Louisville Jewish Community Center which was responsible for getting the idea started. They hosted the first invitational—the open doubles in 1969 and each year through 1973. Surely the reason the invitationals became so popular and prestigious was because of the work done at Louisville.

The all-time champion of directing different invitationals has to be Dr. Bud Muehleisen. He’s responsible for organizing and hosting the first open singles invitational in 1971 and the first senior singles in 1973. Along with those he’s hosted four other invitationals and between singles and doubles has played in six different classes. Needless to say he hasn’t forgotten why he was there as Bud is a ten time invitational champion.

Four times the masters doubles has gone to New Castle, Pennsylvania, and Sam Caiazaar and his crew have made that a tournament no participant can forget. Richard Walker and Bill Sellers of Dallas were so excited about attending the 1974 tournament they mis-takenly showed up one week early.

However, after returning sheepishly to Dallas for a week of ribbing (Sellers decided he’d rather attend a medical convention in Atlanta and left Walker to face the boys at home) they returned to win both the title and the “Early Bird” award.

In addition New Castle also hosted the first Masters Singles Invitational in 1971 before moving over to the doubles.

If you are interested in being invited to an invitational please write the IRA and indicate your racquetball accomplishments that merit you for consideration. Usually about twice as many invitations are sent out as places in the tournament. From the affirmative replies a screening committee of the tournament director, the IRA Executive Director, and an appointed member select the participants.
The complete family of racquets. For everyone from beginner to pro.
Wherever they're at in racquetball, Omega has the right racquet.

Beginner or ace . . . playing for fun or for keeps . . . man, woman, boy or girl . . .
Omega has the racquet with the performance characteristics that fit them and their particular game and style.
Omega Racquets are designed to deliver sensitive feel . . . quick response . . . power . . . playability . . . and durability.
This is the Omega family:

1. The ProStaff
   Omega's quadrangular head shape racquet with largest overall hitting surface and sweet spot.
   • Lightweight Nominal weight: 260 grams.
   • 18½ inches overall length.
   • Precisely balanced
   • Computer-designed extrusion for maximum control and power.
   • Replaceable polyvinyl bumper that adjusts for proper swingweight.

2. The Sabre
   Omega's full teardrop head shape racquet with extra large hitting surface and sweet spot.
   • Medium weight for extra power. Nominal weight: 270 grams.
   • Extra length for leverage and power—18½ inches overall length.
   • Computer-designed extrusion for maximum control and power.
   • Replaceable polyvinyl bumper.

3. The MTD
   Omega's Modified TearDrop head shape racquet.
   • Lightweight. Nominal weight: 260 grams.
   • Computer-designed extrusion for maximum control and power.
   • Replaceable, adjustable polyvinyl bumper.

4. The Boomer
   Omega's Boomer—The all-purpose racquet for any player.
   • More weight for added power and durability.
   Nominal weight: 270 grams.
   • Computer-designed extrusion for maximum control.

5. The Spoiler
   Omega's lightest racquet—ideal for junior players.
   • Super lightweight. Nominal weight: 245 grams.
   • Throatpiece for reinforcement.
   Carbon black, glass-filled, one-piece nylon frame. String tension: 28-32 lbs.
   See back cover for general specifications of these racquets. Minimum order: 6 racquets.
General Specifications of Omega Racquets

All Omega aluminum racquets are computer-designed, with specific performance characteristics to meet varying player preferences and styles of play. Highly polished, nickel-plated stainless steel grommets prolong string life and maintain consistent overall racquet strength. All racquets have a tested yield strength of 69,000 lb./sq. in. for absolutely minimal bending or shifting. The extruded aluminum extends completely to the butt of the racquet for added handle durability. The handle is composed of a one piece injected molded plastic grip. Racquet frames and handles are fully warranted for one year against defects and workmanship.

Individual design
Omega racquetball racquets are individually designed with specific performance characteristics to meet varying player preferences and styles of play. There are Omega racquets specifically designed for the beginner and his needs as well as the seasoned player and his advanced requirements. All Omega racquets are crafted from the finest materials available, and engineered to deliver consistent, lasting performance.

The combination of head shape, length, weight and flexibility determine what type of racquet most meets a player’s speed, power and control requirements. Omega racquets are designed to allow the player to select a racquet with performance characteristics that match his particular game style.

Head Shape/Length/Weight
The head shape of the racquet determines the overall hitting surface, the size, and location of the sweet spot. Longer racquets provide more reach and leverage, for added power. Shorter racquets are easier to swing, providing faster response. Heavier racquets increase power. Omega racquets are available in a complete selection of head shapes, lengths and weights to satisfy individual playing needs.

Grips/Handles
It is important that a player choose a grip that provides him with the best possible control and comfort. Omega aluminum racquets are available in a choice of grip sizes and two grip styles, leather and rubber. The aluminum extrusion extends to the butt of the racquet, virtually eliminating any chance of separation and keeping vibration to an absolute minimum. This feature is an Omega exclusive.

String
All Omega racquets are strung with the finest nylon monofilament string. Omega racquets range in string tension from 28 to 32 pounds. Higher string tension results in more hitting power. Lower string tension gives more control. Highly polished nickel-plated stainless steel grommets protect the strings for prolonged string life and consistent overall racquet strength.

Flexibility/Stiffness
The more flexible the racquet, the less the ball control. The greater the rigidity in the racquet, the greater the ball control becomes. All Omega aluminum racquets are extruded according to computer specification to obtain the proper ratio between flexibility and rigidity. This exclusive Omega process results in a strong, durable racquet that delivers the greatest combination of ball control and hitting power possible.

Additional Equipment

Gloves
Omega provides the finest quality camel skin racquetball glove. The glove features a complete Velcro wrap-around for even tightness around the hand, and nylon mesh backing. Available in small medium, large and extra large sizes, in both right and left hands.

Carry-All Bags
Omega’s deluxe tube carry-all affords plenty of room for extra racquets, equipment and clothing. The prime feature of Omega’s attractive carry-all is the separate wet clothes compartment.

Repair Kits
Omega supplies string, bumper strips and gripping materials for easy, quick racquet repair and modification. When ordering, specify racquet model name and number.
MEMBERSHIP in the IRA has been said to make its members happier, healthier and wealthier than almost anyone you care to mention... And some you might not care to mention.

We don't guarantee this statement, but we won't deny it, either; some of the healthiest, happiest, wealthiest people we've ever known are members.

If you are not, join us, and let's see what happens next. Whether it's wealth or not, you can be sure it'll be exciting.

IRA racquetball is excitement.

As an IRA member you are eligible for IRA sanctioned and sponsored tournaments, activities and sundry competitions; you are eligible to wear the Official IRA shoulder patch (and are privileged to wear it anydarnwhere you please); you will begin receiving within minutes (or at least six weeks) your own, personal, private copies of the IRA Racquetball Magazine telling you about everything that's going on in racquetball... interviews with top players... instruction on improving your game... and a host of enjoyable reading.

You'll be notified of national tournaments and the annual membership meeting; you'll be eligible to vote in the most democratically run organization that ever admitted a republican to membership. (How's that for being democratic?) Join us today. You'll enjoy the IRA, and we believe you'll enjoy your favorite sport even more.
Until just a few years ago there was no such thing as a professional player. Now there are dozens. Some spend most of their time practicing and playing in tournaments. Many others spend as much time promoting the sport of racquetball through seminars, schools and clinics as they do playing the game.

One such band of pros functions under the heading of National Racquetball Clinics. Charlie Brumfield, who has to be number one on any professional listing is the first name in the group. Along with him are Marty Hogan, Davey Bledsoe, Rich Wagner, Steve Serot, and Steve Keeley. Not necessarily in that order.

Clinics conducted by professionals must, of course, help support the pro-player. But they do two other things. They help players improve and thus better enjoy the game, and they help spread the sport to the uninitiated.

On the subject of improvement, Dennis Harrison, member of the Commerce Club in Los Angeles was quoted as saying, "I've been playing for almost two years, and all this time I thought I was playing it right. After taking the clinic, I learned the proper grip. Charlie Brumfield pointed it out to me. In my opinion the clinic was a real success!"

There are a lot of Dennis Harrisons around the country who have started playing simply because racquetball is such an easy game to play—right grip or wrong. But, with a little help from their friends, they improve markedly, and with the improvement become boosters of the game instead of mere participants.

Davey Bledsoe, one of the pro-clinic lecturers points to Janice Segall, Austin, Texas, as a good example of the reaction to clinics among some of the top women players. Janice said, "The camps helped increase my knowledge of the sport and improved my playing skills, especially my backhand and my backwall play. I've found Keeley's cassettes to be an excellent instructional program and use it as assignments between lessons."

The pro-clinics use every method possible to get their points across. Instant video replays are an example. It is quite one thing to tell a player that his stance is poor. It is quite another to let him see for himself—while still perspiring from court action—why he was skipping out instead of rolling out.

"The most interesting session (to me) was the videotape review lesson. Seeing yourself in action while an instructor comments on your performance is a (tremendous) learning experience." This was the observation of Steve Pulliam, himself a racquetball instructor at the University of Washington. The clinics had become sort of a teaching round robin, in which the teachers were teaching teachers who will teach...

The pro clinic organization of which Bledsoe, Brumfield, Serot, Wagner, Hogan and Keeley (not necessarily in that order) are regular participants have staged clinics, and exhibitions from their West Coast base station all the way to Illinois and parts of Canada. Along the way they have appeared on a number of television shows promoting various tournaments, and have been the subjects of countless local newspaper interviews.

Not long ago Charlie Brumfield and Rich Wagner were interviewed by "Flight Magazine," and on the preceding day conducted a two-man exhibition for 25 buyers from the J.C. Penny's company. In both instances they served as spokesmen for The Sport.

Some of the professional players are difficult subjects for interviews, and are at their best on the court. Others love being interviewed, and have more answers than most journalists have questions. One such is Steve Keeley.

Keeley discovered the frustrations of having a lot of left-over answers at the close of each interview—apparently—and to get some of them out of his system has turned author: "The Complete Book of Racquetball" tells how to do all things well, and teaches a new form of the English language known as Keeley-isms.

For racquetballers who do not want to buy a copy of Keeley's book, the Atlas Health Club offers a free copy with each 4-day enrollment in one of the National Racquetball Clinics. The coming dates are February 11-14; April 5-8; and July 5-8. Depending on which of several plans one chooses, the fees vary from $200 to $280 per person. Then, of course, you can buy Keeley's book at most racquetball pro-shops, for quite a different fee.

The West Coast band is not the only purveyor of racquetball intelligence. Randy Stafford about a year ago came out with his book, "Racquetball, the Sport for Everyone," a well thought of 80-page treatise that covers everything from the beginning game to a compilation of IRA rules, plus a chapter on unwritten rules.
More recently “Racquetball, For Women” has been released by Lincoln Press, Royal Oak, Michigan, and sells for $2.50 a copy. Joyce Weckstein, the author, is an experienced racquetball teacher. In his Master’s thesis W. H. Matthews, University of Florida, studied and analyzed the three-wall version extensively. Although this is not a commercial product, the study was completely professional in quality.

The IRA’s Executive Director, Tom McKie, also chose racquetball as the subject for his Master’s thesis which he received from Michigan State University. Entitled the “Energy Cost of Racquetball,” the work compares the energy demands of the three popular forms of racquetball play—singles, cutthroat and doubles.

McKie’s research was carried out at Michigan State University and Oklahoma State University, and has served as the springboard for additional research at OSU. Although not available commercially, McKie has agreed to have the thesis adapted for presentation in Racquetball Magazine.

Another top professional player, and one of the first to put his own methods into commercial use is Minnesota’s pride, Bill Schmidtke. Schmidtke organized a 28-minute “lesson” in which over 100 full-color slides are accompanied by a transcribed commentary. Like his West Coast counterparts, Schmidtke has been a constructive proponent of racquetball, holding one-man clinics, and taking part in exhibitions throughout the Northeast and Canada.

Charlie Garfinkel was among the first to set action to words, with instructional and educational articles that appeared in this publication. His fans have been pestering him with the question, “When will your book be out?” to which the “Gar” explains that he has been working on it for months.

Actually, he has been at work on it for years, and if the promised volume ever gets off the press should provide some of the liveliest and most colorful anecdotes about the sport yet concocted.

INSIDE RACQUETBALL—The IRA’s official manual sells through the IRA Dallas office and at court club pro-shops for $4.95. It has been called the best, or in view of the number of other books written since “Inside Racquetball” was first published, one of the best, ever written about the sport.

For the player who wants to read more about his favorite sport, Lyn McKie, IRA’s office manager has compiled the following bibliography:

- Inside Racquetball, Chuck Leve. International Racquetball Association, P.O. Box 31481, Suite 1012, Dallas, Texas 75231. $4.95. The authorized IRA player’s manual and rule book.
- The Complete Book of Racquetball, Steve Keeley. DBI Books, Inc., 540 Frontage Road, Northfield, Ill. 60093. $7.95. A comprehensive guide to the sport for novice and intermediate by a leading professional and instructor.
- Racquetball, The Sport for Everyone, Randy Stafford, 1330 Mossbrook, No. 2, Memphis, Tenn. 38114. $3. Advanced strategies, fundamentals, tips.
- Championship Racquetball: By the Experts. Reznik, J.W. Leisure Press, P.O. Box 452, Cornwall, N.Y. 12518, 1976. $6.50. Selected articles from RACQUETBALL magazine, the official voice of the International Racquetball Association.
INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION
STATE CHAIRMEN AND REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE

September 25-26, 1976
Dallas, Texas

Spending the last weekend in September in Dallas at the IRA's Third Annual State Chairmen and Regional Commissioners Convention turned into a stimulating and productive session for all involved. The meetings were held in the conference room of the Citizens Bank Center in Richardson and the participants also got an opportunity to tour the IRA offices which are located in the same building.

The conference agenda was divided into three sections: areas relating primarily to the IRA, areas relating primarily to state associations, and areas of coordination between the two.

The first item discussed was our official ball status. Executive Director, Tom McKie explained the IRA was in virtual agreement with Seamco on a contract for an official ball. A few minor details remain to be ironed out. Voit will remain an IRA Approved ball and several other companies are submitting samples in hopes of gaining this status. Vittert has purchased new equipment and is re-tooling to make a two piece ball. When their new product comes out it will be tested by the IRA's screening committee and if acceptable will also become an official ball.

The IRA Doubles Championships are set for Houston, October 29-31 and plans are moving smoothly on that. The prize money purse in the new pro doubles division will be $5,000. The IRA Singles Championships have been set for May 28-31 tentatively at Racquetime of Southfield (Michigan). Southfield's a suburb of the Northwest side of Detroit.

The convention voted to hold the regionals April 22-24, 1977. This brings them closer to the Internationals with five weeks separating the two. Regional sites need to be set and entry blanks need to be prepared by December 15th so the information can be carried in the January-February magazine. The representatives voted to recommend to the Board that crossing of regional boundaries not be allowed.

The status of the invitationals is as follows: Masters Doubles, November 19-21, Warren, Ohio; Masters Singles, tentative—January, tentative—Minneapolis; Women's Singles, February 18-20, Dallas, Texas; Senior Singles, Senior Doubles, Golden Masters Singles are all open and we are looking for sites.

The group felt an article should be included in the magazine explaining the invitationals as many of the members did not understand them.

The IRA's proposed 15 point (win by two up to 21) game rule was explained and its use encouraged in all state tournament play. It's been used with widespread acceptance in several state tournaments already. To be an IRA sanctioned state tournament all players must be current IRA members. The feeling was if the registration person at the tournament explains what the member will receive rather than simply demanding six dollars this is no problem. Most players want to receive the magazine but in many cases simply do not know about it. The IRA office will provide mailing labels to all IRA state tournaments and will provide those labels at cost to local tournaments.

A pro tour in conjunction with the IRA is being organized by IRA President, Bill Tanner. However, plans are to keep it separate financial-
ly from the IRA and to be organized on its own in cooperation with the IRA. Details should be released soon.

After lunch discussion centered around the structure and functions of state associations. Most state associations were initially rather loosely formed and the more successful ones are those that had strong leadership and grabbed the initiative. Much discussion centered on the need to have leadership changes in the states where the program is stagnant.

Most representatives viewed the National Office as a disseminator of information and coordinator of activities but felt the state must be their own source of financial support. One method is through state dues. Another is through having each tournament in the state charge an extra dollar in their entry fee with that dollar going to the state association. Other methods suggested were running the state tournament yourself (the state association) and thus keeping the profits, raising revenue through selling advertising in a program, selling directories of the players in the state, and selling advertising in a newsletter.

It was agreed the single most beneficial program that a state can offer is a newsletter. The states sending out a regular newsletter have had overwhelming favorable response. The IRA office will provide mailing labels to the states but the actual mailing must be done by the states. One suggestion was to mail a newsletter the month in between the magazine. By the players in the state seeing something tangible they are more eager to support the state association.

Much discussion took place on tournaments in private clubs and the amount of the entry fee charged. The consensus was entry fees are getting much too high. While no one expects a club owner to lose money by holding a tournament neither should they make money at the expense of the players. The tournament if publicized right can generate a lot of business and publicity for the club long after the tournament is over. The feeling was the state chairman should voice disapproval to a tournament that appears out of line.

Following some spirited racquetball play early Saturday evening (there are conflicting reports on who were the champions) the group met at the McKie's home for hamburgers, beer, and many racquetball tales.

Sunday's discussion began with ways to increase IRA membership. One suggestion was to send out invoices at renewal time rather than letters of renewal. A possibility was a reduced price for a junior's membership.

The magazine production schedule was explained and all agreed state chairmen could help by making sure material gets sent in. Several topics suggested for inclusion were evaluation of equipment and health articles. It was felt we need to continue giving coverage to the local tournaments and the average player and not concentrate on only the big tournaments.

The National Handicap Tournament was briefly explained and a detailed sketch of it will be in the September-October magazine.

The group felt regional state chairmen's conferences could be a big help in building a program. The N.E. Region recently held one and Bob Folsom reported it went very well. Tournament dates can be coordinated and mutual problems and solutions discussed. Involving the Regional Commissioner in your state plans and keeping him abreast of the local tournaments can also be a big help in communications.

In summary atmosphere throughout the weekend was one of a group of people vitally interested in the Association and the sport. The feeling was the meetings were very successful in helping the individuals go back to their area and promote racquetball. We look forward to seeing many more of you next year and at your regional meetings.

PARTICIPANTS at the Dallas meeting were as follows: National office, Tom McKie, executive director and Lyn McKie, secretary; National Commissioner, V. Z. Lawton; Regional Commissioners, Vic Blumenthal, Northwest; Len Stream, West; Pete Wright, Southwest; and State Chairmen, Dianne Crow, representing Georgia for Hal Krafchick; Ray DePue, Tenn.; Bob Folsom, Me.; Phil Ivaldy, Southern Calif.; Jean Lehr, representing Oklahoma for Gary Hinkle; Luke St. Onge, Pa.; Richard Walker, Texas; and Mark Wayne, Northern California.
Did the ball hit the floor . . . or the side wall first?

Crotch balls (a crotch is where two playing surfaces join) are difficult to call for both player and referee. So it is necessary constantly to review these situations. There are two basic types: those that occur during the serve and those that occur during the rally.

The only crotch that causes any problem during a rally is the one between the floor and the front wall. The question involved is: did the ball hit the floor or the front wall first? These are very difficult to call, and many times the spin of the ball after it comes off the wall will indicate what surface was struck. Without going into the physics involved, if the ball comes off the wall with overspin, even if it pops up, the ball contacted the front wall first. Back spin occurs when the ball has hit the floor initially. Any other crotch struck during a rally is in play, and therefore does not involve any decision on the part of the players or referee.

There are more crotch situations that can occur during the serve. Any serve that hits one of the four crotches bordering the front wall is an out serve. There isn’t much to guide you as to whether the ball hits a crotch, except that, if it does, then it will usually come off at a funny angle with spin other than what one would expect. This is specially true of the side-front crotch which is often involved with z-serves.

The three-wall serve presents a different problem. After the served ball hits the front wall, the side wall, and then the floor before striking either the other side wall or the back wall, the serve is valid and in play. If the serve hits the second side or backwall before striking the floor, then the serve is a fault. The problem is: did the ball hit the floor or the sidewall first? Again, what the ball does will help indicate what has happened. If it bounces straight out from the crotch, then it struck the side wall first. If the ball bounces out at an angle towards the back wall or it pops up, then the serve contacted the floor first and is in play.

There is also a back wall crotch which is involved with long serves. Look for the spin as the ball comes off the back wall-floor crotch: overspin indicates the ball was long; back spin indicates the ball hit the floor and is in play.

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Old Zip No. ____________________________ New Zip No. ____________________________
EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHANGE ____________________________

Send to: IRA, P. O. Box 31481, Suite 1012, Dallas, Texas 75231
**Mike Yellen — Livonia’s pro-prospect?**

By Joe Charette

Sixteen year old Mike Yellen upset the odds-makers by defeating Tom Brownlee, 21-20 and 21-13, and thus winning the Racquettime September Open in Livonia, Michigan, September 17-19.

Top seeded Gil Schmitt placed third, after losing to Brownlee in the semifinals, 7-21, 21-7, 11-7. Dan McLaughlin, former national paddleball champion in 1972-74, took fourth place.

The Detroit area club crowned champions in each of three divisions—men’s open which had 58 entries; men’s B with a full house of 64 entries; and a record number of 3 women competitors.

The future in the pro ranks really looks promising for the fast rising young Yellen. Mike finished first in a recent tournament held in Troy, Michigan, and before that finished third last June in a tournament held in Warren, Michigan. A natural rivalry seems to have developed between Yellen and McLaughlin, two of this area’s finest players. They have met in three tournaments in the past four months, with Dan winning, 21-18, 21-11, in Warren, Mike defeating Dan, 6-21, 21-7 and 11-10, in Troy, and Mike defeating Dan again in Livonia, 2-12 and 21-10.

Fred Lewerenz, Tom Carpenter, Mark Wiegand, Robert Barr, Ed Barter and Jim Easterling, all top players in this tournament, will be joining Schmitt, Yellen, Brownlee, McLaughlin and possibly Fred Wiegand, Jim Santino, Bill Gottlieb in a Super 16 invitational tournament to be held during the last week in October at the Southfield Athletic Club. That tournament will determine the top order of ranking players in Michigan.

The women’s open drew the largest field of entries ever in local tournaments and attests to the growth of women’s racquetball in the Detroit area.

Pat Krise, the top seeded defending champion, was dethroned by nationally ranked and current Michigan paddleball champion Teri Davis, 21-19 and 21-2. Teri defeated Patty Pattyn, 21-5, 21-10, in the quarterfinals, and then beat Irene Ackerman, 21-14, 21-9, in the semifinals. Krise met and defeated April Cummins, 21-11, 21-12, in the quarterfinals and Judy Huhta, 21-13, 21-15, in the semifinals before the showdown with Davis. Irene Ackerman finished third with victories of 21-11, 21-7 over fourth place finisher Judy Huhta.

Women’s consolation champion was Kathy Zale with 21-2 and 21-7 victories over Lori Lucas. Kathy had met second seeded Irene Ackerman in the first round, losing by scores of 21-14 and 21-6. Most observers agreed that the loser of this match would surely emerge the consolation champ.

The men’s B tournament had a few surprises as well. Alex LeVeque, a relatively unknown before the tournament, emerged the champion by defeating top seeded Eldon VanSpybrook in the finals, 6-21, 21-18 and 11-5. LeVeque and VanSpybrook had lots of stiff competition along the way. LeVeque met Jim Amick in the quarterfinals, and while winning, 15-21, 21-10, 11-1, these games were tough and were real crowd pleasers.

VanSpybrook in the second round defeated a determined Jim Burton, 21-17, 5-21, 11-3, and in the round of 16 met and defeated Bill Csartari, 21-19, 12-21, 11-3. John Schweichart finished third by defeating Jeff Sohikian, fourth place, by scores of 21-6, 21-17. LeVeque topped Schweichart, 21-11, 21-18, in the semifinals and VanSpybrook defeated Sohikian in the other semi in exciting and close matches, 21-18, 21-18.

Peter DelFavero won the consolation, defeating Peter Schummer in the finals, 21-7, 21-5.

*Trails continued on page 43.*
McNamara closes in on Bill Schmidtke's record of amateur tournament wins

Bob McNamara of Edina, Minn., completed the "Grand Slam" of racquetball by defeating Roald Thompson of Regina, Saskatchewan, 21-11, 21-16, in the master division of the Canadian open July 21-23 at the Court Club in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Earlier in the year he won the masters singles division of the International Racquetball Association Championship in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and the National Racquetball Association Championships in San Diego, California. Only once was he pushed to a tie breaker as he changed the speed and height of the ball; shot the "roll out", the "Z" and ceiling shot and was in complete control of each match with his two handed backhand and superb conditioning.

Each tournament has its own brand and each brand has its own bounce—but McNamara, using a graphite racquet, minimized the difference in racquetballs and pulled it all together to win. He has probably won more racquetball tournaments than any other Minnesota amateur racquetball player (which excludes Bill Schmidtke).

Plans are being made to have a masters single invitational tournament in Minneapolis in February of 1977. Anyone interested should write to Amos Rosenbloom, 4857 Bryant Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn. 55409.

Pacific Coast Rose Festival title returns to Portland

By Peter Lubisich

The Bicentennial year provided the needed charm for Oregonians as two Portlanders battled for the Pacific Coast Rose Festival Racquetball Championship. After three years of out-of-state dominance, Tony Krause defeated Bob Lund, 21-16 and 21-20, in a real thriller.

The second game was a cliff hanger as Lund generated one of his come-back-from-the-head, rallies to knot the game at 20-20. The capacity gallery of almost 200 watched as Tony and Bob each served six times at match point. Lund's methodical kill shot was equally matched by Krause's side wall kills and deadly backhands. Finally, on Tony's seventh serve, a series of ceiling balls followed by a pancake roll-out by Krause clinched him the title and ended the most talked about match of the tournament.

John Misikawi of Salem, Oregon, who thrives on two and a half hour, three game, 21-20 matches, captured the B Championship from Jeff Starr of Vancouver, Washington. John is one of many converted squash players now playing racquetball. If there were a sportsmanship award, it would certainly be John's, as there is not a finer gentleman in the game.

Fred Hands defeated "Fireman" Ed Lohr, the 175 IRA Northwest Regional Champion in the golden masters, 14-21, 21-14, and 21-13. Getting the "Old Pros" into the game is one of the Tournament's goals.

The women had their day as Shirley Edwards of Vancouver, Washington, defeated Diane Clairmont of Vancouver, B.C., 21-20, 14-21, and 21-10. All the women's events showed new highs of excellence, but especially in the women's doubles as "B" players Vicki Clark and Gini Henderson of Seattle, Washington, defeated Clairmont and Lynn Murdoch, both "A" players and spectators. It was the first doubles competition for Clark and Henderson who defeated their much more experienced foes. The victory brought more screaming and yelling than all the matches of the tournament.

The dental profession was well represented in the novice division as three graduate students from the University of Oregon, Mike Stapleton, Fred Massar, and finalist Tom "Lefty" Turnbull, each succumbed to eventual champion Tom Puhl. Puhl has much promise and should be a top-flight player with a little more experience.

Jeff Israel defeated fellow Portlander Steve Freedman in the Juniors event. Jeff was never really tested until the finals which went three tough games.

Trails continues on next page.
Benefit helps pay for Hawaii trip

Santana Courts Racquetball club, Santa Ana, Calif., played host to 316 entrants in one of the largest tournaments held in Southern California.

Entitled the Aloha Tournament, proceeds from the event went to help defray the cost of sending the local basketball team from Saddleback High School to Hawaii.

According to reports from the club, the spectator turnout was increased with the addition to the tournament of a series of exhibition games in which pros Craig McCoy and Jay Jones, plus top amateur players Bud Muehleisen and Mark Morrow took part.

Garfinkel enrolled at children's clinic

Chuck Wurzer held two free clinics this past summer for the children of members of his Four Wall Courts in New York. More than 100 youngsters whose ages varied from 8-to-21 took part.

An hour of play and practice followed each thirty-minute lecture session. Additional playing time was also made available at a reduced rate to encourage the participants to put into practice what they had just learned.

Wurzer reports the clinics were so successful that he is now holding sessions for any youngsters in the western New York area.

A couple of famous names appear among the students enrolled: Wurzer and Garfinkel, so the school session may appear to be a means of perpetuating a racquetball dynasty.

SOMRA PRESENTS
"Wild World of Sports"

Labor Day weekend at Castle Oaks, St. Louis, was again the scene of top flight racquetball as SOMRA sponsored its third annual Missouri Open. Reports were that each year the tournament is bigger, better, and the level of competition keener.

The open divisions supplied the highest level of play, but sponsors were particularly pleased with their two junior divisions.

David Gross, who is 11 years old, won first place in his class by playing magnificently and turned in a great job of refereeing.

Others in the junior divisions who were outstanding include Elliot Shostek, Doug Wiesman, the Cohen brothers—Danny and Doug, Mike Addelson, John Klearman, Jim Litman, Randy Place and Mike Bodker.

Klearman had a short tournament. On the second day he had an appendectomy. Knowing racquetball players, it is necessary to add that he didn't show up for the third day of competition.

Benny Koltun won the open division with his usual fine form, but was pushed to three games by Bo Champagne, Kansas City, and David Kober, St. Louis.

In the B-division a newcomer from Chicago invaded the Missouri open. He

Continued on next page.
ALONG THE RACQUETBALL TRAIL

SOMRA open
Continued from preceding page.

parked his van outside beautiful Castle Oaks, and made friends with everyone. Inside, he was as effective at winning games as he had been at winning friends, outside. He swept through his matches taking each in two games. None of his opponents earned more than 11 points in any one game.

Bob Harcastle, St. Louis, entered the open and seniors, taking first place in the senior division. The masters brackets closed out with Irv Roselman’s name at the far right hand side. Joe Zelson was second, and Phil Dzuik, Champaign, Illinois, was third.

Reports from the tournament said the “Wild World of Sports” should have been on hand for the filming of golden masters play by champion Marlowe Phillips.

Rita Hoff continued to improve, winning a round-robin women’s open against Nancie Messerschmidt, Indiana, Karen Shippy and Goldy Hogan, St. Louis. The level of play was great, but the number of entries disappointed the sponsors.

Women’s B-division was won by Linda Hogan (Goldy’s daughter), over Helen Parr, Marsha Leonetti, Carolyn Smith, Debby Spitzer, and Barbara Gregg.

Novice women players went the round-robin course with Joan Sentner topping the field of Min Maltzman, Sharon Gross, and Kathy Sanford.

Every tournament in its own way helps promote the sport and the industry serving the sport. It was encouraging to have participation from Jim Pendergras, representing Omega; racquets and bags contributed by Ektelon; and the overwhelming support of the Apteds—hosts at Castle Oaks.

Lenny Marks said it in his commentary on the St. Louis International tournaments two years ago, when he observed that the bottom line of success in any event is people. The success of the third annual Missouri open was due to many people, and among those at the top of the list must be Lenny and Sara Marks, Marlowe Phillips, Anne and Dan Hilecher, and hospitality and publicity person, Sue Gumer.

COMING EVENTS: Labor Day, 1977, will be celebrated with the 4th Annual Missouri Open. The event grows bigger each year. Please write today for entry forms. For those who want to come, but don’t want to play, it should be noted that Castle Oaks provided a beer and swim party on the closing night of the tournament, 1976. No telling what will happen in 1977. Get your entry forms in early.

FINALISTS in the SOMRA open, from left to right, and reading from the top: Sharon and David Gross, Doug Weissman, Elliott Shostek and Andy Gross; open winners David Kinberg, Ben Koltun, Bob Champagne; women’s open winners Rita Hoff, Goldie Hogan, Karen Shippy and Nancie Messerschmidt; “B” division Linda Hogan and Debby Spitzer; and Doug Weissman and Mike Bodker.
Patti Berneathy wins Queen Mary’s crown over Knudsen and Weed

By Robert E. Hopper

LONG BEACH—Like old man river, the Queen Mary Tournament just keeps on rolling along.

The third edition was without question the most successful yet. A record 479 participants slugged it out for honors in 14 divisions of competition—a large number of these developed for novices, women and mixed teams. Long Beach Athletic Club was packed to the rafters with those eager to witness a special exhibition featuring Charlie Brumfield and challenger Rich Wagner.

Despite the bulging field, and an incredible 105 three-game matches, action progressed smoothly and near schedule, thanks mainly to the superb floor command of Al Gracie. The veteran overseer of countless tournaments drew praise from several fronts for his expert handling of events under enormous pressure.

National doubles champion Davey Bledsoe was on hand to officiate the Brumfield-Wagner meeting. The first game found the five-time—and current—national titlist playing conservatively. Brumfield appeared to be working out kinks as he labored to a 21-17 victory. He went to work for real in the second game, though, and pocketed a 21-7 triumph with relative ease.

About the only division that followed form was master’s singles. No. 1 seeded Earle Castle squared off in the finale with Bill Armstrong, rated second. Armstrong startled his capable rival by quickly darting in front, 21-12. Castle recovered from the initial jolt, however, and went on to crunch his spunky foe, 21-7, 21-18.

Castle then linked with Kal Gladstone to capture master’s doubles plaudits, 21-16, 21-3. In singles activity, Gladstone had been one of Castle’s stepping blocks to the title, bowing in the quarterfinals, 15-21, 21-20, 21-17.

Patti Berneathy generated excitement in women’s open singles by turning away gritty Ruth Knudson, 21-20, 21-13. Knudson made the finals against the number two seed after scoring a knockout punch against No. 1 rated Bette Weed, a surprised 21-10, 21-16 victim. Weed, a heavy favorite, was unable to revive from shock and dropped a 16-21, 21-8, 21-5 decision for third place to Judy Clemen.

Junior singles activity found Jay DuBose collecting the trophy after edging Scott Holtz, 21-20, 21-15, in a well-played collision. Holtz was one of four first-round participants to advance to quarterfinals via forfeit. DuBose was paired with Rich Harris in the opening stanza, and he dispatched him in short order, 21-10, 21-11. Next to fall was Tim Johnson, 21-10, 21-13, then Carrie Martin, 21-10, 21-16.

Continued on next page.
Queen Mary, continued from page 45.

Joel Scheinbaum, who was seeded fourth, took home the men's open singles award, but he did the hard way. Other than his initial conquest over Ken Fleming, all of Scheinbaum's outings went three games. The last one—a 21-6, 20:21, 11-5 effort against Ian Fleishman—was the most important since it was worth the crown.

Scheinbaum had his hands full in the semis when stubborn Tony Marti went three sets before yielding, 21-18, 11-21, 21-17. Marti had just come off dual 21-20 squeakers over No. 1 seeded Al Portun in the quarterfinal round.

Pete Cook upended Dale McCarthy, 21-18, 21-8, in "C" singles, an event that was so popular it had to schedule "play ins" before the final 64 could be bracketed. His prime test came in the third round when he found himself paired against Gonzalo Duran, the No. 1 seed. Cook fashioned a 21-17, 21-19 upset in a match spiced with brilliant clutch shooting by both players.

Bob Ellis—148 game winner

New world record?

Twenty-eight year old Bob Ellis, the number one racquetball player in San Antonio, Texas, has successfully completed his attempt to break Bill Holden's pending record for the most consecutive hours of racquetball play. Bill Holden, from Los Angeles, played for forty hours and seventeen minutes, according to word from Bruce Hendin, president of the Racquetball Club of San Antonio.

Bob Ellis, beginning at noon, August 31, and completing at 2:05 p.m., September 2, played 150 games, losing only two against 107 different opponents. He smashed the pending record by nine hours and forty-eight minutes.

Bob Ellis, a training instructor at Lackland Air Force Base and a teaching pro at the Racquetball & Handball Club of San Antonio where the record was broken, helped raise over $1,100 for Muscular Dystrophy in accomplishing his feat.

New owners of Long Beach Athletic Club seek 1,000 members

Russ Welsh, Long Beach, California, native, is the new general manager of the Long Beach Athletic Club, according to a news release from Robert Hopper.

Welsh is one of six people who purchased the club from founder Ben Agajanian August 5. The other principals are Ed Kelly, Homer Messer, Sam Breuklander, Mike Donnelly and Danny Fromdahl.

Welsh, who has a master's degree in physical education from Utah State University, said the new owners will initiate several programs designed to boost membership with an emphasis on obtaining more women and junior members. "We have set a tentative goal for our club of 1,000 members, and have long range plans that include a swimming pool and the expansion of existing facilities," Welsh indicated.

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September 17-18-19, 1976
Racquetball September Open

MEN'S OPEN
Semifinals: Brownlee def. Schmitt, 7-21, 21-7, 11-7; Yellen def. McLaughlin, 21-12, 21-10.

WOMEN'S OPEN

MEN'S "B"

Continued on page 48.
LIVONIA

Continued from page 47.

MEN'S "B" CONSOLATION

Quarterfinals: DelFavoro def. Baan, 21-8, 21-14; Stempien def. Huff, 12-21, 21-15, 11-2; Schuff def. Doan, 21-18, 17-21, 11-10; Schummer def. Taros, 21-18, 21-0.


Finals: DelFavoro def. Schummer, 21-7, 21-5.

MINNESOTA AMATEUR

SINGLES


Semifinals: Singer def. Weum, 21-11, 21-9; Adam def. Ganser, 21-12, 21-6.


SENIOR SINGLES

Quarterfinals: McNamara def. Knudson; Hall def. Keyes; McNamara def. Schaeffer; Adam def. Uphoff.

Semifinals: Hall def. McNamara, 21-14, 6-21, 21-20; Adam def. McNamara, 21-14, 12-21, 21-12.

Finals: Adam def. Hall, 21-12, 21-10. (Third: Bob McNamara def. Bob McNamara, 21-18, 21-9.)

OPEN DOUBLES


SENIOR DOUBLES


MASTERS


PORTLAND, OREGON

JUNE 5-13, 1976

4TH ANNUAL PACIFIC COAST ROSE FESTIVAL TOURNAMENT

OPEN


WOMEN'S OPEN

Quarterfinals: Edwards def. Robertson, 21-12, 21-4; Murdock def. Hart, 21-17, 21-8; Clairmont def. Hawkey, 21-19, 21-19; Melton and Wall forfeit.


WOMEN'S B


Finals: Clark def. Scrivens. (Third: Cichrict def. Hamilton.)

WOMEN'S NOVICE


Finals: Kirch def. Cassanova. (Third: Sloan def. Chewing by forfeit.)

GOLDEN MASTERS


Semifinals: Hands def. Vanelli, 21-15, 21-14;
1976 WINTER SINGLES

PRELIMINARY STAGE

OAKLAND, CALIF., NOVEMBER 1, 1976

Over 600 entries competed in the 1976 Winter Singles, a competitive and exciting tournament. A total of 160 entries participated in the event, with 80 of them competing in the Open Singles Category. The top seeds included top players like Murphy, Miller, and Weeks, who all entered the tournament in high spirits.

The tournament was held at the Oakland Racquet Club, where the players showed off their skills and techniques. The atmosphere was electric, with spectators cheering on their favorite players. The matches were intense and exciting, with players pushing themselves to the limit.

At the end of the day, the winners were crowned, with Murphy emerging as the champion in the Open Singles Category. The tournament was a success, with both players and spectators enjoying the experience. We look forward to seeing everyone back next year for the 1977 Winter Singles.

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If you are not, join us, and let's see what happens next. Whether it's wealth or not, you can be sure it'll be exciting.

IRA racquetball is excitement.

November/December 1976
CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING RACQUETBALL

DECEMBER 1976
3-4-5 FORT DEVENS & HANSCOM AFB, MASS. — Third annual New England Military championships: Events: O, B, S, M, W and consolation. Write Major Peter F. Crumney, 84-C Walnut St., Fort Devens, Mass. 01433. Phone (res.) 617—772-4354; (office/polyon) 256-3132.
3-4-5 RICHMOND, VA. — Peter Cornell Open, Richmond YMCA.

9-12 MEMPHIS, TENN. — Annual Tanner Pro-Am, Memphis State University campus. Deadline December 3. Write Mike Zeitman for information. 2714 Union Ext., Memphis, Tenn. 38112. (See entry form in this issue of Racquetball magazine.)

JANUARY 1977
8 MARYLAND Players Club to host Maryland State doubles tournament.
8-9 UMPG, PORTLAND, MAINE — Maine closed singles: C, novice, ladies, juniors. Contact Bob Folsom, state chairman, University of Maine, 96 Falmouth Street, Portland, Me. 04103.
7-8-9 ILLINOIS — 5th Illini Open Singles, Illini Racquetball Club. Write Donald W. Webb, 295 Natural Resources Building, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 61801.
14-15-16 STILLWATER, OKLA. — 6th Annual Cowboy Open: Men: open B, novice, senior, masters; women: A, B, novice; men's doubles; open, B, novice, masters. Write Sid Consolium, 119 Calvin Center, OSU Campus, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074; Phone 405—624-5510.
14-15-16 WAUSAU, WISCONSIN — 7th Annual Woodson YMCA open tournament. Jerry Hoff, tournament director, 707 Third St., Wausau, Wisc. 54401. (1976 champion was Bill Schmidtke.)
15-16 WATERVILLE, MAINE — Maine closed doubles. Contact state chairman, Bob Folsom, Portland, Me.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED — Fifth Naval District tournament. Site and date TBA. Military personnel only.

FEBRUARY 1977
11-13 CONNECTICUT State open. Phil Panarella, director.
11-13 AUGUSTA, MAINE — Sno Fest Open, men's A and B. Augusta YMCA. Contact state chairman for additional information: Bob Folsom, Portland, Me.
25-27 PENN STATE UNIVERSITY — Pennsylvania State Championships, Lake St. Onge, director, Box 193, Centre Hall, Pa. 16628.
25-27 WORCESTER, MASS. — Massachusetts state closed doubles. All divisions. Contact Howie Coleman.
25-27 NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — New York State open singles.
25-26-27 MEMPHIS, TENN. — Women's Intercollegiate Tournament, A and B singles, and doubles. Deadline is February 18. Eligibility: students at an accredited university or college. $5 entry fees. Write: Ms. Henriette Lavenue, Department of HPER, Fieldhouse 303, Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee.

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**MARCH 1977**

18-20 MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE — Intercollegiate championships. Memphis State University.


**APRIL 1977**


22-23-24 NATIONWIDE — IRA Regional tournaments. Entry form will be published in the January/February issue of Racquetball magazine. Contact your state and/or regional chairman. (List of chairmen appeared in preceding issue of IRA magazine and has been updated in this issue on page 54.)

**MAY 1977**

IRA's 9th Annual membership meeting and International competition.

**JUNE 1977**


---

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Update your handbook - IRA state chairman

Members are asked to up-date the roster of chairman that appeared in the preceding issue of Racquetball magazine on page 11 (September/October issue).

FLORIDA CHAIRMAN
Dr. Gordon H. Ira, Jr.
451 St. James Building
Jacksonville, FL 32202
904-358-2631 (Business)
904-771-0214 (Residence)

IRA
Regional
Tournaments
APRIL 22-23-24, 1977

TOURNAMENTS

An Entry form will be published in the January/February issue of Racquetball magazine. Adjacent to the entry form the IRA will provide information pertinent to each regional.

For additional information, members should check with their state and/or regional chairman.

A complete list of chairmen appeared in the September/October (Vol. 5, Number 5) 1976 issue. The following information up-dates the complete list.

NORTHEAST REGION—Maine: Steve Dubord, 44 Elm St., Waterville, Me. 04901. Phone 207-873-0186 or (res.) 495-2607.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION—Virginia: James O. Roberson, 5231 Sugarloaf Drive, Roanoke, Va. 24018. Phone 703-663-7656.


MIDWEST REGION—Michigan: replacement for Tom Stumb is needed.

SOUTHWEST REGION—Replacements for Dean Lemmon, Kansas, and Bob Blake, Arkansas, are needed.


NORTH REGION—South Dakota chairman is John Rude, Sioux Falls. See Handbook issue. Gary Luebke is Wisconsin state chairman; Bridgkort Racquet Club, 720 County Trunk U., Neenah, Wis. 54956. Phone 414-739-0474.

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IRA PRESENTS IPRO

PRO-AM

Racquetball

SEAMCO LEACH Holiday Inn

3rd Annual International Tanner Pro-Am Open
Racquetball Tournament

Memphis, Tenn.

TOURNAMENT DATES
December 9-10-11-12, 1976
(Be prepared to play Dec. 9)

ENTRY FEES
Professional $25 per event
Amateur $15 per event

(Attempts will be made to avoid schedule conflicts for those who choose to enter more than one event, but management cannot promise this unequivocally.)

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS
Holiday City (901 363-1300)
3728 Lamar Ave.
Memphis, Tenn.
(In arranging for reservations, make known your IRA affiliation. Singles, $15; Doubles $19.)

ELIGIBILITY
Current IRA membership

SPECIAL TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENT
REFEREES—Winners may be requested to referee the next match on their court.

OFFICIAL BALL
(Tentative) Seamco No. 1
Both amateur and pro contests

DEADLINE
December 3, 1976 (Be prepared to play Dec. 9) For additional information, call Mike Zeitman, 901-320-4209.

Fees must accompany entry form.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

(Detach, sign and mail, with fees)

Please enter me in:

-Men’s Professional ($25)
-Women’s Professional ($25)

—AMATEUR DIVISION—
-Men’s Open
-Men’s B
-Men’s Novice
-Seniors
-Masters
—Golden Masters
—Juniors
—Women’s Open
—Women’s B
—Women’s Novice

(Amateur event entry fee is $15 per event entered. Management will attempt, but not guarantee, to avoid conflicts.)

Make checks payable to:
Wm. B. Tanner Pro-Am
Mail to: Mike Zeitman
2714 Union Ext.
Memphis, Tenn. 38112

Name (Please print)___________________________

Address___________________________
City__________________________ State________ Zip________

Phone___________________________

I, hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against Memphis State University, The International Racquetball Association, and/or Wm. B. Tanner Company, and their respective agents, representatives, successors and assigns for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with any participation in this tournament.

Date________________________ Signature________________________

Condition Sheet

Tournament Dates
December 9-10-11-12, 1976
(Be prepared to play Dec. 9)

Entry Fees
Professional $25 per event
Amateur $15 per event

(Attempts will be made to avoid schedule conflicts for those who choose to enter more than one event, but management cannot promise this unequivocally.)

TO Tournament Headquarters
Holiday City (901 363-1300)
3728 Lamar Ave.
Memphis, Tenn.
(In arranging for reservations, make known your IRA affiliation. Singles, $15; Doubles $19.)

Eligibility
Current IRA membership

Special Tournament Requirement
Referees—Winners may be requested to referee the next match on their court.

Official Entry Form

(Detach, sign and mail, with fees)

Please enter me in:

-Men’s Professional ($25)
-Women’s Professional ($25)

—Amateur Division—
-Men’s Open
-Men’s B
-Men’s Novice
-Seniors
-Masters
—Golden Masters
—Juniors
—Women’s Open
—Women’s B
—Women’s Novice

(Amateur event entry fee is $15 per event entered. Management will attempt, but not guarantee, to avoid conflicts.)

Make checks payable to:
Wm. B. Tanner Pro-Am
Mail to: Mike Zeitman
2714 Union Ext.
Memphis, Tenn. 38112

Name (Please print)___________________________

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City__________________________ State________ Zip________

Phone___________________________

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Date________________________ Signature________________________
Racquetball

SEAMCO Holiday Inn
LEACH

Athletic Club
Tucson, Ariz.

Condition Sheet

Winners may be asked to referee the next match on the court in which they played.

Contestant must show or obtain current IRA membership card.

Mail entries to:
Tucson Athletic Club
4220 Bellevue
Tucson, Arizona 85712

Make Checks payable to: Tucson Athletic Club

Official Entry Form

(PORTAZMENT HEADQUARTERS)

Holiday Inn
1010 S. Freeway
(at 22nd St.)
Tucson, Ariz.
602 623-0371

ENTRY FEES
Professional
$25 Men's Pro Singles
$20 Women's Pro Singles

Amateur
$15 Men's open singles
$15 Women's open singles
$15 Men's senior
$15 Junior division

ENTRY DEADLINE
January 14, 1977

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS
Gene Decker & Carl Porter

TOURNAMENT SITE
Tucson Athletic Club
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(602 881-0140)

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January 20, 1976

IRA Sanctioned pro-tour event

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Bus. 881-0140; Res. 296-1949.

Please enter me in:

- Men's Professional Singles
- Women's Professional Singles
- Men's singles
- Seniors
- Juniors

(Amateur event entry fee is $15 per event entered. Management will attempt, but not guarantee, to avoid conflicts.)

Name (Please print)
Address
City_________________________State_________Zip_________
Phone

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, and their respective agents, representatives, successors and assigns for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with any participation in this tournament.

Date________________________Signature__________________
Deep in the heart of Texas arrived 70 teams to vie for that coveted title of International Champion in six different events. The seventh event, Women's Doubles, had already been held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, last spring. Play was held at the Downtown YMCA in Houston with its two glass backwall courts serving as the feature courts. With Cal Murphy and Don Green in the golden masters being the only defending champions to return intact, the faces were wide open. Also with a new division—pro doubles—being held, making the first time the pros had played for prize money, a whole wealth of exciting doubles unfurled.

By Tom McKie
OPEN DIVISION

—1st Bob Kraut-Gene Gibbs, Sunnyvale, CA
—2nd Gary Stephens-David Fleetwood, Memphis
—3rd Tom McKie-Eric Campbell, Dallas
—4th Jim Pool-Gary Lusk, San Diego

When you're down 14-4 in the third game things don't look promising, but Bob Kraut and Gene Gibbs refused to give up and were rewarded with their first national championship. Their patient style prevailed over the gambling, offense-minded team of Gary Stephens and David Fleetwood.

Fleetwood and Stephens pulled the big upset of the division in the semifinals knocking off the top seeded team of Tom McKie and Eric Campbell in two close games. As they did throughout the tournament, Stephens-Fleetwood came out smoking and built up leads in both games. Their opponents fought back but fell short.

Meanwhile, in the other bracket, Kraut-Gibbs methodically pushed past Jim Pool and Gary Lusk in their semifinal. Again, it was better control and fewer errors that proved the difference.

McKie-Campbell came back to capture third place with a convincing two game victory over Pool-Lusk.

Much excitement was generated in the open division as the outcome was up for grabs with all last year's place winners playing in the pros. There were a number of top teams entered including two of last year's quarterfinalists but the teams with the big reputations were gone and lots of teams felt they had a chance.

SENIOR DIVISION

—1st Jim Austin, Houston-Chuck Hanna, San Diego
—2nd Mark Wayne, Fremont, CA-Bill King, Radford, VA
—3rd Jerry Linton, Altus, OK-Jim McPherson, Oklahoma City
—4th Myron Roderick, Stillwater, OK-Ken Porco, Louisville, KY

One thing becomes readily apparent in looking at the above list. The seniors scurry near and far to find their partners. However, what the division lacked in numbers of entries was certainly made up by quality of the top four teams.
The finals found Austin-Hanna using their finesse to triumph over the power of Wayne King. After losing a close first game they came back easily to win the last two.

A measure of the eventual champion's strength was displayed in their semifinal match where they scored the last five points of the third game to down Roderick-Porco.

In the top bracket Wayne-King easily swept past the surprise team in the semis of Linton-McPherson.

**Masters Division**

1st Bill Sellars-Richard Walker, Dallas
2nd Bob McNamara, Minneapolis-Dewey Strickland, Houston
3rd Gene Grapes-Al Schattner, Pittsburgh
4th Bailey Prichard-Bill Tanner, Memphis

They finally did it! After three years of top finishes, but no gold medals the pride of S.W. Dallas came through.

The Sellars-Walker strategy throughout the tournament was to control the tempo of play and

force the other team to play their game. Everyone tries that, but in this tournament Sellars-Walker were adept at being able to dictate their style. Hard drives to set up weak returns, and good scouting of McNamara's unorthodox style, gave them the advantage in the finals.

The closest match of the division occurred in the bottom half of the semis where McNamara-Strickland downed Grapes-Schattner. With both teams keeping the ball in play and having trouble getting set to shoot, the tournament staff was ready to enforce the curfew before McNamara-Strickland pulled it out.

In the top half Walker-Sellars had an easy time with the up and coming Memphis team of Tanner-Prichard. Again they set the tempo and the Memphis team was forced to play their opponent's game.

Grapes-Schattner captured third over Prichard-Tanner with a solid two game victory.

**Golden Masters Division**

1st Ike Gumer-Irving Zeitman, Louisville
2nd Brud Turner, Cleveland-Art Payne, Columbus
3rd Cal Murphy, San Diego-Don Green, Hayward, CA
4th Stan Berney, San Diego-Fred Vetter, Milwaukee, WI

The pre-tournament excitement in the golden masters was centered on how the size of the draw had increased since the last championship. Eight teams were vying for the top honors and everyone was pleased with the increase.

Making an incredible comeback from a 20-13 deficit in the first game, Ike Gumer-Irving Zeitman got eight unanswered points and the first game of the finals over Turner-Payne. After that the second

**Continued on page 62**
The pro draw held players with a collective total of 26 national doubles championships and 12 runner-up finishes. However, in most cases, the partners had been shuffled, and pre-tournament predictions were wide open with the exception everyone looked at Serot and Brumfield as the favorites. True to form they marched to the title with three convincing victories with only their semifinal match against Muchleisen categorized as close. While certainly not without their brilliant moments, Steve's and Charlie's play could best be described as steady. They simply refused to make many errors of shot selection or coverage. This combination, coupled with
Serot's diving “gets” on the left and Brumfield's ownership of the right corner, eventually overwhelmed their opponents.

The surprise team of the pro division were the “youngsters” Hogan and Wagner. Most seasoned analysts figured Hogan’s penchant for the back court would leave the team vulnerable up front. However, with Hogan firing like a howitzer from the back left corner and Wagner playing superbly on the right and digging everything up front, they upset the team of Mike Zeitman and Craig McCoy in the quarters and Dave Charlson-Jerry Hilecher in the semis. Their relaxed pre-match approach amazed everyone. When it came time to warm-up for the finals Hogan and Wagner had disappeared. A quick check found them shooting baskets in the nearby gym with two Y members. On the court, though, they were ready and they meshed well together.

Third place was captured by Muehleisen-Strandemo in a two game victory over Charlson-Hilecher. While Bud has the reputation of a control player, in doubles he is very much the aggressor, substituting hard drives at his opponents instead of the expected ceiling balls. This upset any rhythm the other team tried to establish and Strandemo was busy cleaning up any mistakes they made.

In play-downs for the remaining two prize money positions, McCoy-Zeitman defeated Bill Thurman-Len Stream and Bill and Steve Dunn defeated Pete Wright-Marc Auerback.

---

**PRO DIVISION**

- 1st Steve Serot-Charlie Brumfield, San Diego
- 2nd Marty Hogan, St. Louis-Richie Wagner, San Diego
- 3rd Bud Muehleisen-Steve Strandemo, San Diego
- 4th Dave Charlson-Jerry Hilecher, San Diego

---

**Scores**

- Brumfield-Serot vs. Wright-Auerbach, Dunn-Dunn: 8,8
- Dunn-Dunn vs. Wright-Auerbach, Dunn-Dunn: 13-16, 11
- Muehleisen-Strandemo vs. Hogan-Wagner: 13-19, 16
- Hogan-Wagner vs. Stream-Thurman, Charlson-Hilecher: 9, 12
- Charlson-Hilecher vs. Stream-Thurman, Dunn-Dunn: 11,9

**Third place**: Muehleisen-Stream 19, 12.
game came easily for the new champions. Winning a championship is nothing new to Gurner as he already has collected two singles titles, but it was pleasant music to Irving Zeitman to bring home the bacon himself, as he's often spent his time rooting for his son Mike to do likewise.

In the tight semifinal action Turner-Payne pulled their disappearing act at 20 again—letting a 20-12 lead evaporate in the second game against Berney-Vetter before coming back to win the third. In the other half, the hot shooting of Don Green made the first game nip and tuck but Gumer-Zeitman plied it out and walked away with the second.

The defending champions, Murphy-Green, came back to nail down third place with a three game victory over Berney-Vetter.

**JUNIOR DIVISION**

—1st Mark Malowitz-Jeff Kwartler, Houston (6-0).

—2nd Steve Sulli, Chicago-Jon Zuckerman, St. Louis (3-3).

—3rd Barry Smith-David Baccus, Houston (2-4).

—4th Ken Kaihlannen, San Antonio-Andy Hodges, Shreveport (1-5).

In what was the strongest balanced junior doubles tournament in its three year history, Malowitz-Kwartler captured the title with a perfect 6-0 record in the double round robin action. Their domination was evident although the other three teams all gave them a battle. As with most of the other division winners, they controlled the game tempo. With lefty Malowitz firing his rockets down the left wall and Kwartler making steady contribution on the right, they would have been a formidable team in any division.

The juniors enjoyed the round robin format as it gave them a lot of matches and the opportunity to get to know the other players, many of whom are from different areas of the country.

**CONSOLATION WINNERS**

TOURNAMENT NOTES

The prize money breakdown in the pros was as follows: 1st Place Team $1,500, 2nd Place Team $1,000, 3rd Place Team $700, 4th Place Team $600, 5th Place Team $300, 6th Place Team $300.

The winners and runners-up in the amateur divisions received beautiful, inscribed Seiko watches as their awards. Places three, four and the consolation winners were awarded trophies.

Missing was the two-time defending masters doubles championship team of Jim White-John Fazio of Milwaukee. Unfortunately, John tore his achilles tendon about two weeks before the tournament.

About two hundred spectators watched the finals and the new glass backwalls provided excellent viewing. The Houston Y has taken a lead that other Y’s may follow by knocking out a corridor between the courts and a gym, installing glass backwalls in two courts and then setting up temporary bleachers in the gym for tournament viewing.

The IRA helped kick off the Houston Racquetball Association membership drive by co-hosting a party Saturday night at the Metropolitan Racquet Club. IRA President, Bill Tanner, added some excitement to the gathering by challenging Pro Dave Charlson to a match—Tanner in his racquetball clothes and Charlson in his street clothes and wearing inch-and-a-half high rubber heeled street shoes. Charlson ripped his pants stretching for the first point of the game, but quickly whipped Tanner two straight before a wildly cheering gallery.

Our thanks go to the Y staff headed by Physical Director Joe Leach and the Y racquetball committee headed by Dewey Strickland for their time and effort working on the tournament. Thanks are also extended to Glenn Strickland for his photography work. Glenn is responsible for all photographs taken during the tournament and for the magazine. Our appreciation to Pad Bradley and Lyn McKie who handled registration; to Colby Mosier, John Holford, Al Range, Sam Cohen, Joe Joiner and Vincent, all of whom worked as floor managers. Houston is in the famous sun belt so naturally it rained the first two days.

One of the most popular items of the tourney was the yellow tournament shirt with blue and white shoulder-stripes. The extras sold like hot cakes and about twice as many could have been sold had they been available. Also in demand were the newly introduced IRA warm-ups (advertised elsewhere in this magazine) manufactured by Jog-Joy. Tournament balls were supplied by Seamco. Gookinaid provided the beverages. Evident was a marked increase in the use of eyeguard which is an excellent step in the right direction.
IRA — International Doubles Championships, Houston, Texas — 1976

OPEN

SENIORS
Finals: Austin-Hanna def. Wayne-King, 17-21, 21-12, 21-14; (Third: Linton-McPherson def. Roderick-Porco by forfeit.)

MASTERS

GOLDEN MASTERS

The last word...

With the coming of a new year IRA members will be treated to a new look in their publication. The Association has obtained the services of Image Graphics, a design firm in Arlington, Texas, to serve as Art Directors for the magazine. At the same time a new printing company will take over publication—Lindsay Printing, Inc., Dallas. Both firms are especially well qualified, and their combined resources should be a welcome step forward.

Most readers never come to know the editor on a nationally distributed magazine. This has been true of Racquetball, and for those who might be curious about the publication’s editorial we decided to provide the following summary: the first editor was Chuck Leve whose combined newspaper and racquetball experience helped get the association’s magazine off to a good start. Leve was succeeded by Bob Dellinger, one of the nation’s top sports reporters. Next was Dr. Harry Heath, head of Oklahoma State University’s School of Communications, and most recently Max Rodgers, a journalist and public relations professional.

The periodical has been printed by Frontier Printers, Stillwater, Oklahoma, up to and including this issue. That company expresses its appreciation for the business relationship over the past few years with the IRA, and commends the Association on its choice of the Lindsay Printing Company, Dallas.

With this November/December year-end edition, we express our appreciation for the opportunity to have met a whole world of wonderful racquetball people during the past 18 months and wish all of you a very happy and prosperous 1977!

Sincerely,

Max Rodgers
Managing editor

The very last word...

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR THE CALENDAR:


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Peggy Steding

Platform Tennis Champions:
Herb FitzGibbon
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