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COVER: Illustration By John Robinette

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If you know their whereabouts, please contact the IRA office at 5545 Murray Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38117.

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RECEIVING LINE

Junior Nationals

I want to congratulate you and your associates on running a fine Junior Nationals meet sponsored by I.R.A. and Pony/Ektelon. In spite of the hectic need to depart in a hurry on Sunday, we all had a good time and we all really do appreciate the tremendous input by you and your staff.

My only criticism of the way the meet was handled was a lack of advance information on the draw and the maintenance of a firm schedule for the games. It was unfortunate that some advance assignments couldn’t be worked out. I have seen this done in some other meets and hope it will be possible to do for future I.R.A. tournaments.

Again, my thanks to you and your associates, and I do hope that things work out well for the I.R.A. so they can continue to hold this and other activities for the Juniors.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Leonard T. Kurland, M.D.
Mayo Clinic

Thank you for the courtesy extended to my daughter Beth and me at the IRA Pony Tournament July 15-16.

I extend to you an invitation to visit our club when you are in the area. I believe we can have a fruitful exchange of ideas relative to racquetball and the I.R.A., and for any future tournaments.

If there is any information or cooperation our club can offer you, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Philip Cali, Jr.
The Courthouse

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be part of the National Junior’s tournament held at Lemontree, Michigan.

I felt really glad to get to the finals even though I didn’t win and felt second place in the 12 and under age group was a great victory for me. I enjoyed meeting everyone. My mother and I both appreciated the time and money spent on the tournament.

Thanks again.

Darin Eyring
9026 S.E. 61st
Mercer Island, Washington

I’d like to express my appreciation to Luke St. Onge and the IRA for making the trip to the Junior Nationals possible.

Lynn enjoyed herself and is proud of her new clothing and equipment.

The tournament had coverage back here in newspapers and on TV.

Sincerely,

Ruth Wojcik
Oadpueblo Courthouse
Tucson, Arizona

I would like to offer a great big "Thank You" to the I.R.A., Ektelon, and Pony for running such a smooth and efficient Junior National Tournament. The majority of the matches were played as scheduled and the accommodations and facilities were just super.

The thing that impressed me the most, however, was the attitude which the I.R.A. and the sponsors had in approaching this tournament. The future of racquetball is indeed in our junior programs and it was gratifying to see Ron Grimes of Ektelon stand up and say as much at the tournament buffet. Again, thank you all for allowing our children such a fine experience.

Yours in Racquetball,

Ed Martin
Sun Oaks Racquet Club

Dave and I would like to express our appreciation for the courtesies extended to us at the National Junior Tournament in Detroit. It was quite an experience to see such fine racquetball and to meet people from all over the country. It looks like Ohio has a long way to go to match the level of playing and especially tournament experience that people from some of the "hotbeds of racquetball" have.

Seeing such polish and experience would have devastated me if I were playing, but Dave seems undaunted and more resolved than ever to keep playing and improve his game. I was grateful that he had the opportunity to see what is involved on the national scene in terms of time, money, and personal commitment to reach certain levels of competence. I was equally glad to see him react with a good deal of perspective for someone his age when he commented (after noticing the lack of laughter and joy among some of the people), "When racquetball stops being fun for me and becomes another job, I’m going to have to stop and say, ‘What am I doing this for anyway?’" But for now he is definitely geared up to get more tournament experience, fulfill more of his potential, and hopefully see you next year!

Thanks again for making all this possible for so many young people—and especially for the same perspective on what sports are all about. It is fascinating to me that some of humankind can take an activity it invented for release of tension, pleasure, and relaxation, and turn it into one more form of tension-producing, money-making anxiety. Let’s never discount the sheer joy that can come from pursuing an activity to one’s fullest and striving for excellence—a great goal indeed.

We look forward to the new era of IRA leadership and support whole-heartedly IRA’s efforts to promote racquetball in the healthiest kind of atmosphere possible. Our best wishes are with the IRA and Luke St. Onge for continued success—and once again our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

Martie Swan
Dave Cowen
Richfield, OH

Gordy and I would like to thank IRA for the great tournament in Detroit for the Juniors. I know it was a time Paul will never forget. We appreciated the good spirit at the tournament and the high degree of sportsmanship and new friendships begun. This is a tremendous thing for boys and girls at this age.

We would also like to thank Luke St. Onge for answering our questions and correspondence so quickly and making sure Paul played in his correct age group.

We want everyone to know how much we appreciate what Luke and the IRA have done for the Juniors.

Gordy and Joan Bakken
Fergus Falls, MN

Rx for Elbows

I’ve been wielding a racket of some kind for more than 50 years... tennis, squash, racquetball, etc. I’d never really had any signs of pain or discomfort until about 10-12 years ago. I played with the pain until it really became unbearable, then I went to my friendly orthopedic doctor and went through the whole probing, pushing, x-ray bit. He decided to start treatment with cortisone. It helped for about 20 to 30 days, then the pain started again, and for the next two years, the cortisone injections were given more and more frequently until I was getting one every 10 days. Finally, the doctor suggested I give up sports; he could do, or suggest, nothing else.

I just couldn’t buy that prognosis. I
decided to do a little reading and research. The answer seemed to be in building up the muscle around the affected area. I experimented with several exercises, and the series that did the job for me was as follows:

While wearing a standard elastic elbow brace—tight—I put my elbow on a cushioned surface, making a fist with a small, soft ball in it, squeezing it and bringing the fist to my chest. For starters, I repeated this 50 times, twice a day. After 30 days, the pain had eased. I upped it to 75, then 100 each session. In addition to this procedure, I added an isometric exercise: putting the fist of one hand into the palm of the other, I pushed as hard as I could for a count of 15.

I continue this exercise as a maintenance program—50 to 100 elbow bends per day, plus the isometric bit. I no longer have the pain— and I play at least twice a week.

For what it's worth, I spend 15-20 minutes each morning doing a series of bending, twisting, and stretching exercises. And before each match, I take about 5-10 minutes to do the same.

I'm not a doctor, but this routine sure worked for me. I hope it works for others, too.

Sincerely,
Al Pre!

Welcome Aboard

I would be delighted to become the State Director for the I.R.A. for my state of Vermont! There is a lot of work to be done and my family, in owning a fine racquetball facility, are in a great position to get the ball rolling as it is our business seven days a week.

I would like very much for you to explain to me what you would like done right away so we can all get an early start in our state on the 1978-79 season.

My family thanks you for the opportunity to be of service and you can be assured we will work very hard in behalf of the I.R.A. Thank you again.

Much regard,
Nancy A. Brown
Co-Owner of Fountain of Youth Court Club
White River Jct., Vt.

Believe It or Not

A lot of happy racquetballers have just returned from a great weekend at Binghamton, New York where Ida Hardy and Allen Seitelman did a great job of organizing the IRA State Tournament. I don't know if this should be forwarded to Ripley's "Believe It or Not" column, but during three days of play there wasn't a single match that ran late. The one-hour scheduling interval for 21, 21, 15 point games seems to work perfectly. there were other events as well—semifinal and final matches where players would call their own "skips" that otherwise would have gone undetected. Maybe this is a phenomenon peculiar only to summer time tournaments.

Norbert L. Ackerman
Clarkson College
Potsdam, New York

Your comments on racquetball and RACQUETBALL Magazine are welcome. Send letters and postcards to "Mail" IRA, 5545 Murray Road, Memphis, TN 38116.
How Much, How Often
PLAYING IN PEAK SHAPE

by John W. Reznik, Ph. D.

Already played four times this week and the local club champion is calling you for a game? Got a regional tournament coming up and want to peak during play? The question of how much and how often to play racquetball in order to maintain a high level of competitive skills is not easy to answer. But the first step in each individual's attempt to answer this question is for the player to gain a thorough understanding of how the body functions and what effect physical factors have upon playing abilities.

When racquetball is played intensely, much of the energy available to the muscle cells is derived from anaerobic respiration, a process not requiring oxygen. During this type of metabolism only glucose is burned. Much of this glucose comes from glycogen stored in muscle tissues; players are often dependent upon these glycogen supplies to carry them through long and grueling matches. Since it takes two to three days to replenish muscle glycogen levels after they have been depleted, it is reasonable to assume that a racquetball player cannot expect to play at intensive levels on two consecutive days.

What does this mean to you as a player? While it is almost impossible to perform at peak levels on a daily basis, you can raise your level of play significantly by means of a daily training schedule which will increase your stamina and body tolerance levels. Such a schedule will make it possible for you to get the most out of your racquetball skills on days of matches and tournaments.

There is more to training than just playing racquetball. The ideal daily workout schedule should include calisthenics and running as well as actual play. The following is an example of the sort of balanced weekly routine which the serious racquetball player should consider:

Monday:
Calisthenics and Running
Tuesday:
Warm-up Exercises, Racquetball Singles
Wednesday:
Calisthenics and Running
Thursday:
Warm-up Exercises, Racquetball Singles
Friday:
Calisthenics and Running
Saturday:
Warm-up Exercises, Racquetball Doubles
Sunday:
Rest

The specific exercises needed for calisthenics and warming-up will vary from player to player, depending upon age as well as individual needs and desires. Naturally, emphasis should be placed upon exercises that help condition those muscles and areas of the body that are utilized during play. Push-ups, pull-ups, half-squats and toe raises are excellent for developing arm and leg strength. Stretching exercises should also be included to increase flexibility and range of motion.

It is essential that a sensible running program be incorporated into the weekly regimen. This should consist of either short sprints at maximum speed or jogging for a period of twenty minutes to an hour over longer distances. While the sprint running closely simulates the type of movement that occurs in racquetball play, the jog-run method is more beneficial for your cardio-respiratory system. As a result, the serious player should try to include both types of running in his training schedule. The old “run a block, jog a block” is a good idea.

Before launching into any exercise program, the player should consult a physician and receive a complete medical examination. In this way, the ideal starting point can be determined, and the player's health is not endangered. As physical condition improves, a more intense daily schedule can be implemented. A balanced training routine is essential to the success of a racquetball player. It will help to reduce the possibility of injury; players who are physically fit suffer far fewer muscular sprains and strains than those who are not. A regular schedule will improve muscle strength, flexibility, and endurance, and help to make the good racquetball player even better.
Dear Members:

In 1972, I met with a small group of fledgling racquetball players in Maine to discuss the possibilities of forming a state association. Because of my big mouth I was elected state chairman and served in that capacity for four years. We affiliated with the IRA and things went great for a few years until the "official" ball started breaking and the IRA switched to a different manufacturer. The new ball never did gain favor with the players and I began to feel pressure to "unaffiliate" with the IRA. The most difficult question to answer—and one that more and more members were asking—was "Why do we need a national organization anyway? Let's go independent!" At first I couldn't come up with a palatable answer. However, with some thought I began to realize why we needed the IRA at that time. The answers, I think, are still valid today.

To begin with, the game of racquetball really never was a recognized sport until the IRA was formed in 1968 and a set of rules was adopted. At that point, and not until then, could you be certain that you were playing the same game that was being played in another region of the country. The rules provide the foundation of any sport and must be interpreted and revised as the game matures. For this reason alone, a player who enjoys the game should recognize the value and importance of having an association that unifies the sport through a set of common rules.

Another factor that I tried to stress was that we, the small group of players in our geographically remote state, could have a voice in the affairs of the association. We could vote for the officers, we got reports on how our dues were spent, we would have an impact on the formation, interpretation, and application of the rules. In fact, our group was extremely vocal in our criticism of the ball, and we had a chance to voice that criticism and to feel that we helped bring about a change. Recently, the IRA adopted the 15 pt. game for a one year trial basis. At the end of the year every member received a questionnaire. The results of the questionnaire were received and changes made accordingly. We did have a voice, and it was heard.

And, of course, there is RACQUETBALL. The magazine ties racquetball together. For the beginner, a single article can bring about a 200% improvement. For the advanced player, the dates and results of tournaments, the articles on the finer skills, and up-to-date information on the professional players is essential reading.

Without a national association it would be impossible for the competitive player to advance beyond the local level. There would be no regional or national champions—and no chance to see and compete against the best players in the world. Tournaments, to be successful, must receive free balls, score cards, and draw sheets. The national office supplies these to state directors as well as help on shirts and trophies. We need the IRA to conduct successful tournaments. We couldn't go it alone.

Finally, if you love the game of racquetball as I do, we need our players' association simply to promote the game—to "spread the gospel." The IRA is devoted to the amateur players of the world—we want people to discover the game “for the health of it” as the saying goes. People need to discover the magnificent value of racquetball to their cardiovascular and mental health. We have a game that can turn lives around and fill them with vitality and fun. This game is just too much fun to not tell others about it. We need the association of players to do this job effectively. I recently volunteered a weekend of my time to promote the game of racquetball at the President's Council on Physical Fitness Clinic here in the Northeast. Other IRA members did the same throughout the country. It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend—I contributed. But I couldn't have done this if we didn't have the IRA.

Perhaps I have left out some important reasons "Why we need the IRA." I would be interested in hearing your thoughts. Drop me a line. Have fun.

Sincerely,

Bob
Robert E. Folsom
President
Dear IRA Members:

Before the racquetball season begins, we would like to respond to the renewed enthusiasm that has been shown for the players' association by clarifying our goals for this year. In these four short months since the Nationals in Denver, the ground swell of support has been tremendously gratifying. In fact, many have come forward to help—including parents, family, and friends of players—making it possible (like in Denver) for the recent Junior Nationals held in Detroit to be run by volunteers. With this momentum and the clear understanding that I.R.A. is not a commercial enterprise but a players' association, we feel revitalized and ready to launch new and ambitious programs across the country.

IRA GOALS FOR 1978-79

Membership. Our future lies in membership. We are embarking on an ambitious membership drive to expand our membership over 1000% within the next playing year.

State and Regional Directors. We now have representatives in all but one state, and we will extend to each State Director services on the national level never before given:
- computer printouts of all members by state and region
- stick-on labels of all members for mailing
- national clinics conducted by the top professionals in racquetball
- realignment of regions to more truly reflect the competitive areas of the country
- additional sponsors for State and Regional tournaments to help underwrite the costs.

National Rankings. We intend to establish national amateur rankings based upon results from sanctioned I.R.A. tournaments using a point system similar to USAC. These accumulated points would be tabulated at National headquarters and be available to tournament directors for seeding purposes. The use of the point system will ensure that the top players will be playing in the I.R.A. sanctioned tournaments because those who are interested in a National Championship or National rankings must play in a certain percentage of sanctioned tournaments to qualify.

Referees. We will establish a National certification for referees similar to that system now being used for A.P.R.O. We intend to establish the precedent of using professional referees for National championships and encourage their use on Regional and State levels.

Tournaments. We will work hard to become the voice of the players by lobbying with tournament directors to avoid problems with non-sanctioned tournaments. We will encourage the adoption of I.R.A. principles in the running of all racquetball tournaments.

Manufacturers. Through expanded membership, we can ask for quality equipment for the amateur. We are working on establishing a neutral testing bureau similar to Consumers Union to test and report to the membership all new equipment available on the market. We will encourage manufacturers to take a more active role in developing our game of racquetball.

Magazine. RACQUETBALL Magazine will help us achieve our goals by being the center of communication for all IRA members, by truly representing the amateur racquetballer, and by bringing all of you good and timely information.

Intercollegiates. We plan to expand our present program and run not only a National Team Championship, but encourage and develop the team concept in challenge and league matches across the country. The IRA will work with the NCAA to make racquetball an Intercollegiate sport, complete with scholarships. We are pleased to announce that the first step has been made with Metro State in Denver, which has awarded six racquetball scholarships this year.

Juniors. We can easily expand our present program, focusing on the local level for development. The Junior Nationals will again be held separately from the National Singles, and will be an open tournament rather than a closed tournament. We feel that racquetball is not ready for closed tournaments, especially on the Junior level.

National Headquarters. We will push to develop (through private financing) a National headquarters complete with the International Racquetball Hall of Fame.

We feel that we can accomplish all of these things through you, our members. We promise to work very hard, and with your help, we can achieve anything.

Luke St. Onge
Executive Director
INVESTIGATE

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## UP&COMING

### August

**25-27**

### September

**1-4**
SOMRA, 314-872-7861 or 432-6119. Tournament Director: Marlowe Phillips.

Woodvalley Racquet Club, 2909 West 37th St., Topeka, Kansas 66604. Tournament Director: Dick Evans.

**14-17**
Montbello & IRA Fall Classic, 15502 E. Oberlin Place, Aurora, CO 80013. Tournament Director: Bob Klass.

Cullum and Boren-Leach Open, President Health Center, 5919 Forest Lane, Dallas, TX 75320. Tournament Director: Carlos N. Ives.

**22-24**
Texas State Championships, 121 N.W. Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78216. 512-349-2781. Tournament Director: Bruce Hendin.

### October

**6-8**
Second Annual Tri State Tournament, Manchester Court Club, 2 Driving Rd., Manchester, NH.

**12-15**
Jack Fulton Open, Memphis Racquetball Association, P.O. Box 12525, Memphis, TN 38112.

**13-15**

**20-22**

### November

**10-12**
Blue Point Open, Blue Point Racquet Club, P.O. Box 148, Blue Point, NY 11715. A-B-C, Seniors, Women's Open. Tournament Director: Richey Franceze.

**17-19**
Nittany Lion Open, Rt. No. 1 Box 255-A, Boalsburg, PA. Tournament Director: Denny Oncotz.

### January

**25-27**

### February

**9-11**
New Hampshire Open, Site to be announced.

**23-25**
Masters Singles Invitational, Jacksonville Racquet Club, 6651 Crestline Drive, Jacksonville, Fla. 32211. 904-724-6994. Tournament Director: Gordon Ira.
What do you do when you invite the 90 best Junior players in the country to a tournament, and they all show up? You sit back and enjoy the show, that's what.

When the nation's top young shotmakers showed up at Sports Illustrated Club Complex in Belleville (Detroit) from July 14-16, what resulted was a high-intensity, high quality, kill-filled display of racquetball at its energetic best. For three days players age 8 to 17 served, served, and served their way around the courts in competition for championships in six divisions. In the past from these divisions have come names like Hogan (Marty), Larson, Zuckerman, and Yellin. Based on this year's results, the names to reckon with in the future are Hawkins, Lindskog, Eggerman, Hogan (Linda), Gross, and Wojek.

The sport can take pride in its new National Junior Champions, who display championship character both on and off the court. If one can compare the Junior Championships of 1975 to those of 1978, it must be said that the most telling difference is that this latest crop of juniors shows greater overall maturity on the court, steeling their nerves in moments of crisis controlling their emotions in moments of tension. Apart from a self-castigating "You dummy!" and an anguished groan now and then, overall court conduct was excellent at the competition, and the kids actually seemed to enjoy the four-wall battles. Sincere handshakes and pleasant grins were the order of the day. Sportsmanship is alive and well in the junior ranks.

And so is racquetball talent.

Boys 17 and Under

Highly touted Scott Hawkins from Santa Clara defeated fellow Californian Beaver Wickham in a tough, galvanic final marked by both power and consistency, 21-18, 21-17. Scott's route to the finals was a bumpy one, as he defeated Jay Kulek from Michigan 21-4, 21-11 and then had two tough three-game matches against Ken Kailhanen of Texas, 21-14, 15-21, 15-6, and Ross Harvey, Montreal, 21-6, 18-21, and 15-10. The match with Kailhanen was one of the tournament's best, the outcome in doubt until the end, as both players covered the court like paint, making impossible gets time after time. In the end, Scott's lanky frame seemed the difference as he dug out Ken's pass shots and turned them into kills.

Wickham met his stiffest competition en route to the finals in the first round, when he edged Wender Talahaber, British Columbia, 21-19, 18-21, 15-8; he then beat
Jack Nolan, Arizona, 21-18, 21-13, and top-seeded Mark Malowitz, Texas, 21-14, 21-14 to reach the finals.

Other top matches in this division featured Mike George, Montana, over Chris Mathewson, Pennsylvania, 21-10, 21-17; Ross Harvey over Rudy Ramirez, Arizona, 21-12, 21-12; and Jack Nolan over Steve Peck, Wisconsin, 21-10, 21-10.

In the consolations, Rudy Ramirez outlasted Danny Cohen, Missouri, 7-21, 21-2, 15-6.

It was typical of the energy and enthusiasm of the juniors that Chris Mathewson, having just lost in the round of 16, kept right on playing for the next five hours on the glass court, taking on all comers.

Girls 17 and Under

There's a new girl on the block—new not only to the championship crown but to the very division she won! Leslie Lindskog, this year's 17 and Under National Champion, actually turned 16 just before the cut-off date for the 15 and Under Championship and so was forced to play up. As it turned out, she played so up she upstaged everybody, claiming the championship by edging talented Barbara Allweis of Illinois 13-21, 21-17, 15-12. Leslie, from Washington, proved that she possesses patience and court sense beyond her years, successfully waiting out the aggressiveness and power of Allweis. Linda worked hard to reach the final, defeating Andrea Katz, Virginia, 21-19, 21-9, and Kathaleen Fairchild, Texas, 18-21, 21-5, 15-8. By comparison, Allweis coasted into the finals, overcoming Beth Coll of New York, 21-1, 21-2 and Vicki Carr of Illinois 21-3, 21-1.

In the consolation finals Andrea Katz defeated Starlyn Corley of California, 21-1, 21-3.

Boys 15 and Under

Top-seeded John Eggerman from Idaho proved the positive thinking of power in this division, blasting his way to the championship, never being extended beyond two games in any match. John met second-seeded Craig Davidson, California, in the finals and controlled the match, winning 21-8, 21-18. Craig employed a clever variety of strategies to neutralize John's power, but to no avail. John's kills from the serve line and lightning pass shots kept Craig at a constant disadvantage. Many who observed John play said he was at least 1½ years ahead of Marty Hogan at that age.

John reached the finals by defeating Adam McKay, Ohio, 21-6, 21-5; Keith
Blackmon, Tennessee, 21-6, 21-3; and Paul Bakken, Minnesota, 21-9 21-9. Craig got to the finals by beating Steve Shaw, Michigan, 21-2, 21-1; Mike Levine, New York, 21-19, 21-14; and Greg Peak, 21-17, 21-9. Defending National Champion John Klearman, Missouri, lost a cliffhanger quarterfinal match to Bakken, 21-18, 18-21, 15-14.

The Boys 15 and Under Division is filled with names to keep an eye on: Blackmon, Stupp (Montreal), Johnson (Minnesota), Wiseman (Missouri), Amatulli (Indiana), Levine, Skinner (Tennessee), and of course Davidson and Eggerman, among others.

Girls 15 and Under

Meet Mona Mook, California. Mona, Meet Linda Hogan, Missouri. Mona, competing in her first major tournament outside California, played her way into the finals before succumbing to highly-favored Linda's talent and experience. The scores in the final were 21-18 and 21-17, with never-say-die Mona regularly fighting back from five and seven point deficits. Linda, as expected, clearly dominated the field on her way to the finals, defeating Debbie Misterek, Washington, 21-2, 21-8, and Heather Stupp, Montreal, 21-19, 21-8. The match with Stupp, a highly spirited young lady, might have thrown a scare into Linda, but in the end her superior power carried the day. Mona defeated Kathy Stapf, Pennsylvania, 21-9, 21-12, and Sheryl Kraus, Wisconsin, 21-13, 21-16 to reach the finals. In the consolations, Ellen Kurland, Minnesota, defeated Misterek, 21-17, 21-9.

Boys 12 and Under

One of the most exciting divisions in the tournament, the Boys 12 and Under exhibited some of the most interesting play of the entire event. The boys have all the moves, form, and strategy of most of the older players. All they seem to lack is size. With boys from all parts of the continent squaring off for the title, David Gross of Missouri came out the winner in the finals over Darin Eyring of Washington, 21-16, 21-17. All the players were good, but among the favorites was the youngest player in the tournament, David Simonette, 9, of Maryland, who captured the hearts of the audience both for his command of the basic strokes and his command of his own good humor. Look out 1988. David lost in the consolation finals to Todd O'Neal, Vermont, 21-10, 21-15.

Girls 12 and Under

Six girls played round robin for the first-repeat, first—National Championship for girls 12 and Under. The play was spirited and accomplished, and when Sunday came, Lynn Wojek of Arizona took first place, followed by Tina Heath, Illinois, Lisa Anthony, California, Shelly Burns, Michigan, and Tracy Daly, who won the consolations. The athleticism and sportsmanship of these girls bodes well for the future of the sport.

Our thanks go out to Ektelon and Pony, who had the foresight and interest to underwrite the local, regional, and national junior program by investing $7500 each in it. Also thanks to Mike Hogan of the Phillips Organisation, Ron Grimes, Vice-President of Ektelon, and Chester Wheeler of Pony, who helped immensely during the Nationals.

The IRA was pleased to be responsible for the program and to invest $8,000 to help underwrite it. Bob Klass, Vice-President of the IRA, and Tom Radai, Wisconsin State Chairman, who ran the Nationals, deserve special commendations; without them, we'd still be in Detroit trying to play the matches. Thanks too, to Ed Martin of California and Steve Boren of Illinois, who assisted at both the Nationals and two of the Regionals. Also, our gratitude to Sports Illustrated and Gerry Boehms, Manager, who graciously donated their Lemontree facility for the Nationals.

Finally, thanks to all parents who pitched in and helped and made this a National Championship to remember. Wait! One more thanks; to the 90 best juniors in the country, for putting on such a good show.

IRA National Juniors Championships

Boys 17 & Under: 1st Round: Danny Phillips, GA; over Guss Farrel, IA, 21-0, 21-0; Jack Nolan, AZ, over Danny Cohen, MO, 21-16, 21-16; Wender Talaheber, British Columbia, over James Johnson, MI, 21-0, 21-0; Chris Mathewson, PA, over Pat O'Connor, IL, 21-11, 21-5; Barry Bronson, MI, over Robert Phillipy, FL, 21-0, 21-0; Jay
Kuick, MI, over Robert Rankin, UT, 21-18, 21-15.

2nd Round: Mark Malowitz, TX, over Boris Caravallo, IL, 21-15, 21-16; Phil Panarella, CT, over Danny Phillips, GA, 21-8, 21-12; Jack Nalan, AZ, over Steve Peck, WI, 21-10, 21-10; Beaver Wickham, CA, over Wender Talabher, B.C., 21-9, 18-21, 15-8; Mike George, MT, over Chris Mathewson, PA, 21-10, 21-17; Ross Hamey, Montreal, over Rudy Ramirez, AZ, 21-12, 21-13; Ken Kaihlanen, TX, over Barry Bronson, MI, 21-1, 21-1; Scott Hawkins, CA, over Jay Kulek, MI, 21-4, 21-11.

Quarters: Mark Malowitz over Phil Panarella 21-12, 21-8; Beaver Wickham over Jack Nolan 21-18, 21-13; Ross Hamey over Mike George 21-12, 21-9; Ken Scott Hawkins over Ken Kaihlanen 21-14, 15-21, 15-6.

Semi-finals: Beaver Wickham over Mark Malowitz 21-14, 21-13; Scott Hawkins over Ross Hamey 21-12, 21-19, 15-10; Mike scissors Levine, MO, defeated John Amatulli, IN, 21-14, 21-19; Craig Davids over Mike Levine 21-19, 21-14.

Final: Scott Hawkins over Beaver Wickham 21-9, 21-19; Craig Davids over Greg Peck 21-17, 21-9.

Consolations: Rudy Ramirez over Danny Cohen 7-21, 21-2, 15-6.

Boys 15 & Under: 1st Round: Keith Blackmon, TN, over Brian Bresman, MO, 21-3, 21-6; Mark Stupp, Canada, over Dave Cowan, OH, 21-8, 21-10; Jim Skinner, TN, defeated Tim Deighan, OH, 21-6, 21-7; Brad Poppino, OR, defeated Jim Rogers, GA, 21-1, 21-1; Gary But, CA, defeated Jeff Plazak, WI, 21-7, 19-21, 15-2; Hart Johnson, MN, defeated John Slazas, IL, 2-21, 21-20, 15-6; Doug Weisman, MO, defeated Brian Deighan, OH, 21-3, 21-9; John Amatulli, IN, defeated Todd Semrow, MI, 21-1, 21-1; Mike Levine, NY, defeated Billy Gamble, TN, 21-12, 21-14; Steve Shaw, MI, defeated Tom Poulin, MI, 21-1, 21-1.

2nd Round: John Eggerman, ID, defeated Adam McKay, OH, 21-6, 21-5; Keith Blackmon, TN, over Mark Stupp, Canada, 17-21, 21-9, 15-10; Paul Bakken, MN, defeated Jim Skinner, TN, 21-18, 21-3; John Klearman, MO, defeated Brad Poppino, OR, 21-14, 21-15; Greg Peck, TX, defeated Gary But, CA, 21-7, 19-21, 15-2; Hart Johnson, MN, defeated Doug Wiseman, MO, 21-18, 21-17; Mike Levine, MO, defeated John Amatulli, IN, 21-14, 21-14; Craig Davids defeated Steve Shaw, MI, 21-2, 21-0.

Quarters: John Eggerman over Phil Panarella 21-6, 21-3; Paul Bakken over John Klearman 21-18, 18-21, 15-14; Greg Peck defeated Hart Johnson 15-21, 21-11, 15-12; Craig Davids defeated Mike Levine 21-19, 21-14.

Semi-finals: John Eggerman defeated Paul Bakken 21-9, 21-19; Craig Davids defeated Greg Peck 21-17, 21-9.

Finals: John Eggerman defeated Craig Davids, 21-8, 21-18.


Finals: David Gross defeated Darin Eyring 21-16, 21-17.


Quarters: Leslie Lindskog, WA, over Andrea Katz, VA, 21-19, 21-9; Kathleen Fairchild, TX, over Ellen Felkel, MA, 21-5, 21-0; Barbara Allweiss, IL, over Beth Colli, NY, 21-1.

(cont. on p. 35)
10th ANNUAL

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Photograph courtesy of King's Racquetball Court, Westminster, Cal.
# 10th Annual International Racquetball Association Doubles Championships

## Official Entry Blank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament Host</th>
<th>Capital Courts, P.O. Box 218, Sterling, Virginia 22170</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>October 19-22, 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry Fee</td>
<td>$25.00 per person, $50.00 per team. All entries are final. Make checks payable to I.R.A. Limit one event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry Deadline</td>
<td>All entries must be postmarked by Tuesday, October 10, 1978.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Ball</td>
<td>Seamco 444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility &amp; Rules</td>
<td>All entrants must show a current International Racquetball Association card and abide by IRA tournament rules. You must meet the age requirements as of October 19, 1978. Tie breakers will be played to 15 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>Trophies for the first four places and consolation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing Time</td>
<td>8:00 A.M., October 19, 1978. The draw will not be given out in advance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>International Racquetball Association, 5545 Murray Rd., Suite 202, Memphis, Tenn., 38117. Entry fee should accompany form. Make check payable to the I.R.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Dulles Marriott, Dulles International Airport, Box 17235, Washington, D.C. 20041. Phone: 703-471-9500 and ask for &quot;RACQUETBALL&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Men's Open, Women's Open, Women's Senior Open (35+), Men's Senior Open (35+), Master (45+), Golden Master (55+), Golden Master (60+), Boy's (17 and under), Girl's (17 and under), NON CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's B, Women's B.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make check payable to: I.R.A. State “RACQUETBALL”

Send this form with entry fee to:
5545 Murray
Suite 202
Memphis, Tenn. 38117

Please indicate shirt size:

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<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>XL</th>
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</thead>
</table>

NAME (Print) ___________________________ IRA CARD NO. & EXP. DATE __________

PARTNER (Print) _________________________ IRA CARD NO. & EXP. DATE __________

ADDRESS ________________________________________________________________

CITY ____________________________ STATE ________ ZIP __________

BUS. PHONE __________ HOME PHONE __________ ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL __________

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, Racquetball World, and the International Racquetball Association and their respective agents, for any and all injuries.

DATE __________ SIGNATURE __________

DATE __________ SIGNATURE __________
Body, Come Back—All Is Forgiven.

By David Allan Evans with Kenneth Neill

I was a teenage sports freak. Growing up in Sioux City, Iowa during the 1950s, I was deeply involved in all the traditional American pastimes: football, baseball and basketball. Luckily, I was good enough at football to get a college scholarship. Off I went to college filled with zeal and enthusiasm for the GAME. But two years of playing football left me with a burned-out knee and, worse, bad vibrations about sports in general.

So at the age of twenty, with a wife and child to support and my sights firmly set on a teaching career, I relegated athletics to the back pages of my life. Because of my bad knee and my lack of physical interest, I took part in sports only sporadically; a little touch football, the odd softball or baseball game, but nothing that would get me either physically or mentally in shape.

But as I approached thirty, I experienced something of an athletic small renaissance. I longed to get more actively involved in sports; to experience again the tension and exhilaration of physical competition. The first stage in my return to the sporting world was a knee operation, which luckily was a complete success. The knee was repaired and I carefully and religiously nursed it back into shape.
But the operation didn’t solve all my problems. I knew that after thirty, my body, like most others, simply couldn’t take the abuse of sports like football and baseball for much longer. I tried jogging, but something was missing. I just couldn’t get excited about running around my neighborhood for an hour or two each evening.

Then, at the age of thirty-three, I discovered racquetball; the small university where I teach built four courts, and I quickly got into the swing. My life has been different ever since. I keep hoping I’ll wake up one morning and my right hand will be a racquet—a wide-stringed palm with perfect tension.

Looking back, I only wish that I had discovered the game much sooner. But racquetball and most other ‘lifetime’ sports were simply not made available to young men of my generation. During the 1950s, team sports were the vogue, and while these were excellent for adolescents, they offered little that we could carry into adult life. James A. Michener, the well-known novelist, addressed the matter directly in his recent study of American athletics called *Sports in America*:

> Emphasis is almost solely upon competition and the perfecting of skills that will be rarely used after graduation. Participation is in those complicated team sports which provide minimal long-range health benefits. We conduct our public education as if life-long concerns were an arcane secret.

At 37, I’m now in the best shape I’ve been in since my college football days. Being a college teacher whose job is fairly sedentary, I build up a fair share of tensions during the average working day. But when I emerge from the racquetball court after a spirited session, all these tensions have disappeared.

In addition to teaching, I do a fair share of writing. It may sound strange, but in order to be a writer, you have to be in good shape. You have to be aware, and awareness is more than a mental matter. All one’s senses must be alive, always. Physical and mental performance are intricately connected. A good writer needs the stamina and agility of a good racquetball player.

Don’t get me wrong. Racquetball is not a panacea; it is not a defense against ‘the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.’ But racquetball is as ideal a game as I’ve ever played. It taxes my heart and lungs fully; it requires grace, speed, agility, quickness, concentration, power, accuracy, and mental strategy in a unique combination; it helps me keep my weight down; it helps me blow off excessive emotional steam.

Let me get specific. When I’m in that white room, shut off from the outside world, I become totally involved in what is happening in there. The pressure is constant, unrelenting. Now I’m running forward at top speed for a ball close to the front wall, now back-treading for a ball rainbowing into back court, now setting up for a forehand kill, now digging the ball out of a corner, now crouching for a low-hit skidder, now stretching on my toes for a high one, now whirling for a z-ball. In that rectangular white room, awareness is everything.

I have decided to keep my body, which I have forgiven in the name of joy and heat and sweat.

A writer named William Matthews explains it best in a poem about middle-aged men playing amateur sports. Near the end of the game, the narrator begins to feel that old vigor—that sweet heat that only athletic competition can bring—rushing through his body. At 37, in perfect health, I can understand exactly what Matthews means when he says:

> Body come back; all is forgiven.
At the recent I.R.A. Board of Directors' meeting in Denver, the board reaffirmed its policy of reciprocal memberships with the Canadian Racquetball Association. This means all members of the Canadian Racquetball Association who wish to play in any sanctioned I.R.A. tournament may do so by presenting their membership card at the tournament registration, and paying the prescribed tournament entry fee. All I.R.A. members in good standing can play in any C.R.A. sanctioned tournament provided they present their I.R.A. card and pay the prescribed tournament entry fee.

We extend our congratulations to the C.R.A. on a great year for Canadian Racquetball and continued success in promoting our great sport.

Dayton Circuit Courts South, 5600 Kentshire Drive, Kettering, Ohio, hosted a racquetball camp for Juniors, ages 8-18, during the week of August 7. The Juniors sharpened their skills and skills under the tutelage of two top racquetball professionals and Ohio's top amateur player.

The featured instructor was Jerry Hilecher, who is currently the number 7 ranked racquetball pro in the U.S. He was the 1976 National Singles Champion for the International Racquetball Association. Mike Yellen, currently ranked number 12 on the pro tour also taught at the camp. Mike was a semi-finalist in this year's National Tournaments for both the International Racquetball Association and the United States Racquetball Association. The camp teaching staff was rounded out by Larry Fox, who is the 1978 Ohio Singles Champion. In 1975, Larry was the 15 and Under National Junior Champion.

The camp included daily sessions of professional instruction, video taped coaching, and racquetball strategy and psychology. A barbecue topped off opening night and the week's activities were capped by a camp tournament.

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS

RACQUETBALL CLINICS

September 22, 23: Rocky Mountain Region, Utah State University, Logan, Utah.

October 6, 7: Southeast Region, Memphis State University, Memphis TN.

November 17, 18: Midwestern Region, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.


February 23, 24: Northwest Region: Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington.

April 21, 21: Mid-Atlantic Region, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

brighter, bouncier ball.

The Rollout® Bleu racquetball is also easiest to see indoors. So it's easy to see why you're seeing so many of them.

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Santa Ana, Calif. 92704
WE JUST BLACKBALLED THE IRA.
THEY ASKED FOR IT.

So we gave them what they wanted. A new black racquetball made by Seamco to exacting IRA specifications. The new Seamco #444 will be the only official ball sanctioned by the International Racquetball Association. That’s a big job for a small ball. But this one can take it. Seamco

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>The two 5' x 1½' <em>Service Boxes</em> are used for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) singles play. b) doubles play. c) 3-player “cut throat.” d) practice. e) time out.</td>
<td>rule 2.1 (b4)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>Some courts, on both side walls, will have a 3” vertical line located 5’ in back of the short line and are called:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) service lines. b) doubles lines. c) passing lines. d) singles lines. e) receiving lines.</td>
<td>rule 2.1(b5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(If you are curious, rule 4.7a will tell you why those lines are there.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>In doubles, on each serve, the server’s partner should stand erect with his back to the side wall and with both feet on the floor within the:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) service zone. b) service line. c) service area. d) service box. e) receiving area.</td>
<td>rule 4.2 (b)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>According to the IRA, “The basic body of the uniform must be”:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) dark &amp; comfortable. b) white. c) white with green marking. d) light or bright color. e) made of cotton material.</td>
<td>rule 2.5</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th><em>All tournaments shall be managed by a (an):</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) experienced pro. b) chairman or committee. c) club owner or manager. d) senior referee. e) two men and two women.</td>
<td>rule 3.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>The term “officials” shall include a:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) referee. b) manager. c) scorer &amp; pro. d) host and committee representative. e) referee and a scorer.</td>
<td>rule 3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: Additional assistants and record keepers may be designated as desired.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>During games, the one who decides all questions that may arise in accordance with the “Official rules &amp; regulations of racquetball” is the:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) scorer. b) club manager. c) tournament chairman. d) referee. e) linesman.</td>
<td>rule 3.5 (b)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>A match may be forfeited by the referee when any player for a singles match or any team for a doubles match fails to report to play after:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) 30 minutes. b) 25 minutes. c) 20 minutes. d) 15 minutes. e) 10 minutes.</td>
<td>rule 3.5 (d3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>The player may serve from any place in the:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) court. b) front court only. c) service box. d) service zone. e) back court.</td>
<td>rule 4.1(e)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>A “Foot Fault” in singles play may be called when the server leaves the service zone before the ball passes the:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) service line. b) short line. c) receiving line d) foul line. e) base line.</td>
<td>rule 4.1 (c), 4.5(a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>At the beginning of each game in doubles, only the first server serves the first time up and continues to serve first throughout the game, and when the server is out:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) the partner can serve. b) a point is scored for the receiving side. c) the serve is taken over. d) a point is scored for the serving side. e) the side is out.</td>
<td>rule 4.2(a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers on Page 47
CONFessions
OF A HANDBALL
PLAYER
Racquetball, I am told, is the world’s fastest growing sport. New courts and multipurpose racquetball/handball clubs are springing up everywhere from the inner city to outer suburbia.

To avoid handball enthusiasts like myself, this is something of a mixed blessing. Since both games are played on the same court, we can thank racquetball for giving us a proliferation of new facilities we could not have had otherwise.

Yet somehow we cannot find it within ourselves to accept this cross between tennis and handball. In our heart of hearts, racquetball remains a scourge that has usurped our place as court kings and skimmed the cream of the crop in potential young handballers. We think contemptuous thoughts when racquetballers walk on the court; how can we play clean, classic handball when those racquets chip and nick the wall? We sneer at the supposed athleticism and conditioning of racquetball players and declare among ourselves that any “B” handballer could handle the best racquetballer with a few hours practice.

I suppose this rush to racquetball is merely another illustration of the American predilection for pleasure over pain. After all, who wants to endure a week of puffy red hands and years of learning the game when a few games of racquetball puts one well on the way? But back to my point. Handballers do think racquetball is beneath them in every way. I myself admit to having had a very unhealthy case of handball superiority complex. I say had, because I have recanted; and I say unhealthy because the height of my snobbery was to be matched only by the depth of my humiliation.

But mark, this is the first and last time I will speak of this. Indeed, once it gets out, I probably will be treated like a moral leper by my peers. But honest confession is good for the soul, and I am known for my religious inclinations, so here goes.

It all started when I won the “A” handball tournament at a local YMCA. No doubt that nice but colloquial achievement prompted an undue optimism; if one trophy, who not two?

The YMCA bulletin board announced a racquetball tournament. As I stood musing about getting some more metal for my showcase, I wondered if I should forego the automatic trophy in the “B” tour-
nament and go for the “A” trophy. I suspected it might be a little tougher, but the feeling would be very satisfying.

You can imagine my surprise when I was told that I could not enter the “A” tournament. That was reserved for “A” players, so I must settle for the “B” competition.

I kidded briefly with the physical director and walked off, smirking quietly to myself. Could I help it if the establishment had forced me to walk off with the “B” trophy like taking candy from a baby?

The next day I dropped into a local discount house and bought the cheapest racquet I could find. I supposed that racquetball gear, like handball gear, functioned partly as a status symbol. No doubt the local hotshots would spot my $8.95 racquet and pick me out as a novice immediately. And that would suit me just fine. I savored the thought of the favorites watching with growing dismay as a cheapgear unknown worked his way toward the finals.

It occurred to me that I should practice at least once to get the feel of the racquet and the sense of the ball’s bounce. But I couldn’t be bothered. Besides, I felt it would cheapen my victory to say, “well, I only practiced once.” How much better would it be to announce, “that was my first match ever!”

So I decided to walk on the court cold as ice, so to speak. When I hit the ball the first time, it would be a primal experience. In a matter of a serve or two and a couple of volleys, I’d have my timing and the game would be over. With my court sense, conditioning and physical strength, I would blow my “B” level opponent off the court.

No doubt my opponent wondered when I began my warmups. I hit the ball hard, threw up a few unorthodox looking ceiling shots and slammed a fly kill or two. It all seemed so incredibly easy, I could scarcely suppress my glee. I lost the coin toss and after that everything was down hill. My opponent served a hard, waist high shot aimed at the back left corner. My handball instincts told me this one was going to be off the back wall for a fat set-up, so I let it go and turned for the shot.

The next thing I knew, the ball was rolling out of the corner. I took it to be a fluke until the second serve went into the same spot with exactly the same result. At that point, I knew I had to meet the ball in front of me, and on the next serve I learned, along with my opponent, that I didn’t have a backhand.

It wasn’t long until I was completely disoriented and missing everything. I could feel my neck and ears burning with embarrassment as one by one the spectators moved to another court and the referee’s calls became quieter and quieter.

I think the final score was 31-3, in a first round one-game elimination. My opponent was gracious in victory, and I managed a sickly smile and a handshake in defeat.

As I walked off the court, I resisted the urge to grab everything and run. I stood around for a moment but no one spoke to me, no doubt a result of their embarrassment rather than a lack of courtesy. Surely no one in their tournament would suffer such a defeat, and undoubtedly no one had come psychologically prepared to comment or even offer consolation at such a pitiful performance.

I showered and dressed quickly while listening to the racquetball commentary of seasoned players getting ready for their matches. I felt small, insignificant, insecure.

As I walked out I felt the stirrings of desire for revenge, but my urge to forget was stronger. I hung up the racquet for a couple of months. Strange how much better I felt with handball gloves on.

But the nagging wouldn’t go away. Could I win at racquetball? Would my tender psyche stand even a game for fun at this stage?

Happily at that juncture, I met a young assistant professor from a local community college who somehow got on the subject of my favorite sport. You guessed it—racquetball. He was no less than a “B” player, and said and was in fact moving up the ladder steadily. Would I like to give it a try?

That was all it took. We made the appointment for an evening at the campus gym and I showed up, psyched for the worst and hoping for the best.

For the first eight or ten points the hangover from my tournament match was evident. I was unsure, tentative in my moves and shots. Then I slowly began to feel the feel of things. All along I had known where the shots were supposed to go, and now I was putting them there. My shots took on more authority and I even fired a few kills on the right side.

Best of all, I sensed that my friend, a man younger than myself, was beginning to respect my game. Was that a twinge of fear? My ‘who’s in control’ antenna, finely tuned from hundreds of handball matches, began to pick up the familiar signals that my opponent was feeling some uncertainty. I had given up a sizeable lead, and I managed to struggle back to a 21-15 loss.

You know what happened next. I won my first racquetball game with an exactly reversed score, and was on my way to giving the professor another tough game when he was saved by the bell, or more likely a knock on the door. Time was up and so was I. I could win at racquetball!

Then I noticed something. I was soaked, winded, and thoroughly exhausted. Had racquetball done this to me, the iron man of Baltimore handball? And my leather hands! I had a blister on my thumb and my right arm felt like lead. Great Scott! In this game, the blood pumps, the sweat flows, and the body tires.

But I kidder briefly with the physical director and walked off, smirking quietly to myself. We parted amiably with a promise to do it again. I got in my car, drove on the beltway and began to reflect on the game of racquetball.

From an ability standpoint, I still doubted that racquetball required as much physical skill as handball. Certainly the techniques could be picked up more quickly, especially since the racquetball player need not use his “off” hand. And of course there is the matter of the physical extension on the arm which saves a step or two in both directions. But perhaps the comparative deadness of the racquetball compensates for that. If the ball doesn’t carry as well as a handball, one would need the racquet to get to it.

Reflexes? You need them all and then some. The ball moves on the fly as fast or faster than a handball, and the angles are every bit as sharp. So you need timing, strategy, strength, endurance.

Was that it? Was it merely that racquetball measures up nicely to handball, or is there an aspect of the game that makes it tougher than handball? Physically I doubt it. But in execution, possibly.

I think there is less margin for error in racquetball. In handball, one can make mistakes, especially against an opponent’s off hand and get away with it even against a fairly accomplished player. For example, very few handballers will attempt anything but a defensive shot with their off hand, especially from the deep back court (except off the back wall) because it requires more strength and skill than most handball players possess. But in racquetball, one can deliver powerful offensive shots with the back hand even from the deep back court.

Furthermore, racquetballers can consistently hit deadly backhand kill shots from mid-court, kill shots only the best handballer players can manage with their off hand.

So I suppose that is the essential difference in the games. Racquetball offers more opportunity to be an offensive game. Invariably a mistake against a quality opponent means a point or serve lost. The racquet makes the difference, which is all we handball players have been saying all along. We’ve just been a little misinformed, that’s all.

So watch out, racquetballers. I’m on to your racket, and one of these days I’ll meet you on the court—experienced, hungry and humble.

***

Tom Bisset is a Baltimore freelance writer who has been playing handball since 1960. He went to the finals in the men’s seniors division in a recent tournament at Baltimore’s Downtown Racquet Club.
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So you want to run a tournament...

Unless you have previously organized a state-wide political convention, a military invasion, or a sit-down dinner for 600, you will probably underestimate the energy you’ll need to prepare a successful racquetball tournament. A tournament can be a rewarding and exhilarating experience. But done incorrectly, it can be a disaster.

In order to help you get your tournament off on the right foot, we have prepared the following guide to the successful tournament.

By Luke St. Onge with Erik Calonius
Sanctioning usually requires little on your part and gives the tournament immediate status, along with some real help from your State Association.

To assure a well-run tournament, first decide what kind of tournament you want: open, closed, state, invitational, or some variation?

Next, set a date, making sure that no other tournaments conflict with yours (check with the State, Regional, and National headquarters).

Selecting a site is your next task. Work out an agreement with those in charge of the site, clearly defining the responsibilities of all involved. After you have determined the number of courts required, number of hours, times, hospitality, personnel, and finances, it is highly advisable to put your agreement in writing as a letter of understanding.

Now you are ready to approach the International Racquetball Association for sanctioning. Sanctioning usually requires little on your part and gives the tournament immediate status, along with some real help from your State Association. Sanctioning gives you access to score cards, draw sheets, bumper stickers, balls, and much more. Your obligation is to be sure participants are IRA members, that IRA rules are followed, that you use the "official" ball, and that you insure each player a minimum of two matches.

At this point you are ready to write and mail out your application forms. This piece of paper can make or break your tournament—so be careful to draw it up carefully. Here are some pointers:

1. Pick a good name for your tournament.
2. List all events clearly.
3. List all dates clearly.
4. Include the names of the sanctioning bodies.
5. Include the ball to be used.
6. State entry fee for one event and if you are going to allow them to play in a 2nd event, show the additional cost.
7. State consolation in all events.
8. Give entry deadline.
9. Emphasize that you require I.R.A. membership, and that you will check cards.
10. Encourage on-time entries by penalizing late entries with an extra charge (usually $10.00) if brackets will allow.
11. State clearly the address of tournament site.
12. State what placement will be awarded. If it's going to be a large open tournament, you should give awards to the first 4 places, plus consolations.
13. State where the applications are to be sent. Usually the applications are sent to the tournament director. Be careful—if you are responsible for the finances, you should not allow anyone else to handle the money.
14. Indicate when or if the draw will be announced. We recommend that the times of the events be announced rather than individual times. This will allow you the utmost in schedule flexibility—right up to registration.
15. The standard waiver of responsibility should appear on the bottom and you should indicate that it must be signed.
16. If you are including doubles, have a second place for the signing of the doubles partner.
17. Include housing if you are working with a motel or hotel. Most players want to stay where the rest of the players are staying. Usually you can get a discount on large blocks of rooms, which the motel will hold up to a certain date. You are not responsible for the rooms, and you will begin a good relationship for the future with the motel.
18. Be sure to note on the entry that all entries are final. When you make up the tournament you are depending on a certain amount of money to run it. A commitment by the entrants avoids misunderstandings when cancellations happen at the last moment. Of course, it's up to you if you want to give a refund if the circumstances warrant it.

Once you have worked up the entry blanks, you need to determine how much you will charge each applicant. The best way to reach this figure is by first listing all your expenses—leave any out, and you may find yourself in trouble. Here's a list that should help you:

1. Court time. Hopefully you will not have to pay for court time, but be sure to get the agreement in writing!
2. Souvenir shirts or shorts—$3.00 to $5.00.
3. Hospitality
   A) oranges & Gatorade—$50.00.
   B) lunch & breakfast—$1.50 per person per meal.

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C) banquet—$5.00 to $7.00 per person (prices vary from city to city).
4. Trophies—$10.00 per award.
5. Balls—1½ balls per person at $1.00 per ball—$300.00.
6. Mailing—
   A) initial mailing—1,000 applications at 15 cents each or $150.00.
   B) follow up as entries come in—200 entries at 15 cents each or $30.00.
   C) envelopes, printing, etc.—$100.00.
7. Floor manager, if you hire one—$40.00 per day, 3 or 4 days—$120.00.
8. Beer, coke, registration materials and miscellaneous items—$500.00.

Now add up all these items and divide by the number of applicants you expect. This will be a rough estimate, but if you don't get carried away with your expenses, you will be protected by the individual entries. The second event's income will be your safety money, enough to get you through your expenditures if all else fails.

Deciding on an entrance fee is tricky—remember, though, that an outrageous fee will spell trouble for your tournament; it will be resented and you and your staff could receive a great deal of criticism.

Start all your planning early enough: a good committee with enough time can get such items as shirts, balls, food and drink at sizable discounts through local people, national manufacturers, and the I.R.A.

Now we'll turn to a most important and appealing sideline: souvenirs! 90 per cent of all tournaments offer shirts that indicate the name of the tournament and its date. If you are going to give away t-shirts, make sure they are good ones. They will be your best advertising for years to come.

Many equipment manufacturers will give t-shirts at half price to tournaments promising prestige and a large turn-out. Don't be afraid to contact them.

A local athletic sportswear distributor is your best bet—but be sure to try out their product before ordering 20 dozen of them. Also, try to find a distributor who can be flexible as to the number ordered. If he can't be flexible, overorder. Nothing is worse than running out of souvenir t-shirts. Besides, the leftovers can always be sold later.

If you decide to give out shorts—watch out. Most of your entries will arrive two weeks prior to the tournament—long after the decision has been made on how many of each size to order. The other problem with shorts is that most men underestimate their waistlines!

With women you'll have a similar problem. Most tournaments neglect to plan for women's sizes. Try to find t-shirts that are tailored especially for women.

Once everything is planned, you still have to get those entries into the mail. Remember:

1. Mail most of your entries 6 weeks prior to the deadline of the entry.
2. Mail them to addresses secured from your state chairman or national headquarters. Mail them to names drawn from the YMCA, the JCC and the Court Club directories. Spread them around to every racquetball player you can think of; and don't forget to send pertinent information to newspapers, magazines, and the radio and television stations.

Once they're in the mail, don't sit back. You've only begun! For starters, write all major manufacturers and tell them about your tournament. Ask them for a tournament package in return for free advertising. You'll be surprised at the response. Also, start breaking your tournament committee into subcommittees in charge of food, trophies, etc.

As for trophies, we recommend that you give four places and one consolation. If a player makes it to the semi he should receive some form of recognition. Wall plaques have become very popular—or you may want to stick with table top trophies.

Once you have the trophies selected, you may stop just long enough to wonder why no entries are pouring into your mailbox. Don't panic! Racquetball players are a strange lot—you'll probably receive 90 per cent of your entries during the last three days of your deadline. Often players will hesitate to sign up in advance because they aren't sure they can make the tournament.

As the entries come in, you must return a piece of mail to the entrants, notifying them of the tournament agenda, division times, and registration procedure. And thank them!

When you record your entries, break down the sheet into columns by name, address, event 1, event 2, doubles partners, IRA member, paid, and owes. Record the information as each entry crosses your desk. Upon receiving each entry, mark off the information, return the entry to its envelope, and put all the envelopes into a
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Now what? Your best serve doesn’t work, and you’re losing confidence in yourself and your game altogether. But don’t give up. Adjust. Change your game to suit the situation. Many of the top amateur players today have terrific form, great speed, and phenomenal power, but they play a dumb game: they don’t adjust, and that’s why they’re not pros. The following is a series of serves that will give your game the flexibility it needs when your drive serve alone is driving you to defeat.

**The High Lab**

Stand approximately eight feet from the right side wall (if you’re a right-hander serving to a right-hander) and almost on the short line. Open the face on your racquet and strike the ball at waist height so that it hits the front wall about 12 feet high and bounces in an arc that just misses the ceiling. The ball must strike the left side wall about eight feet high. This will prevent your opponent from rushing up and taking the serve out of the air. The bounce will vary, so that it will be extremely hard to play.

![Diagram of the High Serve](image)

**The Garbage Serve**

Standing about six feet from the left side wall, strike the ball at waist height, bringing the ball slowly back past you on an angle towards the left side wall about eight feet from the back wall. Do not let this serve come off the back wall. In fact, it’s good to remember that no serve other than the overhead drive should come off the back wall. The garbage serve will come to your opponent waist high, leaving very few offensive returns. This serve takes practice: if you miss it, it will be a set up for your opponent.

![Diagram of the Garbage Serve](image)

**The Wall Paper Serve**

Standing at the doubles service box and facing the left side wall, open the face on your racquet and strike the ball with your backhand in such a way as to have the ball return along the side wall with an arc about twelve feet high. If you perfect this serve, you can keep it less than one inch from the wall all the way back. Be careful with this serve, for if not executed properly, you can hit the side wall first, resulting in a “handout.”

The above three serves are extremely effective against a power player who does not have the patience to wait for them. Your opponent will also have to provide his own power on the return. All of these serves can also be used to the right to neutralize the left-hander. You can change the angle on these serves by merely moving back and forth in the server’s box, thus changing the serve and anticipated angle.

**The Overhead Drive.**

For yet another change of pace, once you’ve lulled your opponent to sleep with these slow serves, surprise him with the overhead drive. This serve is good only once or twice per game, because it requires that very element of surprise to make it effective. Having checked out your opponent’s positioning carefully, begin the serve in the same manner as any lob or garbage serve. But this time bounce the ball high enough to strike it overhead as hard as you can so that it rebounds right at your opponent. The ball should be hit at eye level in such a manner that it flies towards the back wall but strikes the floor about one foot from the back wall. The ball will rebound—fast—towards the front wall. If you hit the overhead drive right, your opponent will never catch up to it. This serve is very effective in doubles, as well as in singles. Remember: you’ve been serving slow garbage; now your opponent sees the same serving motion but the ball comes screaming back at what looks like a thousand miles per hour. It’s quite unnerving.

All of these serves are very effective against an opponent’s forehand, as well. Most players cannot help trying to shoot the slower serves. The ball looks **sooo** good, so ready to kill, such a plum, that the temptation to shoot it becomes overwhelming and BAM!—the opponent goes for the bottom board. But think—he’ll miss more often than not. You’ll have five free points and it’ll be your opponent’s turn to stand there scratching his head.

[next time: how to return these serves.]
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Consolation: Andrea Katz, VA, over Star Corley, CA, 21-1, 21-3.

Girls 15 & Under: 1st Round: Heather Stupp, Canada, defeated Linda Fitzpatrick, ME, 21-6, 21-1; Stacy Fletcher, MI, defeated Jo Ann Staph, PA, 21-4, 21-8; Kathy Staph, PA, defeated Ellen Kurland, MN, 21-13, 21-8; Sheryl Kraus, WI, defeated Kara Bank, MI, 21-1, 21-2.

Quarter finals: Linda Hogan, MO, defeated Debbie Misterik, WA, 21-2, 21-8; Heather Stupp, Canada, defeated Stacy Fletcher, MI, 21-15, 21-20; Mona Mook, CA defeated Kathy Staph, PA, 21-7, 21-12; Sheryl Kraus, WI, defeated Kerry O'Neil, CA, 21-10, 21-5.

Semis: Linda Hogan defeated Heather Stupp 21-19, 21-8; Mona Mook defeated Sheryl Kraus 21-13, 21-16.

Finals: Linda Hogan defeated Mona Mook 21-18, 21-17.

Consolation: Ellen Kurland defeated Debbie Misterik 21-17, 21-9.

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<td><strong>NORTHERN REGION</strong></td>
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<td>Regional Commissioner Fred Vetter</td>
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**Racquetball 37**
The Ajay Racqueteers

They drive opponents right up the wall.

From our Spoiler, the largest legal racquetball racquet, down to the Vendetta, the lightest around, Ajays are murder on the court, but not on your pocketbook.

The Ajay lineup includes 10 models, 6 head shapes. And when it comes to value, they run the others off the court. See them at your sporting goods dealer or department.

Gangbusters!

THE LINEUP

SPOILER—Top gunner! Largest legal sized racquet, yet lighter than most conventional (265 grams). Oversized rectangle.

ENFORCER—Plays with authority! A light-weight (255 grams) that hits like a heavy-weight. Rectangle.

• 357—Sneaky! New angular design for low balls close to wall.

BULLET—Right on target! A new elongated teardrop sweet spot.

AVENGER—Great follow through! Comes in three colors with popular elongated rectangle shape.

EXCALIBER—Very sharp! Color-coordinated tournament nylon strings, aluminum frame in rectangular shape.

VENDETTA—Strong finisher! Lightest weight you can buy, yet a heavy hitter. Teardrop.

HUSTLER—Gets the job done! Composition rectangle frame.

CM300—Money player! Probably the best value you can buy. Teardrop.

DIGGER—Unbreakable! Great for beginners. ABS rectangle frame.
At this point you are probably thinking, "This better be worth it, after all this hassle!"

But it's too late to turn back now, so let's get ready for the tournament. First, make up an information sheet for each contestant. It should include the following information:

1. A statement of welcome.
2. A statement indicating what you expect as far as sportsmanship.
3. State how you will handle refereeing.
4. State how the hospitality will be handled.
5. State where the banquet will be held and what time it will be. If you have a banquet, I suggest that you hold a buffet style so that no special time will have to be met by the players. This will protect you if you run behind schedule.
6. Describe how you will handle consolations either by automatic entry from first match losers or by requiring them to sign up for consolations. We suggest that the consolations be 31 point games with no referees.
7. Tell the players that they must check in at least 1/2 hour prior to their scheduled matches.
8. State that each player may request linesmen if they feel it's required.
9. Introduce the floor manager.
10. State who is on the rules committee (usually 3 well known and respected players).
11. State that you only have a limited number of balls and that the referees are responsible for them.
12. State whether you will supply balls for warm up. We suggest that you don't start this practice.
13. State the number of points to which the games will be played, including the tie breaker.

Once you have a good idea of how many entries you have in each event, you are ready to set up the draw. First, rank the top players by number. Go as far as you can, and if you rank all of the players, wonderful. Next figure out what kind of draw you will need to use—32, 64, 128, or 256. If you have 17 entries you will need a draw of 32, if you have 34 entries you will need 64, and so on.

Next, arrange your top players so that they do not play each other in the early rounds. This is known as seeding. A better approach, however, is one which brackets the better players in such a way that the top 16 will meet in the quarter finals. This has the same effect as seeding, but it doesn't put the players in the accustomed place and it doesn't show seeds on the chart.

After you have placed all the big guns in brackets, go ahead and plug everyone else in. Here's something we cannot emphasize enough: Do not put people from the same town or area in the same bracket! Nothing hurts your tournament more than to have people travel hundreds of miles only to play someone from the same town in the first round.

Next, figure out the times. Usually the lower events such as C and B go first. But remember that you have already published what time the divisions are going to be played. Allow about 45 minutes for each of your first round matches and about one hour for the rounds of 64 and 32. Your first two rounds usually are run on the first day and timing is critical.

In the first rounds, you may have some lopsided matches that will wind up in 20 minutes or less. Be ready to plug in new contestants. It's at this point that a good floor manager is essential—he will be worth his weight in racquetballs.

Assign courts only to the first round. After that the entrants should move as the courts open. If you assign courts to all matches you'll really get behind. And remember—your first day is the hardest. After that, you're home free.

As tournament director, your job is to make sure that everything runs smoothly. Don't get caught doing the detail work yourself. Delegate work, and keep an overview of the tournament. Most important, enjoy yourself! You've done one heck of a job!
Groundbreaking plans are set for September for the new 33 court regional racquetball complex at the Raritan Center in Edison, New Jersey. The first stage—eleven climate controlled courts—is scheduled for end-of-September opening. This 17,000 square foot initial phase will cost $750,000 and will include a tournament exhibition court with permanent bleachers and videotape and T.V. facilities, an infant-care room, a nursery featuring a miniaturized racquetball court, a disco/bar/restaurant/juice bar complex, a supervised clinic program, an exercise complex and health spa, a coed whirlpool, a California soaking tub, a solarium, steamrooms, saunas, carpeted locker lounge rooms, a pro shop, and meeting and club rooms.

Family, Single, Student, and Corporate memberships are available. For complete information write or call Racquetball at Raritan Center, Parkway Place, Raritan Center, Edison, New Jersey.

Ground breaking ceremonies were held recently to celebrate the construction of Schoeber’s Handball, Racquetball, and Health Spa in San Jose, which will feature 14 handball courts, two racquetball courts glassed for viewers and available for tournaments, two gyms, jacuzzi, sauna, steam rooms, lounge, video area with fireplace, and health bar. The two-story, 25,000-square foot club is expected to be completed in December.

America’s fastest growing indoor sport will be introduced to Fairfield County this October with the completion of the new, ultra-modern Racquetball Spa at 500 Kings Highway Cut-Off, Fairfield, Ct. 06430.

The Racquetball Spa’s facilities will include 12 air conditioned racquetball (or handball) courts, a children’s mini-court, a professionally directed Exercise-Health Center, saunas, steam rooms, whirlpools, child-care nursery, pro shop, health bar and lounge. Spectator viewing will be afforded on all courts.

A large variety of playing programs for men, women and children of all ages will be available at the Racquetball Spa including individual and group lessons, clinics, leagues, round robins and individual exercise plans. Members will also have playing privileges at associated clubs all over America.

The Racquetball Center of Pensacola opened in early July as the only public racquetball/handball club in the greater Pensacola area.

Members and the general public have been quick to take advantage of eight regulation racquetball/handball courts, two of which have glass back walls for gallery viewing during championship play. All of the courts have hardwood floors and are completely climate controlled. Highly qualified, tournament-tested instructors are available for group or individual instruction.

The Center includes men’s and women’s locker facilities with saunas, a fully-stocked pro shop, and a lounge/snack bar area.

The Racquetball Courts of Appeal, Inc., a 13,650 square foot racquetball facility designed by Romeo Aybar of Ridgefield, N.J., will feature twelve regulation climate controlled racquetball courts, viewing lounge, pro shop, spacious men’s and women’s locker rooms with saunas, and a supervised nursery.

Sports programs will include leagues, clinics and private lessons, ladder matches, and tournaments for racquetball members. A pro shop will be stocked with the finest equipment and athletic attire. Racquetball Courts of Appeal is scheduled to open in February of 1979.

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40 Racquetball
RACQUETBALL welcomes all tournaments to report their results. Please list all rounds of each event. Scorecard will report as many rounds of each tournament as space allows.
**Scorecard**

Vicki Panzeri 21-20, 21-19; 3rd, John O'Brien.

Men's C Singles: Darrell Krause defeated Will Graham 21-16, 21-14; 3rd, Russ Bertrand.

Men's D Singles: Bret Clark defeated Jim Moras 21-17, 21-15; 3rd, Arnie Robinette defeated Satu Llamaye 21-14, 21-12.


Men's Senior Singles: Sid Williams defeated Satu Llamaye 21-14, 21-12.

Women's C Singles: Alleen Boyden defeated Kay Trepanier 19-21, 21-10, 11-7; 3rd, Brenda Putnam.


Women's Open: Vickie Emmerson over Lori Muenzeberger 21-10, 21-11.

Men's Open: Dr. Gary Gerschke over Tim Geary 17-21, 21-16, 15-9.


Men's Seniors: Jim Gager over Hank Steinmiller 21-18, 19-21, 15-6.

Men's B: Phil Mylach over Keith Nygren 21-10, 21-18, 15-6.


**WISCONSIN STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Women's Open: Vickie Emmerson over Lori Muenzeberger 21-10, 21-11.

Men's Open: Dr. Gary Gerschke over Tim Geary 17-21, 21-16, 15-9.


Men's Seniors: Jim Gager over Hank Steinmiller 21-18, 19-21, 15-6.

Men's B: Phil Mylach over Keith Nygren 21-10, 21-18, 15-6.

Consolation Matches


Men's C Singles: John Reid defeated Jim Ross 31-27.


Men's Novice Singles: Dave Pollock defeated John Fotheringham 31-17.

Women's C Singles: Penny Evich defeated Chloe Beardsley (default).

Women's D Singles: Donna Noborikawa defeated Pat Falko 31-30.

**WISCONSIN STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Women's B: Semis—Ginny Luscombe over Mary Johnston 21-15, 21-6; Mary Johnston over Celeste Horvath 21-17, 21-10; Winner—Mary Johnston over Ginny Luscombe 21-7, 21-12.

Men's B: Semis—Ted Moreau over Dick Rice 21-13, 21-10; Pete Kershwill over Andy Gutierrez 19-21, 21-4, 15-6; Winner—Pete Kershwill over Ted Moreau 21-8, 21-9.

Junior's: (consolidated age brackets): Semis—Mark O'Donnell over Dino Piscione 21-11, 18-21, 15-8; Dan Murray over Ron Roberts 21-4, 21-14; Winner—Dan Murray over Mark O'Donnell 21-16, 21-14.

Men's Masters: Semis—Jim White over Dick Kalal 15-10, 15-3; Mike Mackendon over Mike Jacob 15-8, 15-8; Winner—Jim White over Mike Mackendon 15-10, 15-7, 15-8.

Men's Seniors: Semis—Joe Carini over Brad Armstrong 17-21, 21-18, 15-4; Roger Siegrist over Bob Moriece 21-20, 21-6; Winner—Roger Siegrist over Joe Carini 20-21, 21-8, 15-14.

**FOURTH ANNUAL NORTHWEST INVITATIONAL NORTHWEST RACQUETBALL & SWIM CLUB St. Louis Park, Minnesota**

Men's Pro: Bob Adam, Edina, over Pat Page, Edina, 21-13, 21-12.


Men's B Singles: Mike Hyliden, Fergus Falls, over Jim Pratt, Winnipeg, 21-18, 21-5.

Men's Senior B Singles: Jim Willis, Excelsior, over Howard Spitzman, St. Paul, 21-9, 21-16.


Women's C Singles: Shirley Eiken, Iowa City, over Lisa Adam, Edina, 21-13, 21-10.


Men's B Doubles: Les Carl and Mike Hyliden, Fergus Falls, over Craig Stitz, Burnsville, and Dave Hart, Blaine, 15-8, 15-7.

Master Singles: Bob McNamara, Minn., over Ralph Stillman, Minn.

Men's Senior Singles: Larry Kinney, Minn., over Evered Eiken, Iowa City.


**INTERSERVICE RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

US Military Academy West Point, New York

Men's Singles Open: Ron York, USA-Kansas City, MO, over Dan Giordano, USAF-Bedford, MA 1508, 15-7; 3rd, R. Ellis, USAF; consolation, V. Ditto, USA.


Men's B: Carey Mendelson, FT Bragg, NC, over Fernando Avalos, Quantico, VA; 3rd, D. Smith; consolation, G. Harben.

Men's C: Roger Hohn, USAF-Plattsburgh, NY, over Bill Peters, USA-Norwood, NY; 3rd, F. Snow, USMC; consolation, R. Samsone, USA.

Seniors: Bob Stauffer, USA-West Point, NY, over Pete Talbot, USAF; 3rd, Glenn Allen USN; consolation, B. Ditto, USA.

Masters: Chuck Lake, USA-Virginia Beach, VA, over John Leoper, USNR-Boston, MA; consolation, B. Ditto, USAF.

Doublies: Herben-Smith and Avalos-Snow.

Quarter Finals: Davis-Sobel defeated Beckham-Tattersall 21-11, 21-6, Fox-Hludt defeated Cartee-Marsh 21-20, 21-18; Pittman-Sipes defeated Morgan-Schmidt 21-10, 21-13; Abrams-Clifford defeated Fox-Gynn 21-17, 21-12.


Finals: Abrams-Clifford defeated Fox-Hludt 21-16, 21-12; Sobie-Davis defeated Pittman-Sipes 21-16, 21-18 for third place.

Women's Open Singles: First Round: Elizabeth Pugh defeated Sue Sanz; Sally Forristall defeated Chris Fischer; Berence Friedberg defeated Joan Trenchard; Linda Shalkhauser defeated Cynthia McKenzie; Nancy Andrew defeated Marcia Landerfer; Nancy Nichols defeated Bobbie Joycox.

Second Round: Dana Cornblath defeated Elizabeth Pugh; Cheryl Maxwell defeated Cindy Constantinoff; Bohm Bricker defeated Joyce Thorn; Danielle Morgan defeated Diane Hickman; Jan Heifich defeated Sally Forristall; Barbara Bordner defeated Kathy Banton; Suzie Reitler defeated Sandra Korelewski; Joan Dorkott defeated Rita Cellura; Jan Kieger defeated Nancy Andrew; Cookie Wachtel defeated Connie Conibear; Elaine Robinson defeated Pat Westmark; Susan Allshure defeated Kathy Bell.

Third Round: Cornblath defeated Maxwell; Morgan defeated Bricker; Heflich defeated Bordner; Armstrong defeated Reitler; Mophore defeated Drabik; Dorkott defeated Kieger; Wachtel defeated Robinson; Martin defeated Allshure.

Quarter Finals: Cornblath defeated Armstrong 21-13, 21-13; Mophore defeated Wachtel 21-17, 21-16.

Semi Finals: Cornblath defeated Mophore 21-13, 21-12; Wachtel defeated Armstrong 15-21, 21-18, 11-4 for third place.

Women's Open Doubles: First Round: Maxxell-Forristall defeated Missel-Pratt; Missel-Pratt defeated Kreiger-Ganin; Conibear-Vantrase defeated Zuccarelli-Dolgin; Martin Stein defeated Constantinoff-Bell.

Second Round: Davis-Sobel defeated Berry-Walters; Beckham-Tattersall defeated Wadas-Payne; Carson-Williams defeated Redden-Mollina; Cartee-Marsh defeated Amaddio-Bricker; Stone-LaCerf defeated Morris-Kosier; Kessinger-Haering defeated Korelaj-Norwad; Grimes-Lumm defeated Carlson-Root; Schmidt-Morgan defeated Salsie-Blair; Fox-Gynn defeated Bowles-Rohrs; Vantrase-Warley defeated Young-Curry; Kronon-Kince defeated Constantinoff-Phleghar.

Third Round: Davis-Sobel defeated Berry-Walters; Beckham-Tattersall defeated Wadas-Payne; Carson-Williams defeated Redden-Mollina; Cartee-Marsh defeated Amaddio-Bricker; Stone-LaCerf defeated Morris-Kosier; Kessinger-Haering defeated Korelaj-Norwad; Grimes-Lumm defeated Carlson-Root; Schmidt-Morgan defeated Salsie-Blair; Fox-Gynn defeated Bowles-Rohrs; Vantrase-Warley defeated Young-Curry; Kronon-Kince defeated Constantinoff-Phleghar.

Quarter Finals: Wachtel-Robinson defeated Maxwell-Forristall 21-4, 21-6; Hickman-Helrich defeated Morgan-Pittman 16-21, 21-12, 11-5; Dorkott-Bordner defeated Conibear-Vantrase 21-4, 21-4; Bricker-Mophore defeated Martin-Stern 21-16, 21-16.


Quarter Finals: Wachtel-Robinson defeated Bricker-Mophore 21-20, 21-10, 11-8; Dorkott-Bordner defeated Hickman-Helrich (default) for third place.

Men's Open Singles: First Round: John Lewis defeated Jack Kendrick; Jim Knickerbocker defeated Tom Murphy; Joe Williams defeated John Summa; Bill Carson defeated Jim Bribble; N. Chapman defeated Richard Berry; Al Brent defeated Tim Ahern; Steve Schade defeated Don Dore; David Yannucci defeated Randy Morningstar; Gary Hurd defeated Jon Korela; George Gerken defeated M. Cognag; Frank Greenfield defeated David Bricker; Tim Geyer defeated Bill Salljava; Barry Hart defeated David Kravotz; Rick Rienstienst defeated Todd Hyde; B. Young defeated Lance Engle; Kim Hyde defeated J. Reilly; Jim Currie defeated Steve Rubini; Richal Koslosky defeated C. Meadows; Scott Pollen defeated Ted Yannucci; Ron Fox defeated David Wadas; Bill Weinig defeated Dan Stewert; Brian Kosier defeated Kevin Garrison; Chuck Sternmetz defeated Ed Staskus; Lance Walery defeated A. Neagro; Greg Amadato defeated Chuck Thompson; Mark Rose defeated Pantelis; Tom Constant defeated Bill Kludng; Matti Lavikka defeated Gary Bordner; Ron Yannucci defeated Greg Garrison.

Quarter Finals: Quindlen defeated Schade; Rienstienst defeated Grimes; Kosler defeated Curry; Lavikka defeated Amadio.

Semi Finals: Quindlen defeated Rienstienst 21-7, 21-12; Kosler defeated Lavikka 21-20, 21-8.

Finals Quindlen defeated Kosler 21-3, 21-7; Rienstienst defeated Lavikka (default) for third place.

Men's Senior Singles: First Round: Pete Constantinoff defeated Rowland Phillips; Dennis Boatman defeated Paul Shields; Horst Schmidt defeated John Drake; Don Schiefer defeated Ken Morris; Don Sanz defeated Robert Schmidt; Brown Vantrase defeated Rom Surrell; Kim Brooks defeated Mike Thomas; Bob Wachtel defeated Paul Sprung; Emilio Ferrario defeated Bob Bradley; Pete Keiser defeated Richard Kats; Peter Constantino defeated J. Debosey; Stan Comstock defeated Brent Lewis.

Second Round: Marsh defeated P. Constantinoff; Horst Schmidt defeated Dennis Boatman; Don Schiefer defeated Don Sanz; Tom Scriba defeated Brown Vantrase; Reed Gunselman defeated Keith Brooks; Emilio Ferrario defeated Bob Wachtel; P. Keiser defeated Tom Hickman; Rod McKinley defeated Stan Comstock.

Quarter Finals: Horst Schmidt defeated J. Marsh 21-16, 16-21; Don Schiefer defeated Tom Perna 21-4, 21-11; Reed Gunselman defeated Emilio Ferrario 21-14, 21-14; Rod McKinley defeated P. Keiser 21-12, 21-20.
Another National Championship is being played on a Sports Unlimited Court System*

Sports Unlimited is honored that the IRA has chosen to play the IRA National Doubles Championships at Capital Courts in Sterling, Virginia. Capital Courts, a fine facility, features the Sports Unlimited Panel, the nearest thing to a perfect playing surface. Congratulations to Capital Courts and good luck to all competing in the IRA National Doubles.

*1976 IRA Championships - University of Tennessee at Chattanooga 1977 USHA National Handball Championships, Town and Country, St. Louis, Mo. 1978 IRA National Doubles Championships, Capital Courts, Sterling, Virginia

(Romark Industries Inc. is the exclusive distributor for the Sports Unlimited panel on the East Coast. Please write: 1619 Underwood Blvd., Unit #4, Delran, New Jersey 08075)
Wisconsin State Director Thomas J. Radai, Jr. is a born performer. Tom’s childhood love affair with the theater led him to pursue a degree in Radio-Television Broadcasting (in addition to Biology) at the University of Wisconsin where he graduated with honors in 1976. Tom hopes eventually to broadcast the exciting action of racquetball tournaments over television.

For this, Tom is well qualified. For the last five years he has taught racquetball at LeClub of River Hills, Wisconsin, giving instruction to over 1,000 students. Add this to his experience as a television cameraman, announcer and director, and you have considerable talent. Tom hopes to market this combination soon.

Tom has also involved himself in the business end of the music world. As president of Blues Management, Tom manages and promotes several Blues recording acts, booking their tours through the United States, Canada, and Europe. In addition, he writes occasionally for an internationally-distributed Blues and Jazz magazine. And in the future, he plans to produce a series of recordings on Chicago blues acts for a British recording firm.

Presently Tom is employed by the Milwaukee Area Technical College as a manager of an audio-video teaching lab. His hobbies include taking flying lessons, collecting Jazz and Blues records—and, of course, playing racquetball.
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PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION FORUM

How are rule changes made in the I.R.A.?
Any proposed rule changes are brought to the Board of Directors through the National Rules Commissioner, who is the Chairperson of the Rules Committee. The Commissioner presents the changes and the changes are made when adopted by a simple majority of the vote of the board.

Has it always been this way?
No. Until the May 1978 board meeting, the National Rules Commissioner could make any change he desired without board approval.

Why doesn't the I.R.A. have doubles at its National Singles Tournament?
The I.R.A. feels that Doubles is just as exciting and important as Singles. By holding the National Doubles separately, we can focus our entire energy on the particular event that is being run.

Due to the large fields in tournaments today, do you see the I.R.A. limiting players in certain divisions?
We hope not. This year we tried an experiment by restricting competition to one event, thus allowing many more to compete than could have, allowing participation in two events.

I've never played on a glass wall court before. Any suggestions when I do?
One of the most important exercises during warm up is to hit the ball directly into the glass. Hit the ball similar to the “pepper game” in baseball. By hitting the ball in fast repetition directly against the glass, you will find that your eyes will adjust much faster than if you merely hit the front wall. Be patient and don’t get frustrated when you begin play. Let your mind learn and adjust. If you get upset, you’ll never learn.

Is the I.R.A. doing anything about the referee situation?
Yes, we hope that by this time next year we will have a specialized cadre of certified referees that can be used in any major tournament. We will probably plan to have the same type of certification that can be gotten through A.P.R.O. The National Doubles this year will have the first all professional referees, thus releasing the referee burden from the players. We feel a player should not be penalized for winning.

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Answers from Quiz on page 23
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At the recent Men's and Women's National Racquetball Championships in Belleville, Michigan many top players were wearing adidas three stripe shoes and textiles. That's because professionals like Charlie Brumfield and Marty Hogan know that adidas offers new standards in style, quality and performance. So if you're looking for a winner you'll find it with adidas.
What's the best racquet in the game? Which racquet is recommended most? In an August 1977 survey by Western Union, court managers, pros, and racquet buyers at over 200 court facilities nationwide picked Ektelon by more than two to one.

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*Research results available from Ektelon.