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AMF Voit introduces the Pacer. At close to $100, the price tag is not expensive. The racquet is.

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They reduce vibrations from the strings. So the racquet feels extraordinarily smooth in your hand.

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Santa Ana, California 92704

THE NEW PACER
CONTENTS

Features

17  Staging A Tournament
    The Agony and the Ecstasy
    ● Tom McDonough

22  Junior Achievement
    1980 AARA National
    Junior Championships
    ● D.C. Lantz

29  Fall Instruction Bonanza
    Step by Step
    ● Terry Fancher
    Drive Home Your Point
    ● Sarah Green
    Tournament Tough
    ● Mike Yellen
    Intermediate Success
    ● Allen Ascher

Departments

6  Receiving Line
    Letters to the Editor

8  New Directions
    Junior Success

9  Industry News
    People and Equipment

11  Short Lines
    News Round-Up

12  Pro Page
    News from the Front

14  National Doubles
    Application

24  Calendar
    Upcoming Tournaments

29  First Service
    Court Club Openings

40  The Lucky Winners
    AARA Sweepstakes
    Announcement

42  Scorecard
    Tournament Results

45  Cover: Illustration by Mike Coulson

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Letters
To The Editor

On behalf of the Memphis Area Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation, I want to thank the American Amateur Racquetball Association for the generous support we received during our first annual hemophilia racquetball tournament.

Our tournament was a resounding success. Participants from all over the Mid-South enjoyed well-organized matches, spectators were treated to outstanding play and the foundation greatly benefited from the proceeds.

A special thanks is extended to Luke St. Onge and Hallie Singer, who contributed their time and talents. With their help, so many of our plans were formulated, questions were answered, and problems solved.

We anticipate continued success next year.

Rae Nell McDonald
President, Memphis Area Chapter National Hemophilia Foundation
Memphis, Tenn.

Thank you for running a great tournament, as always. Without you I never would have made it through the Nationals. Thank you again and I hope to see you next year.

Tammy Woods
St. Louis, Missouri

Well, the AARA has done it again! Congratulations to Luke, Hallie, Ed Martin, his staff and friends, and all the great staff and owners of the Kangaroo Courts IV in Redding, Calif., for providing a fantastic Junior Nationals this year. I know that most people have never been involved in staging a tournament (Kanas and Canada pronunciation), let alone one of this magnitude. They do not realize the time and effort required to make one run half as smoothly as this one did. This is where racquetball becomes a team sport. Believe me, this was an all star team!

Speaking of having tournaments, those who were at the banquet Saturday night July 12, in Redding, know that the Supreme Courts of Wichita are privileged with the honor of hosting the 1981 Junior Nationals. What an honor, and are we excited about it! We've already got the plans in motion. We want 1981 to be as good as 1980 and it's going to take everyone's help and ideas. After all, you juniors, this is your event. So if you have an idea or suggestion for change or betterment of your tournament, let me know. Write to me at the address below. Let's all work for one thing in 1981, that being the promotion of junior racquetball. After all, if you and I don't work at it, who will? Take a friend to court with you! Then get them to go to the Nationals with you. See ya all in Wichita in April.

Dewane Grimes
Midwest Regional Director
c/o Supreme Court West
3725 W. 13
Wichita, Kansas 67203

What separates greatness from mediocrity is the desire for excellence. The Ektelon/AARA Junior Nationals was truly an example of your ability to take a tournament and create an exceptional occasion that will be remembered by all the children and adults who attended.

When I talked to you over a year ago, you had a vision for our juniors. You said it would be done! Now, I must agree with you. Your dedication, your commitment to junior racquetball was certainly the energy source that organized and carried out a superb tournament for all our young people. The trophies, the club, the parents, the banquet – every aspect of this noteworthy competition was conducted in the spirit that the growth of racquetball lies in the sportsmanship tradition we bequeath to our younger players. Your development of junior racquetball in Redding, based on the honor and integrity that athletes must uphold, was an inspiration to all of those who attended the Ektelon/AARA Junior Nationals.

I thank you for the magnificent job that you and your people did. I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to be part of the decision-making body affecting junior racquetball. And I applaud you for your courage in faithfully showing young athletes that the real winner of a game is the person who continually performs with the attitude of good sportsmanship.

There is no doubt that the direction racquetball will take in the future is predicated on the integrity that is established today. You did a marvelous job, Ed [Martin]!

Nancy Martin
San Diego, California

Racquetball welcomes correspondence from its readers. Letters are subject to editing for clarity and length.
It's your competition you're supposed to run into the ground. Not your shoes.

So, get into a pair of Tuffs.

Tuffs are put together so they won't fall apart under all that twisting, darting, plunging and lunging. For openers, Tuffs have high-traction gum rubber soles that are all but bulletproof.

And stitching. No other racquetball shoe has anywhere near as much. 3 rows of it in the toe alone.

Plus, the uppers and lowers are stitched together - as well as cemented - all the way around.

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And now there are three new ways to get tough on the court. Whether it's racquetball, handball, squash or any other wood surface sport. A new hi-top Tuffs for extra support. A new leather Tuffs. And a wicked new nylon and suede style that's white and red and tough all over.

All three are available at quality shops now. Get a pair. Then go tear up the courts. Without tearing up your shoes.
You do not have to be born with epilepsy. It can result from many causes . . . viral encephalitis, meningitis, measles, high fevers, poisons, or serious head injuries.

Epilepsy.
It's not what you think.

NEW DIRECTIONS

Dear Members,

Over two years ago the AARA Board of Directors saw a compelling need to change the direction of the Association from the control of manufacturers and special interest groups to control by its membership and the grass roots player, for whom the Association was founded. Granted, the democratic process is cumbersome and awkward at times, but for the preservation of our membership having a say in its own future, no other system can approach it.

Nothing can bear out this premise more than the involvement and action taken by the Junior Council during the 1980 Ektelon/AARA National Juniors Championships. Six of the nine Junior Regional Commissioners met in Redding, Calif., during a two-day session to formulate and direct the junior development of racquetball for the coming year. These six commissioners, under the able guidance of Junior National Commissioner, Ed Martin, paid their own way and expenses to participate in this historical meeting. Commissioners came from as far away as New York, Delaware and Florida. The major decisions made at this meeting follow:

1. Changed the National Junior dates from mid-July to Easter week; effective 1981.
2. Awarded the Nationals to Wichita, Kansas, under the able leadership of Dewane Grimes.
3. Agreed to review the scoring for juniors and to make recommendations for changes to the AARA Board meeting in October.
4. Make a united effort to seek sponsoring of junior programs from major manufacturers with special emphasis on clinics and camps.

The future of the game of racquetball is in junior development. Your Junior Council is the pioneer in this effort and they deserve your total and loyal support.

Regards,

Luke St. Onge
Executive Director
**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**First Rate**

Biometrics, Inc., of Minneapolis, Minn., has introduced a miniature computer especially for the athlete. It’s called the Genesis Exercise Computer and, according to Biometrics, will accurately monitor your pulse rate while you exercise. The Genesis Exercise computer can be programmed with your upper and lower pulse rate limits. It will alert you when you exceed or drop below these limits. It will also record how long you exercise within your training zone and how long it takes your pulse rate to recover following a workout. Not only that, but the Genesis doubles as a quartz watch and a metronome—all that, and you can strap it on your wrist.

For further information, contact Biometrics, Inc., 705 Country Road 18 North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

**Port-A-Court**

Question: What’s 20 x 20 x 40, has hardwood (beech) floors, a ceiling, four walls and can be moved? Answer: The Racqueton racquetball court.

This new, movable racquetball court is designed and built by Module Mobile, Inc., of Atlanta, Ga. According to the manufacturers, the new Racqueton “can be installed and ready for play within six weeks of order.” Furthermore, the company points out, since the Racqueton is relocatable equipment it can be taxed as personal property—not as real estate.

As the Racqueton design is flexible, it enables the company to offer single or multiple units, an optional clubhouse, office, lounge and various other facilities to fit specific needs. In fact, Module Mobile says they can convert an existing structure into a racquetball court, using the Racqueton system.

Further news from Module Mobile indicates that coin-operated Racqueton courts are presently being designed and built for use in Tennessee. The courts will be available on a 24 hour basis with a vending machine type operation. Well, as the saying goes, you pays your money...

For further information on Module Mobile’s Racqueton, contact David Bernstein, President, Module Mobile, Inc., Suite 210, Tower Place, 3340 Peachtree Rd. N.E., Atlanta, Ga., 30329; or call 404-237-5221.

**Racquetball Gunslingers**

How fast can you hit a racquetball? Some people would just love to know—and now they can. With the new Sports Radar gun from Midex, not only can you claim you hit the ball 150 mph, you can prove it.

Don Kessinger, the former pro baseball player who now owns three racquetball court clubs and a baseball camp, is promoting the new gun by Midex. According to Kessinger, who’s used such guns in his baseball camp, the Sports Radar is just as accurate and easy to use as similar products which cost up to three times as much.

The Sports Radar will clock speeds between 20 and 150 mph. It weighs only 38.4 ounces and is battery operated. It comes with a 90-day limited guarantee and instructions for use. The Sports Radar can be used for racquetball, tennis, baseball, golf and other sports. The cost is $189.95 plus $3.50 for postage and handling.

Kessinger notes, however, the gun is not recommended for courts where a glass wall is not available. In order to achieve the most accurate reading, the path of the moving object (in this case a racquetball) must cross the center axis of the radar beam. The Midex Sports Radar gun sends out a “beam” which is approximately 50 feet long and 20 feet wide. Since the reading is more accurate when one hits close to the center of the beam, the Sports Radar works best for racquetball when one person holds it on the outside of a glass wall while the shooter aims his shots directly at the gun.

For further information contact Sport Products International, 5545 Murray, Suite 101, Memphis, Tenn., 38117; or call 901-685-0113.

**Moving Up**

Ashaway Line and Twine Mfg. Co., a manufacturer of synthetic strings for all racquet sports, fishing lines and related cord products, recently elected Pamela A. Crandall president of the board of directors. Ms. Crandall succeeds Julian T. Crandall, her father-in-law, who has moved to the position of chairman of the board.

A resident of Westerly, R.I., and a graduate of Connecticut College, Ms. Crandall serves as secretary of the board of trustees and chairman of the personnel and salary committee of the Westerly Hospital board. She is a director of the Industrial National Bank in Providence and the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council. Ms. Crandall holds memberships in the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association and the National Sporting Goods Association.

The Ashaway company is located in Ashaway, R.I., and was founded by Captain Lester Crandall in 1824.

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Descriptions of new products are as according to information provided by the manufacturer; products have not been tested by Racquetball magazine.
Pressurized! For power to kill! Rugged Gold Label Red, bright Gold Label Blue. Built with exclusive Vittert technology and quality control to make them the fastest, most consistent balls power players can play.

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Choose the Vittert ball and racquet that are built for you. At your club or sporting goods department.
Racquetball Abroad

It seems racquetball is gaining in popularity in Europe. This past June, Racketcenter Westvliet, in the Netherlands, held the first racquetball clinic on a non-military base court outside the North American continent, according to Han van der Heijden, president of the Netherlands Racquetball Association. Teachers of the clinic were Melvin Kincaid, from the military base of Ramstein in Germany, and Mike Tipton, who came from the military base of Pirna in Germany. According to Han van der Heijden, the weekend clinic was quite a success.

The Racketcenter Westvliet, where the clinic was held, is rather an impressive facility. It is located in The Hague. The club has 12 tennis courts, three squash courts with glass back walls and two racquetball courts. Since racquetball is a relatively new sport to the local people, the Racketcenter's promotional brochure explains something about the game. After a brief explanation of the game of squash, the following is said about racquetball: "Racquetball is an American version of squash and its rules are even simpler. Racquets and balls are a little larger than the squash racquets and balls. Racquetball, too, is a very good way of bringing or keeping your physical condition to a certain level." (Well, close enough.)

The club opened October 1, 1978, and at that time was the only non-military racquetball court in Europe. In September of last year a second club opened in Zwijndrecht (near Rotterdam) with four back glass wall courts. In December of that year the club hosted the 1st Dutch Open Racquetball Championships. This past April the club organized the 2nd Dutch Open Racquetball Championships, and from these past successes it seems racquetball has certainly taken hold in this area.

The Championships also drew visitors from Germany and Belgium, both representatives with plans to build court clubs in their own countries.

Next month the Netherlands Racquetball Association will exhibit at the "Sportkamon" (a sporting goods show) in Utrecht, Holland, in order to promote the sport of racquetball to builders, investors and anyone else interested in building sports facilities.

The Netherlands Racquetball Association is a member of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation, and the European Racquetball Federation.

Tournament History

Luke St. Onge, executive director of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA) recently announced that plans for the first Cystic Fibrosis Grand Slam of Racquetball – the largest qualifying tournament in racquetball history – were finalized. More than 27 qualifying tournaments will be held simultaneously in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Idaho and Hawaii during the months of October and December, 1980 and February of 1981. The qualifying events are preliminaries to Regionals and Finals to be held in June of 1981.

“This is the biggest thing to hit racquetball in years,” Keith Calkins, president of the AARA, said. “Finally we have a tournament that gives every player, no matter what their ability level, a chance to advance to a classy finals and compete with others from all over the West.”

Major sponsor underwriting has been donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation from AMF Head, Nike and Blite Weinhardt to cover the tournament costs so that almost all of the entry fee goes to that charity. “Cystic Fibrosis is the number one genetic killer of children in the U.S.,” Calkins explained. “The Foundation’s partnership with the AARA is the best combination to finally start the ball rolling toward a true National Amateur Qualifying tournament of racquetball.”

Entrants will pay a $25 fee for the first qualifying event; if they place 1st, 2nd or 3rd in any category they will advance to the Regionals. Regional winners will go to the Finals as the guests of Cystic Fibrosis. Prizes will be awarded on the local, Regional and Final levels.

The tournament will also qualify in the AARA national point ranking system, and every tournament participant will automatically become a member of the AARA. “This is a great step for the AARA,” Calkins concluded, “and Cystic Fibrosis is an extremely worthy charity.”

Never On A Sunday

The hospital for Joint Diseases Orthopaedic Institute, located at 17th St. and 2nd Ave., New York, N.Y., has reorganized its Sports Medicine Service. As reported by the Hospital, the Sports Medicine Service will now make a "total commitment to total care."

The new Chief, Kim W. Sloan, M.D., is responsible for the care of the New York Giants and New Jersey Nets. There will be five other attending physicians on the service with Dr. Sloan.

The new service will treat acute and chronic sports injuries five days a week: Mondays from 9 to 11 a.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. Anyone seeking treatment will have available the facilities of the hospital, including orthopaedists trained to care for sports injuries, therapists, rehabilitation specialists and exercise physiologists.

For more information about the new Sports Medicine Service, call 212-561-2294, 212-561-2295 or 212-561-2808.
First Women’s Nationals

Heather McKay, a 38-year-old Australian-born professional squash instructor from Toronto, Canada, literally ran out of her shoes on her way to the first National Championship of the Women’s Professional Racquetball Association.

But by the time McKay’s shoe flew off her right foot during the 18th point of the second game of the championship finals, the match was all but over.

McKay had just raked up 10 unanswered points and had turned an early 6-6 tie into a 16-6 lead that demoralized her emotional opponent, perennial women’s pro racquetball champion Shannon Wright, of Las Vegas, Nev.

And unlike the first game, when Wright’s emotional approach to racquetball competition helped her rally from an early 5-14 deficit to a 14-14 tie and even an eventual 18-15 lead, emotion proved to be Wright’s undoing in the end.

Wright started pressing too hard during McKay’s second-game hot streak and began making both uncharacteristic and costly mistakes.

McKay’s last five points were made by flawless execution of passing shots and kills. But it was a shattered Wright’s six errors during three of McKay’s last six points that repeatedly ended Wright’s scoring opportunities. Wright lost serve because of four skips, one fall and an avoidable hinder call.

McKay’s forehand kill to the right front corner for the 21st and match point was both fast and a coup de grace. McKay uncharacteristically jumped for joy as she assumed supremacy of the women’s pro racquetball tour, a mere 1½ years after both taking up the sport and foregoing a 20-year career in competitive squash in which she lost only two matches and won everything there is to win.

McKay, who has a mature, almost aristocratic bearing on court, did what she said she would do to Wright if they met in the tournament’s championship finals.

“My game plan was to go up and down the lines,” McKay said after her 21-18, 21-10 championship victory. “And I kept her running so she couldn’t set up and use her power game.”

The WPRA National Championship victory was McKay’s second win over Wright within a month. The squash instructor and former two-time Australian field hockey player who was made member of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in 1969 for her service to sports, thrashed Wright 21-14, 21-7 in only their second meeting.

That was in the championship final of the All Sport Pro-Am in Fishkill, N.Y., the last women’s pro tour stop before the Women’s Nationals.

“I played better at Fishkill,” McKay said after the championship match in Bloomingdale. “But I was not surprised that I won the first game here. However, I was surprised the second game was so easy.”

Lynn Adams, the perennial champion’s close friend and doubles partner, advised Wright between games that she was not playing her game.”

“Shannon’s game is shooting and she is not taking her shots,” Adams said. “If Shannon would calm down, she would play better in the second game.”

Wright’s brother, Pat Sweeney, agreed. “Shannon was playing defense in the first game and she was afraid to take her shots,” he said.

When asked whether or not her WPRA National Championship victory marked major change at the top of women’s professional racquetball, McKay simply-but-enthusiastically said, “I hope it does.

“I think I can stay on top for three years,” the gracious-but-direct new champion said. “But I’ll play it by ear after that.”

However, McKay prudently cautioned that Wright is too young and experienced to be counted out of title contention.

In other tournament-related news, the WPRA presented the first annual Steiding Cup to WPRA touring pro Peggy Steiding at the tournament’s banquet at Villa Olivia Country Club, Bartlett.

Named in honor of the Odessa, Texas, racquetballer who won 14 national championships in an amazing four-year period between 1973 and 1977, the Steiding Cup was presented to the person who has made the greatest contribution to racquetball throughout the history of the sport.

The Steiding Cup will be presented by the WPRA on an annual basis at the end of each season to the WPRA member who made the greatest contribution to racquetball during that season.

And WPRA President Janell Marriott won the first annual Racquetball Woman Of The Year award sponsored by the Universal Court Clubs of Long Island, N.Y.

It was presented at the tournament banquet by Ellen Schuerger, assistant manager and women’s director of the chain’s Centre Court Club, to Marriott for her efforts to bring women’s professional racquetball to the nation’s attention.

The award, which is not necessarily based on playing ability but instead primarily emphasizes sportsmanship and player respect both on and off the court, will be presented on an annual basis at the women’s nationals to a WPRA member who is nominated by her peers and is selected by the vote of her peers, Schuerger and Jim Farrell, vice president-general manager of the Universal Court Clubs.
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Call Collect
(714) 449-9554
Welcome to New England!

Playoff III, Racquetball/Handball Club of Needham, Mass., has been named site of the 1980 AARA National Doubles Championships. Playoff III is one of several luxurious racquetball and handball facilities owned by LMV Leisure Time, Inc. of Waltham, Mass. Playoff’s first club opened in the fall of 1977 in Braintree, Mass. Playoff Racquetball/Handball Clubs are also located in Beverly, Mass., Warwick, R.I., East Providence, R.I., and Newport, R.I. LMV Leisure Time, Inc., is also building a club in East Hartford, Conn., and in Waltham, Mass. All Playoff Clubs are similar to the Needham Club. Comforts are stressed as the club amenities include ample parking space, 14 lively courts, large locker rooms, steam and saunas, a Roman bath, a fully equipped exercise area and indoor running track, a full service food and juice bar—combined with a mellow color scheme. Playoff staff members would be the first to tell you that they are part of the finest facilities in the Northeast United States.

LMV Leisure Time, Inc., is considering expansion in the Midwestern and the Southwestern parts of the United States, and company representatives have already visited sites in these areas. Discussions are under way with a developer in Europe, where LMV officers recently visited. The founders of LMV include Dr. Bill Lenkaitis, George Matthews and Randy Vataha. The business activities of LMV which employs over 150 people, are conducted by the officers of the corporation. They include:

- William E. Lenkaitis, Chairman of the Board - Director
- Randle E. Vataha, President - Director
- George J. Matthews, Treasurer - Director
- Paul Gullicksen, Vice President - Finance
- Thomas Mellor, General Manager
- William D. Abbott, Vice President
- Allen Misip, Director of Services

The 1980 National Doubles will allow, for the first time, players throughout the country to sample New England hospitality. The Massachusetts Racquetball Association, in conjunction with the AARA, has dedicated itself to making this tournament the finest ever held. The Boston area proves an ideal site for a national tournament. As well as enjoying a superior facility, many exciting and interesting sites await the visitor. Within a short driving radius of Playoff III, such historic areas as Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, and even Plymouth Plantation, can be reached. Playoff is also only a short 15 minute drive to Boston proper, where the tournament participant can enjoy such sites as Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market Place and Boston Harbor. To the southeast lies Cape Cod, with its many fine beaches and tourist attractions. The 1980 National Doubles is sure to be the most exciting national event ever to be held by the AARA.

Paul Henrickson
Regional Commissioner
Northeast Region

Places to see and visit:

- Boston Aquarium
- Lexington and Concord
- Boston Harbor Cruises
- Quincy Market Place and Faneuil Hall
- Bunker Hill Monument
- Freedom Trail
- Prudential Tower Skywalk
- Cape Cod
- Plymouth Plantation (site of Plymouth Rock)
- "Old Ironsides" (USS Constitution)
- Boston Tea Party Museum
- Boston Science Museum
- Boston Childrens Museum
American Amateur Racquetball Association's
NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

OCTOBER 16—19, 1980

SITE:
The Playoff Club; 144 Gould Street; Needham, Massachusetts 02194. Phone 617-444-8510.

ENTRY FEE:
$25.00 1st event; $10.00 2nd event - per player.

ENTRY DEADLINE:
Postmarked October 10, 1980. ALL ENTRIES FINAL. Positively no applications will be accepted after this date.

PLAY BEGINS:
October 16, 1980 at 8:00 a.m.

MAIL ALL ENTRIES AND CHECKS TO:
AARA National Doubles Championships; 5545 Murray Ave.; Suite 202; Memphis, TN 38117

HOUSING:
Park Tower Motel; 100 Cabot St.; Needham, MA 02194. Phone 617-444-8900.
Make reservations, transportation to and from airport, travel arrangements — by calling Joyce Pepka COLLECT at 617-753-3508, Ciccarelli Travel Service.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:
Luke St. Ong, Executive Director AARA; 5545 Murray Ave.; Suite 202; Memphis, TN 38117. Phone 901-761-1172.

RULES:
AARA Official rules will apply. Only amateurs may participate. AARA rules state the definition of an amateur racquetball player as anyone who has not received money (any amount) in a professionally sanctioned event (IPRO, NRC, WPRA, NARP) for one year. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE PREPARED TO SHOW CURRENT AARA MEMBERSHIP CARD or purchase membership at the time of registration.

OFFICIAL BALL:
AMF Voit Rollout Bleu

AWARDS:
Given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and Consolation. For seeding purposes please send record of past accomplishments.

NOTE
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MEN'S
( )Open
( )B
( )Senior 30-34
( )Senior 35-39
( )Senior 40-44
( )Masters 45-49
( )Masters 50-54
( )Golden Masters 55 and over
( )Golden Masters 60 and over
( )Golden Masters 65 and over

WOMEN'S
( )Open
( )B
( )Senior 30-34
( )Senior 35-39
( )Senior 40-44
( )Masters 45-49
( )Masters 50-54
( )Golden Masters 55 and over
( )Golden Masters 60 and over
( )Golden Masters 65 and over

PLEASE PRINT
EVENT ENTERED ____________________________
2ND EVENT ENTERED ____________________________

NAME _________________________________

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Marin Racquetball Club 4384 Bel Marin Keys Blvd. Novato, CA 94947 wr, mir, ws, ms, wmr, r, b, ps, er, n
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For more information on how to list a court club on this page, call Kettle at 901-345-8000.
Staging A Tournament

BEHIND THE SCENES
WITH TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS
BY TOM McDONOUGH

Scene 1: Curtain up, stage dark. Enter lone racquetball player carrying gear. Spotlight on player. Back to audience, player takes center stage. Lights come up gradually, revealing clusters of other characters on stage. As lights gradually brighten in different areas, one scene follows another in rapid succession, characters coming alive as light hits them. There are children chasing each other through the lounge (setting is a racquetball club), referee and players disputing a call, raised voices of players in line for food, others milling about asking for towels, lockers, t-shirts, practice balls, directions to courts, etc. Movement picks up until lights flood stage noise of conversations reaches level of incomprehensible din, balls are flying out of courts, lots of movement too much action to take it all in. Player in center stage moves head slowly from left to right, as if to survey the total scene, hands go limp, he drops gear; lights out.

At first, a racquetball tournament may indeed resemble a stage set for confusion. The unsuspecting racquetballer who enters the scene for the first time may hover on the brink of panic if it appears there is no one in charge, as it often does. Even the most familiar tournament participant may not be aware of what goes on behind the scenes, just who it is backstage that makes it all possible and just what "making it all possible" entails.

The number one stage hand is the tournament director, a.k.a. the TD, the head honcho the person who orchestrated this circus and whose answers the player needs to calm the waves of anticipation and confusion in his bones.

TDs come in all sizes, shapes and genders. For example, Hallie Singer, assistant to the executive director of the AARA, Luke St. Onge, has run many a tournament. "At first," says Singer, "tournaments appear to be total confusion. My job is handling the public relations side of the AARA. At tournaments I brief the players, especially the juniors, on what is expected of them while at a tournament. I'm sort of a den mother who faces the incidental and accidental events which can happen when you bring hundreds of players into a strange city for the first time. They need someone to organize things and I play the shepherd's role, which is very satisfying and scary."

Some racquetball players may never enter a tournament, but for the curious majority, tournaments are where the action is. Entering a tournament the AARA has six levels of tournament quality provides the player with a "summit" meeting of those with like ability. Here is where you can find your true level of play. Tournaments add intrigue, mystery and glamour to the art and science of hitting a rubber ball against a six-sided "pit." A tournament is "the one place where players of all levels of ability can prove themselves to themselves, and to others," says Hallie Singer.

But just as a temperamental actor, the loss of a prop, or a mechanical failure can reduce an insecure play director to tears on opening night, tournament directors are plagued by nightmarish complications that can blossom out of proportion instantly. And don't think they don't worry after all, nobody wants to get bad reviews.

Take, for example, Al Seitelman, AARA New York state director and a major force in promoting racquetball in the Northeast. "What can go wrong?" says Seitelman, "Everything! In one major tournament of ours, a sponsor backed out three weeks before the tournament.
The company, a large manufacturer of sporting goods equipment, had had a change of district managers and the new manager wanted to emphasize other sports. We had to scout around for other financial help. Fortunately, a local construction company came to our aid.

While such complications can severely strain the nerves of those putting together a tournament, they don't affect the average player. In fact, the average tournament player has little to worry about except himself. After all, racquetball is a fairly simple indoor sport. Unlike outdoor sports, such things as weather conditions are of no concern. Well, not usually.

Paul Henrickson, AARA regional commissioner of the Northeast, knows from firsthand experience that extreme cold, rain and snow can indeed affect racquetball matches. "In a tournament in Massachusetts during one winter," says Henrickson, "the walls of the courts started to 'sweat' and then, because of the severe cold, ice formed. Since all the courts had the same condition, we had to continue the tournament with some unusual results. The games became a case of serve-and-score."

Ice on racquetball courts? An isolated incident at best — so one would assume. But AARA executive director Luke St. Onge tells of another case of a "rain out" during an indoor tournament. "In a Nittany Lion Open (Pennsylvania) semifinals match in 1975," says St. Onge begins, "water from a rainstorm had seeped into the ceiling lights during a match I was refereeing between Maryland's Tom Whipple and Willie Wang of Delaware. Willie hit a ceiling ball and the lights blew out with a loud bang. I ducked, the spectators ducked, and Tom and Willie kept playing for the point. At the end of the rally, I agreed the point. Willie complained loudly. It seems he had won the point."

"In another match," continues St. Onge, "the wall of the right side of the court was 'sweating' and the players had determined before the match that they would not hit a ball to the right side. If they did hit a ball to that side, they stopped the game, picked up the ball and started over." Hardly the game described in the rule book.

In New York, Al Seitelman has yet another weather story. "It happened in one club when one of our courts flooded! Seems this particular club was built near an underground spring or stream. Heavy rains made the walls of the end courts 'weep,' and after a few hours the players could skid a ball in one particular section and get a serving ace every time. This went on until one player did a split while standing still. Both teams stayed on the court, though — the only other court available had the same condition — and they played the match out."

While such stories are entertaining, they are hardly commonplace, and weather is likely to low on the list of the worries a tournament director has. Much more likely are the "What ifs" so aptly voiced by Al Seitelman. "Suppose," says Seitelman, "you gave a tournament and nobody came? Did the printer get the application right? One mistake in the date or the fees (of whom to send the check) and the phone calls start pouring in. What if the balls go to the wrong address, or you lose the draw sheets? The list goes on and on. And Seitelman isn't alone in these paranoid fantasies of possible catastrophes.

Harvin Clark, sportsman and former racquetball club owner in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., agrees with Seitelman. Says Clark, "The planning that goes into a tournament is phenomenal. The tournament director must start three, or at the very least two, months ahead and sift through a thousand details including, but not limited to, publicity, coordination with owners, application format, mailings to players and, in the case of outdoor tournaments, using municipal facilities, clearance from the town fathers.

"Sure we have to worry about rain here in Florida, but that's not our biggest problem," continues Clark. "Our biggest problem, during tournaments which use outdoor municipal facilities, is the occasional player who wanders on the court and wants to play a game just as we are about to start a finals match!"

Of course none of today's tournament directors have faced quite the nightmare that Larry Lederman, of the Milwaukee (Wisc.) Jewish Community Center, did when he directed the very first National Paddleball Championships there in 1968. (Racquetball was once called "paddle racquets," so named by the acknowledged father of the game — Joe Sobek. See Racquetball, January/February, 1979.)

The event drew players from all over. As a result, the director's staff — usually volunteers — lose a lot of sleep making up the draw sheets during the week prior to a tournament.

A botched-up draw sheet can sour a tournament quicker than a case of para-oxine poisoning can ruin a dinner party. As a result, the director's staff — usually volunteers — lose a lot of sleep making up the draw sheets during the week prior to a tournament.

Ron Forman, manager of the Universal Racquetball Club in Massapequa, N.Y., explains, "A lot of players enter two events. You have to try to schedule them so they don't play back-to-back. Also, you will find many players have special requests and you have to schedule with that in mind. In fact, on the application we leave a space for comments so we can adjust for unusual circumstances."

The kind of special treatment Forman refers to will differ from state to state. In his case, it's a commuting problem: "Many of our players are commuters from New York City; they can't arrive at the club for a Friday night match until a certain time. Some are in car pools and
have to arrange with others to get home from their jobs." Forman has encountered more common problems, too. "Others want to play their doubles match first because it's less tiring," he comments.

There are any number of ways to solve such scheduling problems. Some clubs schedule competition in shifts -- with the "As," "Bs" and "Cs" playing in the morning, all the rest in the afternoon. If a tournament director is not sensitive to scheduling conflicts, some bizarre situations can crop up. Probably the most outrageous example to date, is the case of AARA Eastern regional commissioner, Bernie Howard.

Howard, an undercover police officer by occupation, entered a tournament in Harrisburg, Penn., using his real name. A few days later he found his undercover investigation would take him to Harrisburg. He called the tournament director and asked that he play under his "cover name," which presented no problem to the TD. "No one will know," he was assured.

Upon arriving at the tournament, he checked the draw sheet and found his cover name directly under Bernie Howard's. They were playing each other! He -- his cover name, that is -- went on to win a racket in the tournament, but of course he couldn't play in the consolation round. As far as anyone knew, Bernie Howard never showed up. And the man with the assumed name is probably the only player to beat himself twice, by forfeit, in the same tournament!

Another controversial area that menaces every tournament is what to do about referees. Whether to make refereeing mandatory or voluntary presents a king-sized headache to most directors. Practically speaking, few players want to referee after winning a match, and most TDs make it a strict tenet of the tournament that the winning player must referee -- or else. Usually forfeiture is the threat held over the head of the balking winner.

But the possibility of paying professional referees is well beyond the means of most tournament directors, despite the convenience it would seemingly provide. As Al Seitelman explains, "In a 500-person tournament, you have 752 first round and consolation matches. If you had to pay even a small amount, say $2 per match, to a referee, that's over $1,500 for just the first rounds." And, as for letting players referee their own matches during the first few rounds, "We have tried that, but it creates other problems," says Seitelman. "Arguments start easily and a lot of time is wasted -- your time schedule gets thrown off and soon you are playing matches far into the night. You have to learn how to sleep with a microphone in your hand."

Paul Henrickson echoes these sentiments. "Keeping to a time schedule is crucial to a good tournament. In one tournament, on Cape Cod in 1979, an electrical storm caused the lights to shut down for about 15 minutes. The metal halite lighting, however, took another 20 minutes to warm up again. This happened again later in the afternoon, and we ended up going until 4:30 the next morning -- a Sunday."

While some players have matches delayed for reasons such as Henrickson just cited, there have been more humorous (if disturbing to those involved) delays. In a tournament in a new facility in Port Chester, N.Y., the door to a court by which two players had just finished a match jammed shut. The players had to wait an hour or so, until workmen could free them from the court. Racquetballers are resourceful people though, and the entrapped players played an opposite-hand game to pass the time. The loser of the first match won.

Of course not all tournaments are beset with problems. The vast majority of them run smoothly and successfully. This can be attributed to a variety of reasons. In Ellen Schuerger's case, she credits the success of her tournament to the participants. Schuerger, who ran the Women's Professional Racquetball

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INCENTIVE

There's one basic reason people who enjoy sports will compete in tournaments. They want to measure their skills against the competition. Until this past year, racquetball players had no way to gauge their abilities except from tournament to tournament. Then came the AARA National Ranking System. The system is the brainchild of Pete Talbot, AARA state director for New Jersey and manager of Yogi Berra's Hall of Fame Racquetball Club in Fairfield, New Jersey. Based on AARA sanctioned events, all players reaching the quarterfinals receive national amateur ranking points, which are fed into a computer. Based on the following point system, players are then periodically ranked in their division.

NATIONAL RANKING SYSTEM

(1) Club Tournament
Plus B-C & Novice Events
1st 10 TP
2nd 5 TP
3rd 3 TP
4th 1 TP
5-8 ½ TP

(2) Closed State Tournament
1st 20 GP & 20 TP
2nd 10 GP & 10 TP
3rd 8 TP
4th 5 TP
5-8 3 TP

(3) Open Tournament
1st 50 GP & 50 TP
2nd 30 GP & 30 TP
3rd 5 GP & 15 TP
4th 3 GP & 15 TP
5-8 10 TP

(4) Open AARA State Tournaments
1st 50 GP & 50 TP
2nd 30 GP & 30 TP
3rd 15 GP & 15 TP
4th 10 GP & 10 TP
5-8 5 GP & 5 TP

(5) Regionals and AARA Designated Events
1st 100 GP & 100 TP
2nd 50 GP & 50 TP
3rd 30 GP & 30 TP
4th 20 GP & 20 TP
5-8 5 GP & 5 TP

(6) Nationals
1st 500 GP & 500 TP
2nd 200 GP & 200 TP
3rd 100 GP & 100 TP
4th 75 GP & 75 TP
5-8 50 GP & 50 TP

TP -- Tournament Points (awarded for all divisions of play)
GP -- Gold Points (only awarded for Open, Seniors, Masters, and Golden Masters; not for B, C, etc.)
GMNC -- Grand Master National Champion
Doubles winners divide the points as listed above.

*FOR CURRENT RANKINGS, SEE PAGE 38
Tournaments Unlimited, Inc.

While planning a party can be loads of fun for some folks, for others the fun is in the doing. The same is true for racquetball tournaments. Some folks may like the idea of a tournament, but don’t want to be saddled with the cumbersome details of putting it together. Knowing this to be true, Bernie Howard and Pat Garrity of Pennsylvania decided they had a marketable product - their combined experience in putting on successful tournaments. Thus was born Tournaments Unlimited, Inc.

Tournaments Unlimited is a bona fide corporation in the state of Pennsylvania. It’s been in operation a little over a year now, and according to Howard, the part-time operation has more business than they can handle. Their business is putting on tournaments — any kind — although at present it’s almost exclusively racquetball. For a fee (the amount varies with what is required of them) Howard and Garrity will handle absolutely every detail of your tournament. From planning and designing the application to doing draw sheets and managing the floor during the tournament — you name it, they’ll do it. They have about 14 or 15 experienced floor managers available, and they’ll use however many it takes to make certain a tournament runs smoothly. They’ve handled tournaments with participants in excess of 500 without a hitch, according to Howard. And they’ll guarantee their work.

For this reason, they’ve had a lot of charity organizations as customers. The charities are finding that racquetball tournaments can generate a lot of revenue, but they often don’t know the first thing about putting one together. Enter Tournaments Unlimited.

Because they’ve kept scrupulously detailed records of every tournament they’ve managed, Tournaments Unlimited will even make available a list of the current top 40 players in their area. The charities can then issue special invitations, if they want to insure a quality tournament. Not only that, but Howard is so familiar with the players in his area, he considers himself one of the most qualified people around to do the seeding and draw.

Although they have plenty of qualified assistants, at this point in time Howard and Garrity still like to be at the tournaments themselves. So far they’ve been successful. So successful, in fact, that the only advertising they have is word of mouth from satisfied customers.

If you’d like more details about Tournaments Unlimited, Inc., contact Bernie Howard, RD 1, Box 362A, Reedsville, Penn., 17084; or call 717-667-2209.
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We can make a difference in your game. AMF Head
How does a 36" tall seven-year-old roll out a racquetball? I still haven't figured it out, but not because I didn't have a chance to. It was a phenomenon I witnessed repeatedly at this year's AARA Junior National Championships, held at Kangaroo Kourts IV in Redding, Calif.

The tournament was held July 10-13, but for me it started a week earlier when I began my long trek across the country from my home state of Delaware. Along the way I stopped to play racquetball every day — and the closer I got to California, the more juniors I encountered. By the time I reached Nevada, juniors were as thick as swallows at the checkpoint on the path to Capistrano. In Reno, Clark Smithson was putting them all on courts free of charge — and the courts were full.

Wednesday, July 9
Tournament registration was at 6:00 p.m. Juniors flooded the courts for final warm-ups, while six of the nine regional directors met face to face for the first time. Matters of business were handled in an orderly fashion and the date and site of the 1981 Junior Nationals were set. Next year's tournament will be held during Easter week at Supreme Court West in Wichita, Kansas.

Thursday, July 10
Over 200 energetic young players hit the courts at 9:00 a.m. sharp. Play continued until 9:00 p.m. After the day's play, all of the regional directors and some of the adults connected with the tournament tried to apply what they'd learned to their own games — at Ed Martin's Sun Oaks Racquet Club. Some were more successful than others.

Friday, July 11
Singles and doubles play were both on today's agenda, with frequent visits to the water slide sandwiched in between.

The juniors spent the evening partying at Sun Oaks, while the regional directors, along with AARA President, Keith Calkins, and Dr. Bud Muehleisen, discussed potential changes in the rules. Who knows what evil lurks in the minds of juniors? I don't, but I have a good idea. You see, my tent — carefully pitched on the Sun Oaks grounds between the volleyball court and the horseshoe pits — collapsed on my face in the wee hours of the night. Justice will prevail, even if I have to wait until next year's nationals.

Saturday, July 12
Saturday evening was devoted to the banquet. Attendance exceeded all expectations and everyone was graciously accommodated by the Red Lion Inn. The elaborate spread at the buffet table was more than enough to keep everyone satisfied as they ate dinner and listened to the evening's speakers — National Junior Commissioner, Ed Martin; AARA President, Keith Calkins; the legendary Dr. Bud Muehleisen and Midwest Regional Director, Dewane Grimes.

Dr. Bud captured the crowd's fancy when he unveiled the very racquet he used in the first National Championship tournament, held more than 10 years ago — even before some of the juniors present were born! Of course Dr. Bud had already become something of a celebrity, as he played matches against all of the first-round losers. The juniors' admiration for him was readily apparent, and no doubt they took to heart the advice he offered.

Although Dr. Bud was a hard act to follow, Dewane Grimes succeeded in thoroughly charming the audience when he made a slide presentation of this year's Midwest regional tournament. Grimes' low-key personality, coupled with his wry wit delighted everyone. And when it was learned that next year's nationals will be in his region, no one could resist the wave of enthusiasm which swept the crowd. And so the evening ended on a positive note, with players already anticipating the fun and exciting...
But as for this year's tournament...

Boys, 17-and-under

The wild card in the boys 17-and-under division was Florida's Freddie Calabrese. Calabrese displayed the mental and physical endurance necessary to upset second seed Mike Ray of Georgia in the round-of-16 and sixth seed, Paul Bakken of Minnesota, in the semifinals. Both were three-game matches.

In the top half of the draw, number one seed Sergio Gonzales of Florida lost only one game as Paul Agra of California pushed him to a tiebreaker in the quarters. Gonzales played the finest percentage game of the boys 17-and-under division as he advanced through the draw - beating Agra and Jack Newman of Illinois in the semifinals. As a result, he met teammate Freddie Calabrese in the finals.

And in the final match Gonzales made no mistakes, as he sliced through Calabrese 21-13, 21-2.

Boys, 15-and-under

One of the closest matches of the tournament was fought Sunday afternoon as Gerry Price of California and John Amatulli of Indiana duked it out for the boys 15-and-under title. Amatulli had been taken to a tiebreaker by Shawn Fitzpatrick of California in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals Bill Parodi of Kansas went down in two, as Amatulli shot his way to the finals.

Second seed Gerry Price had a rockier road to the finals, as he pulled two close ones out from under Eric Sheyer of Illinois in the quarters 21-19, 21-17. Price then entered the court with a determined Ira Miller of Maryland, for a semifinal match. Miller made a serious bid for a win, but fell just short of his mark as Price emerged victorious 21-19, 15-21, 15-8.

The gallery was packed for the Price/Amatulli match. Price blew out Amatulli's hopes for a first game win by 21-6. But Amatulli rallied to win the second game 21-17. The tiebreaker certainly gave the crowd their quota of thrills for the day. People were on the edges of their seats, breathless, as Amatulli held Price at 13-14 for several innings. Price won the serve and match point was played as he blasted the ball into the front wall for a close pass. It was a tight match, admirably played to the end. But Price, the hometown boy, took home the prize.

Boys, 13-and-under

The top half of the boys 13-and-under draw was full of surprises. Two quarterfinal upsets were in order, with the first being Ray Aronowitz' victory over last year's 10-and-under champ, David Simonette. Also, fourth seeded Sam Battaglia yielded to Luis Miranda in two games. Miranda won his spot in the finals with a strong semifinal victory over Aronowitz 21-20, 21-4.

The bottom half of the draw proceeded according to plan as second seed, Jeff Mulligan of Nevada, defeated Jess Wilson of California in the quarters and Jeff Conine of California in the semifinals. Luis Miranda maintained his momentum to conquer Mulligan in the finals 21-11, 21-4.

Boys, 10-and-under

Matt "Rollout" Rudich represented Las Vegas in style when he beat the odds of his seventh seed position to make it into the finals. Young Rudich took the quarterfinal match from second seeded "Bump" Blaess of Florida with a 15-10 tiebreaker win. Then he won the semifinals round in another 15-10 tiebreaker over third seed Jeff Stark of California. In the top half, fourth seed Derek Robinson of Washington fought his way through Dave Ellen of Florida to reach the semifinals. Number one seed, Tim Doyle of New York, eliminated Mike Vargas of California in the quarters, but came up short in the semis as Derek Robinson pulled ahead to a 15-13 tiebreaker victory.

Veterans Robinson and Rudich split

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27
<table>
<thead>
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<td>Andy, 1342 Mallory Rd.</td>
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<td>Creekside Racquet Club</td>
<td>Cape Cod Open (3)</td>
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Cystic Fibrosis Grand Slam of Racquetball (3)
Tournaments to be held in:
Los Angeles, California
Bose, Idaho
San Diego, California
Seattle, Washington
Portland, Oregon
California Bay Area
Sites to be announced

OCTOBER 11-16
Lite Beer/Penn Super Racquetball Championships (3)
Denver International Athletic Club
1630 Welon St.
Denver CO 80202
Steve Curn
303-625-2100

OCTOBER 14-16
Yogi Berra/Lite Beer Grand Prix (3)
Yogi Berra's Hall of Fame
333 Gothic Plaza
Fairfield, NJ 07006
201-227-4000

OCTOBER 21-23
Tennessee Turkey Shoot (3)
Supreme Courts
4633 Trousdale
Nashville, TN 37204
Dorothy Dixon
615-832-7529

NOVEMBER 1-5
Lite Beer/Penn Super Racquetball Championships (3)
Continental Racquetball Club
14880 Hammel N. Houston
Houston, TX 77014
Jim Austin
713-893-5146

NOVEMBER 7-9
2nd Annual Forest Hills Tournament (3)
Forest Hills Athletic Club
3910 Caughey Rd.
Erie, PA 16506
Mark Crotin
814-833-2488

NOVEMBER 25-27
2nd Annual BackWall Holiday Open (3)
Backwall Racquetball Club
RD 2, Box 5218
Altoona, PA 16601
Beth Haller
841-945-1868

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 2
Western New England Open (3)
Pittsfield, MA
Mike Mayer

DECEMBER 3-5
Lite Beer/Penn Super Racquetball Championships (3)
Louisiana Racquetball and Health Club
2121 38th St.
Kennez, LA 70062
Howard Hearn
504-443-4512

DECEMBER 7-9
Lite Beer/Penn Super Racquetball Championships (3)
Towson Court Club
6757 Mylender
Towson, MD 21204
301-821-0160

DECEMBER 10-12
1st Annual Indian Spring Holiday Classic (3)
Indian Springs Racquetball Club
RD 1, Box 362 A
Redwood City, CA 94063
Bernie Howard
707-387-2200

DECEMBER 14-16
Blue Point Tournament (3)
Blue Point Racquetball Club
9 A Montauk
Blue Point, NY 11715
Garrett Jones
516-363-2882

Cystic Fibrosis Grand Slam of Racquetball (3)
Tournaments to be held in:
Sacramento Valley, California
Santa Clara, California
Long Beach, California
Greater Los Angeles
Riverside, California
Hawaii
Las Vegas, Nevada
Tucson, Washington
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Medford, Oregon
Sites to be announced

Lite Beer/Penn Super Racquetball Championships (3)
Atlanta, GA
Site to be determined

JANUARY 15-17
Lite Beer/Penn Super Racquetball Championships (3)
Supreme Courts V
3033 Alhambra St.
San Leandro, CA 94577
Keith Catskins
415-351-5322

JANUARY 16-18
Nashville/Natural life Racquetball Championships (3)
Supreme Courts
4633 Trousdale
Nashville, TN 37204
Dorothy Dixon
615-832-7529

FEBRUARY 6-8
Huntville City Championships (2)
Spragins Hall
University of Alabama
Huntsville, AL 35807
Gary Bell
205-885-0560

FEBRUARY 13-15
Blue Point Tournament (3)
Blue Point Racquetball Club
9 A Montauk
Blue Point, NY 11715
Garrett Jones
516-363-2882

Cystic Fibrosis Grand Slam of Racquetball (3)
Tournaments to be held in:
Palm Springs, California
San Diego, California
Reno, Nevada
Salinas, California
Fresno, California
Santa Barbara, California
Greater Los Angeles, California
Seattle, Washington
Portland, Oregon
Bose, Idaho
Sites to be announced

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1
RACQUETBALL WEEK 1981

APRIL 10-12
Blue Point Tournament (3)
Blue Point Racquetball Club
9 A Montauk
Blue Point, NY 11715
Garrett Jones
516-363-2882

AARA sanctioned
tournaments in bold
(1)-1st level tournament
(2)-2nd level tournament
(3)-3rd level tournament
(4)-4th level tournament
(5)-5th level tournament
(6)-6th level tournament
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Place the safety of your eyes in Carrera's VIPER NR-59.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Girls, 17-and-under

California native Mona Mook almost didn't make it past the quarterfinals. Unseeded Mary Rowle of California demanded to be taken seriously as she scored 12 on Mook in the first game and won the second 21-19. The score was steady at 13-13 for several innings in the tiebreaker before Mook took control and rolled her way into the semifinals. Linda Seymour of California, Maureen Hickey of Kansas and Ginger Sottile of New York made their way into the semifinals without a tiebreaker among them. Mook had topped Seymour 21-5, 21-3, but Sottile had a tough time against Hickey before winning her finals berth 21-12, 17-21, 15-11.

Mona Mook displayed her championship form in the finals as she allowed Sottile only 6 and 11 points in the two-game match.

Girls, 15-and-under

The girls 15-and-under draw was impressive, to say the least.

Canadian Heather Stupp provided an international flavor. She breezed through her match against Tina Heath of Illinois in the quarterfinals and defeated the promising Lynn Wojcik in the semifinals.

In the bottom half of the draw, Stacey Fletcher of Michigan was doing a similar act as she topped Marci Drexl of California in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, she yielded a record 14 points to Loretta Peterson.

The gallery was packed for the Fletcher/Stupp final. No doubt many were there to try and pick up tips for their own games. Stacey Fletcher took advantage of every opportunity to shoot the ball. The match was decided as Fletcher made every shot count. She earned her victory in two games over a very worthy opponent 21-13, 21-18.

Girls, 13-and-under

California was well represented in the girls 13-and-under division this year.

In the quarterfinals, Californians Noelle Kudinger, Janelle Delugg and Lisa Anthony defeated Michelle Mures (also of California), Lesley Richards of New York and Mary Pennacciaro of Illinois respectively, never giving up more than eight points in any game. Also in the quarterfinals, Linda Kuchenreuther of Florida overtook Tammy Woods of Missouri in two games.

In the semifinals Kudinger defeated Delugg 21-7, 21-2 and Anthony defeated Kuchenreuther 21-5, 21-20. Noelle Kudinger emerged as this year's champion, but not before a tenacious Lisa Anthony pushed the match to a tiebreaker 21-11, 20-21, 15-4.

Girls, 10-and-under

Once again, California took control as Delainie Comer dominated the draw. Comer defeated Kim Rabold of California in the quarterfinals and then Adriana Miranda of Texas in the semifinals -- each in two games.

In the bottom half of the draw, Nicki Anthony of California cranked her way through Alma Fuentas of Texas and Rodie Martin of California in the semifinals before letting the title slip away to the hot Delainie Comer in a 21-8, 21-9 finals match.

Sunday, July 13

There's a peculiar aura in any racquetball club on the afternoon the tournament ends. The air still echoes the shouts of the victors and the moans of the defeated. The last players are struggling out of the locker rooms, as the cleaning crew packs up. No one wants to be the last to leave. After four solid days of operating in overdrive, the let down is physical. It's an emotional anticlimax as well. Having made new friends and found the days full of people and excitement, the tournament experience makes the real world look like a cheap motel after a night at the Ritz.

There was something different about this year's junior nationals. I couldn't ignore the message that I saw in every junior's eyes. Some said it out loud. But no one said it better than the one little blond girl still practicing on a dimmed court even as this year's tournament activities dissolved around her. Every time she hit the ball I heard the message as clear as a bell, "I'll be back next year!

---

Boys Doubles

11-and-under: Gregg Peck-Paul Bakken over Steve Ginsberg-Ira Miller 21-11, 21-20.
17-and-under: Luis and Carlos Miranda over David Simonette-Ray Aronowitz 21-17, 21-9, 15-10.

Girls Doubles

15-and-under: Heather Stupp/Stacey Fletcher over Tricia Rasmussen-Cheryl Mathieu 21-12, 21-16.

Team Titles

Sun Oaks Junior Racquetball Team: 18 points
Fort Lauderdale 8 points
El Paso, Texas: 7 points

Time Out

If they had put on a friendly smile, it would have been enough. But they put on a friendly smile and gave us a warm welcome. This too, would have been enough. But then with the friendly smile and the warm welcome, they housed and fed many a junior racquetball player. Even this would have been enough. But then with the friendly smile, the warm welcome, the generous hospitality, they got involved totally and the most wonderful days in the lives of over 200 junior players, many of their parents and administrative personnel from the AARA. And yet, having done all this — these delightful people in Redding, Calif. — it never seemed to be enough for them to do for their many visitors at the Junior Nationals.

Led by Nita Adams, Lou and Linda Wallman and Monty and Debbie Carmona, the racquetball community of the Sun Oaks Racquet Club gave the red carpet treatment to each and every participant. The time and effort spent by the Sun Oaks parents and the juniors' team was evident in each detail of planning that came off so perfectly.

Kangaroo Kourts IV, a comfortable, one-to-one oriented facility, was the perfect setting for this National Championship tournament and the Regional events that preceded it with sponsorship funds that enabled the AARA Junior Council to hold a superior competition. It is because of them that the junior player can hope to have the best of both worlds — strength at the junior level and the security that in the adult world there will also be an Ektelon.
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DELIVERY: 2-3 weeks
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Teaching future racquetball players is a full-time and rewarding proposition. At The Courtrooms in Fort Lauderdale there is a strong emphasis on youth racquetball at almost every age level for kids up to 18 years old. Our program is divided into two aspects, recreational instruction and competitive instruction. We teach youngsters who like to play for fun as well as our boys and girls who train for organized tournament play at the local, state and national level.

During the summer months we offer a Youth Athletic Conditioning Camp for kids 8 to 14 years of age. For camp counselors, we make use of our sponsored competitive players who are slightly older than the other children. These supervisors are also allowed time to train for their own benefit at certain hours during the day in summer months. The knowledge and experience which they have acquired from coaches and competition can then be transferred to their younger proteges and the program can then expand and continue to grow and generate new players for the sport. New young players are also provided additional tutoring after the normal Saturday clinics for the team which is sponsored by Vittert and coached by Fred Blaess.

New children are taught by the current team players after their normal 2-hour workout in clinics which last for four weeks.

To begin any training program or clinic, the first prerequisite should be stretching exercises for the participants (See Fig. #1). General limbering up exercises such as sit-ups and push-ups are used, in addition to the more specific exercises for racquetball such as arm circles forward and backward, leg muscle stretching for the calf and quadriceps muscles in the legs, ankle rotation and lower back limbering, which is done at a slow cadence.

Juniors should be checked for proper fit of their sneakers and also given light racquets to use during play. Improper shoe size can create foot discomfort and blisters and heavy racquets can cause arm soreness in children whose muscles and bones are still in the growth stage. Teaching the proper serving techniques is difficult when a little person is weighted down with an uncomfortable racquet. Grip size is also a consideration and should be as small as possible.

Initial instruction is done with the class as a whole as illustrated in the accompanying photographs. For all strokes, the emphasis is on smoothness of the swing and early preparation before striking the ball. Note in the pictures that the children are taught to keep the racquet well back on the forehand with the top of the racquet pointing upwards toward the ceiling. (See Fig. #2). The group learns the initial stroke practice all together and individual problems are corrected on the spot before breaking down into smaller groups on separate courts. Proper grip for both the forehand and backhand must be constantly monitored so that incorrect grip habits are not ingrained at this early stage.

The backhand receives special emphasis, since it seems more difficult to
learn for children and adults alike. For kids we try to relate the backhand to some skill they have done before. Frisbee throwing has been an effective means of instruction since throwing a frisbee backhand is quite similar to executing a backhand stroke. It also makes drilling a little more fun by using implements to assist in training. (See Fig. #3).

The forehand is taught as being the same as a sidearm throw with a ball. Young boys can often relate to this quite readily, girls sometimes have a more difficult time. When teaching the forehand off-the-back-wall shot, we emphasize that it is the exact same stroke as a forehand off-the-front-wall utilizing basically the same swing, except that the ball is coming from behind them. The same motion applies when hitting a drive serve correctly - a lateral sidearm throwing action.

The off-the-wall shot is initiated by the instructor throwing the ball off the wall and the student catching it with his bare hand (See Fig. #4). This introduces them to the correct motion and timing before strapping on the racquet and actually hitting the ball. As in all drills with young players, lead-in skills which are simple skills that build up to more specific skills are a valuable learning tool. Once the simple skills are executed correctly or nearly correctly, the next step is initiated. In this case, the child is then taken to center court and shown how to track the ball back as it rebounds off the rear wall.

This type of pattern is followed throughout the course of the camp, which runs for three weeks. Lesson plans for the course provide guidance and drills for the instructors who are supervised by our head pro at The Courtrooms, Tom Strang. Drills are designed to involve the class as a whole whenever possible rather than just having the students standing around watching as one person drills. We rely on modified beginner and advanced beginner group instruction for adults as our guideline.

The goal of our beginner juniors program is to introduce young people to racquetball and have fun in the process. Kids learning the game at this stage can have a lifelong enjoyable experience in the sport, and socialize with their peer group in the process, if they have a positive experience in the beginning. Racquetball is combined with swimming and water games, running, video movies, basketball and other games and sports to provide a well-rounded curriculum.

This brings us to the second phase of our program, the competitive boys and girls who play on the Vittert Team.
These kids are training for tournament play and the requirements for success make the work involved more specific and demanding.

One device we have found helpful is video tape recording. (See Fig. # 5). This procedure has helped many of our players spot flaws or technique difficulties in the strokes which resulted eventually in loss of points and elimination from tournament play. The various strokes and skills requisite to racquetball are taped individually and also rallies are taped to point out these deficiencies which must be corrected so further progress can be made. A color camera and television monitor are utilized to make the viewing more attractive. The audio hookup is also made use of to enhance the session and make playback more meaningful.

As with the beginning students, the advanced junior players need a certain degree of help with their backhand swing. A common error is the “chicken wing” wrist in which the wrist breaks in the backswing, resulting in a dipping of the top of the racquet downwards. More correctly, the top of the racquet should remain pointing to the ceiling during the backswing to prevent the wrist from breaking too early. (See Fig. # 6).
To develop control of the ball on the backhand side of the court, we teach spot drills from different areas of the court such as just behind the short line, three-quarter court, and out of the left corner. Shots are practiced in succession from the various spots to include straight-in kills, pass shots, and pinch kills from each area of the court where the backhand strokes are used. Drilling points out that many young players have not developed the control and placement that is so necessary during rallies in tournament play. (See Fig. #7).

The importance of backhand ceiling control must not be overlooked. Bicycle drills involving two players hitting consecutive backhand shots to the ceiling point out quickly whether players need additional practice time. An effective competitive player must master the backhand ceiling shot. Late preparation for the stroke or too many movements in the swing are often detected. The backhand ceiling shot is very mechanical in nature and requires constant practice. We stress keeping the ball on the return back down the left sidewall. (See Fig. #8).

Since most of our players have adequate to good forehand swings, less time is devoted to forehand drills. However, it is stressed that the sidearm lateral swing is smooth and technically correct. Imitating a throwing motion has proven helpful in illustrating this to our players. Emphasis on taking a long stride and making use of the hips and shoulders, rather than just the arm and wrist, has been an aid to some who were having troubles. (See Fig. #9).

Individual analysis by a coach seems to be a crucial aid to our players who are refining their game. Constant attention to the backhand is required to ward off bad habits that prove troublesome. (See Fig. #10). Moral support and constant monitoring is valuable to any player, regardless of age.

To supplement all of this drilling and
technique, our players compete with each other in practice games, of course. However, additional time must be given for strength and endurance training. For this, we use our club facilities such as the running track and Nautilus Fitness Center. Both have proven to be valuable training aids.

The running program may include just warming up with laps before practice, and is usually followed by interval type training as a group at the conclusion of practice sessions. (See Fig. # 11). As always, since we promote the team concept, running is done with the group as a whole whenever possible, to assist team unity. Alternate slow and fast laps compliment actual racquetball play and give that all important extra edge in endurance when it is most needed during tournament play.

For the older juniors, another supplement to racquetball is increased strength and endurance, which is best handled with weight training on our Nautilus machines. (See Fig. # 12). Juniors under the age of 16 are not normally required to do weight training since bones and muscles are still growing and we do not want to risk injury. Those who qualify work primarily on large muscle groups in the legs and arms and use light weight for exercising the small muscle groups. Soreness is always a consideration with strength training and no weight lifting is done during the week prior to competition.

Lastly, our training workouts make use of court circuit drills where the kids run patterns on the court for better agility and court coverage. (See Fig. # 13). The number of times a player must run the circuit depends on how hard the workout has been on a given day. To conclude training, the juniors drink a thirst quencher and relax. Judging from the results in juniors open play, the program is a great success both at the non-competitive and competitive levels. But we still seek ways to improve so that new players can learn and train to further enjoy a great sport.

FIGURE 11

FIGURE 12

FIGURE 13


**DRIVE HOME YOUR POINT**

**Drive Serves For Women**

Sarah Green is currently ranked second among professional women racquetball players.

The drive serve is the most important serve you will learn. It is the serve that will enable you to shoot aces and it will force the most poor returns from your opponents. But it will do no good unless it is properly executed.

The drive serve can be hit from any area in the serving zone. It is important that you utilize this whole area. Mix up your serves by standing to the far right, to the far left and at all points in-between. Be careful not to hit the same serve from the same spots, or you will become predictable. When you move to the right, be sure not to always serve to the left, or vice versa — use the whole court.

There are many different types of drive serves, but they all have one thing in common. A drive serve is hit low and hard. The variance is in the area of the court in which the ball bounces once it passes the short line.

There are five basic drive serves. They are the short drive, which bounces just past the service line; the crack serve, which catches the sidewall and rolls out; the deep V, which catches the sidewall and goes into your opponent’s body; the hard angle serve, which is hit from one side of the court to the other; and the down-the-wall serve, which never touches the sidewall.

The short drive serve and the crack serve are the toughest to return, but they are also the most difficult to perfect. We want to hit these serves from as far left as the referee will allow without calling a screen. This is for two reasons. The first is obviously to screen the serve. The longer it takes your opponent to see the ball, the less time she has to react to it. How can she anticipate where the ball is going to be if she cannot see it? The second reason is to reduce the area down the left wall which is open for the return, thus making a ceiling shot the best option for your opponent.

The short drive serve should land as close to the short line as possible without being short. This forces your opponent to take three or four steps to get to it, so she is still on the run when she hits it. Even better — it may bounce twice before she gets to it. You don’t want this serve to catch the sidewall, because then it loses momentum and gives your opponent more time to get to it. From the far left position, you should mix up this serve by hitting to the left and to the right. A good short drive serve to the right, when shot from the far left of the serving area, is very effective. If it goes too deep, however, it is a forehand set-up for your opponent. So, only use it if you can hit it correctly.

The crack serve is an automatic ace — if hit correctly. This serve catches the sidewall and rolls out, but it is very difficult to perfect. You will need plenty of practice with it before you use it in a tournament. A bad crack serve goes right to the middle of the court for a set-up, plus it forces you out of center court position as you must move to the right to allow your opponent to return the serve. For this reason, I suggest that you not even try this serve to the forehand. It will be all too easy to return if you miss the serve. Both the short drive and the crack serve should be hit very close to the short line. Go for the ace, but be conservative. It is better to have these serves be called short and take a second serve than to miss the serve by hitting it too deep and allowing your opponent a chance to kill the return. These serves should only be attempted on your first serve.

In the beginning of a match you will have to work with these two serves to find out where on the front wall you need to hit them. This will vary from court to court and ball to ball. A faster ball, for example, can be hit lower on the front wall than a slower one. The same sort of difference is noticeable in courts; some are slower, some faster. It is important to be aware of all these factors, as they can...
by Mike Yellen

TOURNAMENT TOUGH

Make The Most Of What You’ve Got

Mike Yellen, currently ranked number two on the pro circuit, is a member of the Ektelon professional player advisory staff.

If you’ve seen it once, you’ve seen it 100 times: The professional athlete, perhaps a racquetball player, a baseball pitcher, or a quarterback, is surrounded by the press after a tournament. “What happened?” goes the questioning, the first frustrating review of a poor performance. “I don’t know,” is the reply, “I just didn’t seem to have it today.”

Exactly what is IT? It’s obviously not ability. Most professional athletes — and even amateur ones that take their sports seriously — are in good to excellent shape. And you can say the same thing for fundamentals — by now the strokes, pitch or toss have long been mastered.

In my mind, what separates the cream from the crop in any tournament is a trio of very important words: preparation, adaptation and discipline. No matter what the sport, you just can’t walk on a court, a mound, or a field, without paying a price. Sooner or later, it just catches up with you.

Paying a price relates first — and perhaps best — to tournament preparation. People often comment that my Ektelon teammate, Dave Peck, and I sometimes look like we’re in a trance on the court. It’s easy, in a way. For months, weeks, years before that match, I’ve been taking one continual test. My workouts have been intense, I hit the shots where they belong and I work to get into the proper position to hit them.

And, because in tournaments you’ll find yourself playing people you’ve never met, I vary my opponents. Obviously, it’s not to my — or your — advantage to play the person who has the same strengths and weaknesses day in and day out. (Not to mention the boredom factor.) Play quick players, accurate ones, retrievers, power men — all styles. It encourages versatility and strengthens your game, forces you to test shots you don’t normally test. You can always go back to your bread and butter if need be.

Now that you’re prepared to play the match with intense, well-planned practice, what about when you hit the court
WINNING POINTS

for real? This is where adaptation with a capital “A” comes in.

In racquetball – unlike, say hitting a baseball – you control your own destiny.
In baseball, you have control over one thing: yourself. If a pitcher is having a
delayed – throwing darts – you’re in
In racquetball, it’s different.

Your opponent hits a shot you can return with
you from answering a lot of

extra step to improve. That means taking

on your level. You have to take that little

The key is refining.

In racquetball, it’s different. You have to

Still, though it’s a popular serve, you have to

analyze your actions.

But with a

that is a course in simplicity. But with

And, after you’ve learned your own

and adjust.

To me, the hard drive serve is the
toughest to return. On certain days, I’ve

laced the ball into the backhand corner,
only to have some guy roll it out. Even

though it’s a popular serve, you have to analyze
your actions. Do I go to a half­
lob, even though it’s not as effective offensively? Do I slip in a “Z”?

The key is, whatever a person does well, you don’t want him to do it. Pretty

simple stuff, huh? You’d be surprised

how many times I see professionals and

amateurs alike beaten because they

refuse to change their so-called “style.”

For me, if the guy can roll them out off

the back wall, he doesn’t see back wall

shots. If he kills when he gets set, I never

let him rest. Do the same thing: analyze

what your opponent likes to do, then

drive hard in the opposite direction. And

it changes every time you walk on the
court. You have to be your own analyst.

Make him do what he doesn’t want to do.

Finally the key to any climb to excellence – or consistency – is discipline.

All the good professional players have it.

The ones that are struggling to win, or
cash a check, do not.

If you have a problem with your

backhand, get proper instruction, then

practice the shot. Don’t rally. Just get

yourself a court, set up, drop the ball,

and swing for an hour. Or until you feel

comfortable – and confident.

So many people say they can’t hit this

or that shot, then the first thing they do when they practice is blast away at their

best shot for hours on end. What good
does that do? You know how to hit, say,
a forehand. What about a ceiling ball? A

“Z” serve? A pinch? I realize, in a way,

this is a course in simplicity. But with

four walls, a ceiling, a racquet and a ball,
racquetball is not that difficult to define.

The key is refining.

Almost any athlete worth his salt will
tell you the mental aspect of sports
makes and breaks careers. It’s the same

on your level. You have to take that little

extra step to improve. That means taking

the time to be prepared now. It saves

you from answering a lot of “What hap­

pened?” questions at tournaments later.

INTERMEDIATE SUCCESS

How Not To Lose To A Weaker Player

by Allen Ascher

Allen Ascher is a free lance writer living in

New Jersey. In the past he has written for

Handball magazine.

Commenting on the thousands of ex­
cuses he had heard from losing oppo­
ponents over the years, an international
chess master once observed that he had
never won a game from a well man. The
club racquetballer runs a similar risk
through a gamut of sore arms and legs,
poor lighting conditions, “I can’t seem to
get my game together tonight,” and even
the now rarely-used-but-still-­visible “My
foot slipped,” which often masquerades
as a complaint about a $50 pair of shoes
or the grain of the wooden court floor.

What’s worse, the excuses frequently
complement a noxious self-esteem, with
“I might have won” all too often
deteriorating into “I would have won if . . .” followed by a quick challenge for

a rematch the following week.

There are, of course, legitimate
reasons for losing. The most common is
that your opponent is a stronger player,
or at least that he’s strong enough in
some area – the serve, perhaps, or court
quickness – to neutralize and overpower
your overall game.

Occasionally, though, the genuinely
stronger player does lose to a weaker op­
nonent, throwing a monkey-wrench into
the league standings, adding
immeasurably to the excitement of the
sport, and incidentally inspiring another
crop of lame excuses. But nine out of ten
times he doesn’t lose because his foot
slipped or his arm was hurt; like the
beaten chess players he loses because
he’s let the game get out of his control
through a loss of concentration.

In spite of how abrupt the collapse of a
game may feel, it really doesn’t happen
suddenly at all. Instead, it’s a gradual
process with a number of contributing
factors which can be recognized even in
the early stages of the game, and more
importantly, dealt with. But you must be
able to recognize the tell-tale signs of the
loss of control in your own game and

know what to do to correct their causes.

Naturally, the signs differ from one
player to the next, and Socrates’ admoni­
tion to “know thyself” is as valid in rac­
quetball as it is in life. What constitutes
a simple, unforced error for one player
may be an indication of the start of a per­
nicious tendency for another. Primarily,
therefore, you must know yourself
thoroughly as a player. That may sound
trite and obvious, but I’ve found from
experience that the average intermediate
player has an inadequate, if not poor,
idea of his own game, simply because he

hasn’t seen himself play, and he’s never
thought about himself as he would think
about an opponent. If you aren’t sure
where your strengths and weaknesses
lie, ask. Most of the players in your club,
especially the better ones, are good
sportsmen as well. They’d be happy to
tell you know, and you’ll find the informa­
tion invaluable for your improvement.

And, after you’ve learned your own
game, watch yourself constantly and
critically. Remember, the mark of a
solid, consistent ball player is how well
he coaches himself.

What should you, as your own on-the

court coach, look for as a sign of an im­
nent loss of control of the game?
Although no single situation is universal
among racquetball players, I’ve seen and
experienced each of the following game
conditions enough times to know how
common they are. Knowing how to han­
dle them, and situations like them, could
mean the difference between a win and a
loss, and will certainly increase your
ability to maintain control over your

1. Slightly out of position, your oppo­
nent hits a looping shot down the left
sidewall. You drift back, waiting for the
ball to bounce off the back wall, and you

take what you think is a good, solid
swing. But the ball caroms off the
sidewall much too far away from the
front wall and bounces weakly onto the
floor, about three or four feet short.

2. No matter what you do or how you
hit the ball, it seems always to bounce back to the middle of the court and into your opponent's waiting arms, either directly off the front wall or, more often, off the sides. The same is true of your serves. No matter how hard you try, you consistently miss the corners, and your opponent is blasting winners back at you.

3. Three or four consecutive kill shots off set-ups near the short line skip onto the floor, missing the front wall by as much as a foot.

Nothing is more frustrating than playing under these circumstances, and most of us have experienced days when we feel like either apologizing to our opponents or choosing a likely excuse. The point is that, even with the score 1-7 or 2-9 against you, you can still pull the game out if you can reverse the downside ratio. I had this very experience a few years ago when I was just starting to get into the game.

When I look for the cause of an unforced error, either in myself or in someone else, I always look for poor fundamentals first. Missing lobs along the left sideline is usually the consequence of one of two things: either I haven't taken the extra step backward I need in order to get fully behind the ball on the backhand, or I'm standing too straight when I actually take the swing. The result is either a ball that I'm reaching back for awkwardly and consequently hitting as much toward the sideline as toward the front, or one that's weakly hit and heading down when it leaves the racquet. Usually it's a combination of both.

Neither of these two causes is a result of some fundamental inability to play. I know that because, more often than not, I'm able to make the play. They are, in fact, the results of a mental lapse. I know what I should be doing, but I simply don't. Perhaps because of the immediate pressure and tension of the game, I'm not doing it. In other words, I've lost whatever mental control I had over the game, and as soon as I realize that, I can begin to deal with it.

In this kind of situation the answer for me is to go back to the fundamentals, in this case court position and body position, and purposely exaggerate them. I leap back early in order to be set in the best position to take the ball, and I bend my knees as though I were posing for an Ektelon ad. I don't go for any winners; in fact, I do my best to ignore whatever pressure the game score may be placing on me, and I limit myself to doing something that will make my opponent move his feet. If I'm lucky I'll hit a ceiling shot and hope for a better opportunity on my next swing.

The same sort of thing holds true when I find myself in a rut where every shot I hit comes back to the middle. It's as though the walls had suddenly curved in to an ellipsoid, and every ball lands on the same spot on the floor, about a foot away from my opponent so he can do whatever he likes with it. I've seen many players, myself included, who have expended too much time and energy agonizing over where the ball is hitting the floor while the game is not so slowly drifting away. What I should do is watch where it's hitting the front wall.

This is especially true about the serve. Ideally, the drive serve should land in one of the two deep corners, 40 feet away from the front wall. Now, one thing that every player knows intuitively is that the position of the ball when it hits the front wall determines where it will land. If anything is the heart of racquetball, that law of physics is. Yet few players ever give it any substantive thought.

As an aside of geometric fact, the 40 foot length of the court magnifies any differences in where the ball strikes the front wall by as much as a factor of four or more, depending on where you're standing when you hit the ball. For example, if you're standing in the service area 8 feet from the right sideline, the ball should hit the front wall approximately 8 1/2 feet from the left sideline in order to reach the left rear corner. Six inches too far to the left and the ball will hit the sideline six feet from the rear corner and bounce back toward the center. Six inches too far to the right and it will land two feet closer to the center.

Thus, when your serve isn't "on" the problem is more a matter of ball control -- accuracy -- than anything else. The important thing is not to bang away at the ball as though that will help. Too many racquetballers, especially novices and intermediates, have a tendency to solve every problem with more force. But flailing away at the ball isn't going to help your accuracy. That's like raising your voice to be understood when a person doesn't speak English.

On the surface, poor serving and the "ellipsoid court" appear to be two aspects of the same problem. They are, but with significant differences. Continually hitting the ball back toward an imaginary center line running the length of the court is more often than not the result of hitting one of the sidewalls before hitting the front wall, combined with hitting the ball too high. Geometrically, the ball will carom off the walls in straight lines in the path of a parallelogram. It will necessarily cross the center line one, two, or even three times, depending upon how hard and how high it was hit. Again, the frustrated racquetballer usually makes the mistake of responding to this by hitting the ball harder, which only gives his opponent more time to react to it.

A little thought will reveal that correcting inaccurate serves or the "ellipsoid court" requires taking something off the ball and concentrating on -- exaggerating -- accuracy for a few rallies. Stay away from the sidewalls. Go for the ceiling. Serve lobs to the back corners. Do anything you can to break the losing rhythm, make your opponent play, and bring yourself back to form. There's no guarantee you'll win, but if you have to lose, make him beat you; don't beat yourself.

The kill shot is another excellent barometer of your control of the game. When you're on it's as though you can will the ball to the bottom inch of the wall time after time. When you're off -- well, when you're off it's a different story.

Like a poor backhand, poor kill shots can be the result of incorrect fundamentals. I've often found that they're simply not there on a given day. Perhaps hand-eye coordination is off a millimeter at contact. At any rate if they aren't there, it doesn't pay to keep going for them. An irrational vendetta against a temporary weakness in your game is only going to lead to disaster. There are other offensive shots that can be as effective -- passes and ceiling shots, for example -- if they are used to exploit court position.

Undoubtedly shot variation is the answer to most of the game control problems you'll encounter. A golfer is allowed 14 clubs in his bag, and he knows when to use each of them, depending upon a multitude of different factors. The serious racquetballer should perfect as many different shots as he can and use all of them, depending upon the game factors he encounters.

The essential point to remember is that a game of racquetball is not a series of single shots strung together. Like every other sport, it's a game of patterns. Like chess, it's a game of subtle combinations. It's neither necessary nor advisable to go for a winner on every shot or an ace on every serve. Unfortunately, that's the reaction of most club players who feel themselves losing control of a game. Rather than collect themselves and play smart shots in combinations, or return to the fundamentals, they fall into a kind of panic and try desperately to end every rally on every shot, often going for impossible kills and giving up what's most important: their own control of the game.

The next time you feel a game slipping away from you, take a mental step backward and, for a few seconds, become a coach rather than a player. Remember, there's no game worth playing that isn't 50 percent mental. When a player tells me that he lost to someone weaker, I know he wasn't only outplayed; he was outcoached as well.
### FINAL 1980 AARA RANKINGS

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<td>Bill Rogers</td>
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#### WOMENS 26 & O

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<th>Player</th>
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<td>Sarah Lee</td>
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<td>Lisa Jackson</td>
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OPENINGS

**NEW COURT CLUB**

**Pawtucket, Rhode Island**

Construction was begun this spring on a new racquetball complex, to be built on top of the Pawtucket-Central Falls Family Y. The Y is located at 20 Summer Street in downtown Pawtucket.

Completion date for the 7,200-square-foot complex is scheduled for this month. The facility is designed to complement the architecture of the present structure, upon which it is being built. It will include a mezzanine for spectators to view all courts, and a 12x33 foot lounge.

**Seattle, Washington**

The Seattle Athletic Club, Northgate, is now open at 333 N.E. 97th Street, in Seattle. The new club is managed by Western Athletic Clubs, designers and builders of two athletic clubs in San Francisco. Membership in the Northgate club also entitles members to complete guest privileges at both clubs in the Bay Area.

Similar to its sister clubs, the Seattle Athletic Club includes not only nine racquetball/handball courts, but also two squash courts, a gymnasium for basketball, volleyball, badminton and pickleball (a racquet sport which uses a ball similar to a whistle ball), a swimming pool and numerous other amenities. Also available to members are a variety of social programs, such as raft trips, which are intended to make the club "a recreational focal point."

Memberships are available for individuals ($450 initiation fee, plus $35 monthly) and for families ($675 for initiation fee, plus $55 monthly dues). For more information, contact Seattle Athletic Club, 333 N.E. 97th Street, Seattle, Wash., 98115; or call 206-522-9400.

**Dallas, Texas**

"The Exchange" is a new athletic facility for men and women, scheduled to open this month, in downtown Dallas. Located in the Trammell Crow West End Office Corridor, adjacent to Diamond Shamrock Tower and 2001 Bryan Tower, atop an eight-level parking garage, the club will be a two-story, 34,360-square-foot athletic facility.

"The Exchange" features nine racquetball courts; a half-court gymnasium; a fully-equipped Nautilus Fitness Center; group-led exercise classes; an eight-lap per mile indoor track; a coed spa with whirlpool, sauna and steam; and a conference room for monthly programs on health-related topics. Members will also have the use of a full bar and light breakfast and luncheon services for social activities.

"The Exchange" will be operated by Ohio-based American Courts, Inc. It is part of the network of "The Back Wall" racquetball clubs in Ohio and Texas.

**Baltimore, Maryland**

The Security Court Club, located at 2076 Lord Baltimore Dr. in Baltimore, opened last month.

The facility features 24 racquetball/handball courts, all with glass back walls and balcony viewing. In addition to steam rooms and saunas, the club has whirlpools, a pro shop and a nursery.

The club is open seven days a week. Individual, family and corporate membership rates are available. Membership in the Security Court Club entitles the member to use of Towson Court Club, 8757 Mylander Lane, Towson, Md.; Annapolis Court Club, 1981 Moreland Parkway, Annapolis, Md.; and the Racquetball Club of Salisbury, 201 Milford Ave., Salisbury, Md. For further information, contact Mike Lankusu at 301-298-8700.

**Miami, Florida**

Bogey’s Barn, billed as "a complete family recreation and entertainment complex," is scheduled to open soon at 9300 S.W. 152nd St. in Miami.

The club will offer 10 glass-enclosed racquetball courts, a fitness center, steam rooms, saunas, a variety of fitness classes, six tennis courts, a swimming pool and an 18-hole golf course. Bogey’s Barn restaurant will be open to the public, and will offer seafood specialties. The entire complex will be open to the public on a daily basis, but a variety of membership programs are being offered at special pre-opening savings. For more information, call 305-233-8603.

**Broken Arrow, Oklahoma**

Scheduled to open this month, the Broken Arrow Racquetball and Fitness Center will be located at 1800 S. Aspen, in Broken Arrow. The club will have 10 racquetball courts, two of which have glass back walls. Other amenities include a fitness area featuring Nautilus equipment, an indoor jogging track, men’s and women’s saunas and whirlpools and a supervised nursery.

Single, family and corporate memberships will be available on a yearly basis with the only additional fee being court costs. Annual memberships will range from $85 per year for a single to $135 per year for a family. There will be no monthly fee or contract to sign.

For more information, contact the Broken Arrow Racquetball and Fitness Center at the above address; or call 901-251-2588.
Multiple Sclerosis Benefit Tournaments
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American Amateur Racquetball Association

Lite Beer and Penn have teamed up to help fight the crippling of young adults — Multiple Sclerosis — by sponsoring 12 racquetball tournaments to raise funds for this charity.

These tournaments, sanctioned by the American Amateur Racquetball Association, are geared to the amateur player. The tournament format includes $1,000 in prizes raffled off to all participants in each tournament.

Divisions that will be held are: Men’s Open, B, C, Novice, Seniors 35+, & Masters 45+; Women’s divisions are: Open, B, C, Novice, & Seniors 35+.

Shirts, trophies, hospitality and beverages will be provided to all entrants during the length of each tournament.

Bob Beebe of Penn Athletic Products Co. and J.P. Kidwell of Miller Lite Brewing Co. have worked to co-ordinate site locations along with Luke St. Onge, Executive Director of the AARA who has located the key volunteers to assist in the management of each event. It is St. Onge’s feeling that “Being involved with these two major companies is a privilege for our Association, and it is an honor to lend our support to help further research to defeat Multiple Sclerosis.”

Tournaments will be held in the following cities:
Cleveland, Ohio
Kenner (New Orleans) LA
Monroeville (Pittsburgh) PA
St. Louis, MO
Waukesha, WI
Denver, CO
Baltimore, MD
San Francisco, CA
San Diego, CA
Atlanta, GA
Houston, TX

For complete details of dates and locations contact Luke St. Onge, AARA; 901-761-1172.
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.

For reasons of space and clarity, tournament results submitted for listing in "Scorecard" should be arranged as shown in the example below. Entries listing this format stand a better chance of being included in the "Scorecard" section.

**Men's Open**
- Finals: John Smith over John Doe 21-20, 21-16.

**Women's Open**
- Finals: John Smith over John Doe 21-20, 21-16.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MILT RADOVICH


Mr. M. Ishimoto, posing in front of the official scoresheets at the Far East Open Championships at Yokota Air Base, Tokyo, Japan. Mr. Ishimoto is one of the first five Japanese tournament players.

**FAR EAST OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Tokyo, Japan

The first ever officially sanctioned racquetball tournament for the Far East and Asia was conducted over the Memorial Day weekend (May 23-26) at Yokota Air Base (Tokyo), Japan, making a big impression on the racquetball history books. A level three tournament, the Far East Open Championships were jointly sanctioned by both AARA and the new International Amateur Racquetball Federation, marking the first time for such joint sanctioning.

Another first of the tournament was the fine showing of the first Japanese players, Shun Ohyama, Michio Ishimoto, Toshiharu Fukazawa, Hidemori Higuma, and Koji El, even though most of them have only practiced on regulation sized courts at Yokota Air Base a few times. Ishimoto and Ohyama got to the quarterfinals of Men's Open Doubles, Fukazawa (with a U.S. partner) got to the semifinals of the Open Doubles, Consolation Bracket; and Higuma and El did the same. Ohyama got to the semifinals of the Men's Open Consolation and surprised everyone when he scored 18 points in his second game against number two seed Ryan in his first match. Both Ohyama and Ishimoto are nationally ranked in squash in Japan, while Higuma and El are gymnasts and Fukazawa is a nationally ranked amateur wrestler.

Players were all in agreement that this was the best tourney ever conducted at this military base on the outskirts of Tokyo, which proudly proclaims itself as the Racquetball Capitol of the Far East and the Pacific area.

**Men's Open Finals**
- Quarterfinals: Ryan-Hegarty over Fess Morrow 21-9, 21-5, 15-7; Sawyer-Somervold over Roguiski-Acosta 21-7, 13-21, 15-8; Sharwin-Riordan over Ishimoto-Ohyama (Japan) 21-10, 21-8; Patterson-Malta over Hopkins-Solberg 21-8, 21-9.
- Semifinals: Patterson-Malta over Sherwin-Riordan 21-8, 21-4; Ryan-Hegarty over Sawyer-Somervold 21-11, 21-13.

**Third:** Chris Morrow 21-9, 21-6; over John O'Leary 21-10, 21-9.

**Women's Open Singles**
- Finals: John Smith over John Doe 21-20, 21-16.

**Men's B Singles**
- Quarterfinals: O'Leary over Dominguez 17-21, 21-10, 15-10; Sawyer over Acosta 21-16, 21-20; Roguiski (Okinawa) over Somervold 21-7, 21-3; McGrath over Patterson 15-21, 21-8, 15-7.
- Semifinals: O'Leary over Sawyer 21-6, 21-4; McGrath over Roguiski 21-4, 21-5.
- Finals: O'Leary over McGrath 21-10, 21-0, 21-13.

**Men's C Singles**
- Quarterfinals: Barber over S. Delaney 21-9, 21-6; Casey over Blaylock, forfeit; Clifford over Thrash 21-15, 21-15; Ross over M. Delaney 21-12, 15-21, 15-4.
- Semifinals: Barber over Casey 17-21, 21-7, 15-4; Ross over Clifford 21-4, 17-21, 15-7.
- Finals: Barber over Ross 21-9, 21-6.

**Third:** Casey 21-13, 21-6; over Peter O'Leary 21-13, 21-9.

**Women's A**
- Finals: John Smith over John Doe 21-20, 21-16.

**Men's A**
- Semifinals: Larry Simonson over Larry Grell 21-17, 16-21, 11-9; Tony Parisi over Art Avant 21-13, 21-9.
- Finals: Tony Parisi over Larry Simonson 21-5, 16-21, 11-4.
- Third: Larry Grell over Art Avant 14-21, 21-13, 11-1.
- Consolation: Rex Dismore over Paul Cliffs 18-21, 21-12, 11-5.

**Men's B**
- Semifinals: Todd Johnson over Randy Brich 21-16, 10-21, 11-8; Mike Pfior over Kevin Wipf 21-9, 18-21, 11-7.
- Finals: Todd Johnson over Mike Pfior 21-17, 13-21, 11-3.
- Third: Kevin Wipf over Randy Brich 21-13, 21-6.
- Consolation: Randy Collins over Steve Bahar 21-10, 21-14.

**Men's C**
- Finals: Bob Weinand over Pat Tupa 21-13, 21-15, 21-0.

**Women's A**

**Women's B**
- Semifinals: Nora Denholm over Cy Durrett 21-3, 21-3;
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PHOTOGRAHS BY RANDY DOWNEY

Women's Open: 1st: Mona Mook (top left), 2nd: Renee Thomas (top right), Men's Open: 1st: Steve Dunn (left), 2nd Joe Sullivan (right).

SUN OAKS/NATURAL LIGHT SPRING SHOOT-OUT
Sun Oaks Racquetball Club
Redding, California

Men's Open Singles: 1st: Steve Dunn; 2nd: Joe Sullivan; 3rd: Shawn Fitzpatrick; 4th: Tim Wallcott
Men's C Singles: 1st: Doug Cox; 2nd: Gary Brantley; 3rd: Ron Shaffer; 4th: Chuck Keese.

BEEFSTEAK CHARLIE'S AARA BLUE POINT OPEN
Blue Point, New York

Men's Open Semifinals: Phill Dall over Robert Steffens 21-12, 21-12; Tony Latey over Larry Auth 21-15, 21-16.
Men's C Semifinals: Wm. Wrightman over Ed Gutowski 21-18, 19-21, 15-2; Robert Iannuzzi over Carl Betta 21-11, 21-12.
Men's B Semifinals: Robert Ancziszko over Wm. Wrightman 21-10, 21-11.
Men's Open Doubles: Ennis Fraass over Lenard Mulqueen 21-16, 21-15.
ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS: Racquetball magazine is seeking freelance photographers to cover AARA sanctioned tournaments throughout the country. If you are interested in representing your area, please send samples of black and white sports photos (preferably racquetball) to: P.O. Box 16566, Memphis, Tn. 38116, ATTN. BETT WATKINS. Photos will not be returned unless self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

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Head Seamco Vittert
Penn Spalding Voit
Point West Sportcraft

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Nautilus has major production facilities in Florida, Virginia, Texas, and Japan.

Nautilus is general conditioning, Nautilus is rehabilitation, and Nautilus is sports.

Nautilus is research. Sophisticated computer technology is an integral part of Nautilus. At our Lake Helen complex, computers are running 24 hours a day, compiling and evaluating the research of numerous physiological studies, pertaining to a variety of topics in the field of sports medicine.

Since a majority of the investigative work conducted at the complex is unique, Nautilus has designed and assembled a new generation of computerized electronic measuring devices. Instruments that permit research that until now was either impractical or impossible.

In addition to four separate computer laboratories, Nautilus maintains an orthopedic clinic.

The clinic offers a full range of service from general consultations to post-operative rehabilitation. The clinic’s Nautilus-equipped training center is kept active by a wide variety of people: professional athletes, patients recovering from surgery, and members of the general public.

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