RACQUETBALL JOINS THE CLUB... WHEN TENNIS FACILITIES OPEN THEIR DOORS
New or worn. Expensive or inexpensive.
All sports shoes will feel and play better
with Pro Comfort Sports Cushions.
These specially designed shock
absorbing insoles are guaranteed
for the life of your shoes. And
they help comfort, protect and
ease the strain that your
feet must bear.
They fit comfort-
ably in your shoes
because they're
made from thin, lightweight Poron.*
A revolutionary material that
actually reduces blistering impact
twice as well as sponge or
latex. And also breathes to keep feet
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foot-strike, you can feel the difference.
Pro Comfort Sports Cushions by Scholl.
Some help for every athletic shoe.
And for you.

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Sports Cushions are one of the fine products
in the Pro Comfort line of athletic accessories by Scholl.
Wham. Rollout Bleu’s just got faster. Wham. Much faster. Now the game’s original blue ball is even better. A special rubber compound gives it a new zing that’ll out-perform any other racquetball we’ve ever made. And we did it without giving up any of its unbeatable durability or consistency of bounce.

The new improved Rollout Bleu Racquetball. Wham. Clearly a better ball.

Santa Ana, California 92704
SEAMCO
"BLUE 600"
A Smashing New Idea
in a Racquetball!

It’s Official...
It’s the Racquetball
adopted by the

USRA.

This new pressureless ball has the look and performance of a champion. Off the wall, "Blue 600" responds with a consistent bounce, coupled with lively action—play after play. Whether you play with a power game or a ceiling game you are always in control. Brilliant blue color gives it high indoor visibility, too. Has the unique distinction of bearing the seal of the USRA. And that’s official.

Next time, put Seamco "Blue 600" into play and see what it does for your game. It’s a blast! It’s the ball control players can appreciate!

IF IT BOUNCES SEAMCO MAKES IT...OFFICIAL

SEAMCO
SEAMCO, INC.
Hatfield, Pa.
Letters To The Editor

Thank you very much for the "Racquetball Without the Walls" (Jokari) that my husband won in your sweepstakes! We’re all going to enjoy it. Thanks again.

Mrs. John Louviere Jennings, Louisiana

Oops! You goofed again—in your February publication. My name is Gregg London (and not Gregg London, and not Gregg London). So, if you can correct this error. Also, see my previous memo sent to you on 2-3-81. If that doesn’t help, see the attached article. You owe me, so make good.

Gregg London
Bloomfield, Connecticut

While glancing through the January edition of Racquetball, I was surprised to see my name listed among the AARA ‘81-‘82 rankings.

Being only a beginner, I was proud to achieve recognition and rank from your magazine. Even though it was misspelled, when I see my name under the women’s A Division I hope there will be no confusion!

Tracey Norman
Russellville, Arkansas

The article in your February issue "Diabetes: Playing the Angles" by Dennis Howe was very well done and should be of great value to all diabetics who participate in this great sport. Playing partners will benefit by better understanding this partner’s or opponent’s condition.

I would like to point out that the illustrations used in this article were taken from a widely used educational system called “Getting Started” produced and distributed by Becton Dickinson Consumer Products Division, P.O. Box 5000, Rochelle Park, New Jersey 07662, a worldwide leader in insulin syringes and needles and diabetes education materials.

James A. Hessen
National Manager
Diabetes Education
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

Thank you for the article "Diabetes—Playing the Angles," by Dennis Howe.

Our daughter was diagnosed as having diabetes at the age of 10 months. Since my wife and I are very active we intend to raise our children to love physical activity also. Although our daughter is still too young for sports (Heather is 15 months old), we keep her very active by playing games with balls and toys. We also collect any articles on diabetes, especially when they focus on sports.

Howe’s article was well written and stressed the important point that diabetics needn’t avoid exercise for fear of an insulin reaction. Instead, they should incorporate exercise into their routine as a tool to keep diabetes under control.

One note however, sweetness of breath does not occur with insulin reactions, but is a symptom of ketosis. Ketosis (or ketoadiposis) normally occurs when not enough insulin is present and body fat is burned instead of carbohydrates. This condition is the opposite of an insulin reaction and normally takes hours or days to develop into a truly dangerous condition.

Besides this one point, I must commend Racquetball and Dennis Howe on this article. It is this type of article that makes Racquetball a well-rounded sports magazine. Keep up the good work.

Hal Weinstein
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Your article “Diabetes: Playing the Angles” by Dennis Howe, in February 1981 issue, was extremely well done. It pointed out the fact that diabetics can engage in strenuous activity such as racquetball, and just as with others, benefit greatly therefrom. Exercise enhances health and playing racquetball is one of the great ways to exercise.

Jerry L. Woolley
Executive Director
American Diabetes Association
Chicago, Illinois

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your magazine for the fine editorial release you featured in the November, 1980 issue on our racquetball gift and trophy suggestions.

Judging from your reader response, there is a great deal of interest in our products.

We do want to thank you again and bring to your attention our newest phone number, which is 213-378-4425.

Renee Sokilski, President
V R Creations Court Jewels
Redondo Beach, California

Racquetball welcomes correspondence from its readers. All letters must be signed and are subject to editing for clarity and length.
Dear Members,

Undoubtedly you have heard time and time again from us that the American Amateur Racquetball Association is your Association—representing you in your sport through democratic means.

With the annual general membership meeting coming up at the Nationals in May, it is extremely important that you recognize what this means. The AARA was founded to represent you and, through the efforts of you and your volunteer organizations in every state, effectively governs the amateur sport of racquetball in the United States.

The state organizations are only as good as the people involved in them. For most it is a thankless, time consuming, often maligned position in which the only reward for countless hours of work is a kind word every now and then from their constituents. And so it is for the AARA National Board of Directors as well. The Board members are your elected representatives who volunteer at your request, and often at great personal and financial sacrifice, to guide this great organization towards the goals and direction so deemed by the membership. They are persons of great dedication and vision, willing to spend many hours in the pursuit of the ideals of the AARA. A position on the Board is by no means an honorary or token position, but requires hard work and dedication to carrying out the charge given them by you, the membership.

The operating and successful programs developed over the past several years, such as the Junior Program, Intercollegiate local, regional, and national development, rules, international development, clinics, summer camps, women's programs, leagues, youth camps, world championship zone competition, scholarships, etc., all resulted from the dedication and determination of volunteers who made the AARA work. When we meet in Boise next month, talk to the candidates running for the positions on the Board. Get to know them. Find out what they feel about the AARA. Do they know what being on the Board really entails? Carefully study the proposed slate of candidates submitted to the membership by your nominating committee. Don't vote simply by popularity. Often those who are popular are not the same people who will be willing to spend the time, money, and dedicate their efforts to this most important position.

Regards,

Luke St. Onge
Executive Director
To The General Membership of the AARA

This past year has been extremely productive for the American Amateur Racquetball Association. Through the work of you, the amateur players who volunteer your services, and the efforts of our National office and National Board of Directors, the AARA is today the Voice of the Amateur Player in America. I am hoping to see many of you in Boise, Idaho, the site of our National Singles competition, to personally thank you for your contribution to our Association.

These National Singles are the culmination of the year's tournament efforts and the highlight of the tournament season. Don't deny yourself the chance to be a part of all that the fantastic tournament committee of Bob Petersen's Court House has planned for you. We will be holding the General Membership meeting on Friday evening, May 22nd, and by attending you will have the opportunity to be directly involved and responsible for policy-making decisions. You will also be electing four new Board members to the National Board of Directors. A slate of officers will be made available to you to review at the time you register for the tournament, giving you enough time to meet the candidates and perhaps others who you would like to nominate on Friday evening, from the floor. Following the meeting there will be a party, free to all those who have attended the membership meeting.

Saturday evening is our banquet, planned to carry out the festive and friendly air that our tournaments promote. We hope you will be a part of all the special events planned for you during your stay in Boise as we want a cohesive feeling that can only be achieved by your participation. An itinerary will be provided to you and by knowing in advance all that is on the schedule, you should have time to plan to include all of these activities during your stay in Boise.

Thank you for your interest in the AARA and racquetball. It has been my pleasure to work for you and our sport as your president in 1980 and 1981.

Keith Calkins,
President

For the National Singles Application see page 12.
### AARA AFFILIATE COURT CLUBS

If you're traveling farther than 75 miles from your home court, the following affiliate court clubs will honor your AARA (IRA) card. Please call ahead for house rules and guest fees.

**List Key:**
- **wlr** - women's locker room
- **mlr** - men's locker room
- **ws** - women's sauna
- **ms** - men's sauna
- **ww** - women's whirlpool
- **mw** - men's whirlpool
- **msr** - men's steam room
- **wsr** - women's steam room
- **sp** - steam pool
- **t** - tennis court
- **r** - restaurant
- **b** - bar
- **sb** - snack bar
- **ps** - pro shop
- **er** - exercise room
- **n** - nursery

### ALASKA
- **Anchorage Racquet Club**
  - **Address:** 700 South Bragam
  - **Contact:** Anchorage, AK
  - **Phone:** 203-366-7888

### ARIZONA
- **Chandler Club**
  - **Address:** 11405 Chandler, N. Hollywood, CA 91601
  - **Phone:** 203-366-7888

### CALIFORNIA
- **San Francisco Summer Club**
  - **Address:** 1438 Bel Marin Keys Blvd, Novato, CA 94947
  - **Phone:** 203-366-7888

### FLORIDA
- **Sarasota Racquet Club**
  - **Address:** 2700 N. 81st Pl, Miami, FL 33176
  - **Phone:** 203-366-7888

### MICHIGAN
- **Keatington Racquetball Club**
  - **Address:** 1750 Waldon Biv. Jolynn & Lapeer (M-24)
  - **Phone:** 313-391-3334

### MINNESOTA
- **Exercise Dynamics**
  - **Address:** Old Highway 71 N, Mankato, MN 56001
  - **Phone:** 201-751-8351

### NEW JERSEY
- **Racquettime Court Club**
  - **Address:** 17-10 River Road, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
  - **Phone:** 203-366-7888

### NEW YORK
- **The Pelham Racquetball and Health Club**
  - **Address:** 5 Pelham Parkway
  - **Contact:** Pelham Manor, NY 10803

### PENNSYLVANIA
- **Indian Springs Golf and Racquet Club**
  - **Address:** 949 Church St
  - **Contact:** Landisville, PA 17538

### SOUTH CAROLINA
- **The Pelham Racquetball and Health Club**
  - **Address:** 5 Pelham Parkway
  - **Contact:** Pelham Manor, NY 10803

### TEXAS
- **Killeen Athletic Club**
  - **Address:** 405 South 2nd
  - **Contact:** Killeen, TX 76541

### UTAH
- **The Eastern Racquet Club**
  - **Address:** 120 W. Hilton Inn Dr, St. George, UT 84770
  - **Phone:** 203-366-7888

### WEST VIRGINIA
- **Charleston Racquet Club**
  - **Address:** 1842 Highway 7
  - **Contact:** Charleston, WV 25307

### CONNECTICUT
- **Racquetball Spa**
  - **Address:** 500 Kings Highway Cut-Off
  - **Contact:** Fairfield, CT 06430

### MASSACHUSETTS
- **Boston Tennis Club**
  - **Address:** 633 Summer Street
  - **Contact:** Boston, MA 02210

### ILLINOIS
- **Court Club of Coole Old Rh 13 East
  - **Address:** Carbondale, IL 62901

### WISCONSIN
- **The Pelham Racquetball and Health Club**
  - **Address:** 5 Pelham Parkway
  - **Contact:** Pelham Manor, NY 10803

### NEBRASKA
- **The Pelham Racquetball and Health Club**
  - **Address:** 5 Pelham Parkway
  - **Contact:** Pelham Manor, NY 10803
Olympian introduces
the suspension system racquet.

Once again Bud Leach has
turned the sport inside out.

After the innovations
Bud Leach has
brought to racquetball
you'd think
he'd be content.
No way. Once
again this
inventor/pilot/
skier/racer/
engineer has
advanced the
state of the art.
"Until now
racquets were strung
through the frame. The holes weakened it, allowed it to twist.

Now there is the suspension system. An integral flange inside
the frame provides the stringing platform. The result is a strength-
ened frame, and a much stronger game. This new trampoline
platform holds the ball longer, allows it to regain an aerodynamic
shape, then slings it with added power and control. Even when
shots are struck off center.

You'll feel the added control and power
immediately. Later, you'll feel less wrist and arm
fatigue, because there is less torque action each
time the ball is struck."

Of course, pick up any Olympian racquet and
you'll sense the perfect simplicity combined with
optimum control and power. That's the
Bud Leach philosophy. And at Olympian,
we're putting it where it'll do the most
good. Right in your hand.

OLYMPIAN
RACQUETBALL
The ultimate innovators in metal,
fiberglass, and graphite
racquets and accessories.

5567 Kearny Villa Rd.,
San Diego, CA 92123 • (714) 292-6000
Lessons From A Legend

If you’ve always wanted a lesson from legendary racquetballer Dr. Bud Muehleisen, now’s your chance. And you won’t even need to leave your home court, because Muehleisen’s special talents have been ‘captured forever on Video Sports’ color video cassette. The new tape is intended to be used again and again for instruction and combines close-ups, slow-motion, and stop-action stroke analysis by the legend himself—winner of over 45 National Championships.

Video Sports/Dr. Bud Muehleisen On Racquetball will soon be available. The 30-minute color cassette is priced at $250, and will be available in Super 8mm and 16mm film for “slightly higher prices,” according to the manufacturer. For more information about Video Sports’ racquetball tape, as well as prices, “according to the manufacturer, contact Video Sports, P.O. Box 19485, San Diego, Calif. 92119; or call 714-464-6361.

Chicago Shootout

The Chicago Sun-Times and Wilson Sporting Goods have announced plans to stage another racquetball festival in cooperation with other sponsors and prominent racquetball officials, among them the American Amateur Racquetball Association executive director Luke St. Onge.

It figures to again emerge as one of the nation’s biggest mass participation sports events.

Last year’s first Sun-Times Shootout drew 1,260 players, the most ever to participate in a racquetball tournament in one city.

The second Sun-Times-Wilson Shootout has slightly different sponsorship than the first. By the time the last ball is struck in May, over $60,000 in prizes will be awarded to both playing and non-playing participants in Shootout.

Survivors of the early April local eliminations—and there will be 256 of them—will advance to regional play at four of the participating centers April 25-26. Most of the big prizes will be awarded May 2-3 at the finals at The Glass Court Club or Women’s Professional Racquetball Association championships for the serious, competitive players. Players, in fact, who have qualified for the draws in National Racquetball Club or Women’s Professional Racquetball Association championships are not eligible for Shootout.

Prizes will go to more than just racquetball players. Participants in an accompanying sweepstakes will be able to win matching prizes.
**Eyeguard Update II**

Two new eye protection products are on the market now. Sport-Specs™ eyeguards are distributed by Allan Enterprises of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Sport-Specs are French made safety goggles with anti-fog design. The goggle is made of polycarbonate and weighs just one ounce. It is self-fitting with a wrap-around feature that is designed for side protection. Accessory items include an adjustable head strap to hold the goggle in place, a shock/fit pad for the nose bridge, and a sport bag for convenient storage. The goggle is available in clear, light brown, and amber. For more information, contact Allan Enterprises, 7517 North Seneca Road, Milwaukee, Wisc. 53217; or call 414-352-6152.

Rec-Specs are eyeguards currently being marketed exclusively by Victory Optical of Newark, New Jersey. According to Victory, the Rec-Spec is engineered and designed to provide wide temporal protection. It features an adjustable headband and foam rubber cushioning for a close fit. Available in two sizes, large and small, with or without impact resistant polycarbonate lenses; the Rec-Spec also features a safety groove in the frame. The safety groove purportedly prevents the lens from coming out of place upon impact. Special venting prevents fogging. For more information contact Victory Optical, One Victory Plaza, Newark, N.J. 07102; or call 201-643-7991.

**String Machine**

The 280-CS is a new professional quality racquet stringing machine now available from Associated Tennis Suppliers. Although the machine has a clean, simple design, it is built to withstand rugged use and is therefore guaranteed for five years.

The 280-CS machine strings all racquets without additional adapters, according to the manufacturer. It has a precise clamping system for tension consistency. It comes with two vise-clamps, free floating clamps, and a special stringer's awl. The machine has a tension range from 15 to 75 pounds.

The price of the new 280-CS is $230. For more information contact the Associated Tennis Suppliers at 11111-A Flinthkote Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92121; or call 800-854-7071. In California call 714-452-8601.

Descriptions of new products are as according to information provided by the manufacturer; products have not been tested by Racquetball magazine.

**Moving Up**

As of the first of this month Robert McTear assumed the position of vice president and general manager for Ektelon, a San Diego based manufacturer of racquetball racquets and accessories.
AMERICAN AMATEUR RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS
May 21 - 25, 1981

SITE:
The Court House
7211 Colonial
Boise, Idaho 83709
208-377-0040

ENTRY FEE:
$30.00 first event
$10.00 second event
Players may enter two events
Make Checks payable to: AARA National Singles
NO REFUNDS

ENTRY DEADLINE:
Postmarked Tuesday, May 12, 1981
ALL ENTRIES ARE FINAL
Positively no applications will be accepted after this date.

MAIL ALL ENTRIES TO:
The Court House
7211 Colonial
Boise, Idaho 83709

HOUSING:
Tournament Headquarters:
Red Lion-Riverside
29th & Chinden Blvd.
Boise, ID 83704  800-547-8010

Be sure to mention you are with this AARA Racquetball Tournament to receive special room rate. In order to assure you of a reservation, please make your plans before May 1, 1981.

Additional Housing at:
Holiday Inn 208-344-8365
Idahna Hotel 208-342-3611
Red Lion (Downtown) 208-343-1871
Roadway 208-376-2700
Vista Inn 208-336-8100

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:
Luke St. Onge
5545 Murray Suite 202
Memphis, TN 38119
901-761-1172
RULES:
AARA Official rules will apply. Only amateurs may participate. AARA rules state the definition of an amateur racquetball player as any player (male, female or junior) who has not accepted prize money, regardless of the amount, in any PRO SANCTIONED tournament (NRC, PRA, WPRA, IPRO, NARP, or any other association so deemed by the AARA Board of Directors). ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST SHOW CURRENT AARA MEMBERSHIP CARD or purchase membership at time of registration.

TOURNAMENT BALL:
Voit Rollout Bleu

HOSPITALITY:
Hospitality will be provided throughout the entire tournament. Friday evening beginning at 6:30 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING with cash bar and party to follow. Saturday evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. with cash bar and buffet style dinner to follow at 8:00 p.m. Free to all PLAYERS; nominal fee for guests.

AWARDS:
Given for first, second, third, fourth, and consolation. For seeding purposes, please send record of past accomplishments.

NOTE: Men's and women's B divisions may be limited to 64 players per event. Due to the anticipated large turnout B's will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

DEFINITION OF AMATEUR - as applies to AARA rules - AARA rules state the definition of an amateur racquetball player as any player (male, female or junior) who has not accepted prize money, regardless of the amount, in any PRO SANCTIONED tournament (NRC, PRA, WPRA, IPRO, NARP, or any other association so deemed by the AARA Board of Directors).

Please enter me in the event(s) checked below. Players may enter two events.

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS
( )( ) Open
( )( ) Seniors 30+
( )( ) Seniors 35+
( )( ) Seniors 40+
( )( ) Masters 45+
( )( ) Masters 50+
( )( ) Golden Masters 55+
( )( ) Golden Masters 60+
( )( ) Golden Masters 65+
( )( ) B (non-championship event)

MEN'S DIVISIONS
( )( ) Open
( )( ) Seniors 30+
( )( ) Seniors 35+
( )( ) Seniors 40+
( )( ) Masters 45+
( )( ) Masters 50+
( )( ) Golden Masters 55+
( )( ) Golden Masters 60+
( )( ) Golden Masters 65+
( )( ) B (non-championship event)

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY
Mr./Ms.______________________________________________
Address________________________City____________State________________________Zip_____________
Business Phone________________________Home Phone________________________(Area Code) (Area Code)
Expiration date of AARAILA Membership Card_______________
Waiver: I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims I might have against the American Amateur Racquetball Association, The Court House, or their representative agents, for any and all injuries.
DATE________________________SIGNATURE__________
(Parent's signature, if participant is a minor)

MAKE CHECKS TO:
AARA NATIONAL SINGLES

ENTRY FEE:
$30.00 first event
$10.00 second event
Players may enter two events

MAIL TO:
THE COURT HOUSE
7211 Colonial
Boise, Idaho 83709

FORM IS NOT COMPLETE NOR IS ENTRY ACCEPTED UNLESS CHECK FOR CORRECT AMOUNT IS ENCLOSED
A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Juniors Have Needs Too!

In my conversations with club owners and managers throughout the country, I keep hearing the same complaint: "We can't seem to maintain interest in our junior program." There could be any number of reasons for this, but in most cases it is found that their program isn't meeting the needs of the junior player. This is a common problem in virtually all club programming, whether the program is designed for men, women, or juniors. Programs should be structured so as to meet the particular needs of those members who are participating, and this is especially true in the case of the junior player.

Junior players do not play racquetball for the same reasons that adults do; so their programs should not be structured in the same manner. For instance, many adults play to reduce their waistlines — juniors don't! Adults also play to make additional business and professional contacts — juniors don't! Having an adult pay fees in advance usually guarantees their presence at clinics and workouts; but no guarantee exists in the case of the junior racquetball player, because they don't pay the fees. Mom and Dad usually do that.

So, what is the solution? Why do children play racquetball at some clubs and not at others? I have checked with the coaches of some of the most successful junior programs and they seem to have many of the same ingredients in their recipe for success. The following is a list of the major needs of the average junior player, not necessarily in order of priority.

1. Team identification.
2. Ego gratification.
3. Travel opportunities.
4. Career opportunities.
5. Participation in a "fun" activity.

Now that we have identified the major reasons a junior plays racquetball, we must look at them separately and in more depth.

Team Identification

This is the key to the success of sports such as youth soccer, little league baseball, Pop Warner football and youth basketball. Although racquetball is not a team sport, it can be approached in a similar manner by picking a team name, team T-shirt or warm-up, team colors and having team practices. This allows the junior player to identify with his or her team and lends them the support of their peers, which is very important to the young competitor. The team concept cannot be over emphasized and everything from fund raising (see last month's "Juniors' Page") to tournaments should be done as a team.

Ego Gratification

Many of the coaches I talked to felt this might be the most important need the junior player has. Learning to compete, or how to win and lose, is a very important part of a young person's development. They want to see how they "measure up" to their peers. They also truly enjoy competition if it is organized and structured. The AARA Junior Council provides our young players with the opportunity to compete in State, Regional, and National tournaments, along with the chance for a National ranking. Rankings allow the players to see exactly how they "measure up" to their peers. Other vehicles which can be used at the local level are:

1. Team ladders.
2. Local junior tournaments.
3. Junior summer leagues.
4. Junior play days and interclub.
5. Print results in club newsletters and local newspapers.

Travel and Career Opportunities

One of the most enjoyable experiences in growing up seems to be going to new places and meeting new friends who have common interests. This is an extremely important component of a successful junior program. Parents and coaches must organize trips to tournaments and matches with other clubs in your area. Parental support and participation are also necessary for transportation and supervision if your program is to be a success. A very small percentage of junior players will have a need to make racquetball a career and their needs must be met also. The AARA has the most comprehensive amateur and junior programs at the national level, which acts as a very important stepping stone for aspiring professionals. More information on rankings and tournaments can be obtained by calling the AARA office in Memphis, Tennessee at 901-761-1172.

Participation in a "Fun" Activity

In my opinion, this is perhaps the most important need. The vast majority of junior players in the average program just want to have "fun," but many players take the game and themselves too seriously. This is the area in which coaches and parents must, and should influence their attitudes. When being on the team is no longer fun, the normal junior player will simply drop out. Try and keep your program in the proper perspective and try to make it an exciting and enjoyable experience for all juniors who are involved.

I realize these thoughts just scratch the surface, but there are space limitations we must meet. If anyone would like to discuss their respective junior programs, please don't hesitate to call. Please remember, there are many variables involved in making a junior program a success; but the general needs outlined here are an integral part of all successful ones. Form a team and embark on a few fund raising activities, teach the basics, and you will be surprised how quickly your program will develop. Remember, keep it simple and fun!
In Alaskan dark winters with temperatures 40 degrees below zero, racquetball has begun to flourish even though distances to travel are often great. Players from Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, outlying military posts, and the "north slope" totaled 111 persons to attend the 1981 AARA State Singles and Doubles Championships hosted by Racquetball Fairbanks in Fairbanks, Alaska on the weekend of Feb. 27-March 1.

The support of Lite Beer and West Coast Distributors provided additional awards besides the engraved pewter plates and mugs which included Lite warmups, Lite sweatshirt jackets and Lite travel bags. Volunteer club members aided in trimming the cost to entrants by supplying fresh baked turkey sandwiches and assistance at the tournament control desk.

**Men's Open Singles**

The men's number one seed, Steve Deaton was upset in his first round match by Doug Smith of Juneau. Playing in two singles divisions, Seniors and Open, Smith proved to be the most impressive player of the weekend. Smith started slow losing 15-21. Coming back strong, Smith's quickness and accuracy defeated Deaton soundly in the second game 21-7. The tiebreaker was even until the last few points with Smith taking it 11-9.

In the second half of the draw, number two seed Lonnie Henry handled Bob DeGraw easily with a 21-1 and 21-6 victory. Henry's consistency over the year has determined him to be number one in the state by many fans.

In the semifinal action, Doug Smith was defeated by a very agile left-handed Dennis Kaufman from Racquetball Fairbanks. Kaufman kept a strong concentration to win 21-11 but found the second game tougher as Smith utilized a strong forehand Z serve to keep Kaufman off balance. Kaufman held on to a 21-19 victory.

Semifinalists Steve Gerstein and Lonnie Henry played a similar match with Gerstein losing to Henry 21-5 in the first game. Gerstein is known for his one man show on the court due to his antics and managed to gain a lead at 19-16 during the second game. Henry utilized three well executed pinch shots with the result being 21-19.

This left Kaufman and Henry, who were also Open Doubles partners, pitted against one another in the finals. Henry's tournament experience and availability to practice with stronger players proved valuable as he defeated Kaufman 21-10 and 21-15.

**Women's Opens Singles**

The Women's Open Singles was dominated by Fairbanks women, Marg Nestor and Ilona Fellows. Since some women who would have normally participated could not attend, a round robin was held. Nestor kept all opponents' total points, from the best two out of three games, below 17 points. Nestor is a hard hitter and is known for her hustle. Fellows took second to Nestor but Nestor easily dominated the first game by forcing Fellows to rush some shots. Nestor has long been one of the stronger players in the state.

**Men's B Singles**

This draw, along with the Men's B/C Doubles, was definitely tough with many players very close in ability. The semifinals pitted Sam Wiglesworth from Ft. Wainwright against Rich Bevins of Anchorage in one of the most exciting matches of the tournament. Both men are extremely quick with a high endurance level. Amongst dives and rolls, the rallies were endless with plenty of good saves. Wiglesworth lost the first game 20-21 but returned to a 21-20 victory in the second game. Neither player wanted to concede a point but Wiglesworth pulled through in the tiebreaker 11-5.

It was not an easy semifinals in the other half of the draw either. Randall Blanchard was pitted against Steve Blaske in another tiebreaker match. Blanchard is a power player with the body frame to put a powerful build behind every shot. Blaske relied on finesse and a change of pace. Blaske conceded the first game 20-21 but changed his game plan to win 21-8 in the second game and 11-9 in the tiebreaker.

Blaske lost 18-21 in the first game of the finals and won 21-14 in the second game as Wiglesworth's earlier semifinals match seemed to catch up with him. Wiglesworth fought to a respectful loss of 11-9 in the tiebreaker.

Blanchard and Bevins dropped into the fight for third place only to find another grueling tiebreaker. Again, it was any man's game as Blanchard won 19-21, 21-16, and 11-7. It was no easy ride for any man to reach the semifinals or finals. It was interesting for fans to watch not only skill but endurance play a part in the final outcome.

**Men's Masters**

The first round matches were fairly consistent with scores averaging in the
Men's Seniors
Having just made it into the age bracket by two weeks, the amazing Doug Smith took first place handily against Gerry Fuller of Fairbanks. There was just no stopping Smith as his hot streak never cooled down. Fuller had to concede to a 21-10, 21-4 loss.

Smith had won against Charles Vaughn 21-7, 21-9 in the semifinals after the number four seed, Roger Fellows had to forfeit. Gerry Fuller had taken Haney, a new club member from Phoenix, Arizona, 21-8 and 21-8. Earlier in the draw, Tom Haney had upset Mike Darling in a tiebreaker 11-4 and won by forfeit to the number two seed, Jack Mellor, due to a broken rib. Charles Vaughn proceeded to beat Tom Haney for third place even though Haney had first serve in the tiebreaker. Results were 21-18, 14-21 and 11-1.

Men's C Singles
Alfonso Mills, an unknown player took an impressive 1st place. Those who played against him could not believe his accurate Z serve. Doug Strain, an up and coming Junior player put up a strong battle with his quickness and youth against Mill's power, losing 15-21, 21-7 and 11-10.

In the semifinals, Mills had a decisive win against Ken Blair, another junior from Fairbanks. Results were 21-8, 21-14. Rob Walton and Doug Strain fought the semifinals to a tiebreaker with Strain's pinch shot doing the trick. Results were 15-21, 21-11 and 11-4. Walton got Strain on his hustle for the first game, but Strain's accuracy and court positioning won the match. Ken Blair then proceeded to take Walton in three at 16-21, 21-19 and 11-10 for third place.

Men's Open Doubles
Although it was their first time playing together, the number two seeded team of Dennis Kaufman and Lonne Henry defeated the number one seeded team of Harold Campbell and Steve Deaton. Results were 21-18, 15-21 and 11-3.

Women's Open Doubles
Kathy Schilling and Ilona Fellows teamed up in this round robin division to win first place. Marg Nestor and her newly acquired partner, Sherry Brown were probably the toughest match with Nestor and Brown finishing second.

Men's B/C Doubles
Many upsets took place in this division of tough teams. In the first round of play the number two seeded team of Wigesworth and Mike Terry was upset by Randall Blanchard and Dana Knoepfle. Blanchard and Knoepfle took first place in consecutive repeats of 21-12 and 21-12 against the number one seeded team of Rod Rodriguez and Steve Blaske. Knoepfle and Blanchard's closest match appeared to be in the semifinals against the veteran team of Kelly Snapp and Bob Hibnes from Fort G reely. Scores were 21-7, 18-21, and 11-7. Snapp and Hibnes went on to take third against Mike Chudecke and George Whyel after Chudecke and Whyel lost to Blaske and Rodriguez 20-21, 21-3 and 11-2 in the semifinals.

Women's B
Joan Smith from Juneau upset the number one seed, Sherry Brown in the first round of play by 21-15, 20-21, and 11-5. Jeanne McCombs from Eliason Air Force Base upset Bonnie Brody, the number two seed, also in a tiebreaker. Results were 12-21, 21-11, 11-6. The final outcome became Joan Smith being defeated by Jeanne McCombs 21-15, 21-16. Bonnie Brody took third place with Janet Matheson taking the consolation bracket by a 21-16, 21-20 win over Susan Morton from Fairbanks.

Women's C
In the semifinal action Aurora Campbell of Anchorage defeated Morna Seifert of Fairbanks 21-7, 21-17. Aurora Campbell ran into definite trouble though when she ran into Julie Darling of Anchorage in the finals. Darling held a sound victory at 21-13, 21-4. After having lost to Darling 21-8, 21-8, Joan Fiorenzi took third in a close match over Morna Seifert. Results were 17-21, 21-10, 11-8. Consolation was taken from a veteran C player, Patti Kinn, by a first time tourney player Phyllis Scott. Scores were 21-7 and 21-4.

Other Results:
Women's Novice:
1st: Happy Hurston
2nd: Marilyn Kaufman
3rd: Dawn Smith
Consolation: Mary Ellen Moran

Men's Novice:
1st: Chester Sniegowski
2nd: William Ernst
3rd: Bob Macomber
Consolation: Michael Ahlsen

Men's Open Consolation:
Claude Stokes

Men's B Consolation:
Kelly Snapp

Men's C Consolation:
Wayne Cobb

Men's Master Consolation:
Tom McDowell

Men's Open Doubles Consolation:
John Tagney and Don Dobson

Women's Open Doubles Consolation:
Paris Henry and Robin Rodriguez

Men's B/C Doubles Consolation:
Sam Wigesworth and Mike Terry

Time Out
The success of the Lite Beer and West Coast Distributors State AARA Singles and Doubles Championship would not have been possible without the help of Mick Rupp who assisted in getting the backing from Lite beer and his distributorship. Other welcomed assistance came from Tim McDonnell who provided lodging and transportation for the out of town people. Without our loyal and efficient club members Rob Walton, Vicki Baird, Candice Robertson, Karla Gunderson, Paula Elms, Liz Wood, Sue Clement, Sherry Brown, Morna Seifert, Leslie Barber, Misty Sundgren, and Sandy Mayr, the tournament control desk would not have been conducted as smoothly.

Thanks must also be extended to club members who provided those great turkey sandwiches and other "goodies". We greatly appreciated the efforts of Happy Hutson, Lou Davis, and Lou Fuzzard. All tournament entrants would like to say thanks to Lite Beer for supplying the "suds".

Finally, to all staff members of Racquetball Fairbanks especially Rocky Grimes, Joe Carie, Dennis Kaufman, and Nola Sundgren and the 111 participants without whom Kathy Schilling would not have been able to direct a successful tournament, thanks.

16 April '81 Racquetball
12 years ago a friend of mine (we'll call him Richard) used to leave his racquetball racquet hanging by the wrist strap from one of those accordion coat racks just inside his front door. After a while, he got so sick of people asking him what the stubby little wooden racquet was that he began telling them that it was, in fact, a tennis racquet for long-armed people. He was very convincing, going into an elaborate spiel about how, according to the Most Official rules of tennis, the racquet head was not allowed to be more than a certain distance from a person's armpit, and so on.

While not everyone was gulled by the tale, there were quite a few people who left Richard's house wondering if they, in fact, had arms long enough to necessitate going out and investing in one of the stubby racquets.

The point to all of this is that just 12 years ago racquetball was still such an obscure game that even people familiar with tennis (which was entering its ascendancy at about the same time) were more likely than not to fall for the story, or at least to be unsure enough of its veracity not to mount any serious objections. Racquetball was a relatively invisible game, played in YMCA basements and church gyms on courts which had signs reading clearly: "Handball Courts." It was an upstart game, taken by serious tennis aficionados to be a fad—
dish diversion, soon to go the way of Nehru jackets and vinyl go-go boots.

To write an article stating merely that racquetball has, during the last decade, become widely accepted as a legitimate sport would be to belabor the obvious. However, it is interesting that the extent to which racquetball has become "acceptable" is nowhere more in evidence these days than at many of the nation's premier tennis clubs. Only recently most of the bastions of tennis snobbery have thumped regarding racquetball as a renegade sibling. They have let racquetball move in on its "older brother" in what appears to be a mutually profitable venture for all concerned.

Here, then, is a look at a few representative clubs, which 15 years ago would have been dedicated to tennis and tennis only, and which have recently made a place for racquetball within their club structures. None, it is safe to say, are lamenting the presence of the newcomer.

In the shadow of a pair of office towers, next to the fashionably expensive residential neighborhoods in east Memphis, sits a comparatively squat cluster of buildings which bear a sign reading "The Racquet Club of Memphis" in designedly unobtrusive letters. From the outside, the buildings might, were it not for the sign and the rows of 28 tennis courts which stretch away from them, be easily mistaken for a group of hangars at a nice private airport.

From the inside, though, the buildings might just as easily be mistaken for Versailles. Lush dining rooms, panelled in real walnut, are connected by hallways tastefully repurposed with antique hutches, side boards, and enamel vases. Chandeliers, rich sofas, fireplaces, and thick-piled carpet are in evidence throughout the "club" sections of the building. House plants grow on small tables set up along windows which afford a pleasant view of any of the 12 indoor tennis courts housed in the three hangar-like buildings of the club. Whether you like this sort of thing or not, The Racquet Club of Memphis is one of the most, well, opulent athletic facilities around.

While members of The Racquet Club of Memphis would not trade this opulence for the Acropolis, it would be very wrong to assume that tennis is not taken very seriously here. All of the courts, indoor and out, are fastidiously maintained. The lighting for the indoor courts is provided by 1,000-watt mercury-halide bulbs (which provide a lot of light with absolutely no glare) discreetly situated in trophy-like fixtures overhead. So good are the indoor tennis facilities at The Racquet Club of Memphis that it has played host to the U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships for five of its six years in existence. Club members love their walnut-panelling and their brass-festooned restaurant, but they love their tennis just as well, if not better.

On his office wall, Mac Winker, general manager of The Racquet Club of Memphis, has a framed poster advertisement for the U.S. National Indoors. It is autographed by all of the players who participated in last year's tournament. Each year a new poster goes up, bearing new signatures. In the past, Mac Winker's office wall has borne the autographs of Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Arthur Ashe, Bjorn Borg, and most other members of the current tennis hierarchy. It is clear, upon merely entering his office, that Mac Winker is a man proud of the tennis activities at his club.

Yet it was Winker who went before the Board of Directors of the club, as well as the club owner, and "stumped the capital fund" needed to install the three new racquetball courts. While the decision was not his alone to make, Winker had a great deal to do with providing club members with the "professional quality" courts on which to play.

One reason lies in the fact that Winker, a man who fairly exudes vitality even in a desk chair, is himself a racquetball player. But there was more to it than this. Winker explains his motivation: "We are, remember, primarily a tennis facility. But we were in a situation about 18 months ago where the two racquetball courts that we had, which were built along with the rest of the facilities, were simply being over-utilized. It had gotten to the point where we couldn't take care of them properly, because there was never a time when we could get on them for maintenance."

So, member demand had a lot to do with it. But there is more still. Winker realized that adding racquetball courts would "put more value into the club in that, if we have a family of four, and one member of that family plays racquetball and the other three members play tennis, then we would be worth more to that family by having a good racquetball facility." Also, Winker wanted to be able to run programs similar to the ones offered to tennis players. Things like in-house tournaments, leagues, junior development programs, and major national tournaments were not possible without the three new courts. To sum all this up, Winker leans back in his chair, casts a brief glance at the autographed poster on his wall, and states, "We simply want to be the total facility for our members and their families."

Because of what Winker refers to as the "amenity package" offered at The Racquet Club of Memphis, meaning the lavish restaurant facilities, the walnut-panelled dining rooms, the wading pool-sized whirlpool baths, and so forth, he expects his new racquetball courts to attract some major national tournaments. Looking ahead to this, the courts were constructed with plexiglass back walls, behind which bleachers can be erected, and a sound system for calling matches. Winker states that these extras were "certainly well worth the extra money. Because of them, we have been approached to do some very nice things in..."
racquetball in the future.” (In fact, since this article was researched, it has been determined that The Racquet Club will be the site of this year’s AARA National Intercollegiate Championships, to be held the 10th through the 12th of this month.—Ed.)

Still, Winker is quick to re-emphasize the point that “tennis has not slowed down here at all—in fact, we simply moved the tennis court on which the three racquetball courts were built to another building, so we did not really lose a tennis court at all. But we really came out a winner with those racquetball courts. The response has been tremendous. We have not, I feel, even scratched the tip of the iceberg here.”

At another “premier” tennis club, The Racquet Club in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, there has been an even more extensive commitment made to racquetball. Racquetball last year as one of the 50 best indoor tennis facilities by Tennis Magazine, according to Chip Purcell, promotion director, The Racquet Club has come to look upon racquetball as not an upstart “little brother” to tennis, but as an (almost) equal partner.

As Purcell explains, The Monroeville Racquet Club started out 12 years ago with four lonely tennis courts perched under a “bubble.” Due to weather and other considerations, this did not prove to be as satisfactory an arrangement as a year-round concern. So, the courts were covered with a permanent steel structure, and four squash courts and four racquetball courts were installed.

Later, when the club came under new ownership, the Monroeville Racquet Club made a major commitment to racquetball, in large part due to our players.” Purcell goes on to state, “While I can’t say that it was the major reason, member demand had a lot to do with our racquetball expansion. We simply saw that four courts were not enough.”

So, nine new racquetball courts were added. Like those in Memphis, the Monroeville Racquet Club’s courts were built with glass backs, save for one, which was built with glass walls, to make them usable for tournament situations. With this addition, the Monroeville Racquet Club reached its present size, having now 13 racquetball courts, 18 indoor tennis courts, four squash courts, and four outdoor tennis courts. To go along with these, they also offer an “amenity package” similar to that of the Racquet Club of Memphis, with restaurants, pools, a full Nautilus system, and so on. The clubs differ, however, in which sports they most emphasize.

“We make a point of not overemphasizing tennis to the exclusion of racquetball.” Chip Purcell notes. “By the same token, we do not emphasize racquetball over tennis. But it would be safe to say that racquetball has become a fully integral part of our club. We are now about 60 percent tennis and about 40 percent racquetball, but that is simply by virtue of court space.”

But what of the new clubs, the ones being built today? How has racquetball’s rapid rise to acceptability affected clubs which traditionally would have put in a lot of tennis courts, and maybe stuck in a couple of racquetball courts as a gesture?

On the Gulf Coast, around Biloxi, Mississippi, Allen Avdoy, is getting ready for a Grand Opening celebration “within weeks.” As Director of the new Petit Bois Racquet Club, Avdoy is enthusiastic, optimistic, and all of the other things that managers of brand new ventures should be.

While the Petit Bois Racquet Club will not, at first anyway, be as elegant or as large as the other two clubs mentioned in this article, it will offer a considerable “amenity package” to charter members. They will have “a spa type of thing,” according to Avdoy, “with weights, Jacuzzis (separate for men and women), and a restaurant and lounge.”

But the significant thing about the Petit Bois Racquet Club is the fact that in their opening manifestation they will have the same number of racquetball courts as tennis courts (four each). And, according to Avdoy, the biggest draw at the Petit Bois Racquet Club may well be racquetball. “Tennis is not played out, by any means,” Avdoy emphasizes. “But I would have to say that we expect racquetball will at least greatly enhance our tennis program.”

Speaking as a tennis pro, Avdoy states that he sees the “need to incorporate racquetball into tennis programs. More and more of your ‘established’ tennis clubs are looking for versatile pros, who teach racquetball as well as tennis. In fact, in a recent meeting of the U.S. Tennis Professional Association in Long Beach, there were workshops held in both tennis and racquetball.”

Avdoy goes on to equate racquetball’s club status today with that of tennis some 20 years ago: “I’d say that the parallel here is like when lots of ‘established’ golf courses had to start building tennis courts as tennis became more and more important to their members. I see this same kind of thing happening today at ‘established’ tennis clubs — racquetball is moving in, becoming more and more important to the members. The amoeba has, so to speak, come out of the water and turned into a monkey.”

Besides attracting members, Avdoy acknowledges that simple economics suggest that racquetball can be a more profitable venture for the club owner just starting out. “When you think of the space involved,” he states, “you can build about four racquetball courts on top of one tennis court. Any time you talk about subdividing like that, you stand a better chance of making money.”

If any kind of a trend is suggested here, racquetball may well become more than a little brother to tennis in the near future. It may become as important as any business partner. The two sports have become, in the space of a relatively few years, indispensable to one another. What began as sibling rivalry has become a very healthy (and, for club owners, prosperous) symbiotic relationship.

So, I’m sure there will never come a day when some smart aleck will be able to convince his friends that the old tennis racquet in the corner is actually a racquetball racquet for short-armed people. Oh well, it was a good hoax while it lasted.

On the cover: The Racquet Club of Memphis
RAPID ROYALTY

APRIL 1-5
1981 Nike Ladies Only Pro-Am (3)
Celebrity Courts
500 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02887
Frank Rawcliffe
401-826-1800

APRIL 2-5
New Hampshire AARA Open/Nashua Girls' Club Benefit (3)
Off The Wall
576 W. Hollis St.
Nashua, NH 03062
Dawn Laliberte
603-889-5520

Babylon Benefit Open (3)
Babylon Racquet Club
Huntington, PA 19044
Jim Woodin
215-675-3110

APRIL 3-5
South Carolina State Championships (2)
Charleston Racquet and Nautilus Center
1642 Hwy. 7, Summerville Blvd.
Charleston, SC 29407
Jerry Rogers
803-571-1006

Maryland Farms April Open (3)
Maryland Farms Racquet and Country Club
Brentwood, TN 37027
Marie Copsey
615-373-2900

1981 World-Open Singles (3)
Off The Wall Racquetball Club
230 Oser Ave.
Happauge, NY 11739
Bill Dotter
516-862-9241

Montecarlo Mixed Doubles
Extravaganza (3)
Sacramento Court Club
424 Enterprise Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95825
Mark Greneke
916-920-1933

APRIL 9-11
4th Annual Heart Fund Tournament (3)
Stillwater Racquet and Fitness Club
1225 N. Perkins
Stillwater, OK 74074
Susan Messerschmitt
405-372-7188

APRIL 10-12
Forest Hills Open (3)
Forest Hills Athletic Club
3910 Caughey Rd.
Erie, PA 16506
Mark Salmon
814-833-2468

Muscular Dystrophy Benefit (3)
Redwood Health Club
3101 S. State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
Dean Hutton/Bob Page
707-468-0441

Papa Mike's/Miller Lite AARA Open (3)
Mountain Valley Court Club
875 Rt. 16
North Conway, NH
Roy Pietro
603-356-5774

INTERCOLLEGIATE NATIONALS (6)
The Racquet Club
Memphis, TN
901-751-1172

District Qualifying Tournaments for Ohio State Championships (2) to be held May 15-17
Qualifying Tournament sites:
Toledo, Cleveland,
Columbus, Cincinnati
For more details, contact Jerry Davis
216-751-5574

Helena, Montana City Championships (2)
Cappitol Courts and Health Club
406-443-7788

Broadwater Athletic Club in Hot Springs
406-443-5777

Lee Tickell
406-443-3559

Dodge City Club House AARA Open (3)
Dodge City Club House
805 N. Kansas
Dodge City, KS 67801
Steve Westphal
316-225-0206

Washington State Singles (2)
Seattle Athletic Club
333 N.E. 9th
Seattle, WA 98115
Yvonne Galavan
206-522-9400

Open Idaho State Championships (3)
Sports World
1633 Olympus Dr.
Pocatello, ID 83201

Wayne Weinbaum
208-227-9100

1981 Natural Lite Classic (3)
The Racquet Place
2401 20th Pl.
Birmingham, AL 35223
Geral Cleveland
205-870-0144

Wyoming AARA State Championships (2)
Rocky Mountain Health Club
1881 Westland Rd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001

1981 Atlanta Falcon Open (3)
The Complex
Suwanee Road at I-85
Suwanee, GA 30174
Cathy Gluvious
404-634-8977

Royal River Racquet Club
Rt 1
Yarmouth, ME 04096
John Ewing
207-846-3776

St. George Open (3)
St. George Health and Racquetball Club
43 Clark St
Brooklyn Heights, NY 11201
Al Seitelman
516-261-3257

APRIL 13-16
JUNIOR NATIONALS
Wichita, Kansas
Supreme Court East
Dewane Grimes 316-945-8331
Ed Martin 916-221-4405

APRIL 17-19
AMF Voit 1981 1st Annual Spring Racquetball Classic (3)
The Courtrooms
750 W. Sunrise Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311
Fred Blaesc
305-764-8700

APRIL 24-26
AARA REGIONALS
Athletic Attic-Lover's Lane Racquetball Club
In-House Classic (1)
Lover's Lane Racquetball Club
1056 Lover Lane
Bowling Green, KY 42101
Dennis Smith
502-822-2810

4th Annual Lake County Racquetball Tournament
Sponsored by the Leesburg Recreation
Dept and the L.C.R.A. (2)
Susan Street Complex
Leesburg, FL 33566
Steve Burton
904-343-0362 (evening)

Special Olympics Charity Open (3)
The Club
Dan Travaille
798 Falls Ave.
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
208-734-7538

APRIL 28-30
National Air Traffic Controllers RBT
Sports Rooms
1500 Douglas Rd.
Coral Gables, FL 33134
Carl Dean
305-443-4228

MAY 1-3
WFNE Open (3)
Playoff Racquetball Club
15 Catemore
East Providence, RI 02914
401-334-3600

East Coast Jubilee (4)
Seniors Only 30+ to 60+
Boston Tennis Club
Boston, MA
John Lepore
617-662-6791
2nd Annual Hemophilia Racquetball Benefit (3)
Kessinger's Court Club
2611 S. Mendenhall
Memphis, TN 38118
901-794-9300

qualifying tournament for:
Florida's Sunshine State Games, 1981 (2)
Region 1-Racquetball West

125 Miracle Strip Parkway SW
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32549
John Maddox/Jay Schwartz
904-243-5494

5th Annual Women's Racquetball Classic (3)
Sacramento Handball and Racquetball Club
725 14th St.
Sacramento, CA 95813
Tim Scott
916-441-2977

WJQO OPEN (3)
Falmouth Playoff Club
170th U.S. Rt 1
Falmouth, ME 04105
Sue Ekizian
207-781-4281

MAY 2-9
3rd Annual Pabst Rapid City YMCA Racquetball Tournament (2)
Rapid City YMCA
Bob Hastings/Clint Koble
605-342-2131

MAY 8-10
Illinois State Doubles
for details contact
Ray Mitchell
312-745-9400

The Sporting House 1981 Spring Open (3)
The Sporting House
Enfield, CT
Ken Navarro
203-745-2408

MAY 14-17
California State Singles (2)
Sponsored by San Jose Mercury News/Heart Association
located at the following clubs:
Perfect Racquet - San Jose
21st Point - Mountain View
Royal Courts - San Jose
Court Sports III - Milpitas
Court Sports VI - San Jose
Bay Hill - Milpitas
Schoeber's - San Jose
For more details contact Bill Masucci
415-964-4400

MAY 15-17
Mayfest (3)
Gamepoint Racquet Club
Plymouth, MA
Rick Cash
617-746-7448

JUNE 12-14
qualifying tournament for:
Florida's Sunshine State Games, 1981 (2)
Region 4-The Quadrangle Racquetball Complex
2160 University Dr.
Coral Springs, FL 33065
Fred White
305-753-8900

JULY 24-26
5th Annual Cascade Open (3)
Courtsports I & II
2510 Oakmont Way
Eugene, OR 97401
Reed Fitkin/Vern Cammack
503-687-2811

Sunshine State Games/1981 Florida Olympics (2)
Racquetball Finals
Sports & Courts
1430 S.W. 13th
Gainesville, FL 32601
Gary Zetrower
904-377-0348

1981 S. Dakota State Outdoor (2)
Sioux Park
Rapid City, SD
Clint Koble/Larry Greff
605-394-4167

AARAI 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

* To put your tournament on this calendar, call Hallie at
901-761-1172.
This article is intended to help one identify, assess, and self-treat whenever applicable, some common types of ailments and injuries frequently encountered in racquetball. The information provided will perhaps minimize your disability and hasten your return to play as quickly as possible.

The first elements of your body exposed to injury are the skin and nails. Perhaps the most common injury to your skin is the blister. Blisters are an annoying problem that are not limited to racquetball; although I'm certain most racquetballers have had their share. A blister is formed when there is sufficient friction to cause the outermost layer of skin to separate from the layer immediately beneath it. There is a subsequent collection of fluid which is usually clear or bloody. Treatment is quite simple. First, apply lateral pressure to the blister and puncture it with a sterile pin or needle from the opposite side. Next evacuate the contents, making sure the roof of the blister is intact. (The roof, or empty shell of skin, acts as a biologic dressing and greatly aids in healing. Therefore, it is important that it not be removed.) Following this, apply an antiseptic and cover with a dressing. In time, the roof will crinkle and peel off, revealing a new layer of skin.

The way to prevent blisters, and thereby bypass the above treatment, is also simple. You must eliminate excessive friction and moisture. This can be done by wearing two pairs of socks (it is best if one is thick and one is thin), powdering your feet adequately, and being sure that there is not excessive room inside your athletic shoe which will allow your foot to slide.

Another common malady affecting the skin is "athlete's foot." This condition may manifest itself as cracks between the toes, as a rash on the skin, or as a yellowish discoloration and thickening of the nails.

Athlete's foot is caused by one of several species of fungus. Fungi are microscopic plant-like organisms which subsist on organic material. The outer layer of the skin is composed of keratin, a protein substance that is ideally suited for the growth of fungi. Eventually the fungus penetrates the outer layer, exposing deeper layers of tissue containing nerve endings. At this time one may first become aware of the problem by feeling intense itching or burning. Most over-the-counter preparations are quite effective in clearing up the infection.
However, if the problem persists, either a monolilial (yeast), or bacterial cause should be considered. In either case, antifungal medication will not be effective. Thus, if your problem persists, it would be wise to seek professional help. Preventative measures are directed to keeping the web space between the toes as dry as possible, and using medicated powders, especially after showering.

Other injuries to the skin commonly seen include contusions (bruises), cuts, and abrasions. Contusions are “black and blue” marks resulting from capillaries in the skin rupturing at the time of impact. Treatment consists of application of ice to reduce swelling. (This could ease some of those “beauty marks” left by a racquetball slamming into your leg at 100 mph.) Abrasions, in the form of floor burns, are best treated with a topical antiseptic to prevent infection. Lacerations and cuts caused by contact with the edge of a racquet head are potentially serious injuries. Small clean cuts with even edges should be cleansed with peroxide and butterflied closed. Lacerations, with larger, more irregular borders must be surgically revised and sutured (i.e. a doctor should sew you up). In both cases apply compression to control bleeding, and in the latter case; transport the victim to the emergency room.

Frequent injuries to the nails include “tennis toe,” and aggravation of existing problems such as ingrown nails. Tennis toe is caused by trauma to the nail bed by repetitive jamming of the toe against the toe box of the athletic shoe. Bleeding occurs beneath the nail, resulting in a sub-ungual hematoma (which is simply a collection of blood under the nail). In severe cases the hematoma must be evacuated to relieve the pain caused by the pressure of the trapped blood. Foam toe caps can help prevent the problem, along with an additional pair of socks.

Ingrown nails resulting from improper care and natural reasons can become aggravated by the constant friction caused by movement during play. Prevention of the problem begins with properly cutting the nails—straight across. If there continues to be a problem whereby the nail becomes infected and or the surrounding tissues become inflamed, then professional care should be sought.

The remainder of this article will be concerned with injuries to the muscles and the bones, such as sprains and fractures.

Fractures, both traumatic and stress types, can occur during play. Stress fractures are spontaneous breaks most commonly causing minute cracks in the outer layer of bone. These cortical fractures, as they are called, are sometimes extremely difficult to visualize on a conventional x-ray. It is often necessary for your doctor to request a bone scan. In order to do a bone scan, an intravenous injection of a radioactive compound is administered. This substance is more readily absorbed in healing bone, and since the material is radioactive, its emissions can be picked up by a device called a scintillation counter. Therefore, the scintillation counter can pick up the area of greatest activity as a “hot spot” and pinpoint the area of concern. Symptoms of cortical fractures can vary from acute pain at the time of injury or a malingered pain which may be present only after engaging in play.

Stress fractures involving the metatarsal bones (the toes) are more common that those involving the tibia. Those are most often encountered in running injuries. If you suspect a stress fracture, stay off your feet and apply ice to the area. Depending on the location involved, they rarely need to be casted. Instead, a soft adhesive cast can be applied along with a wooden surgical shoe worn for a period of several weeks. It is strongly recommended that you refrain from play for a period of four to six weeks.

As far as prevention goes, it is just about impossible when it comes to stress fractures. However, be sure you have adequate support to the foot to dissipate forces generated during motion. If needed, you may have to have a pair of orthotic devices fitted for you to eliminate excessive abusive forces and balance off your foot inside your athletic shoe.
Traumatic fractures are caused by external influences, most commonly a racquet or wall. (I know a person who recently hit himself with a racquet and fractured his fifth toe.) Again, location, and the severity of the fracture, are important considerations with respect to treatment. These types of injuries should be x-rayed and immobilized. Immediate self-treatment includes rest, elevation, and ice to reduce swelling.

Overuse syndromes, collectively called “shin splints,” occur when a particular muscle group is underdeveloped for the work load it is performing. The most common form is “anterior shin splints.” Pain along the front of the lower leg and outside margin heralds its onset. Treatment consists of icing down the affected part for about six minutes. In certain cases, oral anti-inflammatory medications are given to reduce inflammation and pain. The affected part should be immobilized with a strapping. Playing should not be eliminated entirely, but rather cut back to a level whereby you can play comfortably without aggravating your condition. If the shin splint is of severe enough nature, then it would be wise to abstain from play for about a week. The key to early recovery is gradual resumption of activity to your prior level of competition. Shin splints and other musculo-skeletal maladies are best prevented by adequate stretching prior to and after playing. In addition, one should be on an exercise program which builds both strength and flexibility.

Sprains are defined as excessive stress applied to a ligament or group of ligaments. Ligaments are inelastic structures which help to stabilize bones and joints. Since ligaments are stronger than bone, the bone often fractures before the ligament ruptures. For this reason, severe sprains should always be x-rayed to rule out a possible fracture. Although ligaments are soft tissue structures and do not show up on conventional x-rays; it is possible to detect ruptured ligaments by performing what is called an arthrogram.

To perform an arthrogram a radioactive opaque dye is injected into a joint and a conventional x-ray is taken. If there is leakage of the substance outside of the joint capsule, it can be determined that there is a disruption of the joint capsule and ligamentous integrity of that joint. Therefore, a surgical repair of the joint tear is the most likely treatment.

Common types of sprains are lateral ankle, plantar fascial, and sprains of the posterior ankle (see illustrations). Lateral ankle sprains are most commonly caused from being off-balanced, whereby the outside edge of the athletic shoe rolls outward secondary to body momentum. Plantar fascia sprains occur when an individual’s “plants” his or her foot and forcibly props off the ball of the foot. The plantar fascia, a three part ligament which comprises the arch area, and extends from the ball to the heel, is placed under great stress. Small tears and over-stretching of this structure will cause severe pain. Posterior ankle sprains are caused from the foot being jammed between the floor and rear wall when a player reacts quickly to a ceiling.

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The following are Dr. Brieftstein’s recommendations for a safe and healthy racquetball habit.

DO’S:
1. Start a sensible and well planned exercise and running program.
2. Always spend at least five minutes performing stretching exercises prior to playing. These exercises should include the following:
   a. Calf muscle stretch.
   b. Hamstring stretch.
   c. Back-over stretch.
   d. Wing stretch.
   e. Arm circles.
   f. Bent-leg sit-ups.
   These exercises are designed to counteract the negative effects of daily training. While training, the posterior muscle groups located in the lower leg, upper leg, and low back become much stronger than the anterior muscle groups. As a result the posterior groups become shortened and lose flexibility. This combination of anterior muscle weakness and posterior group inflexibility contributes greatly to the
   development of overuse syndromes and injuries.
3. Always play with protective eyeguards.
4. Wear two pairs of socks to prevent blister formation.
5. Wear appropriate foot gear designed especially for racquetball. Choose a shoe that is light, flexible, and gives sufficient support and fit.
6. Wear comfortable clothing; your clothes must be loose enough so body movement is not impaired.
7. Spend at least five minutes cooling down after playing. This allows blood which has pooled in muscle tissue to return to the general circulation and aids in restoring a normal heart rate. In addition, isometric exercise forces lactic acid out of the muscle belly thereby reducing muscle cramps.

DON’T’S:
1. Do not engage in any exercise program if you have a history of the following conditions, before consulting your physician:
   a. Rheumatic fever, myocarditis, or an abnormal EKG.
   b. Heart murmur.
   c. Pain, pressure, discomfort in the chest or unusual shortness of breath while walking or doing other physical activities.
   d. Leg cramps while walking.
   e. Heart attack.
   f. Prescription of digitalis, nitroglycerine or any other drug for treatment of a heart problem.
   g. Diabetes, sugar in the urine or high blood sugar.
   h. High blood pressure.
   i. High blood cholesterol.
   j. Any chronic illness such as arthritis, gout, rheumatism, asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis or any other lung condition.
   k. Any condition limiting the use of joints or muscles in any part of the body.
2. Do not wear running shoes while playing racquetball. All good running shoes are built with a wedge resulting in a lifting of the heel. While this is desirable during running to alleviate stress from the Achilles tendon, it raises your center of gravity. In a sport like racquetball with quick lateral movement, the chances for ankle sprain and possible fractures are increased significantly because the higher your center of gravity, the more instability one has.
3. Do not eat excessively before match play.
4. Do not wear rubber or plastic sweat-suits. Perspiration is caught inside and heat exhaustion might result.
5. Do not play if you are injured or have recently undergone surgery unless your doctor has cleared you.

HOW TO PLAY IT SAFE
shot and doesn't have adequate position to determine where the rear wall is in relation to his foot.

Treatment for the above conditions includes ice, compression, and elevation. Immobilization should include more than an ace bandage for adequate support and in some cases a below-the-knee cast may be necessary. Persistent pain should be professionally investigated. Prevention of ankle sprains is a topic of discussion in itself. Those individuals particularly prone to ankle sprains from congenitally "loose ligaments" should wear an ankle support. Be sure to wear an athletic shoe that has a sole specifically designed for racquetball. (Note that these are flat, not wedged like running shoes.)

Muscle strains are sudden elongation of muscle fibers within a muscle belly, sometimes resulting in tears if the strain is too great. These are most often caused by inadequate pre-play stretching and not allowing body core temperature to rise sufficiently. Always go through a programmed pre-game warm-up and warm-down routine.

Treatment for muscle strains consists of massage and ice followed with warm soaks 24 hours later. Hydrotherapy (or whirlpool), is an excellent method for treatment. External splinting and strapping may be necessary to eliminate pain. Muscle relaxants are frequently needed to relieve muscle spasm secondary to pain.

The last area of concern with which I will deal in this article is biomechanical and structural pathology. That is, anything abnormal about the structure of your foot which may lead to injury.

Biomechanical and structural pathology are often increased in severity during play. While running, three times normal body weight is being transferred through a particular structure. During acceleration these forces double to almost six times normal weight. Biomechanical structural faults of the foot can cause severe callouses beneath the ball of the foot, or hammering of the toes with formation of corns. These can become painful during and after play. Heel pain is another source of commonly occurring problems. Heel pain may be the result of either a heel spur, heel neuroma, or a systemic cause of a generalized disease.

There are a host of other problems far too numerous to comment on at this time. Self-treatment of most of these problems includes using a cushioned insole, a commercial arch support or a heel cup. If these remedies do not alleviate your symptoms, then professional help should be sought. I hope that everyone remains injury free and is able to play our great game of racquetball.
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WINNING POINTS

by Allen Ascher

STRESSING STRATEGY

Three Suggestions for Intermediates

This is the second in a three part series of instruction for Intermediates.

I. CEILING SHOTS

I didn’t mention the ceiling shot in last month’s article on court position, not because it isn’t sufficiently important, but because it’s too important to be relegated to a subordinate position in discussions of other aspects of racquetball strategy. It may, in fact, be the single most important shot for an intermediate player to learn well, primarily because of its versatility and its effectiveness in influencing court position. It can be used from any spot on the floor, offensively or defensively, at any time, either to undermine your opponent’s position or improve your own. When I learned how to use it properly the level of my playing increased dramatically. When used intelligently, as part of an overall court strategy, it’s an awesome weapon.

Simply stated, the ceiling shot is a ball that strikes the ceiling before hitting the front wall, the effect of which is to cause the ball to bounce off the floor in a very high arc back toward the rear wall. But this simple definition, as usual, contains a world of complex corollaries.

1) Hit properly, and with power, the ceiling shot will come off the front wall with considerable impetus toward the back wall. This is a crucial point because the ball’s backward movement is what throws your opponent out of good court position. If the ball hits the front wall on the way up, before it hits the ceiling, it will come down towards the floor at a sharp angle with very little horizontal velocity, hit the floor, and essentially stay there in a high vertical bounce, giving your opponent plenty of time to run around it into a good middle court position.

2) The laws of mechanical physics insist, fortunately, that each time the ball hits a surface it loses a considerable portion of its momentum, as I mentioned last month in talking about two-wall carom shots and serves. The ceiling shot hits three surfaces — ceiling, front wall, and floor — and you will want it to get to the back wall with some speed. Consequently you’ve got to hit it a ton, and you’ve got to hit it accurately.

3) By accurately I mean accurately off the ceiling. The ball should hit the ceiling about two to four feet from the front wall, depending on where you’re standing on the court. Even small deviations will cause marked changes in the ball’s trajectory. Experiment. Learn your own arm, the different angles, and the best ceiling shot for you to take. But never let the ball touch the sidewall, either going up or coming down. This extra hit creates a parallelogram effect on the ball’s path that will bring it across the middle of the court. It also absorbs energy from the ball to make your shot a setup; rather than undermine your opponent’s court position, you’ll improve it, and with a set-up to boot.

Ideally, you want the ball to hit the floor and bounce over your opponent’s reach in a high arc toward the back wall. The faster it gets there the better off you are. Don’t worry about hitting it too hard, since that’s virtually impossible; once it reaches the back wall — the fourth surface — it will lose almost all of its velocity no matter how hard it was hit, making it difficult to pick up off the back wall. The danger lies in hitting it too softly and allowing it to come down from its arc near the middle of the court.

The best placement of the ball is in your opponent’s deep backhand corner. This makes it a devastating shot, one that does several things at once. In terms of seizing superior court position it will move your opponent out of the dominant middle court and back toward the back wall to retrieve the ball. If you’re boxed out of the middle, hit the ceiling shot and take up your own position at mid-court as your opponent retreats.

This is an especially effective strategy against someone who’s killing you with a strong “serve and volley” game; that is, someone who’s pulling you off the balance with his serves and putting your weak returns away easily. In this situation it’s self-destructive to try to power the ball past him; go over his head instead with a ceiling shot, pull him out of the service area and force him to rally with you. Once you’ve moved him back to the rear wall you can take advantage of his poor court position as though he were any other player pinning himself too far back. There are few universally applicable rules in racquetball, but a ceiling shot is always — always — a good service return.

Defensively, the ceiling shot enables you to recover from a lost position. The harder you hit the ball, the faster it will come down, of course, but it will always take a second or two longer than any shot hit in a horizontal plane. When you need time to regain your own balance, then, or move out of a poor position that’s put you hopelessly out of the point, go for a ceiling shot and use the time it gives you to get back to mid-court. This property of the ceiling shot makes it the finest defensive shot in racquetball and the one that can change court position more dramatically than any other. With respect to the mental game, it’s the first shot you should perfect after mastering the basic racquet-on-ball fundamentals.

II. TEMPO

Like something out of the Einsteinian model of the universe, then, the ceiling shot affects not only racquetball space — i.e. court position — but racquetball time as well. Carl Sagan would be proud to call it a friend.

A well executed ceiling shot can slow down a point, change the game’s tempo, and give you valuable recovery time when you need it. And, obviously, it can do the same for your opponent, if he knows how to use it, as well. In fact tempo — the pace at which a point, or a game, is played — is among the subtler and less thought about aspects of racquetball, yet one of the most crucial. The novice, who usually knows nothing about it and has no control over it anyway, plays either in painfully slow motion or, if he has some experience in another racquet sport, with ferocity (marked by powerful shots that bounce off six walls) or, desperation, and early exhaustion. There is no in-between. Those of us with a little more experience — sometimes as little as an hour on the court — know that tempo isn’t just part of the physical background of the game against which the mental game is played. It is also a weapon which can work for or against you.

The tempo of a game is a function of speed. How valuable an asset is speed, and what, precisely, does it consist of on
a racquetball court? It's a mercurial thing to define, although it's easy enough to recognize, especially in a faster opponent. The problem is that it consists of a number of distinct, though related, qualities — including quickness of hand, foot movements, body control, reflexes, motor coordination, all-out running speed, anticipation, and power. What they all have in common is this: they allow a faster player to both execute offensive shots before you can respond to them, and respond to your offensive shots too quickly for them to be effective.

On the basis of that definition, speed, like every other aspect of the game, becomes something to be acquired, augmented, enhanced, and used to your advantage.

The point might best be made through a few illustrative examples.

1) You drop the ball into one of the front corners, but your opponent, who is faster than you, picks it up and sends it back out again. However, he is now caught out of position between the front wall and the short line, giving you a split second to take advantage of his awkwardness. The last thing you want to do is give him time to recover. Don't go for a low percentage kill or a slow lob, and, most of all, don't hit a shot that will come off the back wall. If you do he's back into the point. Play the ball past him quickly and low. You want the ball to bounce twice behind him in as short a time as possible.

2) Your opponent hits a good serve along the sideline to your backhand, which you play back to him. Now, however, you're out of position on the backhand side with your forecourt left open. He hits the ball there; you respond, but too late to move 15 or 20 feet across the court.

The remedy is anticipation. You should have moved back to center court as soon as the ball left your racquet on the service return. From there you'd have to move only 10 feet to either sideline, and you would have made it to his second shot.

3) You've hit a nice shot that hugs the sideline, and your opponent comes across court to get it. He does, but his own shot comes off the wall down the same side and pins him against the sideline in an effort not to be hit. His shot is head high; ordinarily you'd let it go and take it off the back wall, but you know that as soon as it's past him he'll make his move back to mid-court, covering his weaknesses. What's your play?

Believe it or not, it's a fly shot (or volley, as pro Mike Yellen calls it). Don't wait for the ball to come off the back wall. Hit it on the fly on its way out. Now normally the fly shot is a terrible shot to take; 99 out of 100 times you should let the ball go by and pick it off the back wall, because it's very difficult to hit a fly shot accurately. But in this case accuracy isn't as important as speed. You want to put the ball into play while he's still out of position, and you don't need a great deal of accuracy to do it; almost any shot hit to the open court will score the point.

An entire volume of Racquetball instructional articles could be devoted to speed, of course, and to ways of making yourself play faster. Within the context of court position, however, the three examples just given illustrate the salient point: on the offensive side don't give your opponent time to recover once he's out of position; on the defensive side use every millisecond you've got to maintain good court position.

If you find yourself playing single shots with no thought of what's gone before or what's to come after, you aren't playing the mental part of the game and you'll lose.

III. COURT STRATEGY

In talking about ceiling shots and speed I've gone far towards some principles of overall court strategy. I'd like to tie up the loose ends to some degree now.

The kind of mental, positional game I've been describing tends to emphasize the purely physical aspects of racquetball that most people think of when they think of the game. That seems to raise a contradiction, but I'll stand behind it: power, agility, and a host of other natural gifts are essential to the game, of course, but they'll take you only so far and no further. Put a varsity football player who can bench press 300 pounds and run a five second 40 yard dash onto a racquetball court and in five minutes he'll feel as disoriented as you would be on a lacrosse field. As much as it's a physical game, racquetball is principally a game of position.

Now should that be surprising. All games that involve offensive and defensive moves responding to one another in a state of constant flux are games of position, including football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, chess, checkers, and war. And the basic tenet of all of them is the same: secure the middle of the field and you've gone a long way toward securing victory.

If you think back to games you've won and lost you'll probably remember being more tired after losing than after winning. It's not just the elation of victory that keeps you well-breathed; more likely you actually moved less than your opponent did when you won, and more than he did when you lost, simply because the winner, with better court position, usually stays near mid-court while he runs the loser from side to side and back to front.

I've touched upon this only slightly before, but it's really at the heart of everything I've said about game plans, weaknesses, ceiling shots, and speed. Good court position creates winning opportunities. Thus the object of your play should be securing superior court position.

To be more specific: we can define having good court position as being at that point on the court from which you can cover the greatest area and return the greatest number of your opponent's shots. Usually that's the mid-court, though the quicker and more agile you are the greater the area of your "mid-court" will be. In any case you want to seize the mid-court early in a rally in order to control the point, and, of course, your opponent wants to do the same. Much of the game, therefore, revolves around this positional duel. Each player wants to force the other into poor court position — too far back, too far forward, too far to one side: exactly those positions I listed in last month's article — and exploit the consequent weaknesses with an appropriate shot.

The appropriate shot is, of course, the point winner. It's the end result of the positional game, and rightly so. But it doesn't come out of nowhere. Instead, it's the culmination of all shots that came before it during the rally, and they are in turn preparations for it.

In other words, all of your shots should act in concert, should spin out in precise combinations, as the moves of a chess master unfold patterns and combinations over the board. If you find yourself playing single shots with no thought of what's gone before or what's to come after, you aren't playing the mental part of the game and you'll lose.

Don't attempt to win your points on super shots hit from all over the court. Don't build a game plan around keeping the ball in play until your opponent muffs one. Force your opponent against the rear wall before you go for your kill, or lure him forward before you hit your carom shot. A winning intermediate doesn't wait for advantageous positions to come to him; very few opponents are that accommodating. Instead, he creates them.
by Bob Gura

**BETWEEN TWO POINTS**

The Z Serve Is A Winner

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Straight lines and crisp angles are worthy of study by racquetball players. Most people take the linear creations for granted, forgetting they literally rule society. They form the paths that neatly subdivide countless streets and boulevards making for order and direction. They streak across millions of otherwise blank sheets of paper, providing a home for letters and figures. Architecture is constructed by the purity of its design as are automobiles and high fashion clothing.

Nonetheless the majority of individuals don't give a pointed hoot about straight lines and crisp angles. For them life goes on without a thought to the sanctity of a right angle or the beauty of precision columns. To the throng at large, space is space and something will always fill it.

Racquetballers know better. They are keenly aware of the need to analyze and appreciate the subject. This sense of alertness is part of a sensitive survival mechanism. The rest of the world might be able to get by minus a sharp angle or two, but not racquetball.

It's a fact of sporting life that without straight lines and angles there would be no creature named racquetball. Take a look at a court and keep an eye out for curves. Try as you might there isn't a bend to be seen. Whether the 40'x20'x20' dimensions are made of wood, glass or concrete there isn't a scintilla of softness available. Even the service zone and doubles boxes are nothing but painted rectangles on the floor.

In the final analysis racquetballers have learned to accept, and come to love their arena of corners and straightaways. Without them there would be no way to stroke such shots as ceiling balls, exotic pinches, off the back wall and around-the-wall balls. While some bruisers still choose to live or die by the hard drive, the majority appreciate the angular approach. Regardless of the preference, the player hasn't breathed who won't admit a desire to learn all the angles.

When it comes to taking advantage of the concept, the place to start is the service zone. That's the home of the number one shot in the duffle bag of the ricochet-minded. Named after the last letter in the alphabet, it's the last thing newcomers want to see flying their way. The same goes for many a veteran who would prefer as few visits as possible.

The name of the multi-angler is the Z-serve, an instrument to be used high or low, fast or slow. Unlike the drive, garbage, and lob services which move directly toward the returner, the Z or reverse Z (when hit to the opponent's backhand) takes another route. The trek is convoluted with stops at the front wall, near sideline, floorboards and finally the far sideline. The journey is made more diverting by the cross court direction the ball travels to strike the front wall.

Beginners tend to get rattled upon first sighting of a Z hurtling towards their backhand. Hit off the extreme side of the front wall (about a foot from the sideline juncture), the ball slices across court at an extreme angle. A hard serve eats up ground quickly and is soon near the sideline. It may be hit at a lesser angle and move to the corner. Since the returner is probably uncomfortable with the backhand, prospects appear bleak.

Undecided whether to attack after the bounce or await the arrival, neophytes often linger too long. They're left in an unbelievable position, driving them to the backhand side as the ball pops off the wall behind them. A follow-up Z to the forehand will further confuse, while a repeat can prove equally unnerving. The problem in most instances can be
traced to the speed.

If the service was a low reverse or Z, the ball struck the front of the wall roughly three feet from the bottom. This means the velocity will be fast, say 80 mph, compared to the 100 plus of a firebreathing drive serve. Impressive as it is, the speed is hard to gauge since the ball is rebounded off two walls instead of one. Common sense dictates the ball should be greatly slowed by the extra impact, but it's a question of degree. Players expecting a barely moving dirigible are disconcerted at the fast-paced projectile moving their way.

Unfortunately for new-found instant devotees of the angular serves, there can be trouble in Z-land. It generally comes in the form of overuse resulting in overkill—the server's. If the reverse Z is hit too often at the same speed the returner can find his or her bearings. Smarting with embarrassment at the past "failures," they're likely to rush forward and strike a low blow. When they guess right the ball is smacked immediately after the bounce, before it can move to the sidewall. Cracked with a forehand or a rigid backhand, the result is a low pass or a kill that spells a winner.

That's not to say it's very easy to overuse the Z serves. Despite the spectre of the rush-up-and-cream-the-ball-threat, hope remains for steadfast anglers.

Thanks to the versatile nature of the game's straight lines and angles the threat is easily breached. All the server has to do is hit the ball a little higher off the front wall, five or six feet. This delivery, coming in slower and to the backhand side, poses its own bugaboo. Since it lofts across the court at a slower pace the returner is faced with a choice. "To kill or not to kill?" is the question. Many returners momentarily lose track of reality and proceed to smash the ball downward with all their might. Far more often than not the shoulder high contact level wins another one for the ground floor. The effort, a supposed-to-be razor kill or pass, is transformed into a grotesque tomahawking swipe. The best that can be said for these episodes is that they pass quickly and are hopefully infrequent.

If by any bad stroke or strokes of judgement they persist, fledging players need to rethink their tactics. Calm deliberation can overcome the urge to cleave the ball in half, saving points in the process.

The combination of the varying Zs and reverses become more frightening when they are dispersed. They habitually mix well with a healthy dose of straight forward low drives and sidewall hugging garbage serves. Players getting accustomed to returning a low reverse Z are often thrown off course by a hard drive to the same spot. The same goes for the substitution of a garbage or a lob where a high reverse or Z recently landed. It is worth remembering the Zs are more than just potent services. They are also good for a few points of psychological distress in any game.

In order to appreciate the nuances of the Z, take a peek at diagrams number one and two. Drawn from the right-hander's perspective (southpaws please forgive and forget) they illustrate the path of the reverse and Z serve. A few items stand out as you check the flight path. When delivering the reverse Z the server stands slightly to the left of the service zone. This is done to ensure the most favorable chances of plunging the right corner of the front wall. It also means the server has to be alert. If the serve goes well it will hasten towards the backhand corner on a very straight line. That means it will come close to the server on the way by. This implies the need for the server to remain agile. It doesn't help one's prospects to get hit by the service. It is embarrassing and coughs up the serve. Photo number one points out the need to keep the body limber at all times. It's best to avoid such close confrontations as a screen call is probable with the cramped quarters.

Photo number two showcases what should happen if the reverse Z is properly aimed. The opposition is forced into the deep backhand corner while the server casually takes over center court advantage. The server can easily keep an eye on the action while focusing on the opponent's prospects. When the ball
thunders deep into the back court the return options are limited. Less seasoned hands will send forth backhand crosscourt passes that are sure losers. Veterans have learned the best response is a down-the-line ceiling ball. Even then the returner has to scurry post-haste to get into position. Shots then sent down either line by the server can still catch them flat-footed.

One of the nicest aspects of Z serving is that despite the devious travel plan the stroke is readily made. The basic form observed in the drive serve or forehand kill is put into practice with a few variations. The most important is the height of the ball drop. It makes sense a low Z or reverse Z must be struck at a lower angle than a high one. For a variety the ball should be hit near the front at low height, roughly ankle level (see photo three). Higher Zs are met around the knee level (see photo four) and are contacted with a pushing, gentler motion. It’s necessary to remember to stand to the left of the service zone center when serving a reverse Z (see photo five). Orthodox Zs can be delivered at the server’s leisure from the center of the zone (see photo six).

With practice the low Zs will pick up speed and accuracy, enough to companion the drive serve. The high, softer versions will eventually resemble bumblebees in flight. This means they won’t look as if they should be able to fly, but will surely pack a sting.

Regardless of how rosy the Z-scope may seem there’s an old saying that bears notice. It goes: no matter how hard you try, it’s never easy to play all the angles. This means even the most skilled players can overplay the Z serves. Luckily the errors are common enough to be catalogued. The greatest miscue is overuse of the low reverse Z. After sending several into the backhand corner, even the slowest thinking returner can spot a trend. Armed with the idea a repeat act is coming, the returner creeps up to butcher the bounce. Noting the maneuver, the server compensates by hitting the reverse Z even harder. Sure enough the ball smacks off the front wall, creams the right sidewall and hits the left sidewall on the fly. While it’s only a fault, it tips off the opponent that the server is aware of the strategy and forces an easier second serve.

The other major mistake loses the serve altogether. This happens when in an attempt to aim just right, the serve hits the right, or the left sidewall before the front. An error of this type is testimony to a monumental lack of concentration or an equal lack of practice. Both can fortunately be remedied with little trouble. While these boo-boos are costly they are by no means fatal. As said before, the cure is found in the brain. Even the rankest novice can eliminate these problems by pumping up the gray cells—and purchasing some extra court time. Far and away the major hurdle facing the Z server has to do with positioning. While it’s simple stuff for a server to take over center court position after a good Z or reverse, it’s just as simple to botch it. The loss of the strategic advantage usually transpires courtesy of spectating. Owing to its pleasing pattern, many servers derive pleasure watching the Z zoom along. By the time they finish watching, the opponent may have already delivered a crisp retort. Since the server is often stationed to the left of the service zone, any hard pass to the right will do the job. There’s little
that can be done to salvage the situation. Should the server scramble desperately to the middle, the returner will hit down the line to the left. This will cause the server to leap in a generally spastic fashion back to the backhand side. Returns made from this posture rarely retain the service.

Another trouble spot to avoid concerns itself with the aim: namely, the ability to hit the same spot on the front wall consistently. The value of the Z serves lie in their near pathological tendency to consort with the far sidewall and deep corner. Too many servers merely glance at the front wall, take aim and fire away.

Players taking time to develop consistency will soon make the Z and the reverse Z allies to be totally trusted. All avenues considered, wise practitioners are ever mindful of the Z serves. Similar to other strokes, the serves are capable of bringing victory to either side. In other words, a poor Z repertoire can lose you the point with the far sidewall and deep corner. But the wide-angle pass gives you the opportunity to save the point if you hit the ball properly.

I am a firm believer in hitting passing shots and wearing my opponent down until his legs feel as though he is trudging through sludge. No one can survive the exercise he gets being on the wrong side of a good game and you can usually mop up the guy with a large sponge by the time the tiebreaker rolls around.

There are some players, though, who just can't seem to get the ball past. These are guys like Rich Wagner, who moves around the court like he was shot from a gun; or guys with rubber arms like Charlie Garfinkel, whose forearms will stretch an extra foot or so; or Charlie Brumfield, who seems to know where the ball is going before you hit it.

They all fall into the general category of "good retrievers" and, against this kind of player, a normal passing shot may not work. But I see no reason to change what is, basically, a good game strategy. So what I usually do is simply switch to wide-angle passes.

A potential point winner, the pass drives for the corner fast and low, straight from the front wall. At the very least, it should take your opponent scurrying into the back court, off balance and trying to hit the ball toward the front wall while moving in the opposite direction.

The circumstances under which you should hit a wide-angle pass are identical to those for the normal pass. For example, never hit a pass when your opponent is in back court because that is where the ball will land. It is not even a good idea to hit a pass any time your opponent is behind you. Pinch it into a front corner instead.

However, if both you and your opponent are together in mid-court or forecourt, pass the ball by him. Any time your opponent is in front of you, you are in a particularly good position to pass the ball because you have a better view of him.

Unfortunately, that is no guarantee that he won't dig it out. That's where the rubber arm comes in. A wide-angle pass gives you a chance to make a big difference.

Instead of aiming the shot straight for one of the rear corners, angle it so that the ball comes off the front wall and strikes the sidewall. Otherwise, it will still rebound behind your opponent and into the back court.

As in the case of the normal pass, your opponent will be chasing the wide-angle into the back court while trying to get a shot off the front wall.

To be sure, you will find it difficult to

Mike Yellen, 20, of Southfield, Michigan, is the number two ranked pro on the racquetball tour and a two-time National finalist. He is also a member of the Ektelon Professional Advisory Staff.

PASS TO WIN
A Wide-Angle Is Hard To Beat
Player A uses two possible wide-angle passes to win points from player B. Put the ball at the correct point on the sidewall. The angle of contact with the front wall will always be changing as you move around the court and you can expect a degree of error, the ball landing too far forward or too far behind your opponent.

If you are going to make a mistake in your shot placement, though, it is better to choose the second alternative. If the ball strikes the sidewall too far forward, it will angle toward the middle of the court, giving the opponent a good chance to cut it off. If hit farther back on the sidewall, there won’t be that much harm done as long as the ball isn’t also left up so that it comes off the back wall too. That would give him time to run it down.

Unquestionably, this shot will take some practice. Get on the court alone and just hit the shot from a variety of spots to a preselected point on the sidewall. Don’t expect to pick it up right away.

From the standpoint of game strategy, begin with your normal passing shots since those are easier to master. If you find though that your opponent is able to move over and cut them off, widen the angle.

Don’t forget to mix your shots to balance your attack. Don’t go to a pass or a wide-angle pass every time a passing situation presents itself or your opponent will begin to anticipate your shots. Throw in a down-the-line pass, a ceiling ball or whatever other shot is appropriate. If your opponent is falling back to cover the pass, a pinch or kill will keep him honest.

Learn to adapt. Remember, your brain is the most effective weapon you have on the court.

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Ask for Hallie
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AARA '81-'82 RANKINGS</th>
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**MEN'S**

| 24 | Song, Alan | ME 50.0 |
| 25 | Gross, Dave | SD 50.0 |
| 26 | Weimer, Don | EV 45.0 |
| 27 | Frank, Mike | EV 45.0 |
| 28 | Bachmann, Les | EV 40.0 |
| 29 | Parks, Bill | EV 40.0 |
| 30 | Jarnagin, John | EV 40.0 |
| 31 | Lofland, Bob | EV 40.0 |
| 32 | Krzan, Jerry | EV 40.0 |
| 33 | McCall, Bill | EV 40.0 |
| 34 | Burtney, Bill | EV 40.0 |
| 35 | Cullen, Jim | GA 40.0 |
| 36 | Mendler, Mark | FL 40.0 |
| 37 | Gomme, John | FL 40.0 |
| 38 | Follansbee, John | FL 40.0 |
| 39 | Dyer, John | FL 40.0 |
| 40 | Wesolowski, Jim | PA 40.0 |
| 41 |multiple entries |

**WOMEN'S**

| 1 | Aarons, Donna | NY 150.0 |
| 2 | Carrillo, Jack | NY 150.0 |
| 3 | Gauthier, Greg | PA 110.0 |
| 4 | Shuster, Phil | CT 110.0 |
| 5 | Wilmot, Tom | CT 110.0 |
| 6 | Lorentz, Fred | CT 110.0 |
| 7 | Tappin, Tom | CT 110.0 |
| 8 | Anderson, Rick | CT 110.0 |
| 9 | Davis, Mike | CT 110.0 |
| 10 | True, Don | CT 110.0 |
| 11 | Turner, Tom | CT 110.0 |
| 12 | Wesolowski, Andy | PA 110.0 |
| 13 | Follansbee, John | PA 110.0 |
| 14 | Lofland, Bob | PA 110.0 |
| 15 | Krzan, Jerry | PA 110.0 |
| 16 | Pipes, Bill | PA 110.0 |
| 17 | Cullen, Jim | PA 110.0 |

**MEN'S 85+**

| 1 | Cook, David | KY 150.0 |
| 2 | Davis, Max | PA 150.0 |
| 3 | Schaller, Pat | PA 150.0 |
| 4 | Dobbs, Mike | PA 150.0 |
| 5 | Winder, J.D. | PA 150.0 |
| 6 | Mahoney, Fred | PA 150.0 |
| 7 | Gordon, Bill | PA 150.0 |
| 8 | Shuster, Fred | PA 150.0 |
| 9 | Davis, Mike | PA 150.0 |
| 10 | True, Don | PA 150.0 |
| 11 | Turner, Tom | PA 150.0 |
| 12 | Wesolowski, Andy | PA 150.0 |
| 13 | Follansbee, John | PA 150.0 |
| 14 | Lofland, Bob | PA 150.0 |
| 15 | Krzan, Jerry | PA 150.0 |
| 16 | Pipes, Bill | PA 150.0 |
| 17 | Cullen, Jim | PA 150.0 |

**WOMEN'S 85+**

| 1 | Jones, Kathy | NY 150.0 |
| 2 | LaFeaver, Mary | NY 150.0 |
| 3 | Schaller, Pat | NY 150.0 |
| 4 | Winder, J.D. | NY 150.0 |
| 5 | Davis, Mike | NY 150.0 |
| 6 | True, Don | NY 150.0 |
| 7 | Davis, Mike | NY 150.0 |
| 8 | Turner, Tom | NY 150.0 |
| 9 | Wesolowski, Andy | NY 150.0 |
| 10 | Follansbee, John | NY 150.0 |
| 11 | Lofland, Bob | NY 150.0 |
| 12 | Krzan, Jerry | NY 150.0 |
| 13 | Pipes, Bill | NY 150.0 |
| 14 | Cullen, Jim | NY 150.0 |

*Rankings compiled by Bill Weyl of Penn State University's computer department based on results from June 1, 1980 to January 15, 1981.*
We are most happy to announce that Penn has been awarded the 1981 AARA Junior Championships, which include:

- Local club tournaments and functions
- State Championships
- Regional Championships
- National Championships

**GIRLS 13 AND UNDER**

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<td>Rachel, Rachel</td>
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**WOMEN'S D**

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<tr>
<td>Anne, Anne</td>
<td>45-0</td>
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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.

Men's Open
Finals: John Smith over John Doe 21-20, 13-21, 21-16.

Quarterfinals:

Seminifls: 1st: Mistele, Tinker AFB over Schmidt, Wright Patterson AFB 15-21, 21-8, 11-5; 2nd: Maclean, Offutt AFB over Gifford, Blytheville AFB 19-21, 21-10, 11-4; 3rd: Mistele, Tinker AFB over Hatcler, Blytheville AFB 21-17, 21-18.

Finals: 1st: Maclean, Offutt AFB over Mistele, Tinker AFB. Forfeit. Mistele refused to go forward due to injury. Schmidt for personal reasons, Schmidt because he felt Hatcler was the better player.

Women's Open
Quarterfinals:
1st: Hartman, Chanute AFB over Carabaja, Mitchell Fld. 21-3, 21-8; 2nd: Lythgoe, McConnell AFB over Duncan, Chanute AFB 21-4, INJURY; 3rd: Pinkins, McConnell AFB over Carabaja, Mitchell Fld. 21-4, 21-6, 4th: Neel, Offutt AFB over Chanute AFB FORFEIT, INJURY.


Finals: 1st: Lythgoe, McConnell AFB over Neel, Offutt AFB 21-17, 21-13.

Women's A
Boston Tennis Club
Boston, Massachusetts
February 6-8

Open
1st: Eileen Ehrlich; 2nd: Martha Callahan; 3rd: Judy Bryant; 4th: Janet Simon.

1st: Charlie Dunn; 2nd: Lauren Chin; 3rd: Debbie Salmon; 4th: Joanie Quinlan.

1st: Janet Kurucz; 2nd: Vilma Elliott; 3rd: Luann Alphonse; 4th: Joyce Stross.

Novice
1st: Terry Karkos; 2nd: Amy Selwyn; 3rd: Cathy Cozens; 4th: Christine Soma.

Seniors (35+)
1st: Mimi Kelly; 2nd: Gaye Rosenfeld; 3rd: Carolynn Carey; 4th: Peggy Whitemore.

Seniors (40+)
1st: Ann Grant; 2nd: Mary Akilt; 3rd: Carolynn Connolly; 4th: Adele Crono.

Air Force Captures Inter-Service Title
by Barbara Holkum

Air Force racquetballers swept the inter-service tournament at Lackland AFB, Texas, Feb. 9-13. They captured the top spots in the men's open singles, senior division singles, senior division doubles and women's open doubles.

In addition, Air Force players took second in the men's open singles, women's open singles, and men's open doubles.

The Navy came second overall with wins in the men's open doubles and women's open singles and senior women's open doubles.

Third place in the overall competition went to the Air Force, whose unseeded second place in the men's senior division doubles.

The tournament was played in the new racquetball facilities at Lackland, where the gymnasium complex is undergoing an extensive renovation.

The Air Force, Navy, Army, and Marines sent 10
Marsha Luiz (Air Force) goes for it in the women's open singles at the interservice tournament. She lost to her Navy opponent, Linda McCranie, but rallied back to win the women's open doubles with Air Force partner Dianne Phillips. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Interservice Racquetball Tournament
Lackland AFB
San Antonio, Texas
February 9-13

Men's Open (Double Elimination)
Quarterfinals: Robert Ellis (Air Force) over John McLean (Air Force) 13-21, 21-14, 11-10; Louis Souther (Air Force) over Louis Stock (Air Force) 21-14, 21-15; McLean over Ralph Worthington (Navy) 21-5, 21-11; Thomas Ackerman (Navy) over Stock 21-20, 21-14. Semifinals: Souther over Ellis 21-14, 21-10; McLean over Ackerman 21-14, 21-16; Ellis over McLean 21-7, 11-21, 21-12.

Men's Seniors (Double Elimination)

Women's Open (Double Elimination)

Men's Open Doubles (Round Robin)
Thomas Ackerman-Ralph Worthington (Navy) 7 wins, 0 losses; Louis Souther-Robert Ellis (Air Force) 6 wins, 1 loss.

Men's Senior Doubles (Round Robin)
Robert McNabb-Donald Patterson (Air Force) 7 wins, 0 losses; Richard Allman-Stephen Snow (Army) 6 wins, 1 loss.

Women's Open Doubles (Round Robin)
Dianne Phillips-Marsha Luiz (Air Force) 3 wins, 0 losses; Linda LaChance-Roseann Bordfeld (Navy) 2 wins, 1 loss.

West Virginia State Championships
Charleston, West Virginia
Charleston YMCA
February 22-23

Boys 17 and under
Boys 15 and under
Boys 13 and under
1st: Mark Rublin; 2nd: Nitin Agrawal; 3rd: David Greason; 4th: Rick Barrack.
Boys 10 and under
Girls 10 and under

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July 12th thru 17th

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April '81 Racquetball 39
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2nd Annual March of Dimes
Sportrooms
Coral Gables, Florida
January 16-18

Men's A
1st: Barry Koral; 2nd: Dave Brubaker; 3rd: Mike Desorme; 4th: Jerry Kellehe.

Men's B
1st: Marc Burn; 2nd: Lewis Leverson; 3rd: Alan Trupkin; 4th: Robert Bell.

Men's C
1st: John Rowlee; 2nd: Randy Duvall; 3rd: John Man; 4th: John Hartney.

Men's Novice
1st: Juan Guardado; 2nd: Gary Tipoldi; 3rd: Agustin Barrios; 4th: Heriberto Nunez.

Men's 40+
1st: Jack Ross; 2nd: Teasy Davis; 3rd: Mel Mitchell; 4th: Dennis Harlow.

Men's 50+

Women's A

Women's C
1st: Michelle Poiler; 2nd: Debra Cohen; 3rd: Susan Torkelson; 4th: Vicki Butler.

Women's D

Lle/Penn Series
Supreme Courts
San Leandro, California
January 16-18

Men's Masters
1st: Harvey Clar; 2nd: Gene Landrum; 3rd: Bill Dabney; 4th: Luzell Wilde.

Men's C
1st: Jerry Webb; 2nd: Rob Hicks; 3rd: Randy Kramer; 4th: Lon Millhillin.

Men's Novice
1st: Mike Matta; 2nd: Marc Decoulate; 3rd: Henry Marince; 4th: Reg Daizell.

Men's Senior

Men's B
1st: Scott Morey; 2nd: Owen Toy; 3rd: M. Pape; 4th: S. Stewart.

Men's Open

Women's B

Women's Novice

Women's C

Walsh Steel/Royal Courts Open
Royal Courts
Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania
January 23-25

Men's Open
1st: Joe MccAndrew; 2nd: Chris Mathewson; 3rd: J. Powell; 4th: George Ruckno.

Men's B
1st: Mike Curewitz; 2nd: Joe Cortese; 3rd: Fran Roman; 4th: Dave Sabalsky.

Men's C
1st: Lowell Cup; 2nd: Lon Weiner; 3rd: Keith Maleychick; 4th: Danny Yuraha.

Men's Novice

Men's Doubles
1st: J. Powell-Jere Willey; 2nd: Joe MccAndrew; 3rd: Pete Fulco-Gentry Lowery; 4th: Ray Sabals-George Ruckno.

Women's Open
1st: Dot Plassh; 2nd: Yvonne Smart; 3rd: Samantha Weaver; 4th: Shirley Pettinato.

Women's B
1st: Yvonne Smart; 2nd: Cathy Lee; 3rd: Linda Slater; 4th: Pat Lukowski.

Women's C

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Ask anyone who plays it. Once you try Penn, you won't go back to anything else. Because even if you're off, it's on.

Penn Athletic Products Company. 200 Mall Boulevard, Monroeville, PA 15146.
Ektelon...because you know the game.
Ektelon’s new BlueLite or the Jennifer Harding
...because you know your game.

Now Ektelon offers two distinctively different racquets for women. They’re light in weight for exceptional mobility and a faster swing. Both feature smaller handle sizes, including super small, for a surer grip and better control. And each is designed for a different style of play.

The New BlueLite. This is Ektelon’s most flexible woman’s racquet. Constructed of fiberglass fibers in a high-impact nylon matrix, the new BlueLite provides more flexibility than either aluminum or graphite. (260 grams, 18 1/4” long.)

Jennifer Harding Model. Made from aluminum, Ektelon’s Jennifer Harding model is designed for the woman who prefers a racquet with a bit more rigidity. The Jennifer Harding is lightweight, and shorter, to swing faster and maneuver more easily. (250 grams, 17 3/4” long.)

Aluminum or fiberglass...the Jennifer Harding or the more flexible BlueLite. Whichever you choose, you’ve made the right choice.

Because you’ve chosen Ektelon.

Both the Jennifer Harding and BlueLite feature Ektelon’s full two-year racquet frame and full ninety-day racquet string warranty.

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The Most Recommended Racquet in Racquetball.*

*Research results available from Ektelon.