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Racquetball
Official Publication of the American Amateur Racquetball Association
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COVER: Photograph by Drew Stoddard

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WITH THE EDITOR

This issue notes some changes here at Racquetball, and we thought our readers should know what's going on. We're changing our look. You'll soon be seeing new columns and features that are a slight departure from what we've been doing these past two years. This column, for one. And a regular Question & Answer column by one of the most revered teachers in the game, for another. But I wouldn't want to give away our game plan. I'll just say keep an eye on us for the next few months — we think you'll like what you see.

This month our cover story is about the AARA National Singles Championships. By definition a National tournament is an event which attracts people from all over our expansive country. So, it was no real surprise to find troops of racquetballers from the East coast and the West coast and everywhere in-between descending upon the quiet hub of Boise, Idaho — site of this year's tournament. It was a surprise, though, to find competitors from as far away as Germany as well. It promised to be an interesting week.

A bit too interesting at times, as it turned out. I soon discovered the only problem with a draw of over 400 is that posed by the laws of physics. It's physically impossible for one person to be in two places at the same time — let alone three or four. And since my job was to cover the tournament and report what I saw, that's exactly what I found myself trying to do. Naturally, I came home with a lot of frantically scribbled notes (some indecipherable) and the realization that I would be depending in part on my memory. It was easy enough, though, to capture the spirit of this year's tournament. It was an event characterized by sportsmanship, healthy competition — and a lot of converted cowboys. For the full story see page 20.

Other features of interest this month cover a wide variety of subjects. Allen Ascher's tribute to the forerunner of racquetball — handball — is an entertaining historical sideline. (See page 27.) Len Ziehm takes a look at amateurism in sports today and wonders, with apparently good reason, if it should be called "shamateurism" instead. (See page 31.)

And finally, in our regular instructional section, Winning Points, Cheryl McClure Phillips gives us the inside scoop on mental preparation for tournaments. (See page 13.) The suggestions for relaxing before and during a tournament, offered by PhD Psychologist Myron Lazar, should be exceedingly helpful to those of you with tournament jitters. I wonder if he has any suggestions for spectators...

N.K.C.
Dear Members,

We have just completed the single most successful National Singles Championships held in the history of the AARA. The quality of play, hospitality, sportsmanship, Court House staff and general overall atmosphere was superb. We congratulate everyone who had anything to do with this event. Our special thanks go to AMF Volt and Miller Lite, our national sponsors, for their continued support of our events.

During the singles championships the AARA Board of Directors met and the following are the highlights of those meetings.

MEMBERSHIP
Completely revamped the membership dues structure with programs allowing 50% of dues to remain in qualified state organizations who generate the memberships.

JUNIORS
Changed age divisions to 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, and 8-and-under (No Bounce). Junior Nationals will be held June 24-27 with site soon to be announced. Scoring in Juniors tournaments will be two games to 15 points with the tiebreaker 15 points, win by two, or the first to reach 21.

MAJOR RULE CHANGES
Other than clarification of existing rules the following major rule changes will become effective September 1, 1981: (Rule 4.10 a) 2. Dead Ball Hinders, Hitting opponent — any returned ball that touches an opponent on the fly before it returns to the front wall shall be replayed with the exception of a ball that does not have the velocity or direction to reach the front wall.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE
Chose Man Player of the Year — Bud Muehleisen; Woman Player of the Year — Carol Frenck; and Paul Henrickson and Ed Martin Co-Persons of the Year. Activated the Hall of Fame Committee; selected the Monroeville Racquet Club in Pittsburg as the site of the National Doubles Championships to be held October 22-25; announced the men's and women's teams for the 1981 World Championships and World Games I competition, to be held beginning July 28. (See feature story on National Singles.) Four new Board members elected for three-year terms from the field of nine candidates at the Friday night general membership meeting. Elected were Dewane Grimes, KS; Barb Smith, Idaho; George Dwyer, CO; and Holly Ferris, CA.

Regards,

Luke St. Onge
Executive Director
Eye Opener

I have just completed reading your article, "Focus on Safety" that appeared in the March '81 issue of Racquetball Magazine.

It is quite apparent that you have not gotten to the core of the eyeguard situation that is prevalent on the racquetball scenes. We here at this Community Center are the initiators and the pioneers of making eyeguards mandatory for all court sports participants. I might add this includes all the professionals who play and have played under our roof.

Phil Smith, our Director of Physical Education and I have discussed your article and reached this basis conclusion. You should have checked with us for details and facts that could put a different light regarding the wearing of eyeguards. It would take too long for me to tell you what our experience had been for the past five years in a letter.

If your curiosity is aroused I would be glad to talk with you at your convenience. We appreciate your enlightening racquetball players of this ever growing disease connected with the sport — EYE INJURY —.

Ed Cohen, Manager
Men's Health Club
St. Louis, Missouri

Junior Success

I feel that three extremely dedicated men should be recognized for a job well done at the National Juniors. These gentlemen are Luke St. Onge, AARA Executive Director; Ed Martin, National Junior Commissioner, and Dewane Grimes, National Junior Tournament Director.

Having recently returned from the Junior Nationals in Wichita, Kansas, I can report first hand that they did an outstanding job. The tournament ran smoothly, they were well organized, the hospitality was gracious and most importantly the kids had a ball.

A special thanks should go to Dewane Grimes and all of those dedicated and generous workers and contributors at Supreme Court East. They prepared for this event for several months and it showed. It is this unselfish giving of themselves and their time for these kids that guarantees a positive future for racquetball in the United States.

Also, that Kansas chili was dynamite!

Bob Wadsworth
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

I would like to thank you and your staff (the AARA) for putting together such a fine Junior National Tournament. I would also like to thank the staff of the Supreme Court of Wichita for providing a shuttle service and excellent hospitality. A special thanks to Dewane Grimes for putting the tournament together.

Jack Newman
Chicago, Illinois

Dubious Honor

I submit the following anecdote from the 1981 National tournament for your consideration for inclusion in the next issue of Racquetball Magazine:

Dexter Yates, a funeral director from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, had the curious distinction of being a semifinalist in the "B" consolation bracket after three rounds of play without scoring a point!

Participating in his first National tournament, Yates kicked off his notable performance Thursday with a 21-0, 21-0 loss. This defeat entitled him to be referred to as "Double Donut." (A suitable shirt bearing the inscription “Double Donut 00" was presented to him by fellow club members that evening in a brief but poignant ceremony noting the occasion.)

Following his initial dubious showing, Yates prevailed in the first two rounds of consolation play by virtue of back-to-back forfeits, and, thus, qualified for the semis on Sunday. (His scheduled opponents may have been intimidated by his "new" shirt, being uncertain as to whether Yates was the "Donut" or the "Donutte").

Yates expressed surprise and yet some delight at his results while playing in a National tourney. At the Saturday banquet he commented, "I’ll bet I’m the only player here who made it to Sunday and has yet to score a point." His companions from the Coeur d’Alene area had previously conducted an informal lottery as to when and if he might score his first "earned" point of the tournament.

It was even suggested that play be stopped when he scored his first point so that the ball might be properly commemorated and dedicated to the AARA for placement in the Racquetball Hall of Fame.

P.S. Yates won the serve for his semifinal match, aed his opponent for the first point of the contest and proceeded to lose 31-13.

Thanks for your consideration of this request. All of us from the Coeur d’Alene, Idaho area (we entered 10 members from our "1254 Athletic Club" in the Nationals including two Regional champions) wish to express our appreciation to the AARA and Bob Petersen and his staff in Boise for the superlative job done in conducting this year’s National tournament.

Rick Maxey
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

We hope Dexter Yates will be the "Donut" next year—Ed.
AARA ASSOCIATE COURT
CLUB MEMBERS

CALIFORNIA
Fairfield Court Club
c/o Ed Martin
1471 Holiday Lane
Fairfield, CA 94533

Sacramento Court Club
C/o Ed Martin
947 Enterprise Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95825

Sacramento Handball & Racquetball Club
C/o Ed Martin
725 14th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

KANSAS
Supreme Courts West
C/o Dewane Grimes
3725 W. 13th St.
Wichita, KS 67203

MARYLAND
Laural Racquetball Club
C/o Richard Dreisen
204 Ft. Meade
Laural, MD 20810

NEW YORK
Off The Wall Racquetball Club
230 Oser Ave.
Hauppauge, NY 11787

PENNSYLVANIA
St. Clair Courts
C/o Judi Stadler
1337 McLaughlin
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

SOUTH CAROLINA
Charleston Racquet and Nautilus Center
1642 Hwy. 7
Charleston, SC 29407

We encourage our members to support the clubs listed above. They have shown an extraordinary effort on behalf of the amateur racquetball player. Their contribution to the AARA and the sport of racquetball is appreciated.
A Letter to AARA Members from the Board of Directors

The AARA has been watching with great interest over the past several months the developments surrounding the promoters of the Racquetball Today tabloid. Many inquiries were published and circulated concerning a 30-day racquetball revolution whereby Racquetball Today claimed wholesale defection by state organizations from both national groups. We withheld comment, awaiting them to define their goals and purpose.

Their goals and purpose became evident in the May issue of Racquetball Today. We quote: "The major programs of the national associations, regional, and national tournaments, have already been surpassed by privately run events (such as the Ektelon/Perrier) and can easily be replaced; and these tournaments are of little impact and importance to the total growth and promotion of the entire sport. The regional and national coordination of rules, policy, and programs becomes inapplicable and diluted by the time it reaches the individuals in each area; and regional and national coordination is already being accomplished as well or better outside of the national associations. We urge all of you to JOIN THE REVOLUTION! Get active in your state independent association, and put aside useless and counterproductive rivalries and affiliations with NATIONAL GROUPS."

Aside from the blatant untruths concerning the major programs of the national associations (the AARA has viable and highly lauded juniors and intercollegiate programs along with our court club promotion designed to reach the everyday player, as well as new membership programs that return 50 percent of the membership dues back to the state organizations for local development) the real danger lies in the attempt by Racquetball Today to eliminate the national associations through innuendo and untruths.

If they are successful what will happen? We will have a loose confederation of state associations soon to be banded together under one umbrella and thus a new national association again at the mercy of the publisher. The AARA has spent 12 long years getting to the position it is now in — the recognized not-for-profit, truly democratic association dedicated to developing and representing the grass roots everyday player in the sport. We are not about to turn over to promoters "who are in it for the money" what we have strived so hard to accomplish. The everyday racquetball player is not really concerned about political affiliations — state, national, or otherwise. They should be, however, and it is our belief and the belief of 50 state organizations as well as every major racquetball manufacturer that the AARA is the players' association and the Amateur association to be supported.

Before you change political affiliations let the newcomers and Johnny-come-latelies prove themselves first. UNITE. This sport does not need more associations. We need unity of purpose and one sounding board for the sport. The AARA is that sounding board and will continue to be the voice of the amateur player.

Signed,
The Board of Directors
Keith Calkins, President, CA
John Lepore, Secretary-Treasurer, MA
Jim Austin, National Rules Commissioner, TX
Ed Martin, CA
Paul Henrickson, MA
Al Schattner, PA

Tell Us What You Think!

Racquetball is interested in serving you, the reader. So, let us know what you want to read about, which departments interest you most, and how you think we can give you the magazine you want. Take a minute and write to:
Editorial
Racquetball Magazine
1535 E. Brooks Rd.
Memphis, TN 38116

Thanks.

WELCOME TO THE AARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barb Smith
Boise, Idaho

Holly Ferris
Napa, CA

Dewane Grimes
Wichita, KS

George Dwyer
Colorado Springs, CO
Increase Your Space

A new product called Locker Buddy increases the average size clothing locker in seconds, according to Bud Whitescarver, maker of the new product. By simply attaching the locker mat to the inside of any clothing locker door you can store shoes, slippers, toilet articles, brushes, socks, hankies, small tools, medicines, etc. easily and without taking up excess room in locker.

The Locker Buddy is made of 100 percent heavy cotton canvas and measures 11½ x 54 inches and it has attachments for both locker vents and lockers without vents.

Using the Locker Buddy helps to keep clothing locker in neat condition-so that anything needed can be found in a second without looking under a bunch of clothing or shoes.

Locker Buddy is perfect for schools, shops, large factories, offices, public buildings, etc. plus, of course, the home can benefit from the unique Locker Buddy. It is great for mobile homes as well as RV's and campers.

The price is $12.95 each, postage paid and it is available in red, blue, black, brown, and green colors. They are fully guaranteed and available from Bud's of Pasadena, P.O. Box 4496, Pasadena, Ca. 91104.

Exercise Efficiently

Biometric Systems, Inc. recently introduced GENESIS™, the most sophisticated wrist worn computer ever.

The Genesis Exercise Computer monitors the pulse rate continually during exercise, giving the user a complete, accurate reading of how effective an exercise program is.

In addition to giving a beat-by-beat reading of the pulse, once the computer is programmed with upper and lower exercise zone limits, Genesis automatically times how long a person exercises in their "true" training zone. The computer also clocks the recovery time, how long it takes for the pulse to reach "normal" after exercise, one of the best methods for determining physical fitness.

Other features include an automatic buzzer that alerts the user should they exceed their pulse rate limit, a quartz watch, and an adjustable metronome which enables exercisers to pace their rhythm.

Genesis Exercise Computer utilizes the most advanced microprocessor technology with a patented sensor for picking up the pulse rate. Packaged in a durable, sweat-proof case, the computer only weighs two oz. which allows it to be worn and used without interfering with most sports or exercises.

Manufacturer's suggested retail price $159.95. For more information or questions about where to obtain Genesis call: 213-822-9796.

Fitness Fair

The first Chicago Sports, Health & Fitness Fair opens at the O'Hare Expo Center in Rosemont, Ill., Aug. 5 through 9.

This truly unique fair will offer the excitement of live appearances by professional athletes, along with displays of new advancements in health science fields and the latest developments in the physical fitness industry, according to promoters of the fair. Plans for the show are now under way; a few of the exhibitors include: Chicago Health & Racquetball Clubs, Nike Corporation, Kedco, Advance Fitness Systems Company, Inc., Klaas Sunlight Corp., and the Chicago Heart Association. Among the guests celebrities and speakers expected to attend are tennis star Arthur Ashe, actor Lou Ferrigno, Dr. Lendon Smith, aerobic dance founder Jackie Sorensen, and running expert Dr. George Sheehan.

The first Chicago Sports, Health & Fitness Fair is being presented by Stratford Manor, organizers of public shows throughout the country. Under the direction of Martin Ellis and Judy Pass, the company has earned national recognition for antique shows and other expositions. The Chicago Sports, Health & Fitness Fair is a new concept in show production, combining the excitement of sports with the importance of health and fitness. Further information on the show can be obtained by contacting Stratford Manor, 466 Central, Northfield, Ill., 60063, 312-441-7536.

Read All About It

A four-page brochure giving illustrated, easy-to-follow directions for installing "Lucite" SAR super abrasion resistant sheet in racquetball court back walls, windows, doors, and balcony windows is now available from the Du Pont Company.

Sketches and text in the brochure describe proper preparation and installation of SAR, as well as door construction for racquetball courts. It also gives builders and installers tips on court area preparation and cleaning SAR.

"Lucite" SAR is being specified by numerous court owners for spectator viewing areas because of its optical clarity, impact resistance, cleanability, abrasion resistance and ease of installation, according to the manufacturer. It also meets ANSI and Consumer Product Safety Commission standards for architectural glazing. For a copy of the brochure write: Du Pont Company, Marketing Communications Department, Room X38656, Wilmington, Del. 19898.

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

### Summer Camp Guide

For those of you who plan to spend your summer honing your racquetball skills to perfection, here’s Racquetball’s 1981 camp guide, with names, dates, and locations of the places to go for help.

**Dr. Bud Mushleisen**  
July 13-17  
Santa Barbara Racquetball and Health Club  
Santa Barbara, CA  
COST: $225 (not including accommodations)  
Enrollment limited to 21  
CONTACT: Bill Gould, P.O. Box 30817, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105; or call 805-962-0069  
August 3-7  
Decathlon Club  
Santa Clara, CA  
COST: $225 (not including accommodations)  
Enrollment limited to 21  
CONTACT: Tom Martin, 3250 Central Expressway, Santa Clara, Calif. 95051; or call 408-738-2582  
August 10-14, August 31-September 4  
Snow Creek Athletic Club  
Mammoth Lakes, CA  
COST: $295 (not including accommodations)  
Enrollment limited to 21  
CONTACT: David Huisman, P.O. Box 12, Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546; or call 760-934-8511  
August 24-28  
Sierra Tahoe Athletic Club  
South Lake Tahoe, CA  
COST: $225 (not including accommodations)  
Enrollment limited to 21  
CONTACT: Pat Ryan, P.O. Box 15130, S. Lake Tahoe, Calif. 95720; or call 916-544-6222  

**Jim Austin**  
June 1-August 22  
Sound Resort, Lake Conroe  
Houston, TX  
COST: contact Jim Austin for details, 906 Wilson Road, Conroe, Tex. 77301; or call 713-539-4242  

**Janell Marriott/Rita Hoff**  
July 5-10, 12-17  
Celebrity Courts  
Warwick, RI  
COST: $250 (not including accommodations)  
CONTACT: Frank Rawcliffe, Celebrity Courts, 500 Quaker Lane, Warwick, R.I. 02886; or call 401-826-1800  

**Davey Bledsoe**  
July 12-17, 19-24  
Bear Creek Gold and Racquet Center  
Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX  
COST: $350 (not including accommodations)  
CONTACT: Ron Wickers or Randy Carter, Bear Creek Racquet Center, West Airfield Dr., P.O. Box 61025, DFW Airport, Tex. 75261; or call 214-453-8400  
August 2-7, 9-14  
Steamboat Athletic Club  
Steamboat Springs, CO  
COST: $350 (not including accommodations)  
CONTACT: Harol Lujan, Steamboat Athletic Club, P.O. Box 1566, Steamboat Springs, Colo. 80477; or call 970-879-1036  
August 16-22, 23-29  
Jackson Hole Racquet Club Resort  
Jackson Hole, WY  
CONTACT: Star Route 362A, Jackson, Wyo. 83001; or call 307-733-8616  

**Dave Peck**  
July 5-10, 12-17, 19-24, 26-31  
Seven Springs Mountain Resort  
Champion, PA  
COST: $425 (including room and board)  
CONTACT: Jeff Shearer, Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, Penn. 15622; or call 814-352-7777  
August 2-7 junior camp/August 7-9 adult camp  
All Sports Fitness and Racquet Club  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
COST: $318 (room and board included) for juniors; $209 (board included) for adults  
CONTACT: Mike Arteaga, All-Sport Club, 240 A North Rd., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601; or call 914-425-5050  

**Mike Yellen**  
August 9-14, 16-21  
What’s Your Racquet Club  
Wall, NJ  
COST: $320-342 (not including accommodations)  
CONTACT: Terry Fancher, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60067; or call 312-673-4000  

**Don Thomas**  
August 9-14, 16-21  
What’s Your Racquet Club  
Wall, NJ  
COST: $320-240  
CONTACT: Terry Fancher, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60067; or call 312-673-4000  

**Steve Strangemos**  
July 6-10, 13-17, 20-24  
Aspen Club  
Aspen, CO  
COST: $350 (not including accommodations)  
CONTACT: P.O. Box 2355-51, San Diego, Calif. 92123; or call 714-268-8707  
August 3-7, 10-14, 17-21, 24-28  
Hyannis Racquetball Club  
Cape Cod, MA  
COST: $250 (not including accommodations)  
CONTACT: P.O. Box 2355-51, San Diego, Calif. 92123; or call 714-268-8707  

### Sun-Times Shootout

The second Sun-Times-Wilson Racquetball Shootout concluded May 9 at the Glass Court Club in Lombard, Ill., with six of the eight division champions beating touring pros Shannon Wright and Davey Bledsoe.

Wins—achieved on a handicap basis—over Wright and Bledsoe enabled the amateur winners to earn vacation trips to either the Bahamas or Caribbean. The trips were arranged by Chicago’s Thomson Travel and highlighted over $60,000 in prizes awarded to Shootout participants.

Shootout drew 1,265 paying entries, which was five more than last year’s inaugural event and surpassed the first Shootout as the biggest racquetball tournament entry-wise ever held in our city.

The eight division winners included two employees of indoor court clubs—Terri Leiva (women’s intermediate) and Sandy Robson (women’s advanced)—and two high school students—Mike Hepp (men’s novice), a 16-year-old junior at Rich Central, and Jack Newman (men’s advanced), a 17-year-old senior at Maine East.

Other winners were Jo Ann Dusek, a 22-year-old nursing student at the University of Illinois; Cindie Calzarella (women’s novice), a 23-year-old Chicago housewife with a two-year-old daughter; and Gary Pescrillo (men’s intermediate), a 24-year-old construction coordinator from Chicago Heights. The men’s never-played actually had two winners.

Kevin McAllinden, a 29-year-old employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who had finished second, was awarded the title after the disqualification of another hours after the finals. McAllinden went on to win vacation trips along with Robson, Leiva, Calzarella, Newman, and Hepp.
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 strengthened 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
TOURNAMENT TIGHTNESS
How To Ease The Tension

You can have the technical knowledge of a pro and comprehend ball speed like a physicist, but unless you can pull it all together on the court and concentrate, you might as well stay home. The psychological aspects of racquetball are part of everyone’s game, from champion to beginner, and mind control is as critical as ball control. Your body can be in excellent shape, muscles strong as an ox and agile as an antelope, but if your emotions are erratic, so will be your score. Like other skills of the game – serve, stroke, position, and strategy – concentration can be learned, practiced, and perfected.

I became aware of the damaging effects of tournament tightness during my husband’s, Dave, first venture in amateur competition. The weeks that preceded the match were like observing a human watch, each passing day of anticipation he wound himself tighter. On the day of the big game, he was up before the sun. While he rustled around in the dark, I asked, “What are you doing?” He never got up this early during the week, and today was Saturday!

“I’m going to jog to get into condition for the tournament; my first game is at 10:00 and I want to be ready for the S.O.B.” he replied.

I rolled over and bit my lip. It was one of those rare occasions when I decided to refrain from comment. “Good luck,” I muttered.

About the only accomplishment of his early morning run was to temporarily relieve the mounted anxiety and exhaust him to the point that he fatigued midway in his first game. When Dave arrived home from the club, his posture and mood were slouched, droopy, and depressed. I didn’t have to ask about the outcome. Tournament nervousness had conquered another victim, and we both were convinced that there had to be a better way to allay the inevitable jitters.

Getting in Touch With It

There are two mind states that will notably interfere with your game — anxiety and anger. Court concentration will be clouded by tension, and anger will keep you from playing to your potential.

Recognizing these major barriers automatically lessens them.

The stress related to preparing for competition is a dominating aspect for many racquetball players. If your enthusiasm increases with each climb up the club’s ladder or passing day before the scheduled competition, then you are probably one who performs significantly worse on tournament day than in practice matches. One main adversity of a high level of anticipatory excitement is that it will use up needed energy.

Decreasing your tension will free up more vigor so you fatigue less. “I play my best when I’m able to rid myself of physical or mental tension blocks and my body and mind are able to perform harmoniously together,” states Myron Lazar, PhD clinical psychologist and racquetball competitor. He engages in exercises that increase his body consciousness and awareness of hindering tension. Decreasing anxiety’s presence allows him to play with a better flow.

Like anxiety, anger is a powerful emotion and can wreck your game concentration and eliminate your objectivity. Being pissed off at yourself, your opponent or even a referee will drain a cool competitive attitude. Self-directed anger is similar to beating yourself with a stick; the only difference is that it is your mind that is bruised rather than your flesh. The benefit of mistakes comes from accepting them and learning from them. The habitual tendency to judge execution as either good or bad produces a lot of unnecessary ego deflating during a game.

Tim Galloway, author of Inner Game of Tennis, recommends that you not identify with your shots. “If you view an untamed backhand as a reflection of who you are, you will be upset,” he states. An interfering judgement can begin when a player labels a serve as “bad” which is followed by discouragement. A “bad serve” can lead to a “bad player” self concept. It is the human inclination to judge ourselves and performance; so you must develop a new vantage point for game reflection. One of Galloway’s hints is to look at errors as important milestones for game development. Just as a child cannot walk until there has been an attempt at standing and unavoidable falls on the ole derriere, you cannot advance your game ability until your weaknesses are experienced.

The more concerned you are about winning and what kind of game you will play, the higher the odds that you will choke up and not play to your potential. “Emotions like anxiety and fear are performance diluters,” says Lazar. The overconcern of these feelings will cause the flow of your natural, acquired abilities to miss circuit. “To spend
months perfecting a stroke, then worrying if you got it right is one example of self-defeating tension. You have to develop a balanced outlook — not too confident, not too insecure."

The secret to knowing how much your emotions will affect your game is in how much ego involvement you have with the way you play. If you are on a high for days after a win, feeling cocky and your racket swings. Dr. Lazar suggests that a person who suffers from ego-driven game strategy lessen the tendency to focus measurable aspects of the game — like points or if you win. "The most important thing is that you play the best you can during that particular game. There are going to be days when you’re on and days when you’re off, and you have to roll with the differences just like you need to learn to roll your wrist. "A rigid approach to this game is deadly," he says.

Lazar illustrates this point by recalling a match where he lost, but felt it was one of the most satisfying he had played. "It was the second day of a tournament, final match, and I lost by five points. But, my opponent thanked me for the game and I truly felt it was deserved. I gave him an exciting day on the court and his winning did not detract from that."

Letting Go of It

Three aspects of learning to out-psych your opponent are refining relaxation, confidence building, and concentration methods. Dr. Lazar states that regular practice of the relaxation arts (meditation, yoga, Tai Chi, and others) will help you identify your tension and alleviate it. Gallwey describes a relaxed approach to racquet sports as quieting or untensing the mind. This entails freeing yourself of inhibitions, cautions, fears, doubts, controls, reservations, and self-criticism; it requires less thinking, calculating, judging, worrying, fearing, hoping, trying, regretting, controlling, and distracting. Lazar concludes that a tension-free outlook is essential for pace changing in the game. "If you enter the court with a fixed game plan, or with every point your opponent scores, you try harder to execute your rigid idea of how you should play, you eradicate one of the most powerful game strategies — pace flexibility. You must be able to assess your game in mid-stream and adjust your style. Being able to change your pace is one way you can throw off your opponent," he explains.

Relaxation maintenance throughout a game requires on-going awareness and periodic uptight relievers. Dr. Lazar stands on his head between tournament games because, "It relaxes, energizes and erases past mental garbage." He also demonstrates creative uses of time outs. By deliberately choosing the three allowed game breaks, he can shatter an opponent's momentum, get out of a slump, or discharge emotions that stand in the way of taking one stroke at a time. Another technique that can be incorporated during a match is deep breathing. Like head stands, this refreshes by discharging anxiety and anger.

Some players erroneously think that getting mad at a prospective opponent before a tournament will furnish a competitive edge. What it really gives is a distorted view of your feelings and the person you are playing; therefore, increasing your losing likelihood. The only way your anger can be used on the court against you. But, your opponent's expressed rage can be used as an offensive technique. When your court companion yells, "Damn," or stamp a foot, work in a fast serve; this will further frazzle the already upset player.

As far as getting disturbed with the guy who calls the shots, Lazar states, "Sure, you're going to be ticked off if you feel a referee has unjustifiably called a play, but letting it be a distraction penalizes you more. If you are feeling tension building after such a call, take a
few minutes to get re-oriented." It may be fashionable with some racquetball players to have extreme displays of ref
outrage, but the ventilation ends up in-
creasing fatigue, mushing up mental
concentration, and cultivating a negative
attitude.
If you observe that you are spending
too much time or too many activities
directed toward game readiness, find a
pre-tournament divergence. These
should be aimed at calming ragged
nerves — a leisurely walk, funny movie,
dancing, or a captivating novel. Devel-
oping a relaxed approach to tournaments
does not mean becoming passive or
apatheic. Myron Lazar explains, "Playing
an emotionless, matter of fact game is
promoting skill at the same time you
are diluting psychological hinderances."

Confidence
It is essential that on the day of the
tournament you walk onto the court feel-
ing, thinking, and acting like a winner.
This does not mean that you should pro-
ject a pseudo confidence, but that you
believe in your ability to play your oppo-
nent. In order to establish a winning at-
titude, it must be made part of your pre-
match conditioning.
One hint is to focus your before-
competition practice on your strengths
and not your weaknesses. In other
words, if you have an excellent serve,
but a poor backhand, do not spend the
week before working to improve your
backhand, but rather further perfect your
serve. Attempting to turn around
playing deficiencies prior to a tourna-
ment will accentuate your awareness of
them and take away from your win-
ner's attitude. The quickest way to
psychologically forfeit a match is to walk
on a court thinking of your game gaps.

Thinking of your opponent as the
enemy detracts from your confidence.
Lazar recommends an exciting alter-
native to this projection. "Think of your
playing partner as a mirror. Try to get
into the bodily and game rhythm of the
other person. You can influence and con-
tral another's movements by being on the
same wave length. In addition, with
concentration on the playing interaction,
you can find out characteristics which
enhance or inhibit your game." This op-
tion to the classical good guy vs. bad guy
sports' perspective brings new produc-
tivity to racquetball.

Two suggestions for confidence
building are taking lessons and playing
people who are on your level. A coach is
probably the only person who can give
you objective insights about how you
play. Lessons will help you focus on
game improvement and keep a positive
attitude. Likewise, you cannot build con-
fidence if you cannot make any points.
There is no faster way to become
demoralized and ready to break your rac-
quet against the back wall than to play
someone who is considerably more ad-
vanced than you. You would not put a
Persian cat in a lion's den, nor should a
"C" player be on the same court with an
"A" player. That combination is more
sado/masochistic than sport.

An additional necessity for a winning
attitude is the ability to psychologically
cope with winning. "As bizarre as it may
sound, some folks actually feel guilty if
they win; so they unconsciously set it up
to lose," states Dr. Lazar. He explains
that the attitude dysfunction can be
related to not thinking you deserve to
win or being afraid you would then be
expected to win all the time or that vic-
tory would mean your opponent would
be mad at you. "Of course, this isn't the
case every time someone loses. These
people can win, and indeed do, it's just
that when they perceive that something
more than a game is at stake, they
freeze-up."

Concentration
Mind wandering is the major problem
impeding concentration. The times when
you are most vulnerable to taking a men-
tal check out are serves or with friends
whom you play frequently. Lazar re-
counts, "It is easy to serve automatical-
ly rather than getting set and thinking
WINNING POINTS

about where the ball is going to go. Your mind has to be on the ball at all times. If you concentrate on your shooting and how your opponent is shooting, there is less of a chance that your mind will ease away from the court activities."

One concentration technique is to create a visual image of the desired results before you serve. Imagine the ball passing close to the wall and landing in the left corner against the back wall. Being mentally "out to lunch" when you serve makes you less alert to play on the opponent’s return. So you miss the point. Watching the ball, not staring at it, increases court concentration. Becoming fascinated with the ball as an object will keep your mind paced throughout a hard match.

Mind control exercises can be valuable for toning up mental alertness and toning down emotions. One technique is to close your eyes and imagine a blank blackboard. Then, mentally draw a number on the board. Like 2. Concentrate on the appearance of the number — the curvature of the line at the right upper quadrant, the angle of the line in the left lower quadrant, etc. After studying the form for several moments, mentally erase it and draw another. Doing this several times will sharpen your mental acuity.

Winning Without It

There is plenty of time for bouyancy and celebration after the competition; before and during a tournament the focus should be on your serves, strokes, and strategy. A healthy balance is to know your opponent is capable of winning, and know you are capable of losing, but not thinking about either until after the game is over.

"Competition is always a little scary," states Myron Lazar, "and it is essential that you recognize that fact." He found that keeping a diary for two weeks before a tournament helped him keep his associated emotions from becoming disruptive. "For me," he explains with a slight grim, "reading how I was interpreting the competition kept me from taking the whole thing too seriously. And, I'm certain it freed me up to play better."

Now, Dave is preparing for his second tournament. After some light-hearted discussions with Dr. Lazar and counsel from his coach, I doubt if he will need to jog the morning of his match. His coach, who has had years of experience getting psychologically prepared for competition, succinctly summarizes the issues, "Exaggerating the importance of the game or its outcome will in turn exaggerate your nervousness about how you play. If you lose, don't sweat it...if you win, don't gloat it. You can't take it too solemnly; when you do, it's no longer a game and it should be fun to play, not stressful.""

A Dozen Uptight Signs

Keeping a pre-tournament diary enabled Dr. Myron Lazar to identify symptoms of amateur competition jitters.

1. Disruption in sleep and eating habits
2. Body feels sluggish and fatigues
3. Start accumulating excuses for a possible bad game
4. Fantasize similarities of your opponent and Superman
5. Concern about recurrence of previous injuries
6. Think about tournament more than three times a day
7. Worry about how you will explain a loss
8. Schedule a last minute pre-tournament lesson
9. Joke and humor about the approaching game
10. Becoming suspicious about your racquet, shoes, and clothing
11. Double vitamin, Gatorade, and protein consumption
12. Sampson Syndrome — afraid to get a haircut before the game

By Mike Yellen

WALLPAPER

Don’t Let It Hang You Up

(Currrrently ranked third on the pro tour, Mike Yellen authors this column each month and is a member of the Ektelon Advisory Staff.)

The wall-paper ball, it’s one of the most racquet-twisting, knucke-scraping experiences in racquetball. When your opponent is on the receiving end, it’s just great. But, when you are, wallpaper is a synonym for pure frustration.

Most racquetball glossaries define the wallpaper ball simply as, “A shot that travels very close to the sidewall on the way to the back wall.”

There’s nothing simple about wallpaper, though, regardless of which side of the shot you’re on.

The wallpaper ball can travel toward the back wall at any height. Usually it comes off the front wall at a perfectly acceptable height and pace that, if it were just a couple of inches nearer to center court, would make it a plum. A player has only about a one-in-five chance of making a decent return of a wallpaper ball, though.

It may be slow and it may be high, but the ball also is glued to the sidewall as it travels into back court, giving the player virtually no room for error in his swing.

Usually, a player faced with wallpaper will try to hit it too hard, hoping to overcome the ball’s contrariness by blasting it off the wall. Even if he hits the ball, which seldom happens, the player can’t hope to control his shot under these difficult circumstances. The result is an easy return for his opponent.

A second aggravating characteristic of wallpaper is that it doesn’t always stay on the wall. The ball may hug the wall all the way into the back court only to knock it slightly and jump off the wall just as the player is about to hit it.

It’s this kind of behavior that can send you up the wall if you are trying to handle one of these shots, but you can improve your chances of a decent return if you can keep your cool.

You don’t have to change shots for a wallpaper return, just attitude. When you see the ball sliding back along the wall, it should be a signal to you to switch into low gear.

Make up your mind that you are going to hit a ceiling ball, because any attempt at an offensive return will probably just get you into trouble. Also realize that you will not have a full swing because the wall is going to be in the way. Then too, the ball may jump out at you so position yourself far enough away from the wall to be able to handle it if it does.

Think of your racquet as a big spatula and try to scoop the ball off the wall and up to the ceiling instead of trying to hit it. Quadriform or modified quadriform

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shaped racquets work best on this particular shot because their heads are flatter and, therefore, slide along the sidewall better. The emphasis on control that you put into your stroke, however, is more important than the shape of your racquet.

As easy as it is to describe, of course, the wallpaper ball is just that hard to execute. In fact, it’s probably the hardest shot in racquetball and you’ll want to put in some practice time to get yourself used to the wall.

That’s the bad news about wallpaper. The good news is that you can put your opponent in this difficult position with any luck.

Of course, you can’t hit wallpaper shots with anything approaching the frequency of your other shots. You can improve your chances for this point winner, though, with proper attention to your down-the-line drives.

You don’t have to be right against the sidewall to have your shot rebound close to it, although closer is better in most cases. Even a crosscourt pass can come off the front wall as wallpaper. It’s all a question of how it goes into the front wall.

Unfortunately, I can’t tell you how to hit the ball so that it comes off as wallpaper every time. The angles will change, depending on what spot you are on the court and the only way to become acquainted with them is through practice and play.

Incorporating more down-the-line drives into your game strategy will increase your chances of hitting a wallpaper ball and a familiarity with this shot can’t hurt your game either. It is especially useful during service return.

Just concentrate on putting the ball as low and close to the sidewall as possible. If it comes off as a low pass, fine. If it comes off as wallpaper, so much the better.

Alternate your down-the-line drives with crosscourt drives just to keep your opponent off balance. These shots will work either backhand or forehand and should be executed with the normal backhand or forehand stroke.

As with any passing shot, you want to be careful that you don’t put so much angle on the ball that it comes off the sidewall into center court, giving your opponent an easy return.

To summarize, the most important point to remember is to keep your head and control of your racquet regardless of which end of a wallpaper ball you happen to be on.

When returning wallpaper, play it safe and hit a ceiling ball. On offense, go for it. You may get lucky and, with wallpaper, luck is usually the difference between success and failure.

By Bob Gura

COURT SPEED

How To Get Quick – Fast!

Speed. There isn’t a racquetballer alive who doesn’t wish he or she had more of the floor-burning stuff. With speed a player can often run around, through and by equally talented but more plodding opponents.

Unfortunately for most racquetball players, footspeed doesn’t come gratis with newly purchased equipment and togs. Only a very small percentage of workaday players are blessed with the gift and more than a few veterans suffer the curse of being slow.

Try as they might it’s extremely difficult for individuals to increase their running speed. Unlike areas where practice, or perspiration, does make perfect, the more you run doesn’t mean the faster you’ll get. Players who drop a big deal of excess flesh are likely to be fitter, but the odds are great they’ll never leave friction burns on the court floor.

Even those able to dash swiftly across court to pick off a passing shot or race in to retrieve a kill will lose the gift one day. Time is no respector of velocity and with the passage of it even the most mercurial racquetballers lose a step along the way.

Rather than lament the absence of the fast goods, or curse when they begin to slip away, every player can take a few steps in the right direction. The path to follow leads away from hopes and efforts to run faster, and towards a plan to avoid overlong sprinting. The name of the philosophy is quickness, a court concept that combines a few fast steps with anticipation, present plans and risk-taking.

The place to start is with an honest appraisal of your own speed. Thanks to the construction of the court racquetball doesn’t place a priceless premium on mercurial times as a standard of acceptance. Football players must be able to run 40 yards at a prompt pace or they can kiss off top-level success. Baseball players are expected to rapidly run the basepaths and cover all the territory in the out and infields. Basketball players find it vital to be able to run the style of play accurately nick-named the fast break.

Racquetball players however, need not worry much about the ability to race wall-to-wall or back to front court like a blur. All that’s required to give the illusion of pure speed is a talent for judging what’s going to happen next, and getting to the right spot in time to act.

To accomplish this capability a player should be able to run about as fast as his or her playing partners. A few steps slower won’t make much of a difference, nor will a tad of speed increase prospects.

So take a good look at the guys and gals you play with and figure out how you rate. Unless you’re far and away the only slow-motion-mover in the group chances are you’ll be able to master the art of becoming quick. The only things required are the willingness to think about your pace of play, master a few simple skills, and use them oncourt.

A preliminary bit of business is an inventory of your strokes. Most players tend to have superior forehands, rifle shots used to kill, pass, or pinch with equal ease. The same goes for ceiling balls and strokes made off the backwall. Now ask yourself a question. How many players do you know who match up as well from the backhand side? The answer is probably very few, and if they can they’re likely the best in the club.

It’s apparent those able to play shots from the backhand and forehand side have an immediate advantage. Since they are harder to pull out of position or lull into low percentage shots, something has to be done about it. The solution is simple, don’t try to beat ‘em, since you probably can’t, but join ‘em. This idea may well be met with a loud chorus of another cliche, namely – that’s more
time to get from the middle of the floor to the side or front wall. Now stand in the return position, a wee bit removed from the back wall. Pretend to stroke a return then race forward on a direct line from the point of the shot. Stop when you get about five feet beyond the short line, 25 feet from the front wall. This is the area, extending an outstretched arm swing to either side and to the service line in front that’s prime territory. It’s the fabled region called center court position, the locale where a competent player can “quickly” assume control.

It’s wise to think of center court as the hub of a bicycle wheel, and any other positions as spokes leading back to it. Once you’re ensconced in center court the principles of quickness should enable you to dominate the rally.

Although it may seem quite a trek from the backhand corner where service

is usually returned it isn’t very far, only four to five steps in actuality. The server has to do little more than step to the middle and retreat a tad to achieve landlord status.

The key to the quickening process is to learn how to control center court. This is done by practicing and committing to memory principle number one: Thou shalt have a plan in mind.

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The key to the quickening process is to learn how to control center court. This is done by practicing and committing to memory principle number one: Thou shalt have a plan in mind. This applies to both the server and service and works along the line of practiced choreography.

Begin by thinking the worst, you’re returning the serve and it’s a beauty: leveling, floating, lofty or angling into the backhand corner. Rather than panic and try to belt the ball back you should have a priority system in mind.

Since most good services force ceiling ball returns the quick-thinking player realizes what to do; hit a rooftop to the backhand side and cut to center court position. Players certain of their ability to hit ceiling balls must have their rating system in order. On a hard low drive, Z, or garbage serve step up and hit the ball immediately after it bounces. When you can, get it on the fly. Many players have trouble in either corner because they allow the ball to rebound off various walls. Skilled individuals are the only swingers who should regard these side—back wall pop-offs as their province.

Less gifted folk should try to scamper from the ready position and play the ball on the hop. The only exception to this rule should be a serve that is sure to hurt straight off the floor, to the back wall and onto the down-the-line corridor. Play this shot with the proper form, waiting for the ball to pass by with your racquet arm held back at the ready. If you’re able to adhere to the idea of ceiling ball firsts you should sense immediate improvement. For openers, while a few miss-hits will crop up more and more returns will be playable, allowing your opponent to make an error. Once the other side realizes it will have to work for points, you can begin to exploit emergent miscues. This is done by knowing your opponent’s habits and basing your second shot off them. While top professionals regularly engage in endless ceiling ball rallies such perfection is not usually found in run-of-the-mill club players. It stands to reason then, there’s no reason your second shot shouldn’t end the rally successfully, or set up a winner.

Begin by casting a watching eye over your opponent during the warmup, or back to other matches you’ve played or seen. There are several items to focus on. When serving does he or she stay in proper position, drift too far to one side, or fade too far back? When a weak return is sent back does the opponent like to kill and if so are the deathblows pinches, off one side of the front wall or up the middle? Next, are they delivered by both backhand and forehand, and is the backhand used as an offensive or defensive measure?

Process the investigation further (you may have to detect as you’re playing) and ascertain where he or she does what. It won’t take long to get a workable idea of the foe’s capabilities and more specifically, what parts can be picked upon.

Use this knowledge, when returning, to set up the second shot, after taking over center court with the ceiling ball. If the opponent is well behind in deep back court, or even a little more frontal, remember his or her tendencies. If their inclinations are to blast back a front wall kill, prepare to aim an answering pinch to the backhand corner, low as possible. This shot will place you in an enviable position. Since the opposition has to run from a deep backcourt corner diagonally across court or she will run into problems. The first is that your body is likely to inhibit the visual path of the ball for a moment. There’s no chance of a hinder
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Here, it's simply that the other player may have to look through you to pick up the ball. You can add to the impendiment by following through nicely. Try as they may, it's almost impossible for players to disconnect the sight of an opponent swinging at a ball from view. By stepping over naturally in the course of finishing the shot you'll find yourself becoming a formidable human cataract.

The same principle holds as to determining the returner's flight path towards the second shot. Anxious not to run up your back, the opponent will often swerve around you enroute forward. This curious banana-like approach carves needed time from the chances of making a pickup. A return which he or she would rather have had coming straight forward, instead of at an angle to the backhand.

It's now safe to assume the returner will try even harder to crunch the ball. Plan for the eventuality by favoring the side you assume the ball will be hit towards. This can occasionally be learned by watching the racquet arm while you view the action in center court. A straight-ahead thrust usually means down-the-line, with a wide cross-the-body-swing favoring a cross court blow. Counter these strokes with a gentle dump or pass to the other side, forcing another mad dash. A few of these done properly, in sequence, will keep the opposition running while crediting you with great footspeed. The effect of always being in position is increased when you control play with pinches and passes delivered from both the fore and backhand. When they are hit properly the opponent is turned into a human ping-pong ball, jitterbugging left and right, front and back, as you "quickly" retain center court control.

If the server's effort is poor but to the backhand think tendencies again. Instead of smashing a ceiling ball, hit a hard pass down the backhand line and run towards center court position. Instead of following straight to the middle, consider the odds. If the server doesn't have a strong backhand, but pokes the ball, move to the left (backhand side) slightly. Since most pokes are delivered stiff wristed, a down-the-line bloop or drop is likely. The step or so difference towards the left on the approach may put you in a favorable position otherwise thought impossible. Once there, drill a hard cross court pass that catches the sideline beyond the short line, prevailing a back wall pop-off. If the opponent's backhand is capable, race to the middle and a step to the right after returning service. Expect a strong stroke sending the ball across court. If you guess right a down-the-right line pass will win the rally. If the server crosses perfect opportunity to slice opponent's game apart quickly. Start out by playing the backhand corner with drives, garbage, Zs, and other variations. Plan your second shot exactly, depending on the return, if there is one. Weak middle wall shots should be greeted in center court with firm low pinches to the left and right. The pattern will confuse the returner and make the path forward confusing. Alternate with low kicks to the side of the front wall. Either will do, but those hit to the backhand side are better.

Mix up the weak return routine with a casual stiff-wristed corner drop or dump spot. Hit property this will cause the returner to run forward even faster. Over a match the constant running takes a toll, allowing the opposition and making you seem faster by always being in control.

If the return of service is good, calculate what it should be. Assuming the worst, the opponent has stroked a beautiful ceiling ball to the backhand side. One of the secrets to quickness is learning when to move in order to make the return. On any shot, especially this one, watch the ball as it comes off the opponent's racquet, then react. Since there's no way to be decoyed you have a racquetball world of time to get in position; and you rarely have to move more than five or six steps to get there. Begin the romp while the ball is flying towards the front wall. Unless you're a court pachyderm you should be able to get in some sort of position by the time it smacks off the front wall. Use the remaining time to solidify your stance and plan for unexpected bounces. This tactic will enable you to be in position to hit the ceiling ball back, allowing time to check out the hitter's whereabouts.

Use it wisely, and either send back the same, or if the server refuses to take over center court hit the open area. If you practice long enough you'll find yourself able to notice opponents' tendencies and take advantage of them.

Another point to keep in mind has to do with watching the ball. Since many players refuse to always keep an eye on the orb they often react to shots only after they see them pass by. Make quick hay of this dilemma by sneaking up on the ball and batting ceiling balls and wide pinches. By the time they see the ball you'll have sped into center court position and be ready to send them running. Whenever you face a player who shows signs of fear of being pelted with flying rubber, play harshly, but fairly. Keep the poor soul pinned to the backhand side since the fear connotes in experience, which points the way to a weak backhand. Vary the shots with near side pinches and the opponent should be sent flying to the backhand sideline in fright.

The same attacking return goes against any server who vacates center court position after launching the serve. When you spot this tendency forget the ceiling and aim accordingly. A fade to the left brings on a low drive to the right and vice versa. If the server drops too far back hit a pinch to either side, or (and it's risky until you get the hang) a not-too-hard drop. Should the server step too far forward, crack a ceiling ball. It will then become a sure offensive winner.

No matter how long it takes to perfect, quickness can't be taken too much for granted. The idea is not to race around the court in dervish style, but to cover the key areas with efficiency.

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Remember the concept of the hub and wheel, gauge the opponent's capabilities, and plan a shot ahead. Couple these keys with the ability to hit from the back and forehand and you'll notice a difference on the scoreboard. And in the eyes of faster moving opponents who can't figure out how you cover so much ground.

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Players traveled from as far away as Germany to attend this year’s National Singles competition in Boise, Idaho, but by week’s end most had a distinctly Western flair about them. It wasn’t just the cowboy hats, distributed in lieu of T-shirts, but also the heavy dose of Western-style hospitality provided by Bob Petersen and the staff of his host club — The Court House.

As Petersen and his staff so aptly demonstrated, Western-style is expansive — in everything, from the huge 27 court facility to the never empty hospitality room. And more than a few visitors were impressed.

If the visitors fared well at this year’s competition, the Idahoans did also. They proved they could not only run a successful tournament, but play one as well. Boise natives Barb Smith and Bob Petersen, in fact, both captured national titles in their respective divisions, thus making sure they kept some of the glory right where it was won.

The rest of the field, with a draw of well over 400, had a host of defending champions returning, and a few upstart newcomers as well. With Open players in the Men’s and Women’s divisions vying for the chance to represent the USA in the World Games I (see box), it was not surprising to see some fierce competition brewing. Most players and spectators alike had their share of thrills and upsets. This is how it went:

**Men’s Open**

Defending champion Ed Andrews of California is probably prime for the likes of touring pros Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen, and Dave Peck. But the 24-year-old Andrews chose to keep his amateur status and defend his national title this year so that he might have a chance to represent the USA in the World Games. A wise decision, as it turned out.

In the quarterfinals, Andrews played tournament roommate Kenny Kahlilany, runner-up in the AARA Intercollegiates this year. Kahlilany played with heart, but early on it was evident Andrews was in control. Andrews took the match 21-10, 21-11, to set himself up for the semis.

In other quarterfinals, second-seeded Larry Fox, of Ohio also had a fairly secure victory over Rob Baruck of Nevada. Since Fox was suffering from a cold, he was relieved to win in two 21-11, 21-16. Also, Mark Martino of California topped Jack Newman of Illinois, 21-19, 21-13. And, in possibly one of the most grueling quarterfinal matches either have experienced, Scott Schafer downed fellow Tennessean Randy Stafford 19-21, 21-12, 15-14.

Schafer plays the number one position on Memphis State’s unbeatable racquetball team, and Stafford, a former touring pro who also lives in Memphis, has played him several times in the recent past. While the small and wiry Schafer usually dominates the older, lanky Stafford, this match proved a tough test of his comeback skills. Stafford, who jokingly refuses to dive because “It’s not worth it!,” plays a skillful control game — analyzing his opponent’s weaknesses and persistently chipping away at them. Schafer, on the other hand, will take to carelessly — sometimes recklessly — flinging his body around the court in order to make contact with the ball.

In the tiebreaker this is exactly what he did, as the two were neck and neck at 6 all, 7 all, and 8 all. Stafford even took to the floor a couple of times, revealing his true desire to win this match. But at 14-13 he had three chances to win match point, and three times he came up short. Schafer managed to edge up one more point before Stafford got his fourth, and
Dr. Bud Iuehleisen was the kind of an early 7-2 lead. But the young shaky all. While Martino's play statement, drew implication dominant was now unnerved vice did included mistakes. Andrews finally broke the ice in game one by moving ahead to a quick 3-0 lead. Schafer picked up a point here and there, mostly on Andrews mistakes, but soon the score was a onesided 10-3. Andrews. Schafer wisely called a time out at this point, but apparently to no avail. Andrews, after conferring with coach Bud Meuhleisen, skipped on ahead to a 14-3 lead before Schafer made his next point. Andrews' concentration seemed to waiver, and Schafer took advantage of every mistake to add a point when he could until he was within grasp at 10-15. But Andrews wouldn't let up, even though he wasn't rolling out every shot he got, he managed to get back into the game and took over to win 21-12.

Game two was a showcase of Andrews's strength as Schafer had obviously been worn down by the first game. Andrews simply dominated the whole game, winning 21-5.

In the other semis, Larry Fox, current AARA Intercollegiate champ, found himself in a familiar spot. For the third year in a row, Fox was faced with a semifinal opportunity. This year, however, it was clear he had no intention of ending his run for the title in anything less than the finals bracket. Mark Martino, a quiet 19-year-old from southern California, was less revealing of his intentions, until he got on the court.

In game one, Fox began with a strong statement, letting Martino know he meant business when he leapt ahead to an early 7-2 lead. But the younger Martino, a less experienced player, wasn't unnerved by Fox's antics on court because he was confident that his coach — Dr. Bud Muchleisen — was there to help him out. And Muchleisen's calm advice did indeed seem to help, as Martino began to edge up to Fox's lead, first 7-9, then 8-9, and finally catching him at 11 all. While Martino's play seemed a little shaky at the beginning of this game, it was now Fox's turn to play defense. One mistake led to another, and soon the young upset had Fox down 17-12. But, being the comeback kid that he is, Fox seems to thrive on being behind. He changed the tempo of his game, aiming for the ceiling and sending the ball sailing along the glass sidewall where it was easy for Martino to make mistakes. He did, and Fox was soon putting them away to reach 17-20. Then it was his turn to make an error, and so he did, skipping a kill shot to hand over service. Martino had his first shot at game point, but failed, and Fox pressed on to reach 18. But that was the last point he'd see, as Martino played a pinch down the left wall, and left Fox without a return. Although Fox called a time out, which usually goes in his favor, Martino used the time to choose his next serve. He made a good decision, and quickly won the game 21-18 when time was called in.

Game two was the kind of game that gets spectators yelling — the kind of game that only players with nerves of steel can survive. Fox, the number two seed, later admitted to wondering if he had the heart to play his best after the first game. Those who witnessed it didn't doubt that Fox did indeed play for all he was worth.

Martino started with confidence, quickly gaining a 3-0 lead before Fox had a chance to serve. There was tension in
the air, with Fox being the local favorite, and spectators wondered if he was going to put up a fight. Martino started with attacks to the front right corner, and then had Fox climbing the walls to get backhand ceiling returns. Still, his skills kept him going, and at 3-5, his serve, Fox called time out.

A firm believer in the mental part of the game, fans are often amused to watch Fox circle the court, obviously counseling himself about what to do next. Judging from the success of his personal coaching, however, it’s probable most of his opponents aren’t amused. And sure enough, after his brief time out, Fox was ready with a plan of attack that caught him up to 5 all, as he set himself up by serving Zs, to Martino’s forehand, which skimmed the glass back wall and forced easy returns.

Martino would have none of that, and forced a couple of errors himself, to throw off the crafty Fox’s plan of attack. Skillfully placed right corner kills, down-the-line passes and straight-in kills kept him on the scoreboard. Fox tried to change the tempo of the game, which was now intact, Fox still couldn’t gain the offense, and he continued to make mistakes that allowed Martino to serve. At 17-15, Fox answered Martino’s serve with a flat rollout, and the crowd went wild. The tension continued to build as the score reached 17 all, then 18-17, then 19-17, Fox. Martino still had the match in sight and wasn’t giving up, so he called a time out to consult his coach, after gaining side out on one of his tough backhand kills. With time in, his first serve was an ace, to make it 18-19, but Fox stopped the second with a right front corner kill.

This was when the unexpected suddenly became the norm. Martino leapt ahead to 20-19, then shot a sidewall-front wall kill to win the game. Or so he thought. As he turned around to cheer his certain victory, he heard the ref call a skip ball and side out. Fox then aced his serve to reach 20 all the.

The crowd was breathless throughout the next round of play and when the long rally finally ended with the ball flying out of the court, a unified sigh escaped. Martino had a second chance to take game and match, but just couldn’t do it. Fox then tried his hand at game point, but experienced the same crushing disappointment Martino must have felt earlier, when his down-the-line kill exploded on the wall and the ball went in three different directions. People marvelled at his concentration when he managed to remain calm enough to serve again, and, finally, win 21-20.

Needless to say, the tiebreaker was nothing less than a heartstopper. Fox outdid his second game performance by fighting off not two, but three possible match points. Both players kept the spectators on the edge of their seats, as it was impossible to foretell the outcome of the game. Fox started off strong, but began to lose ground when he made a few too many errors and Martino found his kills again. They kept everyone guessing, as they passed the points back and forth in a gripping battle of power and wit. At 14-13, Martino’s serve was called a foot fault, after Fox yelled at the ref to “Watch his foot!” It must have unnerved the younger Martino, for Fox managed to gain the next point on an avoidable hinder call, then took the game and match with his next serve. The crowd responded with a standing ovation for both players, who had provided a show no one could have anticipated.

In the semis Larry Fox demonstrated the power of the mental game. In the finals, Ed Andrews did the same for a strictly disciplined game of skill. Machine-like in his accuracy, it is almost impossible to believe that Andrews has only played the game for four years. It is even more difficult to believe that his only other sport prior to racquetball was motorcycle racing. Nevertheless, An-
drews had handily defeated all opponents in two games before reaching the finals.

Spectators wondered if Fox would have enough left after the previous day’s semifinal match to even give Andrews a game. When the match began, it looked as though he intended to give Andrews a run for the money. And he did — in the beginning. As Andrews consistently rolled the ball out, again and again, it soon became apparent the comeback kid wouldn’t come back this time. In both games the pattern was the same. Fox would stay with Andrews, almost point for point, until double digits, and then Andrews would pull ahead and take control. No matter what Fox tried, there was no denying the Andrews’ backhand rollout. Spectators murmured, and a few tried to cheer Fox on, but mostly there was sudden silence when Andrews repeatedly flattened the ball against the wall — almost to the point of boredom. It left Fox without a defense, and Andrews took the match in two, 21-11, 21-12, thus securing the first place title once again — as well as the right to attend the World Games in the number one position.

The World Games were what Mark Martino had on his mind too, when he faced Scott Schafer in the battle for third place. (First, second, and third place winners will attend.) That must have been what kept him going to take Schafer 16-21, 21-13, 15-8.

**Women’s Open**

While the Men’s Open took some exciting twists and turns in the latter days of the tournament, the Women’s Open held its share of upsets throughout the week.

In the quarterfinals, 32-year-old Betsy Massie, of California, stunned number-two seed Mona Mook. Massie, a racquetballer of only two years, powered past the 18-year-old with serves that couldn’t be touched. Mook took the first game, as expected, 21-16, but then began making too many mistakes. Massie capitalized on those mistakes, and plowed ahead in game two to win 21-6. The tiebreaker seemed to be all Massie, until Mook got a momentum second wind and pulled out ahead at 12-9. She gave out there though, just three short of the match, and Massie finished it at 15-12 to win game and match, and send herself into the semis.

In other quarters, powerhouse Lydia Emerick of Colorado had a little trouble in game one against Bev Branch of Texas, but eked out a 21-20 victory. Game two was a different story, as Emerick dominated 21-7, thus reserving something for the semis.

Top seed Barbara Faulkenberry came to the tournament as favorite for the fourth year in a row. But that didn’t bother Kathy Gall of Germany, who played a fierce quarterfinal match against the Air Force academy star. It might have been a goodie match of sorts, since Gall is an Army player. Whatever the reasons, though, the two battled long and hard. Faulkenberry won in two, 21-17, 21-19, but it was a struggle the whole way. In the other quarters, Cindy Baxter of Pennsylvania, last year’s runner-up, breezed past Jamie Abbott of Montana 21-13, 21-16.

The semifinals also had a sprinkling of surprises. The most shocking, though, was Cindy Baxter’s 21-2, 21-3 win over top seed Barbara Faulkenberry. It was one of those critical twists that make the outcome of a tournament an unknown. Baxter was reaching her physical peak, with timing and execution of shots flowing as smoothly as possible. Faulkenberry had apparently passed her peak and was in a slump.

Baxter was primed, and seemed unable to miss a shot if she’d tried to. Faulkenberry, on the other hand, simply wasn’t in the game. Afterwards, a tired and unhappy Faulkenberry commented, “I just didn’t have anything left — mentally or physically.” But Faulkenberry, who’s reigned as Intercollegiate champ for the past three years but has never won the Nationals, will no doubt come back to try again next year.

In the other semi, Lydia Emerick and Betsy Massie worked each other over in two close games. Although Emerick came out on top, 21-17, 21-19, it wasn’t without a battle. Both Emerick and Massie have powerful strokes, and both play an aggressive game of shooting and passing, which makes for a lot of movement on court. Massie, who was also entered in the 30 plus division, showed signs of fatigue toward the end of the match though. In fact, it was at the beginning of both games when she poured on her strength, perhaps hoping to get far enough ahead that her opponent couldn’t come back. Not possible in this case, as Emerick proved when she came back both times to win, being down by 10 points in one game before she began to climb back.

The final showdown between Emerick and Baxter proved just how much the semifinals had taken out of Emerick. In a rather brief two games, the 26-year-old Baxter powered her way past Emerick to win the championship 21-3, 21-8. It seemed to be another case of fatigue — both mental and physical. Emerick, like Faulkenberry, seemed unable to get into the game, and consequently tried shooting much too often when the shots weren’t there. Baxter, who does physical
Mark Martino expressed his joy at winning the semifinals against Fox, but a moment later learned the ref had called a side out. Fox won and went to the Open finals against Ed Andrews.

labor for a farm machinery plant, is small but powerful, and didn’t hesitate to use her power. Just as in her semifinal match against Faulkenberry, she served well, and took the offensive to put the ball away. Both Faulkenberry and Emerick will have another shot at her, though, when the three of them attend the World Championships, and represent the USA in the first World Games.

Massie forfeited her third place playoff to Faulkenberry, due to an injury, so Baxter, Emerick, and Faulkenberry will go to the World Games.

**Men’s 30+**

The draw was crowded in this year’s 30 plus division. Colorado’s Mark Hegg was back to defend his title, but didn’t make it past the semifinals. There he met his match in the powerful, well-balanced playing of California’s Steve Dunn. Remen stayed in the first game all the way to the end, losing 21-20, but game two was all Dunn, 21-7.

Fielding Snow of Washington defeated Mark Hegg for third.

**Women’s 30+**

Betsy Massie tried, but failed in her attempt to pull a Carol Frenck trick this year when she lost in the Open. However, she did prove herself a worthy opponent by winning the 30 plus division. (Last year Frenck won both the Open and the 30 plus.) The 32-year-old Massie, a Presbyterian minister and a former tennis player, was glad to take the title back to San Francisco with her. And it was no wonder, for she fought off fatigue and injury as well as Patricia Curtis of Oregon to win 21-15, 21-4.

Ali Swafford of Texas defeated Idaho’s own Theresa Silva for third.

**Men’s 35+**

Jay Jones, a Hollywood stunt man, plays racquetball as neatly as he dresses. Jones, always neatly attired, is one of the smoothest racquetballers in this division. Opponents are frequently heard complaining that he should be in the Open. Well, he did win all his matches in two games and — most of the time — kept his glasses on too.

In the semifinals he dominated Texan Tom McKie, 21-7, 21-17. In the other semis, Californian Bill Dunn found a tough competitor in Ed Remen, but managed to come out on top 17-21, 21-12, 15-10.

So Dunn faced Jones in the finals. While the match started off on equal footing, with Dunn keeping close for the first eight or so points, Jones soon proved his ability to manipulate his opponent all over the court and pulled ahead 21-10, then 21-14.

Ed Remen took third place over Tom McKie.

**Women’s 35+**

Boise’s own Barb Smith made it to the finals in the 35 plus for the second year in a row. This year, however, she proved that number two does try harder — and it pays off. Last year Smith lost convincingly to Linda Siau of Arizona. This year she won just as convincingly, when she took Judy Pike of Idaho in two, 21-8, 21-3.

Sharon Kennedy of Washington defeated Kathy Rishell of third, 21-16, 21-10.

**Men’s 40+**

This seniors division was chock full of entertaining matches. The outrageous bickering between Charlie Garfinkel of New York, and Mark Wayne of California, and the head to head combat between Bob Petersen of Boise, and Jim Austin of Texas, were more than enough to keep people talking.

Garfinkel and Wayne faced off in the semis, and proved themselves equal to their antics. Wayne’s style of play is unorthodox to say the least, since a bad back and bad knees prevent him from bending down very far, or moving well laterally. He makes up for such deficiencies by running his opponents ragged with well-placed shots. Garfinkel, of course, never stops moving — his mouth, that is. He even went so far as to refuse to play until he got an official ruling on the headband Wayne was wearing, which boasted Mercury-type wings on either side. Even so, Wayne came out on top, 21-14, 19-21, 15-10.

In the other half, Petersen toppled Austin 21-12, 21-13 on the glass court. While Austin is a fine, skilled player, he had the unfortunate luck of the draw when two of his scheduled opponents forfeited for one reason or another. So he had played only once before meeting Petersen on his home court.
In the finals Petersen started off slow, losing game one to Wayne 15-21. But in game two he found his timing again and it was all downhill for Wayne, as Petersen took game two 21-10, and tiebreaker 15-5. Wayne, though, was unILLED in his efforts to enjoy the game. And he provided more than a few chuckles for spectators, sporting a headband of devil’s horns, and calling time outs to down a beer or two. Petersen laughed all the way to his victory.

Women’s 40+

Her opponents included won her second Doran, and Rachel child.

Women’s 45+

Colleen Sloan dominated this four woman round robin division, and thus won her second title of the tournament. Her opponents included K. Mueller, Rita Doran, and Rachel Schild.

Men’s 45 +

Dr. Bud Muehleisen usually makes his presence felt at national tournaments. This year was no exception. For competitors in his division, it was by adding number 54 to his seemingly endless list of national titles. For Open players, it was through the victories of his two young proteges — Ed Andrews and Mark Martino.

Of course none of this ever keeps people from challenging him, and there were plenty who were vying for the opportunity this year. Unfortunately, Charles Wickham, his quarterfinals opponent, was forced to forfeit due to apparently overworking himself. Wickham played a stressful match against Jon Ohiheiser of Texas, just squeezing past him 21-20, 21-18, and then had a near collapse. All tournament participants wished him a speedy recovery.

In the other half of the draw, powerful Al Ferrari roared past Gene Landrum of California 19-21, 21-9, 15-8 to reach the finals against “Dr. Bud.” It was a repeat of last year’s finals between the same two, although this year Ferrari didn’t make quite as good a showing. Muehleisen took it in two, 21-4, 21-5.

Another laurel was added to his wreath when “Dr. Bud” was named AARA Player of the Year, along with Woman Player of the Year, Carol French.

Women’s 45+

Colleen Sloan dominated this four woman round robin division, and thus won her second title of the tournament. Her opponents included K. Mueller, Rita Doran, and Rachel Schild.

Men’s 50 +

Observing the Masters players can be a real learning experience. Most of them have been with the game through a lot of growing pains, and they have perfected the control of their shots far beyond what a lot of younger players are capable of.

Pat Whitehill of Washington was victorious in this field, although Bob Troyer of Illinois gave him considerable trouble in the finals. Whitehill took the title in a 21-11, 17-21, 15-6 decision. It was a special victory for Whitehill, who fought off illness and physical weakness to make it back to the nationals this year.

In the semis, Troyer downed Ektelon founder Bud Held, 21-2, 21-14 and Floyd Svenson gave Whitehill a run for his money at 21-10, 21-14. Svenson and Held clashed for third, and Svenson won 16-21, 21-19, 15-11.

Men’s 55+

The Men’s 55 plus title was captured by Al Rossi of California this year. Don Goddard of Montana made it to the finals as he did last year, but was dominated by Rossi, 21-3, 21-4.

In the semis Goddard eased by Bert Morrow of California 12-21, 21-16, 15-4. Rossi, meanwhile, was pitted against the crafty Floyd Svenson, who came on strong in the beginning. Rossi stopped making the errors he’d repeated so often in the first game, though, and took control in game two. The scores were 12-21, 21-9, 15-6.

Morrow defeated Svenson 21-19, 21-5 for third.

Men’s 60 +

Don Goddard proved he could take home a national championship when he beat Ike Gumer in the finals of this division 21-12, 21-9. Luzelle Wilde captured third.

Men’s 65 +

Ike Gumer was determined to go home with at least one title to his name. He’d entered two divisions, so he stood a good chance of winning at least one — and this proved to be the one. In a round robin competition against Louis Getlin, Richard Grant, and Lawrence Rankin, Gumer outclassed all of his opponents to go undefeated. Getlin came in second.

Men’s B Results:
Quarterfinals: Dan Gordon over Darin Grimes 21-6, 21-10; Doug Jones over Brian Duran 13-21, 21-14, 15-6; Doug Sheddy over Dave George 21-8, 21-18; Don Chambers over Mike Halsworth 18-21, 21-14, 15-4

Semifinals: Doug Jones over Dan Gordon 21-6, 20-21, 15-11; Don Chambers over Doug Sheddy 21-9, 17-21, 15-9

Finals: Chambers over Jones 21-11, 21-7; Third: Gordon

Women’s B Results:
Quarterfinals: Rozlyn Hamilton over Sybil McCormack, forfeit; Leilani Olson over Carol Neslie 21-6, 21-18; Linda

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WORLD GAMES 1

WHO'S WHO:

Racquetball makes its debut on the international sports scene this month at the First World Games. Representing the United States are the following:

![World Games 1 winners](https://example.com/world-games-winners.jpg)

**Ed Andrews, Men's National Singles Champion, San Diego, California.**

**Larry Fox, Runner-up, Men's National Singles, Cincinnati, Ohio.**

**Mark Martin, Third place, Men's National Singles, Mountain Valley, California.**

**Cindy Baxter, Women's National Singles Champion, Lewistown, Pennsylvania.**

**Lydia Emerick, Runner-up, Women's National Singles, Parker, Colorado.**

**Barbara Faulkenberry, Third place, Women's National Singles, Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

**Jeff Kwartler, Men's National Doubles Champion, Houston, Texas.**

**Mark Malowitz, Men's National Doubles Champion, Houston, Texas.**

**Mary Ann Cluess & Karen Borgia (not pictured), Women's National Doubles Champions, West Hempstead, New York and Toms River, New Jersey.**

First Alternates: Scott Schafer, Fourth place, Men's National Singles, Iowa.

Betsy Massie (not pictured), Fourth place, Women's National Singles, California.

Other countries sending participants for the sport of racquetball include Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, and Ireland.

The World Amateur Racquetball Championships will be held July 28-30, and the World Games 1 racquetball competition will be August 1 and 2.
Allen Ascher is a free-lancer based in Matawan, New Jersey. In the past he has contributed to Handball magazine, and he is a frequent contributor to this magazine. In the following article he reflects upon the early days of handball, and why the contradictory feelings of both camaraderie and rivalry exist between racquetballers and handballers.

For a variety of reasons, primarily, perhaps, simply because the two games are so similar, an odd and uncharitable animosity has grown up between racquetball and handball adherents, mostly, though not exclusively, on the part of the latter. Their reasons are numerous, some even having a touch of validity, others valid only in the minds of the most rigorous handball enthusiasts, but they all come down to a single Shakespearean motif: “How sharper than a serpent’s tooth it is! To have a thankless child.”

The serpent’s tooth, in this case, is a lack of what might be called a proper show of deference and respect by the new players for the old timers, and the old timers’ game. Handball does, in fact, go back a long way, much further than racquetball. It can be traced back as far as the ancient Romans, in one form or another, and its immediate predecessor developed in medieval Ireland, from where it came to America with Irish immigrants in the 1800s. In the 1920s, 30s, and 40s it became the city game, much as basketball is now, in its one wall, outdoor variety, largely because it was cheap: a five cent Spalding pink ball and a wall, preferably, but not necessarily smooth, were the only requirements. Everything else — short line, side lines, true bounces — could be left to the imagination. Even an opponent was optional.

Naturally, playing conditions were frequently far from perfect, and they in turn affected the psychology of the players. As often as not tufts of grass grew along the base of the wall and cropped up through cracks in the concrete. In the summer sand powdered the beachside courts; in the spring and fall puddles lasted a day or two after a heavy rain. There were always the distractions of graffiti on the walls and the endless competition with stickball and paddleball players for the court space.

The few available indoor courts weren’t much better. The four-wall courts were built into the basements of community houses, boys’ clubs, and colleges, built years before and seemingly frozen at a universal level of deterioration: broken light panels, non-functioning ventilation systems, walls reeking with the sweat of two or three generations of handball players. The indoor one-wall courts (a euphemism) were drawn against folding gym walls whose chrome hinges protruded a half inch off the flat surface of the wall, while the floor lines protruded five or six feet into the adjoining basketball game.

And, of course, the game hurt. The hard ball stung, especially in cold weather; the skin on the palms cracked; and the concrete surfaces wreaked havoc with the knees.

But the handballer enjoyed being touched with a tiny martyrdom, and he played with just a trace of an elitist’s pride. From the time of Phil Casey, who built the first U.S. walled court in 1886, the game was never meant for anyone who wasn’t willing to make concessions to it.

Enter racquetball, hot on the heels of the tennis boom. To the hardcore handballer it was a clear case of usurpation — of the court, of the rules, of strategies — and an appropriation of whatever interest lay dormant in the yet non-aligned general public. For the novice the new game had clear advantages: the need of an off-hand was gone, the racquet face multiplied the hitting surface by a factor of four, and most important, the game was painless — at least in the hands. It was four-wall handball without the concessions, and the public found it attractive.

And there were other advantages as well. The new game wasn’t played in unevenly lit basement courts where the remembrance of ten thousand sweatsocks hung thickly in the air. It came, instead, replete with recessed fluorescent lighting, carpeted hallways, wooden floors, smooth walls, saunas, whirlpools,
Racquetball is seeking qualified free-lance writers and photographers to do instruction, feature stories, and tournament reports. If you are interested, send sample clips and/or photos to N. K. Crowell, Editor, Racquetball magazine, 1535 E. Brooks Rd., Memphis, Tenn. 38116. Manuscripts and photos cannot be returned unless SELF-ADDRESS, STAMPED ENVELOPE is enclosed.

Learn the game from Davey Bledsoe!

The Amfac Hotel and Resort’s Bear Creek Golf & Racquet Center will hold four, week-long racquetball clinics this summer. It’s your chance to learn technique and strategy from champion Davey Bledsoe. Whether you are a beginner just learning or an experienced player wanting an edge on your competition, you’ll learn the secrets that made Davey Bledsoe the #1 world player in 1976 and 1977.

- Clinic Dates: July 5-11, July 12-18, July 19-25, July 26-August 1
- Limit 50 students per clinic.

Cost is $350.00 per student and includes instruction, court time, camp uniform, opening night cocktail party, end of clinic barbecue and a free Wednesday for golf, tennis or visit to Six Flags Over Texas Amusement Park. For more information or to sign up, contact Ron Wickers, Bear Creek Racquet Center, 214/453-8400. For those attending the clinic from outside the Dallas/Fort Worth area, a special rate of $38 per room, per night*, is available at the Amfac Hotel and Resort. Free transportation will be provided daily from the Hotel to the Bear Creek Racquet Center. Both Hotel and Bear Creek are located within the Dallas/Ft. Worth Regional Airport.

*Max. 4 per room.

It is arguable whether or not new equipment will create a resurgence of interest in handball that will rival the current interest in racquetball, for as far back as it goes, handball never enjoyed that kind of popularity. What is apparent, though, is a slight reaction of the racquetball establishment to the handballers’ carping, a reaction of anger tempered by the security of a far larger constituency. And that is as unfortunate as the carping itself.

For while the games are different, the games are the same, and the racquetballer owes something to the older game. Almost every racquetball stratagem was developed on the handball court, and a novice or intermediate can still learn a great deal from watching two experienced handballers go at one another.

And the parallels run deeper still, for the essence of each game is the same: to pit oneself against an opponent and the constraints of the game at the same time. That is as timeless as the Irish game of a thousand years ago, and as well-rooted in the universal desire to compete and excel.

The new game of racquetball had all the amenities of country club tennis, and the old timers felt a little like mountain men watching bathtubs and china coming over the Southern Rockies.
The AARA is entertaining bids for its Regional and National Singles Championship tournament sites for 1982.

For further information contact AARA National Headquarters at 5545 Murray, Memphis, TN 38119; or call 901-761-1172.

The AARA is most pleased to announce the following National awards:

**MAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Bud Muehleisen - La Mesa, CA

**WOMAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Carol Frenck - Newport Beach, VA

**PERSON OF THE YEAR**
co-awarded to: Paul Henrickson (Millbury, MA) and Ed Martin (Sacramento, CA)
Want to buy, sell, trade or swap with RACQUETBALL players or court clubs? Now's your chance with a —

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3) Mail to: FREE CLASSIFIED, RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE, 15115 S. 76 E. Ave., Bixby, OK 74008.

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15115 S. 76 E. Ave.
Bixby, OK 74008

RB101
Amateurism: Usually an idealistic word, frequently ill-define, rarely practiced, at least in its purest athletic sense. 

"You're going to write about amateurism?" asked Bob Paul, director of communications for the United States Olympic Committee. "You're in for trouble. We haven't used the word for 20 years. An amateur is somebody who can't accept money to play or coach a sport or endorse a product. It's dullest than hell. How can you write a long story about that?"

Maybe I can't, but the word won't go away -- no matter how misused.

The most recent attention to amateurism -- or shamateurism, as its critics like to call it -- came during the national collegiate basketball championships. Television viewers across the country wanted to know how Danny Ainge, the star of the Brigham Young University team, could be playing college basketball and also be a member of the Toronto Blue Jays, a major league, professional baseball club. The answer is that the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) now allows professional athletes in one sport to compete as amateurs in sports other than the one in which they earn money.

Weeks after the Ainge case gained national prominence, a college football star, freshman running back Herschel Walker of the University of Georgia's national champion team, considered signing a pro contract with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League.

The money was apparently there to entice Walker to turn professional even before his college class graduates and he becomes eligible for the National Football League draft, but Walker had another dilemma. He wanted to compete in the 1984 Olympics as a track sprinter.

"Our problem has nothing to do with dollars," explained Nelson Skalbania, new owner of the Alouettes, after meeting with Walker. "If he (Walker) earns his money as a mailman, he can compete in the Olympics. In football, I don't know if he can. If it's true he can't, then it's highly unlikely he'll come to Canada."

The USOC's Paul could see this problem coming.

"Under most of the international sports federations, once a pro, always a pro in all sports," he said. "The most interesting case is now in track and field where they apparently have OK'd cash prizes above the table and still intend to let these runners participate in the Olympic Games. This will be a hell of a big story when and if the world track and field group (the International Amateur Athletic Federation) tells the world what it is permitting above the table."

Racquetball, for better or worse, isn't involved in such celebrated cases yet.

"There's an overriding confusion in the industry on what amateurism is," explains Luke St. Onge, executive director of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA). "No one understands what an amateur is. Now racquetball is at the level of other sports, like track and field and swimming. Racquetball doesn't have the same prestige as those sports yet, but the vehicle to get that prestige is there. We're not able to bring in the large sponsors who didn't know who to deal with in this sport before."

One of St. Onge's biggest projects is racquetball's participation in this summer's World Games, a series of sporting events involving several nations which he envisions as "an alternative to the Olympics." The first World Games will be held July 24-August 2 at Santa Clara, Calif., with more than 1,300 athletes from 40 countries participating. (See Racquetball, December '80 for more on the World Games -- Ed.)

Sports federations will determine the teams for the World Games; they will be housed together by sports, not by countries. No national anthems will be played and flags will not be present at the opening ceremony. There will be no closing ceremony. It's an interesting project, at the least.

Because of the AARA's role in the World Games, amateurism in racquetball is of particular concern to St. Onge.

"We are the national governing body of racquetball," says St. Onge. "Anyone who has accepted money in a pro-sanctioned event (Professional Racquet-
ball Organization, National Racquetball Club, Women's Professional Racquetball Association) is designated a pro.

But... that word always seems to come up in discussion of amateurism.

St. Onge admits that "A guy playing for $500 in a club event isn't affected. Frequently a check of $500 is bigger than what a player could win in a "pro-sanctioned" tournament. That doesn't seem right, does it?"

"It's the only definition of amateurism at this point that we can enforce," admits St. Onge, adding that a professional can return to the amateur racquetball ranks simply by refraining from accepting prize money for a year.

Even though racquetball's battle with amateurism isn't as pronounced as it is in some sports, the matter needs further study. "Amateurism is a dictionary definition, and that's all it is," says St. Onge. "Rugby and sandlot baseball are the closest sports to being all amateur."

Perhaps the biggest problems come in the increasingly popular sport of road racing, as pointed out dramatically by Lee Green in a recent issue of Women's Sports.

"Today we have Bill Rodgers, who reportedly received $20,000 for running in the New York Marathon last fall," wrote Green. "Grete Waitz is said to have won $6,000 for finishing first in the women's division. Strictly legal, mind you. All under the table. And hardly news to anyone who has been paying attention."

The top racers have recently formed the Association of Road Racing Athletes (ARRA). The official ruling body for runners is The Athletics Congress (TAC), successor to the Amateur Athletic Union. The top runners are finding TAC a hypocritical group tied too closely with the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). The ongoing ARRA-TAC differences will likely continue for years, and they will receive prominent attention in the nation's sports media.

The biggest amateur sports association in America today is the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America. Its membership is approximately 2 million, and the group claims that about 30 million people play organized softball in the United States. Not surprisingly, the ASA has had its share of disputes regarding amateurism.

"We get a lot of calls on eligibility rulings," admitted the ASA's Bill Plummer. "Every time you turn around, it seems, amateur sports are going to court for some ridiculous thing or another."

An amateur softball player, according to the ASA's definition, is one who plays the game for "nothing more than an avocation."

Players are not allowed to accept money for playing and cannot play in tournaments at which prize money is awarded. "Money tournaments are not good for softball — period," said Plummer.

The ASA decided the U.S. representative in World Games I at its 1980 national fast-pitch championship in Decatur, Ill. The winning team, Peter-Bilt Western of Seattle, Wash., will compete for the U.S. in the World Games. There won't likely be any eligibility problems from softball at the World Games.

"Where our problems usually develop is when a guy lives in one part of the country and wants to play for a team in another part," said Plummer, who did not wish to get involved with specific instances. "Softball is really a simple game but there are always people looking for loopholes in our rules. Softball people are funny. They will take you to court over some of the smallest things."

The definition of amateurism actually varies from sport to sport. The definition of an amateur is different in wrestling than it is in rifle shooting. It's different in boxing than it is in tennis. The U.S. Tennis Association alleviated a lot of its problems by going to open tennis. But what about sports like badminton, baseball, body building, boxing, casting, karate, power lifting, roller skating, softball, synchronized swimming, taekwondo, tug-of-war, and water skiing? They will all be contested in the World Games.

They are amateur sports, according to World Games literature, "because each federation controls its own sport and qualification format." But that doesn't mean that both amateur and professional athletes could conceivably compete under the guidelines of the participating sports. The amateur controversy lives on."

Reprinted from the International Olympic Committee's rule book, the following defines "amateur" according to their standards:

TO RULE 26

A. A competitor may:

1. Be a physical education or sports teacher who gives elementary instruction.

2. Accept, during the period of preparation and actual competition which shall be limited by the rules of each IF:

a) assistance administered through his or her NOC or national federation for:

- the costs of food and lodging,
- the cost of transport,
- pocket money to cover incidental expenses,
- the expenses for insurance cover in respect of accidents, illness, personal property and disability,
- the purchase of personal sports equipment and clothing,
- the cost of medical treatment, physiotherapy and authorized coaches;

b) compensation, authorized by his or her NOC or national federation, in case of necessity, to cover financial loss resulting from his or her absence from work or basic occupation, on account of preparation for or participation in the Olympic Games and international sports competitions. In no circumstances shall payment made under this provision exceed the sum which the competitor would have earned in his work in the same periods. The compensation may be paid with the approval of the national federations or the NOCs at their discretion.

3. Accept prizes won in competition within the limits of the rules established by the respective IFs.

4. Accept academic and technical scholarships.

B. A competitor must not:

1. Be, or have ever been, a professional athlete in any sport or have entered into a contract to that end prior to the official closure of the Olympic Games.

2. Have allowed his or her person, name, picture or sports performance to be used for advertising, except when his or her IF, NOC or national federation enters into a contract for sponsorship or equipment. All payments must be made to the IF, NOC or national federation concerned, and not to the athlete.

3. Carry advertising material on his or her person or clothing in the Olympic Games, world or continental championships and Games under patronage of the IOC, other than trademarks on technical equipment or clothing as agreed by the IOC with the IFs.

4. Have acted as a professional coach or trainer in any sport.

C. Eligibility Commission

A commission may be appointed to enforce Rule 26 and these bye-laws.

* NOC = National Olympic Committee; IF = International Federation, IOC = International Olympic Committee.
JULY 3-5
2nd Annual Firecracker Open (3)
King's Courts
100 Pennbriar Dr.
Erie, PA 16509
Bob Oliver
814-868-9626

JULY 9-12
California Grand Prix 1981 (3)
West Covina Athletic Club
3211 E. Garvey Blvd.
West Covina, CA
Gary Williams
213-957-0577

JULY 10-12
Greenbax Stamps Racquetball Classic (3)
Charleston Nautilus & Racquet Center
1642 Hwy. 7
Charleston, SC 29407
Joe Moran
803-571-1020

New Jersey State Championships for benefit of Cancer Society (2)
King George's Racquet and Health Club
17 King George Rd.
Greenbrook, NJ 08812
Pele Talbot
201-356-5900

JULY 16-19
California Grand Prix 1981 (3)
Anaheim Racquetball A.C.
2640 Woodland Dr.
Anaheim, CA
Gary Williams
213-957-0577

Brownsville Sport Palace
Summer Siu/er Open (3)
2349 Price Road
Brownsville, TX 78521
George Squires
512-542-1416

JULY 23-26
California Grand Prix 1981 (3)
Another Racquet
613 Westlake St.
Encinitas, CA
and
Rainbow Athletic Club (3)
781 West Shaw
Clovis, CA
Gary Williams
213-957-0577

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
904-394-0348

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

JULY 30-AUGUST 2
California Grand Prix 1981 (3)
Diamond Racquetball
23425 Sunset Crossing
Diamond Bar, CA
and
Sacramento Court Club (3)
947 Enterprise Dr.
Sacramento, CA
Gary Williams
213-957-0577

AUGUST 6-9
California Grand Prix 1981 (3)
Goldwater/Chandler Racquet Center
5300 Coldwater Canyon Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA
and
Four Seasons Racquet Club (3)
20211 patio Drive
Castro Valley, CA
Gary Williams
213-957-0577

AUGUST 7-9
Shenango Valley Racquet Club/
Bavarian Funfest Racquetball
Tournament (3)
Shenango Valley Racquet Club
115 High St.
Sharpsville, PA 16150
Meg Kerr
and Nick Santucci
412-962-7848

AUGUST 13-16
California Grand Prix 1981 (3)
Tournament House Racquet Club
6250 Brockton Riverside, CA
and
Fairfield Court Club (3)
1471 Holiday Lane
Fairfield, CA
Gary Williams
213-957-0577

AUGUST 20-23
California Grand Prix 1981 (3)
San Diego Tennis & Racquet Club
4848 Tecolote Rd.
San Diego, CA
and
Schoeber's Racquetball (3)
425 Eccles Ave.
S. San Francisco, CA
Gary Williams
213-957-0577

This is a listing of
AARA-sanctioned events.
(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. To ensure publication, information should be turned in by the 1st of the month, 60 days prior to publication. (i.e. August 1 for the October issue, etc.)
## AARA '81-'82 Rankings*

*Rankings compiled by Bill Verdi of Penn Mathematics Department, based on reports received from June 1, 1980 to January 15, 1981.

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### Additional Notes

- Rankings compiled by Bill Verdi of Penn Mathematics Department, based on reports received from June 1, 1980 to January 15, 1981.
- The rankings are based on various metrics including wins, losses, and performance in tournaments.

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*The table above provides a snapshot of the rankings for the AARA '81-'82 season.*
# 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.**

**Listing 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, wsr-women's steam room, mrr-men's steam room, tc-tennis court, sp-swimming pool, r-restaurant, b-bar, sb-snack bar, ps-pro shop, er-exercise room, n-nursery.

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36 July/August '81 Racquetball
**Scorecard**

Send your tournament results to AARA National Headquarters, 5545 Murray Ave., Suite 202, Memphis, Tenn. 38119. Scorecard will report as many results as space allows. Black and white photos are welcome, but will not be returned unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

All results should be typed, double spaced, and preferably arranged according to the example given here. Entries using this format stand a better chance of being included in the “Scorecard” section.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Single Men’s Open</th>
<th>Single Women’s Open</th>
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<tr>
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**Men’s A**
- 1st: Scott Collins, 2nd: Mark Thomas, 3rd: Kirk Michaelis, 4th: Alonzo Ramos

**Men’s B**
- 1st: Cliff Helbert, 2nd: Kyle Hunt, 3rd: Rick McDowell, 4th: Kevin Cole

**Men’s C**
- 1st: Mark Lopresti, 2nd: Gilbert Frusko, 3rd: Todd Timmons, 4th: Kevin Gambel

**Wisconsin State Singles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supreme Courts</th>
<th>Janesville, Wisconsin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st: Mark Lopresti</td>
<td>2nd: Gilbert Frusko</td>
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**Mark Lopresti Wins Two Racquetball Titles**

At East Coast Jubilee Tournament

A Malden man participating in a Senior/Masters Racquetball Tournament at the Boston Tennis Club last Sunday won the Men’s 50+ Championship as well as the unique Century Doubles crown.

John Solio of 167 Kennedy Drive excelled in every department of the game to wrest the 50+ title from New England champion Sam Garafalo 15-13, 15-14. Solio had never before beaten this long-time leader in Masters racquetball competition until the East Coast Tournament. With hardly any rest, Solio joined up with Malden High School Tennis John Lepore and proceeded to upset the #1 seeded Doubles Team of Howie Coleman, (Worcester) current New England 45+ Champion, and the same Sam Garafalo (Watertown). The Solio-Lepore team won the first match 15-13, lost the second 14-15 and finally conquered 15-14 in a close match one could have.

**Century Doubles**


**Texas Tech University Holds AARA Intercollegiate Racquetball “Shoot-Out” Tournament**

It was a West Texas State vs Texas Tech Intercollegiate Shoot-Out February 13-15 with Tech finishing on top of both men’s A and B divisions. The “A” division final saw Tech’s Scott Collins and Mark Thomas vie for the championship. Collins won 1st place 21-13, and 219. Cliff Helbert (Tech) took the “B” division, beating Kyle Hunt (Tech) in a 3rd game tie breaker 11-10. The “C” division finalists were all West Texas State players, with Mark LoPresti taking 1st from Gilbert Frusko, 21-19.

Men’s novice winner was Chris Aprinling (Tech), while Cindy Hauss won the women’s “B” division in the AARA sanctioned tourney. It was the first team tournament held in the new Student Recreation Center at Texas Tech University.

**Cerebral Palsy Benefit**

Quadrangle Coral Springs

Coral Springs, Florida

January 16-18, 1981

**Cerebral Palsy Benefit**

Quadrangle Coral Springs

Coral Springs, Florida

January 16-18, 1981

**Cerebral Palsy Benefit**

Quadrangle Coral Springs

Coral Springs, Florida

January 16-18, 1981

**Texas State Intercollegiate Shoot-Out**

Texas Tech

Lubbock, Texas

February 13-15, 1981

**Men’s A**
- 1st: Scott Collins, 2nd: Mark Thomas, 3rd: Kirk Michaelis, 4th: Alonzo Ramos

**Men’s B**
- 1st: Cliff Helbert, 2nd: Kyle Hunt, 3rd: Rick McDowell, 4th: Kevin Cole

**Men’s C**
- 1st: Mark Lopresti, 2nd: Gilbert Frusko, 3rd: Todd Timmons, 4th: Kevin Gambel

**Wisconsin State Singles**

Supreme Courts

Janesville, Wisconsin

February 27-March 1, 1981

**Men’s Seniors**
- 1st: John Derksen, 2nd: Jim Lucht, 3rd: Jim Compton, 4th: Fred Mabson

**Veterans’ Open**
- 1st: Bruce Thompson, 2nd: Frank Bacon, 3rd: Will Mulvaney, 4th: Tom Teleck

**Men’s Masters**
- 1st: Tom Murray, 2nd: Frank Nen, 3rd: Corby Stanelle, 4th: Herman Herkert

**Men’s C**
- 1st: George Frey, 2nd: Brian Sippy, 3rd: Pat McNamee, 4th: Tom Miller

**Men’s Open**
- 1st: Jim Winkus, 2nd: Joe Winkus, 3rd: Bruce Thompson, 4th: Gari Tate

**Women’s B**
- 1st: Cheryl Kraus, 2nd: Lori Muenzenberger, 3rd: Nola Ward, 4th: Dyanne Singler

**Men’s B**
- 1st: Mike Olmstead, 2nd: John Dongarra, 3rd: Steve Nickols, 4th: Mike Freneden

**Women’s C**
- 1st: Linda Polomares, 2nd: Sharon Smoelinski, 3rd: Gwen Schwartz, 4th: Sharon Krause

**Cleveland Racquetball Valentine Classic**

Cleveland Racquetball Club

Cleveland, Tennessee

February 13-15

**Men’s Open**
- 1st: Mike Myhovich, 2nd: Steve Terry, 3rd: Robert Fugger

**Men’s B**
- 1st: John Cochechi, 2nd: Drew Taliferie, 3rd: Ralph Buckner

**Men’s C**
- 1st: Bob Townsend, 2nd: Bob Herms, 3rd: Jerry Neilon

**Women’s Open**
- 1st: Cheryl Kraus, 2nd: Lori Muenzenberger, 3rd: Nola Ward, 4th: Dyanne Singler

**Women’s B**
- 1st: Mary Ann Woods, 2nd: Rheta Thompson, 3rd: Libby Christian

**Women’s C**
- 1st: Kathy Seland, 2nd: Susan Rudnick, 3rd: Georgia Yutyeure

**Men’s C Doubles**
- 1st: Terry Gallahon, 2nd: Frank Fain, 3rd: Mark Thompson, 4th: Ryan Ratcliff, 5th: John HomeFlex

**Open Doubles**
- 1st: Chuck Evans, 2nd: Mike Menovich, 3rd: Rich Vitalio, 4th: John Chew

**March of Dimes 5th Annual Oregon State Championships**

Court House II

Salem, Oregon

March 5-8, 1981

**Women’s Open**
- 1st: Nancy Reed, 2nd: Trina Rasmussen, 3rd: Susie Garbo, 4th: Morri Lee

**Women’s B**
- 1st: Sue Gray, 2nd: Dale Hayden, 3rd: Cher Posedel, 4th: Diane Steele

**Women’s C**
- 1st: Pam Rawlins, 2nd: Sharron Baun, 3rd: Sherri Anderson, 4th: Fran Boudes

**Women’s D**
- 1st: Charlyn Ringe, 2nd: Carla Half, 3rd: Cheryl Hansen, 4th: Debbie Yoshida

**Women’s Novice**

**Men’s Open**
- 1st: Mike Griss, 2nd: Tony Krause, 3rd: Mark Martin

**Men’s A**
- 1st: Dave George, 2nd: Kenny Gilber

**Men’s B**
- 1st: Scott Grasley, 2nd: Bill Inge, 3rd: Gary Pacarro, 4th: Ken Johnson
Men's C
1st: Mike Cherry, 2nd: James Hilderbrand, 3rd: Doug Masterson.
Women's B: 1st: Lisa Lathouse; 2nd: S. Ambrecht; 3rd: Sharon Young.
Women's C: 1st: Terri Jones; 2nd: Vicki Thompson; 3rd: Monica Feherly.

Florida State Singles
Orlando Tennis and Racquetball Club
Orlando, Florida

Steve Larabee.
Men's B

Men's A

Men's Novice

Seniors
1st: Jay Krouse; 2nd: L. Tyler; 3rd: Frank Christensen; 4th: Bob Blazinet.

Masters
1st: Mike Friedman; 2nd: Francis Kipstoo; 3rd: Chef Fossett.

Juniors 17 and Under
1st: Mike Naper.

Men's A Doubles

Men's B Doubles
1st: T. Forster; 2nd: M. Lowe; R. Miller.

Women's Open
1st: Barbara Olson; 2nd: Carol Frizzell; 3rd: S. Driven; 4th: Sherrie Thomas.

Women's B

Women's A
1st: Joy Davis; 2nd: Nicky Mountain; 3rd: Marsha Blazinet; 4th: Maureen Gurnier.

Women's A Doubles
1st: Andrea O'Clock; 2nd: Sue McEwen; 3rd: Paula Gray; 4th: Linda Damont.

Women's B Doubles

AARAA Junior Regionals Southeast
The Courtrooms
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
March 6-8, 1981

Boys' 17 & Under

Boys' 15 & Under

Boys' 13 & Under

Boys' 11 & Under
1st: Mike Altman; 2nd: Greg Baill; 3rd: Rod Berling; 4th: Blake Beamer.

Boys' 9 & Under
1st: Karen Rosenberg; 2nd: Lisa Mckendry; 3rd: Gina Marcus.

Boys' 7 & Under
1st: Karen Rosenberg; 2nd: Lisa Mckendry; 3rd: Gina Marcus.

Boys' 5 & Under
1st: Ken Beal; 2nd: Linda Kuchenheuter; 3rd: Sandy Sweeney.

Girls' 17 & Under
1st: Christena Beal; 2nd: Rebecca Beller; 3rd: Christy Mckendry; 4th: Courtney Goss.

Men's Open
1st: Dave Waits; 2nd: Roger Uyttebroeck; 3rd: Bill Howk; 4th: Donnie Campbell.

Men's A
1st: Jim Bice; 2nd: Andy Wilson; 3rd: Darryl Cooper; 4th: Mike Barnard.

Men's B

Women's A
1st: Mark Schmitz; 2nd: Mike Norville; 3rd: Kevin Brumllie; 4th: Jeff Hosselman.

Women's B
1st: Judy Auld; 2nd: Karen Chode; 3rd: Charlotte Harling; 4th: Sherry Delmas.

Women's C

Women's D
1st: Tracy Agnew; 2nd: Carla Nels; 3rd: Beth CRAWK; 4th: Karen Cutrell.

North Carolina State Championships
Charlotte, North Carolina
March 13-15

Men's B: 1st: Mike Dimoff; 2nd: Rick Ramirez; 3rd: Scott King.

13th Annual Maine Open
Holiday Health & Racquetball Club
Bangor, Maine
March 27-29

Men's Open
1st: Bill Burnett; 2nd: Mike Lucic; 3rd: Randy Olson; 4th: Steve Larabee.
Men's B
Men's C
Men's Novice
Seniors
1st: Jay Krouse; 2nd: L. Tyler; 3rd: Frank Christensen; 4th: Bob Blazinet.
Masters
1st: Mike Friedman; 2nd: Francis Kipstoo; 3rd: Chef Fossett.
Juniors 17 and Under
1st: Mike Naper.
Men's A Doubles
Men's B Doubles
1st: T. Forster; 2nd: M. Lowe; R. Miller.
Women's Open
1st: Barbara Olson; 2nd: Carol Frizzell; 3rd: S. Driven; 4th: Sherrie Thomas.
Women's B
Women's A
1st: Joy Davis; 2nd: Nicky Mountain; 3rd: Marsha Blazinet; 4th: Maureen Gurnier.
Women's A Doubles
1st: Andrea O'Clock; 2nd: Sue McEwen; 3rd: Paula Gray; 4th: Linda Damont.
Women's B Doubles
**STATE RANKINGS**

Parade of states according to memberships in the American Amateur Racquetball Association

1. California  
2. Massachusetts  
3. Pennsylvania  
4. New York  
5. Texas  
6. Illinois  
7. Florida  
8. Ohio  
9. Missouri  
10. Tennessee

**AARA BALL APPROVAL**

Listed below are the ball manufacturers who have received approval of their products in AARA sanctioned tournaments. For tournament sponsorship, contact these manufacturers, your AARA State Director, or National Headquarters at 901-761-1172.

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<td>Sportcraft</td>
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Men's B  
1st: Hal Foss; 2nd: Darryl Stigura; 3rd: Carl Crown; 4th: Lee Backston

Men's 30+  
1st: Russ Montague; 2nd: Carl Crown; 3rd: Jim Martin; 4th: Duke

Men's Open Doubles  
1st: Russ Montague-Jim Young; 2nd: Jim Daly-Lior Samuelson; 3rd: Jim Martin-Mike Myers; 4th: Martin-Myers

Women's Open  
1st: Carol French; 2nd: Andrea Katz; 3rd: Tammy Hajjar; 4th: Dot Fischl

Women's B  
1st: Margie Stewart; 2nd: Nancy Katz; 3rd: Marcy Reuben

Women's 30+  
1st: Carol French; 2nd: Shirley Pettinato; 3rd: Carol Hopson; 4th: Stewart

Women's 40+  
1st: Cleo Ching; 2nd: Carol Hopson; 3rd: Anne Berry; 4th: Kitchen

Women's Open Doubles  
1st: Linda Baumier-Andrea Katz; 2nd: Mary Musewicz-Dot Fischl; 3rd: Elaine Brubaker-Tammy Hajjar; 4th: Eileen Carlson-Jan Peterson

Men's 25+  
1st: Pete Kortman; 2nd: Jere Willey; 3rd: Junior Powell

Men's 40+  
1st: Jay Krevisky; 2nd: Joe Jackman; 3rd: Guy Nate; 4th: Capozzoli

Men's 45+  
1st: Jay Krevisky; 2nd: Pete Talbot; 3rd: Dan Seboit; 4th: Lake

Men's 50+  
1st: Charles Lake; 2nd: Jim Gormory; 3rd: Bob Basor

Men's 55+  
1st: John Bareilles; 2nd: Mary Simpkins; 3rd: Mike Rinner; 4th: Cowle

Men's 35+ Doubles  
1st: Joe Capozzoli-Bryan Mawr; 2nd: Fred Letter-Pete Talbot; 3rd: Sam Munson-Mike Vioire; 4th: George Ruckno-Ray Sabota

**Butler Open**  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
April 10-12

**Men's Open**  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
April 10-12

Men's C: 1st: Chuck Stawinski; 2nd: Martin Powers; 3rd & 4th: Ken Federak-Bill Miller


Women's B: 1st: Lisa Drzwien; 2nd: Kathy Curtis; 3rd & 4th: Joyce Dougherty-Norma Leslie

Women's C: 1st: Lisa Drzwien; 2nd: Judy Weber; 3rd & 4th: Doris Adams-Debbie Wolukich

Women's Novice: 1st: Daina Baunhammers; 2nd: Marie Metrissin; 3rd & 4th: Tina Soley-Darlene Ward

**Butler Open**  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
April 10-12

Men's Open: 1st: Carmen Felicetti; 2nd: Ron Boyd; 3rd & 4th: John Navage-Bela Eross

Men's C: 1st: Chuck Stawinski; 2nd: Martin Powers; 3rd & 4th: Ken Federak-Bill Miller


Women's B: 1st: Lisa Drzwien; 2nd: Kathy Curtis; 3rd & 4th: Joyce Dougherty-Norma Leslie

Women's C: 1st: Lisa Drzwien; 2nd: Judy Weber; 3rd & 4th: Doris Adams-Debbie Wolukich

Women's Novice: 1st: Daina Baunhammers; 2nd: Marie Metrissin; 3rd & 4th: Tina Soley-Darlene Ward

**Junior Nationals**  
Supreme Court East  
Wichita, Kansas  
April 13-16

**Boy's**  
1st: Jack Newman; 2nd: Robert Kinney; 3rd: Bill Gamble; 4th: Todd Swanson

**Boy's 15 & under**  
1st: Lance Lacour; 2nd: Mark Henshaw; 3rd: Andy Roberts; 4th: Ray Navarro

**Boy's 13 & under**  
1st: Luis Miranda; 2nd: David Simonette; 3rd: Mark Heckman; 4th: Alan Dogan

**Boys 10 & under**  
1st: John Gilfooly; 2nd: Jason York; 3rd: Michael Locker; 4th: Nolan Giantz

**Girls' 17 & under**  
1st: Mona Mook; 2nd: Tammy Hajjar; 3rd: Cheryl Mathieu; 4th: Lynda Ganske

**Girls' 15 & under**  
1st: Lynn Wojick; 2nd: Donna Allen; 3rd: Loretta Peterson; 4th: Tyna Heath

**Girls' 13 & under**  
1st: Elaine Mardas; 2nd: Lisa Mark; 3rd: Lisa Anthony; 4th: Delaine Connor

**Girls' 10 & under**  
1st: Heather; 2nd: Rodlie Martin; 3rd: Stacy Sellier; 4th: Alma Fuentes

**Co-ed No Bounce**  
1st: Derek Locke; 2nd: Ronnie Beemiller; 3rd: Tammy Adler; 4th: John Hansen
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defense
forehand
backhand
conditioning
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racquetball

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