International Paddle Racket Association (See page 25—Milwaukee Nationals)

At first glance some of our real handball buffs will think we’re pulling an Aaron Burr . . . treason to handball because we’re giving a helping hand to a limping cousin named “paddleball”. Through our resources and the known leadership of Bob Kender we are bringing together many splinter groups of paddlerballers, unifying their rules, equipment and offering a democratic Players’ Fraternity just as has been done with your game. Why?

After almost two years of extensive examinations, questionnaires, and first hand observations we concur that the hands and racket must live together. Both games are played in the same size court, both are played with practically the same rules, and . . . probably most important, so many of the same people are involved in both.

Will the paddle game share the growth of handball?

All of our tally sheets add up the same . . . handball is growing by leaps and bounds at the same time. We have found that many youngsters and adults who take up the simpler one-handed paddleball soon look for the bigger challenge of handball and make the switch. On the other hand there are many ahandballers, slowed by age and varied physical limitations that find extended court life through paddleball.

When so many physical directors tell us that the extended reach afforded by the racket keeps men physically active in the courts years longer we could hardly turn our back on the men who have asked us to bind them in a smooth-operating international association.

We went to Milwaukee’s JCC to watch, listen and then talk to men from some seven or eight states who had gathered there for a national paddleball championship in the so-called “guy” racket version, using a ball that is lively for this game. Larry Lederman, athletic director of the JCC, assisted the entire event and has been most instrumental in paving the way for our aid.

Thus, it is only logical that Larry with his many credentials for leadership, promotion and hosting of major successful tournaments, be named national commissioner for the new organization named—INTERNATIONAL PADDLE RACKET ASSOCIATION. There were some key men present who will assume important roles as district commissioners. Others will be recruited throughout the United States and Canada.

What part does the USHA play?

These so-called splinter groups who have been operating on a small scale for some years now can hardly afford to finance an international headquarters office, publish a magazine, and do the pioneer work so important in its first years of growth. ACE magazine will provide the medium to bring the Paddle Racket message throughout the court scope.

It is important to note that the IPRA will be entirely separate from USHA. NO FUNDS coming into handball will go toward paddle rackets. Only those funds gained through IPRA memberships, official products tie-ins, and any other possible source of revenue will be used in its promotion and operation.

We have found that there are many handball men vitally interested and participating in the paddleball game. Simle Fein and Jim White of Milwaukee won the national paddleball doubles in this recent competition. Both are State handball champions and won our first national contenders.

Those who are already membersubscribers in USHA will be able to have a dual membership if they wish affiliation in both sports, and this will be offered at a nominal fee. Paddlerballers can become IPRA members and receive ACE magazine. A section of the magazine will be given over to their game. This will be IN ADDITION to the handball material . . . NO PAGES will be taken away from handball. In time the IPRA will be able to handle its own magazine.

We realize the shortage of courts in many sectors. Handballers will holler that their play is being curtailed by the paddlerballers. But, we know what inevitably happens . . . more and more players simply spell more courts . . . and there are more and more courts being constructed everywhere.

Those of you who want to build up handball in your own ballcourt can take a more active role . . . teaching the youngsters, introducing the game properly. You cannot selfishly remain in your cliques and expect men to accclimate themselves to our game. For handball is not an easy game to learn. It is frustrating for the neophyte to battle the angles of the walls, the sting of the ball on his shoulder and the futile waving of that off hand. Without anyone to guide—whether it be in the colleges or Y’s—we can expect the easier course . . . to the paddle game.

There’s no paddleball being played on the 13 spider courts of the University of Texas and you know the reason why. Because there’s a Pete Tyson there to present the fundamentals properly. Another college without knowledgeable leaders and you’ll find the paddle influx. It’s as simple as that.

Competition will be healthy for us. It will wake us up to the fact that we cannot expect handball to flourish even with the many new courts. For, we have to give ourseves—returning something back to the game that has given us so much.

We’ll become “kissing cousins” but you can be sure it’s past, present and future—Handball—No.1.

Manitoba Association Has Tourney, Exhibition

University of Winnipeg hosted the Manitoba Open championships, May 21-24. A and B level tournaments were held . . . Dick Chowbig defeated Ron Musk, 21-1, 21-17 for the A singles. Norm Duncan and Dick Archer won the doubles over top-seeded Ron Musk and Norm Duncan in three. Ron and Gord Koffman won a three-game doubles finals over Brownell and Bolin, with Jack Newton taking the B singles over Jim Sissler.

Bill Yannick came in for a clinic and exhibition the day after the finals. His play and instruction gave the local players a much needed lift. The Manitoba group sent in 20 new membership-subscriptions to USHA.

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ACE—U.S.H.A.
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