National Explorer Olympics:
where explorers went to the wall...

...And off the wall, the floor and the ceiling! Fort Collins, Colorado, took on a war-like atmosphere, that belied the peaceful scene of the Boy Scouts, with "trile sheets" resonating from each racquetball court, as Colorado State University hosted the 1982 National Explorer Olympics, from 11-17 July.

Exploring is the core youth program of the Boy Scouts of America. These Scouts have won in their local post and Council Explorer Olympics to gain a berth at the national event. These 18 winners rose to the top of the 163 competing in Racquetball at this year's Olympics. In all, over 1,200 Explorers competed in 33 different sports.

Clinics were held prior to the start of competition by Ed Martin, the National Junior’s Commissioner of the American Amateur Racquetball Association, the sport's amateur national governing body. Martin, who is the owner and general manager of 5 racquetball clubs, called Spare Time, Inc., in Redding and Sacramento, California, is also a member of the House of Delegates to the United States Olympic Committee representing the sport of racquetball in America. In April of this year, AARA was accepted as a class "C" member of the USOC. This is the same distinction that the National Explorer Olympics hold. These Olympics afforded AARA their first opportunity to be involved with the USOC in any degree.

The AARA targets youth of America as their market and wants to develop a youth in the sport of racquetball. AARA wants racquetball to become an Olympic sport. The first step in getting this fast-paced sport into the World Olympics is getting Racquetball into the next Pan American games. Since the 14-20 year-old Explorers are the perfect marketing target group for the AARA, and both the AARA and National Explorer Olympics are sanctioned by the USOC, a promising partnership was formed this year.

It is expected greatly by the totally professional attitude of the Explorers. "They scored their own games without incident and never questioned the referee’s decisions during the semi-finals and finals. This is not normally the case during pressure tournaments such as this one. I'd love to see it happen nationwide. It is easy to see that these kids come from a different perspective," commented Martin.

The two exhibition matches played as part of the clinic pitched Mark Fitzkin, 19, from Eugene, Oregon, AARA seeded in the top 10 and Under and Bobby Rodrigues, 14, from Denver, Colorado, AARA seeded 9 in the 14 and under category. Bob by beat Mark 15-12, much to the delight of the younger Explorers. Also, Kim Morton, 19, and Janice Becker, 20, both Colorado State students from Fort Collins, Colorado, ranked by the AARA as top women's open players. Kim won 15-6.

The Explorers learned a lot from the matches, the clinic and the individual coaching by the stars and staff. Many added new tactics and depth to their arsenal of shots.

The play was reminiscent of past National Explorer Olympic glory and tragedy. The competitors showed a disparity of involvement in racquetball from novice to all-american, yet to a person they competed fiercely. They dove, twisted, strained and accomplished with power and energy as they returned their opponents' shots. The play was characteristic of those who have the intense desire to win—regardless of experience. With the competition packed into a mere day and a half, muscles and minds were stretched to their limits—and beyond, as most of the Explorers competed in 2 or more other sports.

In the men's singles division: Gene Munoz, 30, of Post, Texas; Cameron, California, took the Gold Medal defeating Silver Medalist John Bauman, 18, Post 6995, Camarillo, California, 15-10 and 15-7. The games were a beauty to watch. Although the score was close, Munoz was in complete control of the match from the...
**Gene Muoio (foreground) returns shot against John Kimball (background).**

Muioi won beginning using Z-shots, power serves, passing shots, cross and back court kills, varying serves and an effective use of the ceiling shot, to offer all who watched a "bow-tie" clinic. Muoio has competed in just less than two years of informal play! Muoio also competed and won a Silver Medal in handball singles.

In other men's singles action; Mike Thomas, Post 2000, Camarillo, California, was the Bronze Medalist winner over newcomer to the game, Gregory Davison, Post 398, Long Island, N.Y., a five year veteran of handball and Gold Medal winner over Gene Muoio in the handball competition.

In the ladies' singles division, Erica Torbit, 17, Post 9999, Camarillo, California, captured the Gold Medal by defeating Silver Medalist, Karla Torbit, 20, Post 2900, Camarillo, California, 15-10 and 15-1. Whitt, who was earlier defeated by Torbit, regained her composure and easily out shot her, an experienced but very courageous competitor.

In the men's doubles action; Gene Muoio teamed with Bruce Myhre, 20, Post 2900, Camarillo, California, to post a lengthy but fairly fought match victory and Gold Medal over the Silver Medalist team of David Kimball, 19, and his brother Kevin Kimball, 17, Post 703, Diamond Bar, California, 14-15, 15-2, 15-6. The scores of the last two games were not indicative of the caliber of play nor the closeness of the contest. In the first game, the Kimball brothers outshot their opponents with pace, in spite of having played 3 team handball games, 2 soccer games and another 2 racquetball matches earlier that same day! Yes, it wasn't fatigue that saw the Kimball brothers defeated, rather the superefficient Torbit/Wilson, who took up the slack and waited for the mistakes or the opportunities for points. There were few mistakes on either side with much energy expended in diving fantastic shots and lengthy volleys. Finally, the skill of Muoio in his power serves and crushing passing shots with the excellent backup by Myhre took the toll of the spirited Kimballs.

In the women's doubles action, the team of Ted Brewster and Eric Gutierrez, Post 703, Diamond Bar, California, took the Bronze Medal by outpointing Chris Rollins and Mike Thomas, Post 2900, Camarillo, California, 15-13, 15-3, 15-11. Again, it was an excellent contest with the trophy going to the team that showed the most versatility in gaining points off of their serve. In the ladies' doubles, the team of Torbit/Whit and Chris Elmore, Post 2000, Camarillo, California, capture the Gold Medal by handily controlling the Silver Medalist team of Debbie Emerson and Julie Harpham, Post 218, Pasadena, California, 15-10 and 15-3. In the first game, the lack of service points cost dearly as Emerson and Harpham served 5 complete times without a point while their opponents ran up 8 straight points on their 3rd service alone! Emerson and Harpham corrected this in the second game taking an early lead of 7-2 before Whitt and Elmore broke service and came roaring back. The score was close again as Emerson and Harpham went up 11-8. But Whit took control once more and broke service again and proceeded to score 3 straight points on service ace to knot the score at 11-11. After a service break, Whit and Elmore started their service down 12-11. Whit controlled the play there on in scoring 4 more points off of her serve, scaling the victory and the Gold Medal.

In other ladies' doubles action; Holly Harpham and Julie Mazer, Post 218, Camarillo Park, California received the Bronze Medal by outscoring Denise Chambers and Lorie Gyler, Post 115, Tremonton, Utah, 15-10 and 15-7.

In all, the matches were played in a spirit of true sportsmanship. This was the first year that racquetball was offered as an Explorer Olympic sport and the turnout far exceeded the anticipated number. This interest reflects the "American phenomenon of Racquetball" according to Ed Martin. In fact, racquetball outdraws tennis in number of competitors, despite the far longer life of tennis in America. Tennis has close to 20 million players while racquetball in less than 30 years has grown to over 11 million! This interest is world wide with many U.S. players going abroad to Europe and Asia to teach, coach and play racquetball. Racquetball is still meeting criteria for world Olympic contention as a class "C" sport does not make it to an Olympic sport, yet its time is near. Ed Martin sees racquetball as an Olympic sport as early as 1992 All the Explorers racquetballers, who gave a vote of confidence for racquetball to become a world wide Olympic sport, all a few said they would train for that end if it became available for exploration. However, few Explorers came from communities with an established Junior's program. The only encouraged Junior's program which was their Exploring post, Angeles, this is something that the AARA and Ed Martin want to change.

The Exploring program is infinitely versatile. Tots may be formed for general sports or as specialists in a specific sport such as Raquetball. Each local post is sponsored by a business, service organization, continued on Page II
The 1970s found our sport in a tremendous growth situation with the sport experiencing a "boon" from 50,000 players in 1970 to over 800,000 in 1978. Racquetball was truly the sport of the '70s. The wildlife growth left a legacy of growing pains as the sport entered the '80s. There was high attrition among players, two amateur associations each claiming to represent the amateurs, various professional organizations coming and going, proliferation of court clubs without commerical management and large numbers of equipment manufacaters attempting to service the industry based upon inflated figures. Those days are gone as the numbers of individuals and manufacurers drying for a piece of the pie has began to shake out. Many of the sport's numbers of equipment manufacturers at­ going, proliferation of court clubs without professional service, and the sport's entrance to the American Amateur Racquetball Association as part of its Rules Committee.

Noumal Curlm: Styles & Stripes

by Stephen D. Ducoff

The hottest news item currently for active duty military racquetballers is the upcoming interservice championships to be conducted 17-23 Oct '82 in San Diego, CA. You should contact your base or post athletic director for further details. Each service is expected to field a full team of open, senior, and women players. Please keep me posted on activities in your area.

The 1980s are coming and the AARA will direct and encourage this system growth by providing a venue to pool all resources of the industry but at the same time allowing a free and open market for the selling and marketing of the sport and its service industries.

1. has adopted an open ball policy whereby all "approved" balls can be used in a free and open market.
2. developed and promoted the grassroots organization on the local, state, regional, national, intercollegiate, junior, disabled, and special athletes to insure a feeder system into the sport.
3. become a member of the USOC, thereby legitimizing the sport in the US and world wide.
4. competed in World Games I and the first World Championships and won both international competitions.
5. plans to move its national headquarters to Colorado Springs where the Olympic complex is housed in order to work in concert with 19 other national governing bodies located there.
6. is returning half of its membership dues to the State organizations for local development.
7. runs equally programs for men and women.
8. unified the rules by including a member of each major racquetball association as part of its Rules Committee.
9. is working closely with the Women's Professional Racquetball Association and with the International Racquet Sports Association.
10. has begun to establish "tradition" in the sport of racquetball by developing the Hall of Fame, circulating the World Cup won by the U.S. team at all National events, established medals - gold, silver, bronze - as a consistent high quality award for all national events.
11. is time for the true promotion of the sport to begin. No longer will we have people flocking to our sport; and the development program necessary to expand our great sport will take hard work. The AARA has provided the leadership and the mechanics to stabilize and expand racquetball and we look to the '80s during which such unification of the sport is completed and racquetball assumes its rightful place among the other top sports in the U.S.

Who is an Amateur?

By Jim Austin, AARA National Rules Commissioner

This is a question that has been curked and discussed in years in the racquetball world. But for the purposes of this article, the term "Amateur" will be discussed as it relates to the official AARA Rules 4.14. The AARA (American Amateur Racquetball Association) is the official governing body of amateur racquetball in the United States.

Rules 4.14 Professional, states:

A professional shall be defined as any player (male, female, or junior) who has accepted prize money regardless of the amount in any PRO SANCTIONED tournament (NPC, now Catalina Tour, and the WTRA or any other Association so deemed by the AARA Board of Directors).

1. A player may participate in a pro sanctioned tournament which awards cash prizes, but will not be considered a professional if NO prize money is accepted.

2. The acceptance of merchandise or travel expenses by a player shall not be considered as prize money, and thus does not jeopardize a player's amateur status.

The interpretation of this rule means that an amateur player may participate in a pro sanctioned tournament and may accept merchandise prizes or travel expense money in lieu of prize money. The legal ramifications of this rules require the player receiving expense money in lieu of prize money, to have the prize money check made out to any tax exempt organization of their choice classified 501C3 by the IRS. The player must give the check to the organization and then must furnish adequate expense records to that designated organization which may equal or exceed the amount of the prize money check given to the organization in the player's name. The organization may then reimburse the player for actual expenses incurred at the tournament. Records of expenses and reimbursements should be kept by the players in the event a question arises concerning their amateur status. Some examples of charitable organizations that qualify under the 501C3 tax exempt ruling are churches, YMCA's, JCCs, FCA, Heart Association, Cancer Society, MS and MDA. Expense money handled in this manner is not classified taxable income by the IRS.

Amateurism is determined in all sports by the International Federation that the National Federation is recognized by. In our case, the International Amateur Racquetball Federation's definition of amateurism is the same as the AARA's, therefore nothing is changed even though the AARA is now a member of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC).

When racquetball competition comes to the Dan American Games, World University Games, Olympic Games or any competition under the aegis of the USOC, the eligibility of those participants will be subject to the USOC Rule 26 which in many respects is more liberal than the AARA's definition. Unfortunately the average person associates the "pure" definition of amateurism no longer exists in most amateur sports organizations and emphasis should be placed on eligibility of participants to compete rather than the word "amateur.

If a player has received prize money in a sanctioned pro tournament therefore being classified as a "professional" by the AARA and the player desires to return to "amateur" status, he may request, in writing, this desire to be reclassified as an amateur. The application must be tendered to the Executive Director of the AARA and will become effective immediately as long as the player making application has received NO money for the course of that year. (AARA Rule 4.15 - Return to Amateur Status).

I hope that this clarification of "amateur" will help all players better understand the eligibility and requirements of the amateur status as defined by the AARA.
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Paul Hendrickson

Olympic Committee (USOC) and the formulation of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation, great strides have always existed in the past, but was never formally written, has been added to the rule book. It is a "safety holdup" rule which allows the player to stop the swing anytime it's believed the opponent might be hit by either the racquet or the ball. The player will go over without penalty except in extreme cases where the referee believes the player would not have been able to return the shot anyway. This rule puts the "responsibility" and the "right" to prevent physical contact where it belongs — on the player(s) and not solely on the referee who might not be able to see the contact coming or be able to yell quickly enough to prevent contact.

The receiver must be aware that an avoidable hinder may be being committed in some situations where the referee feels the play of the hitter was blocked. The best way to avoid this situation and play safely is to always watch your opponent out of peripheral vision. This will usually keep you from being hit often and help you know where to move in the court to best cover your opponent's shot.

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STATE / REGIONAL / & NATIONAL NEWS
George Dwyer, Colorado Springs, CO has been elected National Commissioner and is responsible for the conduct of the National and special events. Bruce Hendin, San Antonio, TX has replaced Jim Austin, Houston, TX as Regional Commissioner for Region #7. Bruce will also serve as Interim State Director in Texas until the recognition of this state is completed. Bruce replaces Jon Olheiser. The Colorado Racquetball Association under the direction of President, John Fouot, has officially affiliated with the AARA and the CRA has been officially recognized as the state governing body of racquetball in Colorado. Scott Ellisson, South Windsor, CT has replaced Ron Mirek as State Director in Connecticut. Harral Chastain, Maple Grove, MN has been elected President of the Minnesota Racquetball Association replacing Perry Deutsch. Congratulations to Cheryl Sanford, Indiana for her successful state junior championships. The Racquetball Association of Michigan has been officially recognized as the state governing body of Racquetball. The R.A.M. is under the leadership of Larry Cole of Flint, MI. Anyone interested in helping the state organization contact Luke St. Onge at 901-761-1172.

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November 1982 Racquetball in Review

9
When it was all over, Phil Panarella of New Britain 40-AND-OVER: Dehm might successfully defend his 1981 title as his first two matches, beating Artie Alvarez in the first, back, and did so, taking the next games 15-7, 11-5.

The top players in the state met March 5-7 at Cedar Newington, Connecticut.

New Britain's Cindy Geiling. Abbie Baxter.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
MARCH 19-21
PASQUALE 1ST, 2ND MILLER LITE / POINT OPEN
FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 14-16

CALIFORNIA STATE JUNIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS
MOUNT CLEMENS COURT ROOM
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 28-29

HUNTINGTON CITY
MAY 14-16
MEN'S OPEN: George Biggers, John Volkman, Mark Hutton, Jeff Robinson, Mike West, Bob McNear. WOMEN'S OPEN: Judy O'Donnell, Sue Watts, Suzi Flickr, Shari Moulton, Pam Moulton, Joanne Fassman, Beth Thomas, M. M. Scinto, Kelly Johnson, Maryann Miller, Brenda James, Maryann Miller. WOMEN'S B: Jean Merz, Judy Woodward; MEN'S 35: Tony Albert, Philip Pue, Bob Sonnen, Norm Wishman, Tom Lunsford, Art Lion, Tom Lunsford, Mike Bexon, Steve Milam, Desiree Macionis, John McColl. WOMEN'S 35: Jan Milam. WOMEN'S B: Jann Lavender, Jackie Gardner. WOMEN'S D/NOVICE: Sarah Sanders, Doug Polanco, Freda Zwan, Geneva Allen.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
JULY 29-31

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
JULY 29-31

JAPAN OPEN TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 1-2
TOKYO, JAPAN
(Tokyo, Japan) Japan's second open tournament for international players was held in Tokyo last month, and the event was successfully conducted at Osaka Racquetball Club. The event is scheduled to be held in Tokyo.
The younger boys (two of them) were given the opportunity to play in the open division for the experience. Nye, himself, is 35, seven years older than Grider. Grider is about the same age, but in superb condition, played like they were 23.

The event was held in Japan's newest and finest racquetball facility, the De Rakquetball Club, a newly opened racquetball facility. On the outside site, Emiko Kishii, received an ever greater acclaim in an official event last year over Mayor Wadachi, Kishii, who's been playing only 18 months, was behind in the first game by a score of 12-8, but rallied to win the next two games 12-7, 11-9 winning by a score of 15-15 in the third game on the first and the second game in a tough final match.

This latest event was full of excitement, and was with players from three Japanese racquetball clubs—Apron, Abiko, and Yokoham,

Spectators and fans filled the stadium, marked the entire tournament, with true international goodwill the result. One of the players in the tournament, Gary Meyers, a Marine Corps officer and father of racquetball pro Gail, Meyers had this to say in a letter addressed to the Japan Amateur Racquetball Association which concluded the tournament in conjunction with the International Racquetball Federation: "What expereiced was the highlight was to be on the court with the players from Japan. They were great. I think if my Japanese friends were to come over, I think they would be considered.

They were also the most dominant and tallest," he commented. Meyers has played racquetball since 1968 and has participated in a number of U.S. tournaments.

Players volunteering to help, practically every match had both a referee and two linesmen. And even though most of the players can speak no English, they have learned the language of racquetball as well as the players, and this is true of the Japanese players too.

Racquetball in Japan now looks forward to the first ever Asian championship which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend.

The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The German team didn't have to play until Saturday, which was one of the nice surprises on this weekend. The team event ended after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning.
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