TOP SEEDS CRUSHED IN CHEYENNE

If You Were The Top Seed In Your Division At The 1985 U.S. National Doubles, Chances Were — You Were Going To Lose!

You would think that being the number one seed in your doubles division would mean you've got a pretty good shot at the national title? Think again. Of the 21 top seeded teams that went into the Rocky Mountain Health Club in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on October 24-27, only 9 succeeded in turning that advantage into a medal. Not a very good percentage. Jimmy the Greek, the coach of the nation's finest teams, would have had a coronary.

Over 1000 of the nation's finest teams from all 50 states came to Wyoming for the 1985 National Doubles Championship presented by Life Beer. Diversified Products and Penn Athletic Products. That's over 400 racquets blasting away at little blue balls and 800 legs jumping around 20 by 40 foot courts in what has to be the fastest game in racquetball. You don't play doubles, you survive it.

THE MEN'S OPEN

The men's open was full of surprises. The biggest of all was the fact that last year's national champions would not be defending their title. Dan O'Brien and Kevin VanTrece were unable to repeat this year's doubles and that left the door open for the crowning of a new champion.

Five-time winners, Steve Trent and Stan Wright of California, went in as top seeds. Last year's second place finishers, Andy Roberts and Scott Reid, both took new partners for this year's tournament.

In the quarterfinals, Trent and Wright defeated "Jersey" Joe Cline and New York's Don Costcido, 15-9, 15-4, while the fourth seeded, Roberts and his partner, Tim Anthony, from Ohio, knocked off the always tough Florida team of Tim Hansen and Bubba Gauthier, 15-13, 15-12.

On the bottom half of the draw, the second seeded Florida duo, Joe Izaza and Sergio Gonzalez, were knocked off by the seventh seeds, New Mexico's Gary Mazaro and Jack Nolan, 8-15, 15-4, 11-9. Third seeded Charlie Nichols of Florida and Ohio's Scott Reid were beaten by the California/Colorado pair of Steve Moody and Bobby Rodriguez, 15-12, 11-15, 11-7, in the round of sixteen. Then Moody and Rodriguez edged New Mexico's Tom Neiland Mike Nowak in the quarters, 7-15, 15-13, 11-10.

In the semis, Mazaro and Nolan whopped Moody and Rodriguez, 15-12 and 15-7, while Roberts and Anthony knocked out Trent and Wright, 15-12, 15-13.

In the finals, Roberts and Anthony took the title by edging Mazaro and Nolan's hopes, 15-12, 15-13. Both teams made the U.S. National Team with their outstanding performances. Moody and Rodriguez took third.

MEN'S 19

Davide Rosidivito and Peter Zoller of Pennsylvania took the $15 title by knock-
DRESSED FOR SUCCESS.

For success, both on and off the court, the serious competitor sports DP Actionwear.

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3001 Williamson Avenue
Opelika, Alabama 36803.
Luke St. Onge presents Women’s Open champ Malia Kamalashah and Toni Bedcove with their gold medals.

Bobby Rodriguez (left) and Steve Moody made it to the semifinals in the Men’s Open.

**Doubles (Continued from page 1)**

er. This year, Factor teamed up with Tesa’s Gary Merritt to capture an exciting title from Wisconsin’s Jim and Joe Wirkus. 15-3, 12-15, 12-7. Wirkus and Wirkus edged out Minnesota’s Dan Ferris and Pat Page in one semi.

5-15, 6-15, 11-9, while Factor and Merritt took out New Mexico’s Tom Neil and Mike Nowak in the other, 15-8, 15-0. Ferris and Page placed third.

**MEN’S 30+**

Arizona’s Ken Garri and Mike Romeo won this year’s 30+ title without losing a game. In the semis, they knocked off the top seeded team of Johnny Rennes, Tennessee, and Eld Rennen, Virginia. 15-6, 15-10, and then whipped open finalist Gary Mazrof and Pat Page. 15-11, 15-9. In the finals, third place went to Montana’s Heath Rick Ross.

**MEN’S 35+**

This was the second largest division in the tournament as only the men’s open had more teams. Highlighting the division was the return of Charlie Brunfield to the amateur scene. Brunfield teamed up with Dr. Bud Muchelen and the crowds ignored watching the two legends all weekend.

In one semi-final, Brunfield and Muchelen met the defending national champions. Joe Iacca and Van Doolhuyse from Florida, while in the other, the 1984 champs, John Wrenn and Ed Remen met Colorado’s Mark Hegg and Ken Taylor. 15-3, 15-3, 11-2.

In the finals, even 96 combined past national titles couldn’t help them as Brunfield and Muchelen were whipped by Hrenn and Remen. 15-4, 15-2. Hrenn and Remen were back after a year’s vacation! See what a little vacation can do? Hegg and Taylor took third in a, 15-10, 11-15, 11-10 barn-burner.

**MEN’S 45+**


**MEN’S 50+**

Ohio’s Otto Chapman and Bobby Sanders, Chapman and Sanders had been the 1984 one-seeds. Jerry Davis and Mark Wayne in one semi, 15-9, 15-9, while Jackman and Galbreath knocked off Colorado’s Gerald Beatie and Louis Smaron, 15-11, 15-7. In the other, Davis and Wayne took third, 15-9, 15-9.

*Continued from Page 1*
Doubles (Continued from page 3)

year's bronze medalists, Otis Chapman (Ohio) and Pete Talbot (New Jersey) made the most of it. Chapman and Talbot beat California's Al Rossi and Florida's Art Payne, 15-2, 15-5. In one semi, while Kansas's J. D. Frederick and Ron Maggard were beating Colorado's R. A. Manson and Louis Smario, 15-14, 1-3, in the other, Chapman and Talbot took the crown by handining Frederick and Maggard, 15-3, 15-11. Manson and Smario took third.

MEN'S 55+

MEN'S 60+
Stan Bernie and Carl Loveday of California won this year's 60+ crown by defeating Ivan Brunner of Wisconsin and Dick Haney of Colorado, 15-11, 15-10. Bernie and Loveday took out top seeded Earl Acuff of Virginia and Luzelle Wilde of Utah, 15-11, 15-3, while Brunner and Haney beat the Kentucky duo of Irv Zeitman and Ike Gumer, 8-15, 15-0, 11-8. In the semi's Grapes and Schattner were eliminated by Wendy and Zeitman took third, 15-6, 15-12.

MEN'S 65+
Kentucky's Ike Gumer made it two in a row for the gold in this division. Last year he teamed with New Jersey's Alan Sheppard to win this title while this year Irv Zeitman was his partner. Gumer and Zeitman beat Acuff and Wilde, 15-6, 15-12. In the semi's Ohio's Jonas Klein and Brad Turner placed third.

MEN'S 70+
Ike Gumer, Kentucky, and Allan Sheppard, Maryland, were awarded the gold medal.

MIXED DOUBLES
The number one seeds, Andy Roberts and Toni Bevelock of Tennessee captured the title without ever losing a game. In the semi's, they knocked off Connie Peterson and Don Martin of Oregon, 15-10, 15-14. In the final, they defeated the second seeded duo of Steve Moody and Mona Mook of California, 15-12, 15-12. Moody and Mook had knocked off the Wisconsin pair of Pat Schmidt and Jim Wirtz, 15-12, 15-7. Martin and Peterson edged out Schmidt and Jim Walton, 15-12, 15-7. In 11-10, Toni Bevelock and Roberts, it was a sign of things to come as both were to go on to win a second gold in the Open finals.

WOMEN'S OPEN
Last year's champions and U.S. Team members, Diane Bullard and Julia Pinnell of Florida, were back to defend their title. Along with them were fellow Floridians Mary Lyons and Sue Morgan, who finished second.

Bullard and Pinnell met up with Tennessee's Toni Bevelock and Virginia's Marla Kamahahoa in the semi's. While Lyons and Morgan took on the Oregon pair of Michelle Gilman and Connie Peterson in the other. Both Bevelock and Kamahahoa are past U.S. Team members and Marla, along with Carol French was a former national doubles champion. Their experience, especially Bevelock's hot shooting hand, proved to be the difference as they upset the defending champions, 15-13, 15-9. Meanwhile, Gilman and Peterson were busy upsetting the third seeded team of Mona Mook and Trina Rasmussen in the quarter's in a cliff-hanging 11-10 tiebreaker. Then, they followed up with a 15-14, 15-9 win over the second seeded Lyons and Morgan.

In the final, Bevelock and Kamahahoa dropped the first game 15-10 and then came on strong to take the title with 15-4, 11-4. Both finalists qualified for the U.S. Team for their efforts. Once again, Bullard and Pinnell edged Lyons and Morgan in a 11-10 tiebreaker, but this time it was for third place.

WOMEN'S B
Four teams competed in a round-robin format with Colorado's Mary Rodriguez and California's Kar McDougle finishing first. They defeated Alston Torres and Susan Schützer from New Jersey, 15-9, 15-5, in the gold medal match. Third place went to Wyoming's Judy Harmon and Debbie Mink as they edged Wyoming's Kate Balmer and Missy Woods, 12-15, 15-12, 11-10.

(Continued on page 6)
Omega superiority explained.


Mad Raq™ is the only stringing arrangement in the world unique enough to have a patent. And only Omega has it.

Omega knows racquetball is played on the strings, not the frame. So we concentrated on a revolutionary breakthrough in stringing. We succeeded.

The patented Mad Raq™ six-string pattern looks different than the conventional four-string pattern. But it's not just for looks. Tests conducted by an independent research lab prove it can help give players the edge they've never had.

Up to 23% greater ball bite.
Up to 33% greater bite time.

Larger "holes" in the Mad Raq stringing pattern give greater ball bite and up to 33% greater bite time for greater control, finesse, top-spin and slice than conventional stringing.

Six-string pattern dampens vibration up to an extra 11%.

The Mad Raq stringing pattern deflects vibration six directions instead of just four. This means up to 11% less shock to your wrist, arm and shoulder. And you work less hard, because the strings do more of the work.

Up to 16% larger "sweet spot."
Up to 8% larger "power zone."

The Mad Raq stringing pattern gives you up to a 16% larger "sweet spot" than conventional stringing for more controlled hits. And a 8% larger "power zone" than conventional stringing for more power hits.

The Omega promise: Mad Raq stringing gives a player the 20% edge they've never had. Instead of having string tension adjusted either for power playing or soft-touch playing, as you would have to do with a conventionally-strung racquet, Mad Raq stringing gives the player the capability of playing both styles with one racquet.

Mad Raq. It looks different. It plays with a difference.

Write for easy stringing instructions.

Omega Sports, 9200 Cody
Overland Park, KS 66214
Playing The Angles

By Mike Yellen

Mike Yellen is one of the best players of all time with three National Pro Championships and four National Pro Tittles. A valued member of the Ektelon Advisory Staff, Mike is also one of the most astute observers of racquetball competition.

Racquetball is a game of angles. In a rectangular box 20 feet wide, 20 feet high and 40 feet long, figuring out where a speeding ball will bounce off a wall is a matter of mathematics.

"Yeah, I can hear some of you smart alecks saying, 'For my next match, I'm going to bring a piece of paper, a pencil, and a protractor on the court — that should really help me win.' The truth is, many players put themselves at an extreme disadvantage by not understanding the basic angles of a bouncing ball.

CENTER COURT

The key to controlling a rectangular court is to stay in the middle — maintaining the all-important center court position. For the various angles of the game, center court position is defined as one or two steps behind the short service line and a step to two either side.

From that position, you can cut off players in the front and back court, and return the ball. It also gives you maximum visibility of the game's angles, particularly those in the side-wall, front-wall, and back-wall shots.

COMMON MISTAKES

One of the most common mistakes in playing the angles often happens on those side-wall, front-wall, side-wall shots. Instead of anticipating where the shot will land and moving to get there, many beginners will follow the ball around the walls, swinging wildly as it passes by.

LEARNING THE ANGLES

How do you know where the ball is going to land? If a player knew that, there wouldn't be much fun to racquetball.

Proper racquetball technique stresses a solid stance when racquetball contact is made. If you're chasing three-wall shots, your stroke is going to suffer a basic illness.

In another instance, many beginners or intermediate players try to "scoop" two-wall balls that have either buried themselves in a corner of the backcourt or stayed very close to the backwall. The technique here is to not rush in and flash away, but to watch the flight of the ball and gauge around it. By that I mean, if a ball hits deep off the sideline and angles into the corner, don't try to hit it on the D-Line; wait until the ball get around the wall, then hit your shot.

Many players make the mistake of "freezing" when they see two and three-sided shots. Their first movement seems to come after the shot is finished. They react, instead of acting.

MOVING YOUR FEET

To play the angles you have to move your feet. Don't rush around like a chicken with your head cut off. Rather, stay composed and react to the situation.

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To make your stance, first adjust your feet and shot to make solid contact. The center court position is defined as one or two steps behind the short service line and a step to two either side. From that position, you can cut off players in the front and back court, and return the ball. It also gives you maximum visibility of the game's angles, particularly those in the side-wall, front-wall, and back-wall shots.

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What do you do when you lose? by Jason Holloman

We all like to win, but what do you do when you lose? Losing—yuck. It leaves a bad taste in your mouth. “Nobody likes a loser,” so the expression goes. “He’s a loser,” a bystander will say. And what’s worse is after the match—it’s never John came in first and Jack came in second. It’s John won and Jack lost. It’s always a terrible moment for those who compete, but if you have the right mental approach, you can buck the “Losing Blues.”

A House of Cards
Why do you want to win? If the reason is simply “Because I have to” then you’ve mixed your ego and your game together. It’s a house of cards. You build up this tremendous image of yourself with all your wins and with one loss, your self-image all comes tumbling down and you’ve got to build your confidence from the bottom up.

I’ve seen it time and again when a young player with nothing to lose thrashes a pro player with everything to lose. Some may call it Beginner’s Luck, but it’s simply that the younger player knew that he had nothing to lose! Nothing to lose but a game, while the good player had his ego to defend plus the game at hand. Trying to defend two things at once is like trying to jump rope on a tightrope. You may be able to do one or the other, but the two at once is precarious indeed!

The Trick
The trick is to separate your ego from the game. I know of one pro trainer who insists that his trainees have various interests and hobbies outside of racquetball. Some have pets, other jobs, other sports, but all have something else that is important to them. Racquetball isn’t everything to them. It may be the largest percentage of interest to them in their lives, but if at all times, when they came crashing down the next day, it wouldn’t be the end of the world. They’d have something else to be.

I know of a top pro player who put himself in such a position that he just had to win. If he didn’t get to the round of 16, then he knew that he wasn’t going to have the money to pay for his trip. He was all psyched-up to win, but he had set himself up for a bad fall if he lost. A do or die situation. It was too much pressure and when the moment of truth came on the court against his opponent who was slightly ahead, this superb player froze up. One moment he was rolling them out, the next he was skipping them in and he couldn’t put it back together. He had put all of his eggs in one basket—and dropped it.

Like I said, the trick to winning and losing is to separate your “desire to win” from your “need to win.” It’s all right to want to win, to have that killer instinct and go for the top. But it’s quite another thing to have a need to win. Need to win, go for it. Because not to win is to lose, and to lose is to be a loser.

The Perfect Winner
I suppose the perfect description of a winner who can afford to lose is one who has everything in balance. His game is in order, his personal life is in order and his mind is focused on a goal. He may lose, but it is just a temporary set-back. He may win, but it’s just a step closer to his goal. And if he does reach the top and an excellent new player challenges him, it won’t be a game of do or die, it will just be another good game and the sun will rise tomorrow whether he wins or loses.

This whole idea of balance hasn’t been lost on the owners and managers of professional team sports. Look at all those highly paid professionals. A good manager knows that if an athlete is financially stable, physically healthy and personally happy, that he is going to get a good performance from that player. I think you could get an equally good performance out of racquetball. It’s a game of do or die, it’s not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game.

I am Jason Holloman
Editor
New Directions

11. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Pan American Games Committee have finally signed on the International Amateur Racquetball Federation for the Pan American Games next summer in Barquisimeto.

12. The United States Olympic Committee has agreed to carry the AARA logo on for inclusion in the full program of the Pan Am Games next summer in Barquisimeto.

13. The IHRP recently became a full member in the General Association of International Sports Association (AGAIS), a giant step towards IHRP recognition.

14. The AARA conducts over 1,000 events yearly reaching over 2,500,000 active racquetball players.

15. The U.S. National Team has dominated all international competition in its short existence.

16. The AARA has developmental programs for the disabled, women's racquetball and youth racquetball group competition and involvement.

17. Elite Training Camps are held at the Executive Director Training Center involving players from age 14 to 70.

18. Over 1,000 AARA volunteers in all 50 states donate an excess of 500,000 hours towards promotion of racquetball.

I could go on but I think you get the idea. We, all of us whether administrators or participants, are dealing in mental and physical health not only for ourselves personally, but for our country as well. We have a great young sport with incredible potential.

To quote an old phrase: if you are not part of the solution, then you must be part of the problem.

Lue St. Ong

Letters to the Editor

Mistaken Identities And Lost Luggage

I am writing this letter just to make a correction to your September issue. In the picture of the new director of the AARA, it is Raul Armandtz of Mexico, not Baudry Doyle of Ireland. If you check the records of Reuben Peterson and Raul Armandtz you don't even play each other.

Also, I would like to make a short note that I lost my luggage on my way to London and had to play with every gate because - from tennis shoes to racquets. I was notified that my stuff had returned back to Mexico. But when I got home, they had lost it again.

By Luke St. Ong, Executive Director

We in the National Office have often been called the Earl of Onslow in regard to racquetball and its growth. We are, but I must admit that it has become increasingly frustrating to try to honestly hear those within our industry criticize the very groups that are promoting the sport. With 1985 drawing to a close, I would like to offer to all of those who are so inclined to stand on the sidelines and criticize the following facts and positive directions our sport has taken in its short existence.

1. Racquetball is a lifetime sport.

2. Racquetball in its short existence has established bona fide competition channels that allow our athletes to progress from junior competition through collegiate competition on scholarships to representing his or her country in international competition, and eventually move on to the professional ranks of the RMA or the WPR. After their pro careers, they can continue to compete in age groups up to the 70+ division in addition to competing in international competition in the World Masters Games for both men and women.

3. Over 16,000 AARA members are currently registered by AARS in over 35 different division. Ratings are updated monthly.

4. 50% of all AARA dues are returned to grassroots organizations for development of racquetball. No other sport does this.

5. In a cooperative effort between Penn Athletic Products Company and the AARA, the new Junior Handbook for Junior Development will be ready by January 1, 1986.

6. In a cooperative effort between Div- ersified Products, Penn Athletic Products Company and the AARA, a junior league has been in operation for over a year with great success by those who have taken advantage of it.

7. The AARA Referee Certification Program has resulted in a higher grade of referees and paid referees in many events across the U.S.

8. In 1986, the AARA Coaching Certification program will be in place which will raise the credibility of racquetball coaching as abonfide profession.

9. In 1986, the AARA Teaching Certification Program will be operating to fill a void seriously void in our sport.

10. The AARA will experiment with a club membership program which will have the possibility of reaching every recreational racquetball player in the country.

PRESIDENT

Mike Arndt
300 State St., Millbury, MA 01521, 617/754-0737.

V.P. - Region 1

Jim Hiear, Davison Racquetball Club, G-240 Fairway Dr., Davison, MI 48423, 313-757-3418.

V.P. - Region 2

Mike Arndt, Byram Racquetball, 300 State St., Millbury, MA 01521, 617-754-0737.

SECRETARY/TREASURER


REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Arndt, Byram Racquetball, Millbury, MA 01521, 617-754-0737.

SPORTS DIRECTORS

President - Mike Arndt, 300 State St., Millbury, MA 01521, 617-754-0737.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Coach Deans, Hawthorne Beach, 5030 Chestnut St., Ste. 305, Newburyport, MA 01950, 617-754-0737.

VERMONT - Green Mountain Racquet Club, Church Hill Rd., Isle of Huskies, Tolland, CT 06084, 203-856-8510.

JIM ARNDT - 75 North Ct., Narboro, ME 04852, 207-754-0737.

BREND GEORGE - 1110 West 8th St., El Paso, TX 79901, 915-757-2177.

DAVE ARNOLD - 8000 W. State Road 141, Madisonville, KY 40038, 502-643-5177.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Jim Hiear, Davison Racquetball Club, G-240 Fairway Dr., Davison, MI 48423, 313-757-3418.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Diane Folsom, Executive Director, Eureka, IA 50204, 712-538-2725.

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REGIONAL COMMISSIONER AND BOARD MEMBERS

By Luke St. Ong, Executive Director

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By Luke St. Ong
Head introduces the power to change your game forever. It's the extra power delivered by Head's revolutionary new mid-size racquets.

Adding power by making the racquet bigger is easy. But only Head knew how to develop a bigger racquet with a flawless balance between added power and control.

With a slightly larger head, Head's new mid-size racquets deliver a lot of extra power. And they do it without stripping your game of finesse or timing or control. So your shots just get faster, harder, and a whole lot tougher to return.

Ask top-ranked pro Jerry Hilecher. He'll tell you mid-size is helping him hit backhands like never before. That's why he's playing with his new mid-size Radial on the Pro Tour.

Or ask the International Amateur Racquetball Federation. They've declared Head's new mid-size the "official racquetball racquets" of the 1985 World Games in London.

Or better yet, ask yourself. Play-test a new Head mid-size racquet and you'll find out just how much muscle mid-size can add to your game.

INTRODUCING:
THE NEW MID-SIZE RACQUETS FROM HEAD.
**Schedule of Events**

**December 5-8**

- **Swingers**
  - International Athletic Club
  - 1630 Wycliffe
  - Danville, CO
  - Howard Chinatti
  - 303-623-2100

- **I6A State Doubles**
  - The Charlie Club
  - Mount Prospect, IL
  - Art McDermott 312-647-8222

**December 6-8**

- **Harvest Classic**
  - Florida Racquet Journal Tournament
  - D. O. Box 11057
  - Jacksonville, FL

- **Super Seventy #3**
  - 29th Street Fitness Center
  - 2701 29th Street
  - Grand Rapids, MI

**December 9-10**

- **Racqueteer**
  - 615 East 9800 South
  - Sandy, UT

- **Super Seven #4**
  - Mt. Clemens Racquetball Club
  - 4050 I Productions
  - Mt. Clemens, MI

**December 13-15**

- **MCSA Challenge Series**
  - 7711 Stone, Punahu Estates
  - 43128 Van Dyke
  - Sterling Heights, MI

- **Pike Creek Court Club**
  - Wilmington, DE

- **Riverview Racquet Club**
  - 4940 Placentia
  - Grand Rapids, MI

- **Super Seven**
  - 65 East 16th Avenue
  - Stockton, CA

**December 18-21**

- **Provo Recreational**
  - 1155 North University
  - Provo, UT

- **Pike Creek Court Club**
  - Wilmington, DE

**January 3-5**

- **DG Invitational**
  - 1325 Glenarm Place
  - Denver, CO

- **DC Invitational**
  - 1325 Glenarm Place
  - Denver, CO

**January 8-10**

- **Riverview Racquet Club**
  - 4940 Placentia
  - Grand Rapids, MI

- **Super Seven #4**
  - Mt. Clemens Racquetball Club
  - 4050 I Productions
  - Mt. Clemens, MI

**January 10-12**

- **Super Bowl Open**
  - West Lawn Racquet Club
  - 1074 East Bianchi Road
  - Stockton, CA

**January 15-18**

- **Sports Haven**
  - 5350 South 3800 West
  - Kearns, UT

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**THE NEW MID-SIZE LASER.**

Strong, sleek tubular aluminum construction with a graphite-reinforced thorium piece. Designed to deliver big power and pinpoint precision for the advanced player's power game.

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