

SQUASH

L I F E

JULY/AUGUST 1984

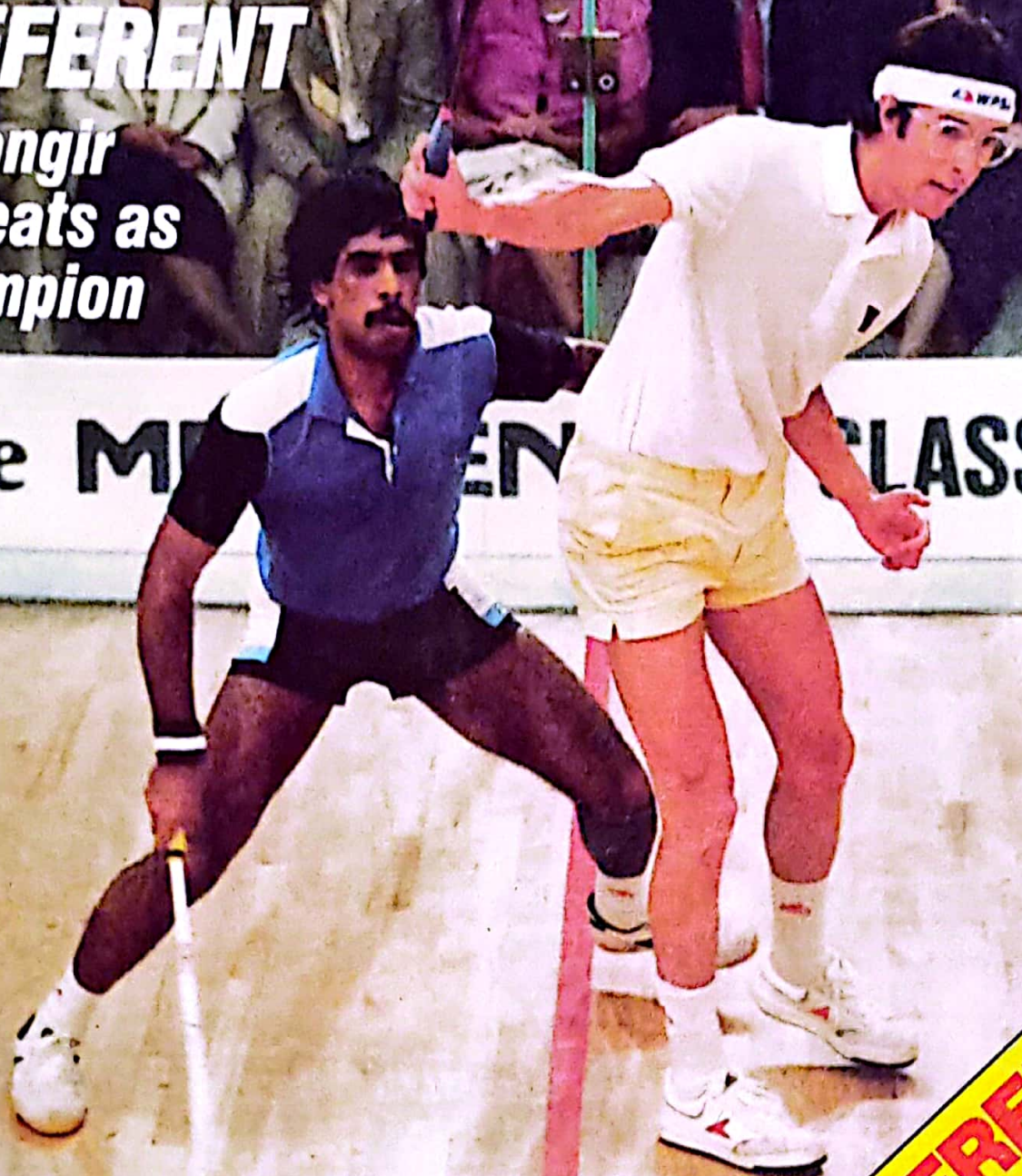
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*Jahangir
Repeats as
Champion*

The MENNEN CLASSIC



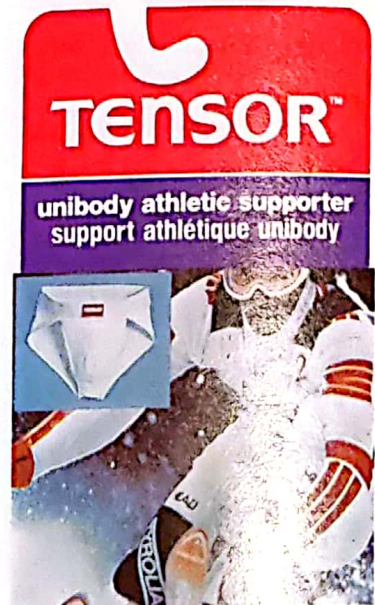
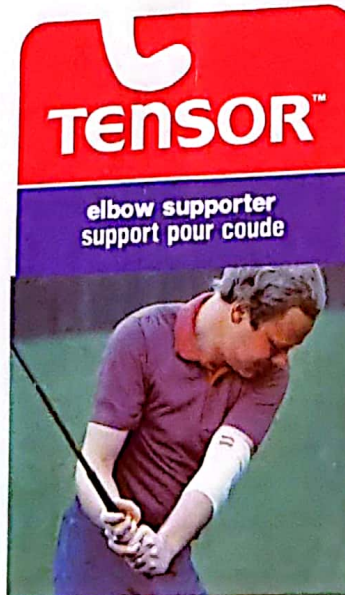
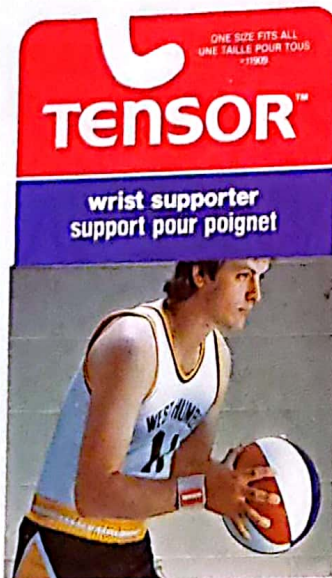
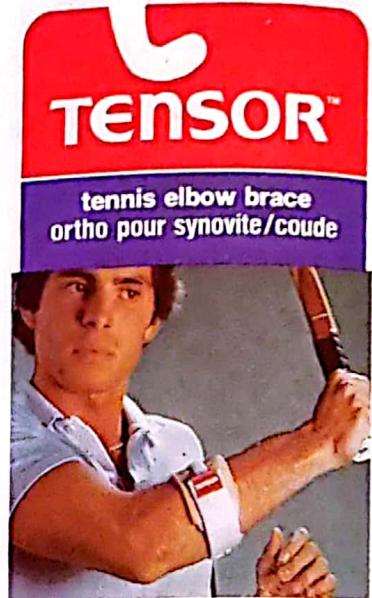
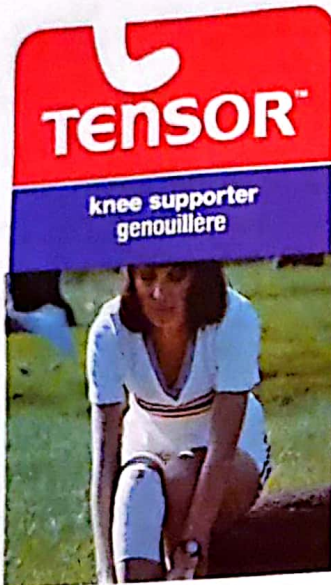
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JULY/AUGUST 1984

SQUASH LIFE 5

FOLLOW THE LEADER

IT'S TIME FOR CANADA'S PROFESSIONALS TO SPEAK UP

Society today seems to place an inordinate amount of emphasis on the need for role models in our lives. The media constantly bombards us with the message that women "can bring home the bacon" and "diamonds are for men, too". Success is equated with charisma and influence and thus we have elevated politicians, sportsmen and the like into modern day heroes.

Whether we believe in the whole idea of role models and their supposed importance is irrelevant. These made-in-the-media heroes are perceived to be successful and therefore, they are. The fact remains that these paragons of virtue do play a role in our lives whether they want to or not and consequently, have a responsibility to live up to that role.

The professional wields a great deal of influence.

In squash the same holds true. We have elevated some to the rather heady heights of leadership and we now expect of them—no, demand of them—a return for that veneration.

We have reached a point in Canada where the leaders of the squash community must now take an active and visible leadership role when it comes to the issue of eye protection. The squash professionals could be an extremely powerful and persuasive voice. The professional wields a great deal of influence, particularly at the club level. New players watch wide-eyed in amazement as the pro takes them through the rudiments of the game. Their

goal is to be just like their coach, and thus we have the beginnings of hero worship. These novices buy the same racquet the pro uses, the same shoes, and, if the pro would wear one, they would buy the same eyeguard. If new players made the automatic assumption that an eyeguard was as much a part of his squash kit as a racquet and ball, the road to universal eye protection would be an easy one to travel.

The playing professionals, the ones basking in the media limelight, could be instrumental in setting an example, particularly for the younger players. Young people constantly strive to emulate their heroes and if those heroes wore eyeguards, chances are the kids would, too. The "do as I say, not as I do" philosophy is just not acceptable in this case. Leading by example would have a tremendous impact on our younger players. Mark Talbott is one of the few players who practices what he preaches - pity we don't have a few home grown Talbotts.

And let us not forget the parents. There are far too many of them out there who insist their child wear eyeguards but don't wear eye protection themselves. If our junior players are confused by this double standard, it is no wonder. They are told to do one thing but see the exact opposite behaviour from those whom they respect and emulate the most.

The mandatory eyeguard ruling which comes into effect in Ontario in September is for provincial championships only. Admittedly, the ruling will affect only a very small percentage of squash players, but it is a beginning. "The longest journey starts with a single step", and with the better players, professionals and parents throwing their full support behind it, we can make the journey that much shorter and a lot less arduous.

The new ruling is only a part of a

long range programme designed to inform and educate on the importance of wearing eye protection, with the main thrust of the campaign being directed at the recreational player. However, nothing makes more of an impact than the visual image - words are not nearly enough to sway the non-believer or the uninitiated. If the professionals would only wear eye protection while teaching and playing, it could be a very convincing and impressive example. Seeing is believing!

The Canadian Professional Squash Association could do so much.

The World Professional Squash Association has taken a rather bold initiative and has mandated eye protection for all new members joining the association after January 1984. It is time their Canadian counterparts did the same. At the very least, the Canadian Professional Squash Association should publicly endorse the mandatory eyeguard ruling, but it could do so much more. It could become a full part of the education programme and actively promote the use of eyeguards by its membership.

Convincing people to do something because it is better for them is never simple. Such is human nature. A co-operative and well-planned campaign led by the professional players and administrators could do much to break down the resistance of older players and establish a good, safe playing habits for the new players joining the ranks.

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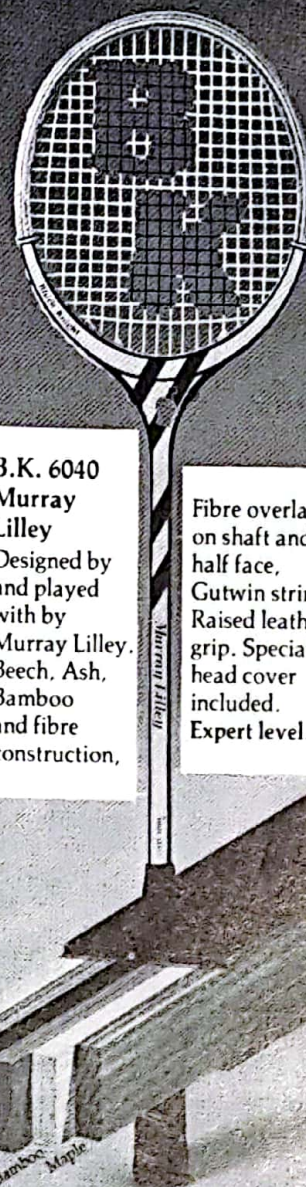
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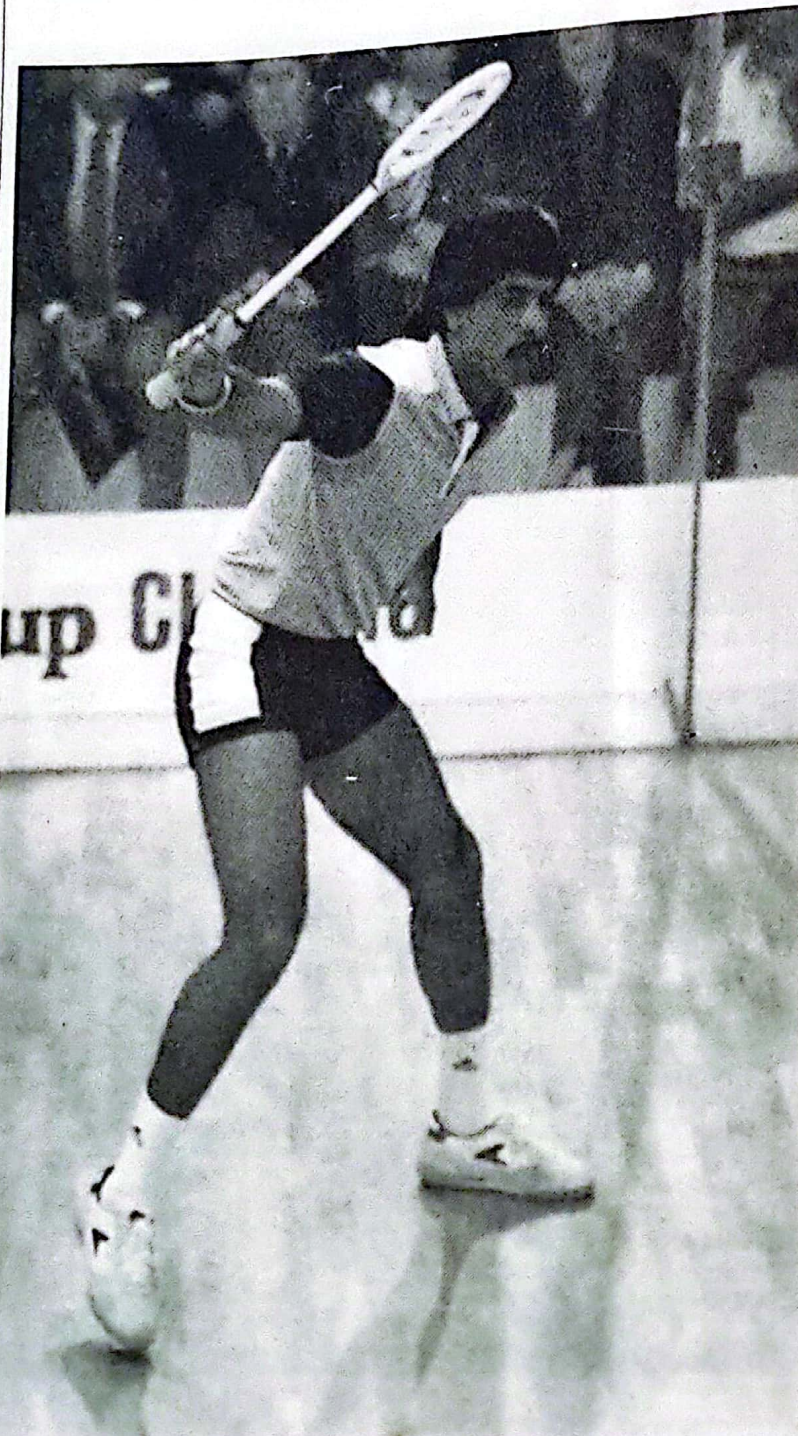
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MENNEN CUP CLASSIC

CONTINUES TO BREAK NEW GROUND



BY JAN ATKINSON

The Mennen Cup Classic is truly an innovative squash event. First run in 1979, the Mennen has been breaking new ground every year, and the sixth anniversary of this event continued the trend. The total prize money had been increased to \$50,000.00, making the Mennen Cup the richest ever squash tournament. Since 1979 the Mennen has been contested on the North American court with the hardball. This year the battleground was moved to the wider International courts of the Valhalla Squash Club. Although the courts may have been changed, the ball and the scoring system remained the same.

Hardball on the wide court—the brand of squash so new it doesn't even have a name. Many consider this combination to be the answer to the game's reported problems. Promoters of the game are sensitive to criticisms that endless rallies combined with a confusing scoring system are limiting the mass audience appeal of the sport. Tournament organizers speculate that the faster ball on the wider court will put an end to 300 shot rallies and that a scoring system where a point is made on every serve will take the game out of the squash clubs and generate more interest with the average sports fan.

This year's Mennen witnessed the return of many familiar faces, with the addition of some new ones. Competing in their sixth consecutive Mennen Cup Classic was Canada's Sharif Khan, and Mario

Jahangir Khan stands at the top. He has won with both ball and on both courts. Where does he go from here?

Sanchez and Hiddy Jahan, now representing England. Australia's Dean Williams, always popular with the gallery, never popular with the referees, was back for a second time. The Egyptian speedster, Gamal Awad, was making his debut appearance. The Mennen welcomed back Mark Talbott as U.S. number one. The seven invited players were topped off by defending champion, world number one soft ball player and 1984 Fleischmann's champion, Jahangir Khan.

The eighth position was filled by the winner of the wildcard event held in Montreal the previous weekend. Trust General sponsored the event, which also served as a warm-up for the invited players. To almost everyone's surprise, young Alex Doucas emerged as wildcard champion. Alex defied the odds in defeating the likes of Tom Page and

enjoyed the extra room in that he felt less confined. Jahangir, of course, felt very much at home on the international court. The question remained—would the faster ball negate some of Jahangir's incredible retrieving ability? The answer was simple—the faster ball on the wider court made these two less unequal. Mario won the first game 15-12 but could not sustain his consistency. The next three games were close but all went in Jahangir's favour as Mario managed to find the top of the tin in the late stages of each game.

Dean Williams, who had not put up much of a fight in his match against Jahangir, was a different player entirely against Sharif. He sensed that the wider court would go in his favour and he wasn't wrong. Sharif gave it his best shot but was no match for the younger legs of the Australian.



Talbott kept it close for a while by taking second game.

Ned Edwards to qualify for the Mennen.

As in previous years, the eight players were split in two pools for round robin play. The groupings looked like this:

Jahangir Khan	Mark Talbott
Mario Sanchez	Gamal Awad
Dean Williams	Hiddy Jahan
Sharif Khan	Alex Doucas

Defending champion Jahangir Khan, was the pre-tournament favourite but he had to first overcome some tough obstacles, in particular Mario Sanchez. Jahangir had suffered his only tournament defeat since April, 1981 against Mario in the recent Skyline Canadian Pro Squash Championship. Could Mario do it again?

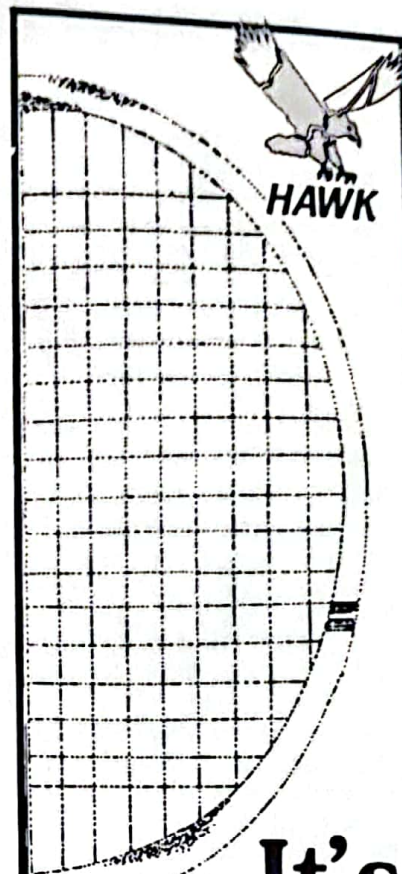
The Tuesday night match was played before a packed gallery. The stylish Mexican had adapted quickly to the wider court, declaring that he

Action in the second grouping was less predictable. Alex Doucas was continuing his Cinderella story. The young Montrealese swept past Gamal Awad and thrilled the crowd with an 18-16 in the fifth victory over Hiddy Jahan. His fairy tale was brought to an unhappy end when he went down to defeat to WPSA number one, Mark Talbott.

The semi-finals were contested on Thursday night. Jahangir earned his spot in the final at the expense of Alex Doucas. Mario Sanchez, last year's runner-up, was denied a second chance at Jahangir when Mark Talbott came out ahead in their semi-final match up. For the first time in six years, Sharif Khan was to finish out of the top four.

Friday night was finals night at Valhalla, and the club was jammed to the rafters to witness the best of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



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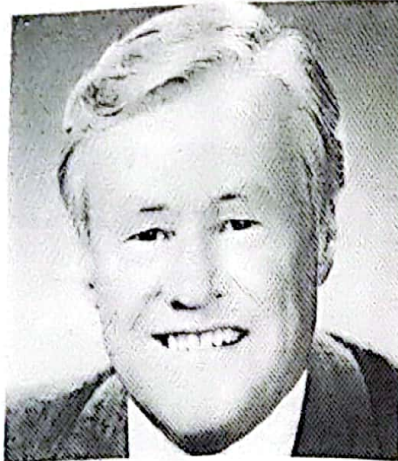
SOJAS

BITS AND PIECES

BY IAN C. STEWART

Once again it is reassuring to know that this writer has not lost his ability to "stir the pot". As one gets older the fear that one is losing his touch becomes a paramount concern. Luckily, I have recently had my faith in my own ability to be controversial restored.

In the January/February issue of this magazine, I commented on Canada's approach to World Squash Championships. I had a funny feeling that this might strike a responsive chord in someone. Alan Smith really lashed out in the spring edition of *Canadian Squash*. Bravo! I expect that very few if any, squash players in Canada had any idea what the national team program was all about. In my article I finally forced someone to tell it like it is. As a former vice-chairman of this committee, I agree wholeheartedly on the approach and I certainly cannot disagree with anything that Alan said. However, I expect that he missed the real point of my story, which was that there were at least two players who were prepared to go to New Zealand in the fall of 1983 representing Canada that could have made us a considerably stronger team in the men's world team championships. They were, however, due to their current employment, unable to give a commitment to the national team program. This may have been a good reason for not picking them on the team, but I support my belief that we did not field the best team and had we done so, we would have finished several places ahead of where we did. The two people in question are Howard Broun and Murray Lilley. As chairman of the selection committee and manager of the first three Canadian teams to perform in I.S.R.F. Championships, I spent six years from 1971-1977, building for the future. I happened to believe that the future was 1983, hence my article. We must avoid our national team program becoming a



Ian C. Stewart

reflection of the Toronto Maple Leaf Hockey Club—a 15 to 20 year rebuilding program.

In discussing the Canadian women's team, I must admit that I was probably in error. I was under the impression that Joyce Maycock was eligible to play for Canada and if this is not correct, then I certainly apologize. I would also like to apologize to all the players who represented Canada in both New Zealand and Australia, because this was not meant in any way to be a slap in the face to them personally. Both Canadian teams, women and men, performed extremely well. Both moved up in the standings and all players were a credit to Canada on and off the courts. It is the principle of the affair that bothered me, not the individuals.

In the March/April issue of *Squash Life*, I let my readers in on the various experiments being undertaken to try and improve the game of squash as a spectator sport. I was once again taken to task, particularly by Jahangir Khan's North American Manager. I must say in this particular case he was in the minority, and many people telephoned or wrote to congratulate the I.S.R.F. on their forward-looking

stance. Once we believe that our game is perfect we are in serious trouble. Very little if any change has taken place in the international or soft ball game of squash since it was invented in the 1850s, and I believe changes must be made or the game will be in serious trouble. The inspiration for this particular article did not come entirely from deliberations of the officers of the I.S.R.F., they were precipitated by a copy of a letter I received written by the leading promoter of squash tournaments in the U.K. to the chairman of the International Squash Players Association. The letter was two pages in length and was extremely critical of the game as it is presently being played. I will, however, quote just one paragraph. "Historically, squash has been unable to attract television because viewers have not been able to see the ball, the scoring system is not understood, the matches are boring, and the sport lacks colour and personalities". Enough said.

To finish this month's article on a more positive note, I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Alberta Squash Racquets Association and its tournament chairman, Peter Day, for the magnificent way in which they held and ran the I.S.R.F. World Junior Squash Championships. I have been to most I.S.R.F. events since the federation was founded in 1967, and this was better run than most. To be completely true, it was the best that I have been to. I would have no hesitation in awarding a future World Open or World Team Championship to Calgary or any part of the province of Alberta. I know that all the players who participated agree with me wholeheartedly. Hopefully, Canada will have an opportunity to host a major event in 1986, and Calgary will certainly be given serious consideration. ●

TOURNAMENTS

MOLSON CANADIANS STYNER TAKES FIRST NATIONAL TITLE

BY NICK GUDEWILL

This year's tournament was an obvious success even to this biased local observer. The organizing committee left no stone unturned in its enthusiasm to ensure total hospitality. Led by capable chairman Stuart Dixon, and backed up by the detail work of many others, bussing vans ran on schedule, matches were held at the allotted time with no conflicts, referees were in place making mostly correct calls, and men and women dressed in sought after and colourful Molson's sweaters were everywhere, making sure people were well served and happy.

After Wednesday night registration, play began in earnest. It became quickly apparent that this was a tournament for youthful legs. The best players at the Nautilus Club were under twenty. Sixteen-year-old Trevor Thom from Victoria extended number one seed, 19-year-old Jamie Hickox, to four games in a 45 minute excitement filled game. Next Hickox took on Gary Waite from Sarnia and was extended to five games before winning 9-6 in the fifth. Gary was a true sportsman on and off the court and a pleasure to have around. It is easy to see that he has a real future and will be an excellent Canadian fixture at international events for years to come.

As expected, all seeds progressed through the early rounds with relative ease. Hickox beat Steve Lawton 3-0 to reach the semis. The number two seed, Dale Styner, with early byes, swept through Gene Turk 9-2, 9-0, 9-3 and John Fleury 9-1, 9-6, 9-2. As everyone knows, both Gene and John are fine squash players, but Dale just overwhelmed them with his incredible retrieving, consistency of play and sheer speed.

The other two semi-finalists in the men's event had come from Australia via the World Juniors in Calgary. What a study in contrast! The short, stocky Phil Larmer plays a very controlled, hard hitting and

serious game. The tall, lanky Sean O'Connor was a colourful and sometimes flamboyant personality both with his racquet and his mouth. Forever arguing calls with the referee, he once drop kicked his racquet out the court by mistake. Although never dull, Sean's antics were not appreciated to the extent of Phil's court roving precision.

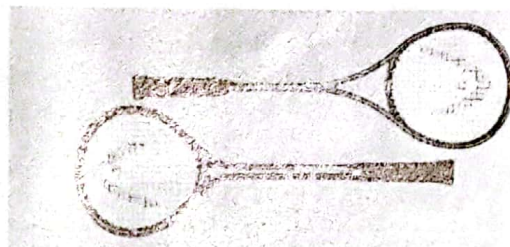
Larmer reached the semis by defeating Pat Heffernan 3-1 in the third round and John MacRury 3-2 in the quarters. O'Connor defeated junior Jamie Crombie 3-1 in the third round and Jeff Sneyd 3-2 in the quarters in a long tough battle.

On the ladies side, again the seeds progressed as expected. The class performer was Aussie Julianne Harris, now living in San Francisco. Fast, persistent and with great strokes, Julianne easily beat Jane Mitchell 3-0 and then Andrie Levey from Calgary. Young Diana Edge from Ottawa, at number two seed, has a great squash future and impressed us all. She progressed through Connie Lebrun from Vancouver, Pat Ellis from Vancouver, and Anne Smith from London, to come up against perennial contender Joyce Maycock of Vancouver, who had defeated Ruth Castellino from Toronto, Penny Wedd of Vancouver, and Ann Thompson from Calgary. The other semi-finalist was the pretty and stylish Elaine Hinnegan now of Los Angeles, who beat Laura Clapperton of Calgary in three and Beryl Paton of Calgary in five.

In the semi-finals, Julianne's experience and strength overcame Elaine's gutsy effort. Both players fought over long, tough rallies in the first game with Julianne winning 9-5

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TOURNAMENTS

and spectators being treated to some excellent squash. The second and third were 9-2 and 9-5 with no appreciable difference between the two players, except that Julianne was winning the key points. The other half pitted talented Diana Edge against the older and hard working Joyce Maycock. After playing superb squash in the first two games and winning 9-4 and 9-1, Diana seemed to lose concentration. Joyce gradually took control through careless errors and some poor depth hitting by Diana and won the next three 9-1, 9-6, 9-7. The fifth was extremely close with Diana coming back with great determination. Many service exchanges and tight wall shots kept the crowd in suspense to the end in this 55 minute battle.

The Ladies Open Final was a 60 minute marathon of effort, particularly the first game. Great persistence and retrieving by Maycock resulted in an excellent 10-8 win and a one game lead. The crowd smelled an upset. With many service exchanges in the second, even more lets and long, long rallies, Joyce was up 6-5. This tremendous effort was taking its toll and Julianne pulled away to win the second 9-5 and the

match was never in doubt, with Harris in control and winning the third and fourth 9-2, 9-3.

The Men's Open event semis were also exciting, particularly the Hickox-Larmer match. In one unbelievable exchange of over 100 shots, both Phil and Jamie actually dropped their racquets in collisions with the wall yet recovered to stay in the rally! The crowd was truly in awe of the fantastic speed and shot making displayed. In the first game Hickox seemed unprepared mentally, and went down 9-0 as he had also done in some previous rounds. In the second, he steadied down to a slower pace to offset Larmer's power and won 9-4 with a series of deft drops. In the third, Jamie showed tremendous skills in moving Phil all over the court, but the power and agility of the Australian won out with a 9-8 win - this game was clearly the most spectacular of the tournament. By now Jamie was tired. The psychological advantage was now with Phil, who went on to win the fourth 9-1 for a 3-1 victory. Although only 5'6" tall, Phil Larmer has the power of a much bigger man, and he certainly showed it in this contest.

The Styner-O'Connor semi-final was a 55 minute affair that had the

crowd somewhat concerned when Dale went down 6-2 in the first. With some great retrieving that obviously frustrated Sean, Dale pulled even and won 9-7 in 15 minutes. With good momentum going onto the second, Dale made the most of it with tenacious and controlled play that negated Sean's very considerable skills. Dale won the second 9-4 and appeared to seal the match when Sean came back to win the third 9-6 with steady, error free squash and constant battles with the referee that were probably designed to upset Dale's concentration. In the fourth, Sean was by now worn out and was trampled 9-0.

The Men's 35+ Championship was won by Bob Puddicombe from Vancouver, who beat Dennis Goodfellow from Toronto in 35 minutes 9-2, 7-9, 9-6, 9-0. Earlier, Dennis had defeated Tim Bale 3-0 and Bob had beaten Mike Greenwood, the Victoria hopeful, 3-1.

In the Men's 40+ Championship, Tony Swift beat his long time rival Mike Hill 3-0 in the semis, and Ian Paton beat Henry Thiessen from Winnipeg. In the final game Ian Paton hung in there, but Tony Swift was too strong on this day and won in 60 minutes 9-5, 9-1, 10-9.

The Men's 45+ Championship was won 3-2 by George Morfitt of Vancouver over Egon Kuhn of Nanaimo. This drama has been played out by these two fine players so many times in the past that it would be in danger of becoming repetitious if it were not for the excellent and competitive brand of squash that they play.

The Men's 50+ event was won by Neil Desaulniers now of Edmonton, 3-0 over Som Soni of Winnipeg.

In the Ladies 35+, well known Barb Savage, formerly of Vancouver but now residing in Toronto, beat Ann Popoff of Saskatoon 3-0. The Ladies 40+ was won by Penny Glover of Ottawa 3-0 over Kathy Lundmark of Calgary.

The eagerly anticipated Men's Open Final between Styner and Larmer was expected to be a test of the strength of Phil's upset over number one seeded Jamie Hickox. This was not to be. Although the match lasted 40 minutes, it was said that Dale really dominated his younger, harder hitting opponent. In fact, it was a great example of total concentration and flawless squash by Dale. Phil is a very special man.

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Dale Styner, Canada's new champion, thanks Stuart Dixon (right) and his tournament committee.

like player, very gifted and hard working, and I am sure he will go on to great things. On this day, however, Dale was clearly superior, winning 9-1, 9-2, 9-4 with lightning quick reflexes, devastating drops and nicks, no errors and tremendous shot placements all over the court.

This tournament left no doubt in anyone's mind that Dale Styner is one of Canada's top squash performers. His graciousness and good manners on and off the court were frequently demonstrated. His victory speech and compliments paid to this year's tournament committee were very much appreciated. He is a true champion.

In closing, it should be said that tournaments of this magnitude

could not be held without the significant interest and participation of sponsors. The tournament committee, the B.C.S.R.A., and the C.S.R.A., would like to take this opportunity to specifically thank Molson's, Black Knight, Metro Toyota, B.C. Sport and Recreation, and Sport Canada.

Finally, we hope that all participants felt that their visit was worthwhile and enjoyable. We hope that you come back to Victoria soon, and we hope that we will have the opportunity to host another tournament of similar stature so that squash on the West Coast can be built and promoted into the mass participation sport that it deserves to be. ●

TALBOTT WINS ON HOME TURF

SANCHEZ DESTROYS THE MYTH

BY WAYNE MORI

Defending champion Mark Talbott, No. 1 ranked W.P.S.A. player, returned to his home club to celebrate his birthday in style. Turning 24 years old and taking top money at this \$25,000 event certainly made the day memorable. Mark defeated Mario Sanchez of Mexico, No. 3 ranked player, 15-11, 15-11, 15-11 in the Monday evening final. Although Mark won the match 3 games straight, there was seldom more than a two or three point

spread, with each game going to ten all. Mark volleyed aggressively and placed the ball deep in the corners to control the key points. Mario employed good length combined with pace to win several rallies. Throughout the match, Mark displayed his tremendous ability to reach and reflex back what appeared to be winning shots. Mario was clearly having problems finding his targets, ending each game and finally the match with tins. Certainly

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SKYLINE



Talbott (right) successfully defends Skyline title.

For Mario, the disappointment of the final was somewhat anti-climatic after his outstanding semi-final victory!

The highlight of the tournament was indeed the end of the un-

squashable myth. No one can deny Jahangir Khan the outstanding recognition he deserves. His dominance of the world soft ball tour and his success in select W.P.S.A. events speaks for itself. However, Mario

Sanchez confronted the myth with an overwhelming display of determination and power. The Sanchez/Khan match provided the upset of this year's W.P.S.A. tour.

The 3-0 (15-11, 15-12, 15-9) semi-final victory by Sanchez required a little over 30 minutes. Mario used the tactic of driving the ball extremely hard to the back corners, often hitting nicks and placing Jahangir constantly on the defense. In fact, Mario appropriately named his strategy the "Mexican drop-shot".

While this was Jahangir Khan's first loss since April, 1981 at the British Open, you can be sure that it is a relief for Jahangir and all his opponents to know he is only human.

In another upset, Gordon Anderson of Toronto, and always a favourite with the Skyline members, defeated seventh seeded Aziz Khan of Toronto in second round play 15-7, 18-14, 12-15, 15-12. Gordon's strong performance in this year's event was ended by Mario Sanchez in the quarters 15-9, 15-9, 15-11.

The action and excitement of the matches continued off court at various social functions at the club. The main event was a Saturday evening dinner/dance which was held in co-operation with the Skyline Hotel. Entertainment was provided by the well-known Johnny Arpin Trio.

The success of the Skyline Tournament certainly confirms the growing interest and support that squash is receiving from Toronto's business community.

Once again, congratulations to Mark Talbott, the 1984 Skyline Canadian Pro Squash Champion! ●

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STRONG SHOWING FOR ONTARIO AT JUNIOR NATIONALS

BY DENNIS GOODFELLOW

East met west as Ontario's top squash players competed with the Canadian Junior Champions in the shoot-out occurring at the Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton. The large and impressive draw was organized by Phil Green and an excellent committee. They did a stone unturned in their attempt to ensure that players, coaches, and

parents enjoyed their stay in Alberta's capital and consequently, the tournament was an unqualified success.

Play began on Thursday afternoon with all players getting their squash feet wet immediately. The seedings were quite accurate, so there were no surprises in the first round of play.

Friday morning saw play in the second rounds, quarter finals and consolation matches. Stephen Jones of Australia was the number one seed in the Boys Under 19 and had no trouble playing his way into the final. Some of the more exciting matches saw Sushane Sone of Winnipeg defeating Wayne Burrows of Jamaica 3-2, Jamie Crombie blanking Bruce Bicknell 3-0 and Gary Waite handily defeating Paul Gardner 3-0.

The quarter finals in Boys Under 16 went as seeded except for the match between Scott Nash of Ontario and Darren Thomson of British Columbia, with Thomson coming out on top 3-0. Sabir Butt defeated Scott Dulmage 3-0 in a long match, while Lee Boggiss and Mike Hooker disposed of Lloyd Newman and Chris Stevens respectively. In Boys Under 14, Ontario's Ric Hartunian and Cyrus Taghizadeh encountered little difficulty in getting to the semi finals.

On Friday evening, the entire draw was divided into two teams for a new sport called Soccer Baseball. Again, east met west with Winnipeg serving as the dividing line. Joe Brown, Bob Green and I, had the task of handling the east's batting order as well as plotting strategy. East won a squeaker 40-39. Paul Gardner showed why he was on two Canadian championship soccer teams by kicking the ball with great gusto and accuracy at everyone seeded ahead of him in the tournament!

Saturday's semi finals went pretty well as seeded except in Girls Under 14, where third seeded Stephanie Richardson upset second seed Nichole Roberts 3-1. In the Boys Under 19 semi final between Gary Waite and second seed Jamie Crombie of Alberta, Gary's total dominance of the junior scene was patently obvious. He was simply awesome in allowing Crombie only four points and then going on to defeat Stephen Jones in the finals. Gary has had a truly remarkable

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year. In the World Junior event held recently in Calgary, he was cited as the most improved player of the two week period, ending up with a tenth world junior ranking. The week after that he finished a strong ninth in the Canadian Championships in Victoria. It was only a matter of time and experience before Gary would make his presence felt on the international scene and it would appear that the last five weeks of his demanding squash schedule has made that happen.

Sunday morning came upon us very quickly, as all finals and playoffs were the order of the day. In the Boys Under 16, Toronto's Sabir Butt needed four games to dispatch a much improved Mike Hooker to take first place, with British Columbia's Lee Boggiss taking 3rd and Chris Stevens 4th.

Cyrus Taghizadeh needed every bit of the fifth game (10-8) to capture the Boys Under 14 title over Ric Hartunian, with Jeremy Fraiberg and Tim Kemler finishing third and fourth respectively.

In the Boys Under 12, Duncan Peake did not lose a game all weekend, easily handling Quebec's Johnny Power in the final. Ryan Gunn from Ontario finished third, and Bob Flatly from British Columbia took fourth.

In the Girls Under 19, Diana Edge from Ottawa ended a sparkling junior career with her third national championship, defeating Jennifer Beck in the final 3-0. Terri Walford of Ajax defeated Nichola Lundmark of Alberta for third spot. Another Lundmark, Kelsey, dominated the Girls Under 16, not dropping a single game on her way to the title.

In Girls Under 14, Ontario's Lori Coleman lived up to her number one

seeding by defeating Stephanie Richardson for the title. Margo Green, seeded 4th, defeated second seed Nicola Roberts to take third place.

The seven entry Girls Under 12 was played as a round robin with Karen Manner of Edmonton finishing first, Andrea Smith of British Columbia second, and Joanna Richardson of Ottawa third.

Exciting squash was interspersed with enjoyable and interesting social events. All of us were treated to a tour of the West Edmonton Mall,

which simply dwarfs the Eaton Centre. It boasts the world's largest video arcade, skating rink and a mini Disneyland. The Royal Glenora Club hosted a superb sit down buffet dinner and evening of music and break dancing for the players, while the parents and coaches were royally entertained at a reception at the Chateau Lacombe Hotel.

Some of our athletes brought home national titles, but everyone came away with warm memories of an excellent weekend of squash and great western hospitality. ●

LALONDE WINS THIRD QUEBEC OPEN

BY BRIAN RUSE

Marc Lalonde of Montreal, won his 3rd consecutive Quebec title at the Montclair Quebec Softball Championships held April 6-8 at Cote de Liesse Racquet Club. Lalonde defeated Alex Doucas of Montreal 3-0 in the Men's A final.

Over 100 competitors took part in the tournament. The Ladies A title was taken by Sylvie Faulkner of Ottawa, who prevailed 3-2 over Sue Rosenschein of Montreal. Ladies B winner was Cynthia Wahl, over Suzanne Dufresne. In the Ladies C,

Carolyn Roper was victorious over C. Osborne.

Michel Timothy took the Men's B title against finalist Yvon Provencal. Winner of the Men's C was Keith Flavell over Phil Quintal. Finally, in the Men's D division, R. Fullow defeated A. Pen Otter.

Thanks to Cote de Liesse Racquet Club for hosting the event, and especially club pro Simon Lane. Thanks also to tournament sponsors Montclair, Black Knight, Dunlop and Bausch & Lomb. ●

NORTHERN LIGHTS SHINE AT JUNIOR OPEN

BY ANDRE MROZEWSKI

The Valley East Recreation Centre hosted the Northern Ontario Junior Squash Championships the weekend of May 5/6. Twenty-five players representing Kirkland Lake, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Valley East took part in the event.

In the Boys' U12 category, Alain Chenier of the host club defeated Tom Duncan of the Sault Ste. Marie YMCA, 3-2, while Andreas Wilson of the Sudbury YMCA won the consolation event. In the Boys' U14, Michael Clucas of the Sudbury YMCA defeated Michael Ramos of the same club, while another player of the YMCA, Carlos Latorre, won the consolation event. In all Kirkland Lake affair, Michael Sidar defeated Mark Holmes for the Boys' U16 title, with Mich M... of the host club winning the consolation side.

In the Girls' division, K... Kelly (U14) and Shelly Starling (U16), both from Valley East, won their respective categories by default. Both girls competed against the boys and did quite well.

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who helped during the weekend and Slezenger, McDonald's, McCullagh Hall and Frito-Lay, for their con-

tributions to the tournament. Next year's competition will be held at the Saul Ste. Marie YMCA. ●

RACQUET SPORTS GROUP DECLARES CHAMPIONS

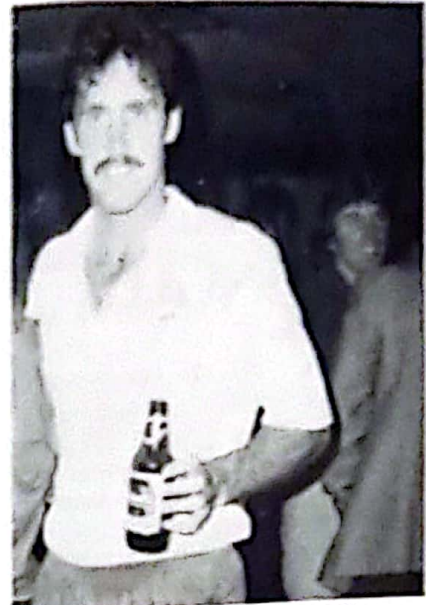
BY PAUL DUNNING

The May 4th, 5th weekend marked an historic occasion for the Racquet Sports Group of Canada and for the members representing its five Toronto clubs. Individual club champions from the Sherbourne, Bloor Park, Dunfield, International and Parkview Clubs battled it out for the Labatt's/RSG championships held at the Parkview Club on Saturday, May 5th. Seven divisions were contested: Ladies A, B, C and Men's A, B, C, D. The seven division finalists were decided from a huge field of over 650 players who participated in their home club championships. The club champions played off on Friday at the Sherbourne, Dunfield and Parkview Clubs; on Saturday an enthusiastic gallery packed into the Parkview Club to root for their

favourites.

The Men's A final match was a dramatic confrontation between a very able 13-year-old (oh, to be 13 again!) Ric Hartunian, and a strong Ken Horvat from the Bloor Park Club. Both competitors exhibited the skill, determination and poise that speaks well of their character and ensures their continued success.

The inaugural event was enhanced by the generous support of Labatt's Ontario Breweries, who supplied T-shirts and individual trophies. "Blue Light Night" social events held in all the clubs were sudsy and successful. The management of the Racquet Sports Group of Canada deserves a word of thanks for developing the tournament concept and providing annual trophies



Ken Horvat, Men's "A" champion.

which are in place in the winning clubs.

Thank you, our RSG members, whose co-operation and enthusiasm ensure the success of this annual event. The staff of the Racquet Sports Group of Canada looks forward to an even bigger and better event in 1985! ●



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EDGE SCORES CONVINCING WIN IN CAN-AM SINGLES

BY BOB CUETT

Immediately after the completion of the McKay Bowl, play began in the annual Can-Am Singles, the most prestigious soft ball event for younger women in North America, sponsored by Power Shoes and Unsquashable Racquets. The field of 24 included 3 juniors and 21 inter-collegiate players from 11 universities, playing as always in a two-day, no-knockout, flight-format event. Living up to expectation, the tournament saw by far the best inter-collegiate squash of the year.

The seeds included defending champion Jo Ann Beckwith of York, Canadian Junior Champion Diana Edge (co-#1), Anita Nador of Yale, Shelley Harvey of Trent, Janet McCulloch of Acadia, Sadia Butt of Toronto, Jill Samis of McGill, and



Diana has the winning edge.

Patti Hogan of Toronto. Seven of them made it to the quarters, the

exception being Samis, who fell in the round of 16 to Ruth Castellino of York by scores of 9-4, 9-2, 9-5. Beckwith and Nador cleared the quarters easily, over Patti Hogan and Janet McCulloch. Castellino stayed with Edge for two games but lost 9-6, 9-7, 9-0. In a minor upset, Sadia Butt took Shelley Harvey by 8-10, 9-7, 9-3, 9-0. The semi-finals were well-played, stylish squash, but to nobody's surprise, Beckwith decided a tenacious Sadia Butt by 9-7, 9-6, 9-5 and Edge did likewise with Anita Nador by scores of 9-5, 9-3, 9-1. The stage was then set for what all of us had been looking forward to all weekend—a replay of last year's ding-dong, cliffhanger 5-game final between the same two players.

But we didn't get it. What we got was perhaps less exciting but at the same time far more interesting: we got an athletic event of a very special kind—the comparisons that come to mind most readily are with the Fischer-Spassky chess series and the 1984 Super Bowl—virtually decided a third of the way through, and decided not by a difference in competence but by sheer force of the victor's will.

The match began innocently enough. Beckwith looked confident,

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TOURNAMENTS

made good shot combinations, kept the rallies long, and in the first game Edge hit 7 tins. Game to Beckwith 9-3, who won the first point of the second game as well on a service winner. But that was it: Edge, cutting off every ball she could and hitting drops off her opponent's loose returns, peeled off 15 points in a row, with only a few hand-outs. Beckwith served several times at 1-2 in the second, but that was the last time she showed evidence of a serious intent to contest the match. Edge's scores were 9-1, 9-3, 9-4, and the whole match was over in less than 35 minutes. In those last three games, Beckwith died on 21 balls, conceding rallies, making no attempt on 13 and a half-hearted half-step on 8 others; Edge died on 4. Given that Beckwith is generally the better shotmaker, those are revealing if not shocking statistics.

Other winners on Sunday the 18th of March, included Karen Wilson (UWO) over Cynthia Wohl (McGill) for the "C" flight, Jennifer Newman (McMaster) over Heather MacLean (Richmond Hill junior) for the "C" plate, Imrana Butt (Mississauga junior) over Karen Salmon for the "B" flight, Nicky Speakman (Toronto) over Tori Young (Waterloo) for the "B" plate, Shelley Harvey over Janet McCulloch for the "A" plate, and Anita Nador over Sadia Butt for 3rd place. Play throughout the tournament was outstanding, and the quality of the field is suggested by the fact that the finalist in the Ontario "B" (Karen Wilson) got dumped in the first round. Dumped in 5 to be sure, but still dumped.

For an entry fee of \$15 each contestant got a deluxe Power golf shirt, a souvenir pin, 4 or 5 matches, Saturday dinner, and a 1-in-6 chance of winning an Unsquashable racquet and a hunk of precious metal. Edge, of course, took a racquet and a .9999 fine 24-carat gold ingot back to Ottawa with her. The other racquets, each with a 10-gram silver ingot, went to Beckwith, Imrana Butt, and Karen Wilson. The sponsors' contribution to the event comes to roughly \$40 a player, and we should list them as the recipients of our deep and hearty thanks: Power Shoes, Unsquashable Racquets, the Mayfair Parkway Racquet Club, and the Friends of Women's Squash Fund of York

University. A final major contributor was Yvonne Fullerton, captain of the York T & D team, who ran

the tournament desk for the two days with unobtrusive and unfailingly cheerful efficiency. ●

HAMILTON DUO TAKE MIXED DOUBLES HONOURS

BY JACK BRONSON

The First Annual Ontario "B" Mixed Doubles Championship took place at The Fitness Institute, April 4th to 9th, 1984. The tournament was co-sponsored by Kahlua and The Fitness Institute, and was considered to be a successful and enjoyable event by the players, spectators and committee.

The draw was organized as a triple knockout, giving rise to four events with each team being guaranteed three games. The results were as follows:

4th Event (main event quarter final losers): Dianne Gareau and John Wildman beat Heather Ferrier and Graham Jericho (3-1)

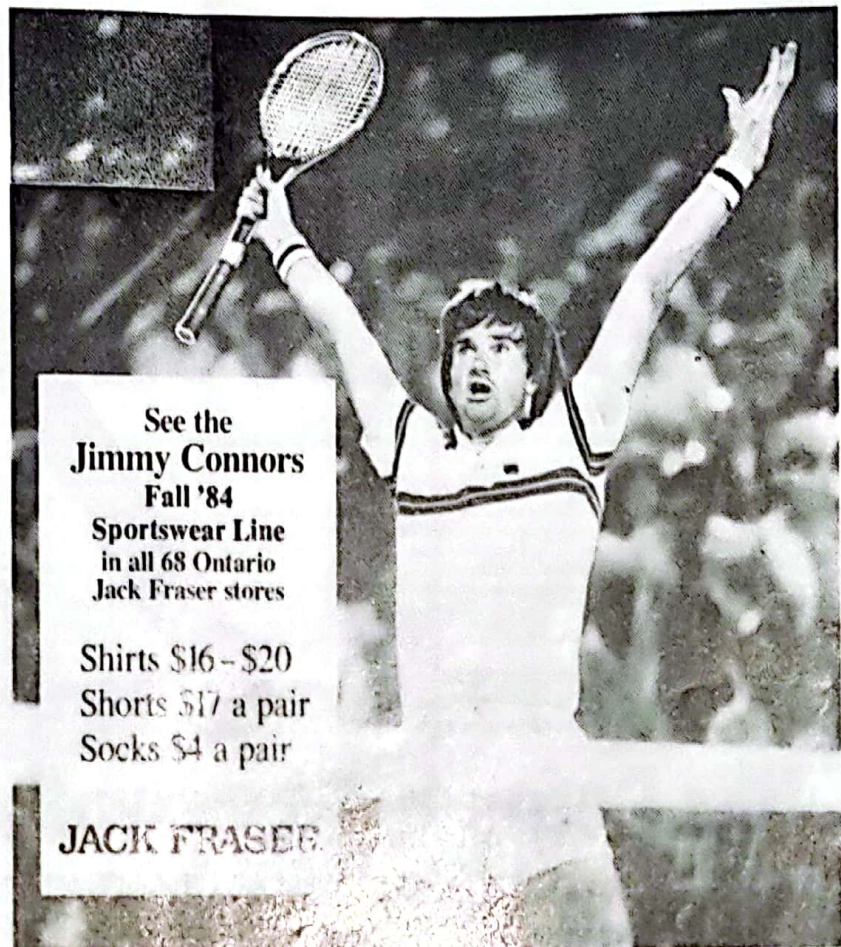
3rd Event (2nd event losers in the first round): Herb McGroarty and Lolly Gillen beat Lee Murray and Al Quaile (3-0)

2nd Event (consolation): Leanne Wright and Tom Watts beat Jill Overend and Ken Murray (3-1)

Main Event: Karen Jerome and Gord Fulthorpe beat Jan Atkinson and Rea Godbold (3-0)

There were some excellent matches during the tournament, but the main event semi-final between Jerome and Fulthorpe and the Smiths from London, stood out as the best match to watch.

Trophies were provided by both sponsors and presented by Bill Richards on behalf of Kahlua, and John Wildman for The Fitness Institute. Kahlua were also responsible for a generous supply of beverages which were much appreciated. Thanks are also due to the tournament committee who did a fine job in ensuring the smooth running of the event. ●



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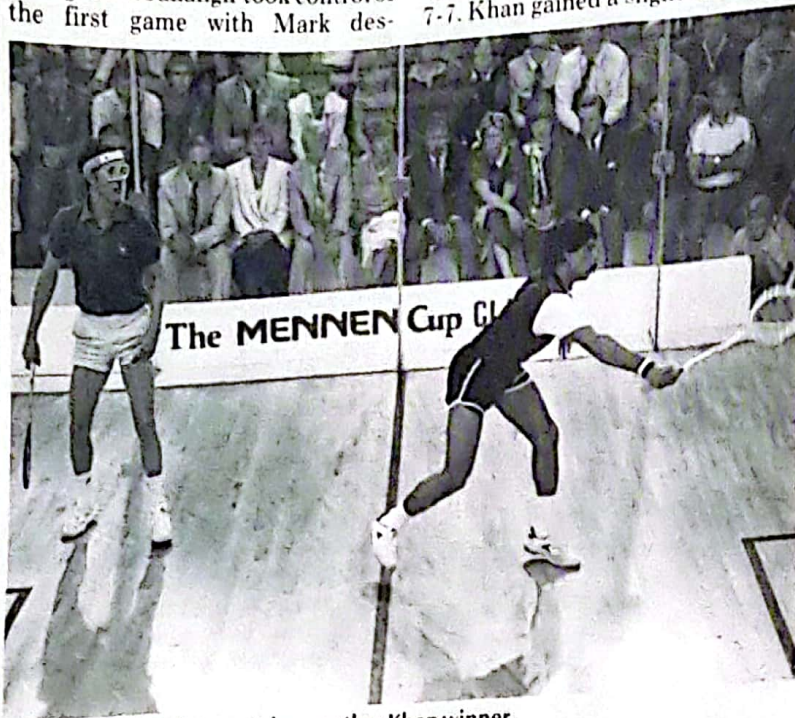
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JACK FRASER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

both games compete at the best of both games. Jahangir took control of the first game with Mark des-

The second game couldn't have been more exciting. Jahangir led 7-4, Talbott then evened the score at 7-7. Khan gained a slight lead at 9-7



A helpless Mark Talbott watches another Khan winner.

perately trying to catch up. Khan took a 5-1 lead, turned it into a 9-3 advantage and ended the first game with a 15-8 win. Time: 20 minutes.

and then Mark changed the tide when he strung together five consecutive points to take a 12-9 lead. Jahangir then turned the tables on

Mark and regained the edge at 13-12. Mark evened the score at 13-all, set five was called and it was neck and neck all the way. After 40 minutes the second game score was 18-17 and the match was all square at one game each.

The third game was a bit of an uphill struggle for Talbott. Mark was always coming from behind and never once managed to take the lead. Jahangir took the third with a 15-11 score. Total elapsed time so far was one hour and sixteen minutes. With the five minute break between games, both players enjoyed a well-deserved rest. However, as soon as the fourth game started it was apparent that Mark needed more than his allotted rest time. Jahangir stormed out to a commanding lead which proved insurmountable. Mark scored his first point after Jahangir had already amassed eleven. The end was never in doubt, and Jahangir claimed the fourth game and his second consecutive title as Mennen Cup Champion. With the win, Jahangir took with him the \$15,000.00 first place prize money and the knowledge that he is undeniably the best squash player in the world today; at any ball, any court, every time! ●

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KNOWING WHEN TO ATTACK OR DEFEND

BY DENNIS GOODFELLOW



Dennis Goodfellow is a Certified Level III Coach. He is the professional at the Ajax Recreation Centre, coach of the Ontario Junior Soft Ball Teams and is currently Vice President of the Canadian Professional Squash Association.

Last week I was in the middle of a lesson with a new student when a rare yet serious situation occurred. We had started rallying the ball, forcing game situations, when I realized that just before striking his shot my student would take a quick glance to see where I was. When questioned about this practice he replied: "How do I know where to place my shot if I don't know where you are standing?"

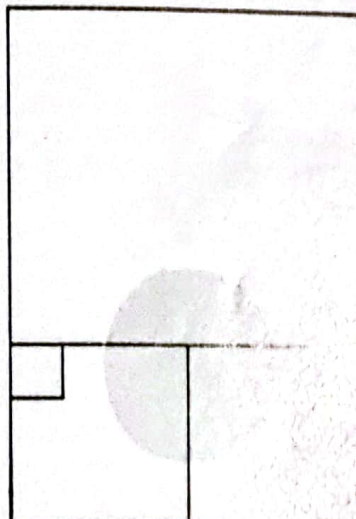
Let's examine this problem. I'm sure that you all don't glance at your opponent before making a shot, but a large number of players are confused as to the opponent's location. The answer is simple. He will most certainly be on the "T"! You must play the game with this assumption. Don't ever think that he is not there waiting just as you would be. However, this simple answer has two glowing exceptions which are equally simple.

I am about to make my shot and I assume my opponent is on the "T" except when:

(1) I am on the "T" stroking! If his shot has positioned me somewhere near where he has intended the ball to go, then almost surely his positioning will be in the middle of the court on the "T". However, if it has left me a loose enough stroke that my positioning while stroking is in the mid-court area, my opponent will either be on one side of you and usually behind.

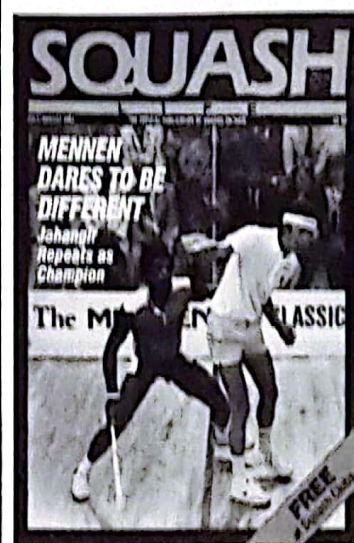
(2) Any ball that you can volley from a "T" position, or even one quick stride from the "T", means that your opponent has not been able to get back and set up on the "T".

With these two examples in mind, you can take better advantage when your opponent is not on the "T" and be more conservative when he is. ●



Shaded area is position of

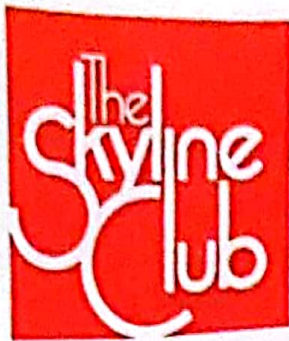
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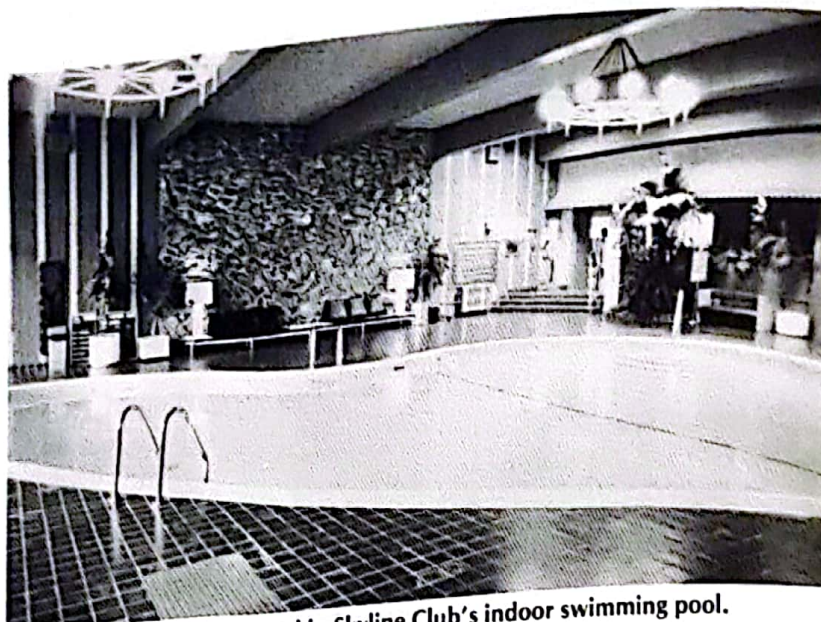
The Skyline Club, located in the Skyline Hotel in Toronto, has the distinction of being the oldest commercial racquets and fitness club in the city. Ralph Gardiner, Club President, opened the club in 1961. The facilities at The Skyline Club include four squash courts, five outdoor tennis courts, separate men's and women's gymnasiums, a Human Performance Lab, sports physiotherapy clinic, club lounge, sports shop, whirlpools, saunas, a masseur and masseuse, suntanning booth, indoor swimming pool and sunbathing terrace.

In the 23 years since the club opened its doors, several additions and changes have occurred. In keeping with this tradition of constant improvement, the Skyline's latest expansion will include two International squash courts and a group exercise room. Also, four of the tennis courts will be covered with a bubble, all to be completed October, 1984.

The Skyline Club, while offering a multi-purpose facility, believes that the "intangibles" are an all important criterion of enjoyment. A full-time Program Co-ordinator organizes house leagues, round robins, club championships, lessons and parties in an effort to involve as many members as possible.

The Program Co-ordinator is also the main force behind the club's many spectator events. Mark Talbott, Skyline Club's Touring Professional, makes several guest appearances at the club throughout the year. This past season Mark played Gordon Anderson, Aziz Khan and Todd Binns in a series of exhibition matches. Mark also set aside one evening to play all member challengers, with a handicap, of course. A previous exhibition saw Jahangir Khan playing Todd Binns.

The highlight of the Skyline's squash season is The Skyline Cana-



Relax and exercise year-round in Skyline Club's indoor swimming pool.

dian Pro Squash Championships which are held every April. Mark Talbott won this year's five star (\$25,000.00) event. The top 32 players in North America competed, including Jahangir Khan. Tournament organizers feel that this event provides a unique opportunity for members to see top calibre squash in a casual club atmosphere.

Many racquet members who want to improve their own games are coached by Ken Binns, Skyline Club's Racquets Professional. Ken, who played professional international squash and tennis, offers lessons at all levels in both games.

Although most teaching pros acknowledge the fact that it is almost impossible to simultaneously maintain a competitive game and be "on court" with students much of the day, Ken last year won the Canadian Open Seniors' Tennis Championships. This is certainly a credit to his ability as a player and a teacher.

Lest the "fitness aspect" of racquet sports be overlooked, The Skyline Club provides complete fitness facilities (separate men's and women's gymnasiums) and services. Most members start off in the club's

Human Performance Lab. Flexibility, lung volume, body fat and cardiovascular endurance (Treadmill Stress Test) are a few of the areas of fitness which are measured. According to the results, an individual exercise program is designed. Members then train to improve their fitness ratings and are re-tested on a regular basis.

The goal of the gymnasium staff is to improve "fitness levels" by increasing awareness of fitness lifestyles and by making fitness fun. In fact, regular fun runs have contributed to the success of the club's running programme. The club now boasts 28 members who have completed at least one marathon.

As relaxation is an important aspect of well-being, The Skyline Club offers an indoor swimming pool and sunbathing area, saunas, whirlpools and showers. Members also relax in the club lounge, a licensed bar which faces onto three glass backed courts.

Fitness and racquets enthusiasts in the west end of Toronto are sure to find that The Skyline Club is an enjoyable place to play, train and relax. ●

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