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YMG Capital Pro Squash Classic at BCE Place in November

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SQUASH life

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 3

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Squash Life is published four times a year by Squash Ontario to give voice to and promote squash in Ontario. We invite members of the sport community to contribute articles on every aspect of squash, and welcome readers' comments on the contents of this magazine.

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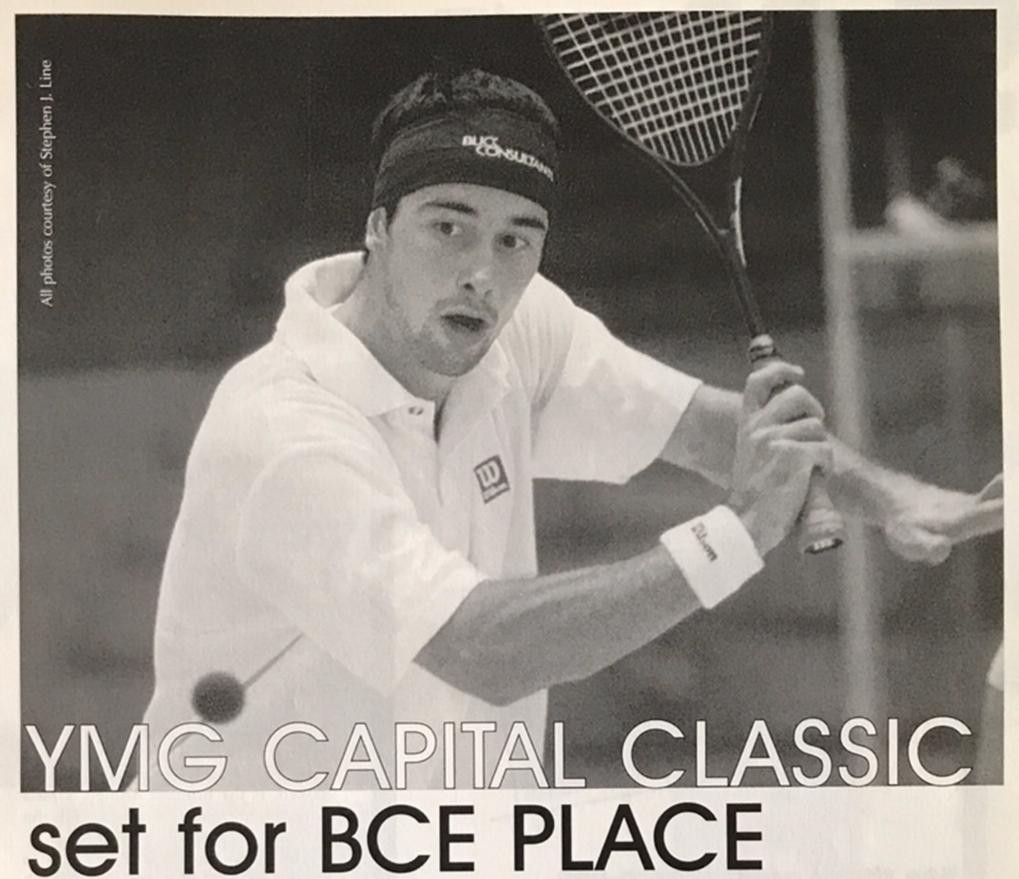
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Cover photo courtesy of Stephen J. Line



PSA Pro squash comes to Toronto

BY FRED WALKER

quash tournaments are being held in some pretty exotic settings. Competitions are staged in the shadows of the pyramids in Egypt, on a palm-dotted tropical island and at Grand Central Station in New York City. And now, Toronto has an opportunity to top these. How about BCE Place in the heart of the city's financial district? That's right, the same complex that boasts the Hockey Hall of Fame as one of its prime tenants is all set to host the YMG Capital Pro Squash Classic, November 27 - December 1, 2000.

Why BCE Place? Tournament Director, John Nimick, a former pro squash player himself, answered with a question of his own, "Why not?" he said. "Squash has the useful characteristic of taking up a smaller playing area than most sports. We can put these amazing portable, see-through courts almost anyplace. BCE Place is the perfect site for squash in Toronto. The building is beautiful and well known. And, our public Allen Lambert Galleria location en-

sures that squash is exposed to more than 40,000 people a day."

The US\$50,000 YMG Capital Classic has been added to the Professional Squash Association (PSA) Tour calendar and is listed as the ninth largest event on the 2000 PSA World Tour. Since it's the final major event of the year, it's expected to attract all of the world's top squash players including a pair of Canadian stars, Jonathon Power, the number two ranked player in the world and Graham Ryding, #13.

This will be the first time that Power takes on the world on his home turf. The Toronto resident has had a steady rise to the top of the squash world. He joined the PSA Tour in 1991 and has never looked back, gradually climbing in the rankings to crack the top ten in January of 1997. But, it was three months earlier, in October of '96 that he had the squash world sit up and take notice. That was when, as an unseeded entry, he won the prestigious Tournament of

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Champions in New York. It was also the first time a North American player had won an international squash title. He reached the pinnacle of the squash world in May of 1999 when he became number one in the PSA world rankings.

Power's clubmate in Toronto, Graham Ryding, while currently ranked 13 in the world, briefly cracked the top ten in late 1999 when he reached number 9. While many of Ryding's best results have come in North America, he has begun to show signs of success on the international scene as a finalist in the Pakistan Open and in playoff rounds in Austria, Finland, Hungary and Malaysia.

Barring injury, Peter Nichol, World Champion and the number one player in the world today will continue his rivalry with Jonathon Power. It was just two and a half years ago that this dynamic Scot became the first Briton in a quarter century to win the prestigious British Open title.

Added to the mix is David Evans of Wales, dubbed the Welsh Wonder, and winner of this year's British Open. Evans not only won the British Open, but he won it convincingly with a 3/0 victory over Paul Price of Australia.

Also expected to challenge for the first YMG Capital Classic trophy is third ranked, twelve year pro Simon Parke of England. And, not to be overlooked, is the brilliant Ahmed Barada of Egypt, currently number four in the world.

The YMG Capital Classic plans to honour one of the greatest squash players of all time, Sharif Khan. "Sharif is our Honourary Tournament Chairman," says Nimick, "and he'll be with us throughout the key moments of the event." Nimick went to outline a number of other attractions for the inaugural Toronto happening including the Globe and Mail Corporate Charity Challenge. "More than eight Toronto businesses will compete each day on the portable court for the benefit of the Terry Fox Foundation", he said.

Added to all of this will be a surprise exhibition match before the championship final on Friday night.

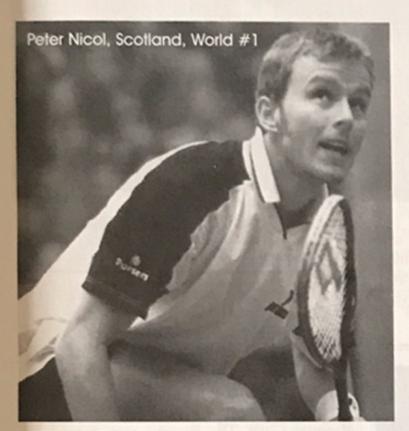
The setting for the five-day tournament couldn't be more spectacular. BCE Place is unique with its towering, arched cathedral glass roof looking down on the main galleria floor and the PSA Perspex portable court. There'll be seating for 2,500 and plenty of standing room and that's not counting the number of people who'll

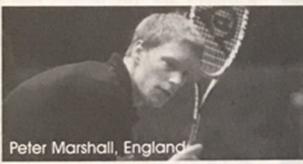
pass by the court throughout the day.

Qualifying matches will be played on the weekend of November 25 and 26 at the Cambridge Club and the Fitness Institute in Toronto.

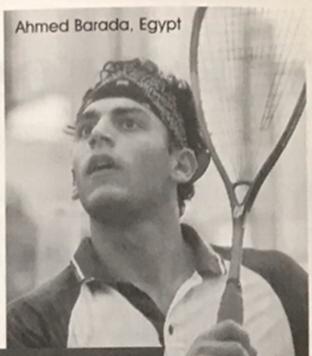
The five days of competition that follow will be packed with action. There are four first round matches scheduled on each of the first two days. Then on Wednesday, November 29th, the playoffs begin with the quarter finals. They will be followed on Thursday by semifinals. The championship final will be played on Friday.

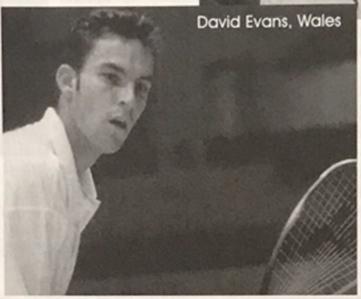
The YMG Capital Pro Squash Classic is produced by John Nimick and eventengine, promoter of a number of top professional squash tournaments in North America including the annual Tournament of Champions in New York City and the U.S Open in Boston.















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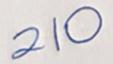
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THE "ALTOS" - SEASON DEBUT

s anyone knows who has ever had the task of hosting Thanksgiving or Christmas, bringing "the family" together can sometimes be fraught with peril. Aunt Minnie doesn't get along with Uncle Edgar and cousin Rose had a falling out with cousin Alice...and on and on. Somehow you have to manage not only to get them all in the same room but actually talking to each other - nicely, of course!

Fortunately, Squash Ontario doesn't have any of these problems - everyone gets along and seems to genuinely enjoy each other's company. Hence, the annual meeting, held in September, is truly a family affair and certainly the 2000 annual meeting was no exception. Not only did we have the usual aunts and uncles (aka regional presidents), we also welcomed lots of cousins (officials, high performance committee, junior advisory committee, and competitions committee). It was the first time in several decades when almost every person responsible for the administration and delivery of the Association's programmes have been together and it was a remarkable success.

So, who is Squash Ontario really? Let's begin at the top with the Board of Directors which numbers six. The President is Peter Ward of Toronto's Club Meadowvale



2000-2001 Board of Directors Back row (L to R): Mark Sachvie, Rob Brooks and Jim Adam; Front row (L to R): Peter Ward. Dawn Sommerville-Picotte, Linda Stewart

and he is ably assisted by five Vice Presidents - Dawn Sommerville-Picotte who hails from Brockville, Jim Adam of Mayfair Lakeshore, Linda Stewart of the Ottawa Athletic Club, Mark Sachvie of White Oaks Racquet Club and Rob Brooks from Pine Valley Racquet Club. The Board's role is to represent all squash players in the province and they are responsible for policy decisions and the overall management of the Association.

The Board is ably assisted by its Committees who are peopled by individuals who have been identified as having the expertise in certain areas which will benefit not just Squash Ontario but the game of squash itself. The Committees are really the "cabinet" of the Association and the Board relies on their recommendations in formulat-

ing policies.

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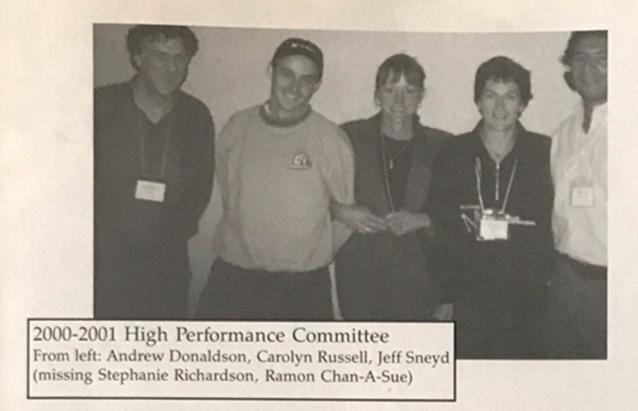
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Robbie Osher, Chair Lolly Gillen Jim Hamilton David Phillips Diana Roper (see photo, next page, top left)

Officiating Committee

Larry Jones, Chair
Penny Glover
Jennifer Birch-Jones
Craig Hall
Dave Howard
Brad Dussiaume
Moe Shehata
(No photo, sorry. Picture was too fuzzy! Is this a coincidence?)

Squash Ontario divides the province into nine separate regions and each is administered by an enthusiastic group of volunteers with an elected President. These volunteers are the ones who, in most cases, deliver the programmes - for example, league.

Regional Presidents

Leslie Forsbrey, Southwestern Ontario Michael Herbert, Western Ontario Wes Shaver, Toronto & District Tim Loat, Niagara Rob Burton, Huronia Brenda Fawcett, Ottawa & District Rebekah Avery, Central Barry Farstad, Northern Shawn Donohue, Northwestern (See photo, next page)

The annual family gathering is also the time when we honour those who have made outstanding contributions to the game of squash, not just in Ontario but on a national level as well.

This past season, we were fortunate to have three extraordinary volunteers who did the rankings for us - juniors, soft ball and doubles. The Board paid a special tribute to Ian Braff, James Mallon and Louis Petrovich. Without their commitment, it would have been extremely difficult to produce timely and credible rankings. (See photo next page).

The Board was also extremely pleased to recognize the outstanding efforts of three people in Ontario and they were Dennis Goodfellow of The Fitness Institute; Shirlee Vedder, CEO of The Mayfair Group; and Barbara Cooper, squash professional at Mayfair Lakeshore Racquet & Fitness Club in Toronto. Dennis has been an integral part of the Ontario squash community for over 25 years. Back in the early '80s, Dennis and Jim Mason built the foundations for junior squash in this province.

Shirlee Vedder and Barb Cooper, together, put on an outstanding millennium Canadian Squash Championships with over 450 participants and they're going to do it one more time in 2001! (see photo, next page).

Squash Ontario's highest honour, its Special Achievement Award, was presented to Lolly Gillen of the Granite Club. This award, presented at the Board's discretion, is given to a volunteer, player, coach or official who has worked on behalf of the game of squash in this province and who represents the ideals of volunteerism - "if you do all you can, it can never be too little." There is not a provincial or national doubles championship over the past few years that cannot attribute its success in large measure to Lolly's commitment to "getting out the vote." The word, "no" is simply not part of her vocabulary (see photo, next page).

Squash Ontario also said goodbye

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to retiring Board member, Chris Herbert. Chris managed the marketing portfolio for the Association and his expertise and tremendous sense of humour will be sorely missed (see photo, below).

And so the day ended - the family

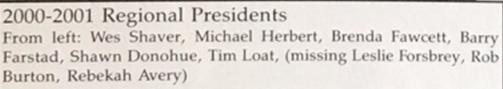
dispersed with promises of "we'll keep in touch" ringing in everyone's ears. And we will because Squash Ontario is truly blessed with a strong and supportive corps of volunteers and a proactive and progressive Board of Directors. The family will move forward

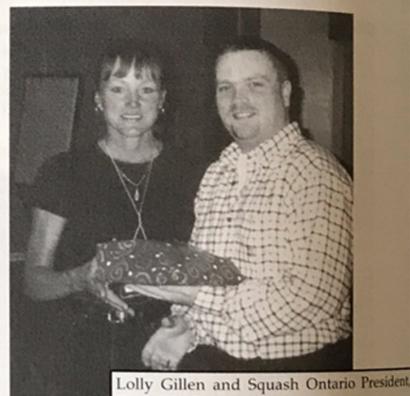
as a team and because of this, the game of squash will continue to thrive in Ontario. Oh - and the best thing about this family gathering - no one had to stay and do the dishes!





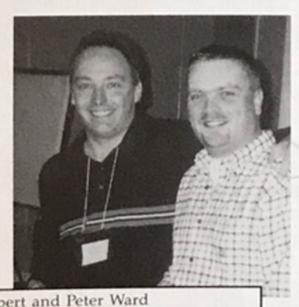
Ian Braff, left, and Rob Brooks, Vice President Squash Ontario.





Peter Ward

Left, Vice President Dawn Sommerville-Picotte and Barbara Cooper



Chris Herbert and Peter Ward

David Phillips



Counter Strategy"

BY MIKE WAY

What to do? What to do?

In the last two articles we looked at countering players who were strong in pace, volley, drop and lob and drop. In this article, we're going to broaden our outlook to different aspects rather than just countering particular attacking shots. But, first we need to look at what to do against an opponent who is working you hard with his boast.

Well, surprise, surprise! We're coming back to LENGTH...again!

The attack or working boast (a shot you've elected to play, not one you've been forced to play) is played mostly from mid to 3/4 court and occasionally from the very back (not to be confused with the trickle boast or angle - the name given to a near side wall shot at the front of the court). To counter a good attacking boast, you must hit the ball higher or harder to make sure it reaches the back court. If your opponent continues to boast, move up on the "T" - just a 1/2 step forward - and use the counter drop straight into the corner. This assumes, of course, that the attacking boast is good or you're still having to reach for the ball. A counter drop is usually played with very little back swing; just use your hand or wrist to guide the ball into the corner.

A good drop will be hard for your opponent to counter attack off; and you're now making him work equally hard to the front corner (if he's late to the "T", it will actually be more work for him). If your length and counter drop is good, he will boast less (unless his shirt collar is too tight around the neck!!!). Remember, you can't stay with the counter drop all the time you'll be too predictable. As he begins to anticipate the drop, you'll be able to lob or use good wrist action to pass him as he moves up the court.

What about this situation? Your opponent is very fit and fast. He seems to get everything back. You're making him do most of the running but get frustrated and end up hitting the tin after he returns your best shots.

No matter how fit and fast a player is, eventually he will tire. Accept the fact that most of your attacking shots will be returned and that you're playing a mileage game. He may have ten squash miles in him, so give him the

scenic route. Also, try holding the shot whenever possible, especially in classic attacking situations so that (a) you break up his rhythm (making him stop each time on the "T"), and (b) the delayed hit equals a delayed response time especially if you use a lot of wrist and keep your head still. As Jonathon Power once said, "I don't care how fast he is. If he's running to the front left when I hit it to the back right...!" In the next issue, we'll be looking at other aspects - playing on very hot or very cold courts; opponents with good

delay; opponents who get in the way a bit (no, not you!); how to get through tough periods - mentally or physically; and how to recognize what is going on tactically - whether coaching yourself or a friend or student.

Mike Way is the squash professional at the Toronto Racquet Club, home of the National Squash Training Centre. Players training with Mike include world number 2, Jonathan Power, Graham Ryding and a host of up and coming young Canadian players.

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| Ontario C, D, E | March 9-11, 2001 | Northfield Club, Waterloo | D → C |
| | | Pine Valley Racquet Club, Woodbridge | |
| | | White Oaks Racquet Club, St. Catharines | |

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To register or for information, contact Jim Mattice at Squash Ontario at 416-426-7201 or email squash.ontario@sympatico.ca

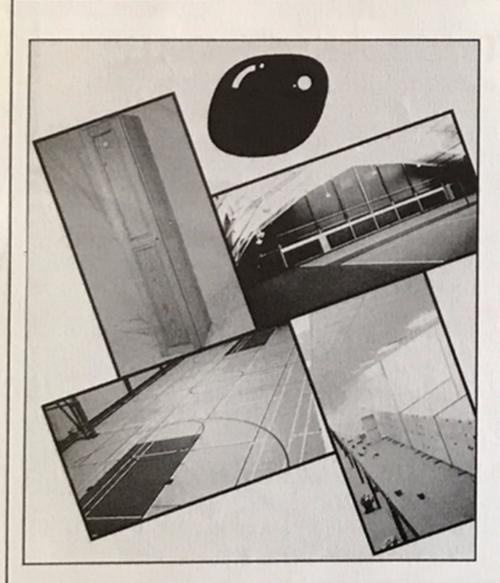
Rights and Obligations

ell that's life, ain't it. You hear so often of rights we have, and obligations that bind us. Well, a squash match is a little patch of life and isn't any different. (Actually, maybe Squash is real life, and

mity

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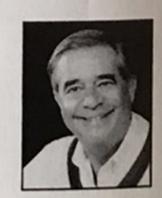
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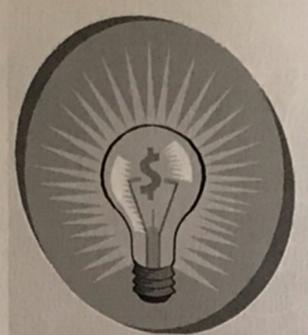
everything else is the game). I just want to touch upon a couple of points in this regard that might help to make your life as an official a little bit easier. This tip deals with the concept of the striker's rights and the non-striker's obligations as a way to help you clarify those difficult calls where you mentally are saying to yourself, while in a frazzle; what should I do, what should I do?? (God forbid, we hope you don't say it out loud!)

Remember that rule #12.2 clearly gives non-striker the obligations to allow the striker to; see the ball, get to the ball, swing at the ball, and hit the ball direct to the front wall. The striker therefore has the right to; see the ball, get to the ball, swing at the ball, and hit the ball direct to the front wall. And, if you remember this simple division of rights and obligations, you have a valuable tool that allows you, in those tight situations, to ask yourself a couple more questions that might just clarify the issue for you. For utilitarian purposes, they centre around question #3 of the referee's line of thinking, (RLoT...an oxymoron?) i.e. was the obstructing player making every effort to get out of his opponents way? (to grant the striker the four rights) Failure to comply with the striker's rights would already be a strike (not stroke) against the nonstriker in your progression towards a decision.

Of course, the striker has a couple of obligations himself, such as having to show that he could have made a good return, that he wasn't creating his own interference, and so on. But the onus is mostly on the outgoing striker!

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2000 A CHANCE TO REMEMBER THE PAST

BY GEOFF SHEPPARD, MCMASTER UNIVERSITY SQUASH

been promoting Ontario University Squash with an article about University play in this magazine. I personally have been fortunate to have been involved in University Squash as a player and coach for twelve years. To mark the start of the new millennium I felt it would be important to take a look back at Ontario university squash action and recognize a few of the names who played roles in building Ontario university squash history.

With limited archives and a short paper trail to follow, I managed to gather and prepare a list of players and coaches who will be identified as Ontario University Squash Players and Coaches of the Decade. The criteria and method of the decision making was simple yet subjective. Using On-

tario University Athletics Association archives, phone contacts to Alumnist and input from past and present coaches, a list of ten names was selected per decade. Yet, some lists are incomplete.

These lists are a reflection in time. It is my hope that the squash community will take it for what it is worth. I hope people will find time to say, "Oh yeah, that player deserves the recognition" and maybe even say, "but what about that player?", or even, "whatever happened to that person?"

There are still a number of unknowns about the individuals on this list. Sure, some of the names are familiar and can be found playing at the local club but where are some of the others? Are they still living in the Province? Have they moved? Changed their last name? Still standing? Do

they still play?

It is my hope that this information will somehow reach all these identified individuals. But, even more important is that the squash community recognizes the vital role Ontario university squash competition has played and continues to play in the game of squash in Ontario.

Presently there is not a formal award for these people. An honoring plaque is in the works to continue to recognize the special individuals who have made being a student athlete in Ontario universities a valued life experience.

Receiving feedback on this subject is my hope. Call 905-319-2629.

University athletic departments will be contacted. But, most importantly, spread the word. Be an Alumnist who cares. Lend your support to the present teams.

For historical standings, see next page.

Special note:

In conjunction with the University Team Championships on February 10, at Cedar Springs in Burlington, the Second Ontario University Alumni Doubles tournament will be held. Last year fourteen Alumnist competed. Names like; Dan Vranesic (Toronto), Heather MacLeod (McMaster/Waterloo), Dave Coons (Western), Honee Hoculik (Waterloo), Celine Metraux (McMaster) and Rob Evans (Queen's) participated. The doubles play is competed in pool format. Courts are available starting at 10:00 am and continue to 5:00 pm. While the teams are playing for Gold, you can show your support while having a hit. A tournament momento, prizes and food are part of the package for the Alumnist in attendance. The fee is only \$75. You are also invited to attend the Championship banquet at McMaster on that evening. The event is one of a second kind. Phone up an old university friend and partner up for this unique event. For more information, contact me at the above email.

continued>



and a couple of quick notes...

Squash Ontario and Squash Canada, are pleased to announce the first Canadian Men's & Women's University Squash Championships, scheduled for March 2-4, 2001 in Toronto. More information will be available in the near future. Check the Squash Ontario website at squashontario.com.

Just to note, a highlight from the summer in university squash was Mc-Master Marauder's Nicole Carroll and Western's Jonathan Dale who competed for Team Canada in the World University Games. Team Canada finished with a silver medal, with York's Marnie Baizley capturing the individual Gold.

Standings

Men 1950's

McGill 1. J. Hamilton Quain Jim Coons Western 3. John Bassett Western McGill 4. David

Pemberton-Smith 5. J.W. Smith-Chapman McGill

McGill 6. Redmond C. Quain McGill

7. Tim. J. Wagg

8. Anthony J. Lafluer

Men 1960's

McGill 1. Ross Adair McGill 2. Colin Adair 3. Peter Martin McGill Western 4. Chris Lang

5. Doug Brock

Western McMaster Robert Dubeau

Men 1970's

1. Victor Harding 2. Peter Gudewell

7. H.John C. Ireton

3. Ian Shaw John Fredick

Phil Mohtaei

6. Fred Beasley Richard Fleming

8. Jay Gillespie John Lennard Toronto Western Western

Toronto

McGill

Waterloo Western Western

Trent Toronto

Western

Men 1980's

1. Paul Derratney Toronto Doug Whittaker York Alan Grant Gajendra Singh Toronto Taylor Fawcett

6. Jamie Crombie 7. Mark Nowell

8. Scott Nash

Toronto Western

Western Queen's

Western

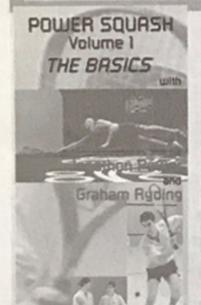
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9. Mark Barber 10. Trevor Tom

Western Western

Western

Men 1990's

McGill & Mike Kahn Western 2. Dan Vranesic Toronto 3. Rob Wilson Western Western & Peter Gildenheuys Toronto Western 5. Scott Stoneburgh Western 6. Mike Leckie Patrick Ryding Toronto Waterloo 8. Luke Fraser Waterloo 9. Bruce Marrison Ryerson & 10. Dean Brown Western

Women 1970's

11. Erik Zarmeba

York Gail Pimm McMaster 2. Nancy Cranbury Western Sandra Penny Western Sue Smeaton Toronto Anne Green York Rhonda Firmi York Nickolas Beakman Western 8. Sue Smeaton 9. Karen Wilson Toronto 10. Wendy Wadeham

Women 1980's

Toronto 1. Patti Hogan Carolyn Kramer Western Western 3. Heather MacLean York 4. Joanne Beckwith Toronto Sylvia Slosel 6. Louise Waite Waterloo Toronto Claire Fern Diane Lee Waterloo 9. Ruth Castelino York

Women 1990's

 Carolyn Russell Queen's 2. Lori Coleman Western Anita Sonsi Toronto Alison Giachino McMaster Johanna Thomas Queen's Carol-Ann Rodgers Queen's McMaster Donna Moritsugu Sara Leckie McGill Stephanie Richardson Oueen's & Toronto Nicole Carroll McMaster

Coaches of the Decade Men

1960's Ralph Rimmer Toronto 1970's **Bob Cluett** 1980's Don Fawcett Toronto Western 1990's lack Fairs

Coaches of the Decade Women

1980's Sandra Penny 1990's Johanna Thomas

Watch out

The Board of Directors of Squash Ontario is very pleased to announce that Festina Watches is now the official watch of Squash Ontario. As a result of this partnership, every provincial champion will receive a beautiful Festina Watch.

Festina joins our other Official partners - Black Knight as our official eyeguard; Gettagrip as our official grip, Sports-Beat as our official ranking programme, The Mayfair Group as our official host of Toronto coaching clinics and sponsor of our Canada Games programme; and Dunlop, the official ball of Squash Ontario.

Dunlop/Slazenger

names new Squash Manager - Americas

DSG is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Hall to the position of Squash Manager, effective October 30th.

Steve has an excellent knowledge and understanding of the squash industry and joins the DSG team from the position of President of Manta Sports. He also plays a good level of squash, currently ranked 14th nationally and is a certified level 2 coach.

Steve will be based in the Toronto office and will spend considerable time travelling in the U.S. and Canadian markets.

Squash ignored again?

Indications are that water skiing will be the only new sport considered for the Athens Olympic Games and that squash, as expected, is not in contention.

Waterskiing's impending victory seems to mean the quashing of squash which felt it was a lock for Sydney. This, even though, the current Olympic constitution specifically forbids "mechanical-related" events. Maybe we need to talk to tennis!

Champion Power dethroned

Canada's defending champion Jonathon Power crashed out of the British Open Squash Championships at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham tonight (Friday), beaten 17-16 15-14 9-15 7-15 15-12 in the quarter-finals by Australia's 8th seed David Palmer. The shock exit leaves the men's semi-finals without any player seeded to reach the last four in living memory.

The Toronto-based title-holder led in all five games of the drama-filled clash. At 7-5 up in the fourth game, Power crashed into the side wall after a clash with his opponent and lay groaning for some minutes before a doctor was summoned. The match resumed eleven minutes later, when the revitalized world No.2 leveled the tie for the loss of only two further points. In the final game, the world No.9 from New South Wales fought back from 4-9 down to claim his first ever win over the Canadian in 102 minutes. "I always struggle against Jonathon, but I'd prepared a game plan with my coach Sean Moxom, and stuck to it," said the jubilant 24-year-old Australian, acknowledging that it had been his best ever win. A less charitable Power said, "I just played the big points badly - he didn't win the game, I lost it."

Pro shuffle

As usual, the summer months have seen some movement of squash pros from club to club.

Ian Sly is at Racquet & Fitness Academy; Con Torkopoulos at The Wellington Club; Brian Chin is at Dunfield; Mike Wang is at Northridge; Jean De Lierre is at Curzons and Regency; Patrick Hartunian is assisting Pat Richardson at the Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club; and Shauna Flath will share duties at the Ottawa Athletic Club and as High Performance Director at Squash Canada.

PSA secures **one million dollar** World Open deal

The Professional Squash Association (PSA) is delighted to announce that the Men's World Open rights and title for the years 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005 have been granted to Procam International.

In a historic agreement, the PSA has secured a one million dollar (\$1M) prize money deal for the most prestigious event on the World Tour, which represents the largest ever prize fund in the history of the professional game.

Off to the Worlds

The 13th World Women's Team Championship is being held in Sheffield, England from November 19-26. Representing Canada will be Ontario's Melanie Jans and Marnie Baizley along with Carolyn Russell and Lauren Wagner. The team will be looking to finish in the top 8 in order to maintain athlete carding privileges. Good luck.

Squash Ontario's Coaching Achievement Award

This award was established by the Board of Squash Ontario to recognize a squash coach who consistently exhibits and teaches the principles of respect, integrity and fair play and who portrays a positive role model both for the game and for the coaching profession.

In 2000, the Board of Directors of Squash Ontario is very pleased to present the Coaching Achievement Award to Jim Paton of the Granite Club.

Jim's dedication to the coaching profession is a long standing one but one cannot forget that he is also an accomplished doubles player and began his squash career as a soft ball player. Jim is also an author, having penned an excellent Junior Drills and Skills Book for munchkin squash, a programme he started at the Granite Club and which has grown, this year, to over 40 kids.

He works hard, we know, to keep the "fun" in squash but, at the same time, turns out some very fine and accomplished squash players. His Granite Club juniors have won several Toronto & District Junior league titles and he has several provincial and national champions on his roster.

Jim has coached the Toronto & District team to both silver and gold medals in the Ontario Junior Teams Championship and the Ontario Winter Games but perhaps his proudest moment was in 1999 when he coached Ontario's Canada Winter Games team to a gold medal for the girls and a bronze for the boys.

Jim is an ardent fisherman but also finds time to serve on Squash Ontario's Junior Advisory Committee.

He is a fine example of what is best in coaching.

