

behind the screens

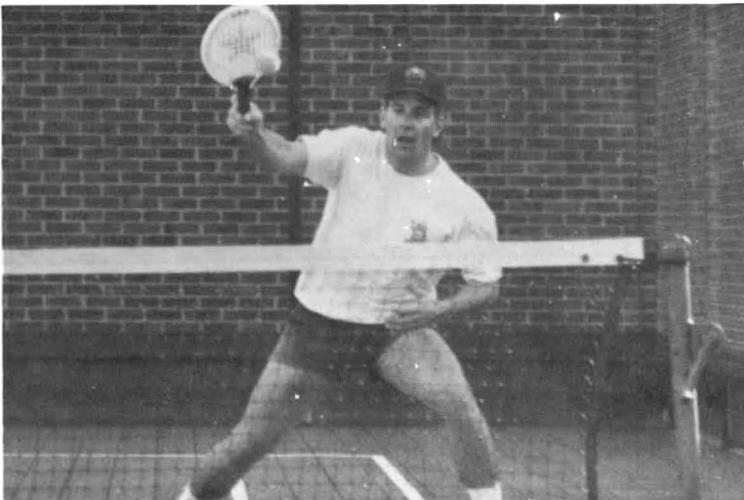
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PLATFORM TENNIS COURTS

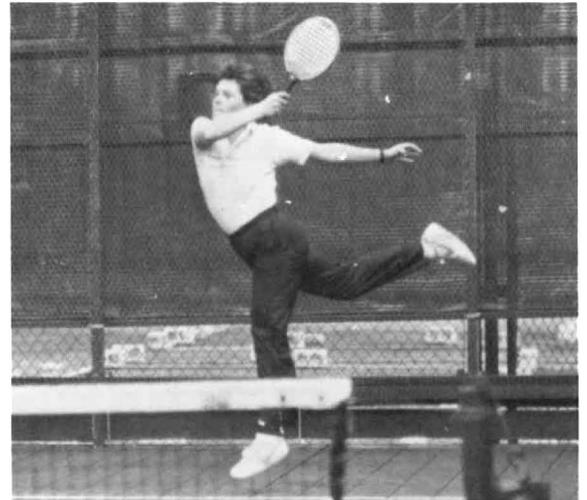
PHOTOGRAPHER: Kathy Reilly

1987 National Championships

The 1987/88 paddle season will soon be upon us. We would like to offer this pictorial essay of the APTA Men's and Women's National Championships (held in Cleveland, OH) to help remind you of the excitement of the game, the fun of that particular event, and the color and variety of players who participated. Let these pictures help get you geared up for a new season, and if we didn't catch you on film this year, we'll be watching for you at the Nationals in Rochester this March!



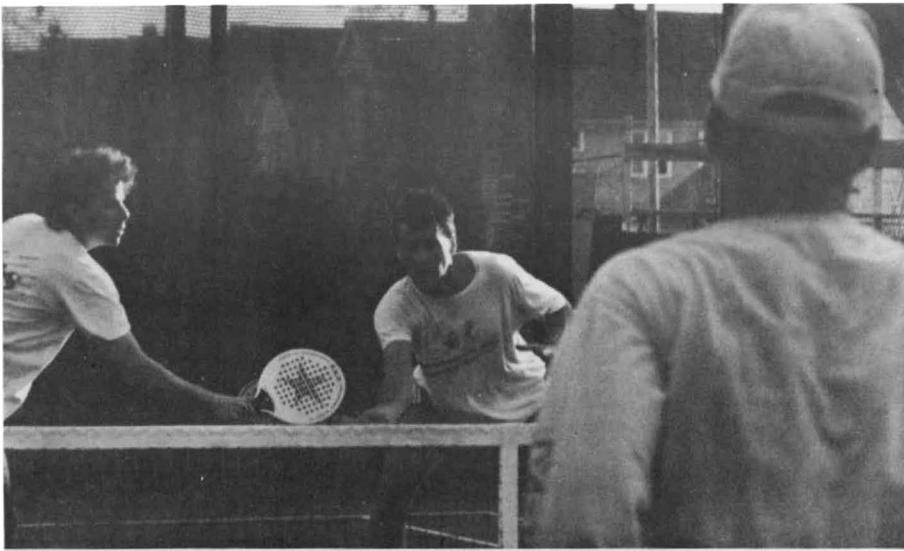
Rick Williams of Rochester prepares for an easy(?) and controlled drop shot to win that important point.



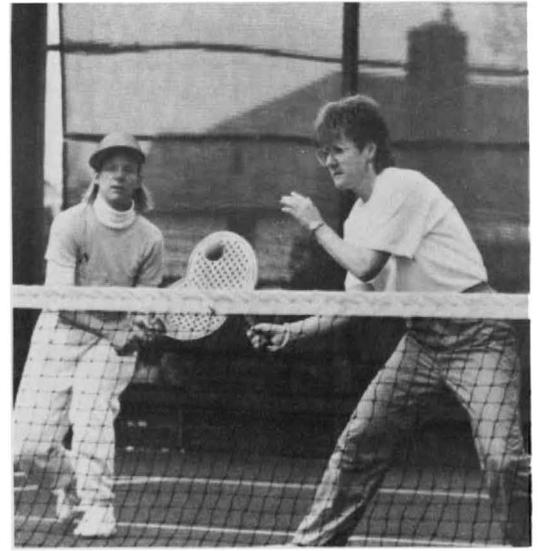
While progressing to the semi-finals with partner Nancy Killingsworth, Barbara Mangan not only shows her paddle skills, but portrays some accomplished ballerina moves as well!



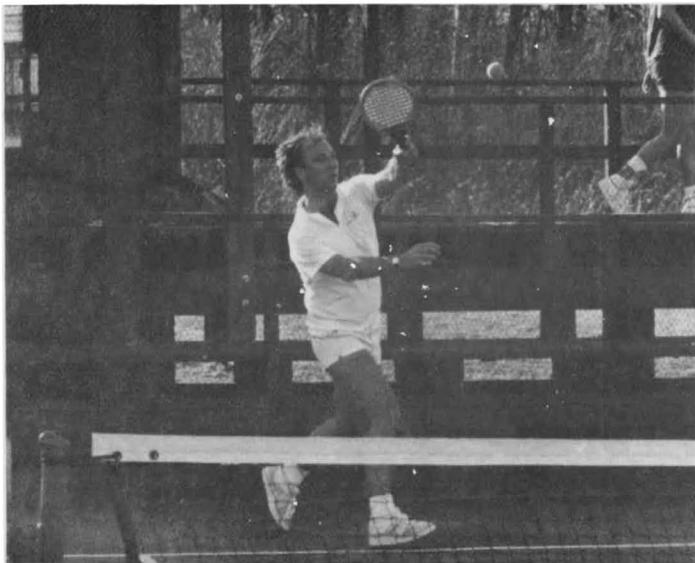
John Richart, former APTA President, returns a well-placed volley. John paired with current APTA President Roger Cole for some impressive paddle.



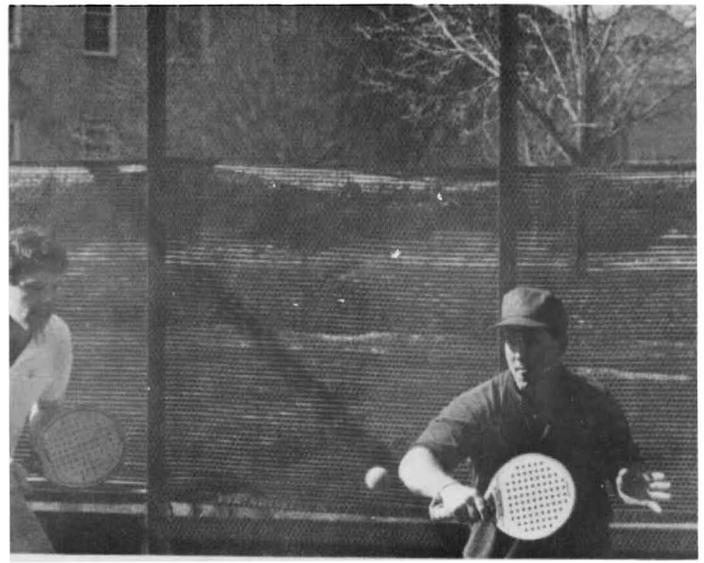
The camera-shy team of Doug Harmon and Barry Judge from NYC test the theory that two paddles are better than one, especially against Baird/Maier in the quarter finals.



Connie Jones and Gerri Viant on their way to the finals.



Kevin Shaw along with partner Paul Rowe showed the Easterners that all the strong players are not necessarily from the East.



John Steffanik of Philadelphia volleys, as partner Bill Harman looks on intently.



Molly Slater, Chairman of the Women's Nationals this year, meets a line drive with an aggressive volley.

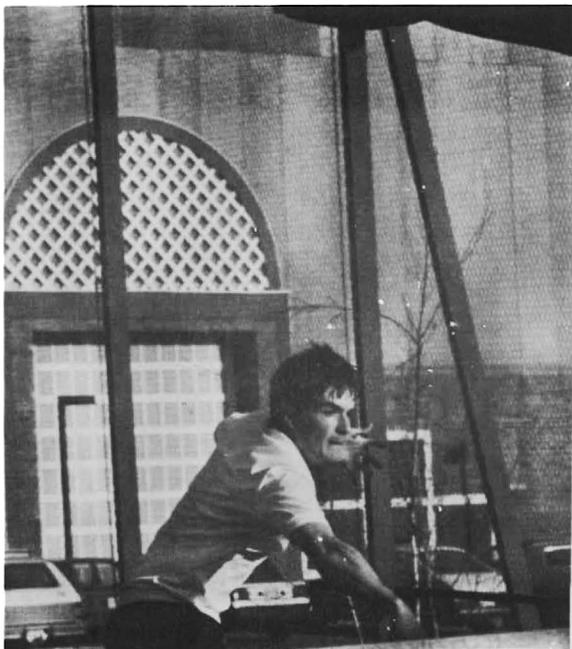


Former National Champion Doug Russell again climbed to the semis this year with partner Bill Kleinert, to be defeated by National Champs Irvine/Moore.

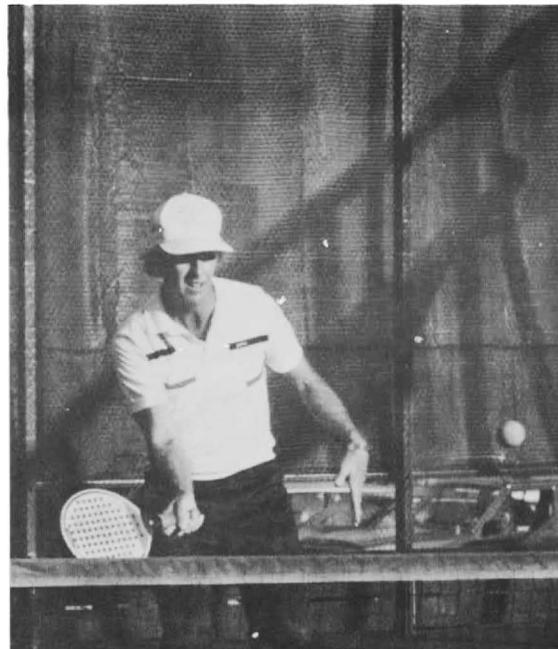
THE CHAMPIONS



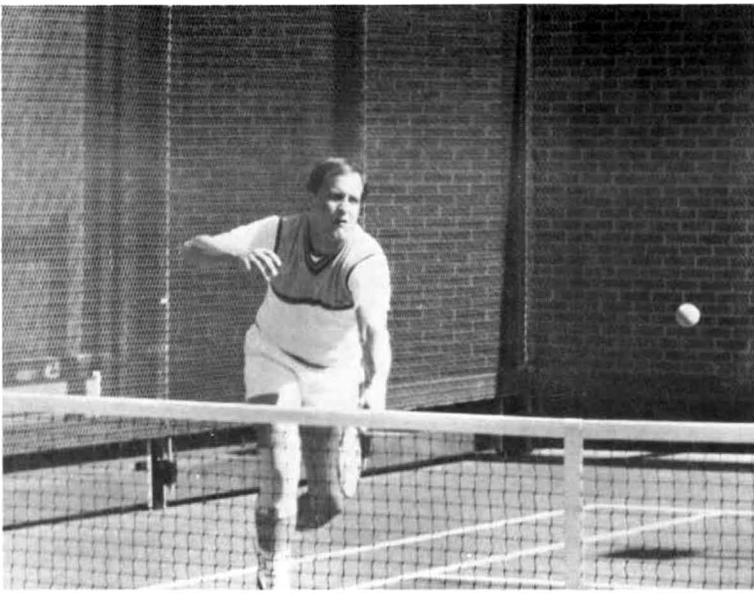
Pat Butterfield and Diane Tucker defeated Gerri Viant and Connie Jones in two out of three sets, claiming the Women's National title for the third straight year.



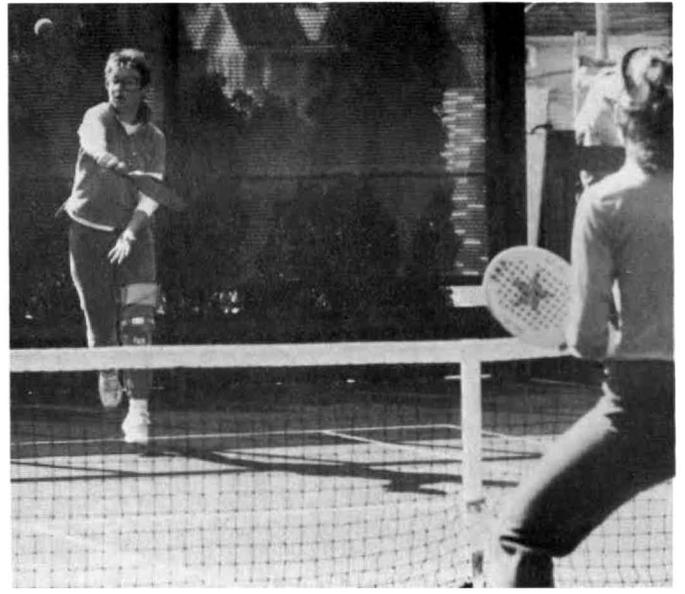
Greg Moore and Hank Irvine defeated Baird/Maier for the Men's National title for the second year in a row in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3. Their outstanding individual abilities combined with awesome teamwork are what helped this team to beat the #1 seed.



Steve Baird and Rich Maier, five time National Champs and this year's #1 seed, progressed easily to the finals where they were beaten by Irvine/Moore.



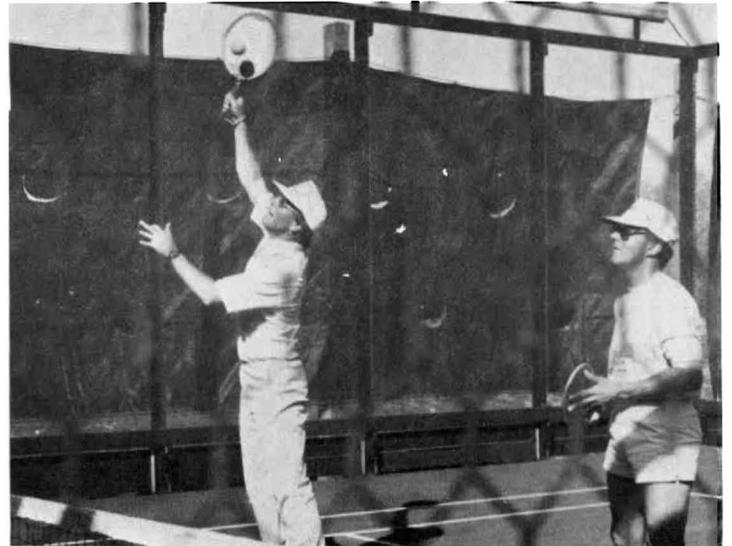
Fritz Odenback, together with partner Rick Williams looked like a strong contender in the Men's quarter-finals. They'll be a team to watch on their home turf in Rochester next year where the Nationals will be hosted.



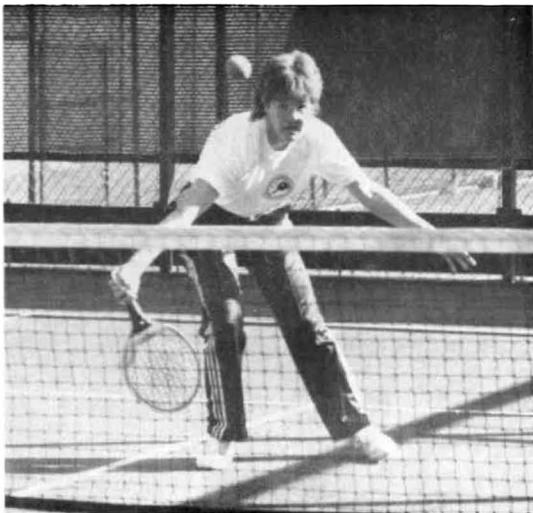
Leslie Pixley displays her strong serving ability. She and partner Chris Hunt were one of the many outstanding teams at this year's Nationals.



Patty Hogan, seeded fourth with partner Muffin Slonaker, put up a tough fight, but were upset by Barbara Mangan and Nancy Killingsworth in the quarter finals.



Scott Campbell from Denver stretches to reach the lob as partner Art Thomson waits in quiet confidence.



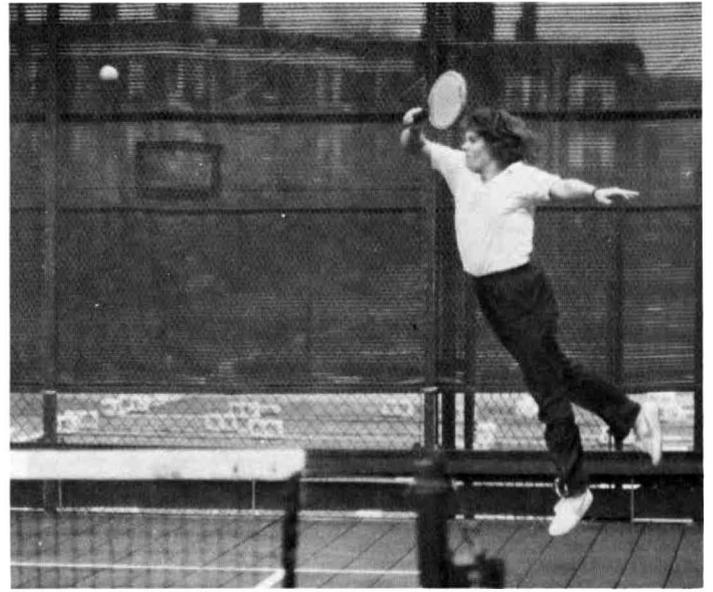
Gerri Viant displays her controlled volleying skills.



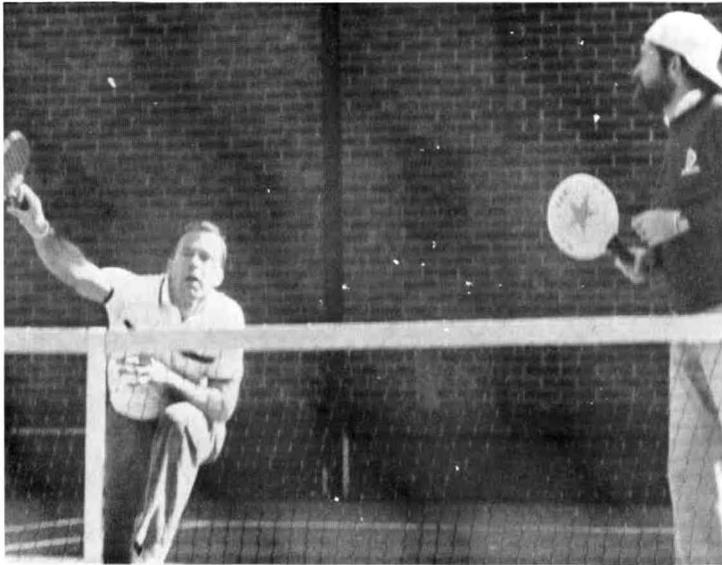
Pat Butterfield, with her back against the wall after losing the first set in the finals, came back strongly with partner Diane Tucker to win the Championship.



Kate Rugen of Rhode Island, winner of several mixed tournaments this year with Dan McCormick, was also part of a strong team in the Women's Nationals. She and partner Tina Ruby left Cleveland with the 32 Consolation Reprive title



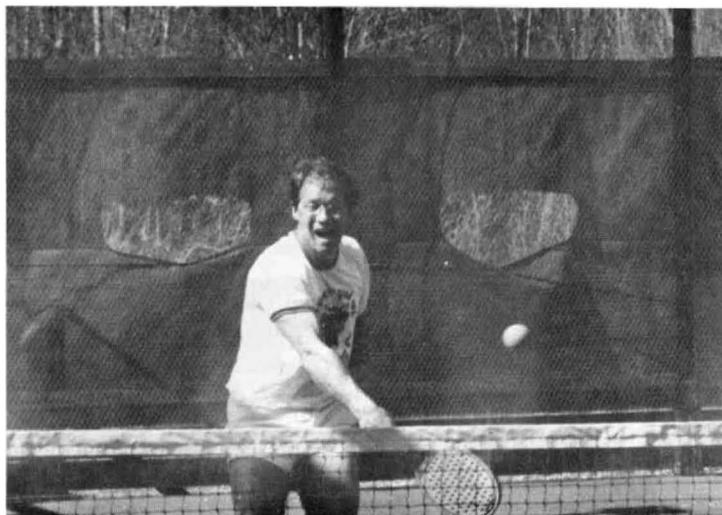
Barbara Mangan just flew in from New Jersey for this match.



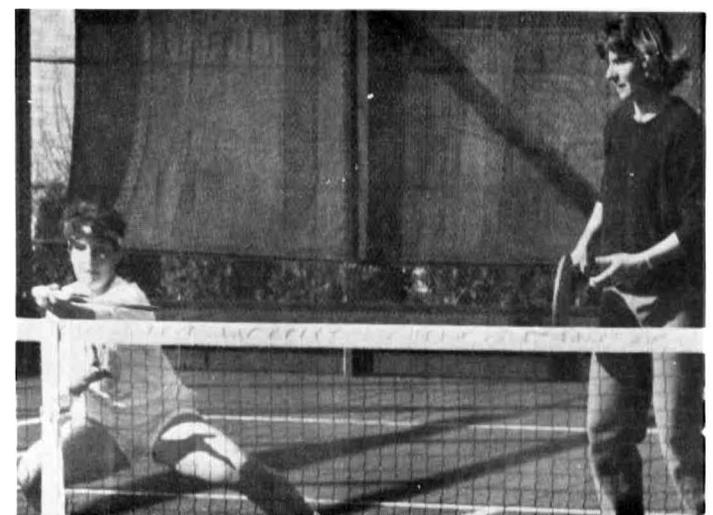
Dick Reilly stretches for the volley while partner Jacques Faulise watches in anticipation.



Jim Reilly gets a close-up view to watch a friend and observe National play on one of the many REILLY courts.

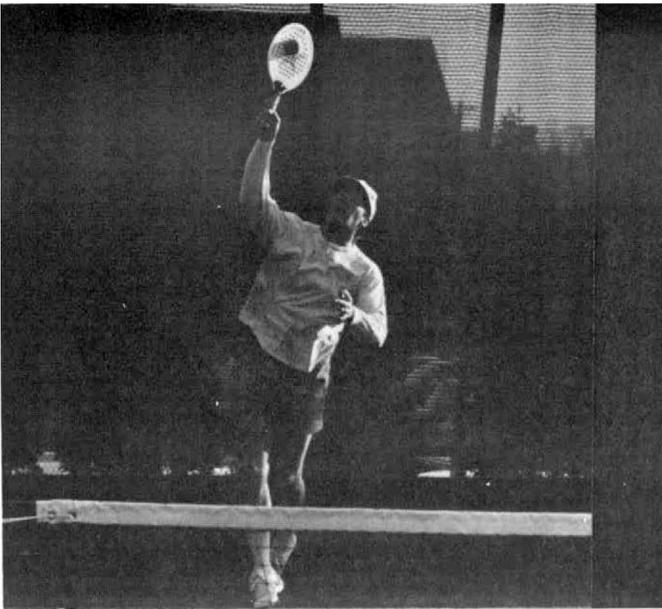


Buddy Scudder of Stratford, CT cheers the ball over the net.

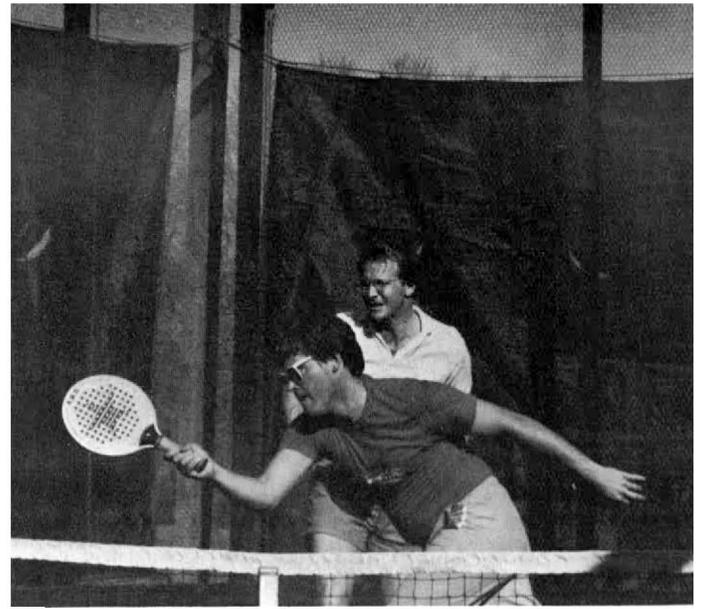


Meri Lobel and partner Yvonne Hackenberg, were strong contenders in the Women's Semi-finals.

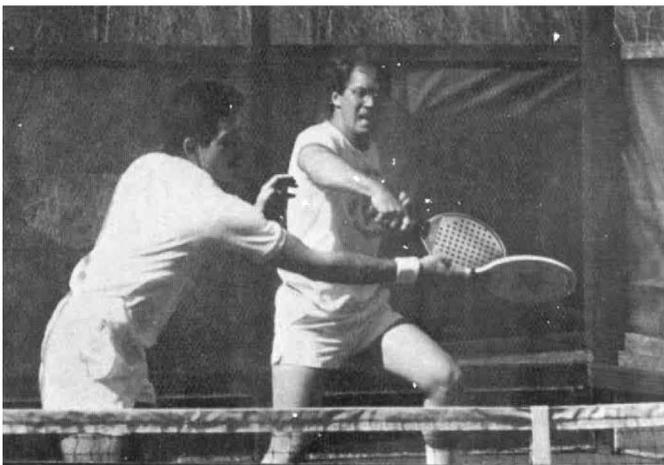
Although we cannot verify the accuracy, sources report overhearing the following comments during the heat of play:



"It's stuck!"
(Rick Maier)



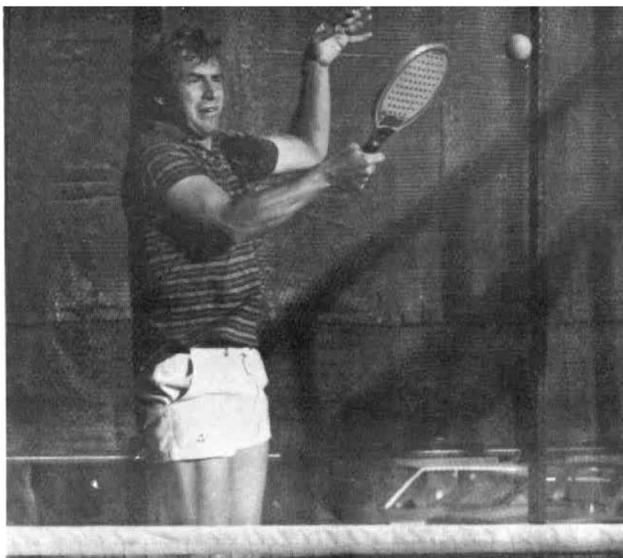
"Hey, that's my shot!"
(Jim McCready and Bob Williams)



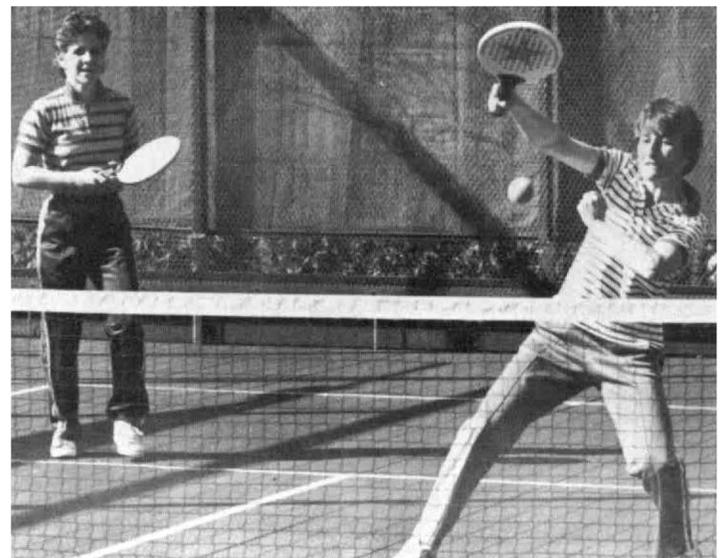
"Those fencing lessons really paid off!"
(Tony Zangrillo and Buddy Scudder)



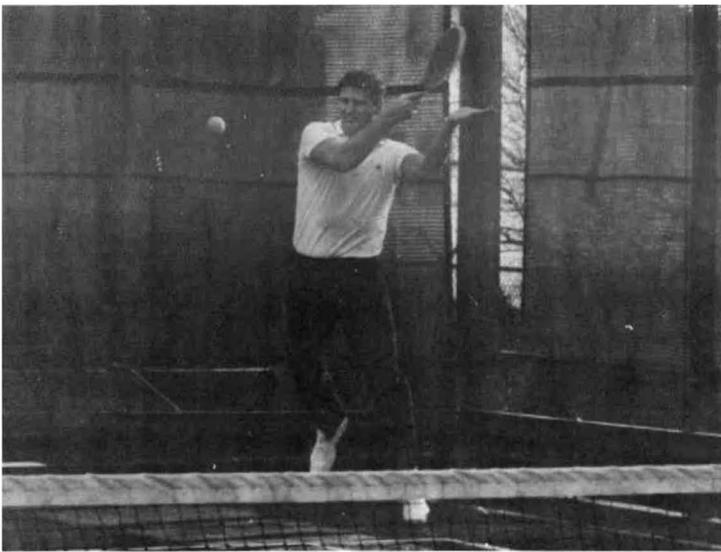
"Watch out for those birds!"
(Rick Williams and Fritz Odenback)



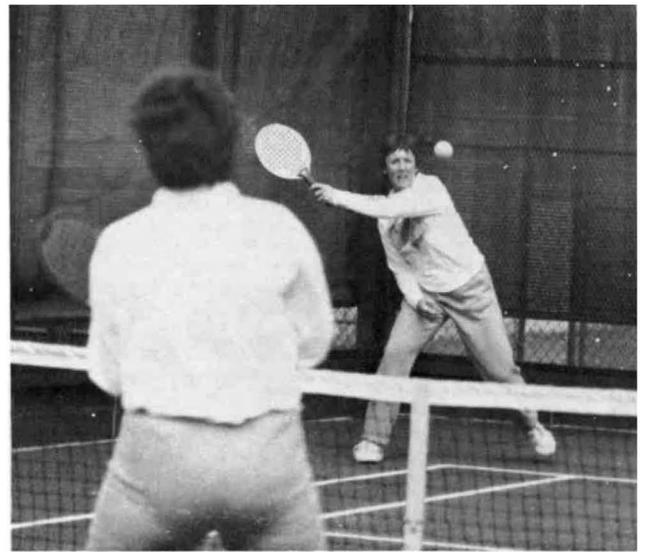
"Abra-Cadabra!"
(Paul Rowe)



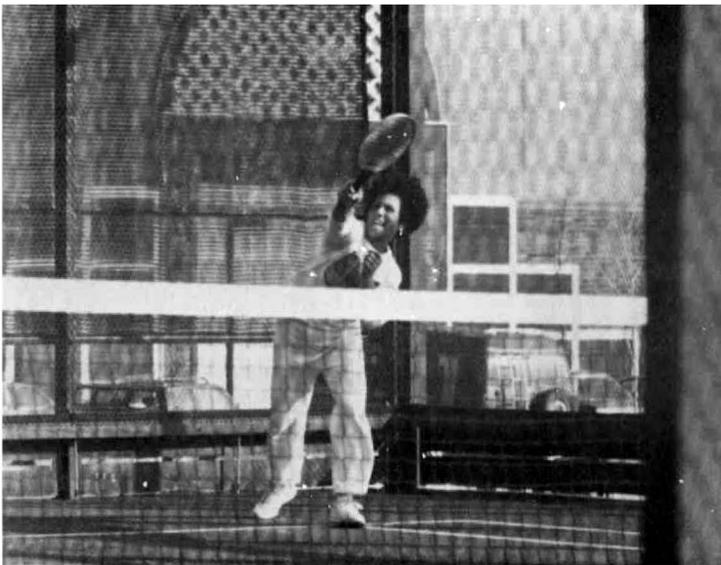
"You forgot to take the elastic string off!"
(Diane Tucker and Pat Butterfield)



Bob Kleinert's characteristically powerful forehand has helped him and partner Doug Russel remain consistently in the top three teams Nationally for the past several years.



Nancy Killingsworth of Cleveland executes a strong drive.



Mary Ginnard, half of the Cleveland team known as the "Dynamic Duo," displays some dynamic play.



Tina Ruby volleys with finesse.



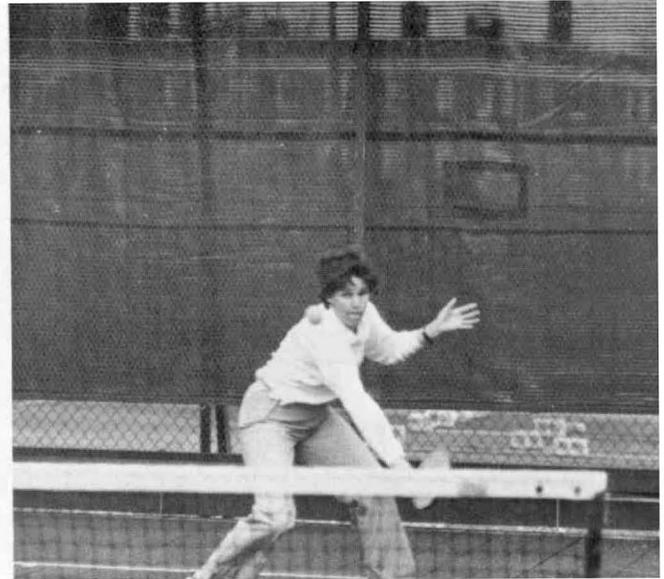
Muffy Kane of Cleveland proved that you don't have to be ranked Nationally to have a good time and do well at the Nationals.



Nancy Connor and Sue Aery, tournament veterans who have been ranked in the top five for the past three years made it to the quarter finals where they were defeated by Viant/Jones.



Steve Baird puts his own brand of voodoo on this volley.



Muffin Slonaker reaches to return a well placed shot.



Gary Horvath, tennis and paddle pro of Tamarron in Durango Colorado stays relaxed, even in the high pressure of Nationals play.

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