

Broadcast N B C nation wide Avolark
W J Z - Ny. - 6.15 pm Nov 21, 1935
conducted by John Tunis
(assisted by T. L. Allen, F. S. Blanchard, Chas. O'Hearn)

This is a talk about sport. Its a series meant for boys, boys of every age from nine to ninety. If you like sport, the N.B.C. invites you to listen in every Thursday at six-fifteen, when we'll take up a different game, a game you can play. The N.B.C. is not trying to sell you anything. Will you get a kiddie car, or a picture puzzle if you write us a letter? No, you won't. You won't get a thing except some information about a darn good game to play.

Tonight we are going to tell you about paddle tennis, or to give it the full name, platform paddle tennis. First of all, I'm going to take you behind the scenes, and show what this rapidly growing game actually did for a ~~rather~~ dying tennis club in the suburbs recently. You are listening to Jim Hill, the president, and Bill Smith the vice president of the Smithville Tennis Club talking together one fall.

FSB BILL: "Look here, its the end of November, and we've already lost sixteen members this fall. That brings us down to 75 in all. I don't see how we can carry on."

FLA JIM: "I know. The people just forget the club during the winter, and that makes the membership drop off. I wish we could install a couple of paddle tennis courts ... you know, the Jamestown Club put them in and had a lot of luck."

FSB BILL: "Paddle tennis what's that?"

JIM: "Don't you know its the new game"
"Just the thing for our club now ... in this dreary season of the year. The grounds are getting muddy already and a good many of our members will be wondering what to do with their week-ends. They

want a good outdoor sport they can play all winter."

BILL: "Don't be so mysterious. How do you play this game?"

JIM: "Its a small scale form of tennis, played outdoors on a wooden platform with a court about one quarter the size of a tennis court. Balls of sponge rubber are used and short bats of laminated wood - for the game is so fast that you ~~have~~ ^{need} something you can shift easily for quick work at the net. You play it like tennis, except for one or two changes in the rules."

Music

J. T. One year passes. Its now the fall of the following season.

FSB BILL: "Well, Jim that certainly was a grand idea of yours about putting in paddle tennis. Those three courts have now grown to six...."

JIM: "Yes, and whats worse, they're so crowded you have to book one on Tuesday to get a game Saturday...."

FSB BILL: "But look how they shot the membership up. They certainly saved the club and got the people out in winter playing a game...."

MUSIC

J. T. That's a story based on what paddle tennis actually did for a club in the suburbs of New York, and now I'm going to ask Fessenden S. Blanchard, President of American Paddle Tennis Association and one of the founders of the game, to tell how it all began. Fess, tell the radio audience how you happened to hit on this sport.

FESS: ^{well,} "John, it was like this. ^{about} ~~Some~~ seven years ago in Scarsdale, New York, my neighbor, Jim Cogswell and I tried to find some game we could play in winter. ~~Family walks on week-ends weren't~~ ^{we couldn't get steamed} ~~up over~~ ^{up over} family walks on week ends. We wanted some real competition

sufficiently ~~competitive~~. So, we strung up a net and played ~~deck~~
tennis across ^{the} ~~his~~ driveway ~~on week-ends~~. You know what deck tennis
is?"

J. T.: "You mean that game they play on ship?"

FESS: ^{that's it} "Yes. Well, we found the delivery wagons were
stopping the games, so we put up a wooden platform and discovered a
game called paddle tennis which seemed to ^{solved} ~~solve~~ our problem. The
more we tried it, the better we liked this sport, which had been
invented several years before by the Secretary of the Community
Council of New York for use by kids on playgrounds." #1

J. T.: "Then it's a child's game, is it?"

~~It was but now since we've changed it all round.~~
FESS: ^ "Play it and see. ~~You'd hardly recognize the~~
playground game as we play it now on platforms. ^{#1} We did a lot of
experimenting and changed the ^{size of the court. We play now} ~~measurements and equipment - putting~~
^{as you play tennis only the court is smaller and we allow only} ~~up 13 feet high back and side stops of tightly strung wires. One~~
^{one serve} of our important new rules is to allow the ball to be taken off these
wires, provided it has first struck inside the court - as in the
game of squash. This adds greatly to the length of rallies and to
the excitement. ~~Another new rule is to allow only one serve.~~

^{That's question}
The game is now played on a platform of 60 x 30 feet.
Try and cover that much ground as quickly as you have to in this
game and see if its child's play."

J. T.: "Well, how long does it take to learn paddle
tennis?"

FESS: "That's the best part of it, you can learn it,
anyone can learn it, in a short time, no matter whether you're an
athlete or not."

J. T.: Fess, I'm going to check you ^{uh} on that. Here in
^

the studio is a gentleman who isn't a star player in any sport although he has played a good many. He happens to be distinguished in another field, and I'm going to ask Fredreick Lewis Allen, author of "Only Yesterday" and "Lords of Creation", who serves us as typical sportsman, to tell us how he likes paddle tennis."

F.L.A.: "John, I think you might go a little farther than you did and call me a representative duffer at games. As one who has played 7 or 8 years, never played it very well and yet always enjoyed it, I can say, truthfully, that paddle tennis seems to me to have extraordinary advantages."

J.T.: "Allright, Fred, what are they?"

F.L.A. "Principally, it can be played outdoors all year round, right after rain or snow."

J.T.: "Yes, that outdoor angle appeals to me."

F.L.A.: "Then its easy to learn, one of the semi-fool proof sports you can enjoy from the start; I've seen people play well the first time. Then, its darn good fun. Its exciting. I'm speaking of the ordinary player. There's a minimum of ball chasing. The action is fast.

J.T.: "Can anyone play, kids and grownups learn equally fast, do they?"

F.L.A.: "Yes, all ages and sexes can play and do. It isn't as tiring or physically wearing as regular tennis."

J.T.: "How much space does it require, did you say?"

F.L.A.: "Not much. For every suburban back lot which has room for a tennis court, there must be twenty that would have room for paddle tennis, and I expect to see paddle tennis courts in city backyards before long. There's no weeding or rolling of the court, no caretaker required, no upkeep, and paddles and balls

don't cost much."

J.T.: "That sounds very interesting, Fred. Now that we've heard from an author, I'd like you people to have the opinion of an athlete on paddle tennis, and I'm to ask ~~Mr.~~ Charlie B'Hearn, former Yale quarter-back and one of the title holders in the game, to tell us what he thinks of it as a sport."

C.O'H.: "Its a real game and I enjoy it. Its fast, there is a fine chance for speed, strategy and quick thinking. You ~~must~~ be on your toes every minute, and although its simple to learn, those who get into it, know they have been in a real game every minute. And believe me, it fills a big need for the season from November to April."

J.T.: "Thank you Mr. O'Hearn. Now Fess, before we close, tell us just a little more about paddle tennis. Have many clubs tried it out?"

FESS: "Yes, numbers of clubs have put up these portable platforms, on top of their tennis courts from October to April. Its certainly a great way of increasing membership, and getting a club out of the red."

J.T.: "Well just where is it played now?"

gold club yes

FESS: "Starting from the original Cogswell court in Scarsdale, New York, paddle tennis has spread to Boston, New Haven, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, Danville, Virginia, Los Angeles and many other places. In the one suburban town of Scarsdale ~~near~~ ~~New York~~, there are already 18 courts and several hundred people playing the game ^{on} every week-ends"

golf club

J.T.: "Thank you, Fess. I'd like to say to the radio audience that I've tried paddle tennis myself, and that its a grand

*John Can a golf club put in a paddle tennis court.
Fess over
Fess over*

game, one the American people can play, one that fills a real need for a good, competitive, outdoor sport for use the year round

Fess - ~~you~~ why surely you dont need to belong to a club to put in a paddle tennis court - all you need is a flat piece of ground 60x30 and a few friend to work things out with you. - if you dont want to do it all yourself, ~~There are great many private~~