

#### Rocky Carson

#### **Early Years**

- Grew up playing racquetball
- · Worked with some of the greatest coaches in racquetball
- · Won multiple junior and national titles

### Accomplishments

- 5x IRF World Champion
- 2x Pan Am Champion
- Won indoors, outdoors, singles, and doubles
- 2007 US Open Champion
- · Competed on US team for most of career

## Course

#### Why this Course

- · Learn the basics and help improve overall game
- · Correct issues in current game that you might not know how to fix
- Attain awareness
- It's not always what you do, but what you don't do that will lead you to success

# Goals of the Course

- · Improve on basics, fundamentals, and strategy
- Cost effective way to gain insight from Rocky Carson
- Improve awareness and gameplay
- Become more confident in developing your game skills

#### Structure of the Course

- Course  $\rightarrow$  Lesson  $\rightarrow$  Chapters
- · Each lesson revolves around a key concept
- · Chapters expand upon each concept

Lesson 1: Understanding Racquetball



# Lesson 1: Understanding Racquetball

## The Game of Racquetball

#### Types of Games

- · Racquetball can be played in singles or doubles
- Three player games are also possible (Cutthroat)
- Indoor
  - $\circ~$  Has four walls and a ceiling
- Outdoor
  - $\circ~$  No back wall
  - Either played one wall or three walls
  - Played at a fast pace

# Structure of a Game

- Racquetball uses "side out" scoring
  - o Can only score when serving
- Amateur matches can last anywhere between 45 to 1 hour and 30 minutes
- · Professional matches can last from 40 minutes to 3 hours

#### Equipment

#### **Basic Equipment Required**

- Racquet
  - o Balanced weight
  - Hits hard and is forgiving
  - Large sweet spot
- Ball Penn HD used on tour
- Eye guards
  - Make sure they keep your eyes safe
  - Make sure they are comfortable and fit well
- Indoor court shoes
  - $\circ~\mbox{Recommend}$  something with gum rubber
  - $\circ\,$  Something that allows you to comfortably move laterally from side to side
- Possibly a glove
  - o Allows for best grip



## The Court

#### Layout

- The size of the court is 40' by 20' by 20'.
- The service line is 15 feet from the front



# **Key Rules**

#### Scoring

- Remember racquetball uses side out scoring
- · Pro tour plays best of five games to eleven, win by two
- Amateur is best out of three to fifteen, tie breaker to eleven
- Ways to lose a rally:
  - o Skip Ball: Hitting the ball into the ground on the way to the front wall
  - Hitting the ball after the second bounce

#### Hinders

- Occurs when opponent impedes on your opportunity of hitting a shot or getting to the ball.
  - $\circ$   $\,$  Usually results in a replay, unless the opponent is taking a defensive opportunity away from you
  - Hinders exist for safety reasons



# Lesson 1: Understanding Racquetball

#### Fitness

#### Fitness for Racquetball

- Fitness is a key component in racquetball success
- Need stamina to maintain a high level of play
- Need endurance and stamina
  - o Play for a long period of time
  - o This helps increase endurance and stamina
- Endurance Strength allows you to keep attacking the ball properly
- Explosive strength allows quick and powerful shots
- A tired body results in a tired mind
- Think with your feet
- Strong leg fitness is key to properly executing shots
- Perform leg exercises such as lunges
- Work on core strength by performing sit ups, push ups, and pulldowns

#### Conclusion

#### Conclusion to Winning Racquetball

• The next lessons cover Core Swings, Core Serves, Core Returns, Footwork, and Strategy for Success



# Lesson 1: Understanding Racquetball

Notes: