

Maintaining Integrity

Denis Waitley in *Being the Best* tells the story of Ruben Gonzalez, who was in the final match of a professional racquetball tournament. It was Gonzalez' first shot at a victory on the pro circuit, and he was playing the perennial champion.

In the fourth and final game, at match point, Gonzalez made a super "kill" shot into the front wall to win it all. The referee called it good. One of the two linesmen affirmed that the shot was in.

But Gonzalez, after a moment's hesitation, turned around, shook his opponent's hand, and declared that his shot had "skipped" into the wall, hitting the court floor first. As a result, he lost the match. He walked off the court. Everybody was stunned.

The next issue of *National Racquetball* magazine displayed Ruben Gonzalez on its front cover. The story searched for an explanation of this first-ever occurrence on the professional racquetball circuit.

Who could ever imagine it in any sport or endeavor? A player with everything officially in his favor, with victory in his hand, disqualified himself at match point and lost!

When asked why he did it, Gonzalez said, "It was the only thing I could do to maintain my integrity."

We, too, are faced with situations that test our character and declare our integrity based upon our choices.

May we always determine to do the right thing – even if no one else knows.

– Beecher Hunter

