

**"MY ENGINE RAN
WHEN IT WAS OFF**

Highly touted professional tennis player Charles Pasarell experienced a bit of nostalgia during his Aug. 19, visit to the Birmingham Athletic Club (BAC), where he played a tennis exhibition.

Before starting to play, BAC tennis professional Walter Orthen told the crowd of about 200 people that he and Pasarell were boyhood friends and had played their junior tennis together.

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"I tried to convince him (Pinnarelli) that his big breakthrough came in the 1964 Junior Orange Bowl Doubles when he reached the finals and lost to me." Orkin quipped before the start of the match. "Of course I had the best junior tennis player in Florida on my team."

He played easily, driving his opponents to the back of the clay courts and then dropping a shot close to the net.

A NATIVE of Puerto Rico, the 31-year-old Pasmarell, and his wife Shureen, live at Palmas del Mar, Puerto Rico, where he is director of tennis.

His tournament victories have come in the doubles competition and include the ATP John Player tournament, the First National Bank of Louisville Championship, and the American Airlines Tennis Games. In 1974 Pasarell earned \$64,633. He played collegiate tennis at UCLA and since 1962 has been consistently among the top players in the United States Tennis Association.

He left for Boston and the U.S. Professional Championships right after his exhibition at the BAC and also plans to enter the U.S. Open at Forest Hills later in August.

He made the quarterfinals at Wimbledon earlier this summer.

"I've been playing World Team Tennis for the L.A. Strings," Pasarell said. "I'm hitting the ball real well. I'm in pretty good shape and I have a lot of feel on the shots."

He said that playing exhibitions allows him to work on his game and have some fun without the pressure of a tournament. Exhibitions are fun," Passarelli said.

IN 1989, one year after professional tennis began, Pasarell turned professional. Since then he has risen along with the n

"What has happened in the last eight years to tennis is absolutely incredible," Passarelli said. "Not just in the professional game with increasing prize money which is almost as high as golf, but also on the recreational level. Everyone is becoming exposed to tennis. Indoor club's are popping up everywhere, and racquet sales are booming. It's truly the biggest participa-

"I'm glad to have been part of it and been able to play as a professional," Paarelli said. "Every year it seems to get bigger."

"I've been able to play as a pro and make good money," he added. "I hope to play as long as Ken Rosewall who's 41 and

However, along with the boom in popularity and prize money has come

"Ten years ago there used to be 20 to 40 teams playing around," Pasare said.

"The difference between number one and number 300 is very slim," he added. "And number 300 can beat number one on any given day. There's no easy match, you have to fight them all. That wasn't true years ago. Then there were 20 good players and 280 others, the rest of the players

"In the old days, if a good junior player didn't reach his top at age 20 he had to get another job," Pasarelli said. "Now the

make enough money to keep playing. They get to be 23 and they're improved and the time they get to be 27 and 28 all of a sudden they're pretty tough, and the old guys like Rosewall don't retire, they're still around."

He said that he practices three times a week, hard and takes the game much more seriously than he did 10 years ago.

Orhien said that his boyhood friend has "the same old style—just a little deeper." Both agreed that playing together brought back a lot of memories.

"You can tell the difference," Orhien said. "As soon as you hit it you appreciate what they can do with the ball. They're

professional tennis players) all do that. It's not so much pressure on you.

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