

Con-man takes reporter

Riggs does his own hustle

By BRAD EMONS

I was hustled by Bobby Riggs, but not for money.

In just two games, Riggs, a champion of male chauvinists, made a four-year college letter winner look very foolish.

Riggs, now nicknamed "Sugar Daddy," stopped by the Birmingham Tennis Club Thursday for an afternoon of fun and tennis.

Riggs embarrassed women's pro tennis by beating Wimbledon great Margaret Court on Mother's Day in 1973. He then challenged women's ace Billie Jean King to a match in the Houston Astrodome.

A crowd of 50,000 and a national television audience watched King win in straight sets.

A former Wimbledon and Forest Hills net singles champion, Riggs played a variety of opponents.

Riggs was on a promotional tour selling Sugar Daddy candy. His two-day Detroit stop was aimed at the K-Mart store chain.

"I was here selling a million pounds worth of candy and playing a little tennis," said the self-proclaimed hustler.

His Birmingham tennis stop was arranged by Jim Jenkinson, a representative of K-Mart in the Detroit area.

"We never thought he would be able to play because it rained for 45 minutes prior to his arrival," said Fran Hayes, the club president. "Our club members used rollers to squeeze water off the court," said Hayes.

Upon his arrival, Riggs offered this tennis-playing reporter a tempting deal.

"I'll GIVE you four games, and I get to hit in the doubles' alleys," Riggs barked.

"How much?" I asked.

"\$100."

That offer was too good to pass up, except I didn't have the money.

Riggs, who is 62, warmed up with club members, displaying crisp ground strokes and fluent moves. Once the warmup stopped, Riggs was ready for business.

"Who's the first to play the great Bobby Riggs," he yelled in a W.C.

Fields impersonation.

Wearing matching yellow tennis shorts and shirt, with the red inscription, "Sugar Daddy," Riggs disposed of his first male opponent, 6-0.

"Where's the ladies?" he asked. Riggs then proceeded to demolish four players at one time on the court by yet another 6-0 score.

Being bold but somewhat nervous, I strutted out to the court.

After a brief warmup of about 20 seconds, Riggs inquired, "Ready to go?"

Being the aggressive player, I was scurried into a variety of mistakes.

Charging the net, I missed two volleys. Then, awaiting Riggs serve on my own baseline, I was duped into another humiliating error. Instead of serving the conventional overhead serve, Riggs lured me out by hitting an underhand slice, the equivalent of a drop shot.

SEEING THE short shot, I lunged toward the ball in another vain attempt. The ball must have bounced three times before I got to it.

"You gotta be strong and quick to reach those, young fella," said a smiling Riggs to a hysterical crowd.

I humbly walked off the court as Riggs inquired about his next victim.

Riggs was severely tested in his next two mini-matches.

Brad Goodman, a 14-year-old

incoming sophomore at Detroit Country Day, made Riggs work for every single point. A swift applause rang from the small gallery when Goodman, a locally ranked 14 and under player, won the second game off Riggs.

I had to bring out my 'A' game against that kid," Riggs admitted.

Club member Jan Tennant made an impressive showing against Riggs with his hard ground strokes. Tennant cap-

tured the second game against Riggs with a sharp angle volley.

"Now how about letting me hit in the alleys," Riggs shouted. Tennant cordially nodded in approval.

Riggs promptly ripped off four straight points using the wider out-of-bounds lines.

At one point, Riggs went over and picked up a pair of boxing gloves to hit with. It was quite a sight watching Riggs with a Prince (oversized head) racket and boxing gloves in hand.

AFTER HIS exhibition, Riggs, a non-stop talker, informed spectators about his upcoming challenges.

"We're working out a deal at Caesar's Palace Las Vegas where Bjorn Borg and Billie Jean King will take on Jimmy Connors and the great Riggs for \$200,000," he announced.

Riggs said his next stop will be a candy convention in Boston and then he will prepare for the 60 and over U.S. Nationals.

"I've got a lot of good competition in that tournament," said a confident Riggs.

A self-proclaimed hustler in other sports, Riggs now resides in Las Vegas and maintains two resorts in California.

"Ever since Bobby was young, he loved to gamble," said Hank Bernhoff, a close friend of Riggs who works for Nabisco, Inc. "He's a big boy who loves to play games."

"I'm the world's greatest candy salesman," said Riggs, who now hopes to go on and promote Sugar Daddy products for the Easter buying season.

Sugar Daddy is a subsidiary of Nabisco.

Many of the players who hit with Riggs were given "I've been hustled by Bobby Riggs," buttons.

When the junk-ball artist left the Bloomfield Hills courts, he said, "Thanks for everything. You have a beautiful club."



Riggs played some of his exhibition wearing boxing gloves. (Photo by Linda Solomon)

In The Pocket

By W.W. EDGAR

A field of 156 bowlers from 13 states converged on Satellite Bowl on last Friday and Saturday to compete in the American Youth Games.

This is the first time this unusual event has been held in the metropolitan area and the eyes of the junior bowling world were focused on Mel Groszko's 84-lane establishment.

The young bowlers who ranged in age from nine to 15 years were the

pick of their respective areas and the bowling activity was one of the features of the Youth Games held in various sections of the city.

MEMORIES OF THE 1960s and the overbuild splurge by the bowling proprietors are coming to the fore again as word of large new establishments is being passed along.

The biggest splurge is on the Detroit east side where three 90-lane houses

are being readied to open in the fall. They are the Mustang, Five Star and Avon and their appearance promises stiff competition.

Only one new establishment has been slated for the west side thus far. It is a 20-lane house to be built by the owners of Westland Bowl at the intersection of Middlebelt and Joy Road.

It also is possible that Ted Hochstein's mammoth establishment will get underway at Ford Road and I-275 after being in the planning stage for the better part of a year.

FRED WOLF, popular proprietor of Eastland Bowl who suffered two strokes within several days two weeks ago, still is in critical condition at Bon Secour Hospital.

He has been in intensive care for more than a week and it is said that he may be paralyzed on his right side.

The stroke was a bad break for

Fred, as he was looking forward to the re-opening of the lanes with the new synthetic covering over the boards—the first of its kind in the Detroit area. The opening will go on as scheduled Aug. 15-16.

ONE OF THE LARGEST leagues in the area last year—the coffee and doughnut league at Westland Bowl—will be back at full strength of 42 teams when firing starts in September. At the same time, the Early Birds, with 16 teams, will be on the lanes.

All of which means that the 58 lanes will be busy with league competition.

CYNDI EDWARDS, who has been having a great summer with a 170 average, went 160 pins over during her appearance in the Confusion League at Westland Bowl. She put together games of 164, 248 and 258 for 670.

Lapham wins title

(Continued from page 1C)

and Roberta Madorsky with a 61.

Beth Feldman and Ellen Kirsch took the B Flight with a 64. The C Flight winners were Barbara Goldberg and Judy Gaynor, who were tied with Beth Feldman and Ellen Bean at 66.

Franklin Hills also hosted its First Annual Husband-Wife Tournament, July 30. Mr. and Mrs. William Shapiro scored the low net of 60 and the low gross of 76. Mr. and Mrs. William Oberfelder had the second low net of

61. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosen carded a 77 for the second lowest gross score of the tournament.

President Stag Day at Franklin Hills saw Bob Welling post a low member gross score of 77. Yale Levin had the lowest net of any member, a 64. Bill Buchanan and Peter Martz were tied at 79 for the guest low gross. Two other guests tied for that low net honor, Mel Davidson and Tom Stevens.

A COMBINED better ball score of 52 won the Tam O'Shanter Country Club Derby Day tournament. The tournament featured five-person teams which included four men and one woman.

Allen Singer, Meyer Kershenbaum, Max Schafer, Oscar Band and Ruth Rich won the tournament on the fourth hole of sudden death play.

The runner-ups, who had also scored 52 by the end of regulation play, were Seymour Joffe, Allen Brand, Allen Adelson, Henry Schlesinger and Reva Tucker.

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DUE DATE AND PLACE: Proposals will be received at the Board Offices, 3250 Shiloh, Farmington, Michigan 48034, addressed to: Mr. William Frisk, until the following time: 3:30 P.M., Friday, August 18, 1978.

ISSUE AND DEPOSIT OF DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS: Drawings and specifications may be obtained at the Architect's office after: August 4, 1978.

DEPOSIT: \$25.00 per set

Deposits will be refunded in full, providing the drawings and specifications, including any addenda, are returned in good condition within fifteen (15) days after the bid opening.

LOCATION OF PLANS: Drawings and specifications will be on file for bidding reference at the Architect's office, Dodge Reports and Builders & Traders.

RIGHTS OF THE OWNER: The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities therein.

Ms. EMMA MAKINEN, School Board Secretary

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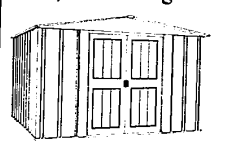
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