

Seeks tennis team tryout

'She plays boys' game'

By JUDITH BERNE

She may lack Tracy Austin's pigtails, but 16-year-old Nancy Green is making tennis waves of her own. The West Bloomfield teen-ager, named to the Eccentric all-area girls' high school tennis team as a sophomore and junior, will definitely not qualify her senior year at Farmington Harrison High.

That's because the 5-foot-3, 102-pounder will bypass the girls' fall tennis season so she can qualify for boys' tennis this spring.

Even her coach, Bernie Goldstein, in charge of both boys' and girls' tennis at Harrison, couldn't dissuade her, although he admits he tried.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," Nancy said. "I almost did it last year and then I chickened out. I've been playing with boys since I was 10. My game's more adapted to them."

Last year, she won more than half her first singles matches without losing a game.

"How can I practice? My whole game goes down. But even in our league (Western Six), which is very

weak, the boy singles players are good."

NANCY ISN'T the first high school girl to play boys' tennis. She hopes she won't be the last. And that's where she and Goldstein differ.

"For Nancy individually, it was the right decision," Goldstein said.

"She plays a boys' game. She hits harder than many boys. But as far as girls' athletics in the future — it could kill it for the girls."

If girls can play on the boys' team, boys can play on the girls, he said.

"And at that age, very few girl tennis players can compete with boys."

Goldstein foresees the possibility of boys taking over a majority of positions in both boys' and girls' high school tennis — and maybe in other sports where teams have been traditionally divided by sex.

His newest boys varsity player disagrees.

"I really don't believe a school should have separate boys' and girls' teams in non-contact sports," Nancy said. "Tryouts should be for qualified people. A sport, like tennis is really a non-physical sport."

"I know more girls will play guys tennis as the years progress. I don't know if guys will play on girls teams."

At the same time, she said, "Even I'm not ready for a girl to play line backer."

NANCY'S FATHER, a Southfield orthopedic surgeon, urged her to follow her instincts, as she wrestled with the decision.

"It was definitely my father who inspired me," she said. But her fear of opposition from school authorities never panned out.

"I was ready to fight for it," she said. "I was all prepared to go to court. But it went so smoothly it was like a joke."

Her mother, Sally, also sets the responsibility on her husband. "Milt really encouraged her. I follow the line. That's the way I was raised. You don't make waves."

"It was a hard decision for her. She didn't want the girls to be angry with her," Mrs. Green said. "But she had no one to practice with. The girls' league is so non-competitive that until she gets to the regionals she has no competition at all. And then, she really isn't ready."

Musicale offers teacher registry

This fall the Birmingham Musicale of the Michigan and National Federation of Music Clubs will again offer its services as a registry for local music teachers.

Those interested in having their name included on this list of available teachers, and those wishing to obtain a name from this list, should contact Mrs. Ted V. Lindsay at 832-8828.

Birmingham Musicale meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Community House, 380 S. Bates. For information call Mrs. Philip G. Whelan, president, 645-9312, or Mrs. Miner Mitchell, membership chairman, 647-8466.

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