

Tennis column

How to prepare for tournaments

By DAVID W. STEWART

There is nothing like one tough tournament match to harden your gut. All the pros know this, but most club players never think about it.

The ultimate form of tennis competition is the tournament.

The atmosphere is different: Knees shake, adrenalin pumps, and the breath comes in short pants.

A practice set can never equal a tournament contest. You can learn more from one tournament loss than from a dozen practice wins.

When top players talk about "experience," they mean playing a tournament match under many different conditions. The experienced player has played matches against retrievers, topspin-artists, cannonball-servers, lobbers, baseliners, net-rushers, touch-

artists, stallers, needlers, and hot tempers.

He or she has played on poorly lit courts, on courts flimsy with cracks, rain soaked courts at 9 a.m. or midnight — depressed, exhilarated, bored and tense.

The player with experience can handle any of the above situations with more confidence than the inexperienced player. The experienced player will always be favored in a crucial contest against an opponent with less experience.

MOST PLAYERS who have never entered a tournament fall into one of two categories — overeager or overhesitant. Some get sick to their stomachs or burst into tears an hour before match time.

Then, there is the player who is cool

and unflustered until the moment the first warmup ball is hit. Then he or she starts to tremble and gets a "steel elbow." Most good players can recall the first tournament match they lost, and in most cases the losses were bad ones.

Here are a few suggestions which might help the next time you play a tournament — particularly if you have never played one before:

• If you are beaten 6-0, 6-0, you have made your opponent very happy. Don't be embarrassed by the lopsided score since your opponent would much prefer an easy victory.

• If your opponent is too good for you, never stop trying. You may be winning very few games or points, but you can work to see the ball earlier and start moving earlier.

• Do not let anyone read your face. Should you be spraying balls wildly,

don't groan or throw your racquet. Move back a few steps to give yourself time and stay light on your feet.

• Play the ball, not your opponent, at all times. Look only at the ball not the opponent and certainly not the spectators. When the ball comes fast, turn your shoulders fast.

• When the spin and pace is too much for you, don't give up. Try lobbing back, forget about driving it. Whatever you do, don't give up.

• Never think about how foolish you look. Nobody cares. Spectators will love you, if you fight for every point. Always remember — never give up.

If you are competitive, take the step and enter that first tournament. Remember the best players in the world had to take the same step and they experienced the same feelings.

In The Pocket.

By W.W. EDGAR

One of the most interesting developments along the bowling front these days is the rise of the junior bowlers.

Once cast aside to bowl at unusual hours to make room for adults, the juniors now are taking their place in the bowling sun and sounding a warning to the all stars that they are on their way.

One of these young lads is Dave Hamilton of Farmington, who this week rolled his first 700 series and made good the prediction of Fred Hamilton, owner of Farmington Lanes, that he was one of the best prospects he ever had seen.

In his latest venture in the high school league last Saturday this 16-year-old youth rolled his first 700 series. He did it with games of 247, 246 and 219. This comes on the heels of a 699 bowled recently at Bel-Aire Lanes.

So, keep his name in mind. Chances are you will be hearing more about him.

HIGH SCORING honors for the week again went to Westland Bowl where three of the sharpshooters broke the 700 barrier.

The high scoring came in the Little Caesar Classic where Bill Todd set the pace with a 751 in the game of 245, 257 and 249. The big count was only 12 pins high with a 231 in 601.

above Mike Lee, the southpaw who linked counts of 246, 258 and 238 for 742. The third barrier breaker was the work of Ken Lang, who opened with a 238, followed with 258 and closed with 221 for 717.

On the women's side of the classic, top honors went to Pat Mayles with a 612 and Linda Hudeleston landed second place with 609.

And while all the heavy firing was going on, John Hurley, who seldom lets a week go by without a 700, had to be content with a 649 in the Monday men's league.

DOROTHY DEFFAN-DOUGH missed a 600 series by two pins to pace the Merri-Bowl doubles with a 598 that included a 236 game. Next to her came Linda Henderson with 221 in 574.

In the junior house league Mike Kane led the parade with 637 that included a 288 opener.

WHILE DAVE HAM-ILTON was bowling his 712 series at Farmington Lanes, he had to yield high single game honors to Berry Van Dike who came through with a 254 in 639.

In the ladies classic Barbara Rogers had the thrill of bowling her first 600 series when she set the pace with 630. In the junior league on Saturday morning Mario Serra was high with a 231 in 601.

GEORGIANA KERWAN walked away with top honors in the Livonia Ladies Classic. She won two of the three games and took the series with 494-138 — 632. The only game she missed was the opener that was taken by Kay Harman with 164-30 — 194.

THE PINBUSTERS lived up to their name at Plaza Lanes when it seemed to be 600 or no count. The top pin buster was Don Rousseau with 683.

Then, in order, came Buzz Ray with 658, Jim Musat with 626, Greg Prestene with 623, Dennis Seeman with 607, Kevin Wonder with 603 and Richard Smith with 602.

In the Kings and Queens loop Jim Mieras was the pacesetter with a closing 257 in 683. In the Plymouth men's league top honors went to Joe Barbee with 659 and Dennis Seeman was next with 602.

DICK HALL had one of his best nights in the Missfits loop at Garden Lanes. He closed with a 245 in 662 and Rick Setlock was right behind with a 634.

In the Moose league Dave Moran was tops with 615. This was 18 pins more than Jim Dea in second place. In the I.O.F. loop Phil Dint rolled 595 to beat Jim Calumet by a single pin.

THE OLD TIMERS were Frank Doyle with 534, Ken Crite with 509, Henry Settles with 569, Tom Jones with 518 and Ray Chamberlain a 201

in 598. Marie Crite paced the ladies with 475. Don Czenchko had nine strikes in a row and wound up with 279 to

show the way in the Bator's league. In the junior house Joe Lee was top man with 614 and Tom Novak was next with 558.

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