

Little known tennis facts

From Courtside

By David Stewart



By DAVID STEWART
A compendium of tennis lore

"love" being used for zero? When the game moved across the English Channel, the French word for egg, "l'oeuf," meaning zero, became the English "love."

— That if you run wide to return a shot, you can return the ball outside the net post to win the set?

— THAT IF YOUR ball hits the net post and bounces into your opponent's court, it is still in play?

— That if your doubles partner is waiting to return the serve, and you touch the ball before it hits the court, your team

loses the point? — That if you touch the ball and call it out before it lands outside the lines, you lose the point? — That nothing in the rule book stipulates the correct size for a racket? It can be any size.

— That tennis has only three parts? An object moves toward you; you make contact with the object, and the object moves away from you. Unfortunately, too many players never fully understand this basic principle.

— THAT THE SECRET to winning is control, not power?

— That if you can return the ball three or more times, you will win most of the points? — That if your ball goes over the net and returns without your opponent touching it, the point is yours?

— That it takes very little muscle to hit the ball? If it took strength, I would have given up long ago.

— That you do not win a match, but instead your opponent loses it? There are always more errors than the number of shots hit effectively.

— THAT THE MOST difficult part of the game is watching the ball? Very few players ever see the ball touch their rackets. Try watching the ball until you hear the

sound of it touching your strings. — That possibly the greatest player the game has seen, Bill Tilden, died in the poor house? He also wrote a fine tennis book called "Match Play and the Spin of the Ball."

— That there are four types of players who call your shots out? The first is the player who cheats you; the second is the player who cannot make a call against himself; the third is the player who does not want to lose the point; and the fourth is the player who always gives you the benefit of the doubt.

— That natural talent is meaningless without physical fitness? — And that competing and having fun is really what the game is all about?

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Taking up time

(Continued from page 1B)
One player Dean says is doing good job for the Raiders is forward Rex Baker. "He's been outstanding for four games."

As far as changes are concerned, Dean is hoping for a chance in the amount of playing time his key player, Brian Bowditch, gets. Bowditch has been in foul trouble in every North game this year.



North's Rex Baker (No. 30 in white jersey) has "been outstanding in all four games," according to coach Ken Dean.

Curling emerges

By LAURI DAILEY
Joe Bono, club manager said...

After finding a new huddle in West Bloomfield last summer, the Detroit Curling Club threw the first rock on its indoor rink last month.

Curling involves skill and strategy. Using a broom and a 42-pound granite rock, curlers attempt to deliver the stone from one end of the ice rink to the other.

"Now that we have moved, we are playing on a groomed curling rink instead of an ice arena," said club member Frances Gadd.

That is one advantage of the club's recent move. But the members are not pleased with the city's decision to force them from their Detroit location.

"The club was formed in 1885 in Detroit and that made it the oldest athletic club in Detroit," Mrs. Gadd said. "Urban renewal forced us out and I think the city made a mistake."

Curling originated in Scotland more than 300 years ago and was brought to the U.S. in 1831, where the sport began on Orchard Lake.

"I think it is fascinating that curling began on Orchard Lake, moved to the city of Detroit and has returned to the township again," Mrs. Gadd said.

MEMBERSHIP in the club has risen to 300, including men, women and teens. Because of the club's relocation, membership has been down in the past few years, Mrs. Gadd said.

"This year, we have quite a few new members," she said.

More than 50,000 people participate in this winter sport in the U.S.

A TENTATIVE date of Jan. 27 has been set for an outdoor curling event, on Orchard Lake.

"Curling on natural ice is nothing like it is on groomed ice," Gadd also a member of the Historical Society, said.

Mrs. Gadd thought that curling on Orchard Lake would be an unusual event for members of the Historical Society.

"The settlers here did their curling on natural ice, so why can't we?" she said.

The proper term for a curling event is a bonspiel. It originated in France and means good play or a good game.

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