

# Avon net tourney approaching

Sixty-four of the world's top professional women's tennis players will come to Detroit next week to compete in the \$200,000 Avon Championships next week. The players will come here directly from Oakland, Calif., after competing in a \$150,000 tourney there.

The women's tour first came to the Detroit area 10 years ago. In 1971, the matches were held in the Oakland University gym and the prize money was only \$10,000. Billie Jean King, who has been the most important force in obtaining status for women's tennis and bringing about the tremendous increase in prize money, won the first year.

It took a few years for the public to get interested in women's tennis. Only 25 people watched one of Billie Jean's

matches during the first tournament. Two years later, in 1973, the tournament moved Cobo Hall where the tournament has remained. Last year, more than 35,000 spectators saw the matches.

This year, for the first time, there will be 64 players in the draw. This is double the size of the draw, which has only been 32 players for the past nine years.

Play begins at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 18, and continues every day and evening throughout the week. The finals in both the singles and doubles are scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 24. During the first five days, three courts will be used for the matches. The semifinals and finals will be played on the center court in Cobo Arena.

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE of Birmingham brought the women's tour to the Detroit area the first year and has sponsored the event each year since. Planning starts a year in advance. The event is so highly organized and runs so smoothly that the players enjoy coming here more than any other city on the tour. This year, the Greater Detroit Oldsmobile Dealers are helping present the tournament.

Only a few of the professional players are guaranteed positions in each tournament. The full draw isn't known until the first day of the tourney.

"We don't know ourselves until just before the tournament begins," said tournament director Margie Mellick. "The players are selected by their computer ranking. For many of the players their ranking changes from week to week depending upon how they play during the previous week's tournament."

This year, Tracy Austin, Billie Jean King, Virginia Wade and Evonne Googong Cawley will compete in Detroit. Andrea Jaeger, the 14-year-old wonder from Chicago, who has been defeating the biggest names in the game, may be here too.

Unfortunately, Chris Evert Lloyd has cancelled out and dropped out of the tour.

She has said that she has lost interest in competing. When you consider that she has won every important tournament in the world more than once, and she has just gotten married, you can understand why her interest in competing has waned during the past few months.

Fifteen-year old Sue Mascarin of Grosse Pointe will get an opportunity to compete if she wins in the Avon qualifier held in Toronto this week or wins a match here prior to the tournament's first day. Mascarin has a proposed national ranking of No. 15 in the 15-years-old-and-under division and is No. 3 in the 16-and-under division. She recently won the Southeastern Michigan Avon qualifier, beating out 29 players.

## From Courtside

By David Stewart



the play has a tendency to become more conservative and can get downright dull.

OVER THE PAST 10 years, the money raised from the tournament has enabled the Birmingham Junior League to contribute more than \$750,000 to community projects. The greater percentage of the money goes to Birmingham activities such as the Birmingham Community Women's Center, Project Find and the Child Advocacy and Family Services Project. The League has also contributed more than \$100,000 to the Detroit Cass Corridor Youth Advocates program and to the improvement of Belle Isle.

"We feel we have a responsibility to Detroit," said Nancy Sellers, president of the Junior League.

The Plaza Hotel at the Renaissance Center in Detroit is the tournament headquarters for a number of the players who are staying there. Other com-

petitors are staying in the homes of the approximately 300 League members who work hard each year to make the tournament a success.

There is a bus to transport spectators from Birmingham to Cobo Hall. The bus is making two round trips each day beginning from Derby Junior High School on Adams Road at 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Call 334-3578 for more information.

"Some people don't want to drive into Detroit at night — they worry about their safety. But there has never been a problem during the tournament," Sellers said.

There are still tickets available. You can purchase them at Cobo Hall, at any of the Greater Detroit Olds Dealers or at the Junior League office in Birmingham.

The level of play increases each year as more players from countries around the world compete for the big prize money.

## Hawks lose 3rd

(Continued from Page 1D)

North is now 5-3 on the season. The Raiders take on Grosse Pointe North Monday and Farmington Harrison Wednesday. Both meets are on the road and both start at 7 p.m.

Troy, which is unbeaten in eight dual meets this year, travels to Royal Oak Dondoro for a meet at 7 p.m. Monday.

## Scoring summaries

CHURCHILL 65 — HARRISON 60

LIVONIA CHURCHILL (53) — Ron Scheneman 3, 1-2; Bryan Kaump 3, 0-0; Greg Hovemeier 2, 1-2; Brian Kresen 2, 2-2; 16. Chris Haevala 4, 0-1; 8. Ren Reed 4, 6-9; 14. Doug Scheneman 1, 0-0; 2. Ken Bloch 6, 5-7. TOTALS — 24, 15-23, 63.

FARMINGTON HARRISON (60) — Brian Burgess 3, 4-7; Mike Chary 3, 4-8; D.J. Hochstein 2, 0-0; & Greg Vasovski 3, 3-4; 7. Ted Kallgren 1, 0-1; 2. Mike Tetreault 1, 1-2; Steve Shanborn 2, 2-4; Bruce Yeager 3, 2-2. TOTALS — 21, 15-23, 63.

TOTAL FOULS — Harrison 22, Churchill 16. FOULIED OUT: Kersten (LC), Harvath (LC), Tetreault (FH).

CHURCHILL 16 (10) 14 7-63  
HARRISON 11 16 20 9 4-60

N. FARMINGTON 70 — G.C. EAST 39

NORTH FARMINGTON (70) — Brian Bowditch 9, 2-3; 21. Rich Walter 4, 0-0; 10. Rex Baker 5, 0-0; Matt Reed 2, 2-2; 6. Pete Gosselin 2, 0-0; Scott Varoz 1, 1-2; Tom Roman 4, 0-0; Mark Bowditch 8, 1-2; Jim Grant 5, 1-2. TOTALS — 31, 8-11, 70.

GARDEN CITY EAST (39) — Roger Ferguson 4,

3-6; 11. John Topalian 3, 0-0; 6. Shawn McGrath 1, 0-0; 2. Glenn Barkham 1, 1-2; 2. Jeff Sikora 3, 0-2; 6. Kulk 0, 2-4; 2. Phillip 0, 2-2; 2. Yoo 1, 3-4; 5. Stavros 0, 2-2. TOTALS — 13, 12-24, 32.

TOTAL FOULS — North 17, G.C. East 10. FOULIED OUT: None.

N. FARMINGTON 20 20 15 6 — 70  
G.C. EAST 8 17 9 5 — 39

LAKELAND 59 — FARMINGTON 58

MILFORD LAKELAND (59) — Dennis Campbell 5, 1-3; Dave Hudspeth 0, 0-0; Gary Gibson 5, 18-26; 36. Jim Boyce 1, 0-0; Doug Hansen 1, 0-1; 2. Mike VanNess 4, 0-2; 6. Dean Dane 4, 1-4; 12. TOTALS — 18, 23-52, 59.

FARMINGTON (58) — Ron Sarevich 3, 2-2; 2. Jeff McGrath 3, 4-8; 10. Jerry Liphardt 5, 4-7; Bill Lehman 2, 2-3; 6. John Duns 2, 3-3; 7. Steve Rutkowski 2, 0-1; 4. Doug Parker 1, 0-0; 2. Mike Womack 2, 0-0. TOTALS — 21, 16-30, 58.

TOTAL FOULS — Farmington 25, Lakeland 16. FOULIED OUT: McGrath (FH), Lehman (FH), Dana (FH), Hudspeth (ML).

LAKELAND 12 11 19 17 — 59  
FARMINGTON 8 18 11 21 — 58

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29555 Fourteen Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI  
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FLOYD A. CAIRNS  
City Clerk

Publish February 11, 1980