

Young netters draw cheers at Avon

Spectators who didn't go down to Cobo Hall until Saturday and Sunday to watch the Avon Championships missed an opportunity to see the most exciting young player in the tournament, 14-year-old Andrea Jaeger.

Weighing in at 85 lbs. (and that's after a big meal), Andrea stands just under 5 feet tall. But, to watch her hit forehands and backhands one would think she was three times her size. Andrea personifies what top players learn early — you do not have to be big and strong to hit with power.

She got to the quarter-finals without the loss of a set. She lost only 12 games. Prior to her loss to Wendy Turnbull — who won the tournament last year — Andrea defeated Sue Barker for the second time in three weeks 6-3, 6-0.

The Detroit stop was her third Avon Tournament. In the Seattle tournament she defeated Turnbull, Rosie Casals and Sue Barker.

"When I go out to play a match, I think I can win over anybody in the tournament," Andrea said with a serious expression. To date she has al-

ready won more than \$14,000.

What does she like most about tennis? Why, the fun side of course. Meeting new kids, that's what really turns her on.

BUT, ALL TENNIS she is not. Andrea is a straight "A" student and a member of the National Honor Society. She first picked up a racket just 6½ years ago. The entire family plays, and her dad has been her only instructor.

When she is not competing in a tournament, Andrea practices seven days a week, hitting balls for three hours on Monday through Friday and four hours on Saturday and Sunday.

During the Detroit tournament, she stayed with Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Costinew of Bloomfield Hills. Each day she practiced for 2½ hours.

More and more people are learning that the most exciting matches are in the early rounds. This year was no exception with the finals producing some pretty ordinary tennis. Unfortunately, Evonne Goolagong-Cawley pulled a stomach muscle and was unable to give

From Courtside

By David Stewart



Billie Jean King much competition.

Evonne deserves the highest plaudits for playing the match while enduring a great deal of pain. She did not have to make an appearance to collect the runner-up prize of \$17,000.

Possibly the most exciting match of the tournament took place early in the week when, during the second round, St. Clair Shore's 15-year-old Susan Mascarin extended Virginia Ruzici, last year's runner-up to three sets.

SUSAN LOST THE first set 5-7, won the second in a tie-breaker, 7-5 and lost the third 1-6. As word spread to the other two courts, many of the spectators moved to the area. No one left his seat until the last point was won.

The more than 300 members of the Junior League of Birmingham who worked hard throughout the week saw their efforts pay off. Again and again comments were heard about the smooth running tournament being well organized.

Attendance was up 23.1 percent over last year with a total of 45,290 people watching throughout the week. A record 9,678 people saw the finals, and there was an increase in the numbers of spectators each day compared to the

same day last year. Even the tournament's first day brought an increase of more than 1,500 spectators.

A column like this can't be written without mentioning the doubles finals which saw Billie Jean King carry a much less experienced player, Ilana Kloss, to victory over two hard hitters, Kathy Jordan and Anne Smith.

Losing the first set 3-6, King and Kloss fought back to win 6-3, 6-2. What made the match interesting was the way in which King engineered and controlled the play. Some people have said that at 36 she is over the hill, but not Billie Jean. She is already looking ahead to winning Wimbledon this year. If she keeps playing at the same level as this past week, she can do it.

Marathoners, prepare

There won't be 8,000 other people in the race. No cheering crowds or groups or Heartbreak Hill or Bill Rodgers.

It won't even be anywhere near Boston.

But it will be a marathon — 26 miles, 385 yards, winding entirely through the boundaries of West Bloomfield township.

The Fourth Annual West Bloomfield Marathon is once again being organized by the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Department. The date of the race is the day before its more famous counterpart in Boston — Sunday, April 20.

Co-sponsorship of the event, for the second straight year, is Vic Tanny International. It will start at 9 a.m., with an out-and-back course starting and finishing at West Bloomfield High School, located on Orchard Lake Road.

Purdy leads FHS girls

Sue Purdy won three of four events and finished first in the all-around competition to lead Farmington's gymnasts to their second straight victory, 63.55-29.15, over Pontiac Northern Monday at Farmington.

The Falcons captured the top three spots in two of the events and finished one-two in the other two. Purdy's effort sparked Farmington. She won the uneven parallel bars (6.4 points), balance

beam (7.4) and floor exercise (7.65).

Tina Bona was Farmington's other first-place finisher in the vault (6.95). Purdy was second (6.40).

Bona grabbed second place honors in the bars (4.5), beam (5.1) and floor exercise (7.25). The Falcons' Debby Page took third in the vault (6.1) and floor exercise (5.8).

Purdy's 27.85 total was tops in the all-around. Bona scored 23.70.

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