Helpful hints for doubles game

Thursday, June 7, 1979

By DAVID W. STEWART

Doubles and singles — it's really the same game, isn't it?

'Ask your friends about the difference and you will probably hear that in doubles there are four people on the court isisted of two and the court is bigger.

But how many people can fell you about different strokes and strategy in doubles haple?

Probably the most important part of doubles that you will ever learn is that you play with your partner. You never get mad at him or her — you can't afford to if you want to win. When you do, your partners game invariably suffers. The slightest gesture or irritated expression makes a bad situation worse.

World class players have learned this cardinal rule of doubles, George Lott, considered by most authorities to ever play the game, won the will be considered by most authorities to ever play the game, won the will be comed to the cardinal rule. He wanted to omneth to win. Getting your first serve in is crucial to winning doubles. Most peopl hit theirst serve just as they do in singles, and consequently they miss most of the infinited serve just as they do in singles, and consequently they miss most of the returning it.

The serving team should always be a the office and the agree.

into an ottensive posuou when terming it.

The serving team should always be on the offensive, but when the server hits a soft second serve the advantage is lost.

You must get your first serve in more than 30 percent of the time and that means taking some steam off your

first serve to be sure of getting it in.

There is a psychological difference
too. If you miss your first serve, the
receiving team knows your second
serve has to be easier to make sure of
getting it in.

getting it in.

The middle class player should hit almost every serve to the receiver's backband. How often do you play some one with a stronger backband than forehard? Exploit the weakness. You can intimidate a player just by his or her knowing that you are going to place the serve to his or her backband. The player will defeat himself or herself long before he ever has to return the serve.

Beccivers create many of their own.

Receivers create many of their own problems too. One of the most common errors is to hit he return to bard. You must get the ball back into play but that does not mean you must pulverize the ball to be effective. Often the faster you return the serve the faster you can lose the point.

Most receivers stand in exactly the same spot to receive serves regardless of who is serving. This means, of course, that all servers must serve alike — which usually isn't true.

Receivers should study the server. Where does the player hit his other serves? Once you know where the ball will be hit most of the time, change your position to take advantage of this knowledge.

Get your body into motion just be-fore the server makes ball contact. The tournament players all do it but most middle class players never move until

after the ball is hit. By moving, just before the serve is hit, you will find it easier to get into position to hit the return. Jump in the air, step back, forward or to either side — but always move.

One of the most effective service re-turns in doubles is the lob, but how many club and public court players use it? Not many.

Any time a serve is hard to handle use a lob return. If you worry about your opponent smashing the ball past you, remember that anyone smashing from the backcourt will probably make an error or the ball won't be put away.

Overhead smashes are only sure winners when they are hit effectively inside the baseline. The middle class player attempts to clobber the overhead from wherever he or she is on the court and in the process of wanting to be a hero loses the point.

lost when partners do not communi-cate. They find themselves running af-ter the same ball or finding themselves. on the same half of the court, as the opponent returns the ball into the open court for a winner. Good doubles teams, are always working to cover as mugh of the court as possible, and partners' can only accomplish this objective by communicating.

Generally you should think of dou-Generally you should think of dou-bles as a game of angles. You and your partner should move in the direction in-which you hit the ball. If you are both at the net and you hit the ball to the left, both of you should move to the left. If you volley down the center, you and your partner should be moving for-ward and closing up the center. ward and closing up the center.

player attempts to clobber the overhead from wherever he or she is on the court and in the process of wanting to be a hero loses the point.

Talk to your partner, Let he or she know where you are and what you are a going to do. Far too many points are

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TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the annual election will be held in the Farmington Public School District, County of Dakland, and State of Michigan, on Monday, the 11th (Ago of June, 1979, for the purpose of electing one (1) member of the Board of Edoca-thon for a term of four (4) years ending June 30, 1983, for which position the following persons have been nominated:

Michael R. Shpiece

and for the purpose of electing one (1) member of the Board of Education for a term of one (1) year ending June 30, 1980, for which position the following persons have been purposated:

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the polls for said election will be open from 7:00 o'clock A.M. to 8:00 o'clock P.M., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, and that the voting places will be as follows:

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Precinc No. 2: Dunked Junior High School)
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Precinct No. 2: Marrer Junior High School
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