

Women netters no longer in shadows

An ever increasing number of players are finding that mixed doubles is an exciting game. Most men still play mixed tennis to pacify their wives and girlfriends, but that group of macho men is growing smaller by the day.

Mixed doubles is gaining in popularity for two important reasons: Women are becoming stronger players, and men and women are beginning to understand the tactics and strategies involved when one partner is a good deal stronger than the other.

Today the men are finding that they are not always the stronger players. There are colleges with women as the No. 1 players on the men's teams.

I can remember when the mixed doubles strategy was simple. The man would place the woman up at the net and far off to the side. He then would proceed to cover 99 percent of the court.

Not so long ago only the lowest of the low would ever hit a hard ball at a woman, and even when that happened the man would intercept the shot most of the time. I'm not sure why mixed doubles was played at all.

More than likely it was tradition, and probably most men thought they were doing women a favor. Women did not want to be considered poor sports, so they would go out to play while having every minute they were on the court.

INTELLIGENT MIXED doubles teams always put the stronger player in the backhand court. This enables the better player to handle the shots down the middle with the forehand that his or her partner might have to return with the backhand.

This positioning allows for more smashing, and the difficult shots can be taken in the backhand alley.

Modern day mixed doubles strategy boils down to this: When evaluating your own team and your opponent, size up the players as individuals. Never assume the woman is weaker — she may be stronger. If she is the better player, the man should swallow his pride and move into the forehand court. When the man is the weaker opponent, hammer him and hammer him hard.

It doesn't make any difference whether you are playing men's, women's or mixed doubles, your team should concentrate the attack on the more erratic of the two opponents. Just be sure which opponent makes the worst shots. You may need a few games to determine who is the weaker player.



from courtside
David Stewart

IF YOU have never played against your opponents, keep count mentally of the errors and weak returns before you decide which opponent should be your prime target. Once you make your decision, waste no time zeroing in the weaker player.

You will improve your mixed doubles if you will think about deceiving your opponents. Some players think that this is an unfair tactic, but I think of it as outthinking and outmaneuvering your opponents.

And that's exactly what winning mixed doubles tactics is all about, outmaneuvering the opposition. You disturb your opponents with poaching, faking, head and shoulder feints, and unexpected advances and retreats. All such surprises are legitimate parts of tennis. They are used in tournament matches and at all levels of friendly tennis.

If you are including surprises and fakery in your tennis repertoire, it's high time you added this aspect to your game. You don't have to be young, quick and strong to use these sophisticated tactics successfully. But you do have to think.

And that's what makes mixed doubles so much fun. If you can outthink your opponents and keep them mentally off balance and unsure about what you are going to do next, you are going to win most of your matches.

Farmington scores

FARMINGTON HIGH scored one point in the Spartan Relays when Craig Kietly high jumped 6-foot-4 and finished in eighth place.

It wasn't a scoring performance, but Farmington's Eric Leiden turned in a good time in the mile, 4:37.2. Teammate Rick Curtis went 20-10 in the long jump for another non-scoring effort. A Farmington sprinter, Chris Reynolds, made the semifinals of the 60-yard low hurdles with a time of 17.3.

North Farmington failed to score in the Spartan Relays. Its two-mile relay team (Gregg Rapp, John Winterbottom, Jamie Bothwell and Rich Fruitman) didn't finish. "It was that kind of a day," said Ed Davis, North's assistant coach.

Farmington Harrison participated in the Class B portion of the meet last Friday night. Harrison was scoreless, but Steve Shamborn went 5-10 in the long jump, and Brad Senko posted a 4-51 to finish fifth in a heat of the mile run.

Flint Northwestern scored 53½ points to win the Class A Spartan Relays title. Flint Beecher won the Class B championship with a like number of points.

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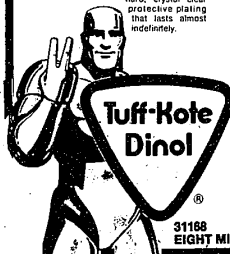
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REGISTRATION NOTICE

FOR
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1980

To the Qualified Electors of the:
CITY OF FARMINGTON
COUNTY OF OAKLAND,
STATE OF MICHIGAN

Notice is hereby given that in conformity with the "Michigan Election Law," I, the undersigned Clerk, will upon any day, except Sunday and a legal holiday, the day of any regular or special election or primary election, receive for registration the name of any legal voter in said Township, City or Village not already registered who may APPLY TO ME PERSONALLY for such registration.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
THAT I WILL BE AT MY OFFICE
MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1980—Last Day
From 8 o'clock a.m. until 8 o'clock p.m.,
The 30th day preceding said Election
As provided by Section 498, Act 116, Public Acts of 1954 As Amended.

For the purposes of REVIEWING the REGISTRATION and REGISTERING such of the qualified electors in said TOWNSHIP, CITY or VILLAGE as SHALL PROPERLY apply thereto.

The name of no person but an ACTUAL RESIDENT of the precinct at the time of registration, and entitled under the Constitution, if remaining such resident, to vote at the next election, shall be entered in the registration book.

NEDRA VIANE, City Clerk

Published April 18 and 19, 1980

Thursday, April 10, 1980 (F58)

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