

# 15-year-old tennis whiz shines on court

Ed Nagel, 15, is well on his way to becoming the best tennis player the Detroit area has ever produced — and he started swinging a racket just six years ago at the Court House Racquet Club in West Bloomfield.

Standing all of 4-feet-5 and weighing a shade more than 75 pounds, Nagel picked up a racket in 1973 and decided he wanted to be a tennis player. Until that day he had been a hockey goalie on a championship team with older and much bigger and stronger boys.

Earlier this month Nagel reached the finals of the 1980 Tropicana Easter Bowl Championships Boys' 16-years-and-under Division in Edgewater, N.J. He was defeated by Mike Kures, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, who is

ranked 10th nationally in the Boys' 16's. It is interesting to note that Jimmy Connors lost the finals of this same tournament in the Boys' 16's to Harold Solomon when Connors was only 15.

**THERE ARE OTHER** similarities between Nagel and Connors, as well. Both players' return of serve is their strongest weapon, both like to win from the baseline, both use the Wilson T-2000 racket and both were born in September.

On his way to finals at the Easter Bowl, Nagel defeated four ranked players — Mike Adeickian of Atlanta, Ga.; Eric Rosenfeld of Medina, Pa.; Bobby Banck from Williams-ville, N.Y.; and Monty Oppenheim of Morton Grove, Ill. — without losing

a set and dropping only 13 total games.

Nagel plans to compete in approximately 20 tournaments during 1980, and, when the national rankings are announced in December, he will probably be fifth or sixth in the United States. Prior to the Easter Bowl, he won Detroit's Downriver Boys' 16's tournament when he defeated Jay Sharps 6-2, 6-4.

Fretting between two and four hours after school, seven days a week, at the Court House, Nagel is coached by Mark Conti, who is a former Big Ten Champion at the University of Michigan. Conti says Nagel wins most of the sets they play.

AT WEST BLOOMFIELD High



from courtside  
**David Stewart**

School where he is a freshman, Nagel maintains a high B average academically. He wants to go to college either in Texas or in California to get the tennis experience he needs to one day become a top professional.

When asked how long it will be before he turns professional, Nagel said: "I'm not very good at making predictions."

Unlike some of his peers who

would like to be Bjorn Borg or John McEnroe, Nagel would like most to play like Rod Laver or Ken Rosewall. He thinks they have the best strokes in the game.

The third of four children, Nagel has two older sisters, Beth, 19, and Julie, 17. The tennis bug has not bitten them but his younger sister, Chris, is already a champion. Last year as a 12-year-old, she ranked third in the Western's and 28th nationally in the Girls 12's.

For years, the problem with living in Michigan and becoming one of the handful of top world players has

been two-fold: First, there is the climate which prevents year round outdoor play. Only within the last few years, with the growth of indoor tennis, has it been possible for youngsters like Nagel to have the opportunity to reach their full potential and compete with boys their own age from anywhere in the United States. Secondly, there is the tremendous need for high-level competition. This is the reason players, such as Jimmy Connors, are taken to California and Peter Fleming transferred from the University of Michigan to the University of Southern California.

When Ed Nagel first picked up a racket only six years ago, you could not miss the determination in his attitude, which has only gotten stronger and his desire greater.

If he continues to have the perseverance, he can become a world champion.



Ed Nagel pounds a forehand return back across the net during a practice session. (Staff photo by John Stano)

## Meier shines at CMU

(Continued from Page 1B)

1 overall record, its league mark is only 4-4.

"Western (Michigan University) and Eastern (Michigan University) are going to be the big tests," Meier said when queried about the MAC race.

Meier has been on championship teams before. His 1978 Detroit Adray

Appliance squad was the national titlist. Meier has also earned honors while playing in the Alaskan league last summer and during the Citrus Tournament last year in Edinburg, Texas.

It just doesn't seem possible the MAC crown will get away from him in both the next two years.

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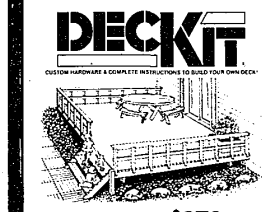
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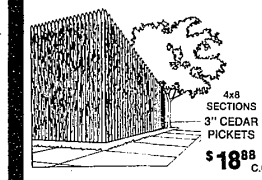
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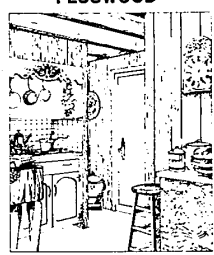
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The Board of Oakland County Road Commissioners proudly announces that contracts have been let and construction of this largest project ever in its history is about to begin.

Orchard Lake Road will be reconstructed to five lanes, from north of 12 Mile Road to Maple, this year.

**PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED**  
The construction sequence and traffic routing during 1980 will be explained at a public meeting.

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 6  
**TIME:** 3 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Farmington Hills City Hall  
31555 11 Mile Road  
(just west of Orchard Lake Road)

Merchants along the project route and other interested parties are cordially invited to attend. Project plans will be on display and representatives of the Road Commission and the contractor will present important information and answer questions.

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