

from court-side
David Stewart

Tennis can be enjoyable with the right instructor

Recently, I was sitting across a table from a woman — a most beautiful woman.

I was lost in thoughts of her before I realized she was saying something about tennis being so much more complicated to learn today.

She learned to play when she was young, she explained, but had not played for several years.

I WILL NEVER understand why instructors make the game so difficult to learn. Maybe they don't know how to make it interesting and fun. Many people sign up for tennis lessons but then get so frustrated they drop the sport and move on to something else. Tennis should be a fun, learning experience and should provide people with years of enjoyment.

Unfortunately, instructors often make it anything but fun.

Tennis has not changed. It is still played with a ball and a racket. If instructors would only teach it from that perspective, there would be more happy students.

Teaching professionals should help people understand what the game is all about.

A problem with many teachers is an uncanny habit to smother students with details and information that is far too advanced for their ability level. Most players never need to learn more than the forehand, backhand, serve, volley, overhead and lob.

Many players never perfect these parts of the game, and yet they are given so much more to learn.

STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT to hit the ball with spin before they learn to hit a flat ball. I ask you — how can someone be expected to learn spin effectively when he or she hasn't learned the simpler shot?

I've never understood the reasoning but there are a lot of instructors who teach spin in the first lesson.

Far too many students never learn why they should do what they do — they are just told to do it. But what is even worse is the teaching professional who doesn't understand what he or she is teaching, or may understand it but does not know how to communicate the information. I asked the beautiful woman how

often she practiced. I almost got sick when she told me that her instructor told her not to practice between lessons.

It's hard to imagine there are still instructors teaching the game who believe in not practicing between lessons. Students must hit balls, balls and more balls. What's the difference if the student is doing something that is not quite the way it was taught — the best players have that problem.

There are important aspects of the game that can only be learned from hitting balls. I told the woman she could help herself by finding a new instructor.

AND THEN CAME the all-important question — "How do I find a good instructor?"

A good place to start, I told her, would be to ask her friends. Word gets around who is and who isn't a good instructor. I also suggested she find a member of the United States Professional Tennis Association.

This is the only organization in tennis in which a difficult mental and practical test must be passed before membership is granted.

SHE THEN ASKED what was a good book on tennis. The answer was easy.

There is one book that is better than all others, and it was written over 40 years ago. The author, Bob Harmon, is nearly 80, and he still teaches the top tennis players.

The book is entitled, "Use Your Head in Tennis," and it can be purchased for under \$5. If I ever thought of selling tennis books, this would be at the top of my list. The book was good when first published and it will have the same value for many years to come.

It is far more than a set of instructions. Harmon gives the reader a new perspective on the game.

All questions answered, the woman departed. But I was left with the hope that, perhaps someday, I would pass her on the court when she was looking for an instructor.

David Stewart writes a weekly tennis column for the Eccentric newspapers.

County holds tourney; Shannon wins group

Area junior golfers dominated the lower boys' age groups of the Oakland County Junior Golf Tournament held June 19 and 20 at Springfield Oaks in Davisburg and White Lake Oaks in Pontiac.

Patrick Shannon of Bloomfield Hills won a sudden death playoff over Michael Crook of Orchard Lake to take the 11-and-under boys' 18-hole tournament. Shannon and Brooks both finished with 95s.

Mark Radon won the 12-13 boys' 36-hole tournament with a two-day total of 175. Stephen Miller of Farmington Hills was second (183), and Brad Monks

of Rochester was third (187).

Jon Hough of Rochester won a sudden-death playoff against Mark Syron of Pontiac to take second in the 14-15 boys' age group. Both Hough and Syron finished with 36-hole totals of 158.

Rochester's Wade Stevenson was third in the 16-17 boys' age group (155). Dawn LaDuke of West Bloomfield was third in the 14-15 girls' age group with a two-day score of 189 for 36 holes.

Jean Roselli of Farmington Hills was second in the 16-17 girls' age group (196), and Carol Conway, also of Farmington Hills was third (206).

JEROME
HOME IMPROVEMENT

State Licensed and Fully Insured

Best Prices in the Industry

SUMMER SPECIAL

- ALUMINUM SIDING
- ALUMINUM TRIM
- SEAMLESS GUTTERS

FREE ESTIMATES

PHONE
255-3264, 255-7833
or 255-3487
NIGHTS 532-2743

Furniture Cleaning SPECIAL

\$10 OFF with any 2 pieces of furniture cleaned

SAVE \$10⁰⁰ with this coupon

Trained certified furniture technicians will expertly clean your life fabrics right in your home. We specialize in unusual and hard to clean fabrics: Velvets, brocades, silks, satins, all restored beautifully and ready for use the same day.

- In Home or In Plant Service
- Oriental Rug Cleaning & Repair

Offer Expires 7-15-80

Phone Today for Free Estimate

937-3800 Charge It

26717 Plymouth Rd., Redford

REMOVE stains from history by rubbing butter on the stains with a cloth until a stain disappear, then launder. Try an Observer & Eccentric Classified Ad to make the unwanted, unused items in your garage, basement, closet or attic disappear.

Monday, July 7, 1980

(F3C)

ENERGY.
We can't afford to waste it.

HUCK'S
5 MILE & INKSTER
935-3200

MONDAY-FRIDAY LUNCHEONS

Stuffed Tomato
Baked Spaghetti
Knockwurst Sandwich
Turkey
Fish & Chips

\$2.95

EVERYDAY DINNER SPECIALS

N.Y. Strip Steak
Prime Rib
Veal Parmesan
Crab Legs

Broiled Scrod
Fried Shrimp

\$5.95

Special Occasions

RENT a RABBIT
also PICKUP-VANAGON
DAILY-WEEKLY-MONTHLY

RENT a BOLER
TRAVEL TRAILER
TOW BY ANY CAR
Sleeps 4

ATTRACTIVE RATES
LIVONIA VOLKSWAGEN, INC.
34501 Plymouth Rd.
(Between Wayne & Farmington Rds.) 425-5400

20th Annual STOREWIDE MID-SUMMER sale

The entire Drexel Heritage line is reduced in price! Great values include:

"Et Cetera" End Table
Black lacquer with chinoiserie decoration.
22" W x 26" D x 21" H
Reg. \$289. Sale \$119 until Sept. 6.

Ray Interiors

33300 Slocum Dr., Farmington
2 blks. S. of Grand River off Farmington Rd.
475-7272

Michigan's first Drexel Heritage store



GET SUMMER FREE

Summer Shape-Up Special

Men... Women... don't put it off — take it off free! If you join now you'll get all the slimming, trimming and shape-up facilities of our Spas from today until September 21 added free to the cost of any membership. The sooner you join the bigger your free bonus.

It takes only 30 minutes 3 times a week of your specialized Spa program to actually see inches melt away while you tone up. Your results are accomplished by our exclusive Spa program and nutritional guidance. Enjoy saunas, dry heat rooms, whirlpools, crystal-clear swimming pools and over one million dollars of fitness facilities at each Spa free this summer!

Shape-Up Programs Start Daily for Ladies and Men



Silhouette / American
HEALTH SPAS

30000 TELEGRAPH ROAD at 12 1/2 Mile • 356-6700

Private Facilities for Ladies & Men • Open Daily 10-10 • Adult Visitors, 18 and over, Welcome!

© COPYRIGHT 1980