

Junkyard dog!

Fletcher realizes goal, steps in as Jays' football boss

By Chris McCosky staff writer

They call him a junk-yard dog, a right-back gambler. He's to Southfield High School athletes what Bruce Jenner was to track and field; he's done a little bit of everything.

He's Cal Fletcher and he's finally going to get the chance to do what he's wanted to do for a long time — be a head football coach.

Fletcher has been named as athletic director Fred Goldberg as the new head football coach at Southfield High School. He replaces John Finlayson, who resigned after having been a football coach at Southfield for 20 years, the last 10 as the head man.

Fletcher has been a coach of one sport or another at Southfield since 1959. He coached with and under Finlayson for 12 of those years. He has coached baseball (from 1976-1979) and has been the head wrestling coach for eight years. In 1976, Fletcher had the dubious honor of coaching baseball, football and wrestling in the same

year.

BUT HIS DREAM has always been to have his own football program.

"Football has always been my love," said Fletcher. "I think it's every coach's dream to be a head football coach. I certainly didn't plan on it. The opportunity came up and it's a tremendous opportunity for me."

"One of the things John (Finlayson) told me was not to miss your kids while they are growing up. So I thought long and hard about this job. But, let's face it, I'm 40 years old. This may be the last chance I get at a head coaching job. If I didn't take it, I would be thinking about it for a long, long time."

Fletcher said he planned on staying on as head wrestling coach. "We'll just see how long I can keep my sanity," he added.

To pick his staff, Fletcher has looked no farther than the halls of Southfield High. Varsity basketball coach Greg Sliwka will be the defensive coordinator and handle the ends and linebackers. Pete Mazzara, a former Southfield

assistant, will oversee the offensive and defensive lines.

TOM ESCHMAN, whom Fletcher calls as the best track coach in the region, will head up the junior varsity football team. He will be assisted by Gary Lutz. Mark Pajol will coach the freshman team. John Broome will assist him.

How much will next year's Southfield football team differ from Finlayson's teams? In some ways quite a bit, but in other ways not at all, Fletcher said.

"There will be some similar philosophies, obviously. I coached with and under John for 10 years. I learned a lot from him. We both believe in solid defensive football. John was a great defensive coach. His saying was 'If a team doesn't score against us, the least we can do is tie,'" Fletcher said.

Where the Fletcher-coached team will differ is in its approach to offense.

"At Southfield High I see an overabundance of speed," Fletcher said. "We have to utilize that speed to our advantage."

I see us throwing the ball more, running the option more, opening up the offense more. We are going to be exciting to watch."

Before he can do all of that, Fletcher has to remove one major stumbling block. "We've got to find some big linemen. We've got to find some people who can open up some holes for all our scooters," he said.

That may not be too easy.

"Southfield is noted for being small and quick. As long as I can remember we've been on the small size. We've had good teams, but we've been small and fast," he said.

FLETCHER HOPES to remedy his size problems with a lesson normally reserved for his wrestling team: a weight-training program. Fletcher is having his players participate in a three-weekly weight-lifting camp beginning June 27, which will precede the opening of regular spring football camp on Aug. 15.

"I am a firm believer in weight training. I stress weights and I stress

strength," he said.

If one thing can be said about Fletcher with 100 percent certainty, it's that he is an optimist.

"Oh, yes, I'm optimistic. I think we'll win every game. No, anyone who knows anything about high school football knows that the Southeastern Michigan Association is not a real weak league. We've got a tough road to travel," he said.

"But I'm ready to take the team. When you coach for John, he prepares you for this. When you coach under John, you're not just a name. He utilizes your talents as a coach. You're not just a puppet. I feel I'm ready to take over and John has brought me along to this point," Fletcher said.

Fletcher will take over a team that went 4-5 last season. There will be two starters returning off that team and 14 returning letterman. He has told his team that their are 11 positions open on offense and 11 open on defense.

"Basically," Fletcher said, "I'm starting from scratch."



Cal Fletcher new Southfield boss

Unseeded defending champ gets revenge in net tourney

By Brad Emmons staff writer

Maurice Hunter was fighting mad.

Claiming he was slighted by tournament organizers, the ex-Detroit returned home from Hollywood, Calif. to win the Silver & Buddy's Invitational Tennis Tournament, Sunday at the Detroit Tennis and Squash Club in Farmington.

When the draw was announced, Hunter was not listed among the top eight seeds in the tournament, which attracted players ranked as high as No. 59 in the world by the ATP computer.

But Hunter took out Bolivia's Mario Martinez, No. 1 seed, in the semifinals on Sunday morning, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4, and came back in the afternoon to beat No. 6 Rick Fagel of Miami, Fla., for the championship, 6-3, 6-4. Hunter's final two opponents were rated No. 59 and 99, respectively, by the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals).

"I should have been seeded No. 1," said Hunter, who picked up a \$4,000 check. "That's a lousy, bum deal for a defending champ. I've won my fair

share against a lot of these guys."

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR Chuck Karabell said he could not sympathize with the winner.

"Last year we seeded Maurice No. 3 and Mike Leach, from Michigan, the NCAA champ, No. 2," explained Karabell. "Maurice said he had more points so I called the ATP in Dallas and changed it to No. 2."

"I went by ATP points again this year and there's not a single person who can criticize it. Maurice can't have it both ways. He's totally out of line the way it was seeded in light of what happened last year."

As for the final match, Hunter attacked Fagel's backhand to score a relatively easy win.

"I set my game up according to the best way I can play," Hunter said. "There were some close points I got at the right time. He (Fagel) is exceptional on clay so I had to get in on the net, because I'm not as efficient on the baseline. I think I played my best in the final."

downed Derek Tarr of South Africa, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3.

"After my match with Derek I felt sluggish and tight," Fagel said. "It seemed like I was a half-step slower."

Hunter, meanwhile, was tested early as No. 8 Gabriel Matus and Ludington's Luke Jensen, a 17-year-old who serves with both hands, extended the 25-year-old Californian to three sets. In the third round, Hunter edged Australian David Carter, seeded third, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6.

Grosse Pointe's Aaron Krickstein, who at 15 is considered the youngest player in the U.S., was eliminated by

Carter in the second round, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

Another top junior, 18-year-old Ed Nagel of West Bloomfield, retired in the second round. An ankle injury prevented him from playing the second set after losing the first, 6-2.

HUNTER plans to play as many U.S. Grand Prix tournaments as he can this summer in the United States, but he doesn't know if he can make a total commitment to the game.

"It's very cutthroat, very competitive at the top," he said. "Guys like (John) McEnroe are killers. That's why they make it. They're the toughest of

tough.

"If I really wanted it, I'd have no problems getting into the top 20. My girlfriend is Bill Cosby and I'm testing returning letterman. He has told his community. Some modeling jobs, maybe."

Hunter said that without the help of nationally known sports agents, it's almost impossible to break into major tournaments without qualifying.

"I've had a lot of walls to break down because of my tennis background," he said. "I don't have Don Dell behind me like Krickstein and (Jimmy) Arias. I don't get wild cards so I suffer."

Hunter also took a mild swipe at Krickstein.

DURING HIS semifinal match with Martinez, Hunter became enraged with a linesman's call as Livonia's Dean Snyder sat in the umpire's chair.

"I was umpiring on court No. 2 and I had to come over," explained Karabell. "I told Dean 'whatever you say is it.' There was an uncalled for interruption of play. Maurice and I had a very interesting conversation after the match."

The tournament, free to the public, drew almost 2,500 fans on Saturday and Sunday.

IN THE OTHER semifinal, Fagel

share against a lot of these guys."

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