

# Star spotlight

## Evert Lloyd highlights 'Slims' field

By Marty Budner  
staff writer

Chris Evert Lloyd, Pam Shriver, Wendy Turnbull and Sylvia Hanika are already committed. So are Leslie Allen, youngster Kathy Rinaldi and veterans Barbara Potter and Kathy Jordan.

Martina Navratilova, Andrea Jaeger and Tracy



Pam Shriver is scheduled to appear at the Virginia Slims Tennis Tournament in October.

Austin won't be here, according to Joan Stanton, director for the Virginia Slims of Detroit professional tennis tournament in early October.

But, the no-shows won't bother Stanton. She's happier than a mountaineer around moonshine just to have top-rated players like Evert Lloyd, Shriver and Turnbull on hand for the annual women's professional tennis get-together slated for the week of Oct. 3 at Cobo Arena in Detroit.

"She (Evert Lloyd) said she was pleased that we changed the date to the fall," said Stanton. "When she was here earlier this year she had indicated she'd probably be back for our tournament, and we're very pleased to have her."

The \$150,000 tournament, sponsored by the Junior League of Birmingham, was formerly held in early February. The winter tourney seemed jinxed. It suffered a bad image as the top-draw players were either no-shows or canceled out because of illness or injury.

IN AN ATTEMPT to alter a frustrating situation, the Junior League requested — and received — a tourney date for October. This year's tourney is the last of 32 stops in the Virginia Slims World Championship Series.

The Junior League is hoping the time change and the addition of such world-class players as Evert Lloyd and Shriver translates into more spectators.

"The timing of this tournament is real good because it's right after the U.S. Open and the weather will still be good," said Stanton. "I think the change will help us out a lot."

Not only do we have the obvious factor of the weather, but we're the last of the 11 big cities in the U.S. before the players go on to play in Europe," she said. "Most of the players will want to get those points toward that one million dollar bonus pool tourney in New York next March."

Evert Lloyd's last appearance in Detroit was 1976 when she won the Virginia Slims of Detroit title. A three-time Wimbledon champ and a six-time U.S. Open title, she is currently ranked No. 2 in the world behind Navratilova.

Evert Lloyd is preparing to defend her U.S. Open title in New York starting Aug. 29.

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—Joan Stanton  
tournament director

Shriver was the youngest player ever to reach the semifinals of the U.S. Open when she defeated No. 1 seed Navratilova in 1978. Now 21, Shriver won more than \$350,000 on the circuit last year.

Shriver, who won the Virginia Slims of Atlanta title earlier this year, reached the semifinals of the 1981 Detroit stop before losing to Hana Mandlikova.

TURNBULL WON the 1979 Detroit title and rarely misses the Detroit stop.

In addition to the weeklong tournament in Detroit presented by the Greater Detroit Oldsmobile Dealers, there will be a special weekend professional qualifier to be held Friday-Sunday, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1-2 at the Beverly Hills Racquet Club.

The 32-person field will feature 28 matches by professionals hoping to land a spot in the main tournament the following week at Cobo Arena. Four players from that tourney will advance to the main draw in Detroit.

"This is a great opportunity for some of the younger players to get into the main draw," said Stanton. "Also, it gives somebody who has been injured or someone with a low world ranking a chance to get in."

A similar qualifier was held in recent years, but it only involved local players and only the winner advanced to the main tournament. This year's qualifier will include many of the pro players who have not been able to break into the main field for various reasons.

Thursday, August 18, 1983 O&E

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Chris Evert Lloyd, a three-time Wimbledon champ, will make her first appearance in Detroit since 1976. Lloyd will be the main attraction at the Virginia Slims Tennis Tournament.

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## BMX competition at Oakland Plaza

BMX riders of all ages will have the opportunity to test their skills against cyclists from all across America and possibly win a Red Line BMX bicycle when the World Almanac National BMX skills competition comes to the Oakland Plaza Aug. 27.

Entry forms for the bicycle giveaway are available at the plaza, at John R. and 14 Mile, across from the Oakland Mall.

Last year, Steve Gorski of Southgate, competed in the nationally touring event at the Oakland Plaza competition. Gorski, 19, finished first in four of five events and returned the following day to set a world record in the 25-meter slalom race. He won a trip to Los Angeles, along with other prizes.

Competing in five different events, the bicycle motocross riders will be gearing toward national recognition in the 1984 edition of the International renowned World Almanac Book of Facts. Each event's top world-record performances will be listed in the publication following the nationwide tour.

THE EVENTS include the 25-meter dash, the 25-meter slalom, the bunny hop and the wheelie.

The daylong competition will begin at 10 a.m. in the plaza parking lot, with registration from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Entrants under 18 years of age must have a parent or guardian sign their registration form. Registration fee is \$5 per rider.

National BMX spokesman Steve Fiske of Los Angeles stressed the event's value and its effort to serve as a combined competition and safety clinic.

"Our sponsors are emphasizing the importance of proper use of equipment, not only in competition, but in everyday bike riding," he said. "In addition to international recognition, our entrants will be given the opportunity of learning the safe and correct way to enjoy bicycle riding."

Each rider competing will receive an official

Certificate of Participation and will instantly become a member of the Redline Safety Club. The top world record holders each will receive a grand prize package filled with prizes supplied by sponsors and will have their names printed in the World Almanac.

Sponsors include Texas Instruments, Keohler Co., Nike, Redline Engineering and Skyway Recreation.

This second annual competition is open to BMX riders ages 5 to adult. Bicycles for the competition must meet BMX qualifications and quality standards. Redline Engineering will provide BMX bicycles for those who wish to compete, but do not own a bicycle which meets the specifications.

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