

Cunningham's decision made sense

Monday, March 25, 1991 O&E

(F3C)

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Carrie Cunningham's recent decision to turn pro had nothing to do with dollars — only sense.

After climbing to a 39th ranking in the world playing as an amateur on the International Tennis Tour, the 1990 Livonia Churchill graduate decided earlier this month it's time to turn professional. Although not guaranteed any big money in her first year, Cunningham and her parents, John and Carol Ternerowicz, felt it was in her best interest to turn pro.

Cunningham's other option was to accept a tennis scholarship to Stanford University next fall, and hold off on a professional career.

"We were trying to figure out whether it made more sense for her to pursue tennis as

a pro right now or college," John Ternerowicz said. "And right now, given her ranking, interest and dedication to pursue a pro career, she decided to defer college."

tennis

"SHE'S A BIT young to make a career decision, but in tennis it's appropriate to do that. The decision was to pursue tennis as a professional, not get rich overnight."

Cunningham found that out last week, making her professional debut in the Lipton International Players Championships at Key Biscayne, Fla. After receiving a bye in the first round, Cunningham lost in the second round to Florentina Lohat, 4-6, 6-4, 6-0.

Cunningham bounced back Tuesday in doubles play as she and partner Amanda Coetzer of South Africa survived a second-round battle with Poland's Renata Baranski and England's Samantha Smith, 6-2, 6-3.

Reached at her hotel Tuesday in Miami,

Cunningham said she was pleased to win the doubles match after performing below standard in her lone singles match.

Cunningham was scheduled to play last weekend in the U.S. Hardcourts in San Antonio, Texas, before heading to Tokyo later this week for the Suntory Open.

"I WAS VERY, very tentative," said Cunningham of her professional debut. "I think it did affect me playing pro for the first time. It hasn't really hit me yet. If I did well there's a lot of money. If I don't, there's

not much. Being rich isn't the point of it, but I have dreamed of being pro (since a young age)."

Cunningham has had to turn down about \$100,000 in prize money because of her amateur status in almost three years on the circuit. The 1990 season was highlighted by a semifinal appearance in singles play at the Puerto Rico Invitational and a trip to the quarterfinals at the U.S. Hardcourts in San Antonio.

In 1989, Cunningham upset No. 3 seed Katerina Maleeva, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2, in the first round of the 1989 Virginia Slims of Houston.

Cunningham must provide for travel expenses to and from tournaments, but her sponsors, Mizuno Rackets (which she swings) and Sergio Tacchini clothing (which she wears while playing), ease the financial burden.

She said she retired her Wilson racket for the EPMZ model made by Mizuno.

"I like the EPMZ better," said Cunningham, who also hired a friend, Robert Kaplan, of New York City, as an agent.

CUNNINGHAM, COACHED the last three years by Franklin Harquet Club's Armand Molino, and since age 9 by Joe Fedeli, says her serving has improved the most.

"My strengths used to be my competitiveness and ground strokes, but my serve is my big strength now," Cunningham said.

Another Cunningham strength is her mind, which for the time being will take a break from the school books.

"I will go to school sometime," said Cunningham, an honors student at Churchill. "But that's far down the road now."

sports shorts

● HAWK FOOTBALL

Farmington Hills Harrison will face formidable opponents in its first and last football games in the 1991 season.

The Hawks, who had difficulty getting teams to schedule them because of their prowess on the gridiron, will play defending Class A champion Birmingham Brother Rice in the opener and Toledo Central Catholic in the finale.

The tougher schedule, which includes a second-week game with Plymouth South, expected to have a fine team, and a possible Western Lakes Activities Association championship game, could make it more difficult for Harrison to qualify for the state playoffs.

"We could be digging ourselves a grave here," said Harrison coach John Herrington, who was only half serious. "We're going to have a pretty good team, so it will be exciting to play Rice. It's not something we look to do every year."

think people are overrating us, but it's tough to get willing opponents because of the playoffs. It will make it tough for us to make the playoffs, but we're excited about the challenge."

The Hawks, who were Class BB semifinalists last year, will play Rice at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, in the Silverdome and Toledo CC at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, at Harrison.

● SWIMMING CLINIC

A five-week middle school swim clinic begins Tuesday, April 23, at North Farmington High School. Boys and girls in grades 6-8 are eligible. Clinic sessions will be 4-5:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

This is not a learn-to-swim class. The swimmers must be able to swim 25 yards before taking the class. The clinic will stress stroke development and correction, starts and turns, competitive swimming techniques and water safety and rules.

The clinic will feature mini swim meets and viewing swim technique videos. The cost is \$35 for 15 hours of instruction. The clinic will be taught by North Farmington swim coach Pat Duthie, who has led the North boys and girls teams to 16 conference championships in 25 years of coaching.

Registrations can be mailed to Farmington Community School, 30415 Shawwassee, Farmington, 48336. For information call 489-3333.

● COACHES NEEDED

Farmington Hills Mercy needs

an assistant track coach, varsity cheerleading coach and assistant varsity basketball coach. If interested, send a resume to Athletic Director Suzanne Brown, Merich High School, 25380 Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, 48336 or call 476-2836.

● GOALIE WANTED

A goalie is needed for the '81 Michigan Wolves select ice soccer team (boys born Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1981).

To schedule a tryout call Karen Larson (478-4430) or Rocco Mitkov (981-5642).

● GOLF OUTING

A golf outing sponsored by the Our Lady of Victory Booster Club is set for Saturday, May 18, at Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth. The format will be a four-person scramble and the \$60 entry includes golf, lunch, dinner and refreshments. Dinner only tickets are available for \$20.

All proceeds will support the youth athletic programs at Our Lady of Victory Parish. Interested golfers should call Larry Lemieux at 349-0012 or Ray Meadows at 349-7039.

● COLLECTORS SHOW

The first annual Sports Collector Card Show, sponsored by the Friends of Livonia Parks and Recreation and the Livonia Family Y's Invest in Youth program, will be from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Edgar Arena, on Lynbrook and the intersection of Farmington Road and south of Five Mile Road. Admission is \$2 per person. Space is available for \$35.

For more information, call Bonnie Jurcin (261-2161) or Karen Burskey (261-2260).

● HOCKEY SCHOOLS

The 1991 West Suburban Hockey School, under the direction of Michigan State University assistant coach Tom Anastos, will be July 22 through Aug. 23 at the University of Michigan-Deerborn Ice Arena. Power skating and hockey school classes will be conducted for boys ages 6-15.

The instructional staff also includes Mike Hunz, Washington Capitals scout, Pat Carmichael, former UMI-Deerborn coach, and Lyle Phair, current Illinois-Chicago assistant.

Schools are also available for youngsters ages 6-13 at Southgate (Aug. 12-23) and St. Clair Shores (Aug. 5-16).

For more information, call 846-5478.

By C.J. Rieak
staff writer

On the cover of last year's Oakland University baseball media guide were eight players, all wearing Hotman T-shirts. The gold-lettered title above their names was, appropriately, "The Batmen."

That was last year. Five of those eight have graduated, taking with them much of OU's offense and personality. As coach Paul Chapoton put it, "The makeup of our team has changed drastically."

The Pioneers had several break-downs last year, resulting in a 19-22 season and a 6-10 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference record. Hardly what was anticipated, after a 31-16 mark the previous year.

Last year was nothing that we expected," said Chapoton. "It was a crazy year."

The hitting, supposed to be the team's strength, dropped off from a .336 mark in 1988-89 to .311 last year. The earned run average rose from 4.70 to well over six runs a game.

ONE REASON: OU played just eight home games because the outfield field got flooded and then, after dirt was applied to try to correct the problem, turned into a quagmire. That problem has been corrected, but it may not help the Pioneers this season. As Chapoton noted, there are a lot of other holes to fill.

"We're going to have to have the pitching because we simply don't have the offense we had last year," he said. "We just don't."

Not only have outfielders Randy Bailey and Dennis Milobar, second baseman Tom Perkins, shortstop Tim Bradley, catchers Dave

OU sports

Walczak and Dave Arnold, and pitching are Pat Sidowski graduated, but several others expected to be the nucleus of this year's squad will not be around, for varying reasons.

Pitchers Mike Schill, Scott Tucker and Tom Vandermere have left the team, apparently because they disagreed with the amount of work they got. Three others — first baseman Chris Bobo, catcher Matt Konwerski and outfielder Ben Underwood — are also gone. Bobo and Konwerski are academic casualties. Underwood quit the team.

"WHEN YOU lose three guys from fall baseball who were big power guys, it hurts," said Chapoton.

But the OU coach, who will start his fourth season at the helm Friday at Kentucky State, was adamant: "We're not throwing in the towel. If we play up to our potential, we can beat anybody."

"I don't want to cry the blues, but we do have holes."

The Pioneers also have "quality pitching," according to Chapoton. Six experienced moundmen return, problem is, the staff is still underfined. Chapoton figures he has two top starters in junior lefthander Tracy Pech (2-5, 5.1 ERA last season) and sophomore righthander Matt Byrd (3-2, 2.53 ERA).

After that, however, it gets a bit fuzzy. There's senior righthander Dave Kallist (1-2, 6.52), junior lefthander Jeff Tugante (1, 4.49), sophomore lefthander Aaron Kolehmainen (1-2, 10.80), sophomore left-

hander Tony Deltuvo, a Rochester Adams grad (2-1, 6.14), a pair of junior college transfers in righthander Jim Verwaacke, from Macomb Community College, and Les Barley, a righthander from St. Clair CC, and two redshirt freshmen righthanders, Dave Perazza and Ralph Muglia.

"I FEEL we have the depth, but we have people who are unproven," said Chapoton of his staff. "But I hope they can keep us in the game."

The rest of the team isn't as fortunate as the pitching staff. "We desperately need depth," said Chapoton. There are some strong points. Dave Spak returns to start his fourth season at first base. The righthanded-hitting senior was second-team all-GLIAC last year after hitting .400, with team highs in homers (six) and runs batted in (33). Spak boasts a career .531 batting average.

Another senior, Mike Gunn, also returns but at a new position. A starter at third base for two years, Gunn will move to left field and designated hitter. As a sophomore he led the GLIAC in hitting with a .458 average, but fell off to .316 last year, with two homers and 26 RBI.

Gunn is moving from third to make room for sophomore Dylan Raymond, who saw limited action last year because of an elbow injury. Raymond is thought to have better range and a better arm than Gunn, and has shown flashes of being able to hit the ball," according to Chapoton.

WHERE OU is weakest is right up the middle. Greg Revere, a junior who was a utility infielder the last two seasons, will play second base. Revere hit .307 with 13 RBI last year.

Two freshmen are being counted on at shortstop: Derek McLaughy, from Troy HS, and Dan Lezotte, from Redford Union. Both will get an equal opportunity to play, said Chapoton. McLaughy is a righthanded hitter, Lezotte hits lefthanded.

In the outfield there is some experience in senior Ron Ciurla, who — like Gunn — is seeking a comeback. As a sophomore, Ciurla hit .347 with four homers and 20 RBI last year, he hit .224 with two homers and 14 RBI.

Gunn and Gary Sobek, a junior (.233, seven RBI), will both play left field, with freshman Eric Hesch backing up Ciurla in center. Tugante (.349, 18 RBI), when he's not pitching, and freshman Ron Zill will split time in right field.

BEHIND THE plate is more inexperienced. Junior Paul Kaiser, who RBI in just 14 at-bats, has the edge as starter. John Karam, a sophomore transfer from the College of the Oranks, and senior Gary Altschman (from Birmingham Anderson), are vying for playing time.

"We're very young," admitted Chapoton. "We've got three seniors who will play a lot. But if we get somebody hurt, we have to move people around, and everything will get screwed up."

Catching three-time GLIAC champion Ferris State is a tall order for OU. Saginaw Valley State is a strong title contender.

But with better fortune than last year, the Pioneers could prove challenging. If think we can be respectable," said Chapoton.

They'll get every chance in Kentucky, playing 10 games in five days.

Gymnasts collect post-season honors

Continued from Page 1

used to be the top performer in the state, but he had to alternate to the back of the line because of a knee injury.

Heather Murphy, senior, Canton. Murphy is a double qualifier on beam and vault. She was the state champion in vault and the runner-up in beam.

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Just miss 300? Wait 'til next week

THE SPIRIT OF BOWLING can have its exciting moments and this is usually brought on by someone getting a string of strikes en route to a 300 game.

Invariably, somebody will notice that a bowler has the first six or seven strikes. It is then that everyone gathers round and starts watching. By the eighth and ninth frame tension begins to build and even the opposition is pulling for that perfect game.

Adjoining lanes become silent in the final frame because nobody wants to distract the bowler and spoil the moment. As for the bowler, it is a time for nerves to calm down. You wipe the sweat from the palms knowing that you are just three strikes away from a perfect game.

Some have said that their legs feel like rubber at this moment. Others have felt their whole body tighten up. Even the eyes play tricks on you at this point.

Last Sunday, at Plum Hollow Lanes in Southfield, members of the Inter-Lodge Master League witnessed such a moment.

This league has been going for more than 30 years and not one had someone rolled a 300 game.

Lefty Hal Luban started to put together a string of strikes in the second game. Going into the fifth frame all the lanes had been shaded in.

frame, looks good! But it was not to be. The ball drove a little bit high in the pocket and left the six and 10 pins. Hal's final score was 288. Not bad.

That's how it goes sometimes. A little bit of luck here and there can make a big difference.

It's always a thrill for me to watch a fellow bowler attempt a perfect game. This story could have had a happier ending, but as they say in bowling there's always next week.

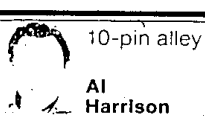
There were some happy endings elsewhere. As Brian Gogolin fired a 300 game at Wonderland Lanes in Livonia. Jerry Serna and Tom Barnhart did the same at Westland Lanes.

Larry Palace of the Sunday Sleepers League at Westland Bowl rolled a 299 game. He was stopped by a stubborn nine pin in his final toss.

The 299 and 298 games are awarded with rings, but the 300 rings are the most coveted.

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

Jim Kowalski (Farmington Hills) 300, 299, 298, 297, 296, 295, 294, 293, 292, 291, 290, 289, 288, 287, 286, 285, 284, 283, 282, 281, 280, 279, 278, 277, 276, 275, 274, 273, 272, 271, 270, 269, 268, 267, 266, 265, 264, 263, 262, 261, 260, 259, 258, 257, 256, 255, 254, 253, 252, 251, 250, 249, 248, 247, 246, 245, 244, 243, 242, 241, 240, 239, 238, 237, 236, 235, 234, 233, 232, 231, 230, 229, 228, 227, 226, 225, 224, 223, 222, 221, 220, 219, 218, 217, 216, 215, 214, 213, 212, 211, 210, 209, 208, 207, 206, 205, 204, 203, 202, 201, 200, 199, 198, 197, 196, 195, 194, 193, 192, 191, 190, 189, 188, 187, 186, 185, 184, 183, 182, 181, 180, 179, 178, 177, 176, 175, 174, 173, 172, 171, 170, 169, 168, 167, 166, 165, 164, 163, 162, 161, 160, 159, 158, 157, 156, 155, 154, 153, 152, 151, 150, 149, 148, 147, 146, 145, 144, 143, 142, 141, 140, 139, 138, 137, 136, 135, 134, 133, 132, 131, 130, 129, 128, 127, 126, 125, 124, 123, 122, 121, 120, 119, 118, 117, 116, 115, 114, 113, 112, 111, 110, 109, 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101, 100, 99, 98, 97, 96, 95, 94, 93, 92, 91, 90, 89, 88, 87, 86, 85, 84, 83, 82, 81, 80, 79, 78, 77, 76, 75, 74, 73, 72, 71, 70, 69, 68, 67, 66, 65, 64, 63, 62, 61, 60, 59, 58, 57, 56, 55, 54, 53, 52, 51, 50, 49, 48, 47, 46, 45, 44, 43, 42, 41, 40, 39, 38, 37, 36, 35, 34, 33, 32, 31, 30, 29, 28, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.



Al Harrison

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