

# Canton wins 4th crown the 'Hart' way

## tennis

WESTERN LAKES  
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
BOYS TENNIS TOURNAMENT  
Tuesday at Livonia Stevenson

### TEAM STANDINGS

1. Plymouth Canton, 21 points; 2. Plymouth Salem, 20; 3. North Farmington, 12; 4. Northville, 11; 5. Livonia Churchill, 5; 6. Livonia Stevenson, 6; 7. Walled Lake Central, 5; 8. (tie) Livonia Franklin and Farmington, 4 each; 10. Walled Lake Western, 2; 11. Farmington Hudson, 1.

### FLIGHT FINALS

No. 1 singles: Mark Schwagie (Northville) defeated Manoj Trivedi (Farmington), 6-0, 6-0.

No. 2: Rod Jensen (Canton) def. Jason Girmen (Salem), 6-2, 7-5.

No. 3: K.C. Kirkpatrick (Salem) def. Brad Telepo (Northville), 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

No. 4: Shawn Hart (Canton) def. Nadi Khan (Churchill), 6-3, 6-2.

No. 1 doubles: Mike Mulder and Jeff Reardon (Salem) def. Adam Majewski and Joe Binder (Canton), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

No. 2: Dan Rosario-Stu Levenbach (Canton) def. Todd Estes-Chris Machniak (Churchill), 6-2, 6-3.

No. 3: Mike Donohost-Eric Baden (Canton) def. David Bell-Javier Angulo (Salem), 7-6 (7-2), 5-7, 6-3.

### OVERALL STANDINGS

Western Division champ: Plymouth Canton, 5-0 record.

Lakes Division champ: Plymouth Salem, 5-0 record.

WLLAA dual-meet records: 1. Plymouth Canton, 10-0; 2. (tie) Plymouth Salem and North Farmington, 8-2 each; 4. (tie) Northville and Livonia Stevenson, 7-3 each; 6. Livonia Churchill, 5-5; 7. Walled Lake Central, 4-6; 8. Farmington Hudson, 3-7; 9. Livonia Franklin, 2-8; 10. Walled Lake Western, 1-8; 11. Farmington, 0-10; 12. Westland-John Glenn (did not field a team this season).

Overall champion: Plymouth Canton.

By Brad Emone  
staff writer

Make way Detroit Pistons, because the Plymouth Canton boys tennis team has broken new ground.

How does "Four-peat" sound? The Chiefs, despite some anxious moments from neighborhood rival Plymouth Salem, like the ring to their fourth consecutive Western Lakes Activities Association championship Tuesday as 11 schools competed in the tourney held at Livonia Stevenson.

Canton, thanks to Shawn Hart's victory at No. 4 singles, won the meet outright with a team-high 21 points, nudging out the rival Rocks who scored 20. See statistical summary.

As the sun was setting late Tuesday afternoon and temperatures still hovering near the 88-degree mark, only Hart and Livonia Churchill's Nadi Khan were the only two players remaining on the courts.

A victory by the Canton senior would give his school their unprecedented fourth straight title, while a loss would leave the Chiefs tied with their neighbors.

Khan put up a fight, but Hart was in control from start to finish, wrapping up the match and the team championship with a 6-3, 6-2 triumph.

"I'D RATHER not know, I would have choked if I knew I was under pressure to win," said Hart after he was told the outcome of the meet was riding on his match. "I really kind of blocked everything out. I was just glad to have my teammates behind me."

"His (Khan's) backhand and ground strokes have improved since the last time I played him. He's an overall better player."

Canton captured four of seven flights, a pair of titles each in singles and doubles.

While Hart's win sealed the outcome, the victory by Canton's No. 3 doubles team of junior Mike Donohost and sophomore Eric Baden proved pivotal.

The Chiefs took advantage of a

two-point swing when Donohost and Baden outlasted Salem's duo of David Bell and Spanish exchange student Javier Angulo, 7-6, 5-7, 6-3.

The entire meet may have come down to the first-set nine-point tie-breaker which Donohost and Baden won, 7-2.

Bell and Angulo put up a real fight after going down early in the set against the same Canton duo, 6-2, 6-2.

"THERE'S ALWAYS some kind of strategy, but I just told them (Bell and Angulo) to keep the ball in play," Salem coach Judy Braun said. "It would have been nice to win it outright, but this tournament is always tough. There's always good competition in this tournament."

Canton's other doubles victory occurred at No. 2 where senior Dan Rosario and junior Stu Levenbach capped an unbeaten WLLAA season with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Churchill's Todd Estes and Chris Machniak.

Canton, with juniors Adam Majewski and Joe Binder teaming up, also reached the finals at No. 1 doubles, only to fall to Salem's Mike Mulder and Jeff Reardon in three sets, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

At No. 1 singles, senior Rod Jensen of Canton beat Salem's Jason Grimm, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2).

Canton also picked up a valuable point when Scott Jones won his first match at No. 3 singles before being eliminated.

Rod played over the winter and his tennis has really improved," Canton coach Jim Hayes said. "He's a tough kid."

Hayes attributes Canton's success to "hard work."

"We have more and more kids playing indoor tennis," he said. "And the kids at Salem do the same thing. We're fortunate that the families are interested and willing to spend money for their kids to play."

HAYES ALSO believes the team's success stems from a popular physical education class the high school offers.

"We're fortunate to have an elective P.E. program," he said. "The

before battling back to win.

WHILE CC's No. 1 pair scrapped to win, the No. 2 team of Dave Gallagher and Chris Matton completely dominated. They whipped the Warriors' Jon Hoffer and John Newman 6-0, 6-0 to win the title and complete a team sweep — three straight match wins without losing a game.

The Shamrocks' No. 3 and 4 teams weren't quite as dominant, but they didn't lose a set in the finals. No. 3s Chip Shade and Dave Lombardi topped Rice's Jason Emory and Jim Molloy 6-3, 6-4, and No. 4s Steve En-



JIM JAGGELD/staff photographer

Manoj Trivedi of Farmington advanced to the final at No. 1 singles but lost to Northville team title again.

tennis classes are open to everybody, from novice players to the kids on the high school team. During the fall semester I taught three classes. In the winter I got all the gyms. I taught four classes this spring. The popularity is enormous."

Despite having the distinction of being "Three-peat" champion, Hayes was not totally confident going into the meet.

His No. 1 singles player, Brian Schmidt, was scratched from the lineup after spraining his knee over the weekend. Hayes got the bad news Monday morning when Schmidt showed up for school wearing a cumbersome brace.

"We just had to set different goals as far as points go and the kids just accepted it," Hayes said.

Schmidt, who watched in frustra-

tion all day from the sidelines, is hoping to return for Friday's Class A regional at Ann Arbor.

"I'm mad at myself. I was playing around in a park," Schmidt said. "The team was also kind of upset with me."

Jeff Fuerst, who along with Eric Hittchell back up the 10-man varsity squad, filled in for Schmidt, but lost in the first round.

"CANTON DID WELL since their No. 1 singles player (Schmidt) didn't play," Braun said. "If he had played, I think he would have taken at least two points."

The No. 1 singles draw became anti-climatic after North Farmington's Seth Hoffman, a nationally-ranked player, parted ways with the Raiders' squad only a week prior to

the WLLAA tournament.

That left the door wide open for state Class A singles runnerup Mark Schwagie of Northville, who beat Hoffman earlier this year, 6-1, 6-4.

Schwagie breezed through his three matches, including a 6-0, 6-0 triumph in the final over Farmington's Manoj Trivedi. (The two had to play their match on Wednesday because Trivedi had already used his allotted three matches on Tuesday.)

The other singles champ was K.C. Kirkpatrick, the 6-foot-6 senior from Salem, who upended Northville's Brad Telepo in the finals, 6-1, 6-2.

This weekend he'll be at two regionals (tennis and track), while trying to fit in AAU games.

## Depth key to CC's league success

By C.J. Riskak  
staff writer

The key to Redford Catholic Central's tennis victory at the Catholic League Championships — depth — is what Shamrock coach Bob Miller hopes will carry his team towards a Class A state title.

It certainly was too much for CC's only true challenger at the league meet, Birmingham Brother Rice. The Shamrocks, who narrowly defeated Rice earlier in the season on a dual-meet tiebreaker, rebounded Saturday to win six of the eight flights at the 10-team meet, held at Farwell Field in Detroit Saturday.

Rice won two flights and opposed CC in the other six flights. CC finished with 60 points to the Warriors' 52. University of Detroit-Jesuit was a distant third (24), followed by Warren DeLaSalle (22); Allen Park Cabrini (19); Harper Woods Notre Dame (16); Royal Oak Shrine (15); Redford Bishop Borgess (eight); Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher (six); and Pontiac Oakland Catholic (two).

"I felt somewhat confident (about our chances)," said Miller. "We beat

Brother Rice on a tiebreaker earlier, but I felt we were the better team."

HOW MUCH better? Does the league championship — CC's first since 1987 — prove anything?

"I think what it shows is we've got depth," answered Miller. "Our teams are fairly even in singles, but where it shows is at the No. 2, 3 and 4 doubles. And we were able to win the close matches this time."

Indeed, the Shamrocks were good enough to win six matches this time. Paul Boyyk started it off by capturing his second-straight No. 1 singles championship, bettering Rice's Tom Herb 7-6, 5-7, 6-1 in the final.

At No. 3 singles, Scott Hazlett topped the Warriors' Enzo Garcia 6-3, 6-2. Rice collected wins in the other two singles, with Geoff Prentice topping Paul Thleme 4-6, 6-0, 6-2 at No. 2 and Joe Vincier defeating Bob Dabala 6-4, 5-7, 6-3 at No. 4.

The doubles flights belonged to CC, however. The No. 1 team of Jason Torres and Chris Alonte outlasted Rice's Victor Morales and Eric Podgorny with a come-from-behind effort, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4. Torres and Alonte trailed 3-0 in the second set

before battling back to win.

WHILE CC's No. 1 pair scrapped to win, the No. 2 team of Dave Gallagher and Chris Matton completely dominated. They whipped the Warriors' Jon Hoffer and John Newman 6-0, 6-0 to win the title and complete a team sweep — three straight match wins without losing a game.

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glehart and Mark Shaya ripped Chris Kowal and Chris Miller 6-3, 6-0.

The significance of winning the team title was not lost on Miller. "1987 was the last time CC had won the league championship in tennis, and Brother Rice had won the last three, so this was the first time any of these kids had been on a championship team, which is nice," he noted.

Now, if only CC can carry that success on to the state meet. The Shamrocks will begin their quest at the Dearborn Regional Friday and Saturday.

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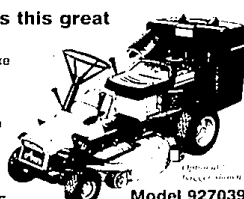
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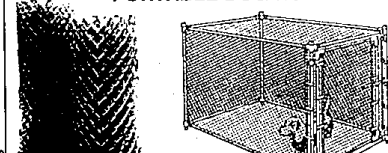
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