

The Court Jester

I can't get over the consummate ease with which Bobby Riggs defeated Margaret Court.

Who would have believed she'd only win three games? Mrs. Court is not a baseline player and one wonders why she didn't move to the net more. Actually she couldn't get to the net because Riggs kept hitting deep balls and she had very few opportunities to attack. The way she was missing her overheads made me cringe.

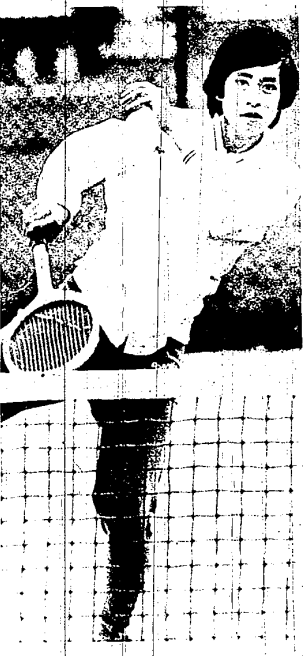
Actually Riggs played an intelligent game. The top players thrive on pace (pace being speed of the ball) and when you are used to that, it is difficult to adjust. Riggs wasn't hitting any harder than 90% of our club players and Margaret couldn't establish a rhythm.

I can't imagine that she was nervous. As any tennis player knows, we all have a bad day now and then. Riggs should challenge Chris Evert. She never leaves the baseline and rally all day. That would be an interesting match.

We've been flooded with inquiries about our women's summer tennis league. If you haven't registered you had better pick up your registration blank at the Livonia Family Y now, deadline is May 28.

This year we are running three divisions, A, B, and C.

Thailand Player -- A Bentley Plus



THAILAND CHAMP--Bentley High foreign exchange student from Thailand, Chai Bunyagidi, has his sights on the Suburban Eight doubles league title with his partner William Whitledge. (Observer photo)

If Bentley High varsity tennis Coach John Benner wasn't a strong supporter for the Student Foreign Exchange program, he has to be now.

Chai Bunyagidi of Satun, South Thailand, arrived in Livonia in May of '72, tennis racket in hand and Coach Benner was all smiles.

Bentley proves in tennis competition received a shot in the arm. With Chai playing on the first doubles, the Bulldogs reeled off seven straight victories before falling to Edsel Ford.

Chai, an 18-year-old senior, has teamed up with William Whitledge for the Bulldogs' showing in the first doubles.

In the words of Coach Benner, "These two kids make up the best doubles team I have ever coached."

The now Bulldog star, who will be returning to his native land in late June, started playing tennis at the age of 13 in Thailand. Before leaving for the U.S. he was runnerup in the L.A. Tennis Association's bracket of 18 and under.

Chai was more than happy to play high school tennis in Livonia.

"We have no tennis programs in the high schools," said Bunyagidi. "Just soccer, basketball, baseball, and ping-pong."

Chai has had to adjust to a more loose style of tennis at Bentley.

"Everything about tennis in Thailand is formal and the spectators pour out to the events," added Chai, who belongs to a tennis club in the Indochinese and Malay Peninsula.

"There seems to be more pressure on the players over here to win, the fun of the sport is lost."

One thing that really caught me by surprise was the amount of swearing the kids do while playing the game. This is something unheard of in my country.

"You would never see anyone throw a racket down or get so angry that they would lose control of their emotions."

"I have also noticed that there is hardly no respect at all granted to the coaches. The kids have shown me that they all firmly believe they know best and that's that."

"Respect and formality are No. 1 for tennis in Thailand."

Chai entered the Livonia City tennis tourney upon his arrival last summer and was runnerup in the doubles bracket with Whitledge in the 18 and under division.

He is living with the Quenten Havlik family in Livonia. Dave Havlik a senior and hockey player at Bentley.

The Bulldog No. 1 doubles of Bunyagidi and Whitledge had beaten Franklin, Truett, Dearborn, Farmington, Allen Park, and Thurston before falling to Edsel Ford in three sets, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Chai has his sights set on one thing now, winning the regional this weekend at Plymouth and maybe even at the state championship.

That is one prize he would treasure more than anything to take home to Thailand.

Stevenson Girls Run By Glenn

Livonia Stevenson roared to eight firsts in a girls' dual track outing with Westland John Glenn for a 57-34 victory.

Lisa Angelo was a double winner for Stevenson with a 16-91.1 first in the running long jump and a 65.3 time in the 40.

Stevenson won the 880 medley relay and Glenn the 40 relay.

The Spartan girls had earlier been knocked off by Walled Lake Western, 54-37, and bested Oak Park, 39-42.

The results:

SHOT PUT: 1-Spala (St.) 2-Jenez (St.) 3-Holton (St.) Distance 29' 4"

RUNNING MIDDLE JUMP: 1-Angelo (St.) 2-Fennell (St.) 3-Newstead (St.) Distance 10' 10"

HIGH JUMP: 1-Baker (St.) 2-Hennessy (St.) 3-Holton (St.) Distance 4' 9"

40 YD DASH: 1-Thorp (St.) 2-Selick (St.) 3-Glen (St.) Time 12.9

800 YD: 1-McGowan (Angelo) 2-Sperum (Larkin) 3-Garrett (Garrett) Time 2:05

800 YD: 1-Selick (St.) 2-Kenny (St.) 3-Holton (St.) Time 2:04

100 YD DASH: 1-Fennell (St.) 2-Wilkinson (St.) 3-Adams (St.) Time 12.3

MILE RUN: 1-Vance (St.) 2-Johnson (St.) 3-Lane (St.) Time 6:24

400 YD: 1-Selick (St.) 2-Holton (St.) 3-Holton (St.) Time 2:04

400 YD DASH: 1-Angelo (St.) 2-Miller (St.) 3-Holton (St.) Time 1:05

400 YD RELAY: 1-John Glenn (Hawthorn), Kevin Taylor (Bentley), Time 2:09

Glenn Gets Grid Coach

John Glenn High School's football Rockets have a new man to lead them next fall.

The Wayne-Westland school board Monday approved Lloyd H. Carr as an English teacher at John Glenn in addition to coaching football.

Carr, who has four years of teaching experience, comes from Belleville High where he was assistant football coach.

The new Rocket coach also has varsity college experience, having quarterbacked the University of Missouri team in Big Eight Conference.

Carr has a bachelor of science degree from Northern Michigan University.

He succeeds Bob Lusk, who coached the team since the school opened. Lusk resigned shortly after last fall's season.



Netters Win, 5-2 1/2

Livonia Churchill upped its Western Six tennis showing to 4-0 with a 5-2 1/2 victory over Farmington Harrison.

The Charger netters won all but fourth singles and first doubles.

Mark Osenko, Rich Boehms and Jim Kumble were singles winners for Churchill.

The results:

Observerland's Top Hitters

	ab	r	h	rbt	ba
BOEGLER, Bentley	29	2	13	10	.448
FRANTZ, Franklin	60	15	26	23	.433
ROY, Thurston	60	10	26	11	.423
WASLEY, Bentley	35	5	14	6	.400
NICOLIN, Farmington	30	7	12	10	.400
HERBST, GC West	51	5	20	11	.392
KARR, GC East	31	6	12	7	.390
WHALEY, GC East	41	12	18	8	.390
HOLTON, Farmington	34	7	13	0	.382
REED, GC East	29	11	5	380	
LIVESAY, Franklin	56	9	21	10	.375
DREHER, Churchill	43	14	17	10	.375
HODGKINS, John Glenn	55	13	20	7	.363
MCBRIDE, John Glenn	72	13	26	8	.361
PAULINE, Farmington	36	5	13	6	.361
ANLEITER, GC East	42	7	15	5	.350
WATERSTONE, Franklin	56	18	20	8	.357
FOSTER, Churchill	42	8	15	13	.357
BRITTAIN, John Glenn	53	11	19	9	.355
ROBB, Plymouth	51	6	18	5	.353
BLAIES, Churchill	45	13	15	5	.333
FORNA, Redford Union	33	9	11	5	.333
RICHMOND, Redford Union	58	17	19	12	.328
COMBES, N. Farmington	37	6	12	6	.324

Falcons Topple Stevenson, 3-1

Farmington High exploded for seven big runs in the fifth inning to topple Waterloo, 7-3, and tipped Livonia Stevenson, 3-1, to push its Inter-Lakes baseball mark to 5-3.

The Falcons started 5-0 over all.

It was Dennis Hagen who finally broke into the win column against Waterloo with seven hits, six walks and three strikeouts to his credit.

Hagen sports a 1-3 pitching mark.

Brad Starkweather went the route for Waterloo with the first, once in the second, and once in the fifth.

Falcon Coach Richard Roy who has been experiencing problems with his pitching staff went to senior all-conference outfielder Rick Pauline in the clash with Stevenson.

In his first start, Pauline bunted a six-hitter, walked one and struck out four.

Don Finn chucked for Stevenson, gave up seven hits, walked eight, struck out four, and suffered the defeat.

Farmington tallied twice in the second when Pat Nicolini doubled and moved to third on a sacrifice. He scampered home when Washburn singled, Washburn advanced to third on an error and scored on a hit by Peczos.

The Falcons pushed across another in the third when Jeff Herman walked, stole second and dashed in on a double by Pauline.

Stevenson's lone tally came in the sixth on a double by Mark Temby and single by Bob Ganzak.

RU Downs Belleville

Redford Union senior Scott O'Grady stole the show in a Suburban Eight track meet with Belleville.

O'Grady captured four first places and RU went on to topple Belleville, 79-44. He won the high jump, long jump, 100 yard dash and the low hurdles.

Mott Clobbers Harrison, 7-0

Waterford Mott blanked Farmington Harrison in a Western Six tennis battle, 7-0.

It was Harrison's second league setback after winning their first two. The Hawks have an overall record of 3-3.

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