

Seewagen to play for Detroit Loves

George "Butch" Seewagen, a ranking singles player from the United States and the variety tennis coach of Columbia University, has signed a one-year contract with the Detroit Loves of the World Team Tennis League (WTT).

Seewagen, 27, is ranked 23rd in the United States this year, after advancing to the 14th position in the rankings in 1973.

The 6-1, 165-pound Seewagen, Detroit's 14th-round draft choice, has been playing tennis most of his life. He learned the game from his father George Seewagen, who has been coach at St. John's University in New York for 30 years.

coach and instructor at the Ivy League university. His record at Columbia against Ivy League teams is 35-6 and his squad have taken championships for two straight years. In 1973 Columbia finished 10th in the NCAA finals. Seewagen graduated from Rice University in 1969 where he was an All-American for two years. He won the U.S. Amateur Championship in 1969.

He was a member of the United States Junior Davis Cup team for three years (1964-67) and finished second in the national 16 and under championships. He was ranked third in the junior 18 and under classification.

Loves' owners are Franklin's Seymour Brode and Bloomfield Township's Marshall Greenspan.

SEEWAGEN IS a full-time



TREND Talk by: Robert A. Sklar

Stags.

That's what young, unbroken stallions are branded. That's also the name of Michigan's newest professional sports team.

The team, officially tagged the Michigan Stags, belongs to the two-year-old World Hockey Association (WHA). It's slated to start operation next autumn.

Formerly the Los Angeles Sharks, a WHA charter member, the Stags were purchased early this past February by Bingham Farms-based Metro-Sports Associates (MSA).

Principal stockholders in MSA are Charles H. Nolton and Peter J. Shagena, both from Bloomfield Hills.

NOLTON, 43, is president of Nolwood Chemical Co., a Detroit warehousing distributor of heavy industrial chemicals which he founded 16 years ago.

Shagena, 38, is president of Chemical Recovery Systems, Inc., in Romulus.

"The Stags' emergence stemmed more from Nolton's and Shagena's own caprices than from their purported disillusionment with the National Hockey League's (NHL's) Detroit Red Wings.

"I didn't emerge from any cogent findings while at the drawing board.

"PRETTY SOON," Nolton added, "Pete and I became serious. Then we went traveling across the country looking for a pro hockey team to buy."

Judicious and enterprising, Nolton stresses how the Stags won't try to rival the Red Wings.

"After all," Nolton observed, "the Red Wings were the originators of the market and the generators of the enthusiasm for pro hockey here.

"We simply desire to provide a high-caliber alternative to unhappy hockey fans who can't get good tickets to watch the Red Wings.

"Good tickets are scarce because practically all of Olympia Stadium's prime seats are reserved already by season-ticket holders."

Olympia, located in Detroit, is the home of the Red Wings.

THE STAGS will play an 80-game schedule, beginning in mid-October.

Home games will be played on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays at Cobo Arena in Detroit, which has a seating capacity for hockey of approximately 10,000.

Karate taught

Karate as an adult education class? If you live in the Birmingham area and want to try your hand (and feet for that matter) at the sport, you are welcome to do so.

More than 170 people, both men and women, are enrolled in the Birmingham Karate Club with classes held at Derby Junior High. The program is under the direction of James Vanover, a first degree black belt expert.

"Most of the people who come here to try karate do so for the exercise element as well as the self defense aspect," stated Vanover. "We have people from the ages of 12 to 60 enrolled here."

MANY OF Vanover's students were tested for an upgrading of karate rank on Wednesday night. A panel of four peers, brown and black belt experts, judged the club members in their physical capabilities as well as their knowledge of the subject.

Each potential belt candidate went through a Kata, a prearranged fight, so that the judges could see the club members in action.

If a member passed the required tests, he was elevated one rank. If the member failed he will be able to try again at the next opportunity.

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Game time will be 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 7 p.m. Sundays.

To extend their appeal to the whole family, the Stags have planned for later in the season some Sunday matinees plus some giveaway nights.

The Stags will show a free-wheeling, hard-knocking competitive edge, according to Nolton.

AS HE perceptively put it, "We're banking on reviving the 'rock 'em, sock 'em' playing style with fresh faces like the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers are doing."

Presently, the Stags have under contract three players with NHL experience.

They are former Red Wings

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Bart Crasheley and Jim Niekamp, former Montreal Canadian Marc Tardif, along with former Chicago Black Hawk J.P. LaBlanc.

A salary-bidding battle currently raging between the raiding WHA and the staid NHL seems a blue-chip bet to bring even a greater number of veteran pro players into the Stags' ranks.

But, Nolton is quick to note, the Stags will need to be "given the benefit of the doubt by fans while we're manning our roster."

SEASON-TICKET requests for the Stags may be filed by writing MSA, 30100 Telegraph, Suite 160, Birmingham 48010, or by calling the Stags' ticket office at 272-0562.

With Nolton sharing control of the team's managerial reins, the Stags should negotiate smoothly the preponderance of preparatory hurdles they now encounter.

A native Detroit, Nolton grew up near Warren and Greenfield on Detroit's west side. He has always exhibited an ardor for athletics.

At the grade school level, he participated in playground activities at Gardner Elementary. In prep circles, he competed in baseball, basketball and football at old Royal Oak High.

Nolton never was graduated from college. However, he did attend briefly Wayne State University prior to serving a four-year hitch in the Navy during the Korean War.

TODAY, HE'S hooked on golf, paddleball, snow skiing and tennis for recreation.

Nolton shrugs off the criticism directed at MSA for identifying the Stags with Michigan and not with Detroit.

"I'm tired," Nolton said brusquely, "of people thinking Detroit is the only place in Michigan."

"Besides, Michigan has a nice melodic ring to it and six other pro teams are identified with Detroit."

"We wanted the Stags to have a completely different identification."

History could well peg Nolton's brashness, initiative and mettle as the Stags' richest, most prosperous assets.

Lifeguard job openings

Summer lifeguards now are being sought by Stony Creek and Metropolitan Beach Metroparks, both operated by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. Applicants for the seasonal position of lifeguard must be at least 18, with the exception of 1974 high school graduates who are only 17. Applicants should have a minimum of 20/50 vision corrected to 20/20 and hold a senior lifesaving certificate.

They also are required to pass a physical examination and a swimming test.

To apply, visit in person Stony Creek near Utica or Metropolitan Beach near Mount Clemens.

O & E seeks statistician

The Birmingham office of the Observer & Eccentric Sports Department is looking for a summer sports statistician. The job entails working eight hours on Mondays and four hours on Tuesdays compiling

weekly Little League Baseball and club swimming results.

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For further information, call 644-1100, ext. 240 weekdays.

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