



Farmington hosts women's tennis tourney

By KEN SCHIFF

Susan Pritula of Detroit won the area's largest women's open tennis tournament Sunday by defeating Southfield's Jean Blievernicht at Southdowns Tennis Club in Farmington.

The 19-year-old Miss Pritula, who has held a national ranking since she was 10, downed Ms. Blievernicht, who teaches at Southdowns.

The Michigan Women's Tennis Organization Open (M.W.T.O.) was the first tournament to be staged by the group, which was formed to promote women's tennis in the area. The tournament was sanctioned by the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association.

"This is the only strictly women's open in the state," said

M.W.T.O.'s president, Margaret Blachut. "This is the biggest we've had."

"We were just unhappy with our treatment and the unfair practices against women," she said. "The men had more tournaments, more prize money, better courts and better court times. We decided to form an organization to promote women's tennis in Southeastern Michigan. We figured the best way to promote it was to stage a successful tournament in the area."

"And it was successful."

"We had 64 draws from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and Canada. We offered more prize money than any women's tournament in the state with \$300 going to the winner. Most other tourneys

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The biggest hitch in the tournament came Saturday when a bad storm caused a power failure that delayed the tournament a half hour.

The tournament champion, Sue Pritula, is a Junior at the University of Michigan and has won the Michigan State Open five out of the last six years. She also was the consolation flight winner at the Virginia Slims tourney in Denver last year.

Miss Pritula beat the no. 1 seed in the event, Susan Starret from Chicago. She beat her in straight sets but with two tie-breakers 7-6, 7-6. The second set tie-breaker reached four points all and the winning point came on a fine shot to Ms. Starret's backhand.

Miss Pritula's sister, Sharon, the top women's player in Wisconsin, was scheduled to play but in-

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stead accepted an invitation to Forest Hills for the U.S. Open.

JEAN BLIEVERNIGHT, the runnerup, plays at Courthouse Racquet Club in Southfield and teaches at Southdowns. She is second ranked on the National Public Parks tournament circuit and reached the finals of the Western Ontario Open this year.

The two singles finalists combined to take the doubles title, defeating Kris Fulgenzi and Debbie Mascarin, 6-0, 6-0.

Miss Fulgenzi, who is from Grrosse Pointe, is ranked 24th nationally (14 and under) and is second ranked for the Western region. Miss Mascarin is ranked 29th nationally (16 and under).

In the women's 35 division, Alphonzia Edwards defeated Schroth, 6-2, 6-1. The winner received \$100 and Mrs. Schroth, \$50. Vera Wombwell, the second seeded women's 35 player in Wisconsin, lost in the semi-finals and flew home before the finals.

don't offer money for the women's 35 division and we did," she said.

"The Michigan State Open, which will be held this weekend at the Flint Swim and Racquet Club in Flint, doesn't even have a women's 35, yet they have a men's 35 and men's 45."

THE TOURNAMENT WAS also a success from the standpoint of spectator turnout—100 to 150 people watched the quarterfinals Saturday.

"Things went smoothly," Ms. Blachut said. "We had great cooperation. There was excellent tennis and excellent hospitality."

Singles

QUARTERFINALS — Mary Jane Young of Birmingham defeated Inger Horne of Grrosse Pointe 6-0, 6-2. Jean Blievernicht of Southfield defeated Kris Fulgenzi of Grrosse Pointe 7-5, 3-6, 7-5. Susan Pritula of Detroit defeated Sue Selke of Detroit 6-3, 6-2.

Susan Starret of Chicago defeated Debbie Mascarin 1-6, 6-1, 7-6, 7-6.

SEMI-FINALS — Blievernicht defeated Young 6-1, 6-0. Pritula defeated Starret 7-6, 12 tie-breakers.

FINALS — Pritula defeated Blievernicht 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles

QUARTERFINALS — Kris Fulgenzi and Debbie Mascarin defeated Carla Goke and Ursula Krzyzowski 6-1, 6-0.

Trish Faulkner and Jane Greenawalt defeated Pat Hurick and Kathy Miesel 6-1, 6-0.

Carmen Charpentier and Mary Jane Young defeated Mary Hicks and Vicki Westbrook 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

Kel Hoffman and Pat Schroth defeated Debra Bronnough and Myria Pugh 6-2, 7-6.

Darinda Brownlee and Audrey Cox defeated Sally Cahill and Patti McCarthy 6-0, 6-0.

Jean Blievernicht and Susan Pritula defeated Dottie Hardy and Ruth Stuebenroch 6-0, 6-0.

SEMI-FINALS — Fulgenzi and Mascarin defeated Faulkner and Greenawalt 6-2, 6-2.

D'Angelo and Selke defeated Charpentier and Young 6-3, 6-4.

Hoffman and Schroth defeated Boshov and Fingerle 6-2, 6-4.

Blievernicht and Pritula defeated Brownlee and Cox 6-0, 6-2.

FINALS — Pritula and Blievernicht defeated Fulgenzi and Mascarin 6-0, 6-0.

Women's 35

FIRST ROUND — Nancy Schmidt advanced on default. Gertrude Bartholomew defeated Ellen Schwartz.

SECOND ROUND — Vera Wombwell defeated Ellie Strong 6-0, 6-0.

Edith Frank defeated Pat Hurick 6-1, 6-1.

Pat Schroth defeated Toshiko Boyd 6-1, 6-1.

Nancy Schmidt defeated Shirley Wernae 6-3, 6-4.

Kathy Miesel defeated Gertrude Bartholomew 6-1, 6-2.

Clare Fingerle defeated Elaine Beck 6-1, 6-2.

Betta Gehringer defeated Dottie Hardy 6-0, 6-0.

Alphonzia defeated Dorothy Mortenson 6-0, 6-0.

THIRD ROUND — Edwards defeated Gehringer 6-2, 6-0.

Schroth defeated Schmidt 6-0, 6-1.

Wombwell defeated Frank 6-3, 6-1.

FOURTH ROUND — Edwards defeated Fingerle 6-2, 6-0.

Schroth defeated Wombwell 6-1, 6-1.



Susan Pritula won the Michigan Women's Tennis Organization's Open held in Farmington. (Photographed by Craig Newman)

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