

Beats Lahser's Feuer in blizzard final

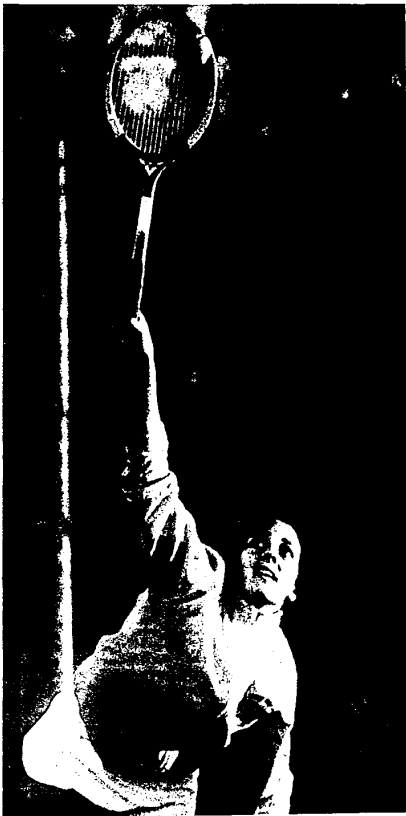
Jay's Jodi Ross takes state net crown



Jodi Ross, a Southfield junior, took the state crown by defeating Dale Feuer, 6-1, 6-4. (Photographed by Lelani Hu)

By TOM SCHRAM
In the midst of a veritable blizzard, on a cold October afternoon, Southfield's Jodi Ross defeated Bloomfield Hills Lahser's Dale Feuer 6-1, 6-4 last Saturday to take the state girl's tennis championship in Kalamazoo.
With snow falling in flurries, Ross took the championship by simply overpowering her opponent with a lightning serve which she put in on her first attempt 44 of 67 times in the all Oakland County final.
Ross failed to double fault throughout the entire state championship series.
Jim Mills, Southfield tennis coach lauded the efforts of his champion.
"Jodi hits harder than anybody else, she hits with accuracy and she is a smart tennis player," he said.
"If she's hitting hard and the girl she's playing is hitting them back, she'll change the pace. She'll catch the girl favoring her backhand and hit it down the forehand line. That is smart tennis," Mills said.
For Ross, it may only be the prelude on a promising prep tennis career. She is a junior and has a year of eligibility remaining. She will almost certainly be back at the state tournament next fall — if she decides not to play with the boy's team next year.
For Feuer, it marks the end of a long and distinguished tennis career in which she played for two years on the boys' team and went undefeated in her final season until her final match.
The two standouts had played once before, two years ago. That time, Feuer won in three straight sets.
"I was thinking of that when we played in the final admitted Ross. I was as nervous as I had ever been on a tennis court. You might say I was totally psyched out," she said.

Ross took the victory humbly, as a true champion.
"I was close to the top of my game and truthfully, Dale didn't play as well as she is capable of playing," she said.
Feuer made no excuses for her performance.
"I had a rough semi-final match and I was pretty tired, but it didn't bother my playing and neither did the weather," she said.
"Jodi just played super," she said.
"We played a match at Lahser almost every day and I didn't come up with anyone who could hit as hard as Jodi all year. I was just trying to keep the ball in play but I couldn't keep up with the pace of her shots."
Ross said that her plans call for eventually attending college.
"I would like to go to Arizona State where they have a good tennis program but wherever I go I plan to keep up with my tennis," she said.
Feuer's plans are considerably more tenuous.
"I would like to go to Stanford, but I don't know if I'll get in. I really don't know if I'll try to play tennis in college. It can take up a lot of time."
While they disagree on who is the best women's tennis player in the world, with Ross favoring Margaret Court and Feuer opting for Billy Jean King, both agree that the recent wave of publicity in the area of women's tennis has been a good thing for the game.
"There were twice as many girls out for tennis at Lahser this year as when I first went out two years ago. I think the publicity helped and I think the women's liberation movement was a factor also," Feuer said.
Following her visit to the state finals Lahser's Miss Feuer didn't waste anytime getting back into regular league play as she and the Knight tennis team handed West Bloomfield its first loss of the year with 12-0 shutout.



Dale Feuer of Lahser could not stay with Ross in the finals, which were held in a blizzard in Kalamazoo. (Photographed by Lelani Hu)

Golf buffs can keep busy in winter months

By RON HINGST
Even the most avid golf buffs will soon be forced off local courses by the cold weather, but all is not lost.
Golfers can keep in touch with their game during those long winter months.
All athletics demand participants to keep in shape during the off-season and golf is no different.
"THE BEST THING to do is to keep walking," said Ray Maguire, Birmingham Country Club pro. "Don't come back in the spring 20 pounds heavier."
"Golf is like anything else —

when the legs go out you're in trouble," he added.
"I always do a lot of trunk twisting — put the club behind your back and rotate your trunk," said Bill Rogers assistant pro at Bloomfield Hills Country Club.
Rogers also advised some weight lifting exercises especially for the wrists when facilities and equipment are available.
MOST AREA professionals suggested leg exercising to keep in shape over the winter, and the consensus was to "keep active" with such activities as indoor tennis or bowling.

Some indoor driving ranges are available to local citizens and Al Mengert, pro at Oakland Hills, explained that those with the room can hang a rug or mat in the garage and drive a few balls into such a target.
Tennis or rubber balls are handy to squeeze and keep the wrists in shape during spare moments.
In addition to keeping in shape golfers can give some attention to his or her clubs.

ACCORDING TO Thad Gutowski, president of Falcon Golf Inc., Ferndale, clubs should be stored in an environment where the temperature is constant.

Chargers out early

Southfield-Lathrup's trip to the girls' state tennis tournament was cut short when Lathrup's doubles team of Beth Liberson and Debbie Bush lost in the first round.
Miss Liberson and Miss Bush lost to Holland High's Mary Long and Liz Piersma, 6-0, 6-4, in the tournament last weekend at Kalamazoo College.
"They (Lathrup's girls) played a good team," said Lathrup coach Ed Waits. "They (Holland's girls) were way up there at the top of the draw, which means they were seeded or placed or whatever they do at the state tournament."
"But we still didn't play real well. They (Lathrup's girls) weren't as good as I expected them to be."

Miss Liberson and Miss Bush qualified for the state tournament by beating Birmingham Groves' Patsy Cox and Bonnie Beresford.

Huskie Matt

Matt Heppler, a former football standout at Southfield-Lathrup High, is making a name for himself at Michigan Tech this season. Heppler, an offensive tackle, was given a Blue Chip award by the Michigan Tech coaching staff for his efforts in the Huskies' 19-0 homecoming victory over Moorhead State recently.

6-7, 6-3, 6-1, in the finals of the Royal Oak Kimball regional.
Miss Liberson, a senior, was runner up in the singles competition at last year's state tournament. Miss Bush is a junior who never played high school tennis before this year.
"Part of it (the problem at the state tournament) was that Debbie Bush hasn't been playing tennis that long," Waits said. "I think the whole situation kind of overwhelmed her. Certainly, she'll be better next year, if only because of the experience. But she also has a good attitude and a good head."

Trainer featured

Bob White will be featured at the monthly Fellowship of Christian Athletes North Area adult breakfast, Wednesday, Oct. 24 at 6:30 a.m. in the Madison Heights Howard Johnson's (14 Mile Rd. and Stephenson).
White is a veteran athletic trainer at Wayne State University.

New team forms

Area women are invited to participate in a new ladies soccer team now forming. Practices are held at 5:30 p.m. every Tues. and Thurs. at Harding Park, Ferndale, just off 10 Mile Rd. between Woodward and one mile west of I-75. For further information call Robin Brooks, 642-4296, after 5:00 p.m.

Raider girls top Franklin

North Farmington defeated Livonia Franklin, 127-44, in a North-west Suburban League girl's swimming meet last week.
North Farmington, which took first place in 10 of the 11 events, had a double winner in Pat Gasser. She won the 50-yard freestyle (26.9) and the 100 free (1:00.5). North Farmington's Debbie Somerville set a varsity record in the 500 free with a time of 6:17.4.

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