

Area netter wins Slims berth

The Virginia Slims of Detroit women's professional tennis tournament has local player involved in every facet of its production.

Now even a local player will be participating.

Nicole Lorenzetti of Bloomfield Hills, a 16-year-old junior at Lahser High School, will enter the tournament draw with 31 touring women professionals.

She won the chance by beating the best Detroit area junior girl tennis players in a qualifying tournament last weekend.

It's the chance of a lifetime for an aspiring young tennis player. Lorenzetti knows that and plans to make the best of her opportunity.

Normally, Virginia Slims qualifiers have to accumulate points in a series of tournaments. An exception was made for the Detroit tournament this year, assuring the local qualifying tournament winner of a spot in the Slims draw.

"I wanted to win the qualifying tournament so bad," Lorenzetti said, "that I was psyched up two months before it was held."

Lorenzetti's first match was her toughest in the qualifying tournament. She defeated Karen Royal of Detroit 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 in her only three-set match of the three-day event.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER winning the close-fought opening match, Lorenzetti went to the Rochester Hills Racquet Club, where she is enrolled in a junior excellence program, and put in 2½ hours of practice.

"The first match was two hours long," Lorenzetti said, "and I had a

sure foot...but I wasn't happy with the way I was playing. I decided that if I wanted to win I would have to go back and work."

Lorenzetti defeated Marianne Ring of Birmingham 6-4, 6-2 in her next match, before stopping Karen Edwards of Grosse Pointe Shores 6-0, 6-4 in the semi-final match.

In the finals, Lorenzetti blanked Kathy Krickstein of Grosse Pointe 6-0, 6-0.

"Kathy Krickstein and I always have good matches," she said. "I knew I would have to be on my game to beat her. She plays on the University of Michigan team and has a lot of good qualities."

"I concentrated every single point," Lorenzetti recalled. "I have never concentrated like that before. After the first four or five games, her mind was really blown. She doesn't concentrate that well when she's behind."

"It was a good tournament," Lorenzetti said. "I was happy to win. I was seeded number one. Everyone expected me to win and everyone wanted to see me lose."

"I could feel vibrations across the net that they wanted to get me. When you're seeded first you have to be that much sharper and tougher. Otherwise, a lucky break here and there and it's all over."

LORENZETTI KNOWS WHAT the women professionals go through to qualify for a Slims tournament. Two weeks ago, she participated in a pre-qualifying tournament for the Avon Futures Circuit held in Columbus, Ohio.

"There are four tournaments you

have to play to get into the Slims tournament in Chicago," she said. "I tried to qualify more to get the experience and to see how these ladies play and to see the ropes of pro tennis."

"It's a lot different than junior tennis. They warm up for one hour."

"In junior tennis you warm up 10 minutes. After they play a match, they're off 20 minutes then they practice for three more hours."

"In junior tennis," she said, "after you play you go back to the hotel, swim and socialize. You don't really work your butt into the ground. I guess it's because these ladies are out there to make a living."

"They're all really tough competitively," she said. "Off the court they're all nice. Once they're on the court it's stone face and that's it."

While participating in the Columbus, Ohio tournament, Lorenzetti split sets

against a girl ranked seventh in the world in junior tennis.

THIS NEXT WEEK, Lorenzetti will be devoting even more of her time to tennis practice in preparation for the Slims. She plans to jump rope a lot and to play about three hours of practice games each day.

"If I play my own game," she said, "make my shots and still lose, that's fine. I just don't want to be nervous."

She will play the first match of the Slims tournament, 11 a.m. at Cobo Hall-A. The tournament draw has not been made yet, so she doesn't know who will be her opponent.

"I would rather play someone I never heard of," Lorenzetti said, "someone not as good as I played someone like Martina Navratilova the first round, I would be so infuriated standing on the same court as her that I would probably completely blow the first set. I wonder if I'll draw Renee Richards?"

Recreation cage standings

Following are the won-lost records of the teams in the Southfield Parks and Recreation basketball leagues. Standings reflect games played through Feb. 6.

A LEAGUE

STANDINGS — Montgomery Ward—70 won-lost record; Arrow Trophy—52; New York Life—52; Blackstone—43; Honeywell—25; McDonald's—23; Keros 1800—22; Sky High—14.

B LEAGUE

STANDINGS — Mr. Ted's—46; Golden Bears—7; Joe Green's—52; Bill Elwood—52; Official Sports—52; Pistons—52; Providence—52; Midway Market—44; Northmoor—44; Burroughs—34; Seak & Ale—34; Val—34; Redirection—14; Sanyo Realty—17; Ober—07; Moe Zoo—04.

BOYS' 14 LEAGUE

STANDINGS — Hoosiers—30; Spartans—30; Bruins—24; Chaperone—21; Bulldogs—22; Wolves—12; Bobcats—12; Cougars—12; Broncos—04.

BOYS' 16 LEAGUE

AMERICAN STANDINGS — Lakers—40; Scotts—34; Blazers—32; Sun—22; Spiders—13; Warriors—13; Nationals—12; Wolves—12; Bulldogs—12; Rockets—12; Knicks—04.

GIRLS' 14 LEAGUE

STANDINGS — Rockets—40; Queens—31; Pacers—12; Pistons—04.

GIRLS' 16 LEAGUE

STANDINGS — Jets—31; Titans—31; Flyers—27; Cardinals—04.



Nicole Lorenzetti of Bloomfield Hills will play with 31 women professional tennis players in the Virginia Slims of Detroit. She is shown here winning the 18 and under championship at the Michigan State Closed Tournament last summer. She is 16 years old.

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