

Thursday, January 4, 1979

143 participate in tourney

Long matches highlight Franklin event

Long, grueling matches highlighted the final round of play in the first-ever Holiday Tennis Classic played last Saturday at the Franklin Racquet Club.

Over 143 players participated in the 16 divisions of play during the four-day tournament.

One of the longest matches in the tourney was played Saturday afternoon in the men's A final between Tom Harrett, club champion at Centaur and John Lindsey, a member of Franklin.

The two players battled over two hours before the match was decided.

Lindsey, running from sideline to sideline, ousted Harrett, 63, 54, 7-5, in one of the most exciting matches of the day.

Lindsey's top spin groundstrokes were a sharp contrast to Harrett's

power game. Both players extended themselves to the limit during the marathon battle.

In the women's A doubles final, Sue Heald and Diane Mehas outlasted Anita Goldman and Laurie Kaufman, 6-7, 64, 7-5.

Heald and Kaufman frustrated their opponents the first set by hitting a variety of lobs and winners.

Mehas and Heald got going in the second set using their power serve and volley strategy.

"It took me a while to get going since I haven't been playing that much."

- Men's Open Champion

Mark Conti

GOLDMAN AND KAUFMAN took a 54 lead in the final set only to lose service in the 10th game which got their opponents back into contention. Mehas and Heald won the tiebreaker easily, 5-0.

The longest match of the day occurred in the women's B final between Sally Gerak and Sampa Dutton. The three-hour match finally ended when Dutton won the tiebreaker in the third set, 7-6. Gerak had won the first set, 7-6, but lost another tiebreaker in the second, 7-6.

Gerak said she tired in the last set against the younger Dutton.

In the men's A doubles final, Fred Jones and Brian Bee defeated Lindsey and Chuck Imhoff, 7-6, 24, 6-2, in a match which lasted for almost two hours.

In the men's open final, Mark Conti, former Big Ten singles champion at Michigan defeated John Neville, 7-6, 6-0, for the title. The 20-year-old Neville, a student at the University of Pennsylvania, led Conti 5-2 in the first set, only to lose in a tiebreaker.

"It took me a while to get going since I haven't been playing that much," said Conti.

The more-experienced Conti then made quick work of Neville in the second set, whipping the youngster, 6-0, in just 20 minutes.

Both players displayed some fine passing shots in the first set as the two finalists rallied from baseline to baseline.

Ethel Larson (second from left) and Trudy Schwarz (left) chat with opponents Judy Power (glasses) and Nancy Davidson before the two teams

met in the women's B doubles final at the Holiday Tennis Classic. Schwarz and Larson won, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2. (Photo by Sally Gerak)

HARRY MEYER used his vast experience to defeat David MacLeod, 6-2, 7-5, in the men's C championship. Meyer displayed his ambidexterity with his great strokes in beating the more youthful MacLeod.

HILARY RANDOLPH captured the women's A singles title by downing Hillary Giltstein, 6-0, 6-4.

HOLIDAY TENNIS RESULTS

MEN'S OPEN: Mark Conti defeated John Neville, 7-6, 6-0; men's A singles, John Lindsey defeated Tom Harrett, 63, 54, 7-5; men's B singles, Fred Burchett defeated Terry Beale, 65, 66; men's C singles, Harry Meyer defeated Fred Marcell, 6-2, 7-5; women's A singles, Trudy Schwarz defeated Hillary Giltstein, 6-0, 6-4; women's B singles, Sampa Dutton defeated Sally Gerak, 34, 76, 7-6; men's A doubles, Fred Burchett and Brian Bee defeated John Lindsey and Chuck Imhoff, 7-6, 24, 6-2.

WOMEN'S B DOUBLES: Trudy Schwarz and Ethel Larson defeated Judy Power and Nancy Davidson, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2; women's A doubles, Sue Heald-Diane Mehas defeated Anita Goldman-Laurie Kaufman, 6-7, 64, 7-5; men's B doubles, Chuck Imhoff-Brian Bee defeated Bill Welch-Tom Rader, 6-4, 6-4; girls 18 singles, Sally Gerak defeated Ethel Larson, 6-2, 6-4, girls 15 singles, Monica Schell defeated Tracy Baldwin, 6-2, 6-1; girls 12 singles, Sarah Venema defeated Linda Giltstein, 6-2, 6-4; boys 18 singles, Terry Beale defeated James McRae, 6-0, 6-0; boys 12 singles, Brad Kovens defeated Gary Geltz, 6-1, 6-0.

Charles Dunn (left) and Terry Beale met in the finals of the boys 18 singles final. Dunn came away the winner in the first-ever Holiday Tennis Classic played at Franklin Racquet Club last week. (Photo by Sally Gerak)

A Christmas surprise

Swim star gets national rank

By MARTY BUDNER

Doug Cleland and his friend walked out of the Oakland University locker room one day last week after another grueling, two-hour swim practice.

The two swimmers were entranced by a musical game of computer basketball.

Although he probably would have preferred playing with the little singing box, Cleland politely waved his friend to the lobby and consented to an interview.

Swimming is now a major priority in the 18-year-old life of Rochester's 13-year-old swimming celebrity. Computer games are now taking a second place — so to speak — in Cleland's maturing career.

His hard work were rewarded last month as Cleland was ranked as the third best all-around (11-12 year) age-group swimmer in the country. He was lauded as an "age-group star" of 1978 in the December issue of "Swimming World."

"I was told last May that I was going to be ranked, but it wasn't official until the magazine came out in December," said Cleland, who attends West Junior High School. "To be ranked third among all the swimmers in the nation was my biggest Christmas present."

Cleland accomplished that tremendous ranking with a phenomenal 1978 outdoor (commonly referred to as

long-course meets and measured in meters) and indoor (short-course, measured in yards) swim season.

His most prestigious feat was shattering the 11-12-year-old 50-yard backstroke national record with a time of 27.40. He was one of 123 age-group records which he broke as a swimmer across the country last year.

CLELAND WAS subsequently ranked as the top individual indoor backstroker in the nation for 1978.

Other national short-course individual rankings for Cleland were second places in the 100-yard backstroke (:59.67), 100-yard individual medley (:59.86) and 200-yard individual medley (2:10.67). He was also listed among the top 10 national swimmers in the remaining eight individual indoor events.

The listings are just as impressive in the long-course categories.

Cleland was second in both the 50-meter backstroke (.31.11), and 50-meter butterfly (.28.83). He was ranked third in the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter backstroke and 200-meter individual medley.

His Michigan records are numerous. Cleland owns eight state short-course records and three state long-course records. At the Michigan AAU meet last summer he won all nine events in which he entered.

Cleland competes as a member of the Oakland Live Yers — Rochester's combined AAU, YMCA and Oakland University age-group swim team. He has been swimming since he was

seven years old.

"We were just driving by Heart of the Hills Swim Club (Old Perch Road and Avon Road) one day, and my mother suggested that I join the club," said Cleland, whose mother and grandmother both have competitive swimming experience. "I got interested in swimming then, and joined the club."

SINCE THEN the seventh grade student has steadily improved.

Cleland's days normally consist of two-hour workouts at the Oakland University — the Live Yers' home. Three days a week are devoted to lifting weights, a program Cleland started late last year.

He has competed in 45 meets all over Michigan and has travelled to Cincinnati and Nashville.

"I have a goal right now of getting a scholarship to a major college," said Cleland. "Whatever happens after that — like the Olympics or an NCAA championship — will be extra."

Another Rochester swimmer — Jim Bruzzese — is ranked nationally in two individual events. Bruzzese is seventh (one notch ahead of Cleland) in the 100-yard backstroke and 10th in the 100-yard individual medley.

The top-ranked swimmers overall for 1978, according to "Swimming World," are Sam McAdam for the boys and Tracy Caulkins, who was featured in an article by "Sports Illustrated" last year, for the girls.

The second-ranked boy was Jim Bodine, followed by Cleland.

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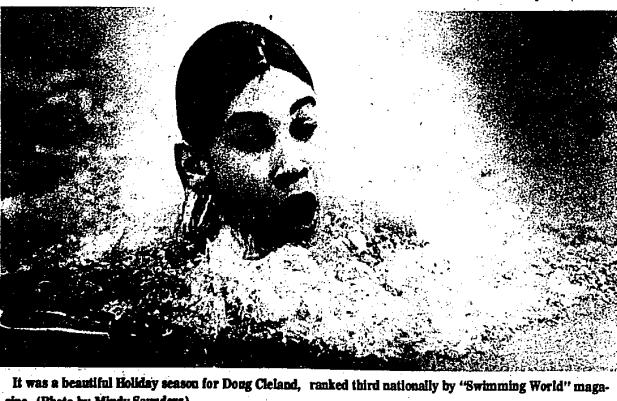
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It was a beautiful Holiday season for Doug Cleland, ranked third nationally by "Swimming World" magazine. (Photo by Mindy Saunders)