

Monday, August 13, 1979

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Tatt wins tennis title

Laura Tatt, a 22-year-old nursing student from Royal Oak, won the singles championship of the inaugural Court House Women's Open Tennis Tournament last Thursday in the West Bloomfield Club.

Tatt, who attends Oakland University, defeated Judi Stiff, also of Royal Oak, 7-6, 6-3, in the singles final.

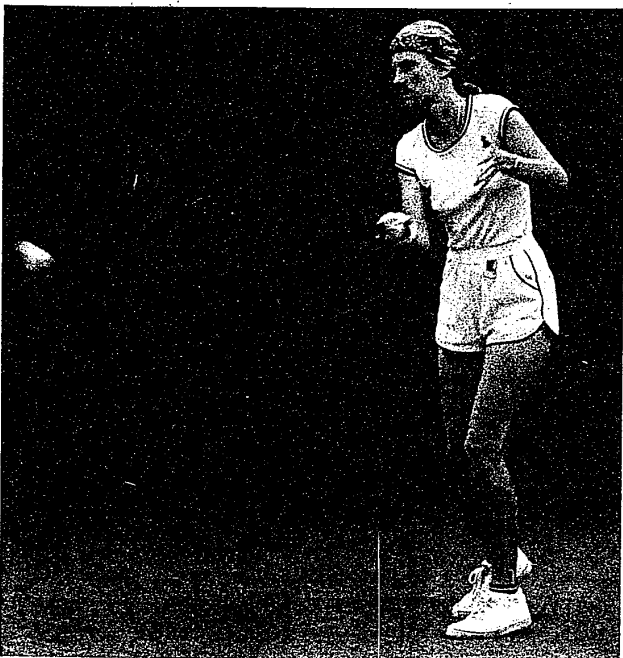
In the semifinals, needed three sets to eliminate Southfield's Jodi Ross, 6-4,

6-7, 7-5. The 20-year-old Stiff, who teaches tennis at Beverly Hills Racquet Club, beat Bobbie Daniel of West Bloomfield, 6-0, 6-4, in the other semifinal.

Two Bloomfield Hills netters, Marty Farrer and Phyllis Mazure, won the doubles championship, coming from being down 2-5 to whip Cassie Plummers and Jocil Fitchner, 7-6, 6-4. Plummers is a resident of Troy, and Fitchner lives in Birmingham.

Farrer and Mazure whipped Jane Greenawalt and Anita Goldman, both of West Bloomfield, 6-4, 6-0, in their semifinal match. In the other semi, Plummers and Fitchner stopped Daniel and Donna Hancher, 6-3, 6-3.

The tournament drew 27 area netters. Four of the nine singles players had rankings in the Southeastern Michigan Association, which rates area players. Of the doubles players, six of the 18 were ranked.



Judi Stiff made the finals of the singles play during the Court House tourney.



Laura Tatt won the singles title at the Court House Open Women's Tennis Tournament. (Staff photos by Charlie Kidd)

Lady pro golfer teaches duffers and hackers

By BOB GROSS

Not all the professional golfers in the area came and left with the PGA championship. Margee Masters, a 15-year veteran of the Ladies Professional Golfers' Association tour, has been teaching golf at the Royal Oak Golf Club for the past month.

"I have a lot of neck problems," said Masters. "Makes it hard for me to play (on the tour). I had to get into something else and I really enjoy teaching."

A NATIVE of Victoria, Australia, Masters has been golfing since the age of 13. She has a lot in common with another Australian who was recently in the area.

"David Graham (winner of the '79 PGA) used to be assistant pro at the same club I belonged to when I was a kid," said Masters. "We both learned from the same teacher, George Naismith."

Masters went from Victoria to a successful professional career which included five wins in the Victorian Open, two wins in the New Zealand Open, and wins in the Australian Open, the South African Open and the Canadian Open. She was also runnerup in the Colgate Far East Open and the Western Open.

In addition, Masters ranks in the top 50 all-time LPGA money earners.

MASTERS NOW makes her home in Belleair, Fla. where she will return after her stint at the Royal Oak Golf Club. She said she teaches almost full-time now, limiting her tour appearances to "about 10 each year."

Masters said she tries to work with her students on the "basic fundamentals of a golf swing. I try to teach each one as an individual."

Being a women pro has not caused her any problems, she said.

"WHEN I taught in Florida," she said. "I probably had more men than women."

"I think," Masters continued, "a man could probably learn more from a woman pro."

She said women pros play a game emphasizing tempo and timing rather than brute strength, a game the average man would do well to emulate.

The weakest areas of the average golfer's game, according to Masters, are "driving, fairway woods and long irons."

"A lot of the women I've had can't hit woods at all," she said.

MASTERS ADVISES that beginning golfers "get to a pro — don't read books — go and learn from a pro and listen to him only."

She said the beginner will not only be helping himself, but the pro as well.

"It's much easier," said Masters, "to teach someone who has never played before than someone who has played two to three years and developed bad habits."

Among the habits Masters counts as being detrimental to a golf swing are "bad grip, bad posture and bad ball alignment."

WHILE MASTERS does devote most of her energies to teaching now, there was a time when she was one of the leaders on the women's tour. She said she has seen some changes.

"The purses have increased so much since when I was at my peak," said Masters.

She gives a lot of the credit for the increase in prize money to LPGA commissioner Ray Volpe — and to Nancy Lopez Melton.

"Both have been super for the game," said Masters.

Another difference is an increase in gallery size.

"Tremendous" is what she called the galleries. "It's (the increase) due a lot to Nancy when she plays."

Old Farm SC wins league title

Old Farm, a swimming team composed of youngsters from a Farmington Hills subdivision, scored 1,018 team points last week to win the sixth-annual Tri-City League meet at Farmington Country Club.

Runner-up West Bloomfield Potomac Swim Club scored 849 points. Bloomfield Hills Fox Hills had 827, Southfield Beacon Square 538 and Farmington Country Club 386.

Old Farm, coached by Frank Segue, won 12 of the meet's 38 individual events and finished first in five of the six relays. The champions had four double winners.

Scott Simmons, Ann Evans and Tim Hogeigan produced a total of five first places in the 112 age-group events. Evans won the 50-meter butterfly (33.4) and the 50-meter freestyle (29.9). Simmons won the 50 breaststroke (37.4) and the 50 freestyle (31.1). Hogeigan topped the 50 backstroke (31.1).

In the 9-and-10 group, Old Farm's Lisa Sarin won the 25 butterfly (16.8) and the 25 backstroke (18.7). Donna Howard, swimming in the 13-14 group, was another Old Farm double winner, taking the 50 breaststroke (38.5) and the 50 freestyle (30.1).

Two single winners for Old Farm were Fred Berg (27.8 in the 15-17 50-

ft) and Kim Beardmore (28.8 in the 8-and-under girls' 25 backstroke).

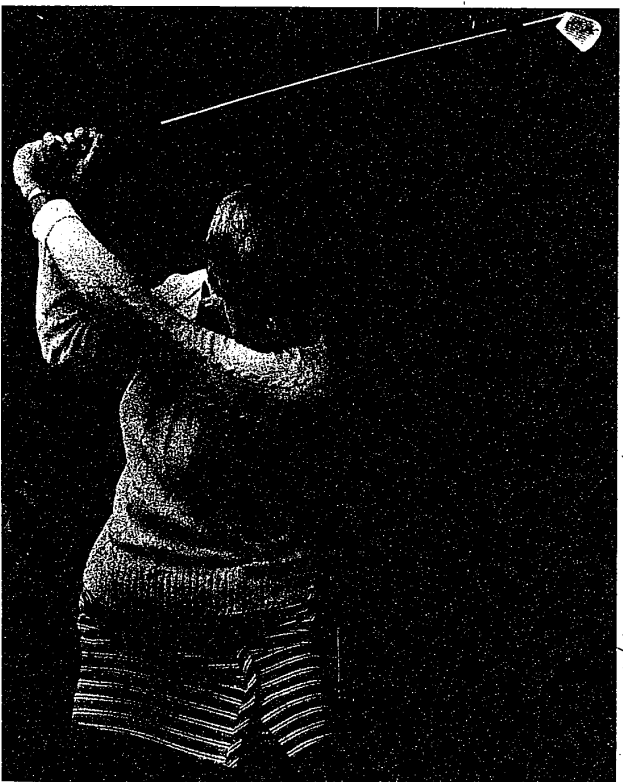
POTOMAC HAD a double winner in Judy Sheridan, who swam in the girls' 15-17 age group. She won the 50 backstroke in 34.2 and the 50 breaststroke in 38.7. Jeff Eggenberger won the 11-12 50 butterfly in 32.5 for Potomac, and teammate Mark Whittenberg topped the 13-14 50 butterfly in 30.3. Tim Sheridan, Judy's brother, went 31.1 to win the 13-14 50 backstroke.

Fox Hills' Jeff Tutill won three events in the 9-and-10 competition. He topped the 25 butterfly (16.1), the 25 breaststroke (20.0) and the 25 freestyle (14.4).

Southfield's Beacon Square had a winner in Selma Roumavay, who was timed in 34.0 in the girls' 13-14 50 butterfly.

Debbie Houser of the Farmington Country Club became a triple winner when she bested the 50 butterfly (30.2), the 100 individual medley (1:10.5) and the 100 freestyle (1:01.2).

Old Farm's Segue, who will be a junior at Catholic Central High School next fall, said "There's a lot of swimming potential in these subdivisions. The kids like to work together to help each other learn. It's a lot closer than some of the bigger swim clubs. I can do a better job of coaching and teaching."



Margee Masters demonstrates the form she has been trying to teach local golfers. (Staff photo by Gary Freidman)