

Top junior amateurs revive team tennis

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

Team tennis is not a new concept. You remember the Detroit Loves, don't you? Then, of course, there's the Davis Cup, Wimbledon Cup, Federation Cup, etc.

Charlie and Adam Rothstein of Southfield, along with Jon Fischer, the head pro at Huron Valley Tennis Club, decided to take an old concept and pull the top junior players together from across the state and form a team.

Team Michigan, as it's called, has 27 members with a waiting list. "We select them on the basis of national ranking, pro or college potential and behavior on and off the court," said Charlie Rothstein, an investment banker with an M.B.A. from Michigan. "We

try to foster a team environment. Even though they play and compete against each other, this enables them to be friends. This is a way to associate, socialize and meet better players."

DEVELOPING junior players can be a touchy situation, according to Rothstein.

"Some coaches are very possessive," Rothstein said. "We're not here to hijack them from other clubs. They're here to enjoy themselves. You'll never here a pro raise a voice here, but they work very, very hard."

Team Michigan meets from 1 to 5 p.m. each Sunday at Huron Valley. Some of the players get together on Saturday as well.

The first two hours consist of instruction and technique. The final two

hours consist of match play, both singles and doubles.

"The thing we stress is that they leave here thinking that they're better than when they came," said Rothstein. "We work on footwork — movement drills. We try to maximize foot speed. We jump a lot of rope."

"We also teach aggressive tennis. We make them volley."

THE PROGRAM features such nationally ranked players as Livonia's Carrie Cunningham, Plymouth's Chris and Wendy Gilles, Elizabeth Nau of Bloomfield Hills, Michael Herb of West Bloomfield and the Davidson family from Farmington Hills (Kelly, Ken and Kori).

Rothstein's ultimate goal with Team Michigan is to lend financial support to

players so they can attend tournaments together.

"We're a non-profit, tax-exempt organization," he said. "We hope to buy uniforms with the money. We've received a donation from an Ann Arbor corporation already."

Rothstein is also putting out a monthly newsletter about Team Michigan, giving results and information about upcoming tournaments.

Team Michigan will send seven players to the famed Easter Bowl Tournament next month, and 11 others will travel to Louisville.

"This is good because the players will go to tournaments and have somebody they know to practice with," said Fischer, who helped develop Saline's Lisa Bonder, one of the top 50 women's players in the world. "And it's nice to

have people around at national tournaments. And if they compete against one another, there's no animosity."

"WE HAD meetings before the Indoor Nationals," said Rothstein. "They re-evaluate and analyze what they do on the court. 'Why did I lose?' We talk about the tension involved. The atmosphere is relaxed, but intense."

During the Sunday workout, the players seemed to genuinely enjoy the practice session. The players had particular fun playing each other in doubles.

"This program couldn't exist at other clubs," said Rothstein. "This club (Huron Valley) has always stood for junior tennis. We have the Ann Arbor Junior Open each summer here and it's one of the big junior tournaments in this state."

"We hope to cover court costs. We'd like to have a junior tennis federation some day."

They're off to a good start.

tennis

TEAM MICHIGAN TENNIS MEMBER LIST

Ann Arbor — Wendy Strom and John Zewick.
Birmingham — David Pierce.
Bloomfield Hills — Elizabeth Nau, Nicole River and Dan Walsh.
Brighton — Kelly Archibald.
Dearborn Heights — Mark Egnatous.
Detroit — Tim Eagleston and Lane Hall.
Farmington Hills — Mark Agath, Kelly Davidson, Ken Davidson, Kori Davidson and Nicole Trancus.
Franklin Village — David Hosenchuk.
Huntington Woods — Mike Jacobson.
Livonia — Carrie Cunningham, Jennifer Reault and Becky Tach.
Oremos — Kathleen Morozuk.
Plymouth — Chris and Wendy Gilles.
Sterling Heights — Daniela Doran.
Coaches — Charlie Rothstein, Jon Fischer and Adam Rothstein.

Davidson team defeats Bonders in mixed tourney

For the second-straight year, the mixed doubles team of Colin Bartel and Franklin Riquelme, professional at Phil Norville has won the Grasse Pointe Hunt Club Western Closed Mixed Doubles tennis tournament.

And for the second year in a row, the team has beaten Chris Gilles and touring pro Bill Godfrey in the finals. The

Bartel-Norville team won the championship match, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, last Sunday. They took home \$1,500 in prize money.

Gilles, a top-ranked junior amateur from Plymouth, and Godfrey, a former

standout at the University of Michigan, made it to the finals by surviving a tough semifinal match against Jerry and Kathy Karzen, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

THEIR second-place finish earned \$750.

The tournament featured pro Lisa Bonder and her brother Eric. The Saline team was ousted in the qualifying round by Kelly Davidson, a top-ranked junior from Farmington Hills, and club pro Steve Hunt, 6-0, 6-2.

Davidson and Hunt were then eliminated in the first round of the main draw by club pro Ian Harris and Jennifer Reault, another highly ranked junior from Livonia.

Easter tennis tourney set

The Farmington Tennis Club's Junior Easter open tennis tournament, sanctioned by the United States Tennis Association, is scheduled for April 23-27.

The tournament is divided into age groups for boys and girls ages 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.

The entry fee is \$20, and the entry deadline is Wednesday April 18.

THE TOURNAMENT will be limited to 64 players. The players will be selected, based upon past records, by the tournament committee. The draw will be held Friday, April 20.

Matches will consist of best two out of three sets, with a 12-point tie breaker at six-all.

All participants must be USTA members and show proof of membership.

Neil Longhurst is the tournament director and Joel Rogus the tournament referee.

For registration information, contact the Farmington Tennis Club at 476-3246. The club is at 22777 Farmington Road, Farmington.

sport shorts

EX-RAIDERS SHINE

Paul Welch and John Winterbottom, graduates of North Farmington High School, were place winners for the Western Michigan University track team at the Big Mac Invitational meet in Ypsilanti March 3.

Welch took third in the two-mile run in a time of 8:58.55, his best indoor time of the season.

Winterbottom took fourth in the 800-meter run with a 1:54.41.

Also competing for the Broncos was Livonia Bentley grad Craig Allen, who placed sixth in the 800 (1:58.27) and was a member of the third-place distance medley relay team that ran a 10:11.3.

Western placed second in team standings among seven Mid-American Conference entries.

SKI SUCCESS

Robin Gaubis of Farmington Hills led the Schussmeister Ski Club A Team to a third-place finish at the Grand Mariner Ski Club Challenge Midwest Regional Championship March 3-4 at Boyne Mountain.

The Flint team took third in the head-to-head slalom competition from a field of 45. Gaubis teammates include Reggie Lacey, Kathy Elzner, Ray Kolehmainen, Karl Rykert and Bob Bettman.

CAMP DIRECTORS SOUGHT

The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department and Oakland Community College-Oakridge Campus will offer a series of sports camps beginning the week of June 25. The camps are designed for middle school- and high school-aged youngsters.

Camps will be offered in nine sports and qualified directors are needed to run each camp. The sports are: baseball, cheerleading, fast-pitch softball, fitness and conditioning, golf, running/cross country, soccer and tennis.

Qualified individuals interested in directing a camp should submit an application to the parks and rec office, 31555 11 Mile, by 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 23.

Questions about the camps can be directed to the parks and rec office, 474-6115, or OCC's physical education department, 471-7553.

GIRLS' HOOPS

Girls' basketball teams are being sought to compete in the state AAU Sports Festival which takes place the third week of June.

Teams are needed in the following age divisions: 12-under, 14-under, 16-under and 18-under.

Interested players and coaches should contact Schoolcraft Community College women's basketball coach Ed Kavanaugh at 591-6400, Ext. 480 as soon as possible.

MORE GIRLS' HOOPS

Applications are being accepted for the Great Lakes Basketball Day Camp (girls grades 9-12), which runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 9-15 at Schoolcraft College.

The cost is \$105 per player or \$100 for families of two or more. A \$50 deposit must be received by June 15.

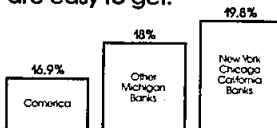
Those interested should call or write: Greg Kolb, 823 Central, Detroit 48208 — 841-6776.

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