

Timmons leads U.S. in rematch

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live fires going, while doubling as an ambassador for the sport of volleyball.

"THIS IS A five-city tour and with a company like EDS (Electronic Data Systems) based here with some 10,000 employees, we hope they all come out for the match," Timmons said. "Without sponsors like that, it's hard for us to compete year-round and to train. You need to bring in the Russians and play them because that's definitely a team we need to see more than once a year. We need to see how we're progressing and how we match up against them."

Timmons, who led the '88 U.S. squad in kills and blocks, may have gotten everything he wants out of competitive international volleyball.

He will be 33 by the time 1992 Games roll around in Barcelona, Spain.

He contemplates retirement, but eyes on one last Olympic harrah, a La Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

"You have to consider the travel schedule and being out of the country so much," he said. "Personally I've accomplished quite a bit, and it might be time for a change."

"Right now I'm not sure. I'm undecided. After this tour I'll see. I don't know anybody that's played that long. Physically I think I could do it, but mentally I'm not sure."

ALTHOUGH FOUR starters continue to play for the touring USA team, a changing of the guard is expected by '92, according to Timmons.

"We have a good influx of college talent," he said. "You see the difference in the high school kids, many are using the jump serves. The exposure on TV and the tours are really great for it."

Timmons admits volleyball remains primarily a West Coast

sport with "pockets" of interest in such places as Phoenix and Minneapolis.

But despite greater interest in the sport, Timmons believes the number of Olympic-caliber players available is this country is small.

"That really says something for our accomplishment of winning two gold medals with the talent pool that we have," he said. "There maybe could have been 30 players from our country who could have played for any of the 12 countries during the past Olympics. That's it."

Timmons could have played basketball. He was an all-state junior college player in California, but he decided to concentrate on volleyball.

PART OF TIMMONS' lore is that he once defeated former Laker Kurt Rambis in a game of one-on-one after being whipped soundly in their first encounter.

Never backing down from a challenge, Timmons was confronted again upon leaving our office.

With Brian Muir, the Stars and Spikes Tour public relations representative from International Management Group in Denver, as a witness to a friendly wager, Timmons promised to wear a Pistons "Bad Boys" T-shirt during the warmups of the upcoming Soviet match, contingent upon Detroit beating the Lakers in the NBA series.

If LA prevails, members of our sports staff will attend the volleyball match donning Lakers "Threepeat" shirts.

Of course, Timmons could get off the hook if the Pistons-Lakers go to a seventh and deciding game. That comes one day after the Stars and Spikes match.

But then again, it's not every day when you can take on an Olympic Gold medalist in a game of one-on-one — in your own office.

• NOKES TO VISIT

Detroit Tigers catcher Matt Nokes will be the featured speaker at the Third Annual Baseball Fest on Friday, June 16, at Farmington City Park No. 2, which is located on Shiawassee and Farmington roads.

The two-hour program, sponsored by the Oakland Hills Community Church, begins at noon with a mini baseball clinic. Nokes will autograph cards, baseballs and gloves and also talk about his personal faith.

• HORSE SHOWS

The Lincoln-Mercury Motor City Horse Show continues through Sunday, June 18, at the Bloomfield Open Hunt, 405 E. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills. The Motor City Grand Prix takes place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 17.

That event will be followed by the Detroit Horse Show on Tuesday, June 20, through Sunday, June 25. The Grand Prix will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24.

"Having two Grand Prix shows back-to-back gives unprecedented opportunity for participants to gather a large number of points," according to Robert M. Brown, chairman of the horse shows, "which they use toward national honors — Horse of the Year and Rider of the Year — decided each year in Madison Square Garden in New York."

During the shows, classes being at 8 a.m. each day, evening classes at 7:30 p.m. Friday and 7 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$3 per day, \$5 per

sports shorts

night with children under 5 admitted free of charge.

• RUNNING CAMP

The Third Annual Mercy Girls Cross Country Camp will take place in two sessions at the Brighton Recreation Area this summer.

The first is scheduled for Sunday, July 30, through Saturday, Aug. 5, and the second from Sunday, Aug. 6, to Saturday, Aug. 12. Runners can sign up for both sessions.

One session costs \$110, which in-

cludes food, room and t-shirt. The two-week stay is available for \$175. A \$30 non-refundable deposit is required. The balance should be paid by Friday, June 30.

Checks should be payable to Gary Servais and sent to him at 3660 Thomas, Berkley, 48072. Call him at 547-3572 or 476-2836 for details. Servais is the cross country and track coach at Farmington Hills Mercy.

• GOLF TOURNEY

The Independent Insurance Agents of Wayne County will sponsor a qualifying tournament in the annual Big 'T' Insurance Youth Golf Classic on Monday, June 28, at Brae-Burn Golf Club in Plymouth. Children ages 17 and under are eligible.

Entry blanks and tournament rules and regulations are available by writing K&H Agency, Inc., 18112 Trenton Rd., Southgate or calling 284-0942.

Winners of the local tournament will compete in the state finals July 16-17 in Cadillac. The top six will be paired with touring pros for the IYGC national at the Texarkana (Ark.) Country Club in August.

• SOCCER CHAMPS

The 1978 Vardar III soccer team won the Potomac Tournament Memorial Day weekend. Vardar defeated the hosts from Lawrence, N.J., 1-0 in the semifinals and the Blazers from Bethesda, Md., 2-1 in the final.

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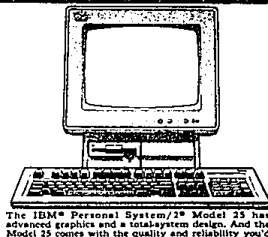
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