

# Top-seed Sistrunk wins Grand Slam

# No title for Finesse

**BY BRAD EMONS**  
STAFF WRITER

The 6½-hour drive to-and-from Naperville, Ill., was well worth the trip for Herb Sistrunk.

The 40-year-old captured the first-place prize of \$100 by winning the U.S. Tennis Association's Men's 35 Singles title Sunday at the Grand Slam Tennis Club of the Livonia Family Y. (The event was also sponsored by the Racquets Unlimited and Dunlop).

The former Southfield resident, who was transferred to the Chicago suburb by his company (Nalco Chemical) last December, made it through an exhausting weekend by defeating Kalamazoo's Tom Koopsen, 6-3, 1-6, 7-5, for the title.

Sistrunk, who erased a 4-1, 40-16-point deficit, rallied to pull out the three-hour, three-set marathon match.

"While I was driving home I counted up the number of games I played Saturday and Sunday (including doubles) and it was a 142," Sistrunk said. "Now, if anybody had told me that going in, I would have said 'that's crazy, there's no way.'"

**Gratifying victory**

The top seed did find a way, describing his victory as "unbelievable joy."

"As a rule, I play 12 to 20 tournaments a year," said Sistrunk, who is ranked No. 32 nationally. "I like to play as often as I can because I enjoy the competition. It's a hobby, it's exercise and it's therapeutic."

With many of his Detroit-area

### TENNIS

**GRAND SLAM**  
SENIOR MEN'S 35 OPEN  
TENNIS RESULTS  
Aug. 8-9 at Livonia Y.

**Championship singles:** Herb Sistrunk (Naperville, Ill.) defeated Tom Koopsen (Kalamazoo, Mich.) 6-3, 1-6, 7-5.  
Sistrunk def. Mark Bereda (Livonia) 6-3, 1-6, 7-5.  
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**Round of 16:** Sistrunk def. Dale Holman (Commerce Township) 6-1, 6-0.  
Sistrunk def. John Havelle (Livonia) 6-1, 6-1.  
Sistrunk def. Mickey Schmidt (Livonia) 5-7, 6-2.  
Sistrunk def. Lee Gironcico (Livonia) 6-1, 6-0.  
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friends supporting him, Sistrunk was able to mount a late charge to beat a tired Koopsen in the decisive third set.

"The last match I played him (1989 in Portage), I got hurt (sprained ankle), but got lucky and won," Koopsen said. "Today was the same, I got hurt (leg cramps), but wasn't as lucky and lost."

"But overall I'm pleased with my result, just a little disappointed I didn't win. Herb played well and you can't take anything away from him. He was in better shape and came up with winners when he had to. And he has a very good serve."

**1st tourney appearance**

Koopsen, 39, a former player at Central Michigan University, was playing his first tournament of the year. He won \$75 for finishing second.

He works in a family-owned business, a paint and wallpapering store in Kalamazoo.

"My job normally doesn't let me have the weekends off," he said. "I teach (tennis), but I really don't play that much. But it's like riding a bike. Once you get back into it, you just have to work through it."

After losing the first set, 6-3, the unseeded Koopsen turned the tables by squaring the match at 1-1 with a 6-1 second-set win.

"He's a great competitor with a bulldog-type mentality," said Sistrunk, a former basketball player from South Carolina who took up the game relatively late (age 22) when he accepted a job in Detroit. "I had some great support, there were a lot of people in my corner. And believe me, it makes a big difference. It's tougher when you're out there on the court all by yourself with nobody around."

O'Shea, who starred at Schoolcraft College and has played for the Detroit Rockers, was equal to the challenge. He didn't anticipate which angle the Bud Light shooters would take: "I just waited and reacted (to their shot). I had the whole second half of the overtime to think about what I was going to do."

Robie Ludwig opened for the Marauders, who shot first, by netting his attempt. Bud Light fell behind immediately when their first shooter, Doug Consigny, shot wide to the left.

But the Marauders' Mike Gentile was thwarted on a diving shot by Payment, and Bud Light tied the shootout at 1-1 after two rounds when Pete Crawley put his shot past O'Shea.

The Marauders went ahead for good in the third round. Paul Kalkowski beat Payment to the left corner. O'Shea made a diving save on Jeff Dresser, leaving the Marauders ahead by a goal through

**Doubles champions**

In doubles, Koopsen and his partner Mickey Schmidt won the first-place prize of \$75 with a 7-6, 6-3 victory over Mark Simecna and Sistrunk.

Both semifinal doubles matches went three sets.

Koopsen and Schmidt, ranked No. 10 nationally in the Men's 35s by the USTA, outlasted Len Bezuk (Farmington Hills) and Polo Duda (Livonia), 6-7, 6-1, 6-2, while Simecna and Sistrunk nipped Fred Trappell (Redford), 6-7, 6-2, 7-5.

There were a total of nine three-set matches in singles and doubles during the three day tournament, including nine tiebreakers.

"As far as depth, this is as good as most of the tournaments I go to," Sistrunk said. "It was also a very good tournament the way it was run."

**Coming back again**

Zori Duda, who co-directed the tourney along with Jean Carman, said plans are in the works to bring the nationally-ranked players back again next year.

"We hope to make it bigger and better," she said. "This is such a beautiful setting for tennis. We're pleased with the way it went."

Tourney referees Jack Kingsbury was also elated with the conduct of the players.

"It was an absolute pleasure to officiate," she said. "There was never a time we needed to bring in a line judge. I never had to offer a warning, but yet it was high-intensity tennis."

Jenny Sikora of the Canton Cobras (three hits, five strikeouts, two walks) pitched three innings and Becky Thurston of the Diamonds (two hits, one strikeout, no walks) finished with two scoreless innings.

Jaclyn Dean (Livonia Lasers) was 2-for-3 and had three RBI, two on a double. Heather LaGrove (Cobras) hit a three-run triple in the sixth inning to give the Nationals an 11-2 lead.

Kate Mackie (Diamonds) added an RBI single, Sarah Wojtowicz (Lasers) scored two runs and Heather Schaefer (Cobras) had a hit and scored a run.

The world tournament didn't produce the favorable result Finesse had envisioned for itself in the USSSA 18-and-under girls 18-and-under event in Muncie, Ind.

Finesse, with a roster composed almost entirely of area players, was the No. 1-seeded team entering the tournament but finished with a 2-2 record and was eliminated Saturday.

The team that won the world championship with an unbeaten record from the Club Hollywood Flames from Euclid (Ohio), was the same team Finesse had beaten to win the state title.

"We never played them, but it was their weekend and not ours," Finesse manager Barry Patterson said. "Our expectations were real high, which makes it more disappointing when you do lose."

Furthermore, Finesse had merited four of the top six teams during the regular season. Finesse, which placed first or second in every tournament but the last, finished between 15th and 20th place.

"Unfortunately, we ran into — I don't know if you'd call it bad luck — but no luck," Patterson said. "We didn't get the big hits at the right time, it wasn't for lack of effort or lack of talent."

Finesse began the tournament with a 13-0 win over the Jackson (Ohio) Bears.

Jenny Kintz (Garden City) had four hits (two doubles) and two RBI. Cindy Lehnis (Plymouth) three (double/triple) and five RBI. Lisa Solmi (Redford) three (home run) and four RBI. Tara Waslick (Canton) was the pitcher in all four games.

Finesse lost 3-2 Friday to the defending world champion Georgia Bandits, but rebounded with a mercy-rule win Saturday over White's Angels from Tennessee, 16-1.

Solmi (two triples), Lehnis (triple), Dearborn's Erica Deszant and Union Lake's Jenny Czech (triple/home run) had two hits apiece. Czech also had three hits, Solmi and Lehnis two each.

The Mississippian Dixie Darlings eliminated Finesse 1-0 Saturday. Finesse led, but bees loaded twice and runners at the corners in two other innings.

The other members of the Finesse team are Lynda Allison (Garden City), Amanda Ault (Farmington Hills), Jamie Cook (Westland), Toni Flood (Union Lake), Melissa Foster (Dearborn), Jennifer Horoske (Garden City), Heather Marek (Walled Lake), Michelle Space (Westland) and Christi Wyrzykowski (Westland).

## Incredible from page 1B

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Jenny Sikora of the Canton Cobras was the top offensive player for the American team with two hits, including an RBI double, and two runs.

Amber LaGrove (Commanders) drove in a run with a single and scored a run. Kim Sanders (Farmington Hills Majestics), Amy LaGrove (Commanders) and Melissa Petrosky (Northville Niners) had one hit and scored one run each.

Eric Lacosae (Farmington Hills Hornets), Andrea Moretti (Niners), Sikora and Heather Jonna (Majestics) pitched two innings apiece for the American side, with Moretti taking the loss.

# Marauders regain title from Bud Light

**BY C.J. RISAK**  
STAFF WRITER

OK, So John Pettersson, team manager for the Marauders, isn't noted for his tact.

That's no revelation. So it was no shock what Pettersson, who also serves as president of the Great Lakes Men's Soccer League, said when he presented the Clark Trophy to his own team: "The cup is back where it belongs."

Boastful, yes. But there's more than a bit of truth to it, too.

The Marauders avenged last year's 2-1 loss to Bud Light in the GLMSL's First Division final by edging their arch-rivals in an overtime penalty-kick shootout Sunday at Livonia's Bicentennial Park.

The victory gave the Marauders their fourth GLMSL summer season championship in five years. This one did not come easily. The match was scoreless through 80 minutes, until the Marauders'

Steve McCaul sprinted in behind the Bud Light defense on a breakaway. McCaul's shot banged off the crossbar, but Steve Weiger was there to punch it home for the game's first goal.

Considering how adroitly both teams' defenses had performed throughout the match, that one-goal lead seemed safe. It wasn't.

Bud Light's Brett Christensen got around Marauder defender Dan O'Shea on the right wing and chipped the ball to Curt Weiermiller on the left side. Weiermiller's shot into the left corner left Marauder keeper Brian O'Shea no chance to make a save.

With four minutes left in regulation, the score was tied 1-1.

It remained that way through the remainder of regulation and 30 minutes of overtime. When the best-of-five penalty kick shootout started, the pressure was concentrated on the keepers, Brian O'Shea and Bud Light's Curtis Payment.

three rounds. Lars Richters connected for the Marauders and Steve Burns hit for Bud Light to keep it a one-goal difference after four rounds.

The clincher came from McCaul, whose shot to the left corner eluded a sprawling Payment, making it 4-2.

Forcing two misses on four penalty shots might have pleased some keepers. Not O'Shea — "I should have had the other two," he said as he left the field.

The win capped a solid campaign for the Marauders, who also won the GLMSL regular-season title — thanks, in part, to a 2-0 blanking of Bud Light (both goals courtesy of Scott Steiner).

**Arsenal, Wings win**

In the Second Division final, also played Sunday at Bicentennial Park, regular-season champion Michigan Arsenal got a goal from Rick Cota in the 71st minute to beat Loyola 2-1.

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