

COURTSIDE with Joe Felice



By JOE FELICE
Anyone who has watched either the on-court or off-the-court combination of Jimmy Conners and Chris Evert may have noticed something they have in common (besides tennis, and the fact that they are engaged to be married).

This common thing which they both do extremely well is the two-handed backhand.

Comparing the one-and two-handed backhands leads to good and bad points for both. The two-handed backhand is more powerful and more deceptive because it is hit in close to the body and with more motion.

The main fault in using two hands is that it limits the reach when going for a wide shot and thus requires quicker movement to get closer to the ball.

THE COMPACT motion of the two-handed backhand enables a player to disguise where he wants the ball to go until he makes contact with the ball. The compact motion also contributes to the power by allowing more shoulder to lean into the swing.

Another point against using two hands in developing a strong all court game is that no current ranking players who use two hands exclusively on their backhand shots have a strong backhand volley at the net.

In executing the two-handed backhand both hands to guide the racket back keeping the hands together on the grip.

The arms should be in close to the body and the back turned to the net, looking over the shoulder towards the net.

STEP OUT with the front foot

always keeping your eye on the ball. The racket head should start below waist level. From here the path of the racket travels up and over the ball finishing over the right shoulder. Ball contact should be made at waist level even with the front knee, with the strings brushing up and over.

'No current ranking players who use two hands exclusively on all backhand shots have a strong backhand volley at the net'

The ball. The follow through over the right shoulder helps with the brushing motion.

The two-handed backhand is very often the answer to correcting a very weak backhand.

If you feel a lack of strength in your arms or if you suffer from tennis elbow because of hitting your backhand with too much elbow, give it a try with two hands. You may surprise yourself.

It is often good to start a youngster with two hands if he has trouble controlling the racket with the one-handed motion.

(Joe Felice is a member of the U.S. Professional Tennis Association.)

Panelli duo wins tourney

John Panelli and Bud Stevens teamed to defeat John Stiles and Glenn Johnson, 1-up, in the Championship Flight of Birmingham Country Club's 29th Annual Match Play Golf Invitational tournament.

Gene Stepanek and Jim Federici defeated Phil Piliposian and Larry Nolte 2 and 1 in the first flight.

It took 20 holes but Jon Bye and his partner Bill Molloy defeated Bob Bihler and Morgan Davis, 1-up, in the tourney's second flight.

Bill Tar and Bob Hall outshot Larry Nagle and Andy Parks 2 and 1 to win the third flight of the tournament.

The fourth flight was won by Len Trotta and Gen Kraft, 1-up. Trotta and Kragt defeated Gordon Sellars and Bill Korte.

Stan and Stephen Ernst downed Phil Burnett and Bill McNair 2 and 1 to take the fifth flight, while Dick Rex and Norm Gordon bested Henry Gluckstad and Dan Matthews, 5 and 4.

Jim and Ray Osborn defeated Bill Beale and John Williamson, 2 and 1 to win the seventh flight of last weekend's tournament.

At meeting Dr. Chalmers G. Hixson of Troy, the director of Wayne State University's Division of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics, attended the 1974 meeting of the National Association of College Directors of Athletics June 24-26 in Montreal.

Hixson attended with Vernon K. Gale, coordinator of athletics at Wayne State.

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Federation team takes 4-0 setback

giving up nine hits, striking out five batters and walking one.

Sterling Heights raised its fed-eration record to 8-1 while Troy leaped off at 7-2 after the game.

In the second half of the Sunday doubleheader, Troy and Austin were tied at 1-1 when rain forced curtailment of play.

LEAGUE PLAYOFFS begin this Sunday. Troy will face the North Farmington-West Bloomfield representative at 2 p.m. on Detroit West-7 field (Stoeppel No. 1), Outer Drive at Evergreen.

A second game will be played at 4:30 p.m.

The federation team represents the cream of the crop from Troy's Pony League squads.

Forest Hills takes meet

Kramer's 20.5 time was the fastest in the 7-8 boys' 25-meter backstroke.

Double winners for Forest Hills included Richard Kramer, Hillary Shadrack, Amy Parsons, Lynn Ankenbrandt, Cathy Gleich, Patty Pippin and Jim Toal.

Also double winners were Amy Whelan, Marianne Johnston, Lynn Winders, John McKenna and Rob Distler.

Forest Hills will close its home dual meet season Thursday against Pinebrook.

Forest Hills churned to its fourth straight victory this summer as it dunked Pleasant Ridge in age-group swimming competition, 356-184.

The winning tankers took 43 of 52 events. Previously they defeated Orchard Valley, Kendallwood and Farmington Glen Aquatic Club.

Forest Hills broke two team records against Pleasant Ridge. Record-breakers were Lynn Gregory and Robbie Kramer.

Gregory raced to a 32.3 time in the 50-meter freestyle competition for 11- and 12-year-old girls.