

COURTSIDE with Joe Felice



By JOE FELICE

Anyone who has watched either the on-court or off-court combination of Jimmy Connors 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 with a compact 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 all backhand shots have a strong backhand volley at the net.

In executing the two-handed backhand use 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.

always keeping your eye on the ball. The racket head should start below waist level. From here the ball 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 the ball.

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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 backhands with too much elbow, give it a try with two hands. You may surprise yourself.

Also 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 Sieler and Glenn Johnson, 1-up, in the Championship Flight of Birmingham Country Club's 29th Annual Match Play Golf Invitational tournament.

Gus Stefanek and Jim Federici defeated Phil Pilibosian and Larry Nolta 2 and 1 in the first flight.

It took 20 holes but Jon Rye 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 Gene Kraft, 1-up. Trotta and Kraft 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.

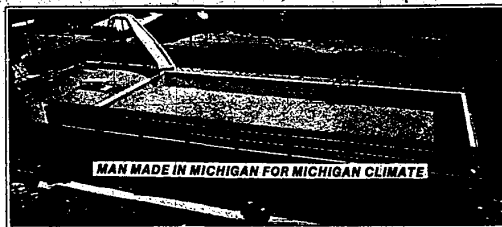
Jim and Ray Osborn defeated Bill Seale and John Williamsen, 2 and 1 to win the seventh flight of last weekend's tournament.

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 28-29 in Montreal.

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

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The sporting life

Wings slate camp; funeral play on tap

The Detroit Red Wings officially launch their 1974 autumn training camp Sept. 17 at Olympia Stadium in Detroit.

Rookies and some veteran players will be invited to attend an advance camp starting Sept. 9.

Camps coordinator is Red Wing General Manager and Coach Alex Delvecchio.

He's being assisted by Red Wing Assistant Coach Bill Dea and Virginia Red Wings Coach Doug Barkley.

Spotlighting Detroit's nine-game preseason schedule will be appearances at Michigan State University (MSU) and the University of Michigan (U-M).

On Sept. 25, the Red Wings and St. Louis Blues will face off at MSU's new Clarence L. Munn Ice Arena.

ON OCT. 3, the Red Wings and Washington Capitals will face off at U-M's renovated Yost Ice Arena.

Detroit's lone preseason appearance at Olympia will be Oct. 5 against the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Other confirmed preseason games for the Red Wings are on the road in New York, St. Louis, Washington and Buffalo.

Weekend preseason practice sessions at Olympia will be open to the public. Proceeds from a 50-cent admission fee will flow into the United Foundations.

The Red Wings will christen their 1974-75 regular-season campaign Oct. 9 when they host the Chicago Black Hawks.

ETON PARK IN Birmingham will host the premiere Funeral Home Men's Softball Classic this weekend.

Classic participants are Birmingham's Vasu-Lynch, Royal Oak's Schnaidt, Hazel Park's Ashley and Ferndale's Spalding-Churgin funeral homes.

The slowpitch action will get underway at 4:15 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

BIRMINGHAM'S William McCaffrey and John Law each are eligible to win \$1,000 and a free trip to Scotland because of recent aces on the golf links.

Both golfers are entered in the 19th Rusty Nail Hole-In-One Sweepstakes, sponsored annually by the Drabouie Company of Edinburg, Scotland.

Sweepstakes winners will be announced early next year.

Federation team takes 4-0 setback

Troy's freshman level (14-and-under) team in the Detroit Suburban Amateur Baseball Federation took a sharp setback in its championship hopes Sunday at Baker Middle School.

The Troy team fell to co-leader Sterling Heights, 4-0, striking out 11 times and managing only three hits off Sterling Heights pitching.

Brian Bishop lashed out a double and Vince Taliercio and Jimmy Campbell each singled for Troy. The team's biggest scoring threat was in the fourth inning, when two players reached base concurrently.

STERLING HEIGHTS scored single runs in the first, second, third and fifth innings. Two of the scores were unearned.

Paul Stanonis pitched for Troy,

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

Sterling Heights raised its federation record to 8-1 while Troy leveled 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 the Detroit West-7 field (Stoepel 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

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.

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 Shadrick, Amy Parsons, Jerry 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.

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