

Loves: Netters help brighten Detroit sports picture

By ROBERT A. SKLAR
 'Chumps? Hardly. Rather, Detroit's upstart World Team Tennis (WTT) players, Coach Jack Shaw's Loves, already look like they're championship caliber.

While playoff time fast approaches, the Loves continue to galvanize their peacocking grip in the Central Section of WWT's Eastern Division.

Shaw has molded his talented troupe of netters into a scrappy, spirited collective whose prime pursuit is to win with consistency.

the Loves' internationally-flavored roster.

The roster—Americans Rosie Casals, Butch Seawang, Mary Ann Beattie and Lenny Simpson, plus Australians Phil Dent, Kerry Harris, Allan Stone and Trish Faulkner.

But, it's acutely apparent the Loves' management is shackled from exuding unbridled enthusiasm for their team's quick success.

THE SHACKLE? Attendance totals during the Loves' home matches in Detroit's Cobo Arena. Such totals supposedly combine to function as a profit barometer.

And, for 19 home matches so far this year, the Loves have averaged just 2200 spectators.

Consequently, Detroit ranks a disappointing ninth among WTT's 16 charter franchise in ticket sales at the box office.

Loves' owners are Franklin's

Seymour Brode, Philip Minkin and Robert Barpett, along with Bloomfield Township's Marshall Green-span.

WTT's playoffs get underway Aug. 19. It's definite the Loves will be part of them. What's debatable is how they'll fare during them.

STILL, ONE thing's sure to remain constant.

In concert with the National Basketball Association's Detroit Pistons, the Loves will brighten even further Detroit's abysmally pallid professional sports picture.

The Loves next will compete at home Monday when they host the Minnesota Buckskins, pacesetters in the Gulf-Plains Section of WTT's Western Division.

Match time is 7:30 p.m.

Consider strongly attending that racket battle. The Loves and their stellar playing style stand a blue-chip chance of completely mesmerizing you.



Despite disappointing turnouts, the Loves still have attracted a small, but devoted band of supporters.

Photographed by Patricia A. Beck

Church loop ends play

First Methodist took its third consecutive title in the Birmingham-Troy North Suburban Church Softball League loop last week.

During title play, First Methodist downed Queen of Martyrs, 5-3.

Exploding early, First Methodist scored twice in the first inning on singles by Dominic Angelosanto, Tod Menig, Mike Kenyon and a sacrifice fly by Dan Knapp.

In the same inning, Queen of Martyrs countered with one run. Tom Menzies launched the comeback with a single. He advanced to third base on an error and raced home on a sacrifice fly by Ken Bondy.

FIRST METHODIST widened its lead to 3-1 in the fourth inning when Mike Kenyon slashed a long homer.

The winners capped their scoring in the fifth inning when Dave Zane banged a one-bagger with the bases loaded.

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Phil Dent, Detroit's top men's singles player, reaches back for a return.



Coach Jack Shaw has molded his talented troupe of netters into a scrappy, spirited collective.

Toledoans win crown

Toledo's John Koch and John Trump teamed to capture the fifth Cranbrook Doubles Invitational tennis tournament crown last week.

They beat Bloomfield Hills' Dusty Rhoads and Detroit's Lenny Simpson during championship play, 6-4, 7-5.

The winners collected \$200 in prize money; the losers collected \$100.

Outscore all opponents Pony players end runner-up

'... the boys... should be proud of the fact that they were runners-up in the state tournament' — Rick Niebyski.

By JIM BOCHENEK

After easily winning its district tournament earlier, the Birmingham Pony League All-Stars advanced to the final game of the Michigan Pony League playoffs last week before bowing.

The Birmingham club lost to the host Bay City entry, 1-0, in the playoff finale. Bay City also gave Birmingham its other loss in the double elimination tournament, that being by another 1-0 score.

Birmingham manager Rick Niebyski said after the tournament that, with a few breaks, his club could have gone all the way to the Pony League World Series.

"In each of our games," said the coach, "we outhit our opponents and scored more runs (20) during the entire tournament than any of the teams represented."

"The team had the desire and the ability to have gone all the way," continued Niebyski.

"Our only two losses were by those close 1-0 scores. Nevertheless, the boys had a fine season and should be proud of the fact that they were runners-up in the state tournament."

Birmingham defeated Walled Lake, 6-0, in opening-playoff action and then came back to beat Garden City, 5-3, in extra innings.

Bay City then used a walk and a pair of singles to push across the only run of the game and hand Birmingham its first loss.

St. Clair Shores became Bir-

mingham's third victim as Niebyski's club pounded out a 9-3 win. But Bay City came back once again to knock out the Birmingham entry in the final game.

Birmingham's Joe Arno gave up only two hits in the final game but Bay City squeezed across its run in the third inning by using a successful suicide bunt.

Members of the Birmingham all-star team included pitchers Arno, Tim McCarthy, Mark Pomorski and Doug Wilder plus infielders Joel Grandelius, Mark Pomarski, Byron Onisko, Matt Deshler, Tim McCarthy and catcher Mike Richman.

Outfielders on the club included Mike Bass, Doug Wilder, Steve Postor, Phil Swanson, Mike Li-mauro, Kris Kimble, Matt O'Connor and Craig Melone.

Coach Ken Barnowski assisted Niebyski, while Bob DeMarco acted as business manager of the club.

Birmingham	.....	200	202	x-6	5 0
Walled Lake	.....	000	000	0-0	1 6
Birmingham	.....	003	000	02-5	4 3
Garden City	.....	000	200	10-3	3 2
Bay City	.....	000	001	0-1	4 1
Birmingham	.....	000	000	0-0	3 1
Birmingham	.....	520	062	0-9	11 0
St. Clair
Shores	100	200	0-3	6 2.
Bay City	001	000	0-1	2 0
Birmingham	000	000	0-0	4 0

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