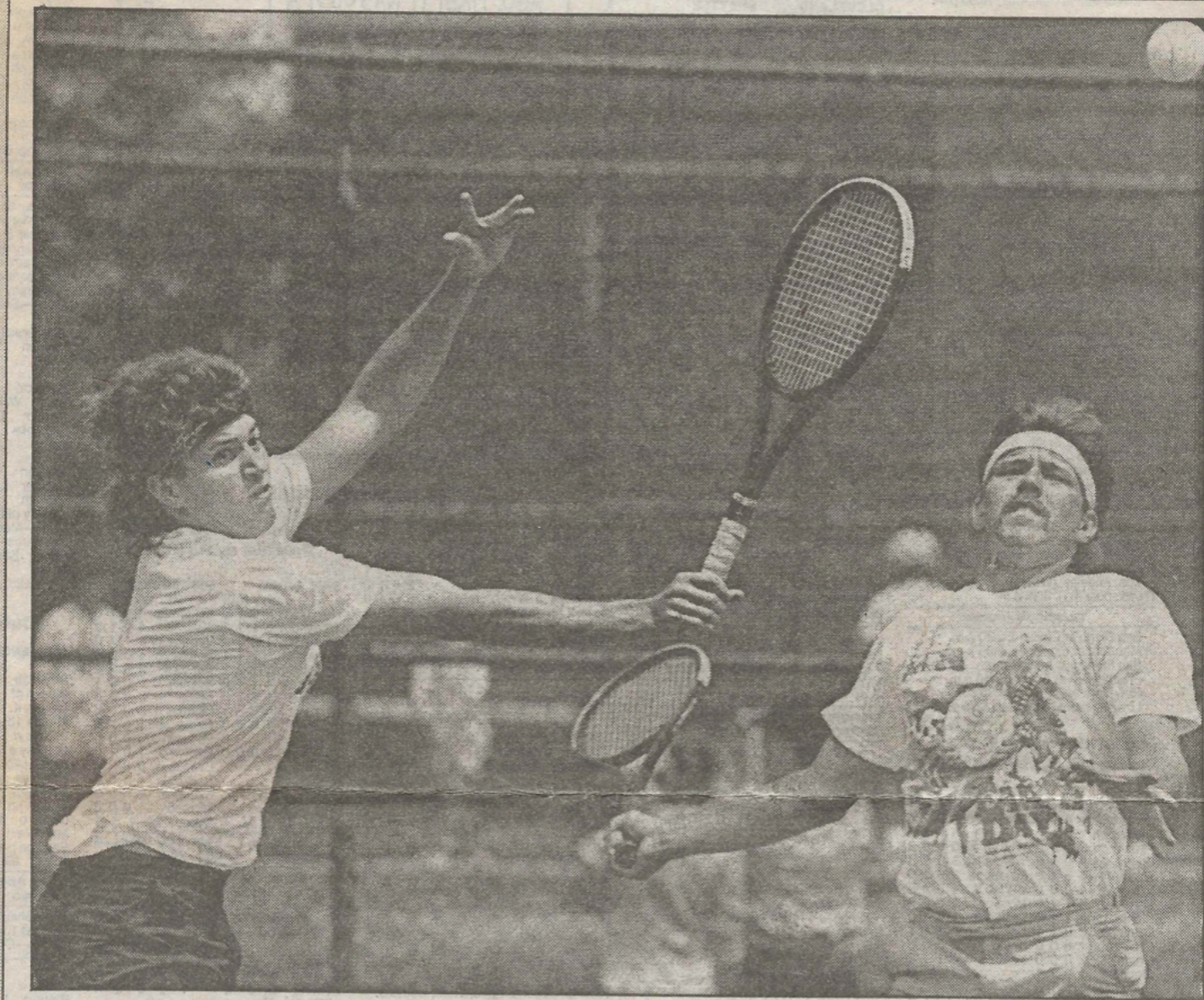


TENNIS ANYONE?



Casey Cromwell steps in front of partner Tim Desmond for the shot, but the pair lost in men's A doubles Sunday.

NEWS PHOTO • CONAN D. OWEN

Few troubles in doubles

Tennis competition is high, but upset count is low

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By JIM GINDIN
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□ Women's city tournament roundup, B4

Early-round doubles play was featured Sunday at the Ann Arbor City Closed Tennis Tournament, and despite moderate winds and some clouds and rain early in the day, there was plenty of action.

Thirteen of the 58 doubles matches went into a third set. There were few surprises, but a lot of competition.

Liz Batesole and Betsy Mehaffie were involved in much of that action, winning a three-set match before returning to the court an hour later for a quarterfinal match in Women's A Doubles.

Mehaffie and Batesole outlasted Carol Miller and Emily Bowen 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, in a 2½-hour match. Miller and Bowen held to one strategy throughout the match, keeping Mehaffie running the baseline returning lobs.

"Every year they beat some top players because the other team gets impatient," Batesole said. "They are a very smart team."

Batesole said she became impatient in the second set, but resolved to keep the match under control in the third. Mehaffie kept running down the lobs and setting up Batesole at the net.

They broke serve four times in the third set. But Miller and Bowen were equally strong when receiving serve. Mehaffie held serve after twice falling behind, 15-40.

"I just tried to get my first serve in, they just kept hitting those deep, tough shots," Mehaffie said.

Mehaffie, 24, an instructor at Chippewa Racquet Club, and Batesole, a 29-year-old U-M graduate student in chemical engineering, returned to play Mary Jo Rabaut and Raney Lamey in the quarterfinals. An hour-and-a-half later, they had a 6-4, 6-0 victory and a berth in Saturday's semifinals.

"At the beginning, I had the feeling that it would be difficult," Mehaffie said. "I didn't think I would last."

But they held serve throughout the first set, breaking in the 11th game to gain the advantage.

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TENNIS

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"If Betsy had hit her ground strokes any better, she would have won the U.S. Open," Batesole said. "She would hit the ball well, and they would pop it up to me at the net."

In men's doubles for players 40 and over, three of the top four seeds advanced into next weekend's semifinals. Don Trumbull and Jack Knowles were the only unseeded pair to advance, winning 7-6, 6-2 over third seeded Gordon Boettcher and Dan Burroughs.

Knowles said his team won by taking advantage of the stiff winds that buffeted tennis balls throughout late afternoon play at Pioneer.

"We didn't try to kill the ball," he said. "We just played the wind better. I thought we settled down in the second set and tried not to let the wind bother us."

Knowles and Trumbull, playing in their first tournament together, won the first-set tie-breaker, 8-6. After going up a pair of service breaks in the second set, they held off several break points in the seventh game before breaking again to win the match.

They will play top seeds Jim Burdelski and Tom Pullen in the semifinals. Burdelski and Pullen,

both 46-year-old high school tennis coaches, won 6-2, 6-0 over Ken Hurlbrink and Bill Heider.

"They weren't able to figure us out today," said Pullen, a Pioneer boys' assistant coach. "The secret of this game is to get the other guy off his game, since we all know each other's games so well."

Despite three of four seeded teams advancing, players in the division agree that any of the 12 teams are capable of winning. Most players have played each other in practice or in other events.

Pullen and Burdelski are teaming up in the Ann Arbor tournament for the first time. Pullen and Bob Carr won the division the last three years, but Carr recently moved to Saline and is ineligible.

"We're playing pretty steady as a team now," said Burdelski, the Huron boys' tennis coach. "We're just meshing as a team right now."

Second seeds Harvey Klein and Jim Murphy advanced to the semifinals, beating Tom Pustell and Dick Force 6-3, 6-0. They will play the fourth-seeded team of Tom Huntzicker and Rich Prager.

Huntzicker and Prager defeated Matt Kluger and Bruce Watkins 6-4, 7-5. They broke serve in the first game of each set in a match that featured several long and tense

games. Kluger and Watkins fought back with two breaks when down, 5-2 in the second set, but were broken in the final game.

"We were just a little luckier today," Prager said, agreeing with his partner that the winds played a major role in the match.

MEN'S 'A' DOUBLES: The four seeded teams all advanced to Thursday's quarterfinals, none of the teams giving up more than five games. Eric Johnson and Bill Godfrey, seeded first, will play Mark Randolph and Jon Bowdler. The second seeds, Tom Haney and Steve Hentschel, will face Patrick Shields and Keith King.

MEN'S 'B' DOUBLES: Seven out of the division's eight placed teams earned berths in Tuesday's quarterfinals. Joel Manalang and Francis Olegario recorded the only upset, beating Russ Moran and Jim Nelson 6-2, 6-4, in a first-round match. They reached the quarterfinals with a three-set victory over Jerry Schleicher and Mike deRosayro. Two teams took placed pairs into three-set matches. Rod Beer and Tom Weimert defeated Mark Bagnoli and Geoff Blow 7-6, 2-6, 6-4 and Andrey Arnold and Ademola Osofisan beat Bill Carroll and Ray Esclamado 7-5, 2-6, 6-2.

MEN'S 'B' SINGLES: Gideon Hoffer upset second seeded Jim Melby 6-3, 6-1 to reach today's round of 16. It was one of nine singles matches postponed from Saturday. Rain and fog early Sunday, in addition to Saturday's washouts, leaves the tournament behind 19 singles and one doubles match heading into the week.