

Four players going for 'singles-doubles' double

By JIM GINDIN 7.22.1990
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Four players earned the chance to play for a rare "singles-doubles double" by winning matches Saturday in the Ann Arbor Adult Closed Tennis Tournament.

Steve Hentschel, Tom Haney, Sally DeLange and Betsy Mehaffie won singles and doubles matches during semifinal play on Saturday. All four will play finals in the two divisions today.

DeLange, a finalist in Women's B Singles last year, plays for the B Singles and Doubles title. Mehaffie, a finalist in Women's A Doubles in 1989, plays for A Singles and Doubles.

Hentschel and Haney are going after the same singles-doubles double, in Men's AA Singles and A Doubles. Both are playing in the adult tournament for the first time.

A pair of former Greenhills students, Hentschel and Haney teamed to win a doubles semifinal Saturday, beating Jon Restuccia and Marco Wen, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

After the first two games of the first set, there were only three service breaks. Haney and Hentschel keyed on Wen's serve, either hitting outright winners or hitting returns right out of the court.

"I was getting more opportunities to hit out on Marco's serve," Hentschel said.

Wen was winning his serve, but usually needed to go to several deuces. Down 3-2 in the third set, Haney-Hentschel took an 0-40 lead.

MEN

Wen, under pressure, hit two service winners and set up a pair of winning volleys. But Haney and Hentschel each hit outstanding returns on the next three points to earn the break.

Hentschel served out the match a few minutes later, winning four straight points, including two aces.

"I thought we had opportunities to break at the beginning of the third set," Wen said. "But it was pretty good tennis. It was fun and I had a good time with it."

Wen, a third-year medical student at the University of Michigan, was playing without much sleep this week. He was on call at Royal Oak's Beaumont Hospital three times during the tournament and had to commute for matches. Restuccia was playing with a strained stomach muscle.

Hentschel and Haney will play 1989 champions Bill Godfrey and Eric Johnson.

Godfrey-Johnson outlasted Jim Parsons and Craig Hammond, 7-5, 2-6, 7-5 in the other A Doubles semifinal.

Haney has experience against Godfrey. They played in an AA Singles semifinal Saturday, with Haney winning 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

The match lasted more than 2½ hours. Again, there were only five service breaks in the match.

"It was a tough match," Haney said. "When someone hits as hard



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Steve Jacobson returns a shot during his Men's A Singles victory over No. 5-seed Andrey Arnold. Jacobson won, 6-2, 6-0.

as Bill does, points just don't last that long. I had no strategy except to try and be real consistent."

Haney started out the match using the serve-and-volley. But Godfrey's touch with topspin lobs forced Haney to stay back in the second set. He broke serve in the first game of the second set, then held his serve five straight times to tie the match at one set.

"I just decided in the third set to put the pressure on," Haney said. "My serve came through for me."

Haney was much more aggressive at the net in the third set, getting the break in the fourth game. While the second set had five deuce games, the third had none.

"I've played a lot of matches like this one," said Godfrey, who won the division last year. "It's always close, but you can't get that one game back. He got his serve going again in the third set. That made it difficult for me to return."

Haney will play Hentschel in today's final. Hentschel defeated Wen, 6-3, 6-2.

"It should be fun," Hentschel said. "We've been practicing against each other a lot. It's just going to be a question of execution."

MEN'S 40-OVER DOUBLES: Top seed Jim Hamilton, a finalist three straight years, plays second seed Huntzicker. Each won in straight sets Saturday.

Jim Burdelski. The pair defeated Don Trumbull and Jack Knowles, 6-0, 6-3.

Pullen will see a familiar opponent at the other side of the net today. Harvey Klein and Jim Murphy defeated Tom Huntzicker and Rich Prager 6-4, 7-5, earning their third straight trip to the finals.

"We have to keep the ball away from Pullen's forehand," Klein said. "Our strategy will be to move them both around."

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MEN'S B DOUBLES: Two teams that triumphed in three-set semifinals will meet. Oliver Medzhiradsky and Bill Higgins play Eric Restuccia and Steve Schwendeman.

MEN'S B SINGLES: Top seed Rod Beer plays unseeded Scott Steeves. Neither has lost a set in the tournament. Steeves has won five matches, more than anyone in any division.

MEN'S A SINGLES: Fred Bye, the second seed, plays Steve Jacobson in the final. Jacobson has lost only eight games in four matches.

Women's B Singles: Sally DeLange, a Women's B finalist last year, earned another shot at the title by defeating Linda Woodland 6-1, 7-5. She will play Doreen Weinberger, who defeated Cecilia Fileti in the other semifinal.

Women's 40-over Singles: Unseeded Linda Jonides eliminated second-seeded Marilyn VanderVelde in the quarterfinals and third-seeded Judy Judd in the semifinals. She will face top-seeded Charlene Vanvick in the final. Vanvick and Jonides limited their opponents to one game in the semifinals.

Women's 40-over Doubles: Nan Decker and Sue Gray defeated VanderVelde and Rosemary Russell 6-3, 6-1, to advance to the final. Decker and Gray, members of Chippewa Racquet Club's travel team, controlled the net in their semifinal. "We decided to come to the net because if we didn't, they would," Decker said. The Decker/Gray team will play Barb Burke and Ann Munro.

Women's A Doubles: Evashevski and Glusac will attempt to win their second consecutive Women's A Doubles title today. They face the team of Liz Batesole and Mehaffie in the final. Batesole/Mehaffie won a first-set tiebreaker 9-7 to edge the team of Vanvick and Mena Colucci.

Women's B Doubles: Renee Greden and Peggy Moran will face DeLange and Fileti in the final. The DeLange/Fileti team earned a spot in the championship match by defeating Diane Cottrell and Debbie Crosby 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).

It's power vs. gobs of lobs in 'A' singles

By TIM DALY
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Top-seeded Julie Burdelski knows what to expect when she meets Betsy Mehaffie in today's Women's A Singles final of the Adult Closed Tennis Tournament.

Burdelski, who prefers hard-hitting rallies from the baseline, knows she will have to deal with Mehaffie's famous moon balls. And, she doesn't expect a quick match.

WOMEN "I don't really like the moon balls. I can play that kind of game, but I like to hit harder, mainly," Burdelski said. "I know I'll be on the court a long time. I don't expect to be out there for just an hour."

Burdelski needed three sets to defeat Mehaffie in last year's semifinals. In the final, Burdelski lost to Katie Evashevski, who is not playing the singles this year.

Burdelski, who plays sixth singles at Miami of Ohio, defeated Lauren Watassek 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, in the semifinals Saturday. Both players hit hard low shots in a baseline battle that lasted nearly two hours.

Watassek served for the first set at 5-4. Burdelski dug in and broke her serve, evening the set at 5-5. The players then broke each other's serve to send the set to a tiebreaker.

Watassek again jumped to an early lead in the tiebreaker and appeared to have the first set locked up when she won five of the first eight points. Burdelski won the next two points before netting a forehand to give Watassek a set point.

On set point, Burdelski hit a forehand down the line to pass Watassek, who had charged the net. Burdelski then won the next two points to take the first set.

"I figured she would go down the line, but it was such a nice shot that I just couldn't get it," said Watassek, who plays for Eastern Michigan. "I was not patient enough and I picked the wrong time to try to end the set."

In the other Women's A semifinal, Mehaffie, seeded second, defeated Kristina Glusac 6-2, 6-0.

Using a mixture of lobs and aggressive groundstrokes, Mehaffie kept Glusac off balance. After losing the first two games, Glusac broke Mehaffie's serve and held her own serve to even the score at 2-2. Mehaffie then took control and won the final 10 games.

Mehaffie frequently hit moon balls that forced Glusac back to the fence.

"I know people don't like those (moon balls) because it sends them to the fence," Mehaffie said. "In a way, it's more satisfying than hitting a winner."

Glusac, who plays second singles and second doubles at Sweet Briar College in Virginia, said she was frustrated by Mehaffie's strategy. Earlier in the week Glusac defeated Carol Miller, who also used a lot of looping shots.

"I wasn't in the mood (to return lobs) after doing that for 2½ hours Thursday," she said.