

Godfrey stays on course to get his revenge

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Believe it or not, he gets shot at Ripley in final

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Long-time Ann Arbor native Bill Godfrey had a new fan in attendance for Saturday's semifinals of the Ann Arbor City Closed Tennis Tournament.

Peter William Godfrey, born Wednesday evening, was at Burns Park to root his father on to a 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory over Marty Maehr in a men's AA match.

The elder Godfrey, the tournament's second seed who will play defending champ Paul Ripley in today's final, needed all the support he could get.

Godfrey, a Big Ten champion in No. 4 singles at Michigan in 1982 known for an extremely hard serve, won the seventh game of the third set after being down love-40 to take a 4-3 lead.

"All of a sudden I had a complete let-down," Godfrey said. "At that point I did a 30-second pause and went back to basics. After I won that game, I felt there was a big swing in confidence."

Ripley had little problems in his semifinal, beating Laurent Leclerc 6-0, 6-2.

"I expected a lot tougher match," Ripley said. "He gave me a lot of free points in the beginning. That built up my confidence and I just kept going from there."

Today's final between Ripley and Godfrey, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at Burns Park, promises to be a good one. Ripley, a 1991 Pioneer graduate and former state champion, defeated Godfrey in a three-set semifinal last year.

"I know he's really going to be out to get the one back," Ripley said. "It should be a good match and I'm looking forward to it."

Here's a few highlights from some of the other division semifinals held Saturday morning and afternoon:

WOMEN'S AA SINGLES: Betsy Mehaffie and Kathy VanDeWege had a long day on the courts Saturday and may be in for a longer outing today.

Mehaffie and VanDeWege teamed up to win a semifinal 6-3, 6-2 over Krissy Hentschel and Jodi Brewer at 10:30 a.m. The two then played individual matches in AA singles at 3 p.m. with Mehaffie winning 6-4, 6-2 over Ami Walsh; VanDeWege beat Elizabeth Pierce.

Mehaffie and VanDeWege, both employed by the Chippewa Racquet Club, will face Kristina Glusac and Jeanie Hayes at 10 a.m. today and then will play each other at 2:30 p.m.

"I'm young enough I can handle two matches," Mehaffie said. "She's not that much older than me. I don't think it will

affect either of us."

WOMEN'S 40+ SINGLES: Emily Bowen remained in contention to defend her title with a 6-7 (7-2), 6-4, 6-3 victory over Mary Gregg. She will face Cheryl Grant, a 6-1, 6-7 (10-8), 6-4 winner over Charlene Esenlohr.

"The difference in the match was probably my drop shot," Bowen said. "I could make her move and hopefully miss some."

Bowen will also play two matches today. Her singles match is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. and her doubles match with teammate Barb Burke is slated for 1:30 p.m.

MEN'S 40+ DOUBLES: Jim Burdelski and Tom Pullen defeated Harvey Klein and Bill Heider 6-0, 6-1 to set the stage for their third consecutive title today. Pullen has won five in a row, the first three with Bob Carr.

The defending duo will face Claude Wilcox and Jack Knowles.

MEN'S 40 SINGLES: Don Selenis and Jonathan Trobe, who were both unseeded coming into the tourney, will face off in today's 9:30 a.m. final.

It definitely wasn't a cakewalk for Selenis, who defeated Tom Huntzicker 7-6 (9-7), 1-6 and 6-4 in a marathon semifinal that took three hours and 40 minutes.

