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Ann Arbor's Andy Vance goes to his backhand to return a shot. Vance, along with partner Steve Jacobson, won the men's 5.0 division.

2001

Champs sweat out crowns

■ Doubles winners weather the heat, and opponents, at city tennis tourney.

By MIKE BRENNAN
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It's not difficult to find Andy Vance and Steve Jacobson winning a tennis match.

Jacobson won the 5.0 draw of last weekend's Ann Arbor Singles Tournament, and Vance, along with doubles partner Ed Yian, won the Ann Arbor City Doubles Tennis Tournament in 1999. Vance and Jacobson teamed for Sunday's men's 5.0 competition in this year's doubles tournament at the University of Michigan Varsity Tennis Center.

It's not difficult to get Vance or Jacobson to talk about their matches, but what is tough is getting them to praise their own play.

"I think our play was solid, but I think we caught them on an off day," Vance conceded after he and Jacobson defeated top-seeded David Hiniker and Marty Maehr 6-1, 6-2 to win the championship.

Vance and Jacobson, who didn't lose a set in the tournament, beat James Kinnear and

Brian Roberts 6-1, 6-4 in a semifinal match earlier Sunday.

The oppressive heat on Sunday might also have been a factor working against opponents, said Vance.

"We had an early lead. It always seems a lot hotter when you're behind," he said.

In the women's 5.0 division, three teams competed in a round-robin format to determine the champion.

Brighton resident Marimar Alonso and Betsy Capelli, of Ann Arbor, beat Janice Longhurst and Robbie Risdon 6-1, 6-3 to prevail.

Both teams entered the match at 1-0, having defeated Donna Banks and Sunita Whitehead on Saturday.

The win was great, Alonso said, but there was one problem. "I just wish there would've been more teams," she said.

In the women's 4.5 field, Emily Bowen and Carol Miller won four straight sets on Sunday for the championship. They defeated Sally DeLange and Darlee Towler 6-1, 6-1 in a semifinal, and Susan Kessler and Kathy Bowdler 6-3, 6-4 in the final.

Bowdler and Kessler upset No. 1-seeded Sue Bishop and Amy Mehaffie in the other semifinal. Bowen and Miller agreed that the heat became an increasing factor as the day progressed. "I'm thankful that (the championship match) didn't go into a third set," Bowen said.

Miller and Bowen, veterans in the doubles tournament, said maintaining concentration was the key.

"This was one of the hottest weekends for the Ann Arbor Tournament that I can remember," she said.

The teams of Eric Topliss and Evan West; Jim Driscoll and Pinaki Mazumder; Jim Griffith and Jack Knowles; Gordon Boettcher and Larry Joynt; Kathleen Munrow and Amy Yadmark; and Lennis Horst and Ann Munro also won championship matches in their respective divisions.

IT DOESN'T COUNT, BUT...: Dan Goldberg and Kathy VanDeWege beat Cristina Austin and Bill Godfrey 8-6 in Sunday's exhibition match. The match, part of the Ann Arbor Area City Tennis Association's Town Tennis Celebration, drew more fans than any other throughout the day.