

# City doubles teams battle heat, opponents

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## Longhurst-Risdon pair among the day's winners

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For having had a straight-sets match, Janice Longhurst and Robbie Risdon appeared unusually winded Saturday afternoon.

It wasn't so surprising, though, considering the muggy weather Saturday, the first day of the Ann Arbor City Doubles Tennis Tournament, or the tennis backgrounds of their opponents, Donna Banks and Sunita Whitehead.

"It was a roller coaster," Longhurst said of the 6-4, 7-6 (5) win. "We'd be hot, and then not so hot."

Risdon said the key was keeping composure after falling to a 0-3 deficit in the second set.

"We always have a goal in front of us," Risdon explained. "We don't look back. We always try to keep each other up. Sometimes, when you play with someone, your partner will get discouraged if you're not playing well. We try not to do that."

Both Longhurst and Risdon said the match was extremely tough.

Banks' and Whitehead's pedigrees can explain that.

Whitehead played for the Barbados national team before accepting a scholarship offer to Eastern Michigan in 1985.

Banks was on the Trinidad team and eventually ended up at Florida A&M.

Banks said she regrets letting

the second-set lead disappear, but that the match was exciting.

"Our feet got a little tired," Banks said. "We slowed down a bit because of the heat."

"But we're pleased with how we played."

Marimar Alonso and Betsy Capelli later defeated Banks and Whitehead 6-3, 6-3 in the second of three round-robin matches in the women's 5.0 division.

In the men's 60-and-over bracket, top-seeded Bob Carr and Bob Raham beat John Capper and Dale Greiner 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 to set up a championship match against Gordon Boettcher and Larry Joynt. Boettcher and Joynt beat Saul Cooper and Philip Rosewarne 6-0, 6-0.

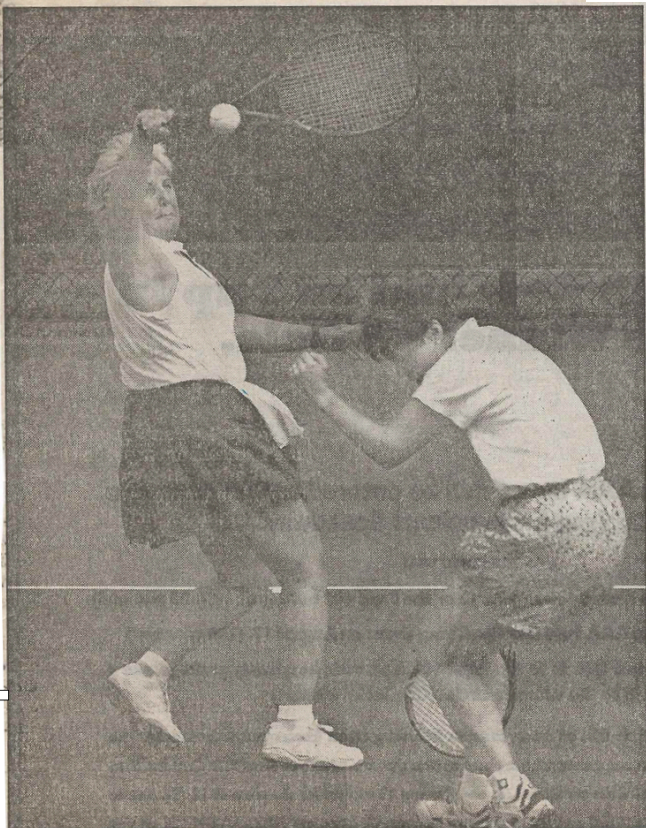
Joynt, who with Boettcher won the tournament in 1992 in the 55-and-over category, said the tournament is special to the city.

"This is something for the tennis people in Ann Arbor to look forward to each year."

**EXHIBITION UPDATE:** The pairings have been finalized for the exhibition match planned as a part of Monday's Town Tennis Celebration.

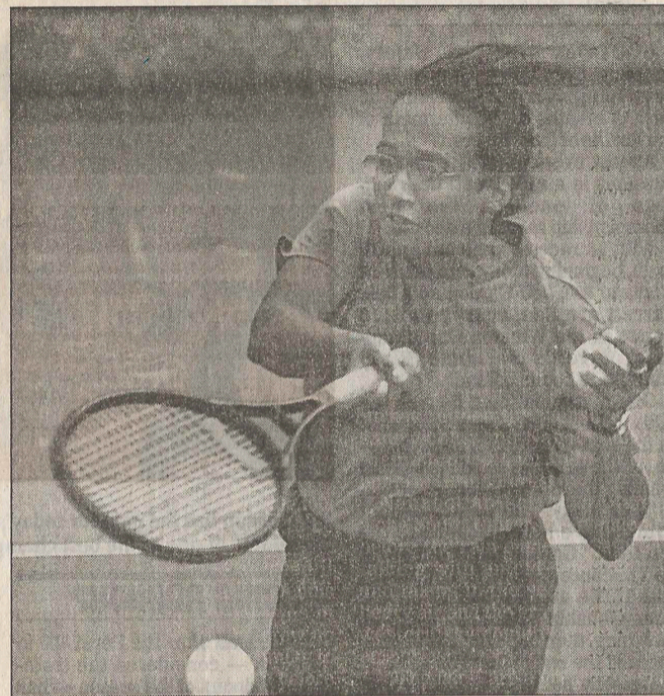
The match will pit Cristina Austin and Bill Godfrey against Dan Goldberg and Kathy VanDeWege and will begin at noon.

Austin said the match will be fun for people interested in the local tennis scene.



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Robbie Risdon, right, ducks away from a backhand shot by partner Janice Longhurst during Saturday's doubles match at U-M. Longhurst and Risdon beat Donna Banks and Sunita Whitehead 6-4, 7-6 (5).



NEWS PHOTO • LON HORWEDEL

Sunita Whitehead hits a forehand winner. Whitehead played for the Barbados national team and also for Eastern Michigan University.

"It should be a riot," she said. "It's new — kind of a funky, fun event to put a smile on people's faces and to help people realize what a great sport tennis is."

Austin was a tennis star at Eastern Michigan from 1991-95. Godfrey, Goldberg and VanDeWege all played at Michigan.