

Hiniker-Maehr even the score, win doubles title

Duo avenge '01 final over Jacobson-Vance

BY MIKE BRENNAN
News Sports Reporter

Twelve months after David Hiniker and Marty Maehr were steamrolled in the open championships of the Ann Arbor Doubles Tennis Tournament by Steve Jacobson and Andy Vance, the duo evened the score.

Hiniker and Maehr made quick work of Jacobson and Vance with a 6-2, 6-4 title match win Sunday at the University of Michigan Varsity Tennis Center.

"Hiniker is in a different league now," Jacobson said. "He dominated."

It was no surprise to either Jacobson or Vance, the No. 1 seed in the tournament. They played Hiniker and Maehr in a United States Tennis Association match earlier this summer and

lost, so they expected a tougher outing in this year's championship than last year's. Hiniker vastly improved in the past year after playing for Harvard University as a freshman.

"Midway through the first set, we said 'We've already taken as many games as we did last year, so everything from here on out is bonus,'" Hiniker said. "We took the underdog approach."

Hiniker and Maehr, the No. 2 seed of the open bracket, broke

two opposing serves in the first set while holding all six of their own. In the second, they broke another serve to take a 5-4 lead.

"I was a lot more confident in my serves and my volleys this year," Hiniker said. "Those weren't shots I had last year."

In the women's 9.0 field, Barbara Burke and Darlee Towler eased past Joanne Meagher and Carol Miller in a 6-0, 6-1 win.

"They were a little off today," Towler said. "They're generally

more consistent than they were today."

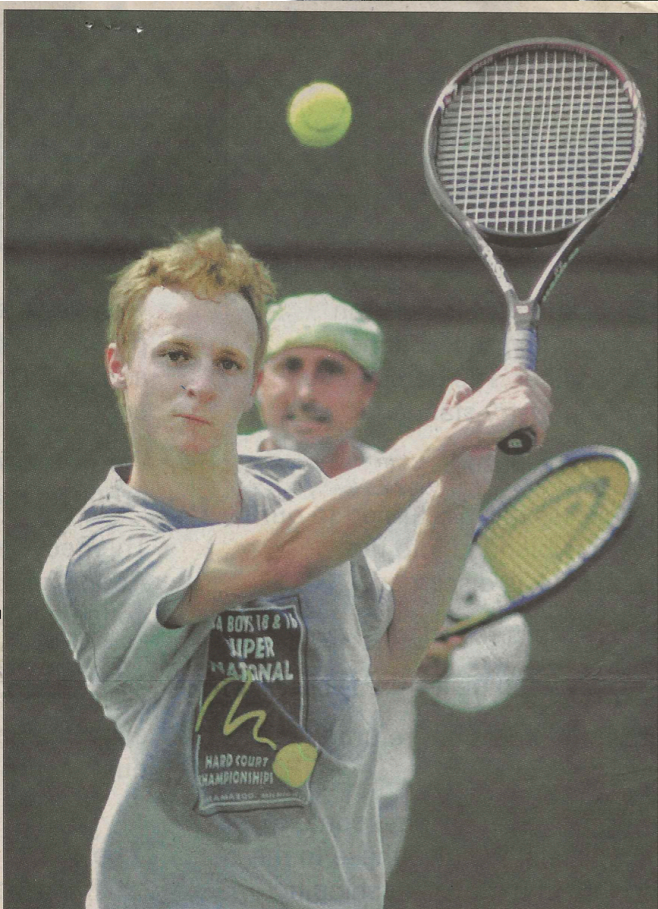
Meagher and Miller agreed. "We tried the whole time, but we didn't always come up with our shots and they did," Meagher said. "They stayed mentally tough the whole time."

First-time partners Halimah Hassan and Mary Gregg

SEE TENNIS, D6

2002

■ Tennis results, D2



David Hiniker returns a shot with partner Marty Maehr backing him up. The duo bounced back from last year's loss in the championship match to post a dominating 6-2, 6-4 victory.

TENNIS FROM D1

First-time partner win women's 8.0

knocked off Kathy Monroe and Ruedee Vance 6-2, 6-3 for the women's 8.0 title.

Hassan said Vance and Monroe were more aggressive than she'd anticipated. The duo attacked the net and kept the eventual winners on their heels for much of the match.

"I'm excited because this was our first win, but it was a difficult match," Hassan said. "Ruedee is like a gangbuster. She moved up quickly."

In a result as pleasing to the crowd as to the players, Jim Hamilton and Chris Nelson beat Mike Psarouthakis and Alan Radke, 7-6, 7-6, for the men's 9.0 division title. The two-set match lasted more than three hours.

"If it went a third set, they would've been stronger than us," Hamilton said.

Nelson and Hamilton also used two tiebreakers to beat Noe Erasga and Michael Stenman in Saturday's semifinals.

In the men's 8.0 finals, top-seeded Jeff Alson and David Smith beat No. 2-seeded Michael Kelly-Sell and Greg Lambert for the championship. Gordon Boettcher and Larry Joynt won the men's 7.0 title over Trey Caswell and Steve Jensen, while Alice Boehnke and Mary Beth Putnam won the women's 7.0 title over Marjorie D'Alecy and Shawn Stevens.

Mike Brennan can be reached at mbrennan@annarbornews.com or (734) 994-6812.



ELLI GURFINKEL, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Chris Nelson delivers a backhand Sunday. Nelson and Jim Hamilton also needed two tiebreakers to win Saturday's semifinals.



Jim Hamilton serves Sunday in the men's 9.0 title match. He and Chris Nelson beat Mike Psarouthakis and Alan Radke, 7-6, 7-6, in a three-hour match.



ELLI GURFINKEL, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Darlee Towler, left, and Barbara Burke won the women's 9.0 division title with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Joanne Meagher and Carol Miller.