

# Spouses fare well in mixed doubles

2002

Three husband-wife teams advance to 8.0 semifinals of city tourney

BY MIKE BRENNAN  
News Sports Reporter

A spousal invasion took over for today's final rounds of the Ann Arbor Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament.

Three husband-wife teams advanced to the semifinals of the 8.0 skill level bracket at the University of Michigan Varsity Tennis Center. Team skill levels are determined by adding both player's United States Tennis Association level.

"We complement each other well," said Tim Peterson, who advanced with his wife, Sally, to the semifinals with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Bradley Geller and Sue Stindt.

This year's tournament is the first time the Petersons have played together as partners. Tim, a 1982 Huron High School graduate, won three state doubles titles at the prep level. Sally just began playing regularly in the past year.

"We practiced together a bit. We had a good time, and there were no disputes," Tim said.

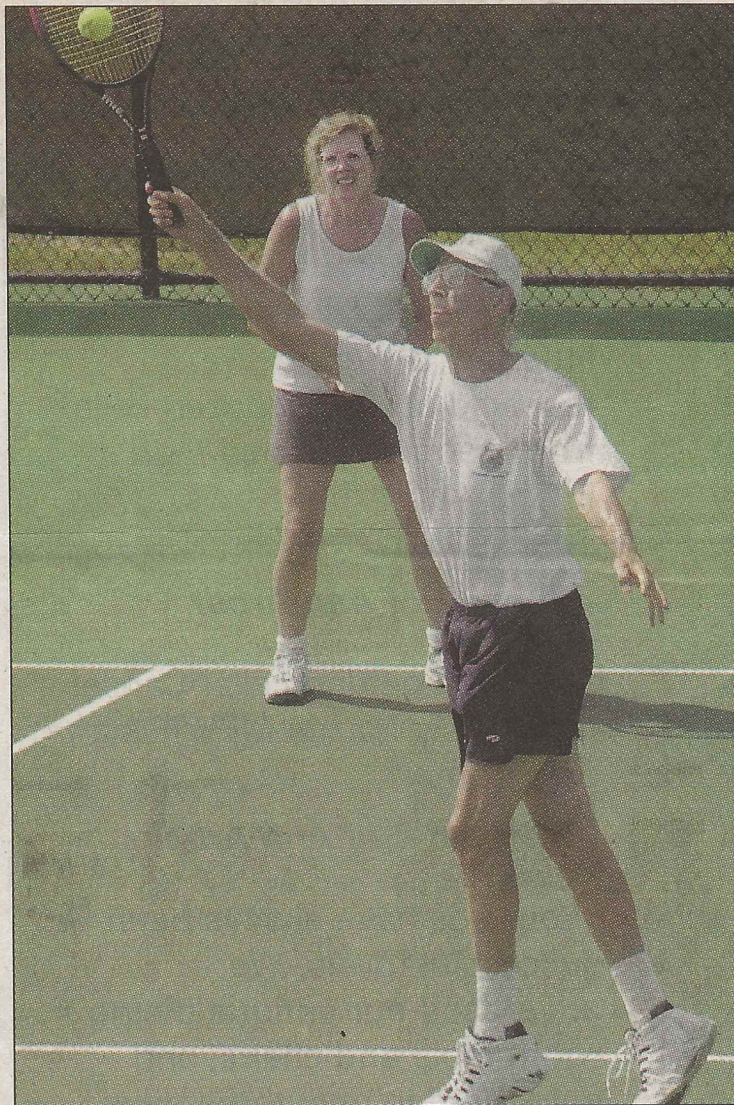
Familiarity with a partner was even more important to both players on the Joynt-Joynt team. Ellen and Larry have played as doubles partners for more than 30 years, a fact that helped them become one of just two teams to win two rounds Saturday. They defeated Bill and Linda Woodland 1-6, 6-1, 7-5 in the first round and knocked off Julie and Rod Bier in the quarterfinals.

Team Griffith is back in the tournament after a 15-year hiatus. Jim and Penny made good on their return with a 6-2, 6-2 quarterfinal win over Marjorie D'Alecy and Greg Lambert.

"(Penny) has been working hard on her game, and we thought we could be competitive again," Jim said. "She's become a tennis type. I'm not worried at all that she'll be ready for this. I'm more worried about whether I'll be ready."

The most surprising entry into the 8.0 semifinals is the team of Don Tarpley and Sherri Fountain. After a 7-5, 6-1 morning win over Kathy and Leo Legatski, the duo turned around and edged No. 1 seed Sally DeLange and Peter

Rea 5-7, 6-1, 7-5 in the quarterfinals. DeLange and Rea had three



LON HORWEDEL, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Larry Joynt hits an overhead as his wife, Ellen, watches from the baseline. The Joynts beat the team of Bill and Linda Woodland.

"We're dogged players," Tarpley said. "(DeLange and Rea) are court-savvy. They're more skilled ... they can put the ball wherever they want to. We're always off balance. But we have tenacity. That's all it was."

DeLange agreed. "They're good at what they do," she said of her opponents. "You can't count on them to make a mistake. You think you've got a point, and all of a sudden the ball's coming back, and you're not ready and you make a mistake."

At the 9.0 level, the two seeded teams won two-set matches.

No. 1 seed Amy Mehaffie and Eric Topliss beat Mary Freer and James Galow 7-5, 6-3, while Mar-

Wasneski 6-2, 6-4.

Walasek, who graduated from Huron earlier this year, caught a few glances at Mehaffie and Topliss during her semifinal match and anticipates a close final round today.

"It'll definitely be competitive," Walasek said. "They play hard and keep in the court."

Semifinal play in the 8.0 tournament begins at 9:30 a.m. today with the championship scheduled for 1:30 p.m. The championship for the 9.0 teams is also at 1:30 p.m. All matches are at the U-M Varsity Tennis Center.

Mike Brennan can be reached at mbrennan@annarbornews.com or