

# It's Open and shut for city's best netter 2002



ELLI GURFINKEL, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS  
Former Huron High state champion Mike Kosta returns a shot against Michael Case en route to winning the men's Open title 6-2, 6-3.

## Kosta rests Case for top men's tennis title

BY MIKE BRENNAN  
News Sports Reporter

A new Ann Arbor singles tennis champion was crowned Sunday, and no one should be surprised at who it was.

Mike Kosta overcame inconsistencies in his serve to defeat a talented but overmatched Michael Case 6-2, 6-3 to win the Open division at the University of Michigan Varsity Tennis Center.

Kosta, a state champion at Huron High School and former University of Illinois star, became the first Open division champion. The category replaced the 5.0 skill level. Case

defeated two-time defending 5.0 champion Steve Jacobson in Saturday's semifinals.

"I felt really good today," said Kosta, who was in town recovering from an ankle sprain he suffered while touring professionally.

"As the tournament went on, I began to feel better and better. That was my goal."

Case said Kosta was just too good at too many things for him to keep up for long.

"In both sets we started pretty even, but (Kosta) just kicked it into another gear," Case said. "No lead was safe with him. He's got too much power, too much quickness. He puts a lot of pressure on you."

Case picked up several points on Kosta double faults.

"Besides that, though, he was

too tough," Case said.

The Men's 4.5 division also had a new champion. Trevor Mundel, a South African-turned Brit-turned Chicagoan-turned Ann Arborite, beat Dexter High School coach Brian Atkinson 6-2, 6-2 for the title.

"This was very enjoyable," Mundel said. "There are a lot of good players here, and I didn't know who most of them were, so each match was a surprise."

In the women's 4.5 division, one match determined the champion. Only three players signed up, and when one removed herself from the draw, a round robin turned into a single match. Amy Mehaffie defeated

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## Competitor bemoans fact that more women don't play

Sheryl Leicher 6-3, 6-4 for the championship, but said she wasn't happy with the poor turnout.

"It's pathetic," Mehaffie said. "It's a good tournament and it's well-run. There's a lot of tennis talent in this town. We just need it to show up."

In the Men's 4.0 division, Noe Erasga became a first-time champion with a 6-0, 7-5 win over JPaul Dixon.

"I was on him in the first set, but I got tired and he started working me in the second," Erasga said. "I really had to hold on."

In the Men's 3.5 finals, Steve Jensen beat Joe Arend 0-6, 6-4, 6-0. Jensen, 52, said age clearly wasn't a factor in the championship, given that he defeated younger players in each of his matches.

"I got a little more consistent as the matches went on," Jensen said.

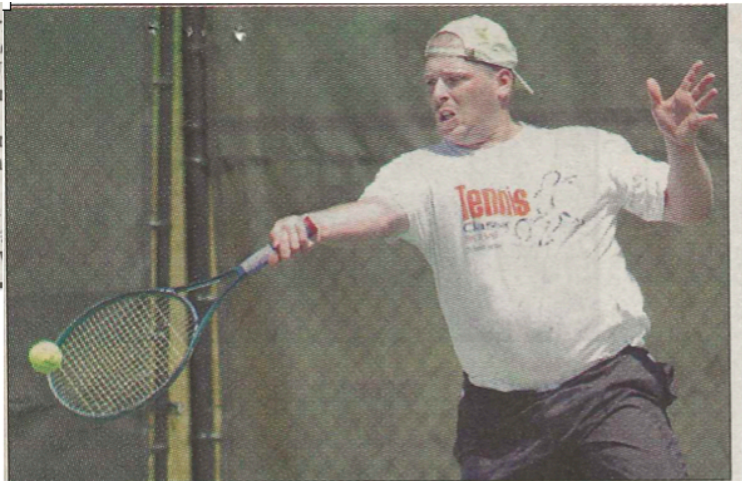
Jim Hamilton beat Greg Husczo 6-1, 6-2 for the Men's 50-plus title. Mary Gregg beat Shawn Stevens 6-4, 6-2 to go 2-0 in round-robin play and win the women's 4.0 championship. Also, Denise Goss knocked off



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Amy Mehaffie, one of just three women to sign up in the women's 4.5 division, beat Sheryl Leicher 6-3, 6-4 for the championship.

Linda Woodland 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 for the Women's 3.5 championship.

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ELLI GURFINKEL, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS  
Dexter High School tennis coach Brian Atkinson, who lost to Trevor Mendel 6-2, 6-2 in the men's 4.5 division, barely gets to this shot.