



2002 Top men's seeds win

Open flight quarterfinal matches go according to script for Ann Arbor Singles Tournament

BY MIKE BRENNAN
News Sports Reporter

The most competitive bracket in the Ann Arbor Singles Tennis Tournament is playing out exactly the way it was drawn up. It's about the only one, however, that's cooperating so nicely.

Mike Kosta, Andy Vance, Steve Jacobson and Michael Case, the four seeded players in the Men's Open category, each won their second-round matches in two sets.

With no upsets yet, the Men's Open semifinals should be the most competitive.

"This is going to be really, really tough," said Jacobson, who won the past two 5.0 division titles before the category was replaced by the Open.

Jacobson beat Graeme Boushey 6-4, 6-3 to advance. Boushey, a former University of California-San Diego player, is enrolled in a study program at the University of Michigan as a part of his political science master's degree curriculum at Washington.

"This tournament is really competitive," Boushey said. "(Jacobson) always made me play that extra ball. I just couldn't put him away."

Still, advancing to the second round and playing strong against Jacobson made for a satisfying tournament, Boushey said.

"I've been looking for people to play as long as I've been here," Boushey said. "It was just my luck to get the No. 2 seed in the second round."

Jacobson said he was relieved to get past Boushey in just two sets.

"He's an excellent player," Jacobson said. "He missed a lot of shots today he wouldn't normal-

ly miss.

"I haven't been playing much lately, so I have to kind of play my way into the tournament. It was good for me to open with such a tough match."

Like Jacobson, Kosta, the No. 1 seed, had some difficulties before defeating Evan Levine 6-4, 6-2. "This wasn't my prettiest tennis," the former University of Illinois player confessed. "I was a little rusty."

Friday's match was Kosta's first since spraining his right ankle playing professionally more than two weeks ago.

"The tournament was a good chance for me to get some matches in and see how my movement is," Kosta said.

The top seeds in several of the other brackets didn't have quite the success rate of the Men's Open.

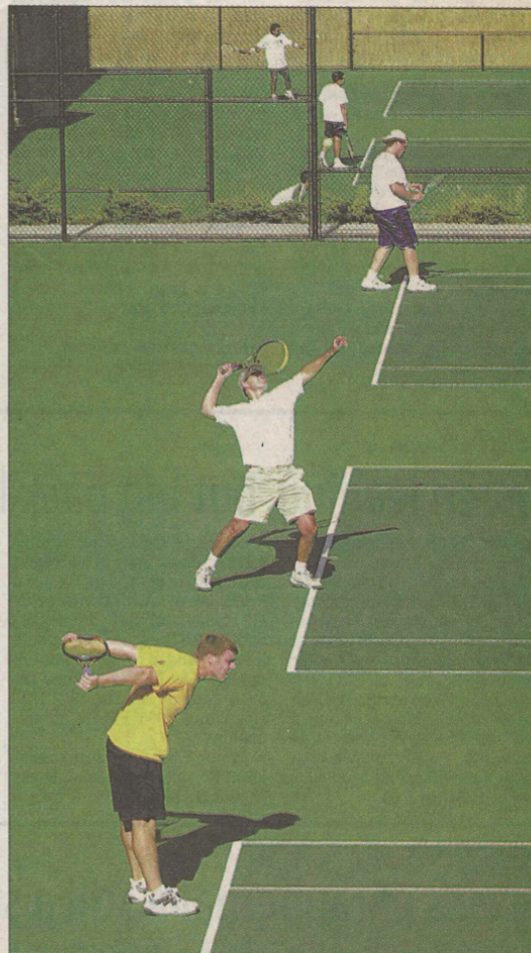
In the Men's 4.5 category, Brian Atkinson and Trevor Mundel, respectively, knocked out the top two seeds. They join No. 3 seed Ed Huang and No. 4 seed Gary DeGuzman in today's semifinals.

John Denari was a three-set winner over No. 2 seed Jeff Alson in the Men's 4.0 draw. Paul Dixon, Noe Erasga and David Smith are the other semifinalists at Men's 4.0.

Bill Woodland defeated top-seeded Joe Arend 7-6 (4), 6-1 in the first round of Men's 3.5 play.

Play continues today. Each of the eight categories will play through the semifinals, setting up Sunday's championship day. All matches are at the University of Michigan's Varsity Tennis Center.

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



LEISA THOMPSON, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Evan Levine (left), Fred Bayoff and Brian Atkinson warm up in the Ann Arbor Singles Tennis Tournament at the Varsity Tennis Center.