



2062

Case dethrones singles champ

Jacobson falls, Kosta cruises in semifinals

BY MIKE BRENNAN
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The two-time defending Ann Arbor Singles Tennis Tournament men's champion met his match Saturday at the University of Michigan Varsity Tennis Center.

Former Eastern Michigan University player Michael Case, seeded No. 4, outlasted Steve Jacobson in a 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3 marathon, ousting the No. 2 seed and setting up a championship match with No. 1 Mike Kosta.

"(Case) just got stronger and stronger as the match went on," Jacobson said. "He put a lot of pressure on me."

After winning the first set, Jacobson took a 3-0 lead in the second. "I told myself that I at least had to fight," Case said. "I was a little mentally out of it. He's a tough player."

For his part, Jacobson said he has no regrets in his first Ann Arbor tournament loss in three years. He won consecutive 5.0 titles before the field was replaced by the Open this year.

"I played well," Jacobson said. "Mike just picked up his game to win."

Case will face Kosta in today's championship. Kosta was a 6-2, 6-2 winner over No. 3-seed Andy Vance.

Kosta, who plays professionally, will be an even more difficult chal-

lenge than Jacobson, Case said.

"He has a completely different style," Case said. "I'll have to scrap and get a lot of points on the defensive."

Though he won in two sets, Kosta said his win over Vance was more difficult than he expected.

"The score makes it look like it wasn't close, but that's the opposite of the truth," Kosta said.

Though Case and Jacobson played for nearly two and a half hours, theirs wasn't even close to being the longest match of the day. That dubious honor belonged to Linda Woodland and Kathy Legatski, whose 9 a.m. Women's 3.5 semifinal match didn't finish until after noon.

"But the longer I play, the more competitive I get," said Woodland, who demonstrated as much with a 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (5) win. "Playing that long requires a lot of concentration."

Top-seeded Woodland will play No. 2 seed Denise Goss, a 6-1, 7-5 winner over Penny Griffith in the other semifinal match.

In the Men's 4.5 division, Brian Atkinson and Trevor Mundel advanced to the championship match. JPaul Dixon and Noe Erasga will play for the Men's 4.0 title. In the Men's 5.0+ division, Jim Hamilton will play Greg Huszczo in a match between the top two seeds.

Championship matches begin at 11 a.m. today at U-M.

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