

Cowan's biggest win

By ROCKY GRIMMER
Times staff writer

Bill Cowan doesn't need instruction when it comes to tennis.

At the \$325,000 Canadian Open tennis championships this week at York University's National Tennis Centre, Cowan proved he can play well under his own guidance.

In a surprise upset Cowan, of Cobblestone Courts, defeated Bruce Kleege of the United States 6-4, 6-3 to advance into today's second round against New York's Peter Rennert, ranked 40th in the world.

Cobblestone Courts' Glenn Michibata lost in straight sets yesterday to Sweden's Stefan Simonsson 7-6, 6-2 in the opening round.

The 9th ranked junior in the world overwhelmed Toronto's Nigel O'Rourke 6-1, 6-0 in his first match Saturday. And on the Centre Court Sunday, Michibata treated the crowd to some exquisite ground strokes to beat San Francisco's Cary Stansbury 7-5, 6-1.

"I knew in the first set that I would win after I saw his ground strokes," said 18-year-old Michibata. "His serve gave me some problems in the first set, but after that he was serving badly."

Michibata was eliminated in the first round last year 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 by Californian Butch Waltz.

Like Michibata, Cowan is pleased with his play. He says he's been playing the best tennis of his career at the championships. And he's been doing it without a coach.

Cowan was taught the basics as a youngster by his father. After that he's been playing without a coach for the last six years.

"I'm stubborn and kind of un-coachable," said the 21-year-old. "I've picked up tips from watching players and I've been changing and experimenting with my game over the years."

Cowan's match against Kleege wasn't as

tough as the previous one against Jeff Robins of the United States. Cowan earned a hard-fought 7-6 (10-8), 7-6 (7-5) victory over Robins.

"I have one of the best serves in the world and it gets me out of tight corners," said Cowan, the Ontario Open champion. "It may sound arrogant but I really have confidence in it."

"I think I could do well world-classwise if I can get my volley and movement around the court as good as my serve," he said.

Cowan will be playing for the Canadian under-21 team in the Chiquita Cup, August 16 in New York.

"I've collected the most ATP points, made the most money and had the most publicity I've ever had," he said. "It's been the highlight of my career."

Cowan made fewer errors than his Austrian opponent, Filip Krajcik to win 6-3, 6-2 in his first qualifying match Saturday.



Glenn Michibata lost

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