



A TOUGH RACQUET: Claudia Khode-Kilsch was in good form at last week's Player's Challenge tournament hosted by York University. Khode-Kilsch gave fans their money's worth with a dramatic upset over top ranking Martina Navratilova.

York tennis tourney draws top players and record crowds

By DEBORAH KIRKWOOD

Great weather, an improved venue, record crowds, and one of the most competitive fields ever—including the world's top three ranking women—helped to make this year's Player's Challenge one of the most successful ever.

According to Rick Muller, the tournament's public relations director, 73,492 people attended this year's tournament, which he said is a new world record for an outdoor women's tennis tournament.

The improved playing facilities received rave reviews. At a cost of \$1.65-million, the renovated Tennis Centre is now complete. Phase II of the project saw the addition of four practice courts, and an administrative building. More importantly, from the competitors' perspective, a new locker room and lounge facilities have also been constructed. The additions made by Tennis Canada were so impressive that it moved Hana Mandlikova (currently ranked number three in the world) to remark that "the Player's Challenge has to be rated as one of the best tournaments in the world."

The field assembled for this tournament was also impressive. Six of the world's top 10 ranked women competed, including Chris Evert Lloyd and Martina Navratilova (ranked first and second respectively), as well as many past and future stars.

The tournament also brought one of the largest Canadian contingents ever, with five women (Helen Kelesi, Jill Hetherington, Jane Young, Marjorie Blackwood, and Carling Bassett) taking their places at Centre Court in singles competition. Although with the exception of Bassett no Canadian advanced past the second round, it was good to see the strong representation.

This year's Player's Challenge marked the Toronto debut of teenage tennis sensation Gabriella Sabatini. Since coming on the tour, the 15-year-old Argentinian has climbed from number 72 in the world to her current position of number 14 in only 10 months. Sabatini was a delight to watch, and her tennis future holds considerable promise. In the end, however, her lack of experience and her physical limitations were exploited by Mandlikova as she eliminated Sabatini 6-2, 6-0 in the Quarter-finals.

Every tournament has upsets and this tournament was no exception as several seeds made early exits from the draw. But few tournaments see as dramatic an occurrence as the defeat of Martina Navratilova, the world's number one female tennis player.

Navratilova seemed from the start to have underestimated her 22-year-old opponent, and maybe with good reason. In their previous head-to-head match-ups, Navratilova had won 13 to Khode-Kilsch's one. However, Khode-Kilsch had a few aces up her sleeve. First, she happens to be one of the few players in the world to have beaten Navratilova more than once. Secondly, she plays the serve and volley style that Navratilova has made famous—a game, if played effectively, that seems to give the number one ranked player some problems.

Then there was Chris Evert Lloyd. The surprise number one seed had to fend off a headline-hunting media for most of the week, but said all that had to be said on the topic of ranking and her intense rivalry with Navratilova with her racquet as she captured her fourth Player's Challenge 6-2, 6-4 over Claudia Khode-Kilsch.

And finally, no article on tennis in this country is complete without a few words on Carling Bassett. Bassett, currently number 15 in the world, appeared vulnerable throughout the tournament. Her opening two matches were hard fought battles against players ranked well below her.

GARY HERSHORN

Merit awards offered to woo 'first class students'

By HARRY MARGEL

York's Senate has launched a program to attract academically distinguished students to the University by offering financial incentives.

The implementation of financial incentives follows the approval by York's Senate of a comprehensive 94-page report by the Committee on Admissions, Recruitment and Student Assistance (SCARSA), which was formed to study ways to enhance the academic quality of York students while still maintaining a policy of accessibility.

In the Faculty of Arts, merit awards of \$250.00 are being offered to incoming secondary school graduates who have earned an average of at least 75 per cent, and named York as their first choice on their university application form. At present, however, only the Faculty of Arts is offering merit awards.

"Actually, the student will have to obtain higher than 78 per cent (this year)," Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts Mark Webber said. "We have already offered more than 285 awards, and we only have so much in our budget." This year's budget for merit awards is \$60,000 for the academic year.

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York group claims victory

By JOE FABITZ

The York Student Movement Against Apartheid (YSMAA) has taken partial credit for the recent ban of South African liquor from Ontario stores announced by Premier David Peterson on August 14.

Peterson announced the ban at a press conference organized by the Anti-Apartheid Coalition of Toronto, a group formed in July with the support of the YSMAA.

"We are claiming this as major victory of the Toronto-wide movement," said Himbara, spokesperson for the YSMAA. Referring to the YSMAA's campaign against York University's investments in the South African regime, he added, that "since the government and other agencies are taking action we think this is paving the way for our own war in September."

The YSMAA is working towards York's "divestment" in South Africa. In the past some of the money held in York's faculty and staff pension funds has been invested in industries in South Africa, such as Noranda Mines. Himbara and the YSMAA would ultimately like to see full divestment of universities across Canada.

Anti-apartheid activity increases

Asked if he foresees York's disinvesting in South Africa, Edward Kernaghan, chairman of the BOG's Pension Fund Board of Trustees, said that he is aware of the apartheid problem, and intends to address it when the Trustees reconvene in September.

Kernaghan said that the pension fund's money is managed through several fund managers, whose investment criterion is performance—to gain the best returns for the beneficiaries of the fund. If York is to disinvest in South Africa then "we would have to state our investment position with that new criterion," he said.

Kernaghan said that he plans to scrutinize a list of businesses involved in South Africa compiled by The Task Force on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility. "It behooves us to find out whether any of our securities are on that list," Kernaghan said.

Formed in 1984, the YSMAA claimed a victory after the announcement of Sonja Bata's resignation from York's Board of Governors this past June. The Bata Shoe company has been extensively criticized for exploitation of black workers in their South African plants.