

sports

Shriver wins big at Canadian Open

By JAMES HOGGETT

This year's version of the Player's Challenge Tennis Championships, held annually at the National Tennis Centre on the York University campus, saw Pam Shriver topping off a great week of tennis by winning the \$390,000 tournament before a crowd of 7,987.

The week-long tournament, which ran from August 15-23, set an outdoor women's event record with 78,570 in attendance, breaking the old mark of 73,923 set in 1985.

Shriver, a 25-year-old from Baltimore, defeated Houston's Zena Garrison 6-4, 6-1, to collect an Inuit carving and \$70,000. Garrison picked up \$29,820 for her efforts.

Shriver, who is better known for her doubles play with partner Martina Navratilova (who was absent at this year's Player's) hit two career milestones here in Toronto. For the first time she upset three of the world's top 10 players in succession. Gabriela Sabatini (No. 8), Chris Evert (No. 3), and Garrison (No. 7). She also passed the \$3 million mark in career earnings. Shriver felt the Canadian Open title was the



STIRRING UP A STORM: Helen Kelesi was defeated by Chris Evert in the quarter finals.

biggest singles victory of her career.

"If I don't win a Grand Slam tournament, this will be very close to that," said Shriver, the fifth-ranked player in the world.

Being able to pressure the game's top players so consistently has given Shriver greater confidence going into the US Open which is currently being played in New York.

Inexperience plagued the Canadian women at the Player's Challenge as the first two Canadians went down in the opening round—but not without putting up a gallant fight.

Toronto's Karen Dewis and Oakville's Jillian Alexander, both wild-card entries had to chalk this tournament up to experience. After extending Mariana Perez-Roldan of Argentina 7-5 in the first set, Dewis, 24, was blown away 6-0 in the second set.

Alexander, 19, playing in her first major tournament was beaten 6-1, 6-3, by Britain's Sara Gomer. The most disappointing effort for the Canadians was the performance of Carling Basset who lost her first match to Japan's Etsuko Inoue 3-6, 6-4, 6-0.

On the brighter side for Canada was the remarkable performance of Toronto's Helen "Hurricane" Kelesi. Kelesi advanced as far as the quarter finals before losing to three time Player's Challenge winner and No. 1 tournament seed Chris Evert. Evert humbled the upstart 17-year-old Canadian 6-2, 6-0, in a match that only took 61 minutes to play.

For Kelesi—whose terrific play all week included an upset of the world's No. 9 player, Claudia Kohde-Kilsch; 6-2, 6-3—there was no shame in losing to the winningest player in the history of tennis.

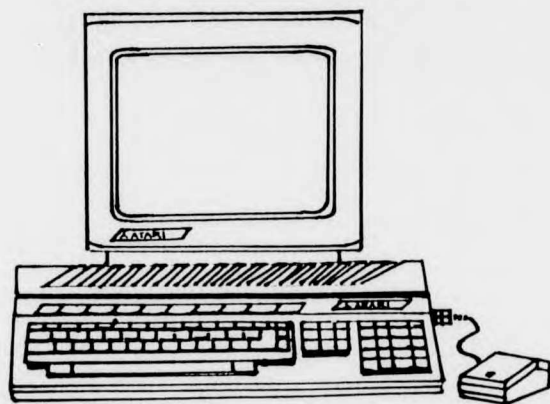
"This whole tournament was a great thrill for me and there wasn't much I could do against Chris," said Kelesi, who is ranked 32nd in the world.

"I gave it my best, I just had to smile because I was happy with the over-all tournament. After that kind of performance I can't be upset or anything. I tried my heart out," Kelesi said.



THE THRILL OF VICTORY: Pam Shriver celebrates after defeating Zena Garrison 6-4, 6-1, to capture the Canadian Open at York's National Tennis Centre August 15-23. The Canadian Open was Shriver's biggest singles victory of her career to date.

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