

Sports



Players battle bones rattle

Natalie Pawlenko

York's Tennis Centre played host to a number of tennis greats at this year's Player's International Canadian Open; it's only too bad that most of them had to leave half-way through the tournament.

Bjorn Borg, popularly deemed "King Bjorn—King of Tennis", was, to no one's surprise, in the finals. The only thing stopping him from claiming the title (and the \$28,000) was his right knee, which he injured three weeks before the match while jogging in Romania. Borg defaulted while leading 6-4, 4-5 in the second set to fourth-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia.

Chris Evert-Lloyd won her final match against Virginia Ruzici of Romania, 6-3, 6-1. The match was played according to Evert's preference for the backcourt game. Her strong, consistent ground strokes prevented Ruzici from coming into the net.

In earlier men's action, unseeded Sandy Mayer of the United States upset third-seeded Vitas Gerulaitis. Second-seeded John McEnroe defaulted to Erik Van Dillen of the United States in his second-round match due to an ankle injury. In the semi-finals Borg defeated Mayer, 6-0, 6-3 and Lendl defeated Paul Kronk of Australia. In the men's doubles final, the top-seeded team of

Heinz Gunthardt of Switzerland and American Sandy Mayer were upset by sixth-seeded Bruce Manson and Brian Teacher of the United States with a score of 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Top-seeded Martina Navratilova was forced to default her third-round match to Anne Smith of the United States when the pain in her lower back became unbearable. It was yet another disappointment when Australia's Evonne Goolong Cawley, seeded third, lost to seventh-seeded Kathy Jordan of the United States, 7-6, 6-0. Eighth-seeded Andrea Jaeger lost to unseeded Pam Shriver, 0-6, 6-2, 7-5 in the quarter finals.

Of the top eight players in the tournament, only three made it to the semi-finals—Borg, Lendl and Evert-Lloyd. Series ticket-holders must have been disappointed when they couldn't see a replay of Wimbledon (Borg against McEnroe) nor what could have been an exciting Navratilova-Evert-Lloyd finale. What perhaps is exciting to note is that eight Canadians qualified for the main draw—Toronto's Bill Cowan, Glenn Michibata, Steve Rogul, Brian Millar, Greg Halder, Quebec City's Stephane Bonneau and Francois Synaeghal and Ottawa's Martin Wostenhome.

Excalibur photos
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