

Sports/recreation

Penn tennis aim right on at ORC

New wave of tennis jolts Canadian pros in indoor tourney

By PAUL WILLIAMS
Times sports editor

The Penn Canadian Indoor Tennis Championships certainly achieved what they set out to do at the Ontario Racquet Club last week.

Tournament organizer Pierre Lamarche is quick to explain to anyone that's interested that the purpose of the national indoor men's championship is to give young and up coming players a chance to take on Canada's top players.

During the five-day tournament, on the fast ORC courts — like playing on ice said one competitor — upset after upset occurred. In most of the upsets, it was a youngster gunning down a seasoned pro.

National co-champions Harry Fritz, 29, and Rejean Genois, 26, were victims of the unseeded and unheralded

21-year-old Josef Brabenec. Genois relented in the tournament final 7-6 (7-2) 6-3 unable to match Brabenec's service blasts.

Martin Wolstenholme, one of Canada's finest prospects at 16, silenced former national champion Tony Bardsley, 34, in the playoff for third spot 7-6 (8-6) 6-4.

"His nose was hanging over the net," said Wolstenholme about the lob that won the important first set. "He was ready to lunge and wasn't expecting a lob. Every time I tried that shot before he would jump for it and get it."

The lunge instead of the jump cost Bardsley the match and he was added to the list of Wolstenholme victims.

Wolstenholme also upset the national under-21 champion Brian Hall 1-6, 6-1, 6-3 in the second round.

**Results,
picture story
on page 41**

Sensing the temper of the times, Wolstenholme was nervous when he faced 17-year-old Stephan Bonneau of Quebec. Bonneau had earlier upset fourth seed Richard Legendre, 26, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

Wolstenholme has beaten Bonneau easily on previous occasions, but he didn't want to be another upset victim.

Even Brabenec had problems with the youngsters. Simon Bartram of Ontario Racquet Club pushed the eventual champ to a tiebreaker in the first set of their second round match.

Brabenec, who puts a towel over his head between games to aid his concentration, admitted he wasn't overly concerned about the youngsters coming up — but.

"I have a lot of respect for juniors like Michibata and Wolstenholme," he said. "Bonneau showed us this week he has lots of talent."

Even Lamarche fell prey to Wolstenholme.

"The purpose of this tournament is to give young players the chance to beat older players," he said at the end

of the tournament. "As I found out, the young players are coming along a little too fast."

Defending champion Dale Power lost to contemporary Bardsley 7-6, 6-7, 6-3, in the second round. Power and Fritz were defeated in the doubles final by Genois and Legendre 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5).

Brabenec won \$1,000 for his win, but didn't get a chance to look at the cheque. He's still an amateur and not eligible for cash prizes.

Harry Brittain, ORC pro, upset fifth seed Robert Bettauer 7-5, 7-6 in the second round. Bardsley defeated Brittain in the third round.

Bill Cowan of Cobblestone Courts was defeated by J. C. Gosselin 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 after receiving a bye in the first round.



KEN KERR/THE TIMES

Josef Brabenec is the new champ

Dixie leader a battler

For Russ Foster, Dixie Beehives fine young captain, the 1978-79 hockey season was a year of challenges.

Fortunately for the slick centre, he's used to tough challenges. He battled epilepsy for three years.

"I think I was too young to realize what it (epilepsy) was all about," says Foster, a grade 12 student at Applewood Height Secondary School. "It happened in grade six. I was playing hockey, lacrosse, football and soccer and they must have been taking too much out of me."

Epilepsy is a cerebral disorder that can cause spontaneous convulsions and seizures.

"I had a big seizure in the house one day," says Foster. "The doctor gave me pills and said it wouldn't happen again if I took the pills."

"It didn't really bother me because I didn't understand it. If I had it now, it would bother me. But then it was just a word. I couldn't even pronounce it."

Foster gave up some sports but stayed active in hockey. He made the Dixie Beehive midgets five years ago and captained them in his last year of midget hockey. He moved to Dixie Ventures and captained the Central Ontario Junior B club during its final season. Foster joined the junior A Beehives last season and coach Larry Stern appointed him captain at the beginning of this season.

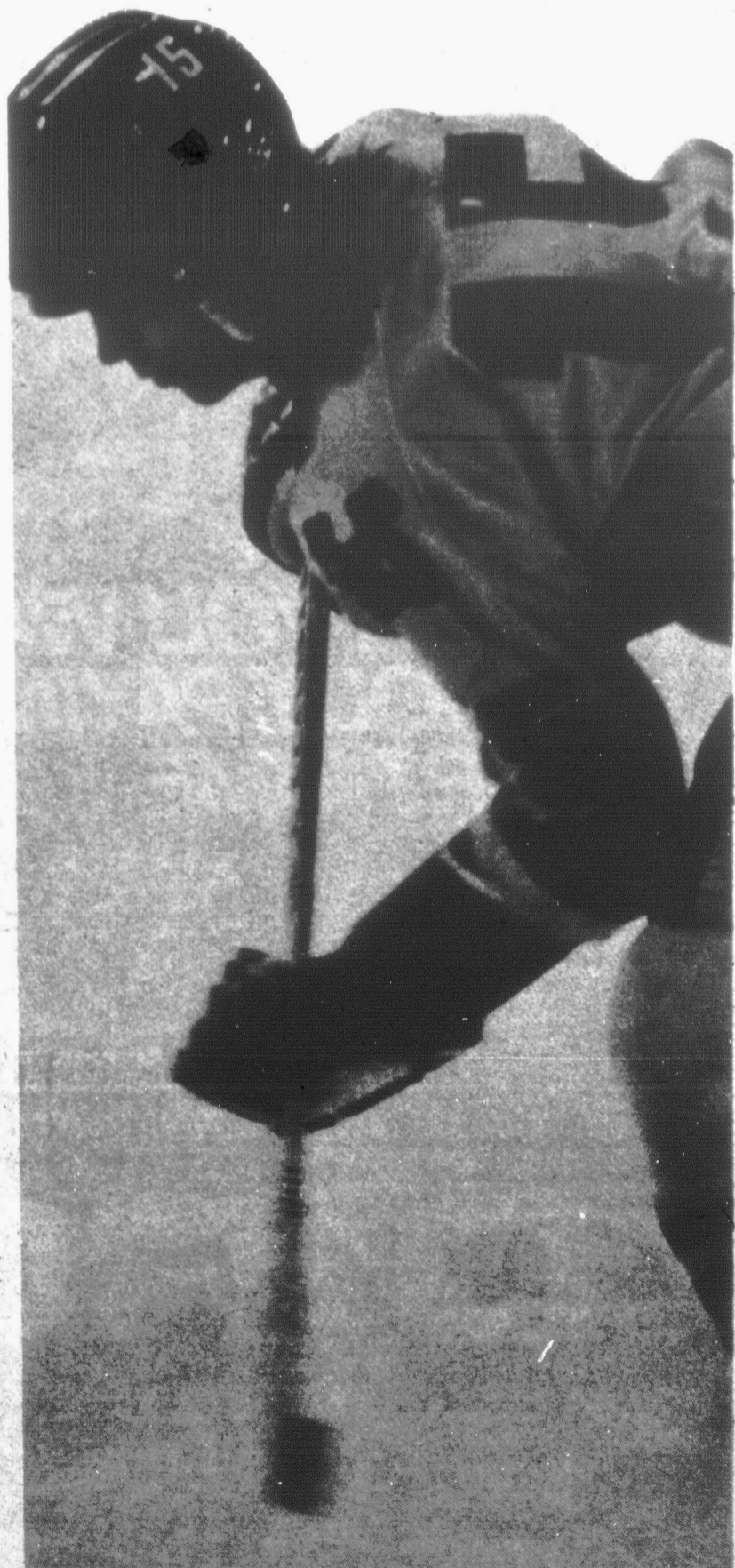
Foster had a tough act to follow. He had to fill the shoes of the team offensive leader, Steve Cloutier, a wizard with his stick. Foster, Chris Costello and Paul Fisher were the only returning veterans.

Foster teamed with Costello on a line that helped keep the Beehives respectable while Stern broke in the many rookies.

Despite being one of the league's smallest players, (5' 9", 170 pounds) he finished second in team scoring to Costello and narrowly missed an invite to participate in the league all-star game.

"Everybody was trying to get on his line (with Costello)," says Dixie rookie, standout Randy Cunneyworth. "They kept us going at the beginning of this season."

Fortunately for the Beehives Foster should be back with the Beehives for a third season, unless a U.S. college offers him a scholarship. "But there haven't been too many scouts around this season," he says.



THE TIMES

Russ Foster's good on faceoffs

Corcoran makes Pan Am team

Although swimming below his level, Dennis Corcoran has earned himself a trip to Puerto Rico this July for the Pan American Games.

Corcoran earned a spot on national team by finishing fourth in the 200-metre freestyle at the national swimming championships in Winnipeg.

Corcoran is a member of the Etobicoke Swim club, which proved to be the meet's best club by totalling 1563 points for first place.

Corcoran also helped set a Canadian record for the 200-metre

freestyle relay. Corcoran, Dan Thompson, Martin Smith, and Stephen Pickell joined forces for a 1:33.58 time, chopping over a full second off the old record.

Corcoran finished sixth in the 400-metre individual medley and seventh in the 400m freestyle.

Corcoran will likely be selected to the squad which will meet the West Germans at St. John's Newfoundland April 13th and 14th.

Lori O'Hara failed to qualify for the Pan Am games, and her best effort was a sixth place finish in the 200 metre butterfly with a 2:15.61 time.