

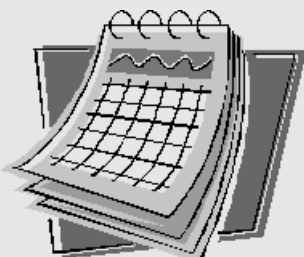
BASELINES



The Newsletter of the San Diego Tennis Federation

March 2003

February Calendar



Friday Night Doubles

7pm at Morley Field. Get there early to sign up.

Sunday, March 2

8:30am

Team Tennis played at City College courts.

Saturday,

March 8, 15, 22 & 29

10am-Noon

Jerry Sabio's Tennis Clinic held at San Diego High School Courts.

Sunday, March 9

8:30am

Team Tennis played at City College courts.

Saturday - Monday March 16-17

Heart of Texas Classic

Contact Clark Peterson or Dan Bassan, 512/576-7448

Saturday & Sunday March 22 & 23

Palm Springs Doubles 6

Contact Sean Lung at 760/880-5864

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Shultz, January and Nugent reach finals at Bobby Riggs Classic

(SAN DIEGO - February 24, 2003)

Members of the San Diego Tennis Federation dominated the field in the 3.5 men's competition of the Bobby Riggs Classic tennis tournament held February 22-23 at the Bobby Riggs Tennis Club in Encinitas, within view of the Pacific Ocean.

Steve Shultz took top honors, never dropping a set in three rounds to take first place with a 6-3, 6-3 win in the finals against fellow SDTF-er Steve Nugent. Also representing the SDTF were Eric Smith, who made it to the semi-finals, and Frank January, who came in first in the 3.5 consolation category with an impressive double-bagel win over his opponent.

An added bonus was the appearance on the final day of competition by none other than tennis superstar (and heart-throb to millions) Mark Philippoussis of Australia, who showed up for a practice session just before the men's 3.5 finals match got under way.

After watching him fire numerous baseline power shots and deft volleys, Federation members Shultz and Junior Buendia chatted briefly with the 6'4" Aussie, who said he was training for the March 2-3 Franklin Templeton Classic in Scottsdale, AZ, which he won in 1997 and gained entry to this year as a wild-card. Not letting an opportunity slip by, Shultz and Buendia each returned to San Diego with Philippoussis' signature on their tennis bags.

TEAM TENNIS 2003

Five Rounds Down

OK, fantastic news! The WTA got into the WIN column by Wiggling Tits and Ass, and distracting the Flintstones March 9 to take the match 74 to 59. And 59 was the magic number that Sunday, since that was also the losing score for the Crack Divas (vs Dynamic Duos) and American Idols (vs Fear This!). The team standings after play on Sunday, March 9, are below.

Here's some special recognition for various achievements. Dynamic Duo has chalked up the highest score - 89 (100 would be a perfect match). WTA's Romeo Matias has scored the only game against Chad Kawahara. The Crack Divas must really be tripping on Saturday nights, because last Sunday they needed a record 4 subs to fill their roster.

So, whom should you be gunning for? There are a few undefeated players in the running (sorry, but if you missed a match,

it counted as a loss). Set your sites on Ned Turner with Cartoon Maniacs, and Chad Kawahara, Min Lee, and Jong DeCastro of Fear This! Is it any wonder that Fear This! is in the lead.

But the first seven matches are only to get the rankings. Anything can happen in the playoffs, when every game determines if your team gets to the championships, and the penalties for absent players increases dramatically. Playoffs are scheduled for April 6 and 13, with the Championship on Sunday, April 27.

The team results so far:

Team Name	Wins	Losses	Total Points
Fear This!	5	0	391
American Idols	4	1	372
Dynamic Duos	4	1	391
Cartoon Maniacs	2	3	377
Flintstones	2	3	373
The Bond-Age Girls	1	4	335
Crack Divas	1	4	357
WTA	1	4	336

SDTF Board Members

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Articles & Submissions

If you have any pictures or articles you would like to submit to the newsletter, please send to sdtf2001@hotmail.com or contact board members above. For website submissions, send to tvhnguyen70@yahoo.com. All submissions must be made by the 15th of the month.

Would you like to acknowledge someone on the tennis team? Send in your entry by the 15th of the month. Must be 500 words or less.

Japanese Dominate in Hawaii

By Dave Sheehan

SDTF members Kevin Mallery, Dave Sheehan, Jeremy Marble, Fred Victoria, Ken Banniqued, Rafael Medina and his doubles partner, Rich Chang played in the Aloha Tournament in Oahu, Hawaii Feb. 14-16. Unfortunately, the first day was completely rained out so the matches were reduced to no-ad (no tie break) pro sets on Saturday and Sunday, with the finals being full sets. Did I mention how awesome the snorkeling was?

Being my first time to Hawaii, I have to admit that the tennis was secondary (Jeremy will probably agree with that sentiment) this time around. Hawaii is simply paradise. I had also heard from past participants that the folks over in Hawaii put on one of the best tournaments on the circuit, and nothing I experienced changed that preconception. The banquet held at a hotel on Waikiki on Sunday evening was great (although I could have passed on the drag show interpretation of the creation of the Hawaiian Islands).

Unfortunately, no one from San Diego came home with hardware. Rafael Medina and his doubles partner, Rich Chang, were named "Best Dressed" partners of the tourney, however. I also ran

into Sonny Genio, an old SDTF member who now resides on the Big Island. He says "hi" to everyone back here.

OK, so here's the 411 on who actually did win one of those engraved salad bowls:

Open singles and doubles:

Takahiro Watanabe/Tachi Yoshino def. Sam Chua/Chris Ciano (6-4; 6-4); Takahiro Watanabe def. Katsuhiko Takamoto (6-1; 6-2)

A singles and doubles:

Tony Abrahamo/Herbie Rivera def. Richard Pascual/Barry Yu (6-2; 6-2); Richard Pascual def. Barry Yu (6-3; ret.)

B singles and doubles:

Dean Calistro/Terence Mar def. Daren Cormier/Franklin Lee (10-5); Terence Mar def. Daren Cormier (6-1; 7-5)

C singles and doubles:

Joe Munson/Michael Schoenmann def. John Steiger/Lorin Young (10-3); Michael Merner def. Ed Wong (6-0; 6-3)

Meanwhile in Ft. Lauderdale...

San Diego veteran Brad Hasper won the A's consolation trophy. Art Ekvall (SD) and Leon Ramos (SF) won the C doubles, and our very own Aldon Griffis won C singles. Other San Diegans who attended Ft. Lauderdale were: James Frailey, Mark McDonough and Mort Jones.

Spring Picnic with DSST

The Different Strokes Swim Team, San Diego's local Gay & Lesbian swim club, have invited the SDTF members and their significant others to join them in a picnic. The festivities will be on Sunday, April 6th at 12:00 p.m. in Balboa Park at 6th and Palm. DSST will be supplying the drinks, plastic wear, and plates.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Allen Sanchez via email (vice_president@sdtf.org) or phone (619-299-7848), by Sunday, March 30th. All those attending are asked to bring a dish to share.

There are plans on having water balloon tossing contests, three legged races, volleyball games, and other activities as a

friendly competition between the clubs. The picnic is designed to promote local inter-club activities and encourage new membership for both clubs.

Announcements:

Unfortunately Andre has resigned as captain for the PAC Cup, please contact Rancy with your nominations.

Scott Williford is looking for someone to lead the raffle and sponsorship efforts for the San Diego open. Please let Scott know if you are interested.

Aunt Janis Returns

By popular demand....her own

First of all, I would like to thank all you thousands of readers who wrote cards and letters saying how happy you were to read my column once again. That was nice, but don't you think that the ticker tape parade down Broadway was a little bit much? And how did you get Mayor Murphy to acclaim this "The year of Aunt Janis?" Doesn't he know I want his job too?

As you probably realize, these lessons are designed mostly for you beginning and intermediate players. You can't ever tell the better players anything anyway. Believe me, I've tried, but as long as the old saying goes, why cast pearls at swine? And I'm wearing my pearls to Rich's tonight. Just for all you unfortunate readers who will lend me an ear, I'll pass along the juicy fruits of my knowledge to those who appreciate it. (Hello — — is anyone out there?). Besides, the next article is bound to be just as boring, so you might as well read this.

Lesson 2 -

Serving in doubles play

Serving is the most important stroke in tennis. Unfortunately, it is often the most difficult to master. While we see the widest variety of mechanics with this stroke, here are some general tips:

A. CONTROL - If you are going to ever practice anything in tennis, practice your serve. Avoid a lot of problems which come from teaching yourself how to serve, and get someone to show you the correct form. Once you have the basic technique down, you can start practicing how to control the placement of your serve by putting a tennis can in each corner of the receiving court and then try hitting the cans with your serve. At first you will find that hitting the can is difficult, (it is - even for experienced

players), but it is not impossible. The idea is to practice so you can at least hit somewhere near the cans in the corners. Placing the serve where you want to is essential in good doubles. Think about it - the serve is the first strategic move in EVERY point. And when you are serving YOU control it - take advantage of it.

B. PLACEMENT - You'll find that most players are stronger when returning on their forehand side, but not always. Be aware of your opponent's strengths and weaknesses. If they blast a return for a winner, it should tell you something and store it in your memory bank. Try to serve away from your opponent's power most of the time but occasionally cross them up and try keeping them honest by serving to their power side. When you challenge their strong side, it is best to serve wide with moderate power and/or with spin. Experiment and try to break the receiver's rhythm on his or her returns. In other words, if you serve in the same spot every time with the same pace, your opponents can groove their returns and they are going to make you hurt. (That reminds me, sometime I'll have to tell you about a experience that I had in 1929 Wimbledon, with my first mixed doubles partner, 'Big' Bill Tilden). But you may find that they make more errors off softer serves than hard. Exploit it!

C. AVOID FAULTING - Excessive power on a serve is nice if you have it, but most players do not have blinding pace on their serves AND high percentage of accuracy. You are much better off serving at three-quarter speed 90 percent of the time, while placing the first serve in and under control, rather than over-hitting a serve, which may have looked good on TV when Sampras hit it, but for you, is just another gift to your opponent. Serving with control

will cut down on your double faults, and also gives your net man at least the possibility of poaching if your serve goes in. Notice the pros - they hit 60-70 percent of the first serves in, and 95 percent of second serves! Don't give gifts to your opponent, unless they are a potential love interest - in that case, never play against them again (see Lesson One)

D. OBJECTIVE - The objective of the serve is to get the ball in play. Yes, it is really that simple! Hopefully, the next objective of the server (always in doubles) is to approach the net. This is not an easy task. The only people who say that tennis is easy are the ones who never tried to play it. The theory of doubles is that all four players, if playing by the book, would end up at the net in an endless volley exchange. Just like TV. (Right) Generally speaking, you'll find that if you are serving well, the rest of your game will come along too. Conversely, if your serve is off, you are in for a long day. Number one rule in doubles get your first serve in, and then hit the first volley.

Next Month: Doubles - Lesson III

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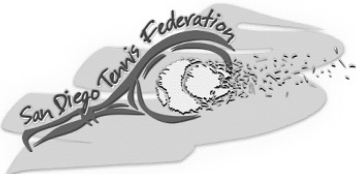
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Submit pictures and articles for inclusion in the web to SDTF Webmaster Todd Nguyen at tvhnguyen70@yahoo.com. For membership information visit our website.

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The San Diego Tennis Federation is a member of the The Gay and Lesbian Tennis Association.



Good Health... Naturally!

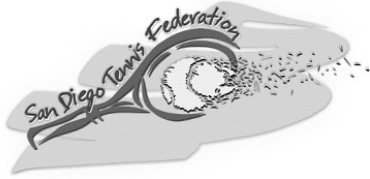
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PLACE
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 HERE

Min Lee has a secret. A big, dark secret, so overwhelming, so surprising that even the most dedicated of rumor mongers would be hard pressed to give it any credibility much less pass it on. It is definitely something that he doesn't want other people to know. It explains why he works so hard to keep it a secret.

You see, Min Lee is a sweetheart!

There, Min, the truth is out. Never more will we pay attention to all those stories about the "Evil Min." From here on in, all of us in the Federation will not give credence to tales of your nastiness. We will not believe you when you become bitchy or grumpy.

We're on to you now Min, it's all a sham!

We offer as proof Friday Night Doubles. Min can be worn out from a vigorous afternoon's workout on the courts. Yet if asked to help fill out a doubles game, he will do so with a resounding and cheerful yes. We know, we know. Min and cheerful are words that do not belong in the same sentence. Remember though, that all of this is a sham.

Not only will Min cheerfully fill out a doubles game, he does so in the spirit with which Friday Night Doubles was conceived - a fun, social event where everyone leaves the court weak and sore, from laughter.

Min has devoted himself to his game, climbing the ranks and honing his skills. He's a solid A edging towards Open, constantly bettering himself, throwing himself into the clinics and workouts with a passion that borders slightly on the insane. Obviously, with his pinpoint shots, his punishing topspin drives and his ability to run down shots that would leave others flailing at empty air, Min would have no trouble making short work of most pairings on Friday nights.

Instead, he involves everyone in the game, partner and worthy opponents alike. Presented with the chance to put a ball way out of reach, he'll make sure it's playable. Given the opportunity to tag a net man with a hard drive, he refuses. Instead, he hits a challenging return, one that the other team can make a shot on. For Min, it's all about keeping the game fun and interesting.

Min is just as quick to overlook a shot that you messed up on, as he is to comment on a shot that eludes his considerable skills.

Ever seen Min helping coach others who are having trouble mastering skills at the Saturday clinics? He's unobtrusive, subtle

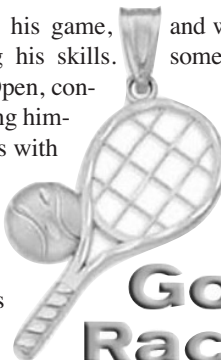
and warmly encouraging. His joy in seeing someone "get" a shot or begin to master a skill is subtle but palpable. He delivers a well-timed ribbing with a grin and warmth that helps the object of his attention focus and laugh at the same time.

No slacker, he takes on any challenge Chad metes out during the intense workouts and keeps coming back for more.

Most observers get tired just watching him.

Min is also a cheerleader. The captain of a team with a stellar 5-0 team tennis record, he's the most enthusiastic and loudest supporter on the courts. He has tremendous confidence in his all-star line-up of fearsome names culled from fright films. He doesn't manipulate his line-up to try to manufacture a win.

So Min, now that your secret is out, we have to award you this month's Golden Racket Award. With your talent and your all-court game there is no doubt that you will have other, more important awards in your trophy case soon. Now that your secret is out, don't expect any of us to flinch when you snarl from now on.



Golden Racket Award