TOUR NEWS
A Monthly Report From the International Racquetball Tour
INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR
Supports Fibromyalgia Research
January 1996

Monchik Makes His Move With Mile High Win

It's somewhat of a different ball game when you're a mile high! The ball moves a little faster, stays up a little longer, and forget about hitting a good ceiling ball. Put all these facts together and the RJR Circuits Pro-Am at the Lakewood Athletic Club in Denver may have set a record for five game matches (nine of the thirty-one) including Dan Fowler's string of four for four.

Fowler was one of two top ranked pros who were extended to the limit right from the first round as he survived John Amatuli 8-11, 11-5, 11-2, 4-11, 11-8 while fifth seed Drew Kachtik escaped qualifier Jeff Wilson 11-8, 9-11, 11-8, 2-11, 11-1. The lone upset of this interesting first round was the return of Vince Kelley to the Tour as he eliminated seventh seed Louis Vogel in four games 11-8, 11-8, 17-15, 11-2.

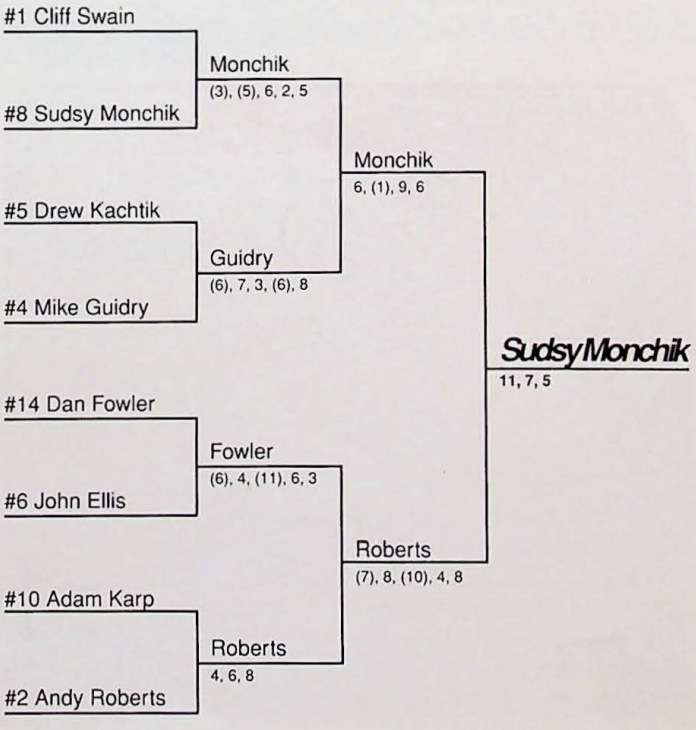
The top half of the draw moved into the quarterfinals without any upsets though #13 Brian Rankin was well on his way with a 2-0 lead over #4 Mike Guidry, but Guidry fought back to advance 5-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-1. Tenth seed Adam Karp would stop Kelley's thoughts of further upsets with a quick three game win while sixth seed John Ellis would also cruise through the round also in a very quick three over Jason Mannino. Fifteenth seed Derek Robinson would play one of his best matches of the season against number two Andy Roberts though it was Roberts who would move ahead 11-5, 6-11, 11-4, 7-11, 11-6. Fowler was forced into his second straight five game match but it was well worth it as he came from two games down to knock out #3 Mike Ray 9-11, 5-11, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7.

Top ranked Cliff Swain cruised through the first two games 11-3 and 11-5 over eighth seeded Sudsy Monchik but Monchik stormed back 11-6, 11-2, 11-5 for a spot in the semi-finals. Guidry and Kachtik battled yet once again with their normal five game match and Guidry survived this battle of the war 6-11, 11-7, 11-3, 6-11, 11-8. Roberts moved solidly past Karp in three games while Fowler once again went five and once again came up with the upset 6-11, 11-4, 11-13, 11-6, 11-3 over Ellis.

In the semi-finals, Monchik took a one game nap against Guidry but went into the finals with an otherwise strong match 11-6, 1-11, 11-9, 11-6. "Surprisingly" Fowler again went five games but it was Roberts who would finally derail the iron man of the

Continued on page 3

RJR Circuits Pro-Am **Dec. 6 - 10, 1995**
Denver, Colorado *(Quarters to finals)*



CONCEDE NOTHING
TOUR GEAR
PRODUCED BY PRO KENNEX

Swain Wins His Hometown Event

Now in his fourth straight season on top of the Tour, it was time for Cliff Swain to showcase his talent at his home, the Boston Athletic Club, for the second event of the VCI Challenge Cup Series. The pressure would be all on Swain's shoulders as the hometown fans were clearly behind him and against everyone else!

The first round was uneventful as all of the top sixteen players advanced and only #11 Jason Mannino made it interesting as he was down two games to Aaron Embry before advancing 6-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6.

The round of sixteen found all of the top eight players advancing, as well, with the top half of the draw so solid that none of the four players (Swain, John Ellis, Louis Vogel, and Mike Guidry) had yet to lose a game through two rounds. Only number two Andy Roberts would join those four advancing in straight games while each of the other three seeds in his half of the draw would go the distance. Sixth seed Sudsy Monchik cruised then snoozed against Jason Mannino but advanced 11-6, 11-0, 5-11, 8-11, 11-3. Number three Mike Ray and seventh seed Drew Kachtik both dropped their first two games to Dan Fowler and Adam Karp, respectively, before pulling out tiebreaker wins.

Upsets were the rule rather than the exception in the quarters as only Swain advanced "as expected" with a hard fought 12-10, 4-11, 11-3, 11-8 win over eighth seeded Ellis. Monchik solidly knocked out Ray in four games 11-5, 11-4, 4-11, 11-5 while the other two matches would go the distance. Fifth seed Vogel won three close games sandwiched around two losses over fourth ranked Guidry 11-9, 3-11, 7-11, 11-8, 11-9 to reach his first career semi-final. Kachtik outmuscled Roberts 11-7, 7-11, 6-11, 11-6, 11-6 in a long tough battle that left both players bruised and spent.

Monchik would take advantage of Kachtik's aches and pains with a quick three game win. Swain dropped the first game to Vogel but then was able to shut down his quest for another upset in four games.

The Monday night prime-time final would be the crowd

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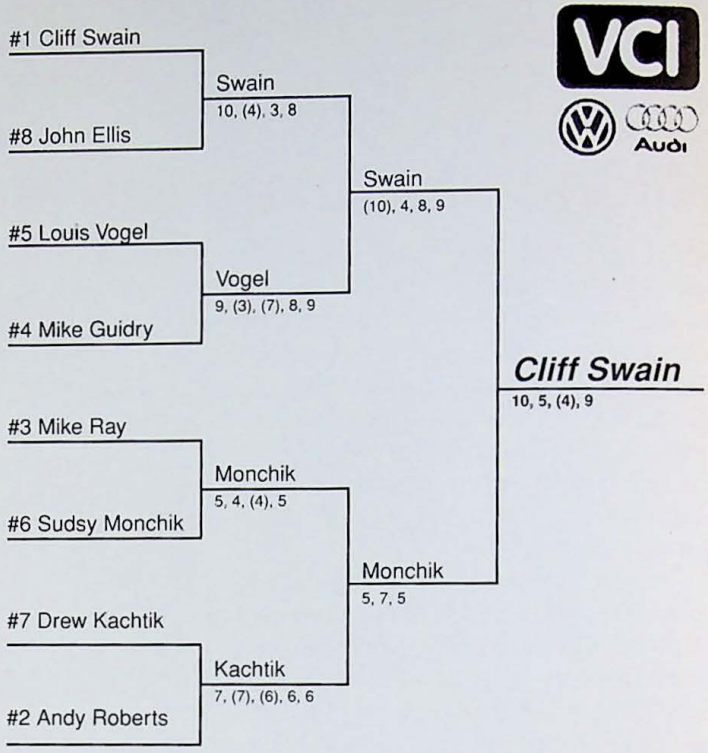
VCI Challenge Cup Event #2 Nov. 8 - 12, 1995
Boston, Massachusetts *(Quarters to finals)*



I.R.T. Schedule

1/17 – 21	Memphis, Tennessee
1/31 – 2/4	Atlanta, Georgia*
2/14 – 18	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
3/6 – 10	Houston, Texas
3/13 – 17	Saskatoon, Canada
3/27 – 31	Phoenix, Arizona
4/10 – 14	Pleasanton, CA (Doubles)
4/24 – 28	Las Vegas, NV (Pro Nationals)
5/1 – 5	Indianapolis, IN
5/15 – 19	Milpitas, CA (Pro Worlds)
6/5 – 9	Portland, OR (Champions)

** VCI Challenge Cup Series Event*

W.I.R.T. Schedule

1/11 – 14	Chalfont, Pennsylvania
1/18 – 21	Manchester, New Hampshire
2/1 – 4	Houston, Texas
3/21 – 24	Syracuse, New York
4/24 – 28	Las Vegas, NV (Pro Nationals)
5/2 – 5	Baltimore, Maryland
6/5 – 9	Portland, OR (Champions)

W.I.R.T. Rankings

1 -	Michelle Gould, Idaho	1862.5
2 -	Cheryl Gudinas, Illinois	1162.5
3 -	Marci Drexler, South Carolina	928.6
4 -	Robin Levine, California	914.3
5 -	Lynne Coburn, Maryland	862.5
6 -	Chris Evon, California	762.5
6 -	Amy Kilbane, Ohio	762.5
8 -	Marcy Lynch, Pennsylvania	662.5
9 -	Kim Machiran, Missouri	476.9
10 -	Jackie Gibson, California	426.7
11 -	Lorraine Galloway, New York	412.5
11 -	Anita Maldonado, New York	412.5
11 -	Michelle Wiragh, Maryland	412.5
14 -	Tammy Brockbank, Idaho	328.6
14 -	Laura Fenton, Massachusetts	328.6
14 -	Molly O'Brien, Pennsylvania	328.6

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*Pro*Kennex Doubles Classic & Pro Doubles Challenge

The *Pro*Kennex Doubles Classic at the Continental Athletic Club in Columbus, Ohio annually showcases the top amateur talent in central Ohio but this year would be special. The top eight players in the world were invited to showcase their talents in a unique first time event; The IRT Pro Doubles Challenge. Paired by their own choice of partners, this would be perhaps the most competitive doubles event in the history of the sport. The format of the event included a round robin preliminary to determine seeding for Saturday night semi-finals leading to a Sunday "high-noon" finals showdown. As the pros played on the championship court in front of the bleachers built for the event to hold the hundreds of spectators hungry for professional racquetball in this strong market for the sport, the amateurs competed for beautiful awards supplied by *Pro*Kennex.

Top ranked Cliff Swain and his partner, local hero John Ellis, would open play against long-time partners Mike Guidry and Drew Kachtik taking the match in four games 11-5, 11-4, 9-11, 11-8. Newly paired, and number two and four ranked, Andy Roberts and Mike Ray waited patiently for their match against last season's VCI Doubles Champions, Sudsy Monchik and Tim Doyle, but Monchik's flight was delayed by weather and a mechanical problem forcing cancellation, and forfeit, of the match. Monchik did arrive in time for the evening round and joined Doyle to rise to the occasion and defeat Guidry / Kachtik in a tiebreaker 11-6, 0-11, 1-11, 11-5, 11-9. Roberts / Ray dropped the first game to Swain / Ellis but regrouped to overcome leads in each of the next three games to take the match 2-11, 11-9, 13-11, 11-7.

The last round of the preliminaries became simply a warm-up for the semi-finals as the pairings would be the same later that evening but would the results be the same?

The first semi-final started off with a shocking 11-0 win by Monchik / Doyle but was followed with an almost equally shocking Swain / Ellis 11-3 win. The third and fourth games were also split but both were long and tight all the way. Monchik / Doyle came out strong in the tiebreaker and cruised to an 11-3 win earning a berth in the finals. The second semi-final would also go the distance and also end with an 11-3 tiebreaker but in a different fashion as Guidry / Kachtik took the first two games 11-9 and 11-5. Roberts / Ray turned it around in the next two games and the tiebreaker to advance 11-6, 11-9, 11-3.

Roberts / Ray would open the finals with an 11-7 win before Monchik / Doyle evened it 11-2. Monchik / Doyle fought for an 11-8 third game win then held on for a 12-10 win in the fourth to take the match and the first IRT Pro Doubles Challenge title.

As the finals were being played, the other players stopped into the club to say goodbye and head to the airport; all except Drew Kachtik. It seems that Melissa Kachtik called early in the morning to tell Drew that she was in labor, nearly a month early. Drew caught the first flight out and landed in New Orleans at 4:00 pm while at almost the same time, Bailey Nicole Kachtik was born. Congratulations to Melissa and Drew and though he (and Guidry) did not win the event, I'm sure he will never forget it!

Thanks go to the IRT Pro Doubles Challenge sponsors Complete Creative, Huntington Banks, Alaskan Falls, The Bogey Inn and also to *Pro*Kennex and Power Footwear for their support of the annual Doubles Classic.

Columbus Pro Doubles Sponors with Champions Tim Doyle and Sudsy Monchik.

Boston

Continued from page 1

pleasing showing of Swain's talents but not without a fight from Monchik as Swain pulled out the win for his second straight title and retain his strangle hold on the top ranking.

Denver

Continued from page 1

event 7-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-4, 11-8.

That match and a long first game in the finals obviously took everything Roberts had left as Monchik got stronger as the match progressed to take the title 13-11, 11-7, 11-5. The win moved Monchik past both Guidry and Ray into the number three ranking, so far there has been no "sophomore jinx" for last season's rookie of the year.

I.R.T. Rankings

1 -	Cliff Swain, Massachusetts	2471
2 -	Andy Roberts, Tennessee	2428
3 -	Sudsy Monchik, New York	1853
4 -	Mike Ray, South Carolina	1738
5 -	Mike Guidry, Texas	1710
6 -	Drew Kachtik, Texas	1529
7 -	John Ellis, Ohio	1280
8 -	Tim Doyle, New York	945
9 -	Louis Vogel, New Mexico	874
10 -	Aaron Katz, Texas	872
11 -	Adam Karp, California	811
12 -	Woody Clouse, California	785
13 -	Jason Mannino, California	781
14 -	Tony Jelso, California	694
15 -	Mike Engel, Maryland	670
16 -	Brian Rankin, Missouri	656

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