



A growth frontier

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

Heartland

162
Tuesday, April 16, 1996

■ BOYS TENNIS

Sebring (8-3) recorded its sixth shutout of the season in the 7-0 match Thursday against Lake Placid.

Coach **Bob McGuire**: "We had three matches canceled this season. We weren't able to reschedule. I wish we had been able to get them in. They certainly would have helped get us a little bit more ready for district." ...

Lake Placid (9-6) won three of its last four matches, including two of three last week. Sophomore **Ryan Pedraza** reclaimed the No. 5 singles spot.

Coach **Bruce Wyse**: "After spring break, Ryan was kind of impressive. He won No. 5 back after losing it early in the season. The top four spots were locked in several weeks ago to let those guys prepare for district. I left No. 5 open until last week to let give anyone on the team a chance to play in matches. Ryan has become very consistent, especially on the forehand. He had been pushing instead of hitting it. His first serve has really improved. Last year, as a freshman, Ryan was eighth on the team. He wants to play and it shows in his improvement of late."

Hardee (5-4) went 2-0 last week, but the match against Palmetto was a forfeit victory. The Wildcats followed with a 6-1 victory Thursday against Lake Placid.

Coach **Dennis Jones**: "Two of our guys played their first competitive matches of the season. Junior **Mark Carlton** was at No. 4 and beat **Robert Miller**, 6-1, 6-0. Sophomore **Dan Larrison** was at No. 5 and defeated **Derek Aul**, 6-0, 6-1."

■ GIRLS TENNIS

Sebring (6-6) was assured of a break-even regular season with its 4-3 victory Thursday against Lake Placid. The Blue Streaks, however, are once again without **Tanya Roberts**, their No. 1 singles player. Roberts has been bothered with back problems and has missed several matches. Roberts hurt her right ankle in warmups and forfeited her match. Roberts was bothered with ankle problems last season.

Coach **Cheryl Rosenbaum**: "We beat Lake Placid, 6-1, earlier this year. Lake Placid has improved tremendously since then. I had to mix up No. 1 doubles with

Tanya out."

Maria Hill, Roberts' doubles partner, and **Tanya Tzovarras**, usually at No. 2 doubles, won, 6-4, 6-3, to clinch the match. Sebring went into doubles leading, 3-2.

Rosenbaum: "I'm really pleased with Maria and Tanya. The pressure was on and they knew it and responded well."

DeSoto ended its regular season looking for a victory. The Bulldogs' 6-1 loss to Mulberry on Thursday was their 13th.

Coach **Jim Reinhart**: "**Laura Tate** [at No. 1] played extremely well all season for us. Her last match is a good example. She lost, 7-5, 6-4, to Mulberry's **Lisa Hutton**. It would have been nice for Laura to get over the hump a few times and win in her senior season. A lot of games went to deuce. She just kept battling."

"**Amanda O'Donnell**, a junior at No. 4, had a good match, although **Karen Higgins** beat her, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2. It boiled down to who was in the best shape. Amanda just tired in the third set." ...

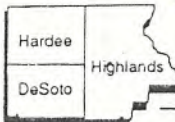
Avon Park (3-9) closed out its regular season on a four-match losing streak, but two were 4-3 margins. Junior **Hope Murdock** continues to show progress after missing some matches because of a hyperextended left knee. Murdock defeated Hardee's **Anne Jones**, 7-5, 6-4 on Thursday.

Coach **Penny Yahna**: "Hope had some great baseline strokes in the match. She and Anne usually go three sets and their matches are always close." ...

Hardee (7-5) defeated Avon Park, 4-3, and Lake Placid, 6-1, to close out last week and the regular season.

Coach **Louise Jones**: "We were sort of sweating out the week. This is Hardee's fourth season of tennis and the first time for a winning record. We had three matches last week [lost to Palmetto, 6-1], but I thought the girls held up well physically and mentally."

— BILL WHITE



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Tennis leaders

BOYS Singles

- No. 1 — Andy McGuire (S) 7-4; Robbie Keefe (LP) 8-7; Brent Moore (D) 5-5.
- No. 2 — Eric McGuire (S) 9-2; Wade White (LP) 8-7; Mike Pridgen (D) 4-6.
- No. 3 — Adam Alvarado (LP) 9-6; Brodie Stephenson (S) 7-3; Keith Nadaskay (H) 6-4.
- No. 4 — Vic Oakes (S) 7-3; Tyler Heard (LP) 8-6; Ryan Avery (H) 5-4.
- No. 5 — Scott Pipkens-Smith (S) 7-2; Branden Lambert (H) 3-2; Ryan Pedraza (LP) 4-4.

Doubles

- No. 1 — McGuire/McGuire (S) 6-1; Keefe/Alvarado (LP) 8-6; Scott Dickson/Pete Makowski (H) 4-5.
- No. 2 — Stephenson/Oakes (S) 6-1; White/Heard (LP) 6-5; Mike Ioannidis/Nadaskay (H) 1-3.

GIRLS Singles

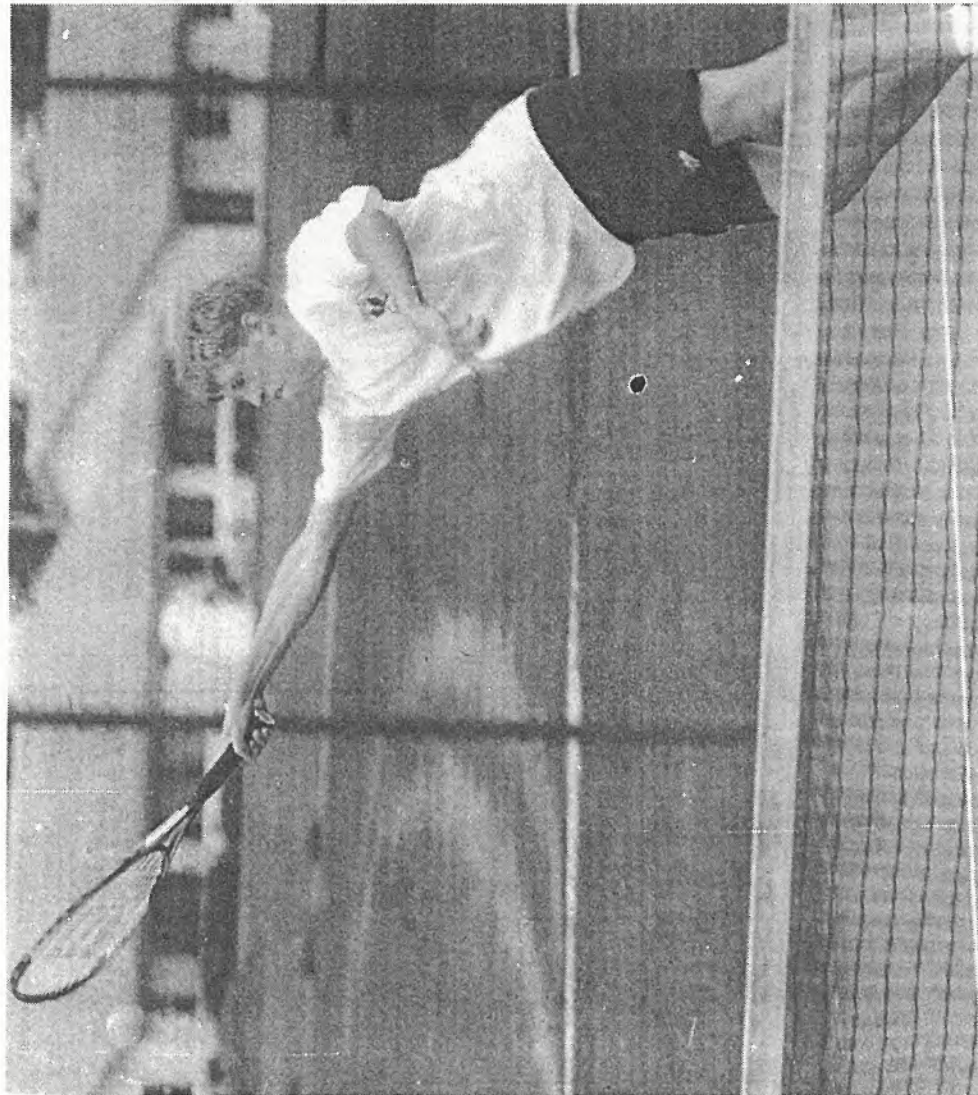
- No. 1 — Anne Jones (H) 7-5; Sarah Storlie (LP) 6-5; Hope Murdock (AP) 6-5.
- No. 2 — Laurel Davis (H) 9-3; Tanya Tzovarras (S) 6-3; Amy Trainor (AP) 4-7.
- No. 3 — Meredith Stallings (H) 7-2; Maria Hill (S) 7-2; Sarah Lindley (LP) 5-5.
- No. 4 — Jennifer Holda (LP) 10-0; Jennifer Robertson (H) 6-5; Crystal Koch (S) 2-4.
- No. 5 — Christie Wilder (S) 6-1; Kelli Chestnut (AP) 8-5; Melissa Perry (AP) 6-5.

Doubles

- No. 1 — Jones/Davis (H) 4-0; Storlie/Vanessa Williams (LP) 7-3; Roberts/Hill (S) 3-2.
- No. 2 — Stallings/Perry (H) 2-0; Lindley/Holda (LP) 4-1; Tzovarras/Wilder (S) 3-2.

SPORTS

The News-Sun, Wednesday, April 17, 1996



REACHING OUT: No. 5 Blue Streak singles player Scott Pipkens-Smith returns to Lake Placid's Ryan Pedraza Monday at Sun 'n Lake.

Sebring boys win Heartland tennis crown

■ By JEFF CANTWELL
The News-Sun

SEBRING — There never was any doubt as to which team was going to win the Heartland boys' tennis tournament. The Sebring Blue Streaks of Coach Robert McGuire have been in a class of their own when facing Heartland foes this season.

The best Avon Park, DeSoto, Hardee and Lake Placid high schools could hope for was a solid second behind the young but talented Streaks. Sebring rolled to victory through the completion of the first three singles matches Tuesday afternoon.

Some matches were not complete at press time, though Sebring had already won the tournament regardless of the outcome of the remaining two singles matches and two doubles events.

Sebring's top three singles players advanced to the finals without losing a game. At No. 1, freshman Andy McGuire drew a first-round bye and ousted Green Dragon senior Robbie Keefe, 6-0, 6-0 to advance to play DeSoto's Brent Moore for the championship. Moore and Hardee's Scott Dickson both also had first-round byes. Moore won Monday's semifinal match with Dickson, 6-3, 6-3 to advance to Tuesday's final.

Coach McGuire wasn't sure of what to expect when his son played Moore, a senior, for the first time Tuesday.

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TENNIS

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"He's got a lot of good touch and finesse," McGuire said of Moore Monday night. "That can give Andy trouble."

Andy McGuire took control with his solid all-around game Tuesday and easily routed Moore, 6-0, 6-0.

Older brother Eric McGuire, a sophomore, has been improving his game in leaps and bounds since the beginning of the season. He cruised to claim the No. 2 singles title Tuesday with a 6-0, 6-1 win over Lake Placid sophomore Wade

White. Eric McGuire blanked Hardee's Ryan Avery 6-0, 6-0 in the semifinal to advance unscathed to the final. Avery won a lengthy three-set affair on Monday, defeating DeSoto's Mike Pridgen 6-4, 6-7, 6-4 in the first round. White and Avon Park's Bart Culpepper drew first-round byes, with White advancing to the final with a 6-2, 6-1 victory Monday.

At No. 3 singles, Sebring's Brodie Stephenson won the championship with a hard-fought 7-5, 6-2 victory over Green Dragon Adam Alvarado Tuesday. Stephenson defeated Hardee Wildcat Mike Ioannidis 6-0,

6-0 in the semifinal match. Dragons' Alvarado routed Avon Park's Cyrus Wyche 6-1, 6-1 to advance to the final.

Vic Oaks, senior captain of the Blue Streaks, defeated Hardee's Keith Nadaskay 6-1, 6-3 in the semifinal Monday. Heard downed DeSoto's Justin Sorrells in the semifinal to advance to play Oaks for the title.

Streaks' Scott Pipkens-Smith survived a scare from Lake Placid's Ryan Pedraza 7-5, 6-2 Monday to advance to the title match. Knight ousted DeSoto Bulldog Nick Abraham 6-0, 6-0 in Monday's semifinal match.

Sebring girls roll to win

■ By SCOTT DRESSEL
The News-Sun

SEBRING — The Sebring Lady Streaks tennis team jumped out to a comfortable lead on day one of the Heartland Area Tennis Tournament Monday, then held off a run by Lake Placid Tuesday afternoon to wrap up the victory.

Tonya Roberts' 6-1, 6-0 win over Avon Park's Hope Murdock in the No. 1 singles final at Sun 'n Lake gave the Lady Streaks a 12-8 lead over the Lady Dragons, assuring the Streaks of the title.

Several matches were not complete at press time.

Roberts got to the final by breezing past Anne Jones of Hardee 6-2, 6-1 after receiving a first-round bye. Murdock also got to skip round one and then beat Lake Placid's Sarah Storlie 6-3, 6-0 to get to the final.

Sebring had led 10-5 before rain halted play Monday, but Lake Placid closed to 10-8 Tuesday afternoon to make it close.

Tonya Tzovarras defeated Hardee's Laurel Davis 6-0, 6-0 in the No. 2 singles final earlier to assure Sebring of a tie. Tzovarras downed Avon Park's Amy Trainor 6-0, 6-1 in the first round and DeSoto's Genie Hendry 6-0, 6-0 in the semifinal.

"I really didn't expect it," Sebring coach Cheryl Rosenbaum said of the victory. "This has been our most difficult season. I'm just really happy we could pull it together and win."

Maria Hill gave the Lady Streaks a boost by winning the No. 3 singles 7-6 (7-1), 6-1 over Sarah Lindley of Lake Placid.

Sebring's Crystal Koch blanked DeSoto's Melissa Sica and then

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GIRLS

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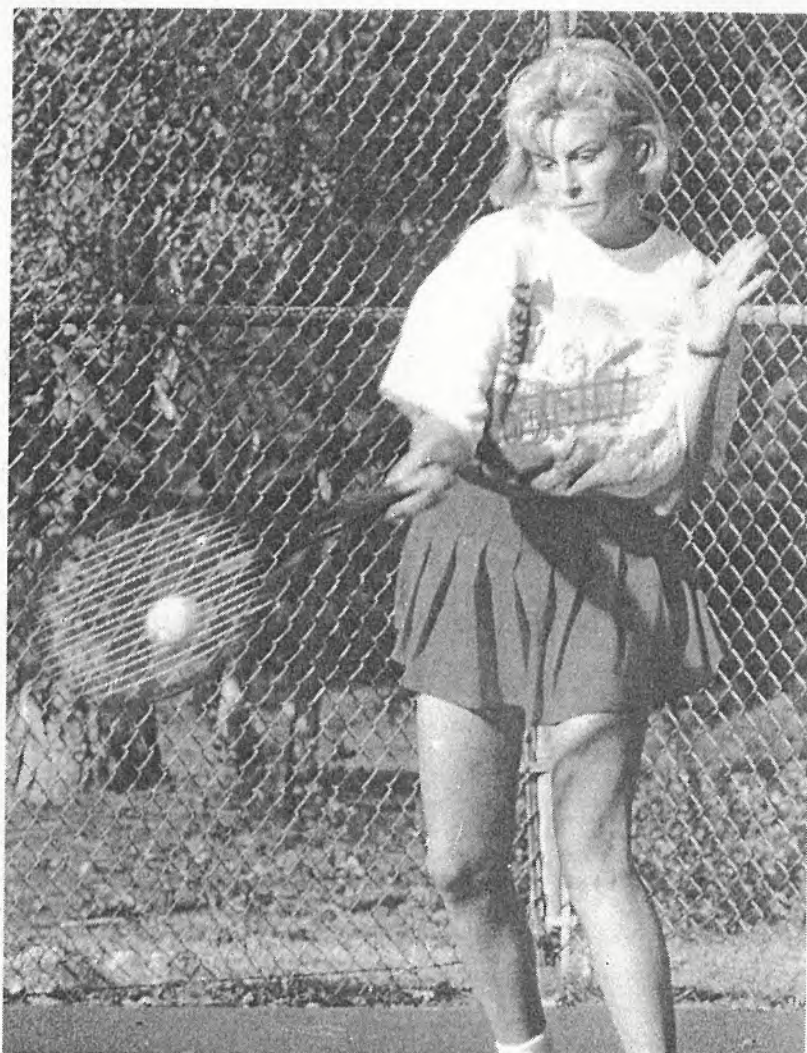
downed Avon Park's Elaine Roberts to get to the No. 4 finals against Jennifer Holda of Lake Placid, who defeated Hardee's Crystal Anderson 6-0, 6-3 to get to the finals.

In the No. 5 singles, Lady Streak Christie Wilder rolled to a 6-0, 6-0 win over Elicia Reinhart of DeSoto to earn the right to face Hardee's Melissa Perry, a 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 winner over Kelli Chestnutt of Avon Park, in the finals.

The doubles competition was running well behind schedule due to Monday's bad weather. The Hardee team of Davis and Jones blanked DeSoto's Hendry and Laura Tate 6-0, 6-0 to get to the finals of the No. 1 doubles bracket and Lake Placid's team of Holda and Lindley downed Trainor and Kalli Emmanoilidis 6-0, 6-3 to get to the No. 2 doubles finals.

'I really didn't expect it. This has been our most difficult season. I'm just really happy we could pull it together and win.'

CHERYL ROSENBAUM, Sebring coach



The News-Sun/Jeff Cantwell

LADY DEVIL: Avon Park's Hope Murdock returns a serve earlier in the season. Murdock made it to the No. 1 singles final before losing to Sebring's Tonya Roberts Tuesday at the Heartland Area Tennis Tournament.



SCOTT MARTIN/for the Tribune

Players of the Year

Sebring High swept Heartland tennis honors when Tanya Roberts, left, and Andy McGuire were judged the best of the net set. **Stories, this section-4**

Sebring's Roberts wins despite pain

By BILL WHITE
Tribune Staff Writer

SEBRING — Sebring's Tanya Roberts fought through back and ankle pain, winning enough when it counted, to be The Tampa Tribune's Girls Tennis Player of the Year in the Heartland.

"Every match was a miracle," Sebring girls coach Cheryl Rosenbaum said. "Tanya was hurting all season long. But she went out there and played like it was not hurting her."

Roberts, who was Sebring No. 1 player, prevailed in eight of 14 matches including singles and doubles.

When it came to her nearest challengers — Ann Jones of Hardee and Hope Murdock of Avon Park — Roberts went 1-0 against Jones and 2-0 against Murdock.

Roberts also won the Heartland Invitational, which includes Sebring, Hardee, Avon Park, Lake Placid and DeSoto.

"I feel like I'm an accident waiting to happen," said Roberts, at No. 2 as a freshman and No. 1 last season. "I seem to be accident prone."

The back problems began last fall during a Blue Streaks volleyball practice. Roberts said she overdid it while working on her spiking; plus she and her father have dealt with back problems off and on for a while.

The injury kept Roberts out of action for a week.

"Coming into the tennis season, Tanya couldn't run well because of the back thing," Rosenbaum said.

"First of all, I'm was really surprised she would be able to play all of this season."



SCOTT MARTIN/for the Tribune
Despite back and ankle pain, Tanya Roberts of Sebring is the Heartland's top girls player.

All-area girls tennis team

Name, school	Yr.	Comment
Tanya Roberts, Sebring Jr.	Jr.	Winner despite injuries
Hope Murdock, Avon Park Jr.	Jr.	Red Devils' No. 1 player
Ann Jones, Hardee Sr.	Sr.	Wildcats' No. 1 player
Tanya Tzovarras, Sebring So.	So.	Strong at No. 2, district semis
Maria Hill, Sebring Sr.	Sr.	Heartland champ at No. 3
Laurel Davis, Hardee Jr.	Jr.	7-3 at No. 2, 4-0 in doubles
Christie Wilder, Sebring Fr.	Fr.	14-1, district champ at No. 5
■ Coach of the year: Cheryl Rosenbaum, Sebring. Guided Blue Streaks to Heartland Tournament title, 5-0 against Heartland schools in regular season.		
■ Player of the year: Tanya Roberts, Sebring.		
■ Honorable mention: Avon Park — Amy Trainor. Hardee — Meredith Stallings. Melissa Perry. Lake Placid — Sarah Storlie, Jennifer Holda. DeSoto — Laura Tate. Sebring — Crystal Koch.		

“**I feel like I'm an accident waiting to happen. I seem to be accident prone.**”

TANYA ROBERTS
Sebring High tennis player

"We were looking at moving everyone up one spot in singles. I'm glad we didn't have to. It gave all the girls the chance to work on improving their games at the spots we wanted them this past season."

"Tanya didn't want to let the team down. I think that's one reason she continued to play hurt. She always gives so much of herself. Even in the Heartland tournament, she played with the flu."

Roberts committed to morning

and evening exercises for the back between volleyball and pre-season tennis practices. Nothing seems to help, Roberts said.

In her sophomore tennis season, Roberts injured her right ankle. A week before the district tournament this season, she injured it again.

Roberts, playing on a heavily taped ankle, won her first singles match at district. Looking back, Roberts said she shouldn't have played the second match, the ankle just started bothering her again.

"The girl I was playing was hitting drop shots making me run to the net," Roberts said. "It's the strategy I would have used if the roles were reversed. If I did make it to the net, then she would hit the ball over my head. I couldn't get back."

Roberts' way of dealing with the back and ankle problems was simple and direct, but not always effective.

"I tried not to think about it," Roberts said. "I'd just try to play the next point. Playing doubles was a little easier. You have help."

Heartland

Sebring's McGuire tops area boys as a freshman

By BILL WHITE
Tribune Staff Writer

SEBRING — Sebring's Andy McGuire didn't let his freshman status stand in the way of playing winning tennis.

The Blue Streaks' No. 1 singles player was 10-5 overall, 7-0 against Heartland competition and managed a 1-1 record in the district tournament against more-experienced competition. During the season, McGuire went 3-1 against district opponents.

Because of that record, McGuire is The Tampa Tribune's Heartland Boys Tennis Player of the Year in the Heartland.

McGuire credits junior-tournament experience and competition against adults for enabling him to do so well on the high-school level.

"High school tennis was pretty much what I expected it to be," McGuire said. "I wasn't ever nervous. I came in confident and at ease."

McGuire was not tested often in the regular season. He had one three-set match. Four of his five losses were to Polk County opponents.

McGuire had Lakeland Christian senior Ryan Wilson on the ropes. McGuire won the first set, 6-3, then fell, 7-5, 6-2.

McGuire then lost to Bartow's David Robbins, 7-5, 6-3.

"Andy had only one lopsided loss," said Coach Bob McGuire, Andy's father. He lost to Lake Wales' Evan Pinther, 6-1, 6-2.

Ranked 92nd last year in junior tennis in 14-and-under, and now 143rd in 16-and-

under, McGuire brought consistency on the baseline and the ability to think on his feet. His downfall was hitting short and allowing opponents to attack.

"Andy needs to get more into lifting weights to give him more strength," Coach McGuire said. "Size isn't as important as strength. Andy is 5-foot-8, 125 pounds. He's just getting into working with weights."

The Blue Streaks coach said Andy's best match of the season came at district against a Cypress Lakes opponent. Cypress Lakes won the district, qualifying for the state tournament.

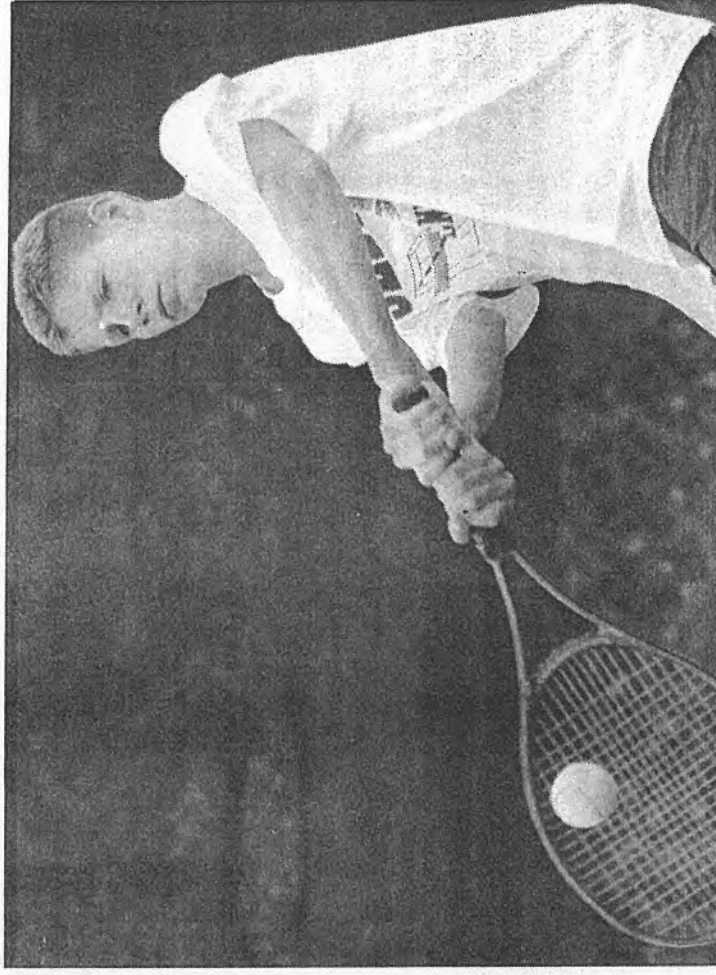
"Andy lost the first set, 6-0. But he came back and won the next one, 7-5," Coach McGuire said. "Andy started getting more aggressive and followed his shots to the net. Andy was able to put some balls away at the net, which is rare for him."

McGuire was down 3-1 in the third set, but came back to tie it. But he lost, 7-5.

"I think Andy has realized he has to change his game. He needs to become more aggressive and become an all-court player," the coach said. "He's working on getting a harder serve. He still has a lot of spin on it. Andy is trying to add more pace and power. All in all, I think it was a good year for Andy."

The Sebring freshman has a handle on his debut.

"My losses were to players who have more junior experience and who are older," Andy said. "There's no secret formula on how to improve my game. Just through practice."



Andy McGuire of Sebring only figures to get better as he grows stronger. SCOTT MARTIN/for the Tribune

All-area boys tennis team

Name, school	Yr.	Comment
Andy McGuire, Sebring	Fr.	7-0 against Heartland opponents
Erik McGuire, Sebring	So.	Heartland's best at No. 2
Brodie Stephenson, Sebring	Jr.	9-3 at No. 3 singles
Robbie Keefe, Lake Placid	Sr.	Green Dragons' best at No. 1
Wade White, Lake Placid	So.	Strong at No. 2 singles
Brent Moore, DeSoto	Sr.	Bulldogs' best at No. 1
Jeremy Polk, Avon Park	Jr.	Red Devils' best at No. 1

■ Coach of the year: Bob McGuire, Sebring. Guided Blue Streaks to 10-3 record, Heartland Tournament title and finished fourth among 12 teams in district.

■ Player of the year: Andy McGuire, Sebring.

■ Honorable mention: DeSoto — Mike Pridgen. Lake Placid — Adam Alvarado. Sebring — Vic Oakes. Scott Phipkens-Smith.

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SPORTS

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The News-Sun, Wednesday, December 4, 1991

Fulcher, Smith win Memorial tourney

SEBRING — Sebring's Bobby Fulcher and Brad Smith ousted Ted Roberts and Rodney Hollinger 7-6, 6-3 to win the men's A tennis division of the Shearson Lehman Brothers/Fred Reiss Memorial Tournament of Champions held at The Country Club of Sebring on Sunday, Nov. 24.

The rapidly-growing tournament attracted tennis players from Central and South Florida. Rainy conditions set play back by some hours but all matches were completed by the end of the weekend.

The 1991 Shearson Lehman Brothers/Fred Reiss Memorial trophy for Sportsman of the Year was awarded to Jo Anier. Her name will be engraved on the trophy which is on permanent display at the

Shearson Lehman Brothers office.

"It was quite an honor," Anier said of the gesture. Anier, the treasurer of the Highlands County Tennis Association (HCTA) said the tournament is the largest in Highlands County with 96 entries. "I've really enjoyed working tournaments. They're a lot of hard work but a lot of people work hard."

Men's division consolation champions were Bruce Wyse and Luis Pena, who defeated Eugene Bengston and Larry Johnson of Sebring. Lake Placid's Dennis Kohn and Sebring's Mike Rafferty defeated Jack Miller and Mike Whitworth, 6-7, 6-4 6-4 to win the men's B-C division. Sebring's Catherine Grigsby and Jan Shoop

topped Arcadia's Betsy Campbell and Nancy Humphrey, 7-5, 6-3 to win the women's A-B-C division. Lynda Fulcher and Janet Kohn won 6-1, 6-1 over Sue Hodges and Marie Wolp of Winter Haven to win the women's B division.

Nancy Lanier and Jama Sutton won over Pat Caton and Carolyn Shoemaker, 6-1, 6-0 in the women's C division. Dennis Lee of Arcadia and Keith Rodman of Punta Gorda downed Sebring's Jeff Chambliss and John Clark, 6-0, 5-7, 6-1 to win the men's C division. Shane Johnson and Kim Hastings of Winter Haven swept Sebring's Lynda and Bobby Fulcher 6-1, 7-5 to win the mixed doubles. In mixed consolation

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TOURNEY

Continued from page 1B

action, Jan and John Shoop topped Larry Johnson and Holly Cain, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6.

The Highlands County Tennis Association thanks all the sponsors for their participation: Shearson Lehman Brothers, Wilson Sporting Goods, Coca-Cola Bottling and McMargarita's Restaurant.

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Sports

► *News in brief*

LOCALLY

Tennis event set

SEBRING — The Highlands County Tennis Association will hold their annual Valentine's Tournament Feb. 8-9 at the Country Club of Sebring. The event is designed for mixed doubles only in an A-B-C drop-down format.

The tournament is being sponsored by Jim Terry Pools and The News-Sun.

The cost is \$10 for HCTA members and \$12.50 for non-members plus one can of unopened tennis balls per person.

Entry deadline is Feb. 6th, by mailing your name and phone number along with the name and phone number of your partner and division to: Ken Haysley, tournament director, 4808 Lake Haven Blvd., Sebring, FL 33872. Please make checks payable to the HCTA. Entrants will be contacted regarding starting times.

Jr. tennis results

SEBRING — Vipul Thakkar of Sebring defeated Adam Roper of Bartow in the consolation finals (boys 16-under), 6-1, 6-2, during the Jan. 25-26 Bartow Citrus and Chemical Bank Junior Satellite Tennis Tournament.

Sebring's Andy McGuire defeated Michael Gates of Lakeland, 7-5, 6-0, in the consolation finals of the boy's 12-under. Mary Jane McGuire of Sebring won the consolation trophy in the girl's 10-under division.

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The News-Sun, Sunday, February 9, 1992

SCOREBOARD **B**

VALENTINE'S TOURNEY



The News-Sun/Raleigh Whiteman

TOURNEY: Linda Granata of Sebring returns the ball over the net during Saturday's opening round action of the Valentine's Tennis Tournament held at The Country Club of Sebring. The tournament, which concludes today, is co-sponsored by The News-Sun and Jim Terry Pools. In the A division 10 a.m. semifinals today, Rodney and Janey Holinger will play Peggy and David Sizemore. Also, Bruce Wyse and Florice Sechrist will play Dr. Luis Pena and Elson Baker. Kent Hubbell and Susan Rush will play Ken Rosser and Nancy Cauldill in the finals of the C division (10 a.m.). The B division was still in the quarter-finals following Saturday's first round.

Seniors on the go: Tennis is keeping Bertie in the swing

(Editor's note: The News-Sun is offering profiles on a number of local senior citizens who keep healthy by keeping active, who may be growing old ... but who are also "growing" in other ways; senior citizens who still have their foot on the gas pedal, not the brake.)

■ By LARRY LEVEY
Series Coordinator

SEBRING — She stands five feet tall, weighs in at an even 100 pounds and is 76 years old.

Not the credentials of someone you'd expect to find on the sports page of the newspaper. But if you check the March 15, 1992, edition of The News-Sun, you'll find the name of Bertha "Bertie" Cramer listed in the sports section as one of the Whisper Lake players in this year's Tri-Lakes Tennis Tournament. In fact, she took honors as the oldest player in the tourney.

And it's not like she's been playing tennis all her life. Far from it. She first picked up a racquet in 1988 at age 72.

"The kids at Whisper Lake talked me into taking lessons with Tom Moore," she laughs.

Why tennis? "It's the exercise, the camaraderie. And it's fun. Yes, I've fallen, but I've never hurt myself."

She plays four or five times a week. "I love tennis. I'd play every day if I could find somebody to play with."

Bertie credits a number of folks for "adopting" her and helping her with her game. Along with Tom Moore, Bob Gleason and Bill Burg, all from Whisper Lake, and Jo Anier, from the Highlands County Tennis Association

'She's a bundle of energy and is always moving — and she's always in a good mood.'

JO ANIER

(HCTA) have been "very encouraging and patient with me." And she's had two or three lessons from Myron Greene, a tennis instructor from Avon Park.

A member herself of HCTA, Bertie has taken the association's senior tennis lessons and played with the group when it played on the harder hall courts.

Jo Anier, HCTA treasurer, once coached Bertie and several other women. "I remember her eagerness to learn," says Anier. "She always gave 100 percent. She's a bundle of energy and is always moving — and she's always in a good mood."

Fellow Whisper-Laker Bob Gleason also worked with Bertie. "At first, she couldn't get the ball over the net," he recalls, "so I had her hit against a practice wall. She's come a long ways. She gets better and better and has a lot of perseverance. And she sets a good example for our new players. I tell them, 'It's never too late in life to start tennis. Just look at Bertie.'"



TENNIS ANYONE?: Bertie Cramer first picked up a racquet in 1988 at age 72.
Larry Levey

She also plays shuffleboard twice a week and walks every morning, sometimes five miles at a clip. "She doubles and triples what everybody else does," says Gleason.

And whenever the wind's not too strong, she says, she rides her two-wheel bike around the park, plays pinochle and bid euchre several evenings a week — and mows her own lawn.

She lost her husband in 1989. "We would have celebrated our 50th anniversary in 1990," she says softly. "But it didn't work out."

See SENIORS, page 17A

Bertie plans on returning to Marion, Indiana, this year for a family reunion, where she hopes to see her 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Thanks to her heavy diet of activity, Bertie says she feels "great!" And just how old does she feel? "When I look in the mirror, I know. But when I just think about it.

I feel about 60 or so — because I'm able to play tennis with a lot of people who are in their 60s."

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Sebring duo places 2nd in tennis tournament

HAINES CITY — Local competitors scored victories in the Grenelefe Grand Prix Tennis Series championship finale May 16-17 at the resort.

In the Men's A doubles division, Sebring's Rodney Hollinger and Ted Roberts finished as runners-up to Dundee's Gordie Barron and Winter Haven's Dave Willner, 2-6, 6-4, 2-6. In the Men's B doubles, Sebring's Larry Johnson and Bruce Wyse defeated Brandon's Brun Davis and Melbourne's Woody Davis, 6-2, 6-4.

The Sebring pair of Marsha Huguley and Janet Magee defeated Sebring's Elsin Baker and Janie Hollinger, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the Women's B Doubles. And in the Women's C Doubles, Sebring's Jo Anier and Linda Granata defeated the Winter Haven team of Marge Kennedy and Dolly Russell, 6-2, 6-2.

Lakeland's Kim Hastings and Tom Priest defeated Wyse and Janie Hollinger, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the Mixed B Doubles division. Huguley and Sebring's Mike Eastman defeated Lakeland's David and Patty Lingard, 6-3, 6-3 for the Mixed C Doubles title.

Sebring's Bob McGuire won the Men's B singles championship with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Rick Wright of Lake Wales.

Senior Scene

M A G A Z I N E

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MARCH 1995

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Tennis is constant love in lifetime filled with interests

by Kathleen Mills Montgomery

Edwin Arlington Robinson once said that, "Life is the game that must be played." This significantly describes the journey of 83-year-old Myron Greene, the tennis professional at Sun 'n Lakes in Sebring. Greene has been teaching tennis for 70 years.

Senior Profile

Myron Greene
Avon Park, Florida

During his long life he has also managed to fit in semi-professional baseball, speed skating, horses and flying. Much of this took place while this father of five was pursuing a career in engineering and management.

Greene was born in Saratoga Springs, New York in 1911 as the youngest of five children. His father had a fleet of surreys in that horse racing town. Thus, Myron grew up with horses. He owned purebreds and exercised race horses. Every morning even after he was grown and working, he rode a "beautiful" Morgan before going off to start the day.

His father is his hero. A small man of 5'6" and never more than 165 lbs., Mr. Greene always took young Myron with him when the carnival came to town. The challenge was to take on the huge wrestlers in the sideshow and Myron's father always beat them. His father worked with his hands and built strength by controlling teams of horses. This strength brought him victory over larger opponents.

It was the elder Mr. Greene who also gave Myron his best piece of advice. He said, "Do whatever job you do in your life as if you were doing it for yourself." That advice has been Myron's motto for his life's work.

Greene's amazed at how much money professional baseball players earn today. During 1929 he played semi-professional baseball sometimes against players from the old Negro League. He and his teammates gave it their all for the grand sum of \$5.00 per game. Of course, the summer games of tennis and baseball weren't enough for this young athlete. He also loved to speed skate on ice. During early 1929, Greene participated in



Myron Greene stands ready for a tennis shot on his teaching court at Sun 'n Lakes in Sebring. This senior has been teaching tennis for 70 years. Read more about Greene on page 4.

CONTINUED - OVER

what was then called the Northeast American Speed Skating Championships, which were held in Saratoga Springs that year.

Retail sales and then management were Greene's first ventures into business. He worked such long hours and with such intensity that he suffered a heart attack at the ripe old age of 23. That setback was overcome after a few months. But it was a tough break for the young father. Following a period of rest, he went back to work where he remained in retail during the 1930's. Then in the early 1940's an opportunity came along to work for General Electric. This was to eventually lead to a

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Senior Profile CONTINUED FROM PAGE 04

career as a value engineer with GE and the chance to work years later on interesting projects such as specialized equipment for the F4 Phantom Jet.

A project that Greene and others worked on during World War II for the navy probably kept the young man out of the war. Myron tried to enlist at age 30, but was refused. This frustrated him because he was a pilot and hoped that he could at least be an instructor. His job at GE, however, was involved with the 24-inch navy searchlights that were, of course, most important during night actions. This job kept a deferment in effect to the disappointment of the young aviator. The only missions he was able to fly were for the Civilian Air Patrol.

After the war during 1954, the workaholic Greene suffered his second heart attack. This one was major. It affected his sight and hearing. His hands drew up like claws. At one point it even shut down kidney function. Myron was in bad shape to say the least. Today almost 41 years later, blindness still exists in one eye and the right hand is still somewhat drawn.

After 22 years this engineer was caught up in the downsizing that took place with GE. He moved on into engineering administration with the State of New York, where he remained until retirement in 1981.

It was retirement that brought Greene to Highlands County where his first home was in Lake Placid. Lake Placid was too long a distance from his beloved tennis courts at Sun 'n Lake so Myron moved a few years back to Avon Park where he remains today. This divorced octogenarian lives alone.

Greene plays tennis and teaches. Instructing others in tennis for some 70 years is quite an accomplishment. He also follows a routine of brisk walking, vitamins, daily doses of pure apple cider vinegar, and small, frequent, simple meals. Sprinkle in lots of rest and you have the gameplan for a late match in the tennis tournament of life. "I've had a terrifically full life," says Greene. Don't even ask about disappointments because Greene will tell you, "It's never entered my mind that I'd have a disappointment." He's proud of having been a loving husband and father. When asked about what were his best and most memorable times in life, Myron will fondly tell you that it's, "ballroom dancing with my first wife."

Gone are the five airplanes that this licensed pilot of 51 years joyfully flew. Gone is the satisfying feeling of the bat cracking against a baseball. And thus the game plays on.



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The News-Sun, Sunday, April 14, 1996

Sebring sweeps Dragons in tennis

■ By JEFF CANTWELL
The News-Sun

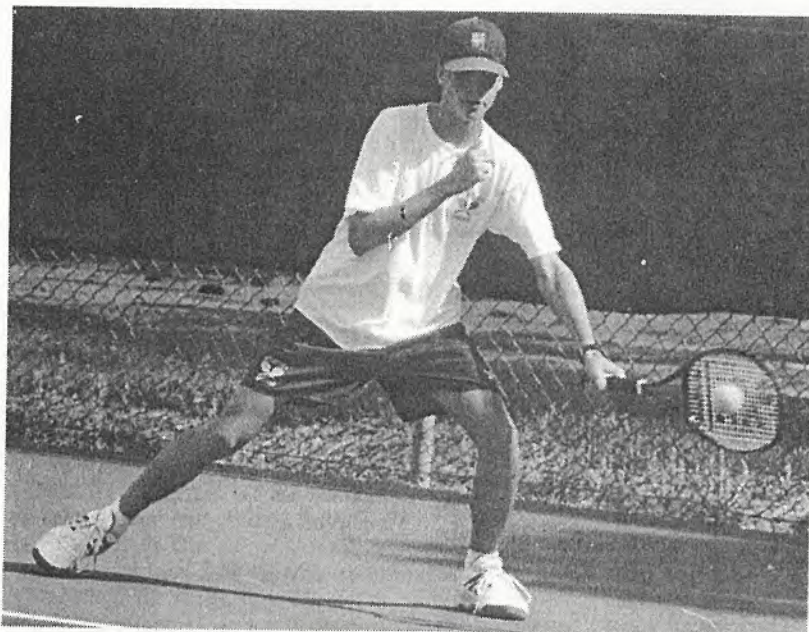
SEBRING — The Sebring Blue Streaks completed their regular season tennis schedule with a convincing 7-0 victory over Lake Placid Thursday afternoon at the Sun 'n Lake courts.

Sebring improved to 8-3 overall and will be the top-seeded team in the Heartland Conference tournament Monday and Tuesday at Sun 'n Lake. Lake Placid fell to 8-6 overall and has two remaining matches with teams it has defeated once this season.

Streaks' head coach Robert McGuire was pleased with his team's performance in the finale.

"I think we finished a little stronger," McGuire, who's sons Andy and Eric play Nos. 1 and 2 singles, said. "The kids worked hard in practice this season. I make it fun, but it's a tough workout."

Freshman Andy McGuire (8-3)



The News-Sun/Jeff Cantwell

FOREHAND: Sebring sophomore Eric McGuire returns to Lake Placid's Brodie Stephenson Thursday at the Sun 'n Lake courts.

handled Lake Placid senior Robbie Keefe 6-0, 6-1 at No. 1 singles. Sophomore Eric McGuire (9-2) defeated Dragon sophomore Wade White 6-0, 6-2 in the No. 2 singles match.

At No. 3, Sebring junior Brodie Stephenson beat Adam Alvarado 7-5, 6-2, and Streak senior Nic Oaks eased by Tyler Heard 6-0, 6-2 at No. 4. Scott Pipkens-Smith survived a lengthy three-set affair with Lake Placid's Ryan Pedraza, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 at No. 5.

Sebring breezed through the

doubles matches to remain perfect. The McGuire brothers routed Keefe and Alvarado 6-0, 6-1 in the No. 1 doubles match. At No. 2 doubles, Stephenson and Oaks clipped White and Heard 6-3, 6-0.

"My only senior, Vic Oaks, is a very good example for the kids," Coach McGuire said of Sebring's captain.

The Heartland Conference begins 2 p.m. Monday at Sun 'n Lake. The girls' Heartland Conference also begins 2 p.m. Monday at South Florida Community College.

Greene holds

lifelong love for tennis

BY GRANT J. HESTON
Highlands Today

SEBRING - Underneath the midafternoon sun, Myron Greene walks on to the tennis courts carrying all the practice equipment. He's got two rackets, a pair of hats, a clipboard and a slew of yellow balls bundled up in his leathery arms.

As the sun slips behind a curtain of clouds, Greene bemoans the loss of the intense summer heat. The bright sun and humid weather help keep his body feeling young and loose, a must for any successful tennis instructor.

With his practice partner standing at the ready, Greene grabs a ball with his left hand and nonchalantly hits it across the net. What began so innocently ends with Greene's ball rocking over the net and past his 23-year-old partner, leaving him with an astonished look painted on his face.

Before he hits another ball, Greene pauses, noticing the amazed look his first-time opponent is wearing. A moment later, Greene fires another ball over the net and shouts, "I told you I had a power game. What did you expect?"

"I'm only 84."

If there was an age advantage in this match, it was decidedly in Greene's favor. The tennis instructor at Sun 'n Lakes courts has more than six decades of experience on his youthful counterpart, experience he put to good use in evaluating the student's talent.

After a few minutes of volleying, Greene decides for two reasons that the next hour would be better spent with practice drills rather than a practice game. One, his opponent would not provide him enough competition. Two, the young player could use all the help he could get.

"I enjoy teaching tennis. I like seeing my students improve their game," Greene says as he coaches the finer points of back-

hand returns. The former pilot, actor, minor league second baseman and government worker says he enjoys teaching tennis almost as much as playing it.

An avid tennis man since his earliest days, a heart attack in 1954, his second, nearly ended Greene's tennis career and life. He spent weeks in a coma and lost some of his hearing and all the sight in his left eye.

He now plays with a patch covering the eye and a right-handed grip that, while powerful, is unconventional. Nerve damage from the heart attack left his hand curved like a claw.

However, neither the heart attack nor the resulting physical problems have made this father of four slow down at all.

"Tennis is just about all I have," he says. "It is what gets me up in the mornings and out on to the courts, playing tennis and giving lessons to people who want to learn how to play the game correctly. Not all of my students have the same ability, some have more natural talent. But I will say this: All of my students will look professional and they will have fun while they are out here with me."

At the moment, Greene's current student is looking anything but professional. He's hitting balls short, wide, too hard, too soft and has sailed two over the fence.

But Greene does not get angry. He patiently shows the student what he is doing wrong. An upturned racket here, a pointed shoulder there, and soon his pupil hits two good shots in a row.

"Yeah! There you go!" Greene shouts, thrilled at his student's success.

"You don't have to kill the ball, just make contact," he explains. "Watch the ball hit your racket and follow through with it. Do that again and again and it becomes habit. Soon you'll do it without even thinking about it."

His active longevity, Greene



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/Highlands Today

Myron Greene gives tennis lessons at Sun 'n Lake Golf & Tennis Club. The 84-year-old has been teaching/playing tennis most of his life.

He is neither a finesse player nor a fan of little drop shots over the net; he prefers smashing the ball past an opponent. His compact body has a surprising amount of power packed into it, a power which has not seemed to diminish much with the passage of time.

In fact, he considers his age an advantage because of the tennis knowledge he has accumulated. If he could, Greene says he would love to meet tennis superstar Pete Sampras so the two could exchange information and tips on the sport.

And Greene has most definitely kept in shape. His game is strong, fierce and in your face.

And if the two were to play a friendly game or two, Greene wouldn't mind that, either.

"I would love to play Sampras, he's so powerful," he says. "Today, right now, I wouldn't score a point on him. But 60 years ago, I could have taken two or three games from him in a set. I was good enough to do that, certainly."

Until Sampras comes calling, Greene will continue doing what he does best and loves most - teach and play tennis. And as his youthful student trudges off to get some much-needed water,

Greene begins collecting the balls scattered about the court.

Even as practice ends, he continues to defy stereotypes about age and performance, something Greene plans to keep doing well into the world's, and his own, next century.

"I like not to follow the crowd," he says. "I want to have my own personality. No 'monkey see, monkey do.' Everything someone does should be individual and unique. That's what I am trying to do."

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SportsWeekend

SECTION B ♦ FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2000

NASCAR THIS WEEK, PAGE 3B



NEWS-SUN ♦ SEBRING, FLA.

Sebring is too strong for Lake Placid, even without No. 1 Mary Jane McGuire.

By JEFF CANTWELL
Sports Editor

LAKE PLACID — Coach Jane Hollinger has just reloaded her 2000 Sebring Blue Streaks tennis team with some talented youngsters fresh out of John Koahou's successful USTA system at the Country Club of Sebring.

Hollinger, attempting to guide Sebring to a record fourth consecutive district title in her second year at the helm, certainly didn't need the services of undefeated and state-ranked No. 1 singles player Mary Jane McGuire (6-0). Sebring (7-2 overall) swept through the first six matches unscathed.

A trio of seniors made up the top three of Sebring's ranks. Amanda Heer (7-2), a four-year veteran, ousted Lake Placid No. 1 Amanda Hoy 6-3, 6-0. Heer, who normally plays No. 2 singles, won the first game and then Hoy answered to tie the set at 1 apiece. But Heer has survived her share of three-set affairs over the years even at districts, and she quickly found her "A" game and cruised.

Considering that Lake Placid is a young team that lost state-ranked Anna Carias and Jaimie Bentz to graduation and Jesse Bentz is playing softball, stepping into the No. 1

Streaks slam Lake Placid

slot for the first time this season wasn't that big of a deal for Heer.

"I mean, if I was playing a different team then it probably would be a big deal," Heer said. "It's kind of weird. I've played No. 1 a long time ago back when I was younger."

Heer said Mary Jane stayed home to rest up and give some of the younger girls a chance to compete.

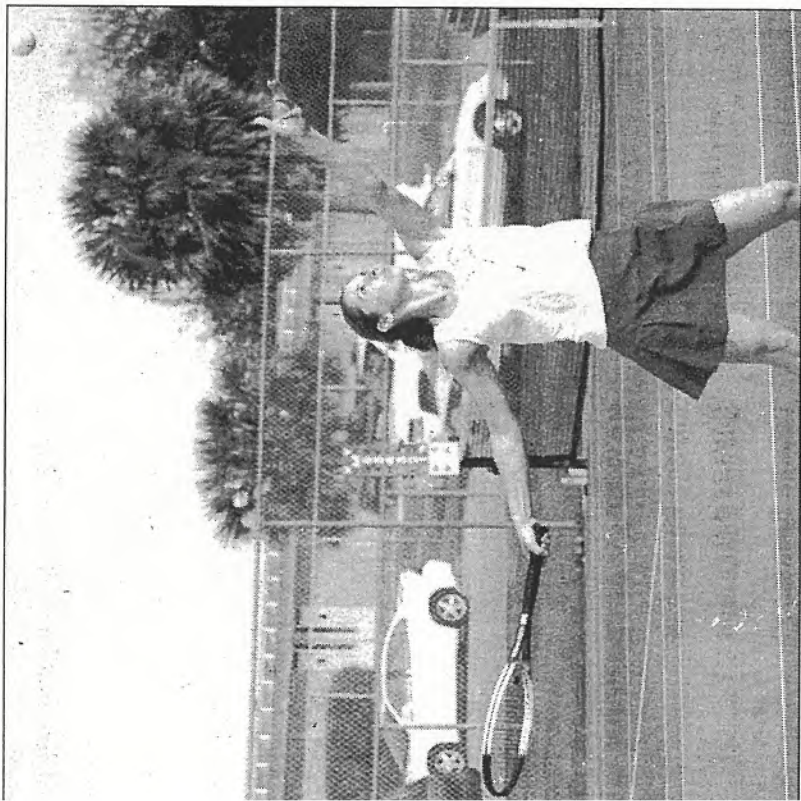
"Plus she (Coach Hollinger) was only going to have seven people this year, and these girls that came on have been taking private lessons and they've all played tennis before."

"And it's like every other year we've had people come out that haven't played tennis. Like when I first started playing (as a freshman), I had never touched a racquet in my life."

"I think we're going to have a strong team in the years to come because we've got all these underclassmen that are coming up and they started off better than we did."

And those were some good starts for the past three Lady Streaks teams. Now Sebring finds itself in a tougher

See SLAM, page 4B



Sebring's Amanda Heer gets ready for a serve Thursday in Lake Placid.
JEFF CANTWELL/News-Sun



McGUIRE