Charlie Hoeveler and Irv Converse are fans of the Mission Hills Country Club; particularly after winning the singles at the Campbell’s National Men’s 60 & 90 Hard Court Championships. The same can be said of the Jimmy Parker/Ken Robinson duo, who having never lost at the location, own the 60 doubles whenever it’s played there. Converse/Dan Miller, the 90s titlists, also have fond memories of playing at the facility in early April.

In a typical Hoeveler performance, the clever left-hander, slipped past Michael Beautyman 7-6, 6-7, 6-3 in the Men’s 60 marathon final. Converse also went the distance, edging Federico Barbosa of Argentina 6-7, 6-3, (11-9) for 90s honors. Parker/Dennis Trout in the Men’s 60 doubles title round. Converse doubled his 90s success, teaming with Dan Miller to outlast Dave Carey/Ted Zoob 6-7, 6-4, (10-8).

Robert Akman won the Men’s 60 Consolation 3-6, 6-2, when Paul Randall, after splitting sets, had to retire. Bob Johnson/Robert Zump took the Consie doubles 6-3, 7-5 over Chris Bowen/Earl Goldman. Hawaiian Airlines awarded the 60 singles and doubles champions with tickets to Hawaii.

“I served for the match twice in the second set, and was up 5-1 in the third,” said Hoeveler, who claimed his ninth gold ball with the victory. “Michael was fantastic. He’s one of the fastest guys out there. It was a three and a half hour match between two 60-year-old greyhounds. We play a lot alike. It was one of the toughest matches I’ve ever played.”

Beautyman said, “I was playing well until Charlie got hold of me. He is a fierce competitor who forces errors. We had a great battle, but he hit some spectacular volleys in the third set.”

Though a lawyer, he kidded, “It ain’t over between Charlie and me.”

As good as the play and off court activities, such as the Players Party were, the tournament was unique for another reason— Dennis Ralston, or to be Perry T. Jones correct, R. Dennis Ralston, to be specific. Tennis fans, having been overwhelmed by “new stars” such as Jimmy Jackson, Brendan Evans and Donald Youn to name but a few, have no idea how good Ralston was in his prime. The former US No. 1 (first since Don Budge to hold the ranking three consecutive years, 1963-65), pro star; youngest Wimbledon doubles winner (he was 17 in 1960 and played with Rafael Osuna) and International Tennis Hall of Famer (1987) made his return to
“...Would you like to play with a friend of mine who is almost 65 (actually his birthday is July 27, 1942), has had both his knees replaced; hasn’t played a tournament in years, but used to be pretty good?” I said, ‘Why would I want to do that?’ Steve replied, ‘Because it’s Dennis Ralston.’ ...

He had been teaching at Mission Hills for part of the winter, and said he would like to play doubles. I told him, I would find a good partner. Then I called Charlie, who said he would be glad to play. When I explained Hoeveler wanted to play, Dennis said he would practice and be ready for the matches. He did fine, and he was competitive. I must add that he was teaching most of the days before he played.”

Hoeveler, who in real life is President and owner of Nike Camps, competitive tennis. Playing with Hoeveler, the duo reached the semifinals losing to Parker/Robinson 7-5, 6-3.

When asked about the Hoeveler/Ralston partnership, Tournament Director Steve Solomon said, “I put them together after talking with Dennis. July 27, 1942), has had both his knees replaced; hasn’t played a tournament in years, but used to be pretty good?” I said, ‘Why would I want to do that?’ Steve replied, ‘Because it’s Dennis Ralston.’ I told him it would be an honor to play with Dennis.

Ralston, a US National Doubles winner three times with Chuck McKinley and a Roland Garros champion with Clark Graebner, grew up in Bakersfield and played at USC. Besides reaching the Wimbledon final in 1966, he had a spectacular record as both a US Davis Cup player (He had a 25-9 singles/doubles record) and was captain (He was 9-3). The 1966 William A. Johnson Award winner for contributions to the growth of the game, Ralston also earned praise for his time as SMU men’s coach. “I hadn’t played since the Wimbledon 45 doubles the year after having my second knee replacement,” he explained. “That was roughly ten years ago.”

In his Davis Cup days, playing with McKinley, and his time with Osuna, Ralston...
played the deuce court. As Hoeveler, with whom he played the ad side, revealed, "You can imagine how I felt when he told me that the last time he played the ad court was with a red headed Australian left hander, a guy named Laver." The 60s singles champion continued, "He was terrific to play with. He made it fun, and was a great partner. He didn't take himself too seriously. He was very deferential. He really cared about playing."

Discussing his performance, Ralston, in his typical self-deprecating style said, "Actually, I played like I had two knees replaced." He added, "I know Charlie and realize that he is a 'Road Runner'. He is very fast and a great competitor. I had been practicing, but I hadn't played any matches. That made it tough. I didn't enjoy missing shots that I would ordinarily make. I had a lot of trouble with my overhead in the Parker/Robinson match. I must have missed something like ten in a row. I was worried that Charlie was going to lose all his energy and not be able to compete well in the singles final."

In his career, Hoeveler has played with and against a collection of big time performers. He faced Tom Okker in an International Club match in The Netherlands years ago. "We had a close first set," he recalled. "Then he took a long break before the second set. He eventually won it, but I could tell that he wasn't having any fun running after all my shots. He wanted to get off the court.

"A lot of former Grand Slam winners will not get down and dirty playing age group competition. Tom Brown and Gardnar Mulloy are major exceptions, but I can't think of any other guys who have done it. Dennis really deserves credit for putting himself on the line."

In a "pick up pro/am" prior to Barry MacKay's annual tournament in the Bay Area. Hoeveler had an opportunity to team with another pretty fair player. "I played with Bjorn Borg when he was 16," he said. "He couldn't volley, but his serve was good and his return was ridiculous."

Solomon, who organized the tournament along with his wife Abby, had a very busy week because the US and Chile Davis Cup teams were at Mission Hills preparing for their encounter. As they always do, the Solomons handled the situation skillfully, scheduling around the intrusion. In addition, they came up with a big time collection of sponsors including Campbell's, The Tennis Channel, Hawaiian Airlines, BMW and Diadora. "It was tough because Davis Cup took the bathrooms, and the clubhouse is still under construction," Steve Solomon said. "We were working from the balcony, and it was a little crowded. We also lost a day with rain, and had to double-up the singles and then the doubles semis because the draw (60s) was bigger. It was hard doing so with the 90s. We decided to have two doubles and a singles one day. The next day we reversed it."

He added, "Having the Davis Cup was great. The players enjoyed seeing the teams practice right behind the tournament courts. Some of the players involved in the tie spent time watching the 90s semifinal on Thursday and also the doubles final Friday."

Beautyman, who was responsible for staging the 2005 International Tennis Federation Team and Individual Championships in Philadelphia, admitted, "The desert provides reliable weather, and having the Davis Cup simultaneously at the same site generated additional interest in the 60 and 90 categories."

Hoeveler said, "Steve does a really good job with the scheduling and seeding. He digs out information to see how people are really playing. He doesn't simply go by lists that are not accurate. In this case, the seeding was impeccable. He had it. It was also exciting being next to the Davis Cup guys. Mission Hills is a great place to play."

It was a bit ironic for Ralston to be at a facility hosting a Davis Cup tie with Chile. "I was captain when we played in Chile," he recalled. "It was 1972, and I received death threats. We had a heck of a match."

Admitting that he was moving back to Mission Hills because the cold at the Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs, where he had been the Director of Tennis, was "tough on me," he said, "It's a perfect set-up because they have all the surfaces here. I plan to hold my Dennis Ralston Tennis Camps here beginning in September."

Looking to the future, Ralston, the first man in US tennis history to win doubles titles on clay, grass, indoor and hard court surfaces, concluded, "I had fun, but I didn't play very well. We actually had chances. That was encouraging. I may think about playing in the 65s. I would like to play with Charlie again."
Campion's and The Tennis Channel teamed up to present the first Senior and Super Senior National Husband & Wife Grass Court Championships at the Mission Hills Country Club, March 5-10. Steve and Abby Solomon served as the organizers and tournament directors.

The Senior division consisted of teams with a combined age of 100. Teams in the Super Senior division had a combined age of 120. Winners were awarded the traditional USTA gold ball and Hawaiian Airlines tickets to the land of Aloha. Consolation winners in both divisions also received Hawaiian Airlines trips. All finalists were given three days and two nights at the Fairfield Grand in Las Vegas.

Guy and Kathy May Fritz played like the first seeds that they were, winning the Senior Husband & Wife 6-0, 6-1 over Andrew and Ann Stanley. In four matches, they lost only five games. My wife, Kathy Bennett, and I, (playing at our home club), won the Super Senior competition defeating Bob and Kay Beverley 6-3, 6-2.

Todd and Sue Sprague slipped past Mas and Susan Kimball 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 in the 100 Consolation final. Gordon and Cora Davis edged Chuck and Sara White 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 for 120 Consolation honors.

“The tennis in the 100 division was of high quality, with eight or nine of the best teams in the country participating,” Steve Solomon said. “The Fritzes were amazing. They have to be the best Husband & Wife team in the US.”

True to the form evidenced in the 18 years they ran the Campbell’s Mission Hills Senior Championships, the Solomon’s presented the players with great gift bags, and a special tournament shirt. They also made a significant contribution to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

A dinner/dance was held in the main clubhouse on Tuesday evening, giving couples an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful meal and loosen up on the dance floor.

“The party was a blast, and the food was excellent,” Steve Solomon said. “The couples kept the dance floor jumping all night.”

The tournament was a great success because players from across the country had a chance to enjoy a week in the desert both playing and watching tennis. The championships ran concurrently with the Pacific Life Open which enabled competitors and their guests to see the best men and women professionals in the game, at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

The grass at Mission Hills, where, incidentally, the Davis Cup match against Chile was played April 7-9, was like a lush carpet. The players enjoyed the pristine conditions.

“The tournament was way beyond our first year expectations,” Solomon said. “Everyone had a good time. Many new friends were made, and we heard a lot of ‘we will see you next year’. Everyone agreed, the courts were the best of any grass they had ever seen. They played like soft hard courts, and there were no bad bounces.”

Having run tournaments for years, Solomon said “Playing on three courts in the same area was fantastic. It was great to see everyone stay around to watch the matches, and cheer for one team or the other. This event was the most fun I have had playing or running tournaments. It will be a pleasure doing it again next year.”
The Bills And Dodo

Mark Winters

Photos: Steve Solomon

In early April, the Palm Springs Tennis Club and Spencer’s restaurant hosted the Lurie World Cup, an international team match, pitting the top Men’s 90 competitors from the US against contemporaries from abroad. The novel event attracted an extraordinary collection of performers, (each of whom had a best selling life story to tell). Foreign visitors included: Federico Barbosa and Carlos Lustig (Argentina); George Barta (Canada); Claude deMontgolfier (France); Yoshiei Ohki (95 years young), Hidesumi Satake, Jiro Shiroyama and Akihiko Yamada (Japan); and Marco Mestre (Mexico). Even more impressive, was the fact that a total of 24 players, the largest group of 90-year-old competitors ever assembled, participated.

"Obtaining foreign players had better results this year than the last two," said Bill Hussey, co-captain of the US team. "They arrived on March 29th and 30th. March 31st was a jet lag rest day and some practice. Singles started the next morning April 1st. The doubles and a luncheon honoring the participants took place on April 2nd."

The special event, which the US, with participants from ten states, won 10-5, became more noteworthy when International Tennis Hall of Famer Dodo Cheney, winner of more than 300 national championship and 20 senior age division Grand Slams, played on the US team. Not only was the Lurie Cup unique, it was a gender bending, one-of-a-kind affair.

“One of the innovations Bill Lurie introduced was having Dodo Cheney play,” Hussey said. Tournament Director Steve Solomon continued, “Dodo teamed with Irv Converse. They lost to Marco Mestre, a former Mexican Davis Cup captain, and Claude deMontgolfier 10-8 in the third set tie break.”

An interesting aside, deMontgolfier’s, (who always wore green socks and didn’t say if they were his lucky socks), great grandfather invented the hot air balloon in 1784. Continuing the historical focus, his family started a parchment business in the 1100’s. It must be noted though, that there is no family record as to who was the first deMontgolfier to play tennis (or “jeu de paume”).

Solomon admitted, “The event was fantastic. There was a lot of interest, and we had great newspaper and local television coverage. The State Department sent an interpreter from New York to spend the week helping the players from Japan.”

Following the weekend of team play, the participants took their racquets to the Mission Hills Country Club to trade strokes at the Campbell’s National Men’s 60 & 90 Hard Court Championships.

Though a knee injury kept Lurie, the event’s founder, and for years a top senior competitor, off the court as a player, he provided financial support for the contest. He also helped with its organization and captained the US team to a well deserved victory. Teaming with Hussey, who recruited the top international players, both “Bills” made the World Cup a resounding success.
Almost nine years ago, Mo Conter, the Los Caballeros Tennis Activities Director, (who eventually moved to the same position at the Palisades Tennis Club), came up with a practical answer to a question constantly being asked by retired male club members — Why are the women always using the courts in the morning for their League team matches? Why doesn’t someone start a Men’s League?

She responded to the need by forming a 10:00 a.m. Monday morning (the only day when Women’s League matches weren’t scheduled) Men’s 50 Senior Doubles League, involving Los Caballeros and four other tennis facilities. The four doubles team’s round robin format involved weekly play. At the season’s conclusion, the winner was the team capturing the most individual matches.

The competition was divided into two parts — October through December, and January through May. Word of the League’s success quickly spread, and the program grew. At its conclusion, a Special Round Robin Doubles Play Day (including lunch) was launched. Open to all League participants, the activity has become an annual event held at Los Caballeros.

In 1999, the Orange County Community Tennis Association came to the program’s rescue. In jeopardy of folding because it lacked a coordinator, OCCTA took control and renamed the competition Senior Sirs League. In the process, the membership base increased, and more importantly, the number of teams expanded (11 in the winter of 2005). OCCTA also established administrative supervision; formulated a consistent set of rules and regulations; secured insurance coverage for participants; and created a place on its web page, detailing match results, League standings and player statistics.

Now, the minimum age for SSL participation is 55 years old. Interestingly, more former national senior champions than ever before are attracted to the “only playing doubles” experience.

Thanks are extended to the captains whose hard work made the Senior Sirs Spring League rewarding for over 150 players in Orange County.

For information about Senior Sirs League, contact Becky Edles-Rye at beckye_occta@yahoo.com or visit http://www.occtatennis.com

Women’s Intersectional Championships

The Senior Women’s Intersectional Championships, involving the 35, 45, 55, 65 and 75 divisions, will be held in Austin, Texas, November 13-19. Players interested in representing Southern California should contact Annette Buck at abuck@scta.usta.com or (310) 208-3838 Ext. 224.
It wasn't at all surprising, given the age group depth found in the state, that California was well represented at the International Tennis Federation Team Championships in Durban, South Africa. Many of the players stayed on to compete in the ITF World Championships, the week following the cup events at the end of April.

Hunter Galloway and Ken Kuperstein helped the Men's 35 Italia Cup earn a fourth place finish. Martin Barba was part of the Men's 40 Trabert Cup third place effort. Glenn Erickson, who was originally named the playing captain, was injured and unable to participate.

Gretchen Magers, the Young Cup playing captain, was the 2-1 story in the Women's 40 victory over France. She toughed out a singles win and teamed with Renata Marcinkowska to take the doubles.

Mike Fedderly was a doubles stalwart in the 2-1 win over South Africa for Men's 45 Dubler Cup. He went on to reach the singles semifinal in the World Championships, dropping a 6-3, 6-4 decision to Danie Visser of South Africa.

Val Wilder, a Dubler Cup teammate of Fedderly's, downed Visser in the singles title round. Fedderly/Wilder proved to be the classiest of the field taking the doubles with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Kevin Bruorton/Lindsay North of South Africa.

Tracy Houk played an important role in the US surprising Australia, the defending champion, 2-1 for the Women's 45 Court Cup.

Angel Lopez and Wendell Pierce finished the 3-0 sweep over France in the Men's 50 Perry Cup final. Tina Karwasky was brilliant, and Carolyn Nichols outstanding as the Women's 50 Bueno Cup team posted a shutout of Australia, 3-0. The Aussies rebounded, edging the US, and Kathy Barnes, 2-1 for the Women's 55 Connolly Cup.

(more photos on next page)
The Countrywide Classic will host Senior Day on Wednesday, July 26th at the Los Angeles Tennis Center-UCLA. Mario Ancic, Robbie Ginepri, Tommy Haas (the 2004 tournament winner), Lleyton Hewitt, Ivan Ljubicic and David Nalbandian are expected to appear. Southern California’s own Bob and Mike Bryan, along with Taylor Dent, are scheduled to participate. So are Fernando Gonzalez, Dominik Hrbaty, Tommy Robredo and Paradorn Srichaphan.

For information about what promises to be a memorable day of tennis, check: www.countrywideclassic.com or call (310) 824-1010.
MEN’S 35
David Bier d. Tim Fresenius
6-1, 6-2

MEN’S 35 DOUBLES
Drew Denny/Bill Howie d.
Bier/John Despot
6-4, 7-5

MEN’S 40
Damian Mooney d.
William Konya
6-4, 6-1

MEN’S 40 DOUBLES
Peter Davidson/Glenn Stephan d.
Kevin Armstrong/Ed Moore
6-3, 1-6, 6-3

MEN’S 45
Tony Smith d. Steve Heitzner
6-3, 7-5

MEN’S 45 DOUBLES
Steve Starleaf/Bruce Totten d.
Lon Shapiro/Andrew Stanley
6-7, 6-4, 6-1

MEN’S 50
Stanley d. Emmanuel Acholonu
6-3, 6-3

MEN’S 50 DOUBLES
Harry Fritz/Rob Wheatley d.
Louis Grajeda/Jim Wrage
6-4, 6-4

MEN’S 55
Mike Talmadge d.
Michael Walters
6-4, 6-1

MEN’S 55 DOUBLES
Irv Goldberg/Hank Leichtfried d.
Robert Erickson/Hamilton Sah
6-2, 4-6, 6-1

MEN’S 60
Vilnis Ezerins d. Richard Ortiz
5-7, 6-4, 7-5

MEN’S 60 DOUBLES
Pete Gerry/Tony Pausz d.
Gary Bowen/Gunder Olafson
6-1, 6-2

MEN’S 65
Joel Fleiss d. Hamilton Sah
4-6, Retired

MEN’S 65 DOUBLES
Wilson Fitzgerald/Foran d.
Jack Graham/Jim Settles
6-4, 6-2

MEN’S 70
Bob Perry d. Jerry Friedman
6-3, 7-5

MEN’S 70 DOUBLES
Bill Hyde/Lenny Lindborg d.
Don Neuman/Saul Snyder
6-0, 6-1

MEN’S 75
Gerry Thomas d. Robert Foran
6-7, 6-0, 6-3

MEN’S 75 DOUBLES
Wilson Fitzgerald/Foran d.
Jack Graham/Jim Settles
6-4, 6-2

MEN’S 80
Bob Seymour d. Don Tobey
6-4, 6-2
RESULTS

MEN’S 85
Jerry Greer d. Howard Moffett
6-3, 6-4

MEN’S 85 DOUBLES
Peter Stacey/Joseph Wapner d.
William Crowley/Tom Whitlow
6-4, 6-2

WOMEN’S 65
Norma Veal d. Roz King
6-2, 6-2

Campbell’s National
Men’s 60 & 90 Hard
Court Championships

MEN’S 60
Charlie Hoeverel d.
Michael Beautyman
7-6, 6-7, 6-3

MEN’S 60 DOUBLES
Jimmy Parker/Ken Robinson d.
Daud Ahmed/Dennis Trout
7-6, 6-3

MEN’S 90
Irv Converse d. Federico Barbosa
6-7, 6-3, (11-9)

MEN’S 90 DOUBLES
Converse/Dan Miller d.
Dave Carey/Ted Zoob
6-7, 6-4, (10-8)

54th Pasadena
Metropolitan Tournament

MEN’S 40
Paul Sinuk d. Peter Lee
6-0, 6-1

MEN’S 45
Arthur Chen d. Willard Chilcott
6-2, 3-6, 6-4

MEN’S 50
Gary Grandolph d. Mike Vaughn
6-2, 2-6, 6-1

MEN’S 55
Hal Zajic d. Duane Hale
6-1, 6-7, 6-0

MEN’S 70
Art Thompson d. Carl Vail
4-6, 6-4, 6-3

20th Singles Tennis
Tournament

MEN’S 40
Shawn Roybal d. Don Neumeier
6-1, 6-2

MEN’S 45
Kevin Skelly d. Stanley Wooten
6-2, 7-5

MEN’S 50
Blake Foster d. Robert Mason
7-6, 3-6, 7-5

MEN’S 65
Wayne Hughes d.
Robert Schmied
6-4, 6-1

MEN’S 65
Richard Emard d.
Matthew Jones
6-2, 6-1

MEN’S 65
Luis Cisneros d. Don Dombrow
6-2, 3-6, 6-4

MEN’S 70
Mike Carrico d. Robert Yin
6-3, 6-0

MEN’S 80
Cecil Norwood d.
Carsonba Caesar
6-4, 6-1

18th Arcadia Senior
Tournament

MEN’S 30
Mark Davis d. Paul Urbanek
Default

MEN’S 30
Mark Davis d. Paul Urbanek
Default

MEN’S 45
Corey Brown d. Mike Clayton
3-6, 6-4, 7-5

MEN’S 50
Robert Augur d. Jay Ragasa
6-2, 6-0

MEN’S 55
Hal Zajic d. William King
6-4, 6-7, 7-5

MEN’S 60
Sal Zimmitti d. Ken Foresta
6-2, 6-3

MEN’S 65
Ricardo Remolif d. Don Hildreth
7-5, 4-6, 6-3

MEN’S 70
Jerry Friedman d. Phil Flexo
6-4, 7-5

MEN’S 80
Beong Koun Paik d. Don Baron
6-3, 6-4
RESULTS

15th La Habra Senior Tournament
MEN’S 50
Jay Ragasa d. Mike Vaughn
6-3, 3-6, 7-5
MEN’S 55
Hal Zajic d. Dexter Godbey
6-2, 7-5
MEN’S 60
John Barlass d. Robert Laechelt
6-0, 6-1
MEN’S 65
Don Hildreth d. William Lickley
6-2, 6-1
MEN’S 70
Don Bryce d. Phil Flexo
6-3, 6-0

15th La Habra Senior Tournament - Continued
MEN’S 70 DOUBLES
Ben Gaither/Charlie Pina d.
Davidson/Wil Wilkins
6-3, 7-6
MEN’S 55
Mike Talmadge d. Frank Zebot
7-6, 6-4
MEN’S 55 DOUBLES
Talmadge/Frank Zebot d.
Dan Bohannon/Michael Walters
6-3, 6-3
MEN’S 60
Philip Dunmeyer d.
Richard Sanders
6-4, 1-6, 6-1
MEN’S 65
Don Hildreth d. Hamilton Sah
6-2, 5-7, 6-2
MEN’S 70
Humberto Briones d.
Gerald Johnson
6-0, 6-1
MEN’S 70 DOUBLES
Mike O’Hara/Jerry Robinson d.
Bert Eichel/Mel Lewis
6-1, 6-3
MEN’S 75
Melvin Lewis d. James Curtis
6-0, 6-0
MEN’S 80
Don Baron d. James Golson
6-2, 6-7, 6-2
MEN’S 85
Jerry Greer d. Eddie Tyler
6-2, 7-6
WOMEN’S 45
Margaret Smith d. Diane Miller
6-0, 6-0
WOMEN’S 45
Don Hildreth d. Janet Smith
6-2, 6-2

6th Paul Buskey Memorial Super Senior Heart Tournament
MEN’S 65
Hal Zajic d. Howard Miller
6-1, 6-2

18th Peninsula Tennis Club Tournament
MEN’S 40
Pat Rost d. Shawn Roybal
7-6, 6-2
MEN’S 50
Richard Reiter d. David Wutke
6-4, 6-4

8th Pacific Beach Tennis Club Tournament
MEN’S 35
Edward Moore d. Nelson Alapi
6-0, 4-6, 7-6
MEN’S 45
Rodger Siordia d.
Kip Hutchison
7-6, 7-5
MEN’S 55
Logan Jenkins d. Byron Smith
6-1, 6-1
MEN’S 65
Jack Bartroff d. Robert Yin
6-0, 6-2

19th Anaheim Hills Spring Senior Tournament
MEN’S 30
Victor Ro d. Peter Fletcher
6-1, 6-0
MEN’S 35
Esteban Altfua d. Kenneth Lee
6-0, 6-4, 6-2
MEN’S 45
Michael Costigan d.
Frank Picarelli
6-2, 6-4
MEN’S 50
Kelly Davidson d. David Hamel
6-3, 6-4

WOMEN’S 45
Margaret Smith d. Diane Miller
6-0, 6-1
WOMEN’S 65
Nanda Fischer d. Janet Smith
6-2, 6-2

7th Cabrillo Racquet Club Tournament
MEN’S 40
Patrick O’Donnell d.
Thomas Kekalos
6-3, 4-6, 6-4
The International Tennis Hall of Fame will honor Jack Kramer on August 19th, the 60th anniversary of his first US Singles Championship. The fete will be held at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

If you mention the legend’s name in tennis circles, glowing accounts of his visionary accomplishments will begin to flow. The 1968 Hall of Fame inductee was a founder of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), and developed the Grand Prix concept, leading to a season end Masters Championship.

Still a member of the Board of Directors, he was President of the Southern California Tennis Association, and served as the section’s USTA delegate. Before passing the reins to son Bob, Kramer was the Tournament Director of the annual men’s pro event in Los Angeles. (He even backed the tournament when it was the Jack Kramer Open.)

Born August 1, 1921 in Las Vegas, he learned the game, playing at the public courts in Montebello. A Perry T. Jones protégé, he made his Davis Cup debut, playing doubles with Joe Hunt, another Southern California star, at the then record setting age of 18. Kramer was the leader of winning Davis Cup teams in 1946 and ’47. His singles record in Cup play was a perfect 6-0.

The pioneer of the “Big Game”, serving and coming to the net at every opportunity, he won Wimbledon in 1947 losing but 37 games in seven matches.

He also claimed the US Championship again. In 1946 and ‘47, Kramer was incredible, losing only three matches.

He turned pro in December 1947, playing Bobby Riggs before a record setting crowd at Madison Square Garden. A winner of 13 US national singles and doubles titles, he left the amateur ranks with a 10-1 record at Wimbledon, and a 24-5 mark at the US Nationals.

While still playing professionally, he became the tour’s promoter in the early 1950s. For more than 20 years, he was the television voice of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) commentary at Wimbledon. During the same period, he was the lead analyst for the US National Championships and other tennis events telecast across the country. His Wilson Jack Kramer Autograph was the best selling wood tennis racquet in history.

For more details about the International Hall of Fame’s Jack Kramer affair, a guaranteed “not to be missed” activity, contact Tiffany Geller at geller@scta.usta.com or (310) 208-3838 Ext. 232.