# Senjor Tennis TIMES

# DOWN THE LINE

As I write, we are in the heart of the winter season with the outside temperature falling all around us and, once again, I think how fortunate we tennis players are to live inthe land of ice palaces and ice fishing. It's a long cold season that helps make our tennis club a success. The long season coupled with a large community of tennis enthusiasts warrants maintaining so many inside tennis courts, permitting seniors to play in comfort the year-round. Without these accommodations there would be sizable downtime for senior tennis players. Many communities with shorter and milder seasons do not have ample inside accommodations as it simply does not pay. Another plus for Minnesota winters.

Having said this, my faith in the winter season grows thin. Lucille and I vowed to remain in Minnesota throughout the season, but the Halloween and successive snowfalls piled high on our deck have caused our resistance to crumble, so we are wimping out to join the exodus south, not to play tennis but golf, a game I am beginning to like second best to tennis, of course.

May I remind you that this is the last call for nominations for the few vacancies that will occur on the Board this April. Also, make note on your calendar that May 1 is the date for the annual business dinner dance. Detailed information will soon be publicized.

May the sun shine brightly on all of its seekers so they may drink it in while blocking it out with sunscreen and exercising at the same time.

Bob Curran, President

# A NEW FEATURE IN THE 1992 ROSTER

The roster of all paid-up members will be part of the March Senior Tennis Times. The ability levels of all the players that have been entered into the computer will be included.

In the past on membership applications and renewals the ratings have been beginner, intermediate, advanced and expert. These will be changed to numerical ratings, looking like these:

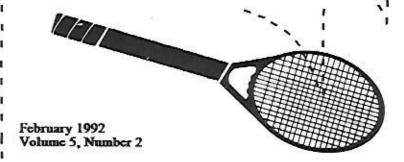
OLD	NEW
Beginner	1
Intermediate	2
Advanced	3
Expert	4

Pluses and minuses can be used to more accurately identify the ability level, if needed. Anyone needing help rating themselves may talk to any one of our Senior Tennis professionals shown in the Learn Tennis section of the Tennis Times. The ratings can be entered and updated into the computer throughout the year, but published with the roster once a year. However, this information will appear with the new member listings monthly.

Call Dick Pratt at 433-3583 or Mary Kaminski at 781-3271 to make any changes or additions.

A note to summer-play captains: Please start lining up courts you will be using with the various communities or parks and recreation departments. Captains of the Genuine Seniors Tennis League: Start organizing your teams. Thanks.

Dick Pratt



# FACILITIES By Bob Western

GREENWAY COURTS AVAILABLE There is courttime available at the Greenway Athletic Club in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Minneapolis.

WHITE BEAR TO START EARLY-BIRD GROUP The White Bear Racquet Club has a mailing going out to interested people on a list I gave them, and we are thinking of a Thursday early-bird group. This does involve joining the club's early-bird/night-owl program. A nice feature is the free summer outdoor courts that can be reserved. To explain the outdoor courts, one bubble will come down.

ONE COURT CANCELED AT WILLISTON The noise level on one court at the Williston Club has become unbearable so the Saturday afternoon group (2-4 p.m.) is abandoning play, effective February 1.

If you have any questions on the above, call Bob Western at 735-5761.

# ST. PADDY'S DAY SENIOR TOURNAMENT AT WOODDALE

A senior tournament will be held at the Wooddale Recreation Center, 2122 Wooddale Drive, Woodbury, Monday, March 16, through Friday, March 20, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. (You must call for match times.) The entry deadline is Monday, March 9.

# EVENTS A AND B SKILL LEVELS AGE 50 AND OVER

Men's singles & doubles - Mon & Tues Women's singles & doubles - Wed & Thurs Mixed doubles - Friday

Cost is \$16 for doubles team; \$10 for singles. Trophies will be awarded for first and second places in each division. Entry forms are available at Wooddale, 735-6214. Contact person: Lois Nordman.

The next tournament will be in October.

# Bulletin Board

## DECATHLON CLUB HAS OPENINGS

There are court openings on Sunday mornings at the Decathlon Club. A captain and players are needed. If interested, call Chuck Supplee at 888-0551.

#### LOOKING FOR REGULARS

There are openings for advanced and expert players at the Greenway Athletic Club on Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m. The captain is Rosemary Dineen. If interested, call her at home, 872-7455, or at work, 348-8300.

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE TENNIS AND LIFE CLINIC

Once again, we have been asked to work the NWTA booth at the Tennis and Life Clinic to be held Saturday, April 4, at Eagan High School from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Featured will be Tom Gullikson, Dr. Jim Loehr, Bill Tym and many others.

A crew of two people work the booth for two hours selling tennis literature, t-shirts, sweat shirts and other clothes items. Beyond the two hours' work, volunteers are free to spend the day at the workshops and clinic. Call Percy Hughes at 545-7696.

#### THINKING SPRING?

NEWS FLASH. Ladies: The Hit 'N Giggle League is forming for next summer. Get your group together, form a team, and call Shirley Pratt at 433-3583.

Last year we had four teams and four home courts--we played "all over" and had fun! You will need eight players and subs (even though we SHARE subs). Team names and team shirts are optional, so are sponsors. One thing--if you don't have a team name, you get a number! Schedules, dates, and all that pertinent info will come later.

# Tennis Tips By Percy Hughes

# Want a Stronger Serve?

Once you're able to execute the basic mechanics of the serve, have become consistent in getting it in with good depth and placement—then comes the next most asked question: "How do I get a stronger serve, a serve with more pace?" OK. Assuming you are now consistent, have good depth and placement on both your serves, it's time to add the power serve to your reportoire. How? Concentrate on two things:

The toss. Get the ball out into the court.

Snap the racquet up hard, meeting the ball with your arm fully extended at contact. Do this on your second serve also. Literally throw the racquet head at the ball. The power will be there.

Practice this as often as you can. Your tennis buddies might start avoiding you!

# A NEW PROGRAM FOR BEGINNERS

The Northwestern Tennis Association (NWTA), in conjunction with the U. S. Tennis Association (USTA), announced a new program for "beginning tennis seniors," PLAY TENNIS, AMERICA! Percy Hughes was appointed Director for this area. The program is available to people who have never played tennis, and the starting date is June 8. Percy will provide information as it comes in.

# Talent Contest Winners

Joyce Hautman and Lois Thompson won a second -place trophy in the Senior Division (55 and over) of a talent contest sponsored by the Saint Paul Winter Carnival.

Joyce and Lois are members of the Satin Dolls, a six-woman tap-dancing ensemble.. In a preliminary contest held at Rosedale on January 18, they qualified to go on to compete in the Winter Carnival Talent Contest.

The finals were held at the Saint Paul Radisson Hotel on January 21. The Satin Dolls' prize-winning dance was performed to "The Sheik of Araby". Their trophy, after being held by each of the dancers for a week in their own homes, will be placed on display in the Lenox Senior Center in Saint Louis Park.



"I'm calling the police . . . you had garlic for lunch!"

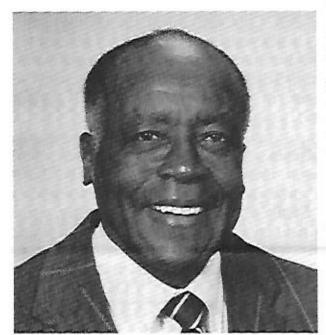
#### Anyone For Tennis?

You could be arrested if you play tennis within four hours of eating garlic in Clearbrook, Minnesota. That's just one of the "Loony Laws About Tennis" uncovered by Robert Pelton for *Tennis* magazine.

# MATT LITTLE: A Giant Killer on the Courts, an Advocate of Challenging Causes

With the blazing speed of a cheetah and cunning of a Bengal tiger, Matt Little, 69, stalks prey on the tennis courts until the ultimate kill. He's best described as "Matt the Cat" or "Minnesota Matts" for his hustle in luring an unsuspecting opponent into grave errors of omission. Conversely, this gentle and impassioned man can rise to

towering verbal heights when championing civil rights and equality for all people.



As Minneapolis president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Little is anything but Lilliputian in the eyes of his contemporaries. In fact, he's regarded as a Goliath because of his ongoing struggle to achieve a lasting equality for blacks for forty years. Like the late, great leader, Martin Luther King, Jr., Little is also inspirationally eloquent; he, too, "has a dream." He marched with Dr. King's entourage when the famous "I have a dream" speech was delivered. The stirring words still flow through Little's veins "like a mighty river."

Little was recently involved in the controversy surrounding the treatment of several blacks by Carson Pirie Scott, and a serious incident at Dayton's in Minneapolis. In the Carson incident, a Channel 5 investigative team discovered that the store's security personnel were targeting blacks as potential shoplifters by using hidden cameras (Carson's admitted to the practice). The NAACP, vigorously led by Little, fought the "insidious stereotyping". This resulted in the dismissal of the security personnel involved. Despite a boycott by blacks against Carson Pirie Scott, the entire matter has not yet been resolved.

In a startling coincidence, the head of the Equal Opportunities Commission at the University of Minnesota (a black man) was accosted and roughed up by Dayton's security people who alleged he was a shoplifter. The case is still under litigation. Interpreting the NAACP's stand on the latter incident, Little took the position his group was not in favor of litigation, but would intercede to achieve an equitable settlement.

This personable warrior was born in Washington, North Carolina, and graduated from Washington Colored High School (now Washington Middle School). He went on to graduate from A & T University in Greensboro, North Carolina, (alma mater of prominent leader Jesse Jackson, who was a star quarterback) with a major in biological science and minor in chemistry, hoping to get admitted to medical school. Because Little was black, it was virtually impossible for him to get into any medical school.

The Army beckoned, and he was placed in a segregated infantry outfit and shipped out to the Aleutian Islands. The worst moment in his life? Back in his home town for a furlough, he was walking on the sidewalk with a few black soldier friends. A burly redneck was walking by and yelled out: "Hey, you niggers, get off the sidewalk and onto the street so white folk can walk by." Little wondered why he was fighting for his country with outbursts like that.

In 1947 he flipped a coin to determine if he would settle in Denver or Minneapolis. Minneapolis won and is richer for his presence of 44 years. His first job was waiting tables at the old Curtis Hotel. A few years later he

met Sylvia from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They were married in 1949 and had five children (and now has 11 grandchildren). Still disappointed with the lack of job opportunities for blacks, Little turned to Civil Service.

Joining the U. S. Postal Service, Little rose to the position of supervisor, and then to superintendent of stations and public relations. Needing an extra income to feed hungry mouths, he started his own lawn maintenance business. He retired from the post office to devote full time to his expanding business, C & L Landscape and Garden Center, after taking courses in agriculture at the University of Minnesota.

With over forty years of active involvement in civil and human rights activities, Little is a powerful community voice to be heard. In the mid-50s he chaired a statewide organization that fought for state civil rights legislation. It's now called the Department of Human Rights. He has taken a leadership role in the NAACP for over 35 years. Now in his third year as president of its Minneapolis branch, Little has held virtually every office. For the past twelve years he has represented the local branch at their national conventions and has been on many national committees.

Little writes a weekly column for the Minneapolis Spokesman and the Saint Paul Recorder newspapers, entitled "NAACP Today". He was a close friend of the late Cecil Newman, a prominent black newspaper publisher. To combat the upsurge of street violence and gang activities, Little is co-chairing a city coalition group called "Stop the Violence Committee" comprising 36 civic, social and religious community organizations.

Other activities include the Pro-Diversity Partnership, the Boys & Girls Clubs Board, and the Private Industry Council of Minneapolis. He is a charter member of Citizens for a Safer Minnesota, and a member of the African-American Advisory Committee to the U of M President, the Richfield Civil Service and Charter Commissions, OMNI, and a blue-ribbon task force appointed by the Hennepin County Attorney.

In 1991, among other honors, Little was named Richfield's Citizen of the Year, received the Human Rights Award by the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions, the WCCO Good Neighbor Award, and was one of the twelve people presented with the Minneapolis Award, which is given to those who have contributed most to the city's interest.

Percy Hughes talked tennis with Little during some weekend hitting several years ago, and they became sparring partners. Through Hughes, Little met the master, Ernie "Duke" Greene, and a friendship followed. Lucille Bryant has been Little's significant other and tennis mentor since the late 70s. A lot of tennis has been played in tournaments and just for the fun of it. With a heady meeting schedule and community involvement, Little sometimes has to forego the game he loves best; he keeps on fighting for what he considers to be just.

"I've raised hell with the Minnesota Vikings about the scarcity of black coaches and even black cheerleaders,"
Little says. "Now I'm working on the Minnesota Twins and I'm optimistic about the results." He stresses a well-known fact that a majority of the greatest athletes are black. "Doesn't it seem logical that the 'old boy' network would wise up and hire more minorities?" Little questions.

Little's philosophy is intellectually absorbing. "I believe in the inherent goodness of human beings despite forces out there against instincts of the good," he states. "If we get below the veneer of intrinsic factors that shape people's lives, then perhaps we can reach the kind of society we all seek and look forward to," he emphasizes.

Henry Miller, the cynical expatriate novelist, once wrote: "It's silly to go on pretending that under the skin we are all brothers. The truth is more likely that under the skin we are all cannibals, assassins, traitors, liars, hypocrites and poltroons." It would have been a wonderful experience to have pitted Miller's contemptibility against Matt Little's eternal optimism - to be played out as gladiators on a tennis court. In this case, the Bengal tiger would have won!

Norm Diamond

# LEARN TENNIS

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NORTHLAND FITNESS CENTER SOUTH 5250 West 84th Street Bloomington 831-2660	Wed	5:30 - 7 pm	Ernie Greene	488-6359
WILLISTON CLUB 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka 935-8638	Mon	5:30 - 7 pm	Connie Custodio	824-2569
WOODDALE RECREATION CENTER 2122 Wooddale Drive	Mon	6:30 - 8 pm	Virginia Morgan Cathy Morgan	459-6059
Woodbury 735-6214	Thurs	9:30 - 11 am	Virginia Morgan	459-6059

NOTE: The cost of indoor courts will be defrayed by collecting \$1.50 from each student.



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NOTE TO NEW STUDENTS: Are you notifying your instructor after twelve lessons? If not, please do so.

The picture below is obviously not Minnesota in February. It's the local scene last July at Wolfe Park when members gathered for a USPTA clinic. In the front row (1 to r) are: Ernie Greene, Roger Boyer (Prince Mfg Inc rep), Percy Hughes, President Bob Curran, Virginia Owens and Paul Stormo.

# In The News

It was nice to read the February Tennis USTA, supplement to Tennis Magazine; and find Percy Hughes' smiling picture and a story about the social side of the Senior Tennis Players Club. "So many adults turn to tennis to make friends. Some have lost spouses. I tell them 'Welcome to our family,'" said Hughes.

Our sentiments exactly, Percy!





#### 1991 - 1992

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