

IRWIN HOFFMAN . . . by Bush



'Unheralded' Tennis Player Consistent Court Performer

By CHUCK WATHEN

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, so the saying goes. When applied to the Pioneer tennis team, one finds a strong chain with few weaknesses.

One of the strongest links in the Pioneer tennis chain (a chain that for the last 31 straight matches has overpowered DU's opponents) is "unheralded" Irv Hoffman.

IRV NO. 3 MAN

Irv is often foreshadowed by the activities of teammates Clayton Benham and Jack TerBorg, but he is a most dependable racquet wielder in his own right. HOFFIE, as he is called, follows on the heels of TerBorg and is the important third cog in the Pioneer tennis machine, and has hung up an impressive record of wins against few setbacks.

Irv is a junior playing his second year of sensational tennis for the Pioneers.

Consistency is important in any field of sport and Irv displays one of the steadiest games on the squad.

Most athletes don't perform as well when they aren't feeling right but it is the other way around for Irv. He says that he plays some of his best tennis on days when his spirits are down.

GROWS OWN PLAYERS

Denver is fast becoming a "little California" when it comes to tennis. The Mile-High City, with its renowned Pioneer tennis team and its city-wide tennis program, is a refreshing break in an otherwise arid tennis region. HOFFIE is a product of the emphasis on tennis in Denver, as is, with the exception of Hawaiian Clayton Benham, the rest of the squad are all from Denver.

Big Irv received his training early and was able to capture seventeen titles by the time he graduated from East High School in 1949. As a racquet wielder at East he was all-city, all-state and was on the state championship doubles duo.

Math, which he is majoring in, chemistry and physics receive Irv's off the court attentions. He was a straight A student in his freshman year. He is a member of Delta Chi, Pi Delta Theta and Pi Mu Epsilon honorary fraternities.

Tennis Finals Saturday Night Under Lights in Field House

Denver University's amazing tennis squad will be out to add another laurel to its already unequalled reputation as the Eastern and Western divisions of the Skyline Conference collide today and tomorrow in the 1952 Conference tournament here at DU.

Opening rounds of play will start this morning at 10 on the Pioneer courts on S. Vine St. Finals will be played tomorrow night at 8 p. m. in the Arena. Semifinals are slated in singles and doubles at the Arena for 2 p. m. Admission is 60 cents and 30 cents for students with athletic books.

Events This Week

B A S E B A L L: Intramural softball, Monday through Thursday, diamonds at corner Evans and Colorado Blvd. 4 p. m.

G O L F: Skyline championships at Green Gables golf course. Starting time: 1 p. m. today; 8 a. m. Saturday.

T E N N I S: Championship matches, DU courts, today, starting 10 a. m. Semifinals Saturday, 2 p. m., Arena; finals, 8 p. m. Saturday night, Arena.

T R A C K: Skyline track and field championships today and Saturday, DU Stadium.

Denver is seeking to retain the championship it won last year. In last year's tourney the Pioneers wound up with eleven points to second place Utah's seven. Brigham Young, Montana, and Colorado A&M followed the pack in that order.

Coach Fran Garth disclosed that each school is limited to four players in the meet, two singles and two doubles teams. DU's entries, he said, will be Clayton Benham and Jack TerBorg forming one doubles team and each playing singles with Irwin Hoffman third and Alvie Willis at the other doubles positions.

Benham is the defending singles champ from last year and will be faced by the same opponents plus Dick Moody of Brigham Young. Moody did not play last year but won the singles championship two consecutive years previous. Troublesome Jim Herd of Wyoming is expected to provide trouble, as he is the only player ever to defeat Benham in a conference encounter. Herd whipped Benham one day but Benham came back the next day, whipped the 'Poke star, to gain revenge.

In the semifinals of last year's tourney Benham defeated Salisbury of Utah and followed that

up in the finals with a victory over Jerry Glade of Utah by counts of 6-1, 6-3.

Glade had defeated TerBorg in the semi-finals by scores of 1-6, 8-6, 9-7. Benham-TerBorg then combined to take the doubles championships from a Utah duo of Glade and Gustaveson on tallies of 6-4, 6-1.

TerBorg has an excellent chance of winding up in the finals this year. Jack has faced many strong opponents this year but in each instance has kept one bounce ahead and claims the distinction of being the only undefeated racqueteer on the DU team so far this season.



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