

## STUDENT PROJECT

# GW Computer To Try Tennis

Computerized tennis may some day become the latest rage in parlor games, but right now it's simply a challenging term project for three students taking George Washington High School's computer mathematics course.

Sophomore Lisa Beattie, senior Nancee Bershof and senior Gary Stieffler have been devoting many hours of their holiday vacation trying to work out an electronic program for ranking tennis players who competed during the last year in Colorado tournaments sanctioned by the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association.

Using draw sheets from the actual competitions, Miss Beattie, 15, of 6230 E. Iowa Ave., is attempting to rank the juniors. After feeding into the computer whole tournament brackets in the sequence they occurred, she will write a program assigning more value to later tournaments than earlier ones, by including advancement points, and comparing brackets if point ties develop.

Miss Bershof, 17, of 85 S. Birch St., will try to do the same for the adult competitors and also determine if a player has vied in the proper number of tournaments for ranking eligibility.

Stieffler will try to construct a program that will develop seedings for a hypothetical tournament, using random numbers and comparing rankings. In addition, he will try to print out on the computer the complete draw and match schedule from opening round to final match in accordance with USLTA rules, attempting to

schedule the tournament on the appropriate courts so singles and doubles matches involving the same player are two hours apart.

Miss Beattie, Miss Bershof and Stieffler have been "debugging" their projects on the school district's recently purchased 1130 computer, which travels from high school to high school via trailer.

This machine won't be big enough for later stages of the projects, however, so permission has been obtained for the students to subsequently use the University of Denver's Burroughs 5500.

"I'm hoping if the programs work out well, we will be able to make this available to everybody charged with running a tournament," said course supervisor Irwin Hoffman, who also is GW's tennis coach. "Why should people go out of their minds (with paper work) if they don't have to?"

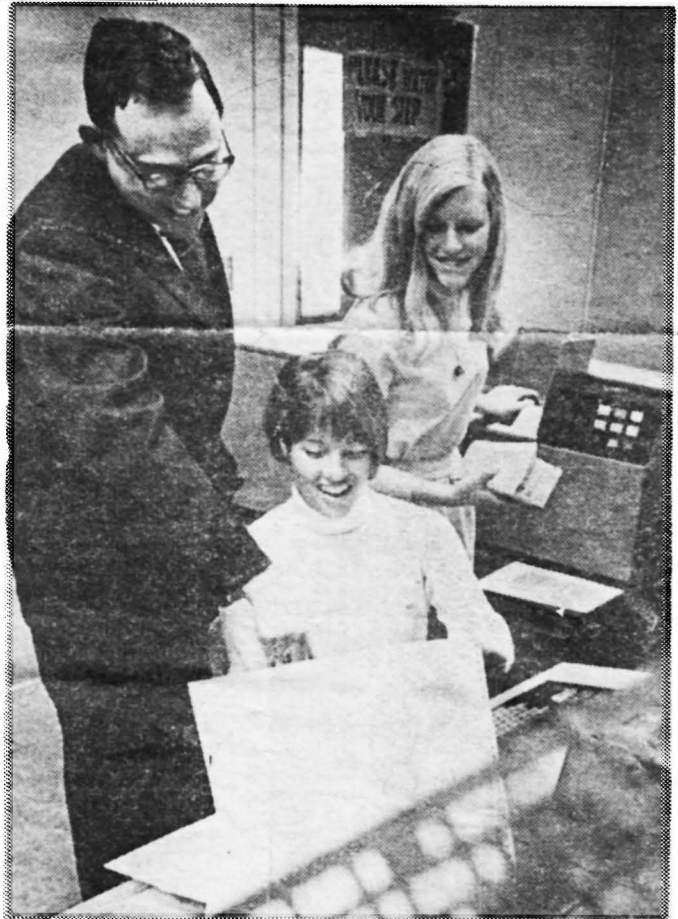
"Maybe we could give it to the association (Colorado Tennis Association) after it works and allow them to raise funds with it for junior development," he speculated.

A similar undertaking already has been thought through by a professional computer service firm in Arapahoe County, which has gone as far as the consideration of criteria for writing a program on its IBM 360-30.

"It's going to be very interesting," said Charles Goldben of Professional Automation about the students' venture. "And it will work, because we've already got it done. It's just a question of how complicated you want to get."

"It's easy to set up the criteria," agreed Hoffman. "But it's the doing it that's unbelievable. Charlie hasn't written a program yet. He's thought about a system. But of course he could get it done."

"They are young, these people, and they're going to have their problems. Obviously, a professional can do it. But my excitement," said Hoffman, "is in getting students to do it."



Denver Post Photo by Bill Wunsch

## COMPUTER TENNIS BEGINS WITH DE-BUGGING

George Washington teacher Irwin Hoffman offers project guidance for Nancee Bershof, left, and Lisa Beattie.

# Tennis Group Hears Ideas to Spur Interest

Members attending the recent annual meeting of the Colorado Tennis Association (CTA) heard not only a discussion of open tennis, but several proposals for increasing the average player's interest in competitive tennis.

Among the suggestions were more events for women, more Class A events, more unsanctioned "for fun" tournaments, stronger relationships with metropolitan-area recreation and parks districts, a more stable instructional program and more varied locations for adult championship tournaments.

"There are a lot more good places to hold an adult tournament than the Denver Tennis Club," declared outgoing president Orville Lewis, who suggested that the CTA decide what tournaments will be scheduled in the state and then assign

them to the various clubs able to host them.

Pointing out that the rankings committee could rank only four women in open-age competition this year, CTA sanctions chairman Jim Landin urged clubs be "pushed" to offer more events for distaff players.

"We're not getting enough people entered," Landin said. "We also should have more A events, or just a Class A tournament. It's not necessary to sanction all events in a tournament."

An attempt to link the recreation districts' schedule with the CTA's was requested by Green Gables pro Irwin Hoffman, who cited a conflict last season between his club's annual junior all-doubles meet and the seasonal finale of the tax-supported organizations involving more than 1,000 youngsters from 13 districts.