

IRWIN HOFFMAN

by Gordie Gibson

Irwin Hoffman has been teaching tennis since 1957 when he began working part-time at the Green Gables Country Club. He has done much for the tennis community and his accomplishments speak for themselves.

Hoffman began teaching tennis at Green Gables when the Denver Country Club and the Broadmoor were the only other places in the area offering professional instruction.

In 1959/60, Irwin started teaching instructors under the guardianship of the Professional Teaching Association of which he was a charter member in 1958/59/60.

Throughout the 1960's, he became involved with various clubs in the Denver region. These included Columbine C.C., Bowmar C.C., Paradise Valley C.C., Jewish Community Center, Lakewood C.C., and Rolling Hills C.C. He got these clubs started, initiated programs, and provided instruction until they could make a go of it on their own. In addition to time spent working with these clubs, Hoffman also held down two more permanent positions. One was Director at HeatherRidge (a position he held for seven years) and the other, resident pro at Green Gables. Many of the people he has trained have since been employed at the clubs he ran or have started their own clubs.

Hoffman is still very much involved in the teaching and nurturing of tennis players, both young and old. Most of the "more than a thousand" players and pros that he claims to have taught, have gone on to become quite successful. His latest protege, Diane Kobbs, a Freshman at Odessa College in Texas, is an All-American singles player in the Intercollegiate Junior Circuit and a National Doubles Champion.

Recently, Irwin has been working with Dr. Arnold Heller in the causes and cures of tennis elbow, a malady that cut short his own tennis career and forced him into the coaching arena. This work will be of special

benefit to the senior player but will also help a great number of other players who are similarly afflicted. Hoffman wrote an article on tennis elbow in a recent issue of *High Bounce*.



Irwin Hoffman.

For ten years, Irwin ran the Junior Interclub League. A few years ago, however, the CTA accepted responsibility for operation of that league.

Hoffman has served on the CTA Nominating Committee and Ranking Committee and says he has "missed only one CTA annual meeting in the last twenty-four years."

His latest contribution to the CTA has been the donation of the use of a computer program which will provide speedier and constantly updated rankings based on Grand Prix points.

The program was written by Jon Garlett, under Hoffman's supervision, for a computer math class which Irwin teaches at George Washington High School. Last year the program was used experimentally on two age groups and this year Hoffman hopes to expand it to cover fourteen divisions. CTA president Gene Corrigan says that "the Board of the CTA has authorized the expenditure of some funds to implement the program as long as it can be done within manageable costs." The feasibility of implementing the program this year is still in limbo. Hoffman says that he would also like to develop a computer program to help CTA's Executive Director, Debby Fort, with her office work.

Hoffman holds three university degrees in addition to his high school diploma from East High School, where he was a state high school doubles champion. All three degrees were granted from the University of Denver, the first two having been financed by a tennis scholarship from that institution. Both of these were mathematics degrees, while his doctoral thesis "Applications of the Computer in Teaching Second Year Algebra", was sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

As a young tennis player, Hoffman was quite successful. He was a Denver City Junior Champion and was always ranked high as a junior. At DU he played with the likes of Clayton Benham, Jack Terborg, and Alby Willis.

Unlike Rodney Dangerfield who doesn't "get no respect", Irwin Hoffman should be recognized for his many tennis accomplishments.