the sports



Our day on court

media. We are a strange lot.

are constantly in competition with each other. Daily, from 8-5

ad despite this continual striving to see who can scoop who, we compelled to compete amongst ourselves even after office hours. at of viewers' polls or listeners' surveys or circulation counts to be able to satiate our hunger for this intra-professional compe n. So, occasionally we take our battles out of the news rooms and o the next most natural field of competition--the field of athletic

So it was that I found myself on the tennis courts at Bryan High mool early Sunday morning teaming up with my editor, Debby renek, in the First to My Knowledge Local Media Tennis Tournahe can

turned out to be a unique tournament, to say the least. I felt like In; ailman, playing in almost every kind of weather condition known nan. First there was the heat. Then there was the rain, which had n predicted by one of the weathermen in the tournament. The train was followed by humidity which was followed by a wind that Zed eded a second rain. All that was missing was the snow, the sleet es wei d the hail.

ts not easy to get enthused about tennis on Sunday morning after egparty or the Rocky Horror Picture Show on Saturday night, but started off all right with a two-set victory in our opening match. Ithey gave out an award for stamina above and beyond the call of ays an , Todd Carroll and Debbie Ramsey from KBTX would win the is city ze. While we had an hour to rest after our first match, Todd and

bbie only had about 30 minutes to recuperate from their three-set ning match before we began the semifinal match against each

itting ple dn There's a word for the kind of semifinal match we played.

After leading 5-1, we finally managed to defeat the never-say-die am across the net from us 6-4 in the opening set. In a neck-andck second set, they won 7-5.

An obvious pattern had developed. People who had left for lunch hen we started the match returned to find us still on the court. all are still out there?" became almost a chant that afternoon. At that point, water breaks had become the highlight of the day. I

uldn't have traded our jug of ice water for all the ace serves at The third set showed me a side of competition that I had never

en before. It was almost like the four of us were on the same team ing a common opponent--the heat.

Todd and Debbie jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead in the deciding set nd things looked bleak for the sole representatives from The Battal-

Debby and I had set a goal for ourselves before the tournament. e wanted to take home a trophy. If we lost two more games, we add forget about that. It is here that a person's mental state is just as ortant as his physical state.

I tried to convince myself that "Wait till next year," was not in my abulary. I recalled the words of an acquaintance who is now a sportscaster in Austin. He said, at a hometown tennis tournament a ew years ago, that if you dig down deep enough inside, there's ilways a little extra energy left.

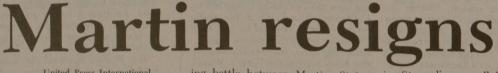
We dug down deep and made the score 4-4. Then the lead changed hands several times until the score was 7-7. Tiebreaker time. The first eam to win five points would claim this marathon match. Just as we began the tiebreaker, the rain started to fall. The court

litions changed rapidly from sizzling to slippery. True to form, we stretched the tiebreaker to its maximum limits:

Todd was now serving the final point of the match to me. An ite number of "what-ifs" flew threw my mind and while I was ndering one of them, his first serve went long.

The last serve. It seems a sin for both teams to come this far and for whole match to rest on one serve, I thought. And then, as I was visioning myself slipping on the wet concrete and sending the ball to the neighboring court, Todd hit his second serve into the net. Double fault. Game, set, match.

finals by a sup ad our trophies, we had our sunburns, we had a few new friends , most important, we had a good time



KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Tempestuous Billy Martin, who won two American League pennants and a World Championship despite constant battles with both club management and players, resigned as manager of the New York Yankees Monday after the latest in a series of battles with owner George Steinbrenner and star outfielder Reggie Jackson.

Martin announced his resignation in a short prepared statement fol-lowing a meeting with Club Presi-dent Al Rosen and General Manager Cedric Tallis.

"There'll be no questions and an-swers after this statement," Martin said. "I am a Yankee now and forever and Yankees are not talkers. Yankees do not talk or throw rocks. I don't want to hurt this team's chances at the pennant with this undue publicity. The team has a shot at the pennant. I hope they win

"I owe it to my health and my mental well-being to resign. I've had my differences with George but we've been able to resolve them. I'm sorry about things that were writen about George Steinbrenner He does not deserve them nor did I say them. I'd like to thank the Yankee management, the press, the news media, my coaches, my players and most of all ."

Martin broke into tears at this point, muttered a soft, "thanks", and was led away by friends. "I did not ask Billy to resign and George Steinbrenner did not ask

him to resign," Rosen said. "This is naturally a result of a cer-tain alleged statement made,"

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added Tallis The final episode in the continu-

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ing battle between Martin, Stein- ing Stengel's unparalleled success of brenner and Jackson came Sunday five straight pennants and World night. Jackson, who was suspended for five days early last week for fail-ing to follow Martin's instructions while at bat, returned to the club Sunday in Chicago. Jackson told the news media before and after the mame that Martin had not spoken for five days early last week for fail- his first full season as Yankee manthe club.

Martin was silent after the game but finally erupted at O'Hare Air-port as the Yankees waited for a flight to Kansas City. He raged at Jackson and Steinbrenner, claiming, "they deserve each other — one's a born liar and the other's convicted". The reference was to Steinbren-

ner's conviction in 1974 for making illegal campaign contributions. Despite Martin's denial of the statement about Steinbrenner, both writers who reported the outburst, Murray Chass of the New York Times and Henry Hecht of the New

York Post, stood by their stories. "I stand by it completely," Chass "The man said it and I wrote

In his two years as manager of the Yankees, Martin won two American League pennants and a World Se-

The union between Martin and the Yankees was like a beautiful marriage gone bad. Martin always said he "loved" the Yankees. When he replaced Bill Virdon as manager three years ago and put on Yankee pinstripes for the first time since his playing days with Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford, Martin said sincerely it was the job he'd been waiting for all his life.

Martin, who closely followed the teachings of his old mentor, Casey Stengel, was on his way to challeng-

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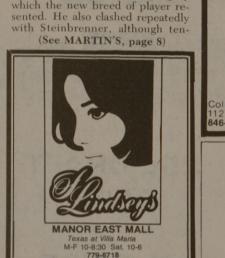
AGGIES!

Douglas

Series championships, 1949-53. In But last year, Martin overcame

frequent personality clashes with and among his high-salaried players and led the Yankees to their second straight AL flag, culminating the season with a six-game World Series triumph over the Los Angeles Dodgers. It was the Yankees' first World Championship since 1962. Throughout his stormy tenure as

Yankee manager, there was little indication of harmony between Martin and his players or the front office. Martin repeatedly communicated with the players through his coaching staff, an old Stengel ploy which the new breed of player re-



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play NTSU in football beginin 1979 as a regularly ded game and have signed ats for the three years follow-

1979 game will be played at Stadium Sept. 22. U will play UTA in football on



Sept. 27, 1980, but the location of ALLAS — Athletic officials at that game has not yet been set. In basketball, SMU will take on ed Monday the school would NTSU Dec. 6, 1978 at Moody Colat Arlington and North Texas in both football and basketball season, tentatively at Reunion

officials said the Mustangs officials for football begin-the mustang season, ternatory at the union Arena if it is completed. SMU and UTA will meet in bas-ketball Dec. 15, 1978 at an unde-termined location.

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