

**TANK MCNAMARA**

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



# Oklahoma State women golfers win in Arizona

United Press International  
PARADISE VALLEY, Ariz. — Oklahoma State's Val Skinner shot a par 213 to lead the Cowgirls to victory Wednesday in the 20th Annual Lady Sun Devil Classic. It was Skinner's third major

collegiate golf tournament victory this spring. Earlier this year she won the Lady Sparta at San Jose, Calif., and the Betsy Rawls at Austin.

Seventeen teams competed in the 54-hole tournament held at Mummy Mountain Golf

Course. Oklahoma State and Tulsa finished the three-day tournament at 891. The Cowgirls were awarded the team championship on the basis of a fifth player tie-breaker.

Congressman

# Phil Gramm

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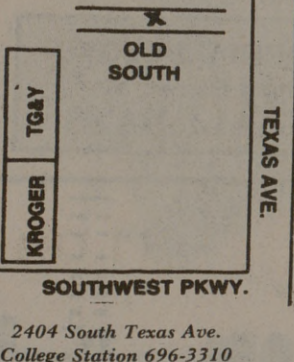
Old South restaurant will be opening their doors on Monday April 12!!

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# Grand Prix qualifiers now a phase of game for Borg

The world of professional tennis has been in quiet controversy for the past five months and the focus of all the debate and rhetoric walked on a tennis court in Monte Carlo Friday to get on with the business of making a living.

After a five-month absence from the hectic life that comes with being the greatest tennis player in the world, Bjorn Borg played the first match in the qualifying rounds for the \$300,000 Monte Carlo Grand Prix Tennis Tournament.

Note the name of the event — the Monte Carlo Grand Prix Tennis Tournament — and realize the root of all the trouble.

In professional tennis, there are different circuits that include different tournaments. The Volvo Grand Prix Circuit is one of the most important because the French Open, Wimbledon, and the U.S. Open are among the tournaments on this circuit.

Before every Grand Prix event, a three-round qualifying tournament is held, and it includes the same number of players as the main tournament. Anyone can enter the qualifying rounds and must win all three matches before being eligible to play in the main draw.

Usually, the top-ranked players in the world don't have to bother with these preliminary matches. According to Grand Prix policy, if a ranked player agrees to play at least 10 Grand Prix events during the year,



denise sechelski

he is placed in the main draw of any Grand Prix tournament he enters.

So why is the man who probably someday will be considered the greatest tennis player of all time playing with no-name athletes in the Monte Carlo tournament he's won four times?

Because last November, Borg decided enough was enough.

After an exhausting loss at Wimbledon and an even more frustrating U.S. Open, the 25-year-old Borg took a break from pro tennis. He's been on the tour since he clinched the Davis Cup for his native Sweden at the age of 15. The man was obviously tired.

So Borg took a vacation and opted not to play the required 10 Grand Prix tournaments that would exempt him from going through the paces of qualifying.

It was just a simple choice by a man who knew the rules before he made his decision. He'll take the consequences of having to win

three qualifying rounds to make the draw of a tournament, and hell for a usual superb game — without a fuss — it.

So why can't his critics, and his fans for that matter, accept the rules with the same grace of the silent Swede?

Granted, the circumstances seem comical. Borg has won the French Open unprecedented six times, and his five consecutive Wimbledon championships are possibly the most impressive record in modern tennis history.

Yet, he must qualify for a place in tournaments with players barely trained in the world.

But rules are rules. Even though Borg personifies an athlete should be — talented in his ability to calmly withstand tremendous pressure and win, capable of being fair and bad situations — he is not above rules and regulations that govern his game.

On the contrary, it's his sportsmanlike attitude that sets him apart from the ing masses in professional sports in the place. Borg's submittance to the qualifying illustrates that following the rules is always part of the game.

And whether he's qualifying or not in the Wimbledon cup, the quality of the of tennis is always improved when Borg goes out to make his living.

# Cards knuckle under

Niekro earns Astros' first victory of season

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Joe Niekro is still finding it an unbeatable combination to toss his unpredictable knuckleball against the St. Louis Cardinals in the Astrodome, no matter how bleak things may seem for him.

Niekro, 37, put aside a shaky spring in his first regular season appearance when held the freewheeling Cardinals in check to earn a 3-2 win.

Astros catcher Luis Pujols, the Houston hitting star of the game with a two-run double in the sixth inning, said he never

saw the Niekro knuckler any better than Wednesday.

"He had as good a knuckleball today as I've seen him throw. He must have thrown 85 or 90 knuckleballs out of 115 pitches. He had everything under control," Pujols said of Niekro's 8 1-3 innings.

The difference between pitching at the Astros' spring training site in Cocoa, Fla., where Niekro compiled most of a poor 5.85 earned run average in 20 innings, and pitching in Houston is the stadium, Pujols said.

"Here in the Astrodome he can control the knuckleball better than when he's outdoors. And the Astrodome gives me a chance to catch the son of a gun," he said.

The victory for him was Niekro's seventh straight over the Cards in a streak that dates to the 1978 season.

"Maybe I get a little edge because they are not as patient as some teams," Niekro said. "But I had a pretty fair knuckleball tonight. They were swinging at it early and that helped."

The Astros' Tony Scott, moved from second place in the batting order to seventh Wednesday, keyed the winning offense by slamming a double off the left field wall in the second inning to drive in Jose Cruz, who had walked off starter John Martin.

Niekro worked with that 1-0 lead through five innings until Pujols hit his double into the left field corner off Martin to plate two runs. Then Niekro tired, he said, and was touched for single runs in the eighth and ninth.

After Darrell Porter slammed his second home run in two nights over the right field wall in the ninth for one run and a one-run deficit, Astros Manager Bill Virdon replaced Niekro with

Joe Sambito and the left fielder got the final two outs.

The Cards got a 3-for-4 from Porter and two more from Ozzie Smith, who hit two home runs in the eighth and ninth.

"He was pitching a good game when he needed it," Astros Manager Whitey Herzog said. "He got tired late in the game, but he did a good job of it."

Sambito, who earned his first major league win, said he just knew if he pitched in Cleveland he would be a starter. He had pitched in Cleveland for the Yankees and the Mets, but he would face the Cardinals in his first season of his career. He had pitched in Cleveland for the Yankees and the Mets, but he would face the Cardinals in his first season of his career.

The injury kept up a game in which Hendrick played against Niekro. Porter would not have had his next chance to pass when Niekro.

"That's what amazes me about Joe and his brother, Eric Poerschke, is that they do it in the same way. If they would just somebody every now and then we'd get a fair shake."

# Prudential cancels marathon sponsorship

United Press International  
BOSTON — The Prudential Insurance Co., sponsor of the Boston Marathon for 16 years, has announced it will drop its backing next year, claiming the famed road race is losing its "non-commercial character."

"After long consideration, the Prudential Insurance Company recognizes the fact the Boston Marathon, after 86 years,

will change its non-commercial character, and as such, it no longer serves the goals and objectives of the Prudential's service purpose," the company said. The company has estimated the cost of the marathon at more than \$100,000 a year, since the Prudential Center, where the finish line is located, opened.

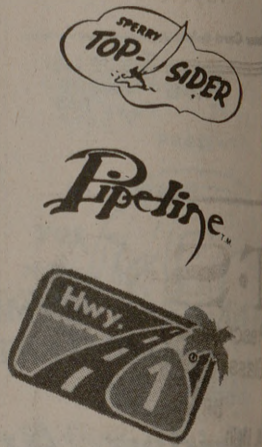
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