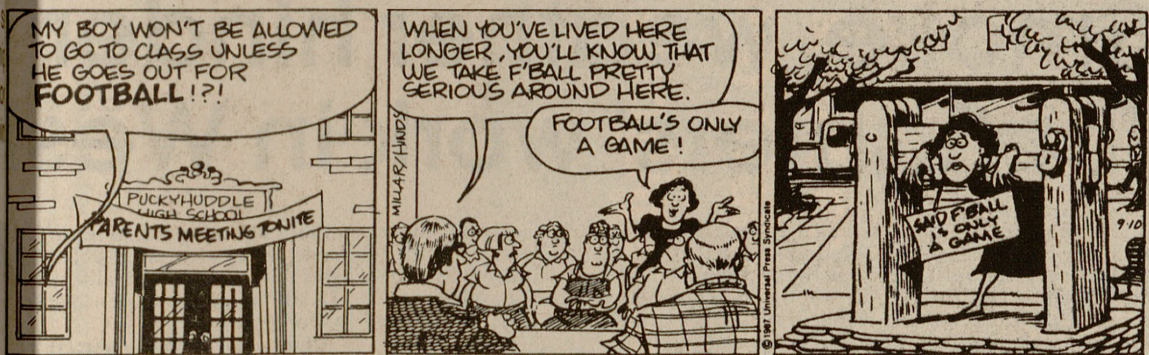


TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



6-time champ Evert knocked off in U.S. Open quarterfinal action

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Evert's sweet 16" streak at the U.S. Open tennis championships ended Wednesday when she was upset by Lori McNeil in the quarterfinals.

Evert, a six-time Open winner and third seeded this year, had reached the Open semifinals for the past 16 years — the first time at age 16.

Now 32, she thinks age may have cost her the streak.

"I didn't have control over any of my shots," Evert said after losing 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 at the National Tennis Center. "I guess that happens when you get older. You have a few more bad days. And today was a bad day."

Joining McNeil in the semifinals was top-seeded Steffi Graf, who beat No. 5 Pam Shriver 6-4, 6-3.

In men's play, No. 2 Stefan Edberg, No. 3 Mats Wilander, No. 5 Miloslav Mecir and unseeded Ramesh Krishnan moved into the quarterfinals.

Jimmy Connors became the first men's semifinalist with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-6, 6-0 victory over No. 13 Brad Gilbert.

It's the 13th time Connors, seeded sixth, has made it to the semifinals at the Open, a tournament he has won five times.

"Getting to the semis is good, but it's not satisfying," said Connors, who hasn't won a tournament in three years.

"I was in the semis at Wimbledon this year and a couple of other tournaments. I need to get over that emotional hump."

In other men's matches, No. 2 Ste-

fan Edberg, No. 3 Mats Wilander, No. 5 Miloslav Mecir and unseeded Ramesh Krishnan moved into the quarterfinals.

Evert's loss marked only the second time in 50 Grand Slam events that she failed to make the semifinals. She was beaten by Kathy Jordan in the third round at Wimbledon in 1983.

The loss also ended Evert's 13-year streak of winning at least one Grand Slam tournament.

Evert, who lost all five of her service games in the final set, wilted under the pressure of McNeil's net-rushing tactics.

"I felt so flat out there. I just didn't have my timing. I wasn't smooth and flowing. I just didn't play a good match at all," she said. "She took me by surprise. She rushed me and came in off my first serve. I missed a lot of passing shots."

McNeil, a 24-year-old from Houston, said she felt Evert sank under the weight of her own accomplishments.

"I'm sure she felt a lot of pressure," she said. "She's won this tournament six times. I wasn't supposed to win."

After losing the first set, McNeil became more aggressive and Evert committed 16 of her 23 unforced errors.

Graf took advantage of Shriver's 23 unforced errors to end her opponent's 18-match winning streak.

"I played it right, but I missed on my opportunities," Shriver said.

"You have to put on a full-court press and make her hit so many passing shots. If I could take back four volleys and hit 'em right, I win the match."

Last year, Graf was the underdog when she lost a classic three-set semifinal to Martina Navratilova. This year, she will be the heavy favorite when she meets McNeil on Friday.

"I'm surprised it's Lori," Graf said. "I know I have to be ready for everybody and if Lori beats Chris, it means I have to watch out for Lori even more."

Earlier in the day, Edberg and Wilander advanced to the quarterfinals by completing rain-interrupted victories over unseeded opponents.

Edberg beat fellow Swede Jonas Svensson 6-2, 7-6 (10-8), 6-3 in a match that had been halted by rain Tuesday with the score tied 5-5 in the second set.

"I was a little bit frustrated today," Edberg said. "It was very difficult because I had such a long day yesterday."

Wilander downed American Ken Flach 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) in a match that was stopped Tuesday after Wilander had won the first two sets.

"Today felt like a completely new match," Wilander said. "You had to forget about the two sets yesterday. I think he played better today than I did."

Mecir beat unseeded Australian Mark Woodforde 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. Krishnan beat unseeded Andrei Chesnokov 6-4, 6-1, 6-2.

High school must cancel new season

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — A local high school's football season was canceled after the team was forced to forfeit two games last week and the number of players at practice dwindled to five.

Administrators and coaches decided over the weekend to cancel the season and told students of the decision Tuesday, Wichita Falls Notre Dame High School Principal Ronald Staley said.

"There's just no sense in prolonging it any further," Staley said. "The students have been concerned this year, and they can count on as well as I can. They knew we didn't have the kids out. But we will continue our varsity program in the future."

Last week, the parochial school forfeited its first two games of the season because not enough athletes were attending football practice.

First-year head coach Greg Grady said the cancellation is a great disappointment to him and team members who wanted to play, but said he hopes the program will return soon.

"In a couple of years, we're going to have a strong varsity program," the administration wants a good program, and we're going to give them one," Grady said.

SMU players, other transfers adjust to smaller program

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Four football players who wore Southern Methodist jerseys a year ago are learning to adjust to life at a smaller school in a smaller community.

The players transferred to Western Kentucky University after the NCAA suspended SMU's program last February for repeated violations, including under-the-table payments from boosters and coaches.

"When you leave a big program like we did, you just want to play," said Gerard Mark, a 230-pound sophomore fullback.

He and his teammates, Tony Brown, Randy Garrett and Darryl Atwood, represent the highest concentration of SMU transfers at any one school.

"A lot of guys cried when they made the (suspension) announcement, but I didn't," Mark said. "The only thing I was sorry about was I didn't get my degree from SMU. It's a prestigious school and it would have meant a lot. I knew the suspension was coming because the NCAA had been picking on SMU for so many years."

Mark said that "every big school takes care of its players. I felt sorry for the coaches because they had been living good for a long time and now they were all without jobs. They were good people. No matter what happened to you — cops, girls, NCAA — they would stick behind you."

Mark declined to say whether he or any of his teammates now at Western were involved in the pay-for-play scandal.

"People are always asking us what it was like getting paid by boosters," he said. "You could tell, but you didn't really know who was getting money on the team unless somebody was a close buddy and told you."

The SMU transfers and about a dozen other players from major colleges are trying to piece their careers back together at Western, an NCAA Division I-AA program that is attempting to rebuild its football program.

Dave Smith, a 220-pound tailback, selected Western after Wichita State decided it no longer was able to finance a football program.

He said Western coach Dave Roberts did a good job of convincing the transfers that smaller sometimes is better.

"I've got one chance left and I have to make the best of it," said Smith, who came off the bench in Western's opener last Saturday and rushed 15 times for 128 yards, including a 58-yard touchdown against Gardner-Webb.

Like the SMU players, Smith said it's been a big adjustment moving to 1-AA.

"This is a comedown because you have second-hand (equipment)," Smith said. "You never had to clean up the locker room or clean up your helmets (at Wichita State)."

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Interviews to be held on Wednesday, September 16.