

1984 TSSAA STATE BOYS' TEAM TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

Centennial Tennis Center – Nashville, TN

May 15th – 17th, 1984

FINAL RESULTS

Clark, Harpeth Hall Pair Win

By TED POWER

Sholar Clark, surviving a three-set battle of nerves, downed Harpeth Hall's Elizabeth Arnold yesterday to win the TSSAA girls singles title and lead Chattanooga's Girls Preparatory School to the team championship.

Clark, rallying from behind in the final set, won 6-1, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, as Arnold settled for the runner-up trophy for a second consecutive year.

Arnold and Diana Cherry came back in the girls doubles final to down Clark and Elisabeth Donnovin 1-6, 7-5, 6-2. Harpeth Hall's second state doubles victory in seven years, however, wasn't enough to catch GPS, which won the team race 14-13.

JEFF BARRY, who will join the Vanderbilt tennis team next fall, stopped Memphis University School teammate Murray Garrott 6-2, 6-2 to win the boys trophy.

MUS had clinched the boys team title before yesterday's final round,

but the girls race was still in the air. Harpeth Hall needed to sweep the singles and doubles finals to pass GPS.

But Clark didn't want things to go down to the wire.

"I kept thinking that if I won the singles, there wouldn't be so much pressure on us in the doubles," she said.

PRESSURE IS something the GPS junior grew up with. She was the baby girl of one of Tennessee's leading tennis families. Her older sister Kappie was one of the top-ranked juniors in the South in the 1970s, won the TSSAA crown in 1974 and later starred at the University of Virginia.

"I felt the pressure. Kappie had been ranked No. 1 in the South and people always wanted to compare us. But our parents never compared us and I finally realized that we were just different people," explained Sholar.

Though she won the TSSAA doubles crown last year with Donnovin,

Clark didn't qualify for the singles tournament until this spring and then only as the third player from her region.

"I really did surprise myself here this week. But people kept telling me I could win it. I thought about the team a lot today, especially during the third set," said Clark.

FOR A TIME yesterday, she looked like she might breeze to victory. A jittery Arnold couldn't keep the ball in the court. Clark mixed up her shots, chasing Arnold with lobs deep into the court and drop shots just over the net.

But Arnold rallied in the second set. She began hitting the ball with more confidence and at times simply overpowered Clark. Four games into the final set, Arnold was up 3 games to 1.

"After the second set, everyone told me to go back to mixing up my shots. I knew I couldn't just hit with her. I knew I couldn't just lob. So that's what I did. Started mixing it up again," said Clark.

She put Arnold on the run through the last five games of the set, patiently waiting for the Harpeth Hall senior to make the mistake.

BARRY WAS near the top of his game this week and yesterday avenged a loss to Garrott in last week's regional final to win the boys singles.

Vanderbilt coach John Newman, on hand for this week's tournament, was excited about his latest recruit.

"Jeff will be a big help to us. He might make me look like a good coach again," said Newman, whose Commodores slipped below .500 this spring.

"If we can get the top players in the state each year, we should be all right," added Newman.

Robert Eldridge and Joel Turner of Knoxville Webb upset Barry and Garrott in the doubles final 6-4, 1-6, 6-4. The victory boosted Webb to second place in the boys race and Montgomery Bell Academy finished in third place.

SECOND DAY RESULTS

BOYS
Team scores: Memphis University School 13, Montgomery Bell Academy 5, Knox. Webb 3, Roane Co. 3, Chatt. Baylor 3, Mem. Christian Brothers 3, Germantown 2, Cleveland 1, Greenville 1, Knox. South-Young 1.
Quarterfinals: Dalton (Roane Co.)

FIRST DAY RESULTS

BOYS
Team scores: Montgomery Bell Academy 5, Mem. University School 5, Chatt. Baylor 3, Mem. Christian Brothers 2, Germantown 2, Roane Co. 2, Cleveland 1, Greenville 1, Knox South-Young 1.