



**THE APTA PADDLE NEWSLETTER**

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April 28, 1972

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TOURNAMENT DATES '72-73

The APTA Tournament Committee is making plans for the 1972-73 tournament season. This promises to be one of the most active seasons in APTA history. Since the Tournament Committee expects to finalize all tournament dates by June 15, each individual tournament chairman is reminded that a written request for an APTA approved date should be submitted to the Tournament Committee as early as possible, but no later than May 31, 1972. For Men's and Mixed events, the request should be submitted to Mr. Richard C. Farr, 330 New Park Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06101. For Women's events, requests should be submitted to Mrs. Charles Stanton, North Porchuck Road, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830.

The Tournament Committee will make every effort to honor the requested date from each individual tournament chairman. Where there is competition for a particular weekend date, the Tournament Committee will attempt to resolve any conflict to the mutual satisfaction of the parties involved.

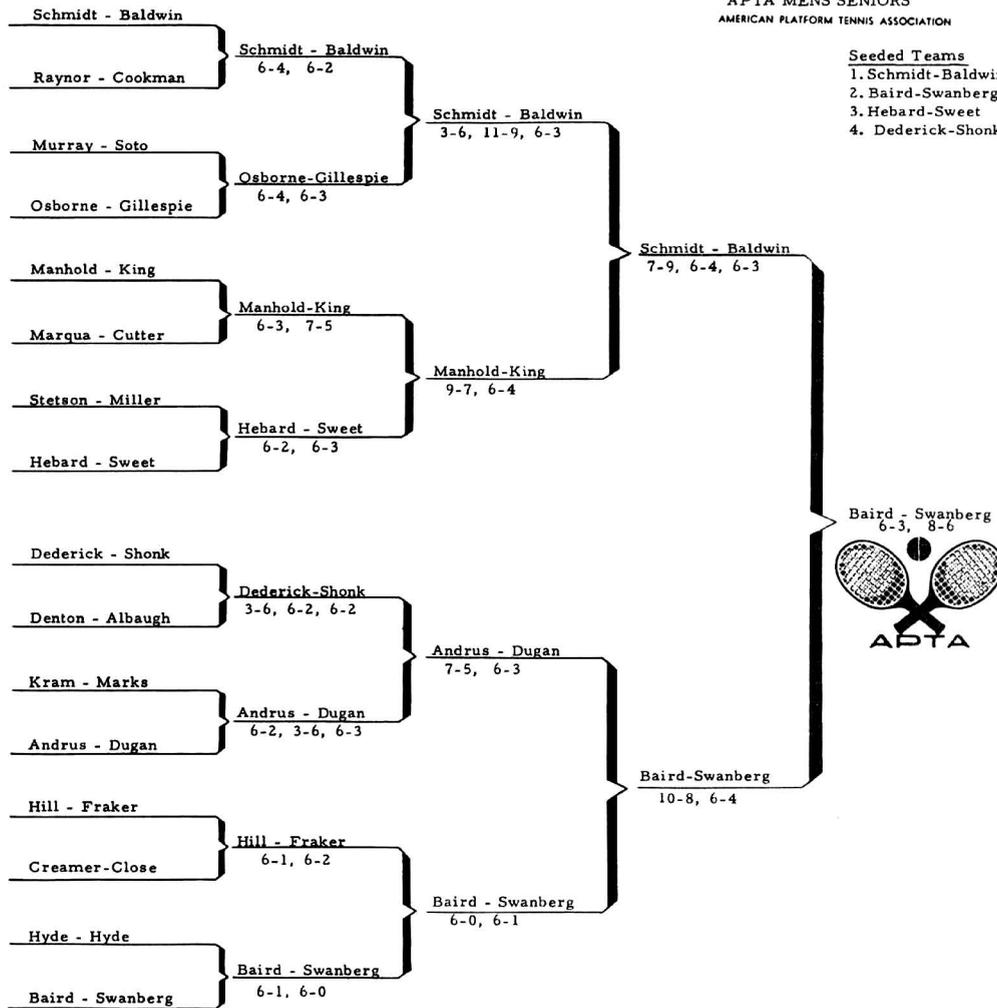
Tournament chairmen who may have had conversations with either Mr. Farr, Mrs. Stanton or other APTA Executive Committee members regarding tournament dates for next year should confirm these understandings in writing to either Mr. Farr or Mrs. Stanton prior to May 31.

APTA MENS SENIORS

The snowed-out Mens Seniors was played on Saturday, March 11th and was won in straight sets by Ned Swanberg and Chuck Baird over George Schmidt and Bob Baldwin, 6-3, 8-6. Schmidt and Baldwin were defending champions, Swanberg and Baird both in the Tournament for the first time. Below is the Tournament from the round of 16.

APTA MENS SENIORS  
AMERICAN PLATFORM TENNIS ASSOCIATION

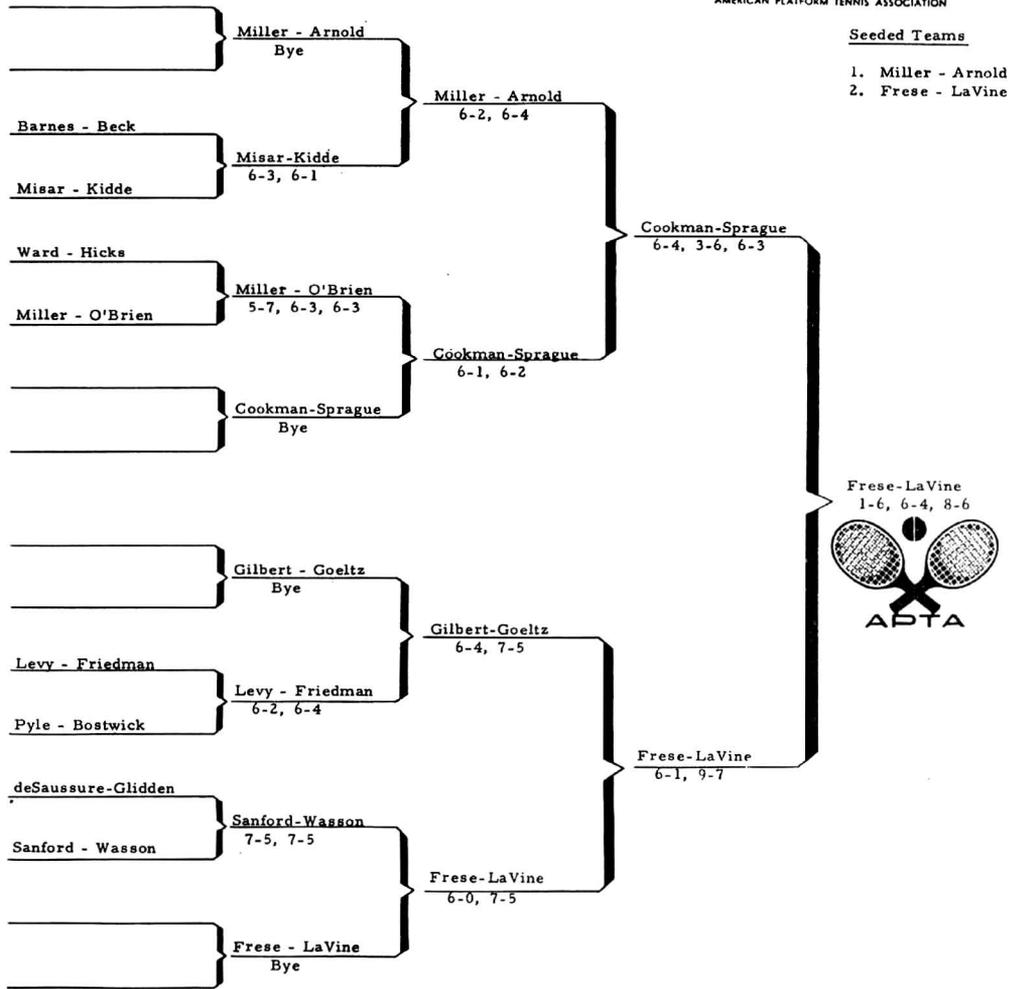
- Seeded Teams  
 1. Schmidt-Baldwin  
 2. Baird-Swanberg  
 3. Hebard-Sweet  
 4. Dederick-Shonk



APTA MENS SENIOR VETERANS

In the fourth annual Senior Veterans, the team of Walter Frese and Ken LaVine, two great campaigners, won a three set final over Mansfield Sprague and John Cookman. Frese and LaVine had their work cut out however, as they had lost the first set badly and were down 2-4 in the second before they turned things around. Final scores 1-6, 6-4, 8-6. Frese was winner in 1971 with George Holloway and Cookman and Sprague were winners in 1970. The Veterans was also snowed out and finally played on February 26. Below is the complete draw.

APTA SENIOR VETERANS  
AMERICAN PLATFORM TENNIS ASSOCIATION

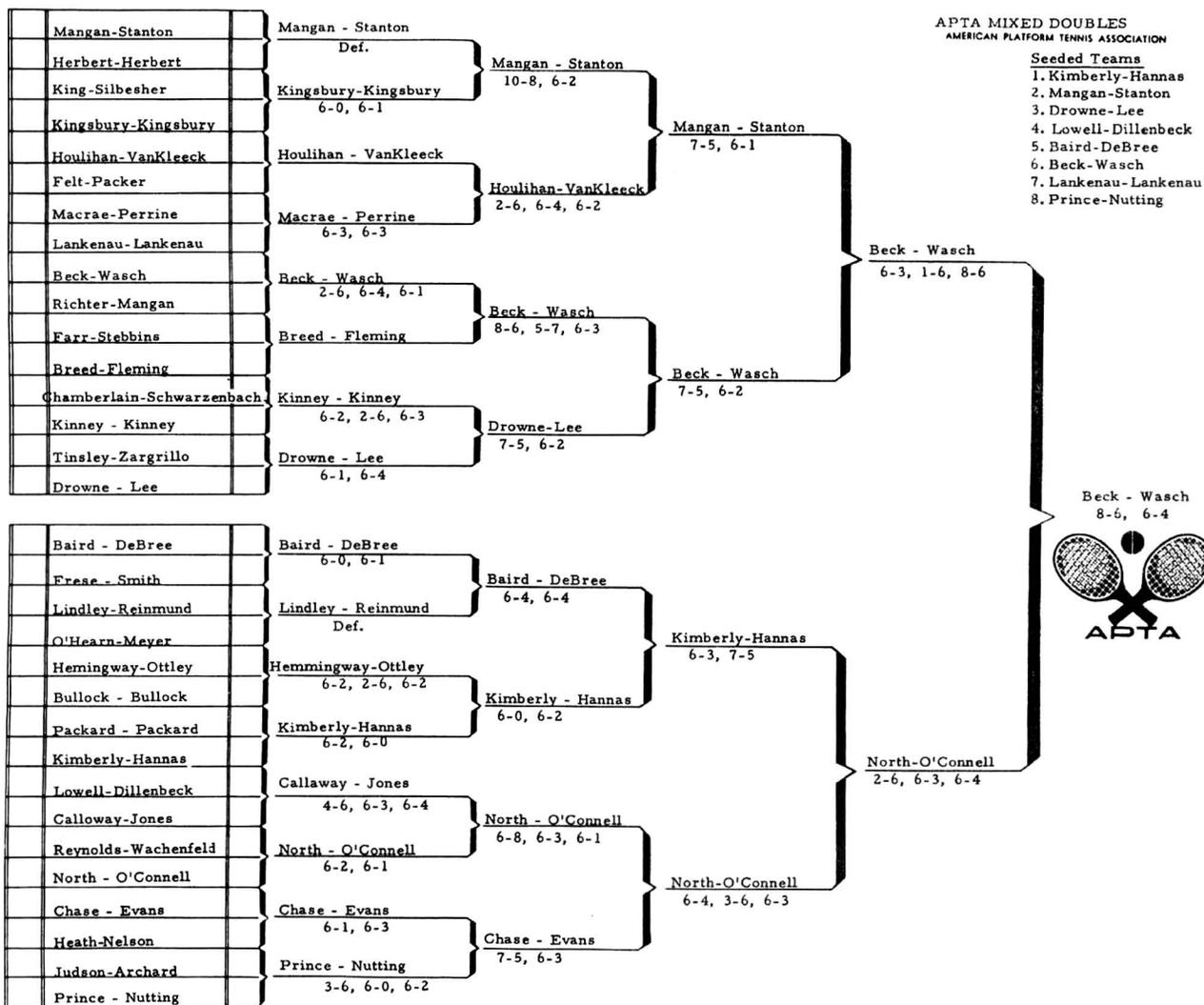


APTA MIXED DOUBLES

In the Mixed Doubles, John Beck and his sister, Mrs. William (Sue) Wasch won a fine final over Mike North and Mrs. Raymond (Sis) O'Connell, 8-6, 6-4. Beck and Wasch were seeded sixth and had to defeat third seeds Drowne and Lee in the quarter finals and second seeds Mangan and Stanton in the semi-finals to get to the finals. Drowne and Lee were winners in 1969 and finalists in 1970. Formidable competition.

In the other half of the draw, North and O'Connell, who were unseeded and who were playing in the Tournament together for the first time, defeated defending champion, Kimberly and Hannas in a three set semi-final match, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

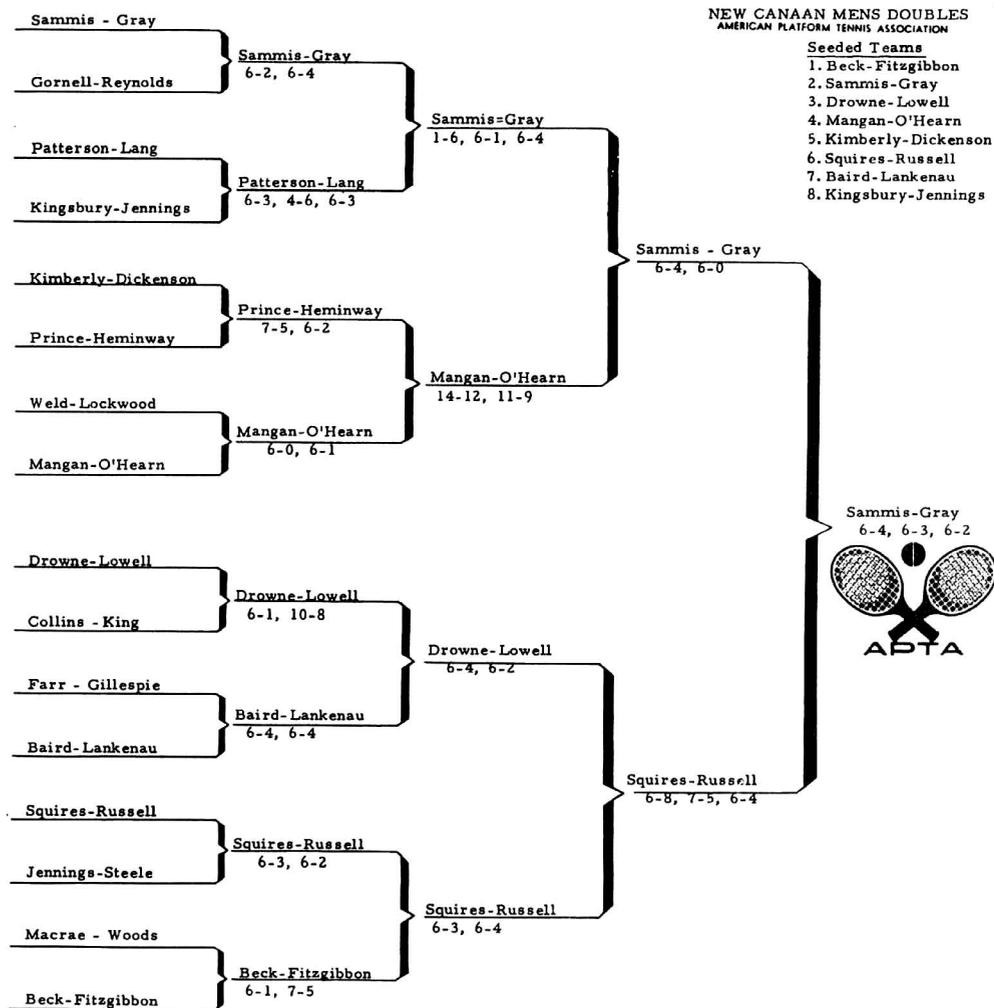
John Beck and Sue Wasch won their first mixed doubles title but they'd been down to the wire before. As a team they were finalists in 1960 and 1965 and Sue, child paddle prodigy, was also runner-up in 1957. Below is the Tournament from the round of 32.



## NEW CANAAN

At New Canaan, a Tournament which began February 12 and saw the finals played March 25, (you can play paddle in a lot of weather but not all weather) Sammis and Gray won in straight sets over sixth seeds, Squires and Russell. First seeds and defending champions, Beck and Fitzgibbon, were eliminated by Squires and Russell in the round of 8. A team of note was Patterson and Lang who defeated eighth seeds, Kingsbury and Jennings, in the round of 16, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 and then went on to surprise Sammis and Gray in the first set of their quarter final match, 6-1. Sammis and Gray then turned it around. Very exciting paddle!

Weld and Lockwood played some great paddle to get to the round of 16, but once there, found out how hard John Mangan can hit a paddle ball which is considerable. Below is the Tournament from the round of 16.

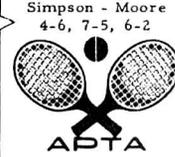
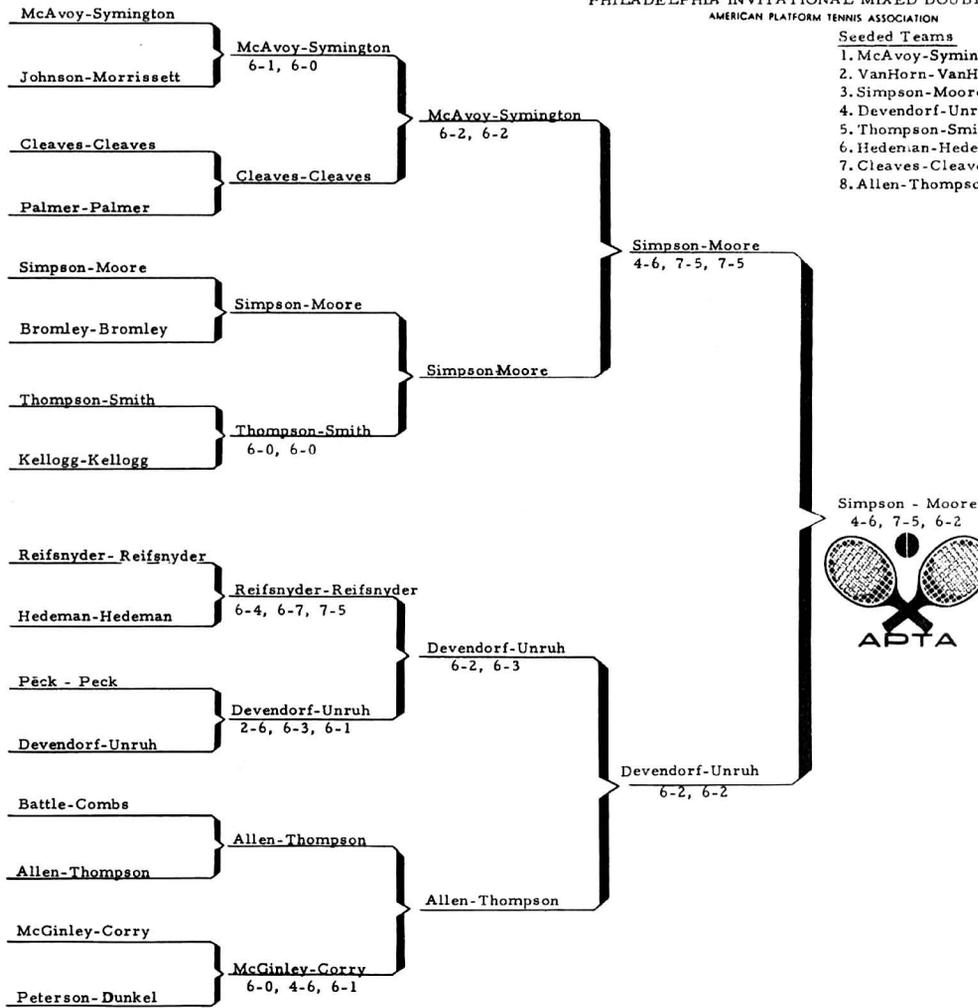


PHILADELPHIA MIXED

Over the Washington's birthday weekend the third edition of the Philadelphia Mixed Doubles was held with Saturday a snow-out and the full 64 team Tournament played to its conclusion Sunday and Monday. The third seeded team of Meg Simpson and Eric Moore won in a three set final over fourth seeds Belle Devendorf and Dick Unruh, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2. Simpson and Moore put out the fifth seeds in the quarter finals and the first seeds in the semi's. Unfortunately, we have some missing scores (don't know how two of the semi-finalists did in the round of 16 or 8) but nonetheless, here is the draw from the round of 16.

PHILADELPHIA INVITATIONAL MIXED DOUBLES  
AMERICAN PLATFORM TENNIS ASSOCIATION

- Seeded Teams  
 1. McAvoy-Symington  
 2. VanHorn - VanHorn  
 3. Simpson-Moore  
 4. Devendorf-Unruh  
 5. Thompson-Smith  
 6. Hedeman-Hedeman  
 7. Cleaves - Cleaves  
 8. Allen-Thompson



APTA MENS DOUBLES

For those of you who don't read the New York Times and those that do but missed the Times first significant recognition of the game of platform tennis, the following is reproduced from a top of the page, outside, four-column article with accompanying half-tones that ran Sunday, February 27. This was the week before the National Men's and we quote:

PLATFORM TENNIS TOP DRAW

More than 250 players on 128 teams will gather at the "home of platform tennis", the Fox Meadow Tennis Club in Scarsdale, N. Y., on Friday to compete in the 38th annual United States men's doubles championship. This is one of seven national tournaments sponsored each season by the American Platform Tennis Association.

Defending their crown and seeded No. 1 are Gordon Gray and Jesse Sammis 3d of The Field Club, Greenwich, Conn., who have won this event the last three years. Gray, a 38-year-old, 6-foot-2-inch athlete, specializes in the venture capital business; Sammis, 33, is a real estate broker, who is also proficient at lawn tennis, court tennis, squash racquets and racquets.

### Kingsbury-Mangan Entered

Among the other top-seeded players are the 1970 and 1971 runnersup - the Fox Meadow duo of Bob Kingsbury, 35, an advertising executive and John Mangan, a stock broker from the Manursing Island Club in Rye (N.Y.) where he holds the club tennis singles title.

Also highly rated are Bradley Drowne, 45, of the Short Hills (N.J.) Club who will again be playing with his left-handed clubmate, Dwight Lowell, 29. Drowne and Lowell, semifinalists in 1971, recently upset Mangan and Kingsbury in the final of the Rye invitation tourney.

Another tandem that reaching the round of four last year is that of John Beck (also a left-hander) of the Bedford (N.Y.) Golf and Tennis Club and Herb FitzGibbon of New York, a former captain of Princeton's tennis team and now a top-ranked metropolitan net star. Both Beck and FitzGibbon are 6-5 in height. Beck is the son of Mrs. T. Edmund Beck (Madge) a 12-time women's doubles winner.

Last weekend at the Stanwich Club in Greenwich, Beck and his sister Sue, (Mrs. William Wasch) captured the national mixed doubles crown for the first time.

Dick Squires, the author of the book "How to Play Platform Tennis" and a former national titleholder in both platform and squash tennis, is entered with Doug Russell. Squires, also from Manursing Island, and Russell, who represents the West Side Tennis Club, will also probably be highly placed in the draw.

"This is the third year in which we've filled our 128-team draw," said Dick Balzac, 44, tournament chairman, "and it's really exciting to have players coming from more than a dozen states and as far away as Illinois, North Carolina and Texas."

Can only add after the fact, that it was a fine Tournament from beginning to end and nobody was going to beat Kingsbury and Mangan in this one. They were seeded #2, played like #1 all the way through and now have earned that spot themselves. They never lost a set and never played an extra game set. They are one of 10 teams in the history of the game to win a straight set final.

Gray and Sammis had won the Tournament for three straight years, the second team ever to do so and the last two of Sammis and Gray's wins had been over Mangan and Kingsbury. Sammis and Gray have played in the finals of the Mens Doubles in 6 of the last 7 years.

Eighth seeded Prince and Rogers had a fine quarter final win over third seeds, Drowne and Lowell and played in the semi-finals for the first time. Of the 16 seeded teams, 14 played in the round of 16 and 7 of the top 8 played in the quarter finals. Below is the Tournament from the round of 32.

APTA National Men's Doubles 1972

Semi Finals 10:30 A.M.

Finals 2:00 P.M.

Gray-Sammis	Gray-Sammis		
Reynolds-Langdon	6-1, 6-3	Gray-Sammis	
Woods-Koeniger	North-Breed		6-3, 6-3
North-Breed	4-6, 8-6, 6-4	Gray-Sammis	
Chase-Miller	Chase-Miller		4-6, 6-3, 6-0, 6-1
Pasquini-Burch	6-2, 6-2		Chase-Miller
J. Reynolds-Parton	Lankenau-Baird		
Lankenau-Baird	6-3, 6-2	Gray-Sammis	
Russell-Squires	Russell-Squires		7-5, 6-3, 12-10
King-Kram	6-0, 6-2		Russell-Squires
Hardwick-Richter	Hardwick-Richter		
W. Miller-Sprague	6-2, 6-2	Beck-FitzGibbon	
Gornell-Kimberly	Gornell-Kimberly		6-2, 3-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3
Baldwin-Schmid	6-0, 6-2	Beck-FitzGibbon	
vanAmerogen-Smith	Beck-FitzGibbon		6-1, 6-0
Beck-FitzGibbon	3-6, 6-3, 6-2		

Drowne-Lowell	Drowne-Lowell		
Hornigold-McGeeney	6-4, 6-1	Drowne-Lowell	
Sullivan-Muth	Winpenny-Jennings		6-3, 3-6, 6-3
Winpenny-K. Jennings	6-1, 6-0	Prince-Rogers	
Ball-Benedict	Ball-Benedict		4-6, 3-6, 13-11, 7-5, 6-4
Steiner-Picket	6-3, 6-3		Prince-Rogers
Dreyfus-Stem	Prince-Rogers		
Prince-Rogers	3-6, 6-1, 6-0	Kingsbury-Mangan	
Dickenson-Clark	Dickenson-Clark		6-2, 6-2, 6-3
M. Reilly-MacKenzie	6-1, 6-1		Dickenson-Clark
Gillespie-Farr	Gillespie-Farr		
R. A. Brown-G. Reynolds	7-5, 4-6, 10-8	Kingsbury-Mangan	
McKissock-Heminway	McKissock-Heminway		6-3, 6-4, 6-3
E. King-Houlihan	6-2, 6-2	Kingsbury-Mangan	
Potter-Vielke	Kingsbury-Mangan		6-1, 6-1
Kingsbury-Mangan	6-2, 6-1		

Kingsbury-Mangan  
6-4, 6-1, 6-1



SEEDED TEAMS

1. Gray - Sammis
2. Kingsbury - Mangan
3. Drowne - Lowell
4. Beck - FitzGibbon
5. Russell - Squires
6. Dickenson - Clark
7. Lankenau - Baird
8. Prince - Rogers
9. Chase - Miller
10. Gornell - Kimberly
11. Ball - Benedict
12. D. Jennings - O'Hearn
13. McKissock - Heminway
14. Winpenny - K. Jennings
15. Brown - Reynolds
16. North - Breed

WPPTA

At their annual dinner, on April 12, the five year old Western Pennsylvania Platform Tennis Association elected Neil Van Horn as President; Executive Vice President will be Wilson S. Ross and Secretary-Treasurer, Ev Rose, Jr. Neil replaces Eldridge (Woolly) Birmingham who was a founder of the WPPTA and has been largely instrumental in the development of paddle tennis in the Pittsburgh area from court building to initiating the Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles Invitational Tournaments. The WPPTA now has 10 member clubs.

Following are the results of the Mens Doubles League of the WPPTA during the season. Fox Chapel took almost all the marbles.

CLUB	Won	Lost
Fox Chapel Golf Club	10	2
Fox Chapel Racquet Club	8	4
St. Clair Country Club	7	5
Edgeworth Country Club	6	6
Pittsburgh Field Club	5	7
Pittsburgh Golf Club	4	8
Allegheny Country Club	2	10

## DENVER

Paddle tennis is alive and well in Denver even though you can play tennis outdoors in February and ski some of the finest runs in the world only 60 miles away for 6 months of the year. Paddle in the mile high city was introduced by the late George Gould, a displaced Easterner who took the game with him and unfortunately died too soon after getting it started. He now has a Tournament named in his honor and while we don't have the results of it we do have the following which is reproduced from the March 5th edition of the Denver Post.

### PADDLE TENNIS

Several 1971 national tournament finalists will be among the 16 two-man teams in the Arapahoe Tennis Club's first annual Hig Gould Memorial paddle tennis tournament next weekend.

Competition at the 4450 S. Dahlia St. racket facility is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, with semifinals and finals set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. next Sunday. Spectators may watch the outdoor action without charge.

Paddle tennis, combining elements of tennis, squash and table tennis, was introduced in Denver by the late George H. B. (Hig) Gould eight years ago when the Arapahoe Tennis Club was formed.

A graduate of Yale and Harvard Universities, Gould was a member of the 1956 U. S. Olympic ice hockey team. He moved to Denver in 1959, and competed in the 1969 National Paddle Tennis Championship at Scarsdale, N. Y. At the time of his death last April, he was president and a director of Gates Learjet Corp.

The upcoming tournament, first of its kind in Denver, is sanctioned by the Western Platform Tennis Association.

## APTA NECK TIES

The patience of many who ordered APTA neck ties and have had to wait for months to wear same is acknowledged and appreciated. Our supplier imports a high quality English Rep silk for the tie which is unavailable in the U. S. Upon reordering to replenish his supply last Fall, one problem followed another, including the dock strike, shipment of wrong goods, etc. At long last, however, the material is here and the ties have been made for us. All back orders have been filled and new orders will be filled upon request. Please send your check in the amount of \$7.50, made payable to the APTA to: Secretary, APTA, c/o Fox Meadow Tennis Club, Wayside Lane, Scarsdale, New York 10583.

## NEW YORK TIMES

It seems that whenever it rains it pours and that when the New York Times picks up an interest they maintain it. The following is another article which ran in the New York Times on Sunday, March 26th which we thought you would like to see if you have not already done so.

### IT'S DAWN FOR PLATFORM TENNIS

By Suzanne S. Fremon

PRINCETON - "One of the nicest things about paddle tennis is watching the dawn come up," said Mrs. Sheila Leyton, of Princeton, last week, as she and her husband, Eric Leyton, finished a game at the Princeton Community Platform Tennis courts.

They have played outdoors starting at 6:30 A.M. all winter, and until recently they have had to put a quarter in the slot to turn on the lights. Now it's getting light earlier and the Leytons won't be able to watch the dawn until next fall.

"Another beautiful thing is the wild geese flying overhead," Mrs. Leyton said. "Sometimes you'd like to turn over and go back to sleep, but when you get yourself up and come out to play, you're always glad."

This seems to be the general feeling among platform-tennis players. Although only a few play in the dark early morning hours, many people play at night after dinner, and all of them play straight through the winter for the entire platform tennis season from November until the end of March.

It is possible to detect a certain amount of pride among them in their ability and willingness to leave their warm houses in freezing weather, with snow on the ground, and perhaps even a cold sleet falling, to spend an hour outdoors hitting a ball. "I once played when it was 10 below," one devotee said. "Great."

### Playing the Screen

Platform tennis, inaccurately called paddle tennis by almost everyone, is a doubles game played on a raised wooden court half the size of a tennis court, with paddles that resemble overgrown Ping-Pong paddles. The ball, slightly smaller than a tennis ball, is made of hard sponge rubber and is colored orange so that you can see it against the snow. The game is scored like tennis. The court is surrounded by a wire screen, which is what differentiates it from the true game of paddle tennis, and part of the game is playing the ball off the screen.

The news in the platform-tennis world at the moment is a two-way stretch, from a country-club game to the beginnings of a popular sport, and from a game confined to the New York-Connecticut-New Jersey region to the beginnings of a national sport.

The community courts in Princeton are one of only three sets in New Jersey - the others are in Maplewood and Hanover - under the auspices of local recreation departments.

"But it's about to explode in the municipalities," said Dave Carew, the recreation director in Maplewood.

Public courts are going up all over the country, according to Dermot Daly, of R. J. Riley Jr., Inc., the largest builders of platform-tennis courts in the United States. "I'm convinced this is the way it's going," he said. The company is also putting courts at motels, apartment houses, and commercial enterprises.

Smith College, Sarah Lawrence, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute have all installed courts recently. Princeton High School includes paddle tennis in its gym program. Carrier Clinic, a psychiatric hospital in Skillman, is considering building a court for its patients. "It's just as therapeutic for psychiatric patients as for anyone else," said Ken Phillips, the recreation director.

Geographically, too, the game is spreading. Pittsburgh and Detroit have large active groups of platform-tennis players. And while these are mainly country-club groups, with the same social overtone as the Eastern suburban clubs, many observers believe that general public interest will follow.

The game was invented in 1931 by two tennis enthusiasts who were looking for a winter sport, and first played at the Fox Meadow Tennis Club in Scarsdale, N.Y. It was immediately taken up by hardy outdoor types. "Not necessarily athletes," said one ardent player. "Just people who like to get outdoors even in winter."

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