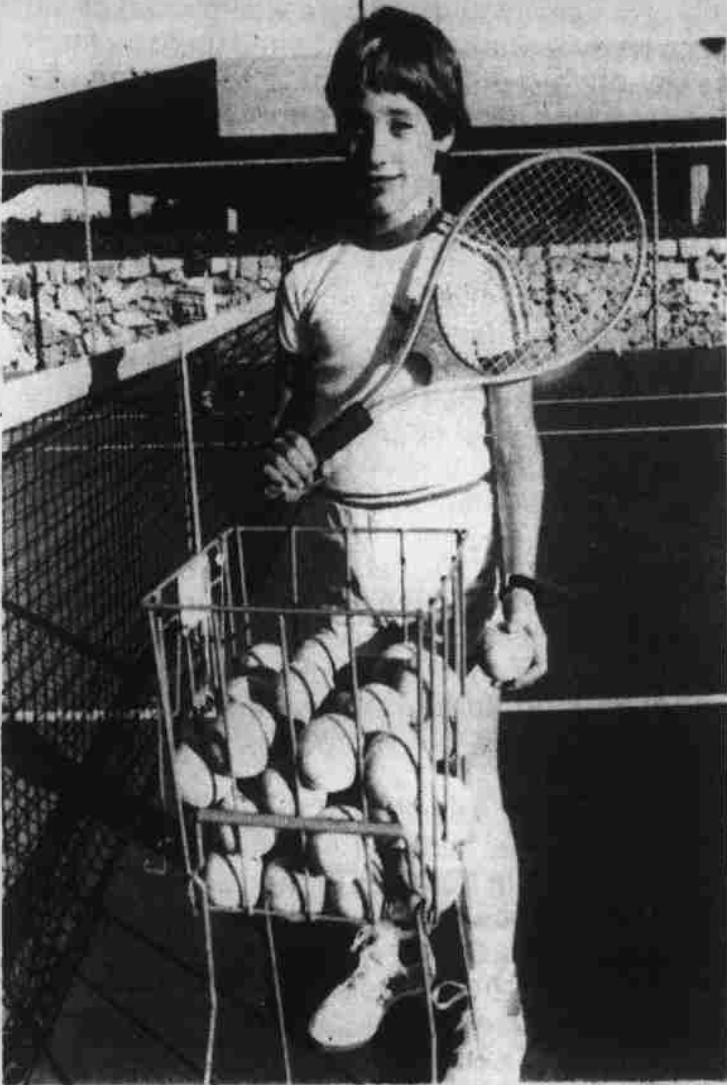


Budding Israeli Tennis Star, Age 8, Is Hadassah "Premie" Success Story



JERUSALEM - Eight-year-old Yochai David Meital, a Hadassah-University Hospital "preemie," gets ready for practice at the Israel Tennis Center where he is in a special training program for future stars of the game. Yochai, who was born 14 weeks prematurely, is one of hundreds of Israeli children whose lives were saved by the Hadassah Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

JERUSALEM — Yochai David Meital, 8, moves deftly across the sun-baked court at the Israel Tennis Center with the aggressive abandon of a young Jimmy Connors.

Standing about five feet tall and weighing 70 pounds, Yochai is one of only 10 eight-year-olds whose physical attributes, skills and competitive spirit have won them a place in a special training class for Israel's tennis stars of the future.

When Yochai was born 14 weeks prematurely on the first day of Pesah in 1978, it seemed unlikely that he would ever set foot on a tennis court or hold a racket in his hand. In fact, it seemed unlikely that he would survive at all.

Weighing only two pounds at birth, he faced death or permanent disability from blindness, brain damage or blood and respiratory diseases that once afflicted 60 to 80 percent of premature newborns. But Yochai was destined to become a statistic of a different sort.

He is one of hundreds of Israeli children who are living full and healthy young lives today because of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Hadassah-University Hospital on Mount Scopus.

Yochai and the Hadassah Neonatal Unit were born only months apart, and the skilled and technologically sophisticated care that saved his life has been a significant factor in dramatically reducing the mortality rate among Israel's premature infants to one of the lowest in the world.

Like all of the tiny patients in the Unit, Yochai was monitored around the clock by highly trained doctors and nurses and an array of computer-assisted medical equipment which measured his skin temperature, oxygen intake, blood pressure, heart rate and lung function. He was fed intravenously with a diet of liquid nutrients that included his mother's milk, and treated with photo-therapy to prevent jaundice.

When he was just five days old Yochai underwent a transfusion to replace his blood which contained high levels of bilirubin -- the chief cause of jaundice in premature infants.

At the age of three and a half months, and weighing a healthy five pounds, Yochai was well enough to go home with his parents, Danby and Dr. Moshe Meital. Two months later, the entire community of Armon Hanatziv joined in celebrating Yochai's brit mila.

Once home, Yochai was checked regularly by Hadassah doctors and underwent physical therapy to improve the tone and coordination of muscles in his arms and legs.

Today, Yochai demonstrates enormous promise as an athlete and is a world traveller fluent in English, Hebrew and Portuguese. He

Brotherhood Week Kit Available

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The American Jewish Committee, in observance of Brotherhood Week, has prepared a special kit of pamphlets to help schools and community groups plan programs which promote greater understanding among people of different races and religions.

Brotherhood Week, which is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, will be observed the week of February 15-22.

Included in the ADJ kit are the following publications: *About the Holocaust*, by Dorothy Rabinowitz; *Anti-Semitic Incidents in the Community*; *The Art of Coalition Building*, By Cherie R. Brown; *Black-Jewish Relations in the U.S.* The *Fourth R*, by Samuel Rabinove; *Introduction to Judaism*, by Alan Mittleman; *Jews, Blacks, and the Civil Rights Revolution*, by Murray Friedman; *The Many Faces of Anti-Semitism*; and *The Moral Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum.

The Brotherhood Week Kit may be ordered for \$20, or pamphlets may be ordered individually.

For further information, contact Sonya Kaufer, American Jewish Committee, 165 E. 56th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

enjoys playing soccer and is an excellent swimmer.

Yochai is also part of a Hadassah family. His mother is the daughter of Dr. Daniel Berman, an eye specialist formerly of New York now on the staff of Hadassah Hospital, and Beatrice Berman, who is active in Hadassah-Israel.

Mrs. Meital, who had made aliyah from Milwaukee with her husband in 1972, was active in the Midwest Region of Hadassah. She is currently completing work on a Master's Degree at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health and frequently discusses the problems of premature birth with other parents in a Hospital-sponsored program.

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