

SPORTS

LOCAL SITES SET FOR EQUITABLE FAMILY TENNIS CHALLENGE

The Las Vegas local tournament of the third annual Equitable Family Tennis Challenge, a unique mixed doubles competition which will culminate with championship playoffs at Forest Hill during the U. S. Open in September, will be contested at the Desert Inn Country Club, 3145 Las Vegas, Blvd. S. on July 10-17.

In all, 128 local tournaments will be held, with the winners advancing to 16 sectional tournaments (scheduled between July 24 and August 21) and those victors heading for Forest Hills.

The tournament, sponsored by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, brings together family teams of mothers and sons; fathers and daughters; grandmothers and grandsons; and grandfathers and granddaughters. These are the only combinations allowed.

The tournaments, conducted in cooperation with the United States Tennis Association, are limited to amateurs who have not been ranked by the usta since January 1, 1972. Teaching pros and United States Professional Tennis Association members are not eligible. The youth cannot turn 19 by October 1, 1977, and there must be at least 15 years age difference between team members. The deadline for entering is June 1.

Last year, more than 82,000 players competed in this event. Entry information is available through coupons in leading tennis and other magazines, from most local pros and by writing to Capital Sports, Inc., 280 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Las Vegas—Compiling the best-ever record in the school's history, the UNLV's men's tennis team has ended the 1977 season with a fine 25-5 dual match record. Included in that total are two tournament championships along with one tourney second and another third place finish.

Coach Fred Albrecht, finishing his fourth season as the Rebel head coach, commented, 'This was the most gratifying season I've ever had coaching tennis. It was great not only because of the final record, but because of the individuals I had to work with, both on an athletic and an academic basis.'

The Rebels were led all season long by their No. 1 singles player, senior team captain Wayne Pickard. Awaiting a possible at large invitation to the NCAA finals on Memorial Day weekend, Pickard finished the season with a 26-7 record. As a junior he was 21-10 giving him a UNLV career record of 47-17, the best ever compiled by a UNLV tennis player.

Pickard, from Medford, Oregon, was the singles champion of both the Weber State and U.C. Riverside Invitational and he won 21 out of his last 24 singles matches, including his last six straight.

Pickard will be graduating from UNLV this month with a 3.4 GPA with a degree in criminal justice and he hopes to take up a career in FBI work on some level.

With Pickard the only senior on the team, the Rebels are building towards entry into the Western Athletic Conference. UNLV will begin WAC play with the 1979 Tennis season and be eligible for conference championships with the 1981 season.

UNLV's DAVIS STILL WITH REDSKINS

Las Vegas - Four-year starter at offensive guard, Chris Davis, has become the sixth UNLV football player to become affiliated with professional football as he has signed a free-agent contract with the Washington Redskins.

Davis, a 1973 graduate of Rancho High School in North Las Vegas, also becomes the third UNLV football player who will be on the Redskin's pre-season roster this summer. Former UNLV All-American running back Mike Thomas has played two seasons with the 'Skins and tight end Reggie Haynes signed after being drafted in the seventh round by Washington this year.

The other Rebels off last season's 9-3 NCAA playoff team who will be trying to find a place in professional football this summer are Glenn Carano (second round Dallas Cowboys), Blanchard Carter (seventh round-Baltimore Colts), Mark Cahill (signed with Toronto of the CFL), and Marlon Beavers (signed as free agent with the Seattle Seahawks).

Davis was a four-year letterman and starter for the Rebels. During those four seasons, UNLV had records of 8-3 (1973), 11-0 (1974), 7-4 (1975), and 9-2 (1976). After both of the 1974 and 1976 seasons, UNLV was invited and participated in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

A business major at UNLV, he played at 6-1, 245 most of his career and was several times selected as player-of-the-week for his efforts.

In particular, he was selected as the offensive player of the game when UNLV defeated the University of Nevada, Reno, 45-7, in the Annual Big Game.

Besides these six new prospects, UNLV has had five players who have played in the National Football League. Former Rebels who have worn NFL uniforms are: Mike Thomas (Washington Redskins), Nat Hawkins (Houston Oilers), Mike Lee (San Diego Chargers), Ken Mitchell (Atlanta Falcons), and Steve Haggerty (Denver Broncos). Of the group, Thomas is still playing with the Redskins, Mitchell is playing in the Canadian Football League with Toronto while all of the others have retired.

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TRACK WINNERS—President Dale Beasley of the Red Rock Optimist Club presents the winning trophy to co-captains Janice Marie Washington and Jimmy E. Lopez of Helen Marie Smith Elementary at a triangular track meet held recently on the Western High track. Smith beat out Bill Tomiyasu and Halle Hewetson Elementaries to take home the first place trophy.