

Face-off set for air hockey tournament

By JERRY TRAY
Collegian Sports Writer

While the Stanley Cup playoffs go on in the National Hockey League, a different type of hockey tournament will be going on this weekend at Penn State.

The Penn State Air-Table Hockey Club, in cooperation with Funtime U.S.A., is presenting the Pennsylvania Air Hockey Championships this Saturday at Funtime.

Mike Dickstein, president of the Penn State air hockey club and coordinator of the tournament, said the contest is generally intended for, but not specifically restricted to, residents of Pennsylvania.

Bob Summers will direct the tournament itself because Dickstein is one of the players.

"There was a problem in communication," Dickstein said. "Publicity didn't get where it was supposed to get."

Therefore, "the tournament is winding up a little bit differently than we expected," Dickstein said. "We made up posters based on 120 players but we got a slightly smaller turnout," he said. Only 24 persons have signed to date.

"People are scared of it (the tournament)" Dickstein said. "What it resulted in doing was scaring those who think they aren't any good," he said.

The deadline for registering is tomorrow.

Another reason why people may have been a little scared about entering is the \$25 sponsorship fee. But Dickstein said that could be overcome if there was a deal made between player and sponsor whereby the sponsor would get back a percentage of a player's winnings.

Due to the small turnout, "we are guaranteeing only four money place winners," Dickstein said. "We'd love to give away thousands of dollars," he said.

The tournament will consist of the qualifying rounds and the finals. The qualifiers are medal play and will begin at 11 a.m. Each player plays one game with 10 different opponents. Two points will be awarded for each win, one point for each goal scored and one point for a shut out. The 16 players with the highest point totals will then be seeded in the finals.

Ties will be broken by the amount of points each player has scored against the others. The next tie breaking method would be a set play off (best of three games). But in case the two players are tied for 16th place, match play (best of three sets) would be used.

The 16 players with the most points will then be seeded in the finals. After a break for dinner, they will begin around 7 p.m.

The finals will be double elimination using set play and match play. The final championship match, however, will be the best of five sets.

Dickstein said there are six players, including himself, from the area competing in the tournament. They are John Booth, Scot Chambers, Ken Fohringer, Bruce Handel and John Terry.

Dickstein, who is being sponsored by Funtime, has compiled an impressive air hockey record. In 1974 he finished third in the North American Air-Hockey Championships (NAAHC). He is also the Delaware Valley regional champion and won this year's Funtime tournament in January.

Of the tournament, Dickstein said he is hoping for "good competition and hopefully a hell of a lot of good sportsmanship. I played a lot of these players and they are good."

Dickstein said one of the players who should finish very high in the contest is Patrick "Spider" Wolff from Baltimore, Maryland. In 1974 he placed second in the NAAHC and in '75 he won the North American Collegiate Championships.

There will also be players from Philadelphia, Iowa and Texas.

Dickstein said rules that he and other players worked out will be used in the tournament. "Most fouls will be loss of possession and the referee has the right to expel any player for unsportsmanlike conduct," he said.

The tournament will last almost all day Saturday.



Photo by Julie Cipolla

Mike Dickstein, one of State College's best air hockey players, is among the competitors in the Pennsylvania Air Hockey Championships

Norton awaiting okay from Ali

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — "I'm not a cocky man, but I don't think he can beat me again," says Ken Norton, who fights with Muhammad Ali tomorrow night while waiting to fight against him.

"It's nearly signed," Norton said yesterday of a heavyweight title shot against Ali, with whom he split two 12-round decisions in 1973. "I think it will be in late September. I'd like it to be in the United States."

Norton is scheduled to fight a 12-rounder against Ron Stander, a featured preliminary to Ali's title defense against Jimmy Young tomorrow night at the Capital Centre.

"Every time you fight, it's a risk," Norton said of his bout against the hard-hitting Stander. "With Stander, he's got a good punch and he can take you out

any time. "Right now I'm ranked No. 1 in the world. If I start ducking people, I shouldn't be in there."

"I want as many fights as I can get. I want it for my timing," Norton said, stressing that he wants his next bout to be against Argentine Oscar Bonavena.

Norton, who made his debut as an actor in the motion picture "Mandingo," and completed a second film, "Drum," 2½ weeks ago, sparred yesterday as he completed a crash program to prepare for the Stander bout.

But newsmen didn't want to talk about movies or Stander. The conversation always returned to Ali.

"After reviewing the film of the second fight, I think I won," said Norton.

Ali won the second fight on a split decision by taking the last round.

"There was a lot connected with that fight," Norton said. "I want to say this in a nice way. If Ali had lost, it would have taken a lot out of boxing."

Asked what he will get for what will be the next "big money" fight, Norton replied: "I hope a couple of million, probably a million and a half."

And what about Ali? "He'll get five or six million, as usual. Everybody knows Ali is the big draw. He brings the people in."

"My main objective is the title."

The Norton-Stander fight will be part of a home television ABC doubleheader with Ali-Young, which starts at 9 p.m. EDT.

S P O R T S T R I V I A

Yesterday's answer: Babe Ruth hit his 700th home run off of Tommy Bridges of the Detroit Tigers.

Today's question: In 1943, for the first time since World War I, major league baseball teams did NOT conduct spring training in the south. Where did the Phillies train that year?

They believe John now

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tommy John spent the 1975 baseball season in a Los Angeles uniform, driving 2½ hours a day on a freeway when the Dodgers were in town and living out of a suitcase for months when they were on the road — all to be with teammates who didn't believe him.

"I never had any doubt I could pitch again," John said following his first victory in 20 months. "But those guys, they felt I was a little polyanthous. They thought I was wasting my time."

Even Manager Walter Alton wasn't sure John was doing the right thing by driving in for home games and flying with the team on the road, despite not being able to play.

"I don't know that much about medicine," said Alton, "but I'm sure the doctors would have been happy if his left arm had been strong enough for him to drink a cup of coffee."

And left fielder Bill Buckner added: "Tommy's comeback is one of the really inspiring things I've ever seen. He gets better each time out. I can hardly believe it. It's the most amazing thing I've ever seen."

Mike Marshall, a kinesiology major and relief pitcher, observed: "That's one of the truly remarkable stories of this year or any year. He showed great determination and he worked hard and he's made it back."

Dr. Frank Jobe is credited with creating what is being

called the "Bionic Arm." When John ruptured a ligament in his left elbow on July 17, 1974, it could not be repaired in a traditional manner and permit him to pitch again. So Jobe decided on a radical experiment. He took a tendon from Tommy's right forearm, placed it in the left elbow and prayed.

"He couldn't tell me whether I'd ever pitch again," said John, "because that type of operation had never been performed before... I knew it wasn't going to be easy but I was going to give it every try."

Of his staying with the team, John explained: "I felt it was much easier to do the exercises and stay in shape with other ball players around. I think it was hardest

to do when I stayed at home. I might put something off 'til afternoon and then there'd be the lawn to mow."

He detected skepticism — and some pity — from some teammates who doubted his efforts would amount to anything. But he admits they have been supportive in recent months.

His 7-1 victory over Pittsburgh Monday night was his first triumph since July 7, 1974. He had pitched earlier in the year, losing 3-1, but "Monday night was different. I knew where I was throwing the ball. My control was much better. It's just something that happened between starts."

Netters claim 9th straight win

The Penn State men's tennis team swept West Virginia yesterday, 9-0, to win its ninth match in a row and establish a record for wins in a season.

The Lions, now 11-3, eclipsed the previous mark of 10 victories set in 1971 and duplicated the following three seasons.

Yesterday's rout was the seventh sweep for the Lions this year, and marked the fifth match in a row that they have blanketed their opponents.

Penn State's top two courts were extended to three sets, but brushed off their foes without too much trouble in the deciding sets. Number one seed Miguel Maurtua beat Don Haller, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3, and second court Jim Ellis took Bart Meadows, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

Both Maurtua and Ellis are now 10-4, as is third court Mark Darby, a 6-4, 6-1 winner over Bob Wilson.

Coach Holmes Cathrall continues to get strong per-

formances from courts four through six, as his three freshmen roll along with the best records on the team.

Fourth court Fabricio Valdivieso rallied past Bill Marshall, 6-7, 6-2, 6-2, to extend his record to 11-1, with 10 victories in a row.

Alex Davidson beat fifth-court opponent Rick Cole, 6-2, 6-3, to up his mark to 11-3, and sixth court Randy Whiteside made his record 10-2 with a 6-0, 6-1 rout of Sam Moore.

The three doubles matches went no better for the Mountaineers, as the Lions took them all in straight sets. Maurtua-Ellis (11-2) beat Haller-Meadows, 6-3, 7-6; Darby and Whiteside (10-4) beat Marshall-Moore, 6-3, 7-6; and Davidson and Jim Howell teamed to beat Wilson-Cole for their eighth win in ten matches.

The Lions now have a week off before entertaining Lehigh at home on Wednesday.

— Jack Paton

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