By HAL BOCK AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — She is 17 years old, equipped with a bubbly personality, a winning smile and groundstrokes that other tennis players would

Ordinarily that would be a popular combination. For Monica Seles, however, the package has not produced many fans among her colleagues in the U.S. Open.

'I don't think she is very popular in the locker room, but she never was," said Gigi Fernandez, who lost to Seles 6-1, 6-2 in the quarterfinals yesterday. "This is not a popularity

Fernandez was asked if there might have been some anti-Seles fallout after Monica snubbed Wimbledon, the shrine of tennis, following victories in the Australian and French Opens.

"I don't think I want to answer that," she said.

Pressed on the issue, Fernandez seemed to waffle a bit.

"Most of the top players don't hang out," she said. "They are not popular with anybody. They go, they play and they leave. So it is hard to be popular when you do that. And there is nothing wrong with it.'

Fernandez said tennis has changed dramatically in the last 15 years and so have the relationships among players.

"I think that it is so competitive and the money is so big, it is very difficult to have a friend here, even if you are No. 20," she said. "Everybody has their own coach and entourage and everybody keeps to them-

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selves. It is not friendly, that is for sure. Not like it was before."

Fernandez said one exception to that rule is quarterfinalist Jennifer Capriati.

When you see her in the locker room, she is friendly," Fernandez said. 'She is the one friendly person in the locker room."

Seles said she didn't notice any cold shoulders in the locker room. "I would say of the top 16 players, I am good friends with 15," she said.

Then she seemed to back off that a bit. "Really," she said, "I couldn't say that I have anybody that I would call friends.

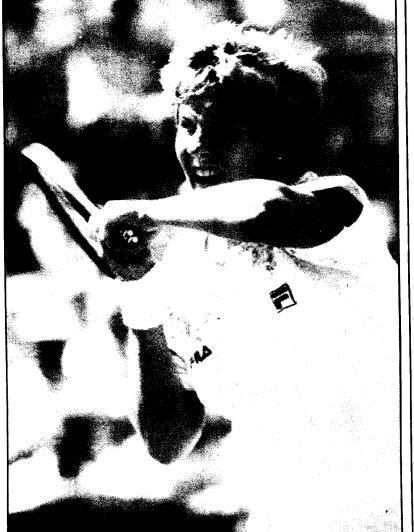
"We don't talk. Just say 'Hi.' I just walk by and (they) walk by me. That is the whole contact we have.

'When we are around each other, we don't talk about personal problems. We talk about very different things, not about tennis at all." Seles said she wasn't bothered by Fernandez's remarks.

'Some players on the tour are a little bit more outspoken," she said. "I think when I came on the tour, a lot of players were against me. I think every young player kind of has it because they are a little more jealous. They say, 'Hey, is she going to last a year?' Then when you get better, when they see you are there to stay, they kind of get better.

"But I still have a lot of players who I beat when I was 14 who don't talk to me because of that. I said 'Hi' to them once or twice and they didn't

answer and I said, 'Forget it.' "I'm not going to talk to the lowerranked players, not going to carry on any conversation.



Monica Seles 'grunts' a forehand in her match yesterday against Gigi Fernandez. Fernandez spoke out about Seles' locker room personality after their fourth-round match.

Bo's happy with role — for now

By JOE MOOSHIL **AP Sports Writer**

CHICAGO — Bo's doctor took the cautious approach. Bo's manager did not.

'There are athletes and people in life who stand above the rest," White Sox manager Jeff Torborg said. "Bo Jackson has a presence about him. What he has accomplished is incredible."

Jackson, recovering from a career-threatening hip injury, returned to the major leagues Monday night and went 0-for-3 with a sacrifice fly in the White Sox's 5-1 victory over the Royals, the team that released him during spring training.

Dr. James Andrews, meanwhile, said Jackson's return to was no miracle, just a lot of hard work.

"Bo will continue to improve for the next two years," said Andrews, the orthopedic surgeon who directed Jackson's rehabilitation. "One goal was to get the hip as good as possible. The second was to get him to compete in sports."

Jackson's progress since being injured last January in an NFL playoff game while running for the Raiders "is an accumulation of hard work" Andrews said.

Torborg, Andrews and Jack-

son agree that Jackson should remain a designated hitter the rest

of this season. "I don't like being a DH but I'm not able to chase fly balls right

now," Jackson said. "My impression is he'll be able to play both ways next season, in the field and at bat," Andrews said.

What about football? "There's been no decision as to the next level," Andrews said. "Football is more demanding. Bo doesn't want to talk football because it's still the baseball season."

When Jackson suffered vascular necrosis of the hip after his injury, there were those who believed he would never play again. He batted .272 with 28 home runs and 78 RBIs last year, but the Royals released him rather than take a chance on his comeback. The White Sox signed him 10 days

"There was controversy over the diagnosis," said Andrews, "and it was all blown out of propor-

Andrews said all the Royals had asked was if Jackson would be able to play full time by midseason. The diagnosis was he wouldn't be ready by midseason.

After the White Sox signed him, Jackson began the long grind of rehabilitation directed by Andrews,

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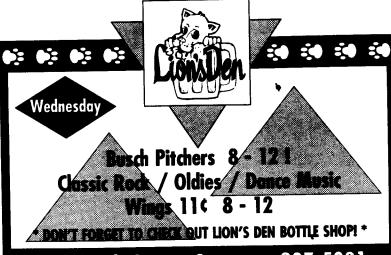
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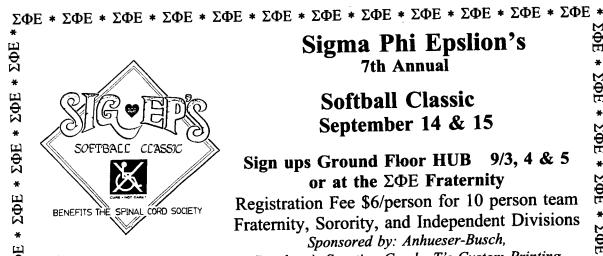


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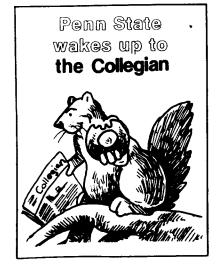
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