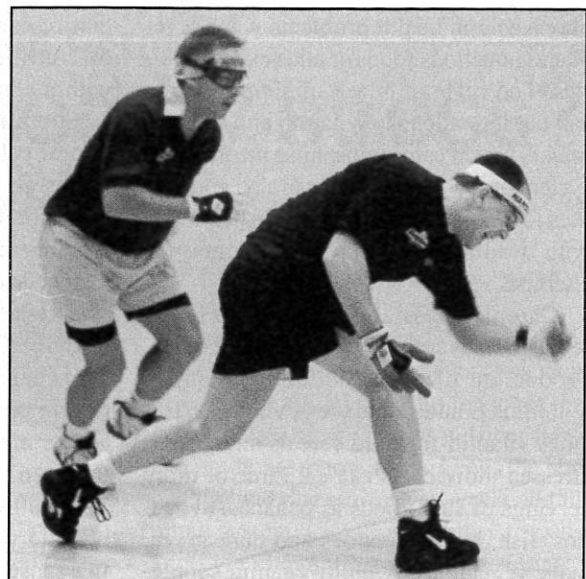


After a one-sided victory in the first game of the final in Quebec, Chapman said he had to play his best to beat Bike in the second.

Chapman makes it 5 straight by winning at Quebec



In a season hampered by cancellations and uncertainty about the future of the Gatorade sponsorship, one thing remains constant--David Chapman is hell bent on going undefeated.

In the championship match of the fifth stop on this season's pro tour, Chapman disarmed powerful John Bike in two games 21-5, 21-17 in front of a very appreciative crowd at the end of the weekend festivities in conjunction with the Canadian nationals in Quebec.

To look back to the last time a player won every pro stop on the season's calendar, you would be looking at this year's inductee to the Hall of Fame. The great Naty Alvarado pulled off the feat during the 1987-88 season, the only time it has been achieved.

Chapman is taking his role as the man to beat with pride and trying to ensure he doesn't suffer from the disappointment of losing as he did at the end of last season.

When you consider the things that can go wrong--sickness, injury or a hot opponent--winning six consecutive tournaments against the best competition in the world is clearly a tremendous feat. Taking nothing away from Chapman, he didn't see the game's No. 2 player in Quebec, nor the No. 3 player, who suffered a bone bruise at the end of his first-round match. The No. 5 pro also stayed home, as did eight of the other top-24 rated players. High airfares, school finals and injuries made for an unprecedented number of ranked players unable to compete.

Surprisingly, the low turnout came just one tournament after another tour first, as every one of the top 16 players attended the pro stop in New York. That was the

first event without a cancellation in the last year.

None of this is important when you consider how well Chapman is controlling the opposition. Nothing anyone can throw at him bothers him, and no one can cope with his pinpoint accuracy.

For the record, Tati Silveyra has a bruised thigh, Naty Alvarado Jr. suffered the bone bruise, Vince Munoz and Matt Hiber stayed home due to work and family commitments, and David Silveyra, David Fink, and Bob Adrowski had finals. To fill the field, Vern Roberts, who was the last player with ranking points, was drafted ... until Sal Santa Ana didn't show and Canadian legend Merv Deckert was called on to face Randy Morones, who almost didn't make it due to travel problems. Interestingly, Roberts and Deckert competed in the first pro stop held in Canada in the year of Chapman's birth--1978.

But as the saying goes, the rich get richer. In the opening round of the pro matches, Chapman drew Dan Armijo, who was nursing sore ribs as a result of an auto accident a week earlier. In the quarterfinals Saturday morning, Chapman was still fresh as he cruised past Chris Rusing, who survived two tiebreakers Friday night, one against Chris Tico and one in the Canadian doubles with partner Tyler Hamel.

Hamel, who was Chapman's semifinal opponent Saturday afternoon, needed three games to tip Morones in his quarterfinal Saturday morning and had played another doubles match on top of the Friday night tiebreaker before facing Chapman. After chasing Chapman's shots for an hour, Hamel went down 21-6, 21-7.

Meanwhile, Bike was also cruising to

his final showdown with Chapman. After disposing of Norm Dunne and Canadian legend Danny Bell, Bike went after Alvarado's bruised right hand with angling shots into the glass. After a 21-2 rout, Alvarado didn't answer the bell in the second game. That meant Bike would be fresh for Sunday's final against Chapman. And the last time the pair had met in Canada, Bike earned the world title.

But that was nine months ago. On this trip north of the border, Bike was coming off a foot injury of his own and he was facing a different Chapman altogether. In the early going, the final looked like another Chapman walkover. The top-rated pro pinned Bike against the dark glass wall on the right side and raced to an 11-0 edge. In less than 30 minutes, Chapman earned the first game 21-5.

In the second game, Bike's defense stiffened in the deep court and the match became a real contest, which is what the fans and both players seemed happy about.

"It was my best single game of the year," Bike said.

Said Chapman: "That was the old John. I had to play my best to win."

Whether it was their best play or a post-match celebration between the two friends, the Canadian fans were treated to an exciting 21-17 second game.

Round of 16: David Chapman (Springfield, Mo.) d. Dan Armijo (Albuquerque) 2, 2; Chris Rusing (Bellingham, Wash.) d. Chris Tico (San Francisco) (18), 18, 0; Tyler Hamel (Portland) d. Anton Wilson (Fresno) 13, 9; Randy Morones (Pico Rivera, Calif.) d. Merv Deckert (Winnipeg) 6, 9; John Bike (Hesperia, Calif.) d. Norm Dunne (San Jose, Calif.) 9, 10; Danny Bell (Quebec) d. Andy Schad (Tucson) 8, 13; James Komsthoef (San Francisco) d. Vern Roberts (Tucson) 5, 5; Naty Alvarado (Victorville, Calif.) d. Ryan Grossenbacher (Portland) 20, 13.

Quarters: Chapman d. Rusing 2, 2; Hamel d. Morones (13), 17, 2; Bike d. Bell 13, 10; Alvarado d. Komsthoef 14, 19.

Semis: Chapman d. Hamel 6, 7; Bike d. Alvarado, 2, inj. def.

Third: Hamel d. Alvarado, inj. def.

Final: Chapman d. Bike 5, 17.

Consolation (games to 15)

Quarters: Schad, bye; Roberts d. Tico 4, (8), 8; Wilson d. Dunne (11), 4, 2; Grossenbacher d. Armijo 1, 3.

Semis: Schad d. Roberts 5, 7; Wilson d. Grossenbacher 1, 9.

Final: Wilson d. Schad (14), 13, 5.

Ring it up: Bell blasts to 10th Canadian crown

By Ron Greendale

Held in conjunction with the pro stop May 14-17 in Quebec, the 1998 Canadian Nationals were a great success in terms of participation, attracting some 180 players from across Canada and the United States.

The Canadian fans enjoyed the weekend highlights, including Danny Bell cruising to his 10th open singles title in the last 13 years and Kathleen Bédard returning to the courts after a six-year retirement to advance to the final of the women's doubles.

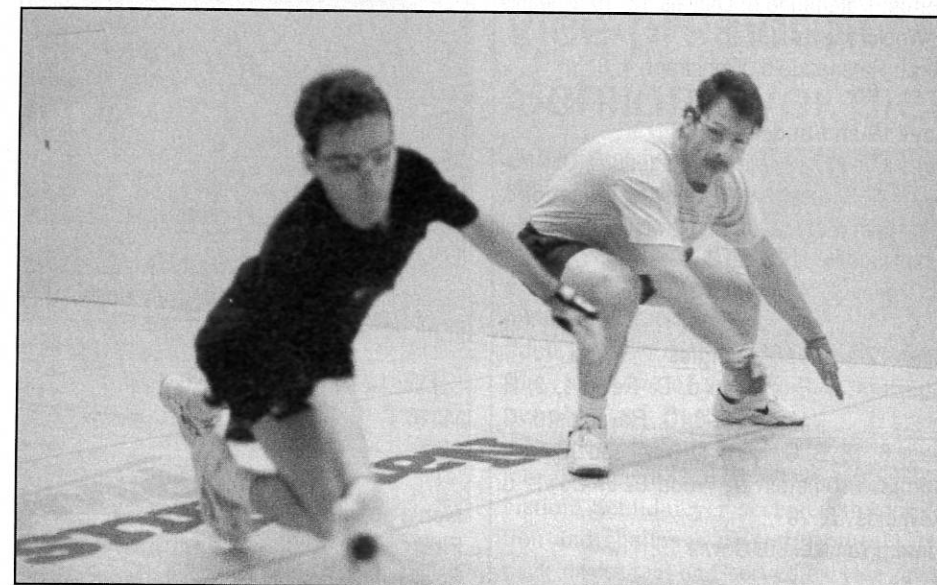
Bell, the local pride, demonstrated his incredible athletic talent with acrobatic behind-the-back and between-the-legs gets, clearly destroying all opposition. The greatest surprise in the open singles occurred in the lower half of the draw, where 42-year-old Peter Service defeated 47-year-old legend Merv Deckert in the semifinals. Playing with determination and power, Service nearly made his honeymoon trip all the more memorable, but in the final ran up against Bell when he was in possession of all his magic.

After losing to David Chapman in the pro singles semifinal, Tyler Hamel came back and was the workhorse in a doubles final pitting four pro players. Hamel and Chris Rusing defeated Norm Dunne and James Komsthoef for the championship. In the semifinals, Hamel/Rusing easily eliminated local favorites Éric Bédard and Fred Jaffrey, and Komsthoef/Dunne were given little opposition by Rob Golan and Kevin Kopchuck.

Lisa Fraser had no equal in the women's open singles, winning her sixth consecutive Canadian title in a classic demonstration of power, finesse and determination. Her excellent conditioning is no doubt the key to her success, as she never looked a bit tired, even when long rallies took their toll on her opponents.

The greatest upset of the tournament may have occurred in the semis when veteran Lavonah Madden, 34, defeated rising star Jessica Gawley, 23, in a tiebreaker. But Fraser won easily in the final.

Fraser and Gawley teamed up to defend their women's open doubles title. The pair had no problems eliminating youngsters Margaret Cameron and Carla Seewald in the semis, while in the lower half of the draw, Jill and Sasha Gawley (Jessica's



When Bell wasn't killing the ball against Service, he was making miraculous digs like this one.

younger sisters) were facing quite a challenge. Madden had persuaded Bédard to make a comeback after six years away from competition. Bédard, now in her 40s, is arguably the best female player in Canadian history, with world, Canadian and American titles to her credit. Teamed up with Madden, the pair had hopes for a Canadian championship. In the semifinal, they destroyed the Gawley sisters with powerful serves and heartbreaking kills.

But their dream ended in the final at the hands of Fraser/Gawley.

Men's open singles

First round: D. Bell, bye; I. Ross d. K. Johns; L. Salmon d. M. Couture; C. Tico d. M. Fontaine; P. Service d. N. Kelly; F. Jaffrey d. R. Golan; L. Gosselin d. L. Martin; M. Deckert d. É. Bédard.

Quarters: Bell d. Ross 2, 7; Tico d. Salmon 12, 6; Service d. Jaffrey 8, 14; Deckert d. Gosselin 12, 5.

Semis: Bell d. Tico 2, 1; Service d. Deckert 19, 11.

Final: Bell d. Service 6, 3.

Men's open doubles

First round: Hamel/Rusing, bye; Gawley/Johns d. Côté/Gingras; Bédard/Jaffrey d. Alexander/Fulton; Roberts/Roberts, bye; Armijo/Deckert, bye; Golan/Kopchuk d. Kelly/Martin; Ross/Salmon d. Couture/Couture; Dunne/Komsthoef, bye.

Quarters: Hamel/Rusing d. Gawley/Johns 13, (19), 4; Bédard/Jaffrey d. Roberts/Roberts (17), 3, 9; Golan/Kopchuk d. Armijo/Deckert, def.; Dunne/Komsthoef d. Ross/Salmon 14, 9.

Semis: Hamel/Rusing d. Bédard/Jaffrey 7, 4; Dunne/Komsthoef d. Golan/Kopchuk 6, 13.

Final: Hamel/Rusing d. Dunne/Komsthoef 12, 16.

Canadian closed doubles

Final: Golan/Kopchuk d. Bédard/Jaffrey 14, 17.

Men's B singles

Quarters: D. Kearney d. A. Mercier; D. Jellis d. G. Goodenough; C. Reed d. R. Greendale; C. Crocker d. M. Bell.

Semis: Jellis d. Kearney 14, 20; Reed d. Crocker 18, 11.

Final: Jellis d. Reed 14, (16), 9.

Men's B doubles

First round: Reynolds/Walsh d. Despons/Roy; **Second round:** Cammett/Marcil d. Reynolds/Walsh; Adams/Goodenough d. Nagy/Wood; Cowie/Wilson d. Daniels/Shea; Letarte/Fontaine d. Enns/Tice; Crocker/Stickles d. Côté/Desruisseaux; Fromstein/Fromstein d. Drolet/Greendale; Boudreault/Dionne d. Reilly/Reynolds; Kearney/Reed d. Royer/Soucy.

Quarters: Cammett/Marcil d. Adams/Goodenough 15, 15; Letarte/Fontaine d. Cowie/Wilson; Fromstein/Fromstein d. Crocker/Stickles 14, 20; Kearney/Reed d. Boudreault/Dionne 15, 20.

Semis: Letarte/Fontaine d. Cammett/Marcil 7, 4; Kearney/Reed d. Fromstein/Fromstein (11), 13, 3.

Final: Kearney/Reed d. Letarte/Fontaine (12), 13, 9.

Men's C singles

Quarters: R. Daniels d. P. Labbé 1, 8; P. Paten-