The Money Game

TEAM SCORE BOARD

Team League Finish: \$100,000

1st Place \$40,000 (\$10,000 per player) 2nd Place 20,000 (5,000 per player) 3rd Place 13,000 (3,250 per player) 4th Place 10,000 (2,500 per player) 5th Place 7,000 (1.750 per player) 5,000 (1,250 per player) 6th Place 3,000 (750 per player) 7th Place 8th Place 2,000 (500 per player)

All-Star Team Money: \$60,000 Winning Team — \$40,000 Losing Team — \$20,000

Team League Playoffs: \$90,000 Championship Team — \$60,000

(\$15,000 per player)

Runnerup Team — \$30,000

Play now, get paid later

Imagine, if you will, the following scenario: On January 29, 1983 Bowie Kuhn, Commissioner of Major League Baseball, calls a press conference at which he announces that beginning with the '83 season every major leaguer, from Reggie Jackson right on down to the lowliest rookie, will be required to play under identical contract terms. Kuhn then goes on to tell his audience of incredulous sportswriters that the standard contract makes no mention of salary.

"Individual salary negotiations and contract disputes have become a real pain," Kuhn continues, "so baseball has decided to eliminate the problem altogether. Instead of being salaried, the players will henceforth be compensated solely on the basis of performance, their own as well as their teams."

Kuhn spends the next several minutes outlining a revolutionary compensation plan which consists of various prizemoney pools. There is a pool to be divided among the teams based on their finish; there is a playoff pool and a World Series pool. There is also a pool of funds for each of several statistical categories,

and, of course, a pool for compensating managers. Finally, there is a pool for All-Stars.

Sort of boggles the mind, doesn't it?

It's safe to assume that Reggie and his colleagues don't lie awake nights worrying about the possibility of such a plan being instituted in either the near or distant future, but there is another group of professional team athletes for whom it is a reality, and a welcome one at that.

WTT had spent five years contending with the traditional compensation hassles before the league disbanded in 1978 and the organizers of Team Tennis, many of whom had been involved with WTT, were determined to avoid those hassles at all costs. The result was a \$305,000 Prize money pool that was divided among the four teams, 20 players and four coaches who participated in the inaugural Team Tennis season last year.

Now, with Team Tennis expanded to eight teams, the '82 Prize Money pool has been increased to \$702,000.

Individual Prize Money: \$440,000

\$88,000 will be distributed in each of five categories: men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Coaches' Money Pool—\$12,000 1st Place — \$5,000 2nd Place — 2,500 3rd Place — 1,500 4th Place — 1,000 5th Place — 750 6th Place — 600 400 7th Place — 8th Place — 250

Under this schedule the Team Tennis player has an opportunity to earn a maximum of \$124,000. All he or she has to do is coach the championship team, be a member of the winning All-Star squad, and finish first in singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

A non-coaching player who finishes fourth in each statistical category while playing for the fourth-place team will collect \$13,500, and a non-coaching player who finishes eighth and last in each category and is a member of the last-place team will earn \$3,000.

