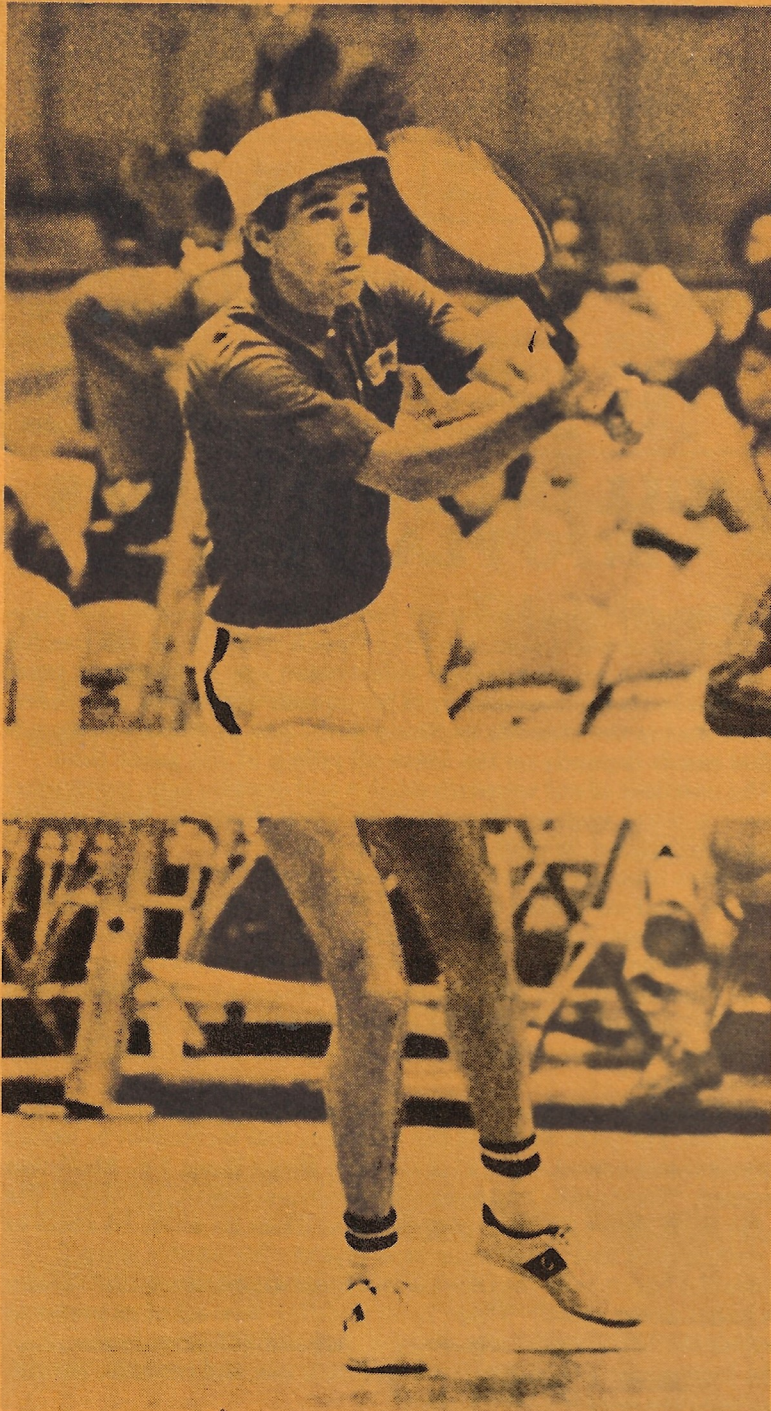


GAZETTE

WORLD TEAM TENNIS PLAYOFFS

Gaters Eye WTT Title

**FREW McMILLAN**

The Golden Gaters have once again reached the WTT playoffs as they have done in each of the past three years. Again this season the Gaters trailed the Phoenix Racquets for the better part of the season finally losing the Western Division banner in a close race down the stretch.

The playoff structure this season has been altered making the Gaters chances of winning the WTT Championship all the more difficult. With four teams in each division in the playoffs, the team that ultimately wins the Championship will have to play three two out of three match series within a thirteen day time span. To achieve their goal the Gaters will have to play top, consistently good tennis under constant pressure.

First the Gaters face the San Diego Friars with Rod Laver and Cliff Drysdale, with whom McMillan and Company have played in three super-tiebreakers already this season. You couldn't ask for a more balanced or exciting match-up. Should the Gaters win the first round against the Friars, they will then take on the winner of the Phoenix-Sea-Port series.

In the Eastern Division the powerhouse Boston Lobsters and the 1976 WTT Championship team, the New York Apples, pose a formidable threat to the Gaters should they reach the final round. Boston and New York both fared well against the Gaters during the 1977 season winning a total of seven out of eight matches.

However, should the Gaters reach the finals, with everything on the line, anything can happen.

Boston Ends Season With Best WTT Record

Though the Gaters lost all of the four matches that they played against the Boston Lobsters this season, no other team did much better. The Lobsters finished the '77 season with the best record in WTT, which was a complete reversal from their last place finish in '76.

With player/coach Roy Emerson, Tony Roche, Mike Estep, Martina Navratilova and Greer Stevens, the Lobsters were the first team in the league to clinch a playoff berth.

Their depth, coupled with the mercurial Martina Navratilova, who leads the league in singles, doubles and total offense, have proved the Lobsters to be the team to beat in the playoffs.

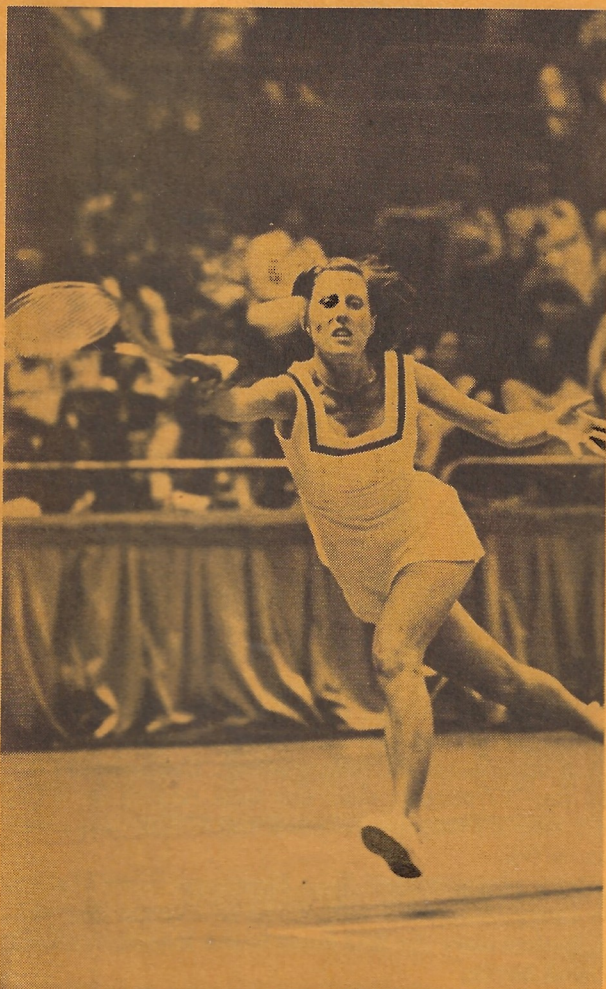
Final WTT Standings

EAST	W	L	PCT.	GB
BOSTON	35	9	.795	-
NEW YORK	33	11	.750	2
INDIANA	21	23	.477	14
CLEVELAND	16	28	.364	19
SOVIETS	12	32	.273	23

WEST	W	L	PCT.	GB
PHOENIX	28	16	.636	-
GOLDEN GATERS	25	19	.568	3
SAN DIEGO	21	23	.477	7
SEA-PORT	18	26	.409	10
LOS ANGELES	11	33	.250	17

PLAYOFFS ON RADIO

As was the case during all 44 matches during the 1977 season, the Golden Gaters will continue their radio coverage during the playoffs on KNBR 68. The first round of the playoffs are slated for August 16th, 17th and 18th, when the Gaters take on the San Diego Friars. Air time on KNBR will be 8:05 with Jerry Lee and Bob Mansbach call the action.



Françoise Durr [seen here] and partner Frew McMillan set a new WTT mixed doubles record by winning nine consecutive sets.

GATERS vs. FIELD

VS.	INDIANA (1-3)	CLEVELAND (3-1)	NEW YORK (1-3)	BOSTON (0-4)	PHOENIX (2-4)	SEA-PORT (5-1)	SAN DIEGO (4-2)
	5/16	5/11	5/21	5/30	5/4	5/7	4/27
	6/5	6/4	5/31	6/11	5/13	6/9	4/30
	7/7	7/12	7/5	7/14	5/27	7/8	6/8
	7/15	8/9	7/13	8/3	7/23	7/29	7/20
					8/5	8/10	7/27
					8/6	8/11	7/28
					21-23	25-29	29-25
					21-22	29-25	26-24
					31-19	28-22	11-30
					at Oakland	at Oakland	at Oakland
					at Oakland	at Seattle	at San Diego
					at Tulsa	at Seattle	at Oakland
					at Phoenix	at Oakland	at San Diego
					at Oakland	at Portland	at Oakland
					at Phoenix	at Oakland	at Anaheim

McMILLAN LEADS GATERS INTO PLAYOFFS

With Frew McMillan having led the Golden Gaters into the Playoffs for the third straight year, the 1975 Coach of the Year still has his work cut out for him. The Gaters this season are a revamped team that perhaps lacks the consistency of his squads of the past two years. Of course during the playoffs anything goes, and McMillan freely admits that much depends on the team all jelling at the same time.

"The outcome of our women's singles and doubles sets, particularly against a team such as Phoenix with Chris Evert or Boston with Martina Navratilova, is vital," McMillan said.

McMillan took command of the courts in addition to his coaching duties as he went on to lead the league in total offense combining successfully with Tom Okker and Françoise Durr in men's and mixed doubles. McMillan said, "I was fortunate to start playing extremely well soon after the Wimbledon break and managed to ride the crest of the wave throughout the rest of the regular season. Now with the playoffs approaching, I can only hope that I'll be able to maintain my current level of play."

Tom Okker also began to play inspired tennis in the last matches of the season. He twice defeated Ilie Nastase, and on August 9, before the largest Gater crowd ever (11,277) beat Bjorn Borg 7-6. McMillan commented, "Tom's play has been quite encouraging to the rest of the team. He plays with so much emotion, that when he wins, he seems to instill enthusiasm and confidence in everyone else on the team."

Have the big crowds that the Gaters have experienced this season been a boost to the team? "There is no question that all of us prefer to play before the big crowds, especially if they are at home. In the playoffs, the homecourt advantage is a significant one and could be the difference between winning and losing."

So, with McMillan at the helm, the Gaters once again will try to bring the WTT Title to the Bay Area.

GATERS FINAL STATS

1977 WTT STATISTICS

	GP	GW	GL	PCT	SP	SW	SL	PCT
Frew McMillan								
S	HAS NOT PLAYED SINGLES							
D	423	237	187	.560	39	29	10	.744
MD	368	213	155	.579	39	30	9	.769
Tom Okker								
S	415	212	202	.511	41	22	19	.537
D	442	241	201	.545	41	27	14	.657
MD	HAS NOT PLAYED MIXED DOUBLES							
Francoise Durr								
S	HAS NOT PLAYED SINGLES							
D	414	186	228	.449	44	15	29	.341
MD	367	212	155	.577	39	30	9	.769
Terry Holladay								
S	390	189	201	.485	44	20	24	.456
D	32	15	17	.469	3	1	2	.333
MD	20	8	12	.400	2	0	2	.000
Betsy Nagelsen								
S	HAS NOT PLAYED SINGLES							
D	382	170	212	.448	41	13	28	.317
MD	44	16	18	.455	3	1	2	.000
John Holladay								
S	9	3	6	.333	1	0	1	.000
D	64	30	33	.469	6	2	4	.000
MD	53	23	30	.434	5	1	4	.200

WTT PLAYOFFS

Division Championship

1st Round

WESTERN DIVISION

GATERS
SAN DIEGO

(Round 1 Winner)

PHOENIX
SEA-PORT

(Round 1 Winner)

EASTERN DIVISION

NEW YORK
INDIANA

(Round 1 Winner)

BOSTON
CLEVELAND

(Round 1 Winner)

Championship Round

(Western Champ.)

(Eastern Champ.)

WTT
CHAMPION

CALIFORNIA



FIRST BANK

sponsor's of the Gaters television and radio package.



**Follow all the Playoff action LIVE on KNBR
68 at 8:05 p.m.**