

Tennis player in tough Jiu-jitsu tournament was Laing family affair

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The team is still looking for practice time on clay courts, which is what they will play on in Denmark.

This he said, will give the European players a decisive edge — as will their overall support network in their respective countries.

"Many of these Europeans play tennis full time, whereas Canadians like myself have to work and play tennis on the side," he said. "It's hard to match the skills of those playing five hours a day when you're playing only five to 10 hours a week."

McLetchie is hoping to show strongly in both doubles and singles play and help Canada earn a top-eight placing. More than 40 countries will be competing on the court, while at least 58 will be represented at the Games.

This will be the Milton Tennis Club member's second shot at international competition. Two years ago he participated at the World Tennis Championships.

"I didn't do very well. This is the first time Canada will have a full team with coaches at a world event. I'm very honoured to be representing my country."

McLetchie said his main strengths on the court are his serve and volley, as well as his net game.

Joining him on the national team are fellow Ontarians Lois McIntyre, Simon Paterson, Pat Prezenza and Arleigh Tamlin as well as Alberta's Ryan Colaco and Kim White of British Columbia.

Donaldson Bourgon Financial Services and the Royal Canadian Legion are among those sponsoring McLetchie, who is still looking for funds to cover last-minute training.

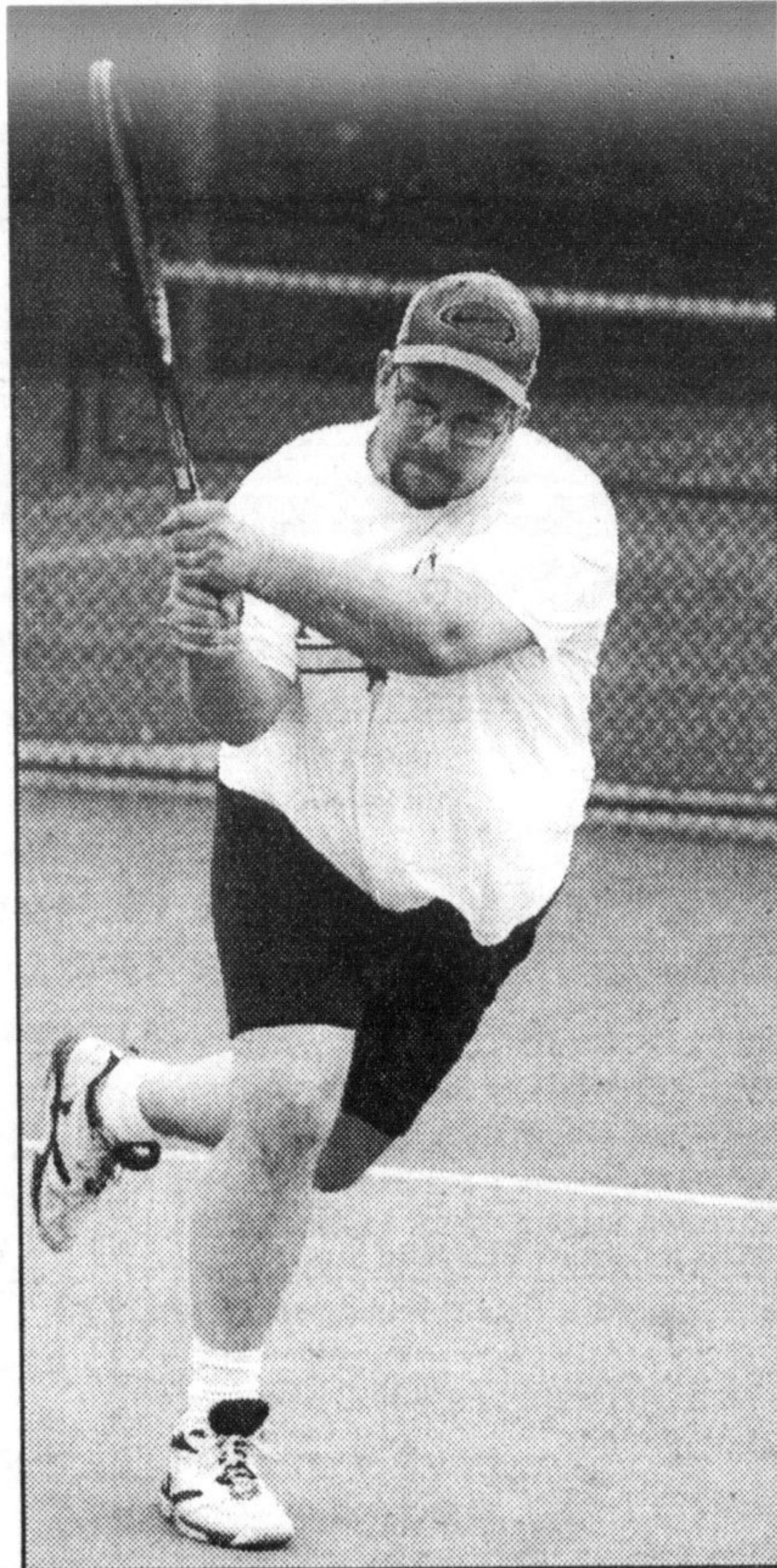


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Tony McLetchie will battle on clay courts once he gets to Europe.

The Milton Tennis Club will help out in this respect with a special fund-raising tournament Sunday, June 29.

Those interesting in making a donation can contact coach Janet Petras at (416) 636-8360 or fax the Canadian Deaf Sports Association at (905) 878-5083.

The Laing family brought home seven top five ribbons from the recent Canadian Jiu-Jitsu Junior Tournament in Dundas.

Leading the way was Shannon, who collected one first, two seconds and a third. Brother Gary grabbed a second and two fourths.

Katie Jensen earned a first and a second, Derek Baily captured a first and two thirds and Melissa Comstock took a first and a third.

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