

# Former champions will collide for under-16 national title here

Six former and reigning Canadian junior champions, including Steve Deakin of Port Moody, B.C., and Kristine Smith of Calgary will be among those featured in the Phillips Junior Nationals under-16 tennis

## Leworthy anxious to play lacrosse



Robin Leworthy

Milton's Robin Leworthy is getting anxious. Practices have begun in earnest for the 1990 Canadian Women's Field Lacrosse Championships which are being held at York University Aug. 16-19.

Leworthy made the reserve team this season after Barb Boyes, the Ontario team coach, heard of her exploits in box (arena) lacrosse and asked her to try out.

Leworthy said that she hoped her experience with the Ontario team would lead to a scholarship at an American University. Currently many northeastern schools have lacrosse programs.

Provincial teams from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario will vie for the title which has been won by British Columbia for the last seven years. Ontario has been runner up four times and picked up three bronzes as well. Leworthy will compete on the Ontario II team.

A team from Osaka, Japan will be competing in Division II play to add a little international flavour to the tournament. Japan became a full member of the International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations in 1989 joining England, Scotland, Wales, United States, Australia and Canada. This year Czechoslovakia became the eighth member nation.

Lacrosse has increased in popularity in Japan in the last four years, culminating with a game played in front of 7,000 spectators.

In Canada the game has grown from three participants in the 1983 national championship to as many as seven in 1988.

This year four provinces will compete for the senior title and three other teams will compete in Division II.

Lacrosse is the only sport in which Canada holds more Olympic gold medals than the rest of the world combined.

The tournament begins with three games prior to the Opening Ceremonies scheduled for noon, Aug. 16. Ontario takes on the powerful British Columbia team at 10 a.m. Ontario II takes on Japan in second division play at the same time. Ontario plays Alberta in the afternoon.

The tournament games are scheduled for the York University playing fields off Murray Ross Parkway which is west off Keele Street, north of Finch Avenue. Access is also possible south from Steeles Avenue just east of Highway 400.

championships scheduled for the Milton Tennis Club, Aug. 13-18.

Deakin and Smith will be hoping to show the same form which saw them capture top honours in the Canadian under-14 outdoor championships held at the same Milton club in 1988.

The two former champions will be joined by reigning Canadian under-16 outdoor champion Melanie Bernard of Chicoutimi, Quebec and current under-14 indoor titleholder Tobi Rakic of Toronto, along with Jamie Laschinger of London and Sonya Jeyaseelan of North Vancouver.

Rakic won the under-14 indoor crown in April at the Mayfair West Racquet Club in Downsview, Ontario. Jeyaseelan won the same title in 1989 at the Glenmore Club in Calgary while Laschinger, a member of Canada's World Youth Cup under-16 national team, won the Canadian under-12 championship in 1986 at London. He is also the reigning Canadian under-16 doubles champion, having teamed with Stefano Walker of North Vancouver to win the title last August in Quebec city.

"These players will certainly be

among the ones to watch for in the Phillips Junior Nationals under-16 championships, but there should be some great tennis all the way around," said Carmel Derdaele, director of junior tournaments for Tennis Canada, the national governing body responsible for the promotion and development of Canadian tennis.

Derdaele noted there will be 32 boys and 32 girls vying for national honours in singles and doubles competition.

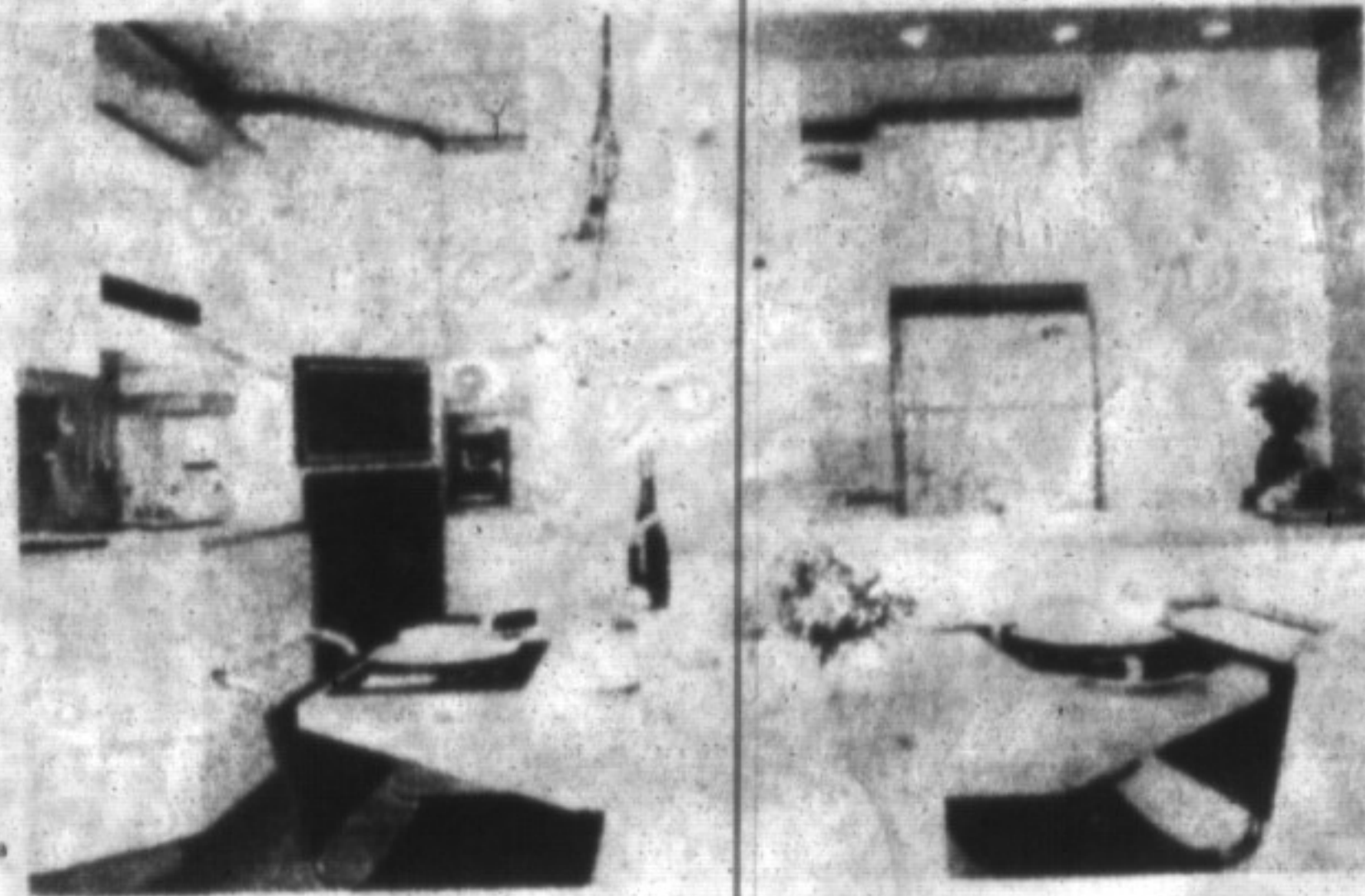
"With the girls' draw expanded to 32 this will be the largest national under-16 tennis tournament ever held in Canada," said Derdaele. She said nine of the ten provinces are represented. Only Prince Edward Island is missing.

"It's an opportunity for our top up-and-coming players to measure up against those from across the country," said Derdaele, underlining current Canadian men's singles champion Brian Gyetko of Welland and four-time former titleholder Andrew Sznajder of Toronto as former Canadian under-16 junior champions.

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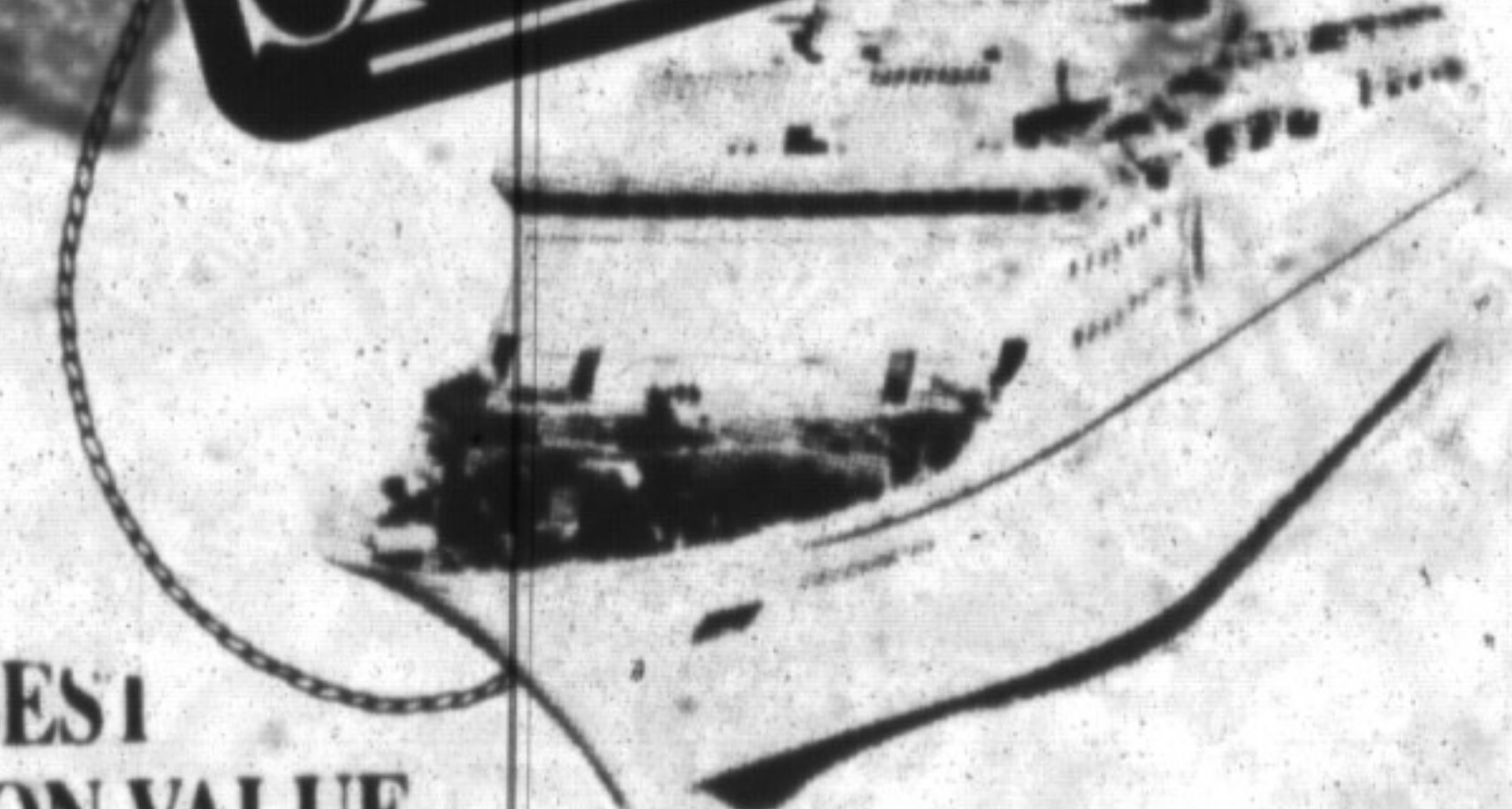
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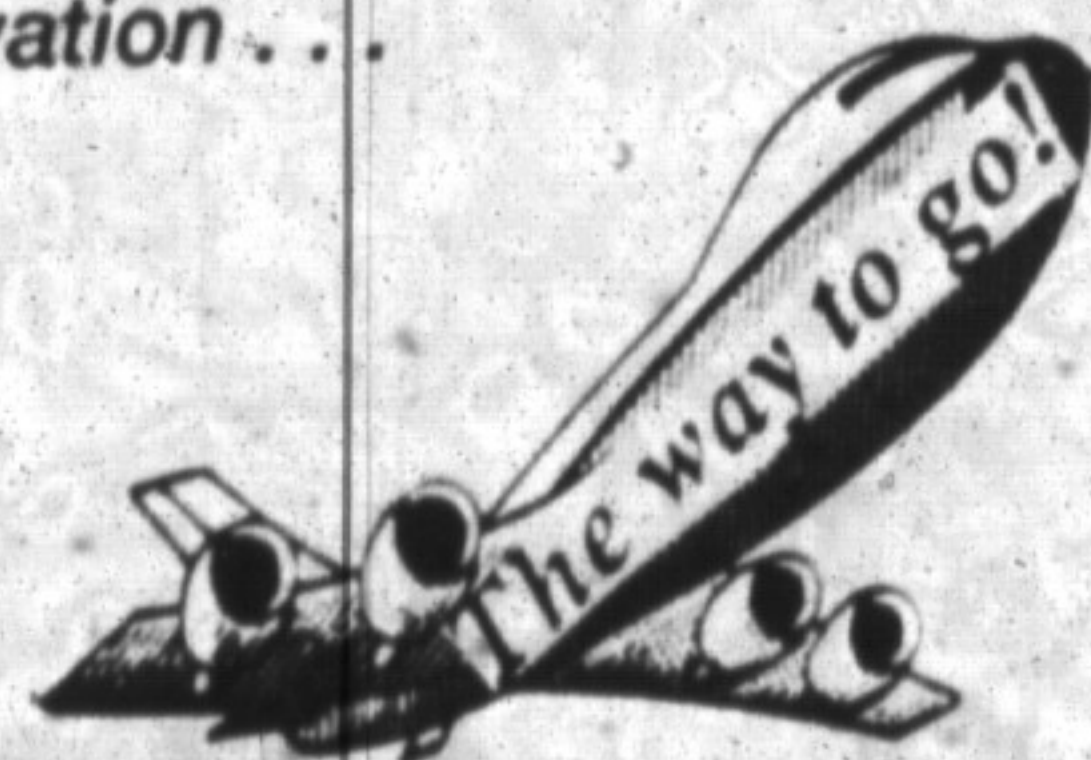
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