

TENNIS TOPICS

by

Mercer Beasley, Tennis Coach, Indian Hill Club.

It would be nice to entitle this week's Topics, "With Tilden at Skokie", because with Tilden playing in the Illinois State Championship, he has given that popular tournament the highest possible standard.

It was my good fortune to follow Tilden's play during the earlier rounds of the tournament and to report his progress up to Thursday at which time all copy must be in for the week's issue. I shall say that, first of all, Tilden is in excellent condition and in his usual good nature; in fact he stated he was having a very good time.

To proceed to what's been accomplished; Tilden drew a Bye in the 1st round; played Jack Harris in the 2nd round defeating him 6-2-6-0. An idea of how Tilden's game is going is best shown by setting down the point score.

Skokie Country Club, Tuesday, Exhibition Courts; Time 3 p. m., Weather Fair, Courts Good. Tilden serving: 1st ball an Ace—2nd an Out by Tilden—3rd a short Lob by Jack which Tilden gently dropped for a point to the Rt. Forecourt—4th Jack placed a deep ball at Tilden's back-hand and Tilden hit it hard, but it went out by an inch—5th point was Jack's on a net by Tilden, and on the 6th point Jack received the honor of winning it, due to Tilden's fore-hand drive missing the Pocket at the Rt. Back-court corner.

Second game, Jack serving: game lost by Jack because of 2 Double Faults, an Out and a Net. Third game, Tilden's, on his own service, points won by Tilden credited to fast drives off Fore-hand and to deep left Back-court. These drives were not even returned by Jack. Fourth game, Jack's as he managed to get a hold of two of Tilden's Cut balls played easy to the Service Court, and on an exchange at the Net. Jack brought applause to himself when he passed Tilden. The score now is "2 All" Fifth game, Tilden serving. The first point Jack's on an Out from Tilden's Volley position second, Tilden's on a neat Chop to the open spot, where Jack was not; Third point Tilden's, due to a bullet shot from Fore-hand with all Tilden's perfect power, weight of body and shoulders on the shot. This was the

first ball Tilden had really hit hard and the gallery gasped at the speed. Poor Jack just watched it go bye-bye. Fourth point, Jack's on a Net by Tilden; then came 2 nets by Jack. 6th game, Jack serving—game lost, 2 double Faults, an Out and a Net. 7th game, Tilden serving, game easily won by Tilden after Jack had requested an automobile to be moved from its position about 300 ft., from the court. Jack said the sun's rays were shooting from the glass windshield into his eyes. Game delayed while auto's owner was found and car moved. Jack asked if this car by chance belonged to Tilden. 8th game, Tilden's on Jack's service, Tilden now placing the ball with gentleness of shots to one side and then the other, each shot a point. Tilden's 1st Set.

2nd Set—Tilden now letting up on his fast shots, and is giving Jack a variation in bounces; some high, some low, some hopping and some

cutting capers; in fact to me it looked as if Jack could not tell what the ball was going to do. Tilden used a Sliced service mostly in this set and Jack hit many more balls out. Tilden ran out the set which was played in fast time. Score 6-0.

Phil Bettens of San Francisco vs. Durand Smith of Lake Forest: This was Phil's first start in the tournament and his game was watched eagerly by the large gallery. Phil displays a very pretty assortment of shots and has improved under Tilden's direction since he left the coast. Phil won in straight sets at 6-3-6-2, winning principally because he mixed his shots and used a very effective change in pace, somewhat like Tilden's. Smith played well and tried hard but was outclassed. Sandy Weiner, Tilden's Doubles partner in the tournament started in the Men's Singles, but was asked to default by Tilden. Sandy is just about the best boy player I have ever seen. He has been taught to play by Tilden and has followed his instructions, learned to drive a hard ball and to properly execute his strokes. Sandy's Fore-hand shots are excellent, he volleys well and just loves to turn the point away with one of Tilden's cross court

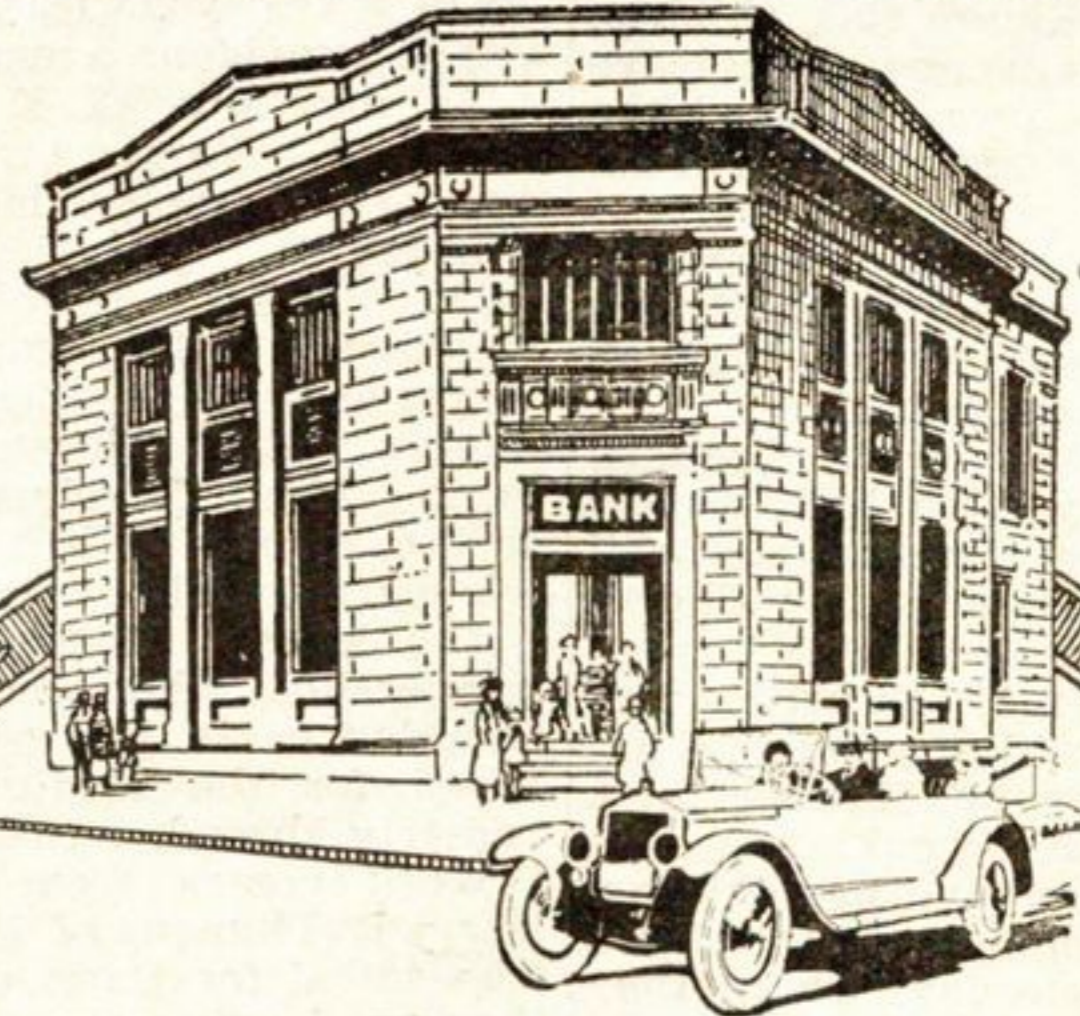
strokes. It would not be at all exaggerated for me to say, "to see Sandy play is to see Tilden play, or vice versa."

Next we have with us today Roy Coffin of Philadelphia, the 3rd of Tilden's party. Roy is paired with Phil Bettens in the doubles, and today, Wednesday, left the Men's Singles, being put out after 3 hard sets by none other than Art Hubbell. Roy told the writer he was not up to his game here, and it must be said that he did not play well during the

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