

Lendl finds newest challenge in golf

FLORIDA OPEN SCORES, 12D

By MERI-JO BORZILLERI
Herald Sports Writer

Ivan Lendl, former world-ranked No. 1 tennis player, played his first Florida Open golf tournament Thursday paired with Jerry Springer.

If Lendl's playing partner was the TV talk show host, and not the 28-year-old Nike Tour pro from West Palm Beach, yesterday's episode might have been: *How a past champion copes with failure.*

On the par-71 Cypress Course at Pompano Beach's Palm-Aire Country Club, Lendl shot 84. Only he didn't know it when he loaded his clubs in the car.

"I didn't care to add up that many strokes," Lendl said with a tight grin, bag resting on his car trunk, his face and neck reddened by the sun. "This was

Tennis legend struggles to 84

probably the worst I ever could have shot today. A medium day now for me is 76."

Eric Anderson of Deerfield Beach leads the 72-hole pro tournament after a 66.

Lendl does not take his golf game lightly, but it does not consume him like tennis did. Yet golf has done the one thing for Lendl his former sport could not: It has humanized the player tennis fans loved to hate.

His dour countenance and grim approach made Lendl an unpopular tennis champion despite his record 270 weeks ranked No. 1 and his 94 career titles, second only to Jimmy Connors.

Golfers find someone different.

"He's very, very friendly," said Springer, a mini-tour veteran who shot a disappointing 77 himself. "He's easy to play with, always concentrating. He has a really good attitude."

After a small flurry of press when he started playing mini-tour events a year ago, Lendl doesn't attract much attention now. A gallery of just two people followed Lendl and Springer for the last six holes Thursday.

They saw Lendl land twice in a sand trap, his ball die in a cluster of palm fronds, watched him scramble to save par four times. They also saw Lendl stay composed on a day windy enough

to test the patience of veterans.

These days, no one asks him for autographs. Lendl hasn't won any money since joining the South Florida Golf Tour about a year ago. Yet golfers on this level love to be paired with him.

"They try to pick his brain," said Tom Eubank, owner of the South Florida Golf Tour and the Florida Open. "They want to know how he became that mentally tough."

Dressed in beige Levi Dockers, white shirt and white golf visor, Lendl, 36, looked like any other competitor trying to grind out a living playing in golf's minor leagues. But he's far from it. He's a millionaire (\$21 million in his 17-year tennis career) and a certain Hall-of-Famer after a career that saw him win eight Grand Slam tournaments. Golf's another world.



FOLLOW THROUGH: Ivan Lendl, who plays left-handed, tees off on No. 4

SPORTS TODAY

See The Herald's TV book for complete listings.

Television

8:05 p.m. **B** Baseball, Marlins-Astros

Cable television

1 p.m. **85A** Men's golf, Buick Challenge

3 p.m. **85B** Senior golf, Vantage Championship

3 p.m. **187** Auto racing, Tyson Holly Farms 400 qualifying

3:20 p.m. **67N** Baseball, Pirates-Cubs

7:30 p.m. **50C** Soccer, MLS playoffs, MetroStars-United

7:30 p.m. **188** Baseball, Braves-Expos

7:30 p.m. **60N** Baseball, Phillies-Mets

8 p.m. **62B** Baseball, White Sox-Twins

8:30 p.m. **182** Boxing, Duran-Culbert (super middleweights)

Radio

8:05 p.m. **Baseball**, Marlins-Astros, WQAM

(560), WCMO (1210, Spanish), WJNO (1230, PB), WZMQ (103.9

FM, Key Largo, Spanish), WKWF (1600, Keys), WSKP (107.9 FM,

Keys, Spanish).

South Florida events

FOOTBALL

■ **UM Coach's Breakfast:** 7-12 a.m. Guest: Coach Chuck Pagano. \$12. UM Faculty Club, 1550 Bessie Ave. (across from Mark Light Stadium), Coral Gables. 7-45 a.m. (305) 284-2491.

■ **UM Coach's Luncheon:** Noon. Guest: assistant football coach Greg Mark, also, men's basketball coach Leonard Hamilton and women's basketball coach Ferne Labatt. \$13 for members and \$15 for non-members. 110 Tower, 7th floor, 110 SE 6th St. Fort Lauderdale. (954) 421-5525.

PARIMUTUELS

■ **Caldor Race Course:** 1:15 p.m. 21001 NW 27th Ave., Miami. \$2-\$4 admission, \$2-\$4 parking. (305) 625-1311.

■ **Dania Jai-Alai:** 7:15 p.m. (Simulcast harness racing available). 301 E. Dania Beach Blvd. \$1-\$50 general admission, \$2 to \$7 reserved. Prices include parking and program. (305) 945-4345 (Dade); (954) 920-1511 (Broward) or (407) 426-4330 (N. Broward and S. Palm Beach).

■ **Flieger Greyhound Track:** 7:30 p.m. (Simulcasting 1 p.m.). 401 NW 39th Ct. \$1 general admission, \$3 clubhouse. (305) 649-3000.

PITT NOW PITIFUL

YESTERYEAR

Pitt a long way from glory

By SUSAN MILLER DEGNAN
Herald Sports Writer

The cover of the 1996 University of Pittsburgh football media guide is almost as indicative of the state of Pitt football as is the team's 21-49-1 record since 1990.

Crowding the cover collage: Coach Johnny Majors, headset on, gazing ahead. Above him: a newspaper headline that reads One Champ. It's Pitt. To the left: Tony Dorsett hoisting quarter-back Matt Cavanaugh on the cover of Sports Illustrated with giant blue and gold letters screaming PITT IS IT!

And one more thing: the words 20th Anniversary

Majors

1976 National Championship

There is no happiness over Pitt football these days, and, except for a perfect season two decades ago, not much to promote on its media guide cover. Many of the University of Miami Hurricanes (3-0) who will meet the Pitt Panthers (1-3) at noon Saturday in the Orange Bowl were not yet born when Pitt went 12-0 and won its last national championship. They were learning their ABC's when the "Beast of the East," featuring names like Dan Marino, Hugh Green, Mark May, Bill Fralic and Dorsett, rumbled to a 79-15-2 record from 1976 to 1983 — the glory years.

What happened?

'Scratching our heads'

"We've done a tremendous amount of scratching our heads," said Majors, 61, who brought Pitt from the abyss to the promised land

about now. We sometimes lose the fast ball. We all do."

Cavanaugh, the All-American quarterback who led the Panthers to their national championship season and still lauds Majors, shares a theory behind Pitt's decline with others who have played there or are involved with college football: lack of consistency in coaching.

"Coaching consistency is one of the things you look for in programs that historically have done well," said Cavanaugh, who now coaches quarterbacks for the San Francisco 49ers. "When you start changing them it hurts the program, and it really hurts recruiting. As it is, Pitt is an urban campus in a blue-collar town where it's cloudy 230 days a year. Players looking for a grassy knoll or sunny days are not going to go there. If they're not winning, they're not going to get recruits."

Big coaching turnover

John Congemi, the former St. Thomas Aquinas star from Lauderdale Lakes who took over as quarterback in 1983 after Marino graduated, said, "The Pitt coaching turnover was bizarre." The Panthers have had five head coaches (Jackie Sherrill, Foge Fazio, Gottfried Hackitt, Majors) since Majors left after his national championship to coach his alma mater, Tennessee. The assistant coaches came and went even more frequently.

"The [assistant] coaches who should have stayed — the Andy Urbanics, the Joe Moores, the Ron Turners — left," said Congemi, a SportsChannel color analyst for UM games. "Those guys slowly slipped away from the program and were replaced by people not as talented. I had at least four offensive coordinators in five years. We're talking four completely different offenses. In



Associated Press

TONY D: Tony Dorsett was the star running back on the 1976 national championship team.



Associated Press

HUGH GREEN: He won the Lombardi Award in 1980 as the defensive anchor of another

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Tech keeps Duke winless

From Herald Staff and Wire Reports

ATLANTA — Joe Hamilton hooked up with Middleton on two touchdown passes. C.J. rushed for more than 100 yards and a TD defense scored twice — all in the first half. Georgia Tech's 48-22 rout of winless Duke Thursday night.

Tech (3-1 overall, 3-1 Atlantic Coast) had 310 yards in offense in the opening half and a 38-0 lead. Yellow Jacket George O'Leary sat his starting offense and defense on the bench for the second half.

Duke (0-4, 0-2 ACC) managed only 95 yards on 34 coming on a pass on a fake punt — and 34 yards in the opening half in continuing its start since going 0-7 in 1983.

Tech scored on all but one of its five possessions, and did not punt.

SEC a winner at the bank

Internal Revenue Service reports show Southeastern Conference — with no draft exempt status and a product that sells its arguably the richest of the NCAA's 10 Division I athletic conferences.

Skyrocketing television dollars from football helped push the SEC's total revenue to \$54.6 million during the 1994-95 academic year, the last period for which records are available.

The Big Ten had total revenues of \$50 million, according to IRS reports and league officials, and the Pac-10 took in \$32.5 million.

FLORIDA STATE

Final tuneup for Tar Heels

FSU's last practice before Saturday against 11th-ranked North Carolina found Bobby Bowden a solemn man.

"You get the feeling of North Carolina here, you better be in the Miami attitude in here," he said. "You better be in the Florida attitude."

"In the last two ball games, we were so favored, and probably had them outmaneuvered you could get by with sloppy play... and in this one, you better go out there and win."

EMILY D.

FLORIDA

DE Davis demoted