

TEAMTENNIS and King both a success over weekend

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Two Idaho teams paired off in the Kibbie Dome Saturday night to see who would take home the first ever TEAMTENNIS championship.

But the Vandals weren't one of those teams.

The Boise State Broncos and Idaho State Bengals matched up well, as ISU led by only two points, 21-19, going into the final mixed doubles game which would decide the match.

It was an exciting way to end a phenomenal weekend of TEAMTENNIS, as the Broncos made a come from behind attack to win the match and the championship, 25-24.

The three-day tournament, which was dedicated in memory of the late Arthur Ashe, was the first of its kind at a collegiate level and many people considered it a historical event.

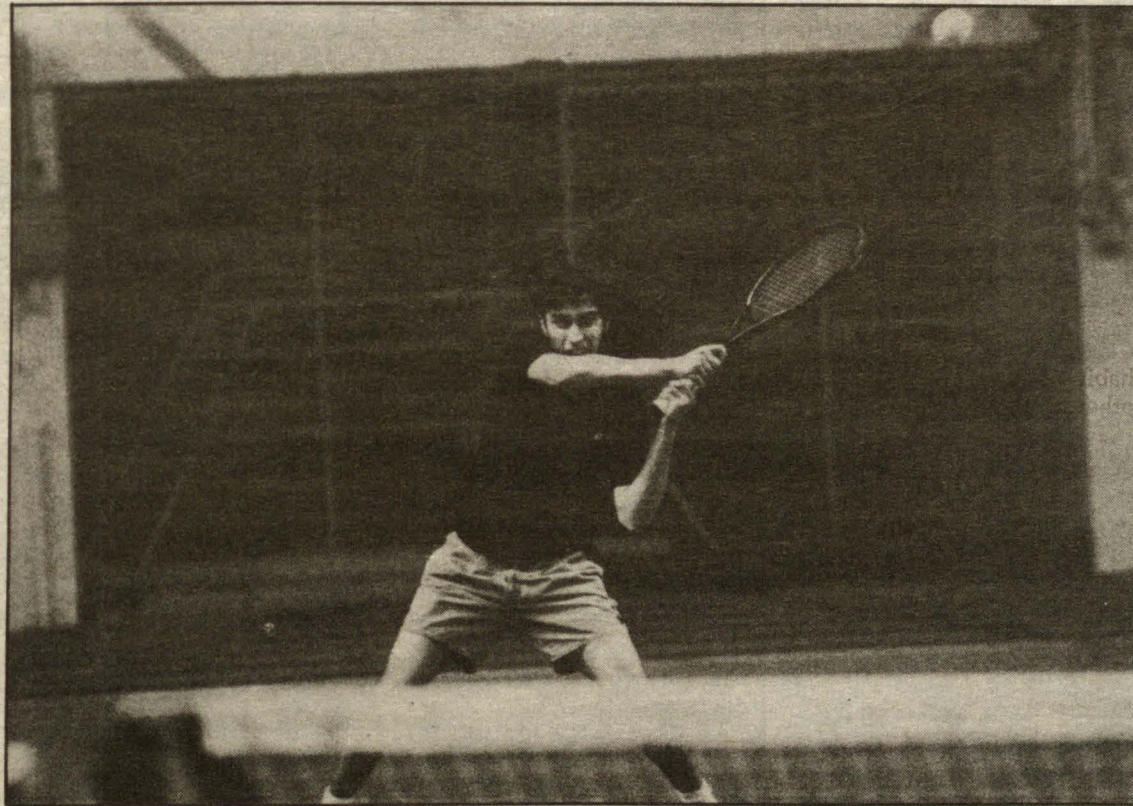
"I am indebted to Bobby Goeltz (ISU's head coach) for the rest of my life," said Billie Jean King, tennis legend and director of WORLD TEAMTENNIS. "He and Dave Scott (Idaho's head coach) took my 30 year dream and made it happen. Bobby said 'lets try it' and Dave said he'd host it, and I want to thank them both for taking the challenge."

BSU's head coach, Mike Edles, tried to describe the intensity level at the tournament.

"It's like watching 20 Freddy Krueger movies right in a row. It gets to the point where you can't take much more."

Edles said that winning the championship is a huge ego booster for his team.

"This is the best feeling in the



Idaho tennis player Niren Lall returns a shot during the first ever NCAA TEAMTENNIS Tournament this past weekend in the Kibbie Dome. (CURTIS GRIFFIN PHOTO)

world," Edles said. "It is the first time Boise State has ever done anything in tennis, and it feels great.

"Our men have done pretty well this year, but the women haven't had the same success. This tournament has brought our men and women together, and now our women will have a reason to believe in themselves."

During the final mixed doubles game, the Broncos even went as far as to put their 'rally hats' on for luck. They were the loudest team in the competition, both

yelling and doing cheers on the side-line.

Not only did the athletes enjoy the tournament, but everyone involved with putting on the three-day competition was pleased with its outcome.

King, who spent the weekend in Moscow, said the tournament ran more smoothly than she could have ever imagined.

"Seeing the athletes play and actually enjoy the new format was the best part for me," King said. "It was definitely worth the emotional and financial investment."

Scott said it's too early to talk about doing the tournament again next year, but he enjoyed seeing the pilot event occur in the Kibbie Dome.

"We made history last weekend, you can't put a price tag on that," Scott said. "The best part for me was looking up on the big screen TV and seeing college tennis with Billie Jean King sitting next to me."

Edles said the weekend was well worth the trip because it made the athletes feel special.

"Sports are suppose to make people feel good," Edles said.

"Five weeks from now we'll all be playing separte schedules again and nobody will remember this weekend but us. You can bet we'll always remember it."

Idaho played well in the tournament, placing sixth with 154 points. The Vandals won three individual matches, beating Montana State University, Eastern Washington University and Northern Arizona University.

Scott said that any time a coach hosts a tournament it is always hardest on their team.

"My team was great," Scott said. "They knew going in that the weekend would be hard on them but they backed me and the format and did a great job."

King hopes that the rest of the NCAA will follow in Idaho's footsteps and try the TEAMTENNIS format.

"We are starting to learn the politics and appropriate way to get things done so from hear on our we're going to keep network-

ing and asking for support," King said. "Hopefully someday we'll have 5,000-15,000 people watching and supporting the format."

Edles added, without a doubt, "you don't see anything better than this, it's tennis at its best."