

GAY GAMES IV



Jennie Eisenbraun (bantam weight)

Portland residents will compete on courts and on mats, in the water and in the gym, according to Tyler Cole, chairman of Team Portland. Local athletes are entered in tennis and wrestling events, swimming competitions and martial arts contests.

Others have been training for the triathlon, an endurance test that combines swimming, bicycling and running. Other local competitors will enter running events, Cole said.

Team Portland Aquatic Club

The 15 members of Team Portland Aquatic Club who will compete in New York next month have their sights set on winning, said team member and co-coach Jill Schuldt. With the help of volunteer coach Adrian Kalil—and weekly practice sessions—team members have been working on their skills in breast stroke, butterfly, backstroke and freestyle.

Some members plan to enter individual competitions, while others are combining their skills in relay races, Schuldt said. The relay teams include both men's and women's teams, as well as mixed-gender groups.

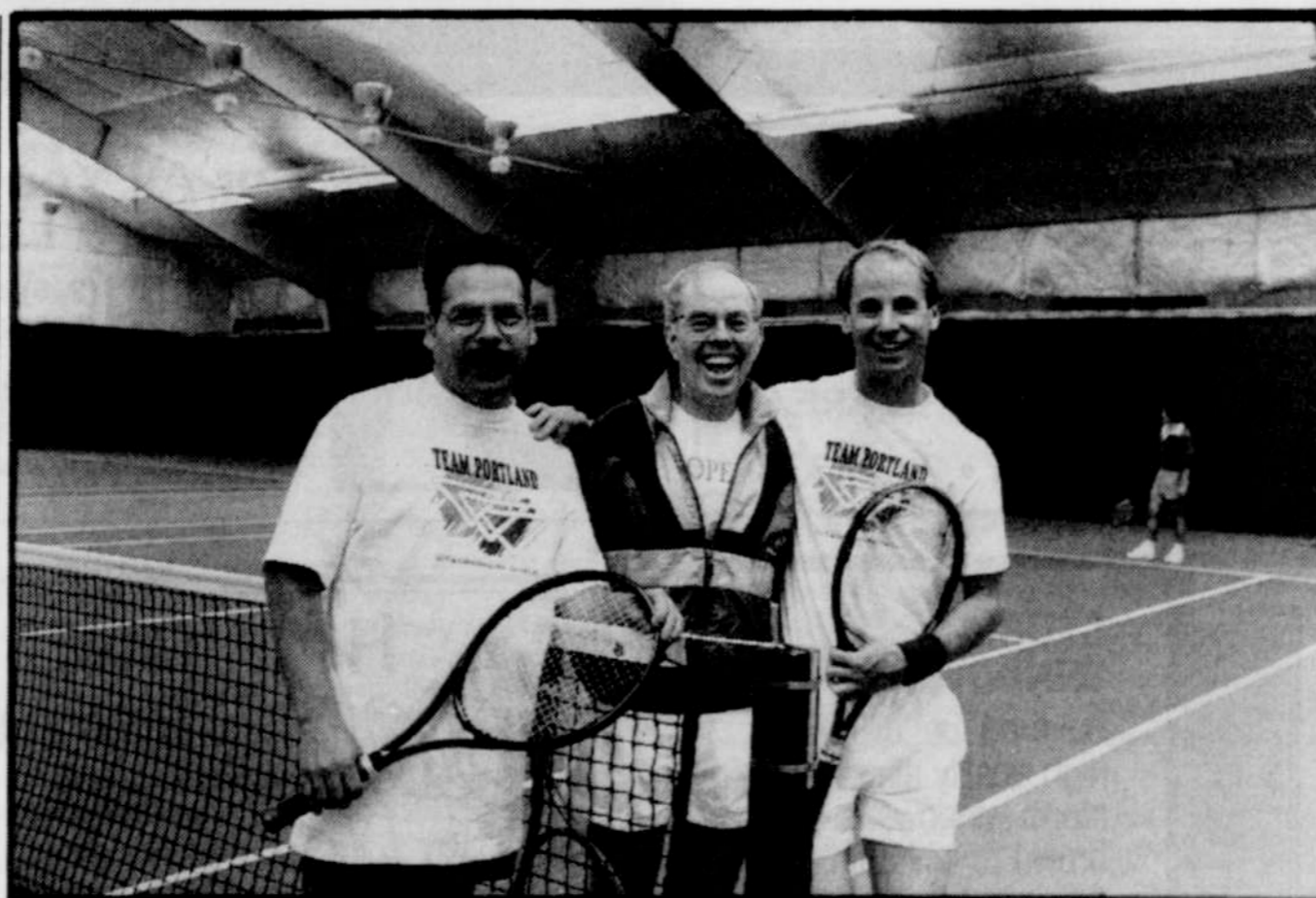
"We will all be doing events in different areas," she said. "We are a very diversified group."

Portland's swimmers will compete in the small team division, Schuldt said. Teams with more members vie in separate competitions for large teams.

"I would say we probably have a chance to do really well," Schuldt said. The team includes some lifelong swimmers, as well as former champs who recently returned to competitive swimming.

Schuldt praised Kalil as the inspiration behind the team, especially since the 30-member team is not able to pay a coach.

"He has just totally dedicated his time to us," she said. "It's wonderful to have a coach...and he has helped us immensely."



Hector Lovato, Ed McMahon and Tyler Cole.

PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

Local tennis players will include a mix of men and women and a wide range of ages, as well as a mix of singles and doubles players.

The games have included tennis competitions for players in the 35-year-old, 45-year-old and 55-year-old age groups.

Tennis, anyone?

About 15 local tennis players will take to the courts during Gay Games IV, according to Ed McMahon, president of the Team Portland Tennis Association. The group will include a mix of men and women and a wide range of ages, as well as a mix of singles and doubles players, he said. Organizers of the games have included tennis competitions for players in the 35-year-old, 45-year-old and 55-year-old age groups, he added.

"This is really a great opportunity for people like myself—I'll be 55—to play on the team," McMahon said.

Team Portland Tennis Association is affiliated with the national Gay and Lesbian Tennis Association, which qualifies local tennis players to compete in tournaments across the United States and internationally. The Gay Games tennis events also will carry points for those local tennis players who participate in the competitive circuit, McMahon said.

"That's important to those players who want to move up the competitive ladder," he said.

The local tennis group meets weekly and is open to anyone, regardless of skill or ability level, McMahon said.

"I just get calls all the time from people who are interested in playing," he said. "Anyone can join."