

## Stead Open Tennis Tournament a Smashing Success

By Lee Borrowman

The \$25,000 Stead Open Tennis Tournament wrapped up a week of what Tournament Director Mark Orwig of Moraga Country Club called "A very high level of tennis," on Aug. 12. Last year's winners returned to claim victory once again. In the Men's Open Singles, Amir Hadad handily defeated Huntley Montgomery 6-1, 6-2, and in the Women's, Sasha Podkolzina persevered to beat Surina Debeer 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in Sunday's final matches.

Orwig was impressed with this year's event. "We had beautiful weather all week. It wasn't too hot, so the players had more energy and there were better matches this year. With ongoing matches on 12 courts, there was always a good match to watch." And the tournament had more entrants, both men and women, than it has attracted for several years; all of which made for a great week of tennis viewing.

"The crowd was very engaged this year," Orwig continued, the community support for



Lafayette's Darrin Cohen in a Sunday match

Photo by Tod Firner

the event was strong and speaks to the huge tennis contingent in the Bay Area." Thursday evening's featured matches were accompanied by a barbecue and raffle at the Moraga Country Club. A tennis weekend and a plethora of prizes donated by equipment suppliers were raffled off; the \$3,000 in proceeds will be

divided between the tennis programs at Campolindo and Miramonte High Schools.

Event organizers would like to thank their sponsors, including the Stead Family of Fine Automobiles, which has sponsored the Tournament for 21 years, and Alain Pinel Realtors, now in its seventh year of support.

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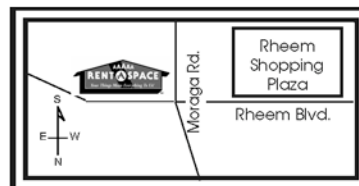
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