

Chapter News

Tennis Tournament; Augusta DOC Hosts 7th

The 7th annual Emphysema Slims Celebrity Tennis Tournament in Augusta, sponsored by the Medical College of Georgia chapter of DOC, attracted more than 50 top players from the two-state area as well as a large crowd of spectators who enjoyed two days of exciting tennis. The tournament was held April 27-28 at Newman Tennis Center in Augusta.

More than 200 area school children participated in a three-month long counter-advertising contest which ridiculed the tobacco and alcohol industries. Winning posters were displayed along the tennis courts during tournament.

"We were really impressed with the work that the kids put into their posters," said medical student Lori Dangler, chairman of the poster contest. "They put a lot of thought and creativity into designing the posters. It was the best year ever."

DOC member and MCG medical student Tracy Ray, who coordinated the tennis activities, said, "The number of people who wanted to enter the tournament was overwhelming. We had more participants than the tournament has ever had in its history. In fact, this year we had to turn people away."

Patrick Reynolds, grandson of the late tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds, was the featured speaker for the three-day event. Reynolds, who is now active in the pro-health movement spoke the day before the tournament to students, faculty and members of the community at the Medical College of Georgia and at Augusta College. He expressed his sadness that his last memory of his father was "an image of a man dying with emphysema because of his addiction to the family brands, Camel and Winston. Reynolds also stressed the importance of monitoring tobacco advertising, especially sports marketing, and pushing for legislation for clean air.

Reynolds also announced a major donation to MCG DOC in recognition of Syed Naseeruddin, the second-year medical student who served as 1991 ESTT chairman. The personal donation

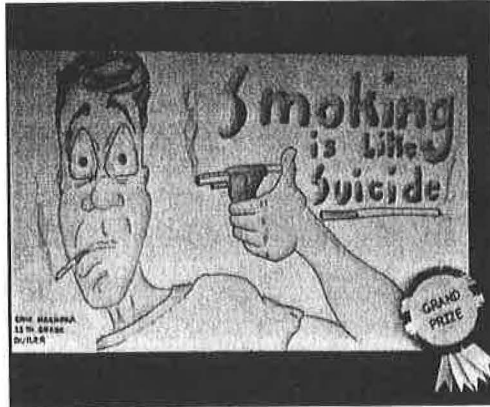
was "a way of supporting Augusta DOC efforts while at the same time recognizing the tremendous amount of work Syed and his committee members put into this year's tournament," Reynolds said.

Augusta Mayor Charles DeVaney officially proclaimed April 27 as "Throw Tobacco Out of Sports" Day in Augusta. During his remarks, the Mayor DeVaney thanked MCG DOC for its help in bringing the truth about tobacco to the attention of the citizens of Augusta. Mayor DeVaney also credited MCG DOC with raising the consciousness of local legislators which resulted in actions by the City Council and Board of Health to assure clean air in public buildings.

Congressman Doug Barnard missed the ESTT this year due to an unscheduled vote in Washington. His remarks, delivered by Barry Fielding, included a jab at

potential congressional candidate Pam Schriver of Maryland.

"Indeed, she is a hero and inspiration to aspiring young tennis stars," Barnard said. "However, had Pam Schriver ever been elected to Congress, I would challenge her on a statement attributed to her regarding the sponsorship of tennis events by tobacco companies. When Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan proposed that sports promoters shun tobacco industry sponsorship of tennis tournaments, Ms. Schriver was quoted as saying, 'It's not that easy.' To that I would cite the response of a New York Times editorial: 'Neither is lung cancer.'"



(Above Left) The grand prize winning poster is displayed during the tournament. (Above Right) DOC members and tennis tournament winners Rees Oliver and Tracy Ray celebrate their victory. (Right L-R) Patrick Reynolds, John Richards III, DOC President Rick Richards, MD, and Syed Naseeruddin, 1991 ESTT chairman, take a break from the action and festivities.

