Hard-serving Gullikson tops Pfister in final

Lefty wins Grand Champions event for second straight year

> By Tom McCollister Staff Writer

Tom Gullikson found himself in one of those rare grooves that athletes pray for Sunday and rode it to his second straight Prudential-Bache Grand Champions title in Atlanta.

The 36-year-old lefthander was nearly perfect, converting 82 percent of his first serves in defeating Hank Pfister 7-5, 6-0 at Horseshoe Bend Country

A year ago at Dunwoody, Gullikson defeated Dick Stockton 6-3, 6-3.

This was Pfister's first Grand Champions final and the pressure of being the newest member of the over-35 gang took its toll. He lost the first game in the first set and it was downhill from there as Gullikson added to the pressure with one of the greatest serving games in the history of the series.

"The match was established in the first two games of each set," said a dejected Pfister. "I lost service with four unforced errors to start both of them, and then could do nothing with Tom on his

"I just played a bad match and he was very much on top of his game. It seemed he converted every first serve and when you do that, you definitely put the other guy on the defensive. I had hoped to do better."

Both players came to the final after going undefeated in round-robin play. Gullikson swept past Colin Dibley, Dick Stockton and Sherwood Stewart without losing a set, while Pfister swept Ross Case and Harold Solomon, then survived a three-set war with Jaime Fillol.

The final was to match power vs. power and the quickness of Pfister against the savvy of Gullikson. The result was that Gullikson displayed all those skills and Pfister few of them, especially in the second set.

es in the final. Neither man was accepting sips of drinks from the stands, bantering across the net or joking with the fans.

Gullikson forced the issue early. Aware that Pfister wanted to get off to a good start, he was content to let him do all the work. Pfister tried too hard, hit a



ANDY SHARP/Staff

Hank Pfister makes a return during his 7-5, 6-0 loss to Tom Gullikson in the Grand Champions final.

couple of easy forehands into the net and a couple of backhands wide and lost service.

Gullikson held for 2-0, but Pfister came back with a good serve-and-volley game and at 15-40 had three break points in game four.

"That's when you test yourself," Gullikson said. "He was like a frisky pony out there, and the worst thing I could do was lose that game. I couldn't give him any added encouragement."

Gullikson won the next four points and the game. Pfister broke back in game six to even the set at There was little of the horseplay of earlier match- 3, but at break point in the 11th game, hit a simple forehand into the net to go down 5-6 and lost the set in the next game when Gullikson served up an ace at

> The second set was a laugher. Gullikson passed Pfister to win the first game, held to make it 2-0 and when two line calls went against Pfister in the third

game, even the die-hard fans that were left started squirming in their seats.

"Very frustrating," Pfister said. "You don't want to play bad, first of all, then to lose 6-0 is disappointing to the fans, too. Those that hung around after the Lendl-Edberg match were true tennis fans and they deserved more than I gave them."

Gullikson only hopes the rest of 1988 is like '87. Following his victory at Dunwoody — on hard courts — he went on to win another Grand Champions singles title, six doubles titles and the over-35 doubles at Wimbledon and in the U.S. Open.

"I really feel good," he said. "I served and volleyed well, hit a lot of good backhand passing shots and with my new racket, I have a lot more power on my serve. Winning here last year seemed to get me started, so maybe Atlanta will be the beginning of another good year."

Bloom arrives in Tuscaloosa to be arraigned

By Chris Mortensen

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Sports agent Lloyd Bloom arrived here Sunday night and checked into the same hotel where he dealt with former University of Alabama basketball players Derrick McKey and Terry Coner more than a year ago.

"We've returned to the scene of the crime," a joking M.L. Trope, Bloom's attorney, told Alabama Assistant Attorney General Don Valeska by telephone.

Bloom will be arraigned this morning in Tuscaloosa County Courthouse to answer an indictment that charges him with three misdemeanor crimes - commerical bribery, deceptive trade practice and tampering with a sports contest — stemming from his dealings with McKey and Coner.

Norby Walters, Bloom's former associate, was arraigned March 16 and pleaded not guilty to the same three charges.

Bloom did not appear at the arraignment, and last week California Gov. George Deukmajian signed extradition papers that made Bloom subject to arrest at his residence in Los Angeles. Alabama Gov. Guy Hunt had forwarded the extradition request to Deukmajian.

Bloom and Trope traveled, voluntarily they said, from Los Angeles to Atlanta on Saturday night. They drove from Atlanta to Tuscaloosa Sunday afternoon.

The trial date has been set for May 9, a week from today, but Walters' attorneys have asked for a delay to prepare their case further. Walters and Bloom will be tried together, but have separate counsel.

payments from Walters and Bloom during the 1986-87

Alabama basketball season. Bloom was the agent who

McKey and Coner signed contracts and received

consummated the deal across the from the university campus in a room at the Sheraton Capstone Inn, where the agent stayed Sunday night. Both players violated NCAA rules by participating under contract during the final three months of the season. Coner had completed his eligibility, but McKey, then a junior, was ruled ineligible for his senior season

draft pick of the Seattle Supersonics. The NCAA withheld approximately \$250,000 in tournament revenue from Alabama because the players participated under contract to the agents.

and entered the NBA draft, signing as a first-round

Valeska says that if Walters and Bloom are convicted in Tuscaloosa, the state will seek a restitution of \$250,000 to the university.

Bloom declined comment Sunday.



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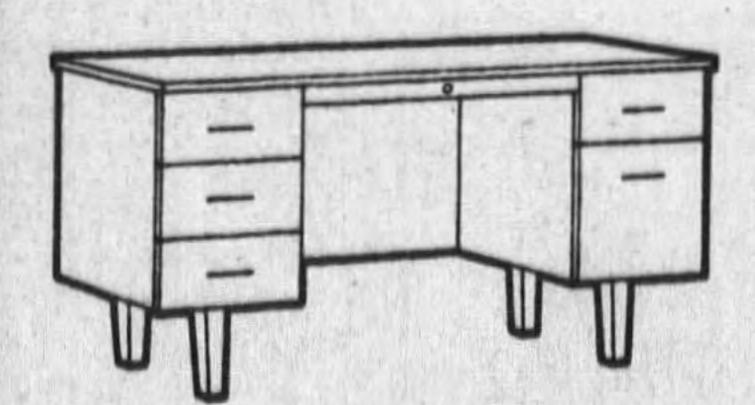
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