

Mraz, Monica  
**Mississauga**  
 Peel Brag. Bk  
**hopes pinned**  
**on Mraz at**  
**SunLife Nat's**

By DAVID WINER July 8-93  
 Sports Editor MW

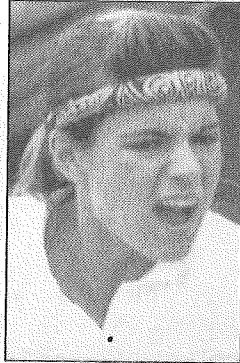
And then there was one. Monica Mraz averted a disappointing first few days of tennis at the \$100,000 SunLife Nationals at Mississauga's Ontario Racquet Club when gutsy determination helped the 20-year-old reach the third round of the women's singles draw.

With fellow Mississaugans Danny Cibula, Sabrina Segal and Ralitza Doneva already eliminated in singles play, it appeared Mraz was in jeopardy to follow. Playing Stephanie Tibbits on court one, less than 24 hours after knocking off Eva Januskova 6-0, 6-0 in the opening round, Mraz fell behind 2-0.

Despite battling back to take 3-2 and 4-3 leads, Mraz fell to a 4-5 disadvantage and faced five set points before prevailing 7-5, 6-2.

Having never lost a set to Tibbits in the

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DONEVA

# SPORTS

## Mraz keeps Mississauga's hopes for a winner alive

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number of times the two met, Mraz was aware of the psychological advantage Tibbits would have carried into a second set should she have won.

"I was worried that she would be in better shape than me," said Mraz, referring to previous years as juniors when Tibbits seemed in better physical condition.

Tibbits may have been in better physical condition, but Mraz's mental toughness on a day when temperatures soared 44 degrees at court level helped her win the first set in one hour, fifteen minutes. By contrast, the third year Duke University student who's majoring in Economics, won the second set in 34 minutes.

"I had to fight and mentally believe I could win," said the left-handed Mraz. "She got a little down when she missed a volley for set point. I was out of the point and she just missed it wide. I think she got discouraged."

And bad tempered. After falling behind 1-0 in the second set, Tibbits stormed off the court and changed tops taking more than her five-minute allotted injury time.

"I didn't take her lightly. I knew it would be a battle with long points."

And when Tibbits started losing her cool, questioning calls and taking a lot of time in between play, Mraz didn't allow it upset her.

"In college I've seen everything under the sun from screaming fans and coaches to crazy players and from 100 degree temperatures, to zero degrees, to snow falling down. You learn to deal with it."

Mraz, the No. 7 seed, will next have to deal with No. 4 seed Caroline Delisle in an attempt to reach the semi-finals. Mraz, who previously reached the quarter-finals in 1990, will have a tough time against the native of Chicoutimi, Quebec who has reached the quarter-finals three of the past five years and has reached the doubles final three times.

In other quarter-finals matches, defending champion Rene Simpson Alter will face No. 5 seed Vanessa Webb, No. 3 seed Maureen Drake will face unseeded Sonya Jeyaseelan, who previously upset No. 6 seed Kristine Kurth and No. 1 seed Patricia Hy will play No. 8 seed Suzanne Italiano.

Hy easily defeated Quebec's Melanie Bernard in the second round 6-0, 6-2. Bernard the day

Doneva, who moved to Canada from Bulgaria three years ago, but was only eligible to compete this year, admitted that heat took its toll on her.

"I'm tired, I've never played in that hot," said Doneva referring to Tuesday's 43 degree temperatures, but higher humidex reading. "I will have to get used to it both emotionally and physically."

"The first set was pretty tight and close. I was down 5-2 and I caught up, but I got really tired."

Segal, who qualified for the event over the weekend, fell to Sharon Mieres 6-3, 6-0.

On the men's side, Daniel Cibula was also a qualifier. After winning his first match 6-3, 6-2 against Quebec's Derek Bell, Cibula had the unenviable task of facing No. 2 seed and defending champion Andrew Sznajder. It was not to be a day of upsets as Cibula fell 7-6 (7-1), 6-3.

One upset that did occur was the loss of No. 14 seed Glenn Michibata to wild card entry Bobby Mahal 6-7 (5-7), 7-5, 6-1.

Michibata, a Mississauga tennis product, admitted to running "out of energy and panicking."

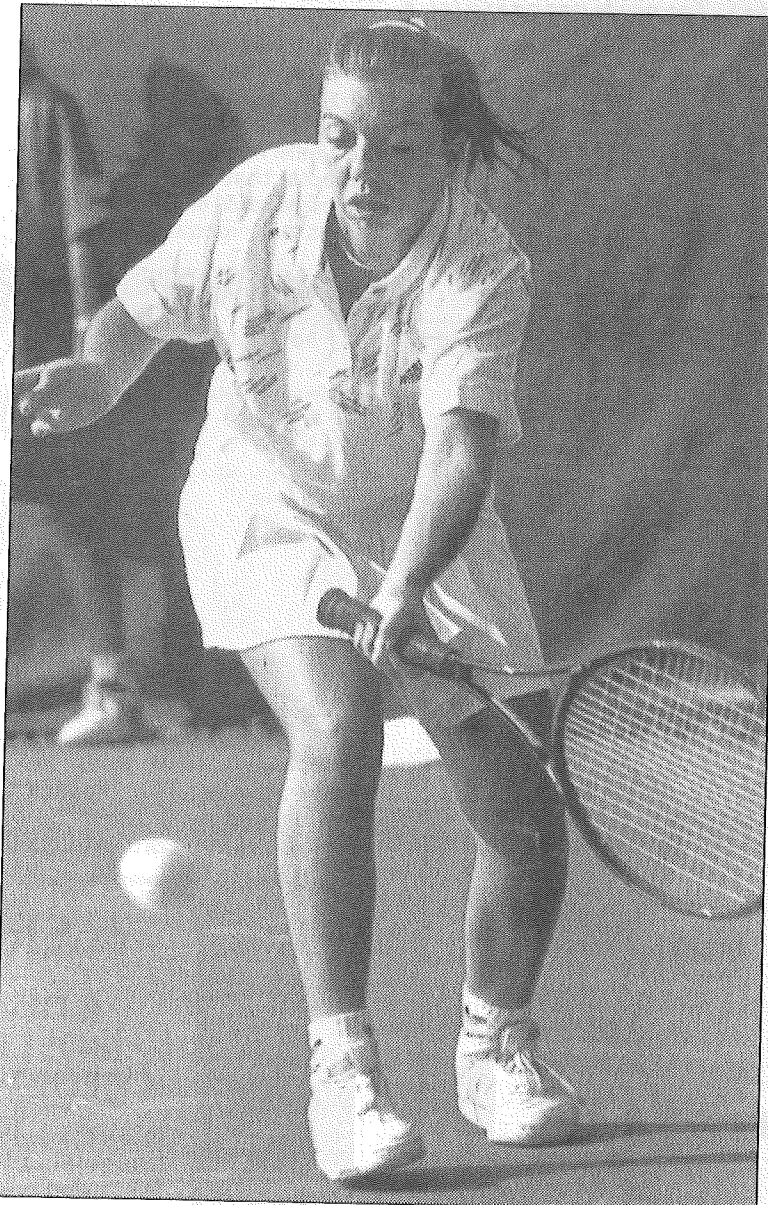
"I thought I could just show up. But I never play singles anymore

and he made me run a lot."

One Mississauga product still in the running is No. 1 seed Chris Pridham, who downed qualifier

Brett Hutton 6-0, 6-3. He will next meet Patrice Boies, who upset No. 15 seed Jamie Laschinger in a marathon 7-6 (7-3), 6-7 (3-7),

7-6 (7-5). The only other seed to lose was No. 12 seed Danny Brakus, who was downed by Richard Mainella 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).



Staff photo by Chris Horobin  
 Monica Mraz is the lone Mississaugan remaining in contention in singles play at the \$100,000 SunLife Nationals.