

## **TENNIS WEEK**

By Linda Pentz, Editor

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### **THE MOST POWERFUL WOMEN IN TENNIS**

Happer is the sort of woman, who when one indulged in school sports, one would pick immediately for the home team. There is a certainty not only about her willingness to try 100 percent, but her conviction that she will get results. Born and raised in Australia, Karen Scott, as she was before marrying the USTA's Executive Director, Marshall Happer, has been an independent tennis promoter for 20 years. There is a zest about Happer, as colorful as her fashion sense and blaze of auburn hair. "My great love is finding and servicing sponsors," she says, a talent she has recently put to good use on Jimmy Connors' new Champions' Tour. Happer remembers the "Champions" when they were less fond of attending cocktail parties and mixing with sponsors. "Off the court, the boys have grown up," Happer says. "I tell them, 'do you remember what little s—t's you were to deal with before?'"

When Connors and Co. were troublesome teenagers, Happer was the tournament director of the Australian Open and remains the only woman to have held that position at a Grand Slam event. Since coming to the United States in 1988, after opening a ProServ office in Australia, Happer has concentrated on sponsorships. And while she has been privy to some of the game's inner machinations, both through her own involvement and her husband's, she prefers to distance herself from such complications. After all they do little to enhance her mission with sponsors. "I'm not a politician, I'm a promoter", she says. "I don't want to know the dirt".