

Weather Wreaks Havoc with Women's Tennis Schedule

by Scott Genualdi

The women's tennis team would probably like to play where the weather is pleasant. After all, Greensboro this spring has not been too receptive for outdoor sports. In between raindrops and other elements of bad weather, the team has played its way to a 8-4.

"I have never seen the weather like this in a season," states Coach Gayle Currie. "This is the first time that we have been rained out of five matches so early the season. The sun was shining for four hours in the six days that we stayed at Hilton Head. The 35°F with a 14° wind chill in the Old Dominion match are the worst conditions I can remember for tennis."

Senior Kim O'Connor adds, "This is definitely the worst weather in my four years here. We have played a lot inside."

Two matches, Mars Hill and Hope College, have been played indoors at Guilford. The Mars Hill match went quickly with the Quakers winning 9-0. The Hope College match last Monday, however, took almost seven hours to complete with the Michigan school winning 6-3.

The two matches that were rained out last week brought the season total to five. At Hilton Head, the matches against Lander, Ursinus (PA), and Clinch Valley were cancelled due to the weather, while last week the team was rained out of matches against Peace and Presbyterian. Peace, the only school to be rescheduled, will play Guilford on April 5.

In the matches that have been

completed, the team has not been too successful. The team has defeated two Division I schools, Appalachian State and East Carolina by scores of 9-0. At Hilton Head, they beat Appalachian but lost to James Madison 7-2, West Virginia 5-4, and Old Dominion 6-0.

"We have yet to play a good team and win," mentions Currie. "James Madison, Old Dominion, West Virginia, and Hope College were the best four teams we played and they were losses. That concerns me a little."

Jill Daly agrees. "We have played close matches we could have won," she said.

"We are not playing as well as expected," comments Emily King. "It has been disappointing to lose two close matches."

"We have been losing matches in the third set and losing sets after leading 4-1," Currie says. "I'm not alarmed now but this should change as we progress. Maybe it is a sign that we will peak at the right time."

Currie schedules the toughest matches in the beginning of the season. "That's my job," she states. "That way we build throughout the season and prepare for the district matches and the District 26 Tournament."

O'Connor says, "We have had tough matches recently but they help us for upcoming district matches."

Currie is not too upset: "Our team has played good matches but we just haven't won them. I am seeing good matches."

"Kim O'Connor is playing the best she's played in her four years here. Heidi Meroth is extremely depend-

able. She played very well against Old Dominion, definitely the strongest team we have met. Emily has improved. Her match against Hope College was her finest yet even though she lost. Joanne Black played real well against her opponent from West Virginia."

King says, "My game has been mediocre. I'm disappointed with the progress I made. I should have won matches that I lost. I let other [people's preseason] expectations get to me. But now I'm starting to get better."

Doubles play has been suspicious this season. Currie states, "We need to work on our aggressiveness. We have been concentrating on that recently. I hope it will fall into place by the end of the season."

"Joanne and I are starting to come out strong," said O'Connor. "We are improving."

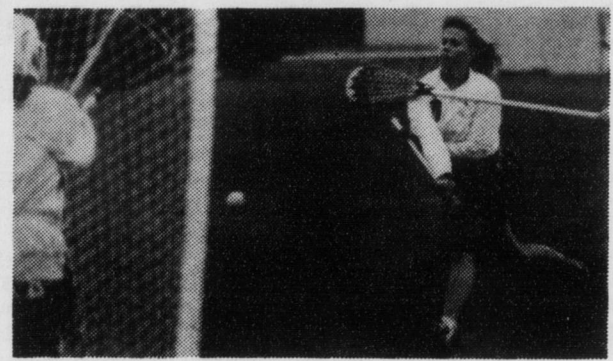
The team is going through internal shuffles. The lineup will still be changing due to various challenge matches in singles.

"As a team we will do all right," Daly comments. "Most of the teams we played are Division I schools and they always have depth. We have the depth to do well in the district."

Next week, the Quakers face Elon and Atlantic Christian in two tough district matches. Those two matches are seen as a preparation for the major showdown against High Point on April 6.

"As far as the season goes, I believe we are on schedule," concludes Currie.

If the weather ever cooperates, the Quakers will be ready.



Women's Lacrosse wins tuesday's game against Duke

photo by Eric Buck

Men's Tennis Evens Out at 4-4

by Kathy Corcoran

Coach Dean Mathias and the men's tennis team improved their record to 4-4 by beating Wingate in a decisive 8-1 victory Wednesday.

The Quakers did not allow Wingate any wins in singles competition. Leading the shut-out, Ricky Feit and Ed Simko each won their matches before teaming up to beat Wingate's number one doubles team 6-0, 6-1. Simko won by a margin of 6-2, 6-0.

Rich Parker, at number three, came through for the Quakers, beating Marcus Luke 6-0, 6-2, while teammate David Lambert was pounding away at Brent Widenhouse of Wingate for a 6-3, 6-1 victory. Pete Burroughs came up with a 6-0, 6-2 win at the number five position, and David Lincoln, playing number six for Guilford beat Cody Luke 6-2, 6-2.

Last Friday, the team travelled to Tennessee and lost two close matches to Freed Hardeman (5-3) and Trevecca Nazarene (5-4). Both teams are ranked in the top 20 in the nation.

in the team's current record. The weather has been a problem, and has limited already limited practices.

Lowe said one idea for next year is heavier pre-season conditioning. She said, "We can't make it up ... in a one-month season. ... This year's experience will be helpful."

"Our goal is to be ranked in the top 20 by the end of the season," said Mathias. "So we went [to Tennessee] hoping to get a shot at some ranked teams and improve our record."

His team proved they could compete with teams of this level, despite the losses. In the Trevecca Nazarene match Simko was winning 6-1, 4-1 before his opponent came back to win all remaining sets. Lambert also had a close match, winning the first set 6-2 and tying up the second 3-3. "Playing two matches in one day can be rough," said Mathias. "It can really wear you out."

Number four player Lambert said that although he had hoped their record would be better than 4-4 right now, he is confident that they will reach their goal by the end of the season. "I'm sure that we'll be ranked before the end of the season," Lambert said. "We definitely have the talent."

The Quakers' next home match is Saturday, April 1 at 1:00. They will take on the Fighting Christians of Elon.

Lowe said she has enjoyed working with this team and is optimistic about the rest of the season: "They're a good group of people. They really care about playing. They're willing to do what it takes."

Quaker Softball Starts with New Coach, Team

by Larisa Hulnick

The Quaker softball team has started the season with a new coach and a very new team. Suzanne Lowe, formerly the assistant coach, has taken charge of the team, one-third of which are first-year players.

The Quakers have played such teams as Pembroke, Mt. Olive, and Lenoir-Rhyne. Their current record is one and five. Their one victory was against Lenoir-Rhyne. Two of

the five games lost went into extra innings.

Lowe said that in the outfield, senior Tara Marnie dominates, and in the infield junior Susan Seifert is "the only one who's pitched in every game ... without having to come out of a game." Sophomore Lori Helton and junior Janine Klock have been very good at bat. Helton has hit three home runs in six games; Lowe said that "without her home run we couldn't

have won the game we won."

Lowe said hitting is one of the biggest problems facing the team right now. She said, "We have the potential to be a competitive team." However, the Quakers are facing very strong teams. Pembroke had strong hitters, and hit several pitches over the fence. "Our defense is capable of holding other teams," she said.

Lowe said the inexperience of the team and the short season are factors

Scoreboard

Monday, March 20

Tuesday, March 21

Tuesday, March 21

Wednesday, March 22

Wednesday, March 22

Women's Tennis 3, Hope College 6
Softball 5, Pembroke 12 Softball 9, Pembroke 23
Women's Lacrosse 11, Duke Club 4 (scrimmage)
Men's Tennis 8, Wingate 1
Men's Lacrosse 5, Hobart 10