

Briefs

NCAA may end playoffs

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

SHAWNEE MISSION, Kan. -- The National Collegiate Athletic Association, facing the loss of millions of dollars in television revenues, may have to discontinue championship football playoffs in Division I-AA and Division II.

Such a ruling would hit hard at small and predominantly black schools, all of which are in Division I-AA or Division II.

If the playoffs are scrapped, it will be because of the Supreme Court's recent decision that stripped the NCAA of control over college football TV rights. The NCAA, which received a portion of the profits under the old TV plan, used some of the money to put on playoffs for the smaller schools.

Speculation is that the NCAA will go ahead with the playoffs this year, but will scrap them prior to the 1985 season -- unless alternate funding can be found.

Has New Conference Idea Fizzled?

ORLANDO, Fla. -- A drive to start a new Division I-AA conference has apparently lost its steam.

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Sports People

Kim Lash: She came to play

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

Like most college freshmen, Kim Lash had to make lots of adjustments when she went away to college last fall.

There were new experiences to be dealt with socially, an intense academic environment and the challenge of a new locale.

"The players are so good, you can't make errors. They're not going to give you anything. If you expect them to give you something, you're dead meat."

--Kim Lash

Yet, none of those things figured as prominently in Kim's adaptation to Georgia Tech -- or her choice to attend the ACC school -- as sports.

When Kim signed a scholarship to attend Tech, her main interest was to participate in a quality tennis program.

"Tennis is it," Kim says in explaining her choice

of the Atlanta school. "Before I went to college, I said I wanted to go to a school where I could develop as a tennis player. I went to Georgia Tech to play tennis."

While some parents may wonder whether getting so absorbed in extra-curricular activities might cause a college freshman to lose track of priorities, such is not the case for Kim.

She knows the value of hitting the books, and, throughout her academic career, has always been an outstanding student.

Kim finished high school here with a B-plus average. More impressively, she never missed making the honor roll while at Reynolds High. For most of her pre-high school years, Kim was enrolled in special classes for gifted and talented students.

Kim also displays maturity beyond her 19 years. She knows what she wants to do and how best to accomplish it. And, at this stage of her development, she's chiefly concerned with playing winning tennis.

"I did pretty good for a freshman," says Kim of her indoctrination to Atlantic Coast Conference

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Back Atcha

Mark Oliver uses two hands to return a volley in the Garber-Lash Tennis Tournament held last weekend at Hanes Park. Oliver was entered in the boys 14 and under division (photo by James Parker).

Hansforth takes Garber/Lash

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

Greg Hansforth defeated Marco Lucioni 6-2, 1-6, 6-1 to take top honors in the Garber/Lash Tennis Open last week (Aug. 15-19) at Hanes Park.

The match between Hansforth and Lucioni was the feature event in the open division of the sixth annual tournament, which is sponsored by the Greater Winston Kiwanis Club.

Tournament chairman Larry Upshaw said he was pleased to have such outstanding players as Hansforth and Lucioni participate. Yet the most important thing, he said, was to give competitive players with lesser skills the chance to play.

"I considered the tournament a success," Upshaw said. "It was an average turnout as far as participants were concerned, but we had some good matches each day."

"The overall play was very intense," Upshaw said. "It was obvious that good tennis was being played because of the number of spectators who came out to watch."

Though there were some upsets, the top seeds in four of the seven divisions won titles.

Chandy Cholla, who was seeded first in the girls' under 14 division, easily defeated unseeded Jody White in straight sets 6-1, 6-2 for her first Garber/Lash title.

In girls' 14 and over play, third-seeded Asheley McGeachy bested fourth-seeded Maria Swaim 6-3, 6-3.

Miss McGeachy, who won the girls' under 14 title last year, moved into a higher bracket despite the fact that she's only 13 years old.

"Last year, I didn't have that much competition," she said. "I thought by moving up, it would be a greater challenge for me."

Asheley's father Neil won the men's 35 and over title for the second year in a row when his opponent, Dr. James Ewers, failed to show for the final match.

Ewers, a vice chancellor at Livingstone College, played superbly in reaching the finals, but had to return to the Salisbury campus because of the arrival of freshmen on the campus.

In boys' under 14 play, top-seeded Nick Rubin narrowly edged Matthew Speer 7-6, 7-6. First-seeded Phillip Maye outlasted Keith Brown in three sets to take the boys' 14 and over crown.

The women's 35 and over division featured the most upsets. Both Katie Carter and Judy McAllister made it to the finals despite being unseeded.

Carter upset last year's winner, Sandra Harper, to earn a spot in the championship match against McAllister.

In the championship match, Carter was down 4-0 in the first game before rallying to send the game into a tie-breaker and winning 7-6. Carter continued on a roll into the first games of the second set before fatigue set in and McAllister took the set 6-4, forcing the deciding final set.

Neither player could gain a substantial margin in

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-- Tournament Director Larry Upshaw

the third set. Midway through the set the score was deadlocked 3-3 before McAllister finally mustered a final spurt to notch the win.

"After being down 4-0 in the first set, I felt good coming back to win it," said Carter, who works for R.J. Reynolds as an advertising planner.

"In the second set, neither of us could hold a serve because of the heat," she said. "It was a long match and Judy seemed to have just a little more stamina than I did. She's a good player and I'm happy to play as well as I did against her."

The match between Hansforth, who hails from New Zea and Lucioni, a Peru native, had both an international and professional air about it.

Hansforth overpowered Lucioni in the first set, while Lucioni overwhelmed Hansforth in the second, setting the stage for the final set.

Both Hansforth and Lucioni are coached by Wake Forest tennis Coach Ian Crookenden.

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Lash: Learning to make adjustments on and off the court (photo by James Parker).

Wake recruits

They're happy they stayed home

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

The 1984 edition of Wake Forest University football features four local players who could figure prominently in the Deacons' plans.

And well it should, says Coach Al Groh, noting that the Wake program is at a stage where the Deacons must recruit top-quality players locally to build a winning tradition.

"It's a plus for the program when you can recruit local players who can help your team," says Groh. "It's important to sign the local players because it helps in getting all elements of the local community behind you."

Of the four, three -- Tim Sheff, Reggie McCummings and Greg Scales -- played their prep football in Winston-Salem, while the other -- Warren Smith -- grew up in the city, but moved away and finished his high school career in Maryland.

McCummings figures to make a major impact in this, his junior season. A year ago, he led the team in tackles, a major achievement for a defensive back that seems even more impressive when you consider that he was a receiver the year before as a freshman.

"Reggie's a very good football player," says Groh. "He's blessed with the physical talent and he

has a lot of ambition. Perhaps his biggest asset is that he prepares himself well."

"He (McCummings) has a chance to become one of the best defensive backs in the conference," Groh says. "He sort of typifies our theory of recruiting. We've earmarked the local athlete who can improve during his career and add to our program."

McCummings likes the idea of playing collegiate football close to home and says there are several advantages to it.

"It's a good feeling to be able to play at home in front of your family and friends," he says. "I can go home for a meal or, if I need to talk to someone, I'm close to all my friends."

Yet, McCummings says it took a lot of hard work to win a starting assignment with the Deacons.

"After starting out as a wide receiver, it was difficult getting adjusted to defense," says the premier high school football player in Winston-Salem in 1981. "There are still some things I need to work on. But, once I became familiar with the things it takes to play in the secondary, it was a lot easier."

Linebacker Sheff is a product of Homer Thompson's program at Parkland High School. He agrees with McCummings that attending college here and

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Reaching For Stardom

Recruiting local talent has become more of a priority for Coach Al Groh of Wake Forest. Recently, Groh has fared well in landing players from Winston-Salem. Hometown players Greg Scales, Warren Smith, Reggie McCummings and Tim Sheff could all make a major contribution to the Deacons in '84 (photo by James Parker).