



Bill

Defends Southern Division Title

JCSU Tennis Team Looms Heavy Favorite In CIAA

By Phil Busher
Special To The Post
Johnson C. Smith University's tennis team has packaged together the elements of quickness, steady play, intelligence and experience in looming as the heavy favorite to defend their CIAA Southern Division tennis crown.

With four starters back, the Golden Bulls netmen have strengthened their attack with the return of their number one singles player in Carlos Lopez and freshman recruit Gary Robinson. Lopez took the 1983 season off last year.

"I was simply burned out from so many years of competing in tennis tournaments and matches," explained Carlos. "I'm ready to enjoy playing again."



Andre Ganther eyes the ball while his backhand sets in motion.



Top seed Carlos Lopez returns to action after a year's layoff.

"He has the same attitude and intensity as his freshman year when Carlos established himself as one of the CIAA's premiere players," observed Smith coach Bill Lide.

Robinson is a freshman from Jacksonville, N.C., with a good volley game.

"He's a player of the future with a strong forehand and backhand game," commented Lide.

The heart of the Smith attack, though, comes from four steady veterans who spearheaded last year's title drive. Number two singles again features Earl Thompson, a senior from

Jamaica. Koraz Ozturkler (No. 3 singles) a sophomore from Turkey; Andre Ganther, a junior from Chesapeake, VA and sophomore Chris Womack from Philadelphia, PA,

have proven consisted winners.

"Earl is our team leaders," points out Lide. "He exemplifies the team character of drive and mental toughness. He plays

a solid game that wears down many of his opponents."

Lide believes the team has a good shot at winning 20 matches.

"How well the players do

with their books has transferred onto the court," noted Lide. "Both Thompson and Ganther made 4.0 averages last year. That ability to apply themselves, concentrate and work hard, is reflected in their style of play and winning records."

Johnson C. Smith will host a three-team invitational Friday and Saturday, March 23-24, at Hornet's Nest Park. Morehouse and Belmont Abbey will compete in flight championship matches with the Bulls. First round singles and the doubles championship will begin Friday at 10 a.m. The singles championship rounds will start at 9 a.m. Saturday.

"I'd like to invite Charlotte area tennis buffs out to watch the matches," stated Lide. "It's just a great way to enjoy the spring weather and appreciate some fine, competitive tennis."

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"We have been entertaining thoughts of taking the tournament elsewhere," MEAC commissioner Ken Free said of his conference basketball tournament that has attracted poor attendance in its early existence. "Nothing is firm yet, we have to keep an open mind," Free explained.

He failed to mention that he is in the negotiation with a cable television outlet to lift his tournament to Washington, D.C., a major market area.

Delaware State continues to excite the sports world with its rapidly improving athletic program. The Hornets swept the men's and women's indoor track team titles in the recent MEAC meet. Their football and basketball teams each finished successful seasons.

Temple coach John Chaney, one of the most successful mentors in college basketball, has become the first black coach to win "Coach of the Year" honors by a Division I conference. He guided Temple to the NCAA Playoffs with a 24-3 record this year.

IF YOU ASK MEBilly Packer is not one of the better sports analysts on television. He's too opinionated, and too pro-ACC, and he spends too much time criticizing the game officials. Enough said!

REMEMBER THIS ONE: The San Antonio Spurs is said to have a "K-Mart Bench" because their reserves do not earn more than \$100,000.Look for Georgetown's Pat Ewing and Michael Jordan of North Carolina to return to their respective schools next year, 1984-85. The talk is that both these great athletes will turn pro this summer.

Did you know that first and second round losers in the NCAA Basketball Tournament will receive \$150,000? Or that major league baseball teams will get \$10 million more from television this year than they received last year? The New York Yankees leads all clubs with an \$11.7 million payoff. The New York Mets is second with \$10 million.

Had you thought of the three main reasons why college basketball ratings nosedived on television this year? They are (1) Billy Packer, (2) Overexposure, and (3) too many unimportant games.

Florida A&M has placed its basketball fortunes in the capable hands of Willie Booker, successful junior college coach.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar can break Wilt Chamberlain's all-time career record of 31,419 points if he averages 18 points a game the remainder of the regular NBA season.

The Atlanta Braves have taken Chris Chambliss off the trading blocks. The move has made Braves supporters happy. Chris' teammates are happiest of all. Incidentally, America's favorite baseball team will begin its 1984 television schedule Friday night when they tangle with the New York Mets. SuperStation WTBS will carry the contest beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Airtime for the games with the Texas Rangers on Saturday and the New York Yankees on Sunday, is 1:35 p.m.

Rumors are circling that South Carolina State will drop Johnson C. Smith from its regular football schedule. Wonder why Johnson C. Smith has not hired a new football coach? Time is running out for a good recruiting year....Or is it?

Charlotte Amateur Basketball Union has extended invitations to 94 of the country's top high school players to compete for positions with the Union's entries in the state junior olympics basketball tournaments. The organization will sponsor two teams for boys 19 and under and an equal number of games for girls 18 and under. The tournament will be held at Myers Park from May 4 through 6. If you'd like to enter, call Ed Sockwell at 372-1865.

Bill Davis will call out the South Carolina State Bulldogs for spring football drills Monday, March 26. Davis says he will hold 20 practice sessions, seeking to bolster his receivers corps and to replace 16 lettermen. He lost six defensive starters and five members of the starting offensive team. Davis has not set a date for the annual Garnet and Blue game.

JCSU MARC Program Earns National Double First

The Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, started by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services in 1977 to increase minority Ph.D.'s in microbiology, biochemistry, biostatistics and biophysics has produced its first Ph.D. and its first MD recipients—both Johnson C. Smith University graduates.

Renata Horton, a native of Fayetteville, N.C., and a 1978 JCSU graduate with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry, graduated with a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December. Valencia Pressley, a native of Donalds, S.C., and a 1978 JCSU graduate with a B.S. in Chemistry and a minor in Biology, received her M.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill as well as earning a M.S. in Parasitology.

"We are elated that the first MARC Ph.D. and M.D. are Johnson C. Smith University graduates," beamed Dr. Baldeo K. Chopra, JCSU Biology Department head. "The entire MARC faculty at Smith takes great pride in Dr. Horton's and Dr. Pressley's achievements."

Both Horton and Pressley proved to be over-achievers. Horton's stated interest as a Smith freshman was to become a medical technologist. She exceeded her projected academic performance indicators, graduating number one in her class with a 3.74 grade point average (summa cum laude) in three years. Pressley indicated all along that her life work would be as a doctor. She graduated cum laude

and went on to win one of 17 North Carolina Governor's Scholarships to attend medical school.

Each year eight Smith students who have demonstrated exceptional ability and have serious interests in the field are chosen for the MARC program. They participate in a quality research program in their area as well as taking

additional Honors courses. Each receives summer stipends for advance study at neighboring institutions.

"The news comes at a good time since we are hosting our annual Health Careers Conference Thursday," noted Dr. Henry Russell, JCSU Chemistry department head. "It's a great example of what can be accomplished."

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