

Vic Seixas To Be Feted Here Today

Down In Front

by Biff Roberts

Vic Seixas has gone a long way since he left the Carolina campus in the spring of 1949 but he can contribute much of his success in the tennis world to his interrupted stay here under the tutelage of personable John Kenfield.

Seixas was always acclaimed as one of the best college players in the country while he was here but when you look in the Southern Conference records you don't see his name turn up as many times as you would think, considering the outstanding record he has made since leaving here.

He was great in dual match competition but when it came to play in the Conference tournament, Viv was snake bit too many times.

In his three years of competition here after the war Vic played in three SC tourneys and he could win only one of those. In 1947 William and Mary's Gardner Larned beat him out for the title. 1948 was his year when he beat Fred Kovaleskie. But in 1949, his final year, he had Indian trouble again and Kovaleskie defeated him.

Both Larned and Kovaleskie were first rate tennis players in their own right and it was no disgrace to lose to them at that time.

Victories For Vic

But if you mentioned those names now they just wouldn't fit in with that of Vic Seixas. These past three years have been meteorous as far as his game is concerned and his play in this past one has brought him to the number-one position in the nation.

Even though Vic was baffled by the SC tourney, it was always easy to see that he had the makings of a champion. He was always trying and going for the points. With this in mind its not hard to see how he rose to the top, and now far outshadows these men who beat him in intercollegiate competition.

Vic played on this past Davis Cup squad and although the American team fell to the Aussies, he put up a good showing before he and his Yankee mates fell.

Playing in the singles with Ted Schroeder, Vic gave us our first victory by defeating Merwyn Rose. Schroeder in the meantime was losing to the Aussie's great Frank Sedgman. The next day we lost the doubles.

In the deciding match Vic was pitted against Sedgman. He put up a game fight but the Australian had a little too much for him that day and he went down in four sets.

Since that time in December Vic has gone on winning just about everything he's entered and because of his outstanding record has been named the top player in the country.

Big Vic and His Spark

This Davis Cup play and his top ranking mark the apogee of a brilliant climb in the tennis world, but both spots are ones which Vic certainly deserves. He was a member of that athletic generation here at Carolina called the Golden Era and he is a perfect example of what made that era glitter.

He has always had the potential which is needed to make a champion. He has had the good coaching which is so necessary to build a champion. But on top of that he has always had that spirit that turns potential and good coaching into making the champion.

A lot of us never got to see Vic play while he was here, or any of those other Golden Boys for that matter. This is certainly a chance we shouldn't miss.

There will be 3,500 seats surrounding the number-one varsity court today and everyone of those seats ought to be filled by Carolina students and fans.

Maybe that spark from one of the Golden Era members can ignite some of the dead wood around here.

Plays Sylvia In Exhibition At 3 O'Clock

by Vardy Buckalew

Vic Seixas, one of Carolina's best known athletes, will return to his Alma Mater today to play Del Sylvia in a tennis exhibition at 3 p. m.

Special stands have been erected around the number-one varsity court and there will be room for approximately 3,500 spectators. The weather forecast is for showers but it is hoped that the match can be played.

There will also be a doubles match but it is uncertain as to who the opponents will be. Bitsy Grant, another Carolina tennis great of '30 and '31 and at one time ranked third in the nation, has been invited but he has not stated yet whether he will make the trip.

Brown, Payne Play

If he comes, and Coach Kenfield doubts that he will, he will team up with Seixas to play Herb Browne and Bob Payne, the newly crowned doubles champs of the Southern Conference. If he does not come, Browne will play with Seixas against Payne and Clark Taylor, Carolina tennis captain in 1950.

As a windup to "Vic Seixas Day" a banquet will be held tonight in the Carolina Inn at 7 o'clock. Coach Kenfield has invited all the former Carolina tennis players and other tennis enthusiasts of the area and has received about 110 reservations. An interesting program has been planned.

Wife Here Too

Seixas arrived last night accompanied by his wife, the former Sally Ann Dunaway of Spartanburg, S. C. Mrs. Seixas is a former Carolina coed and a member of the Tri Delt sorority. While a student, Seixas was a member of Chi Psi fraternity. They arrived here from Seixas' home in Philadelphia, where they spent a few days after a trip to Bermuda. Seixas played in two tournaments there in preparation for the Wimbledon tournament in England next month.

Seixas had a brilliant career at Carolina and at the time he was a student here he was ranked number seven in the nation.

Estelle Lawson Page Wins State Golf Title

Mrs. Estelle Lawson Page of Chapel Hill retained her championship for the third consecutive year in the State Women's Amateur Golf Tournament Saturday with a workman-like 5 and 3 victory over Mrs. Agnes Morton Cocke of Charlotte.

Just 20 years ago last week, Mrs. Page won her first victory in any golf tournament by beating Jane Cothran of Greenville, S. C., in the 1932 event at Sedgefield.

By winning the crown for this year, Mrs. Page kept the distinction of being the only person ever to win the tournament, which is sponsored annually by the North Carolina Women's Golf

Association, because the event has been in existence only three years.

Mrs. Cocke, who was also runner-up in the 1950 tourney, presented strong competition through the first 18 holes of the scheduled 36 hole finals. She was only 2 down after the morning round, and she captured the 19th hole with a birdie-3.

Mrs. Page rallied after this, however, and had increased the margin to 4-up by the time they reached the 25th. After halving four in a row, Mrs. Page won the 30th, but the margin was cut to 4-up again on the 31st, when Mrs. Cocke won that one with a par.



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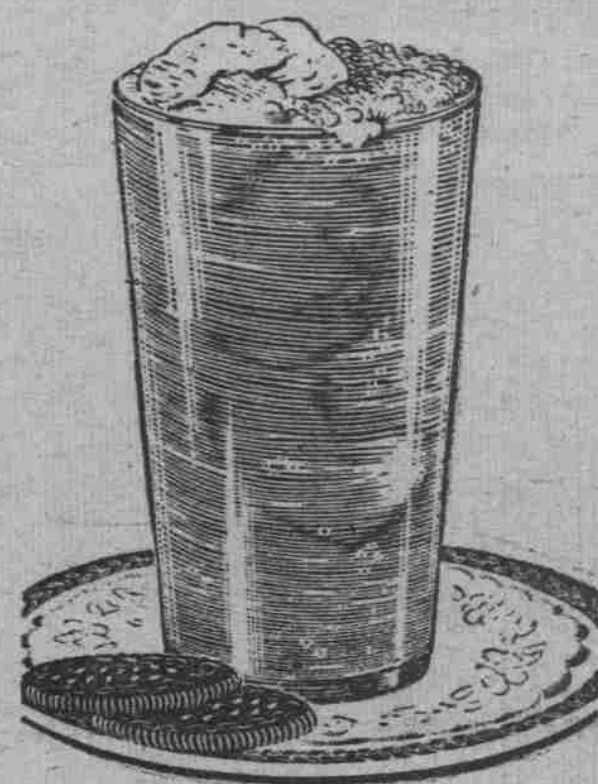
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