

# Netters blitz State 9-0; shatter hopes for upset

by Tex Ward  
Staff Writer

Carolina's men's tennis team defeated Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) rival N.C. State 9-0 Monday in Chapel Hill, upping its overall record to 22-1. Only a home match with Maryland on Thursday at 2 p.m. stands in the way of the Tar Heels completing their third consecutive perfect season in the ACC.

Against State, junior Bill Brock steamrolled Randy Merritt on the No. 1 court, 6-0, 6-1. Brock's extremely accurate, varied shot selection embarrassingly educated his opponent. "He didn't miss anything," said Merritt in exasperation after the match. "He isn't going to do that next week (in the ACC tournament in Durham). The court will make a difference."

Brock's win, his 20th in 22 outings, coupled with Maryland's John Lucas' loss to John Straley of Wake Forest on Sunday will seed the Tar Heel No. 1 in the upcoming tournament. Brock defeated Straley on Friday, April 11 at Wake 6-2, 6-2.

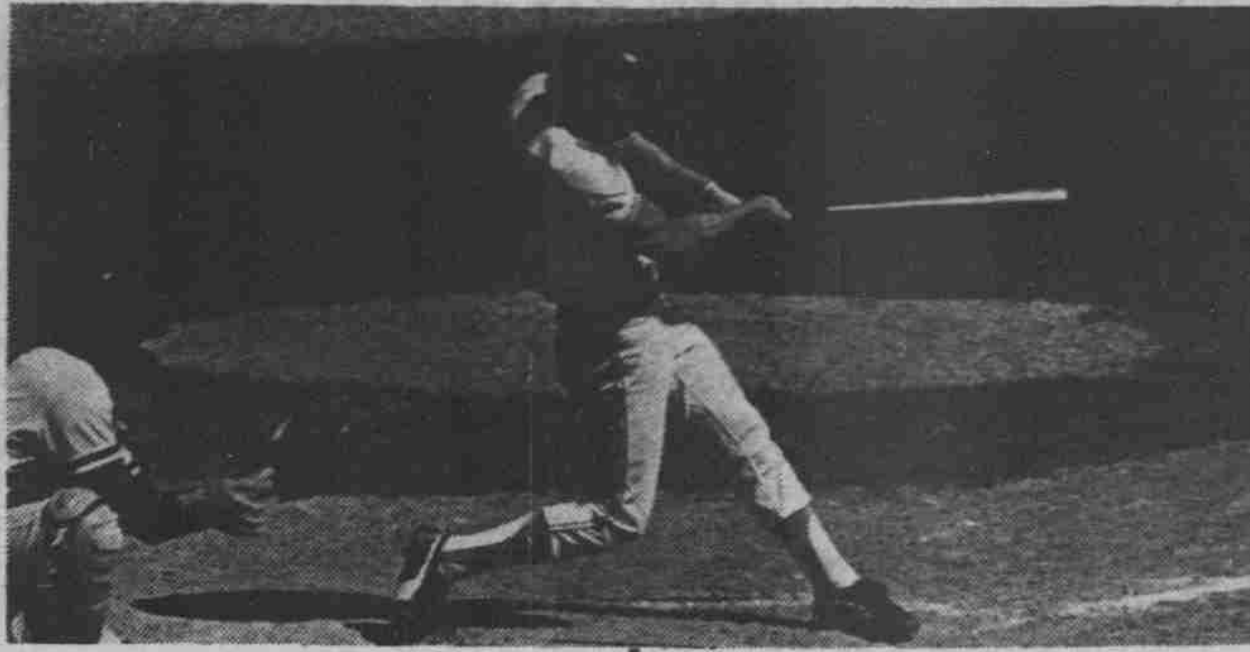
The other Tar Heels had few problems chalking up wins in their respective matches. Only senior captain Joe Garcia had to go three sets before winning 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 over Charlotte native, John Sadri.

No. 3 Tom Dixon defeated Jeff Jensen 6-0, 6-0 while Earl Hassler, David Oberstein, and Cliff Skakle all won convincingly.

Carolina's doubles pairings of Brock-Dixon, Garcia-Hassler, and Skakle-Junie Chatman were also won—6-3, 6-1; 6-1, 6-1; 6-4, 6-4, respectively.

Coach Don Skakle was pleased with his team's effort. "We played strong at every position today, and I feel that we are really primed for the tournament this weekend," he said. "Billy Brock is playing great and with our depth advantage our chances should be excellent."

The tournament will be played on the Duke University courts beginning Friday.

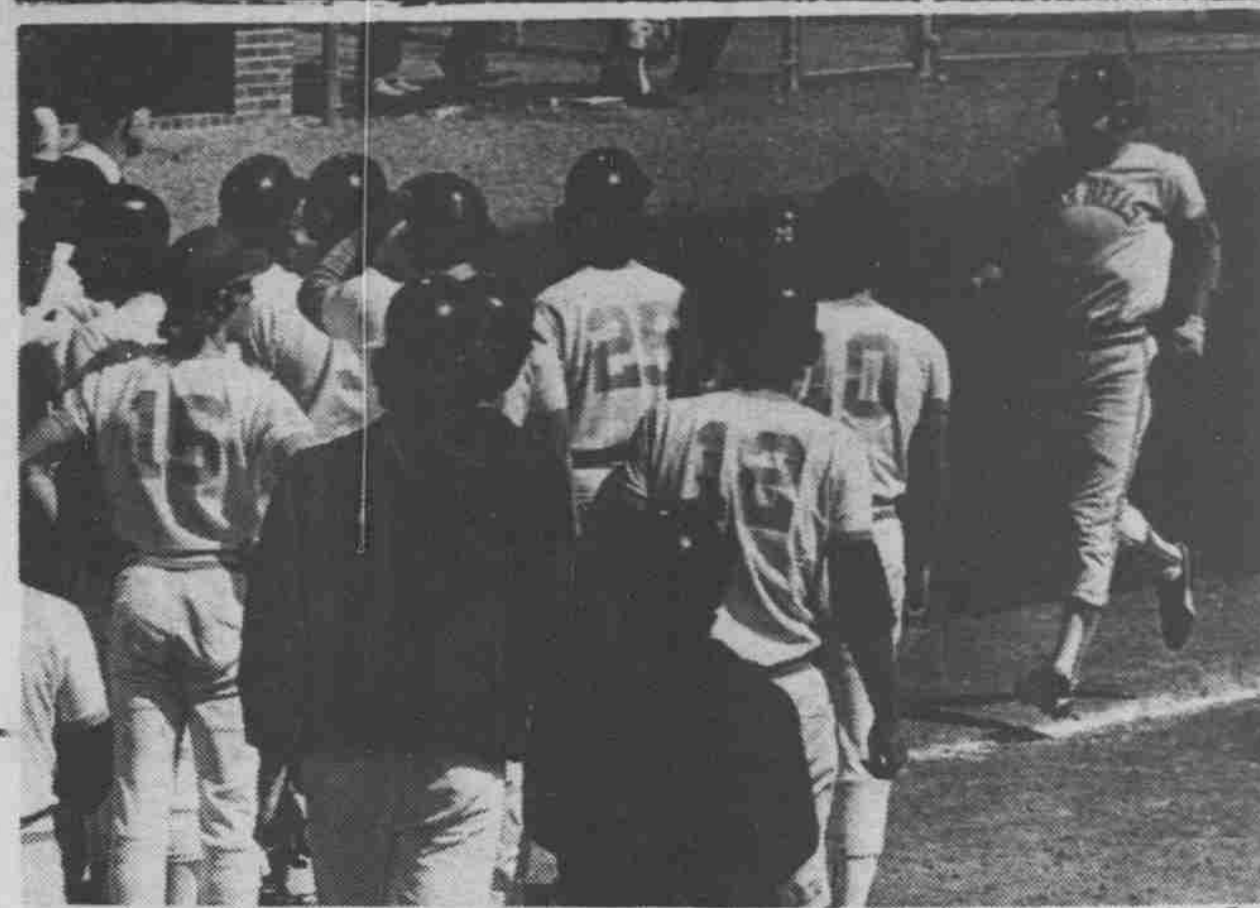


## Wilkerson Wallops

A three-run homer by Mike Wilkerson carried Carolina to a 5-1 Atlantic Coast Conference baseball victory over Duke Sunday at Cary Boshamer Stadium. Wilkerson, who has been hitting around .380 since the tail end of the Florida trip, broke a scoreless tie in the fifth inning with a smash over the 362-foot sign in left field.

The win broke a three-game losing streak for the Tar Heels and lifted them out of the ACC cellar with a 3-5 record. UNC is 14-15 overall. Carolina hosts Wake Forest in another crucial ACC game today at 2:30 p.m. in Boshamer Stadium before traveling to N.C. State Thursday.

# The Daily Tar Heel SPORTS

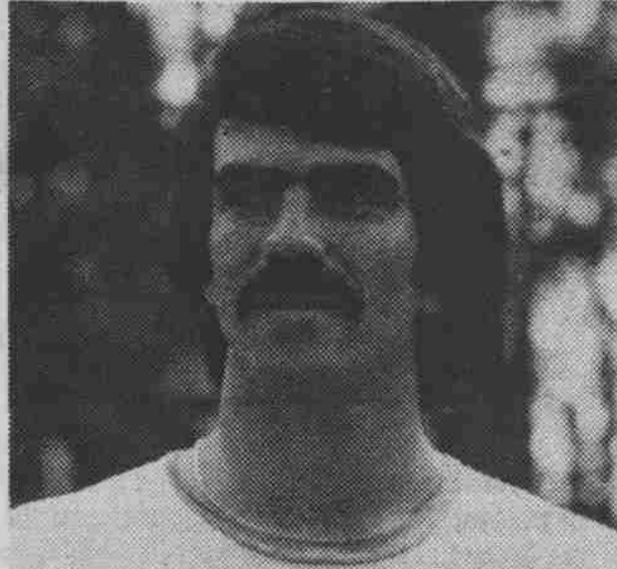


Staff photos by Peter Ray

# An upswinging career for tennis captain

by Tex Ward  
Staff Writer

"Joe has that built-in competitiveness and attitude of determination every coach is looking for. He gives me 100 per cent every time he walks out on the court. He is what I would like to see all of my boys become."



Joe Garcia

—UNC Tennis Coach Don Skakle on senior captain Joe Garcia

When Joe Garcia came to Carolina in 1970, he was the eighth-ranked high school player in the country, recruited by all of the schools in the Atlantic Coast and Southeastern Conferences, and from a tennis family in which all the children of age were nationally ranked.

Success was on the horizon. Carolina's outstanding tennis tradition was in good hands.

But Garcia's career has not been all roses, headlines and trophies. A back injury, erratic play, and a wavering self-confidence have plagued Garcia throughout his Carolina years.

As a freshman, the Knoxville, Tenn. native occasionally played in the No. 6 position and was on the court No. 3 ACC champion doubles team.

His freshman class included Rich McKee, an eventual All-America, and Richard Hardaway, who were the fifth and sixth-ranked high school players respectively in the country in 1970.

The second year was a disappointment. "I was playing the best tennis of my life at the start of my sophomore year, and three days before our first match, I sprained my back and was out for the season," he recalled.

As a junior and senior, Garcia's play improved steadily.

He won the Tennessee men's singles championship in 1973 and the No. 5 singles in the ACC in 1974.

However, the consistent championship form never asserted itself.

"Joe is hard on himself. The fact that he is a slow starter doesn't help such an attitude very much," Skakle said. "Sometimes he expects a little too much too soon."

Due to his back injury, Garcia gained an additional year of eligibility which he is now using to play the No. 2 position on the squad.

His present record is 17-6, with all of his losses going three sets.

Despite a mediocre start, Garcia, a psychology major, believes that he is "getting it back."

"This year has been kind of a disappointment thus far mainly because I have been losing my confidence. I think that

my game is finally starting to come around.

With all of the success and failure in his career, Garcia has somehow managed to rise above it all. He has that easy-going charisma that makes him popular with players and fans, and he gives Carolina tennis the flair and spunk that a more deliberate and conservative player cannot.

"Joe is always up for matches, and when he loses he never lets it rub off on others," said junior Bill Brock, UNC's No. 1 player. "This ability to keep everybody loose is why he is such a good captain. Also, at tournament time he is always there ready."

Garcia assessed, "If I play the way I am capable of, I think that I can win the singles and the No. 2 doubles with Earl (Hassler)."

He has not lost to an ACC opponent in the regular season, and the team is favored to win its sixth consecutive conference crown.

"The best thing about tennis here is Coach Skakle," Garcia commented. "He has helped me along and given me advice when I asked for it, but he has never forced his opinions on me."

"One thing that bothers me about tennis here is that the spectators don't get behind

the players more. Fans should shout and get excited about a good match rather than just hold their breath at a tense moment or clap their hands," he said.

Now that it is almost over and considering the disappointments as well as the successes, was it all worth it?

"I only wish that there could be a sixth year," he said.

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