

Billy Brock courts patient personality

by Mike Egan
Staff Writer

"Two years ago, we were sitting around the training table in Ehringhaus when he walked in. He looked about 12 and had a voice like Donny Osmond. There was no way he could be the tennis player we had heard so much about."

"That guy," as described by a fellow athlete, was Billy Brock. Now in his junior year, Brock has established himself as one of the many great players in Carolina's fabled tennis history. Any doubters of this claim were convinced by his 6-0, 6-2 demolition of Mark Meyers of Duke last Saturday.

Brock no longer looks like a 12-year-old. He is a gangling 6-3. But he still maintains the shy modesty one would expect of a freshman athlete rather than a no. 1 player with a 21-2 record thus far this season.

"Mark (Meyers) had a bad day," said Brock. "He's not used to playing on the soft courts here and it gave me a big advantage. I'll have a lot harder time with him on the Duke courts at the ACC tournament."

On the court, Billy plays with a style reflecting his patient personality.

"He's not a gambler like Freddie McNair (no. 1 player of two years ago) was," noted Coach Skakle. "He is often content to play the service line, waiting for his opponent to make the mistake. That's the key to his game. He rarely, if ever, makes a mistake."

Brock played on the pressure-packed no. 1 court on last year's top doubles team. This has helped him make a smooth transition to the singles spot.

"It's tough with all those people judging your every move," he said. "The first couple of matches were tough, but I've gotten used to it."

And how. While teammates and opponents vent their disgust by smashing balls over the fence or lobbing their racquets about the court, Billy's most violent action is to scuff the dirt with his toe.

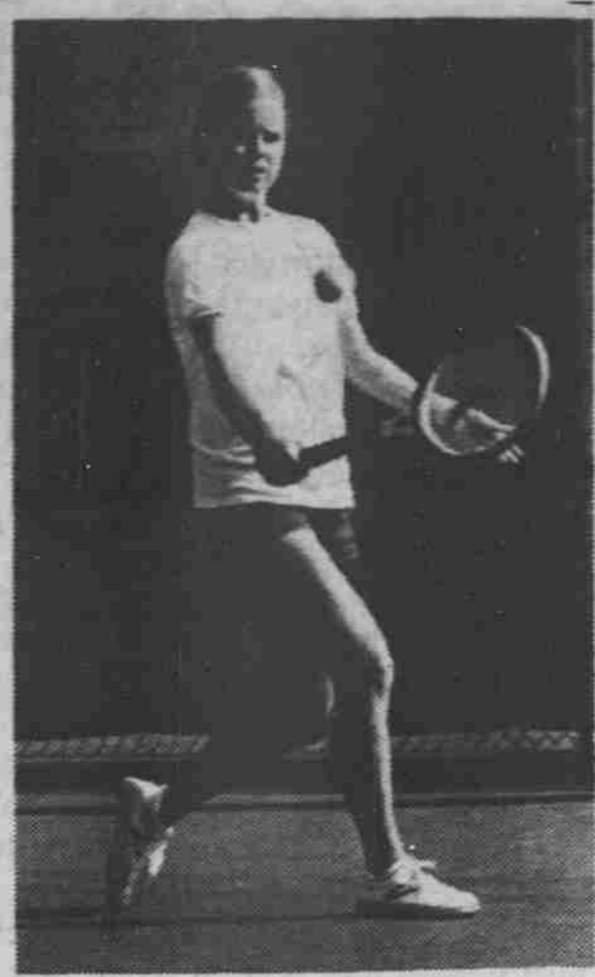
But don't be fooled by his calm exterior; any opponent will testify to

Brock's fierce determination. In a match last week against Hampton Institute, he overcame five match points and won the final five games en route to a 5-7, 7-6, 7-5 victory.

Will Brock win the ACC tournament? According to him, only if he gets lucky. But anybody who has been to a Heels' match knows better. Even Billy will concede that he is presently playing the best tennis of his life. Already he is virtually assured the top seed in this week's ACC tourney, a position he should defend for this year and the one to come.



Duke's Cindy Johnson



UNC's Camey Timberlake

UNC women netters defend state crown

by Kevin Barris
Staff Writer

All those pre-season expectations, dreams and hopes will be put on the line today for the UNC women's tennis team. The North Carolina Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (NCAIAW) tennis tournament begins at noon today in Chapel Hill, and the Tar Heels will be trying to defend the team title they won last year.

Six months ago it looked as though Carolina already had the title in the bag. The Tar Heels had just finished thrashing Duke (last year's runnerup in the state tourney) 7-2, and UNC freshman Camey Timberlake had beaten the Blue Devils' Cindy Johnson, who won the singles title last year.

Three injuries and five months later, however, the picture changed drastically. With three of its top six players suffering from injuries, UNC lost a 5-4 decision to Duke in Chapel Hill on April 1. Timberlake lost a chance at the no. 1 seeding in the tourney by dropping a three-set match to Duke's Patty Mays.

There will be 14 schools represented today when the tourney starts, but only Duke and Carolina have a shot at the title. Only one singles player from another school is seeded in the top 10 (Joan Adams of Atlantic Christian), and Carolina and Duke both have their top two doubles teams seeded in the top four.

Johnson is the top seed, and will begin defense of the singles title she won last year with a 3 p.m. match against Marianne

Mattox of Peace College. Johnson should encounter no problems until she reaches the quarter-finals.

After Johnson, Tar Heel players occupy five of the next six seeds. Timberlake, Beth Hamilton and Jane Preyer are the next three seeds, while UNC's Suzanne Bowron and Rebecca Garcia are seeded sixth and seventh, respectively. Duke's Mays, Emily Waugh and Margaret Duncan are seeded fifth, eighth and ninth.

In doubles, the defending champions Hamilton and Preyer are the top seed. Garcia and Nina Cloaninger of UNC are

seeded third. Duke's top doubles teams of Johnson and Emily Waugh, and Mays and Teresa Donahue are the no. 2 and no. 4 seeds.

UNC's Bowron should face no difficulty reaching Friday's quarter-final round, where she will probably face Johnson. Bowron's first match will be at 2 p.m. today against Debbie Miller of Mars Hill College.

Timberlake, Garcia, Preyer and Hamilton should also reach the quarter-finals for Carolina. Timberlake will most likely face Donahue in her first match Friday morning, then play Garcia in the quarters. Preyer will

Netmen battle Terps

by Tex Ward
Staff Writer

Undeclared Maryland and once-beaten North Carolina, both sporting perfect Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) records, square off on UNC's varsity courts today at 2 p.m. in a preliminary to this weekend's ACC tournament.

Carolina's talented junior Billy Brock will take on All-American basketball star and the defending ACC tennis champion John Lucas on the no. 1 court. Brock, with a 20-2 overall record, is unbeaten in league play, while Lucas has suffered only one loss.

Brock is seeded no. 1 for the upcoming tournament and boasts impressive recent wins over Mark Meyers of Duke, 6-0, 6-2 and Randy Merritt of N.C. State, 6-0, 6-1.

On the no. 2 court, senior captain Joe Garcia faces the Terps' freshman star Claude England, a New Zealander. England played at the no. 1 position earlier in the year while Lucas was concentrating on basketball.

Garcia is currently playing the best tennis of his career.

The rest of the Maryland lineup will include veterans Freddy Winkelmann, Howie Nelson and Brian Lee and another freshman from New Zealand, Tony James.

Carolina will counter with junior Tommy Dixon at three, freshman Earl Hassler at four, sophomore David Oberstein at five, and either Cliff Skakle or Junie Chapman, both freshmen, at six.

Dixon, Hassler and Oberstein are all undefeated against ACC opponents. Top seeding and a first round tournament bye will be at stake for Garcia, Dixon and Oberstein. Hassler is already seeded no. 1 at the fourth flight for the tournament.

The number one doubles match will feature the undeclared Brock-Dixon team against Winkelmann and Lucas.

JV sports

Pitcher Joe Roberts only allowed eight hits and Bill Johnson smacked a homerun, as the UNC jayvee baseball team took a 4-1 victory over the College of Albemarle Wednesday.

Though the Tar Babies had only three hits, seven walks and two Albemarle errors gave them ample base runners.

The jayvees, who are now 8-7 on the season, host Chowan at 2 p.m. today in Boshamer Stadium.

UNC's jayvee netters closed out their season with an 8-1 victory over Raleigh's Sanderson High School Tuesday, giving them a seasonal record of 8-2.

The losses came to the Harvard jayvees and Landon (Md.) High School.

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