

# Men's tennis looking to rise from ashes

## Pollack, Weilbaeher return as Tar Heels try to make up for difficult 1988 season

By ERIC WAGNON  
Staff Writer

"We should be in the fight this year," ninth-year UNC men's tennis coach Allen Morris says.

The Tar Heels are coming off a disappointing year in which two key players, David Pollack and Jimmy Weilbaeher, sat out with injuries. However, Pollack and Weilbaeher, now fifth-year seniors, are back along with several promising recruits for this year's campaign.

Considering those factors, Morris is cautiously optimistic for the coming year.

"We've got good talent and if we play well all together on the same day, we could beat a lot of good teams," Morris said. "We have an outside shot at an ACC championship and there's always that chance for an NCAA bid. I think we could finish in the top division of our conference — hopefully in the top four."

Last season, it turned out to be a much different story for the Tar Heels. The 1988 squad failed to win an ACC regular-season match for the first time since North Carolina began ACC play in 1954.

Additionally, that 0-7 conference mark was only the third losing ACC record in the history of the program. The Tar Heels finished 14-14 overall.

The injury bug which plagued the team last season has already hit one of Morris' top recruits. Playing in the No. 6 singles slot, David Sussman, of North Caldwell, N.J., suffered an ankle injury in an early-season match at West Virginia. Sussman is expected to be out for three weeks.

Regarding Sussman's injury, Morris said, "We do feel like we have enough depth this year. That if someone does get hurt, we can put somebody in there and it not hurt us too much."

At this stage in the season, Morris has not set the playing ladder in stone,

saying, "The only thing that I think I'm pretty well set on is that David Pollack and Don Johnson will play No. 1 doubles. A lot of our players are very even on the team so we'll be switching the lineup around."

Up to this point, Johnson, a junior out of Pittsburgh, has shared the No. 1 singles position, which he held last year, with Pollack. Bryan Jones, a freshman from Kings Mountain, has followed closely behind Johnson and Pollack, playing in the third and fourth spots in the ladder.

Morris has also been impressed with the early-season play of sophomores Thomas Tanner, of Rocky Mount, and Andre Janasik, of Hilton Head Island, S.C.

The team has already played six matches, including close losses to West Virginia (3-5) and Notre Dame (4-5).

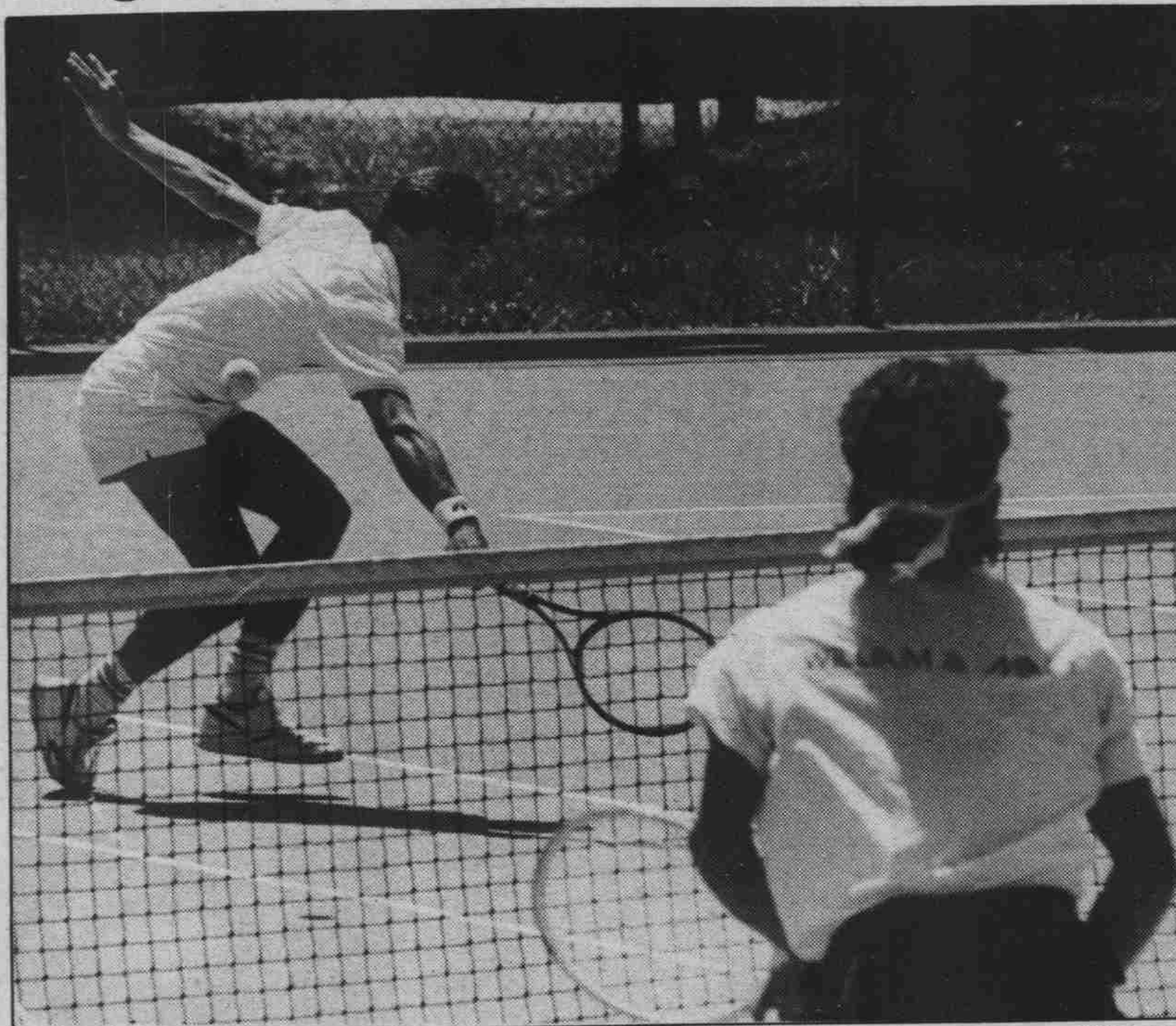
"As far as the West Virginia match, they're ranked 20th in the country and we played them very, very close," Morris said. "With just a point or two one way or the other. We could have won that match, but we didn't."

The especially difficult portion of UNC's schedule will come over spring break when the Tar Heels will be California-bound for a six-game road stint.

After taking on San Diego, North Carolina will face two consecutive nationally ranked teams in California-Irvine at number five and Pepperdine at number 12. Consecutive matches in Irvine against Iowa State, New Mexico and Utah round out the trip.

After returning from California, the road to the ACC championship lies ahead of the Tar Heels. North Carolina faces three consecutive conference opponents, N.C. State, Maryland and Virginia, before playing three more non-conference foes at home, Furman, Richmond, and 15th-ranked Tennessee.

North Carolina rounds out their conference slate with duals against Georgia Tech, Clemson and Wake Forest — all on the road. Following those away matches, the Tar Heels



DTH file photo

UNC sophomore Thomas Tanner is part of a talented squad that is coming off a luckless campaign

return to their home courts for their final ACC match of the year against Duke.

"As in the past, we're all chasing Clemson," Morris said about the ACC race this year. "Clemson will be very good. I think Duke will have a good team and really the whole conference will be strong this year."

This year, the six-time defending ACC champion Tigers already have an impressive win under their belt against traditionally powerful Southern Cal.

North Carolina is scheduled to take on two more non-conference opponents, Virginia Tech and South Carolina, at home, before traveling to the all-important ACC tournament at Clemson on April 21-23.

## Men's Tennis Roster

John Bristow	5-9	160	So.	Hendersonville
Joe Frierson	5-11	163	Fr.	Athens, Ga.
Carter Griffin	6-1	170	Jr.	Atlanta, Ga.
Andre Janasik	5-11	165	So.	Hilton Head Island, S.C.
Don Johnson	6-2	169	Jr.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Bryan Jones	5-10	155	Fr.	Kings Mountain
David Kessler	5-11	165	Sr.	New Orleans, La.
James Krege	5-11	165	Jr.	Greensboro
Chris Mumford	5-10	155	Fr.	Richmond, Va.
David Pollack	5-9	150	Sr.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
David Sussman	6-2	155	Fr.	North Caldwell, N.J.
Thomas Tanner	5-11	150	So.	Rocky Mount
Jimmy Weilbaeher	6-1	180	Sr.	Asheville
Head Coach: Allen Morris				

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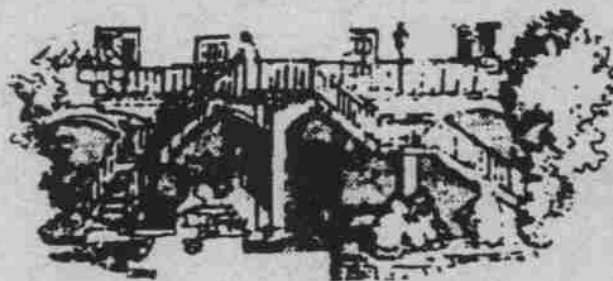
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