



DTH/File Photo

Senior Ann Stephenson will play No. 1 again this year for UNC

Improving fast

Well-balanced women's tennis making 'great strides,' coach says

By ERIC WAGNON
Staff Writer

Every class at North Carolina can certainly feel represented on the women's tennis team. Up to this point in the season, two seniors, two juniors, two sophomores and two freshmen have made up the lineup for the Tar Heels.

Senior tri-captain Ann Stephenson, of Columbia, Mo., leads UNC in the No. 1 singles position. Gina Goblirsch, a junior from Bakersfield, Calif., who is currently in the No. 2 singles spot, has teamed up for the third straight year with Spencer Barnes to form the top doubles team.

Barnes, a senior tri-captain, who was the 1985 North Carolina High School Player-of-the-Year at Reynolds High in Winston-Salem, has played in the No. 4 singles slot for the Tar Heels this season.

Another top returnee for 13th-year coach Kitty Harrison is junior Valerie Farmer, of Bowling Green, Va. Farmer, a two-year letterman, has seen action in the third singles position for UNC thus far this spring.

North Carolina has played three non-conference dual matches and one within the ACC so far this spring to earn a 3-1 record. The Tar Heels won on the road against Ivy League opponents, Harvard and Princeton, both by 6-3 scores.

Harrison was especially pleased with the win over Harvard, probably the top team in the Northeast and currently the 24th-ranked team in the nation. Commenting on the win, Harrison said her team showed stamina in close matches. Four of the

matches went to three sets, with UNC winning all four.

At Maryland, the Tar Heels picked up a crucial conference victory, clobbering the Terrapins by an 8-1 score. In their first home match Saturday, UNC lost to Utah.

In comparing the early-season results this spring with the short season in the fall, when the Tar Heels went 1-1 in dual matches, Harrison said, "I just see a tremendous improvement and strides forward since then. The team is more physically fit. We've been working hard, and they're stronger mentally and physically. We're just moving in the right direction."

Harrison added that she was pleased with the progress of the four freshman on the team — Amy Holt, Gigi Neely, Kelli Sharp and Nori Sie.

Holt, of Winnetka, Ill., has seen action on the No. 3 doubles team, while Neely, from Potomac, Md., has

been at the No. 6 spot in singles. However, Sie, out of Charlotte's South Mecklenburg High, must sit out the season with an injury.

Senior three-year letterman Vanessa Ames has also been hampered by injury problems. In addition, Ames, of Ridgefield, Conn., has academic commitments with a national business scholarship, which may add a time restraint to her tennis contribution.

The Tar Heels face three ACC opponents, Clemson, Georgia Tech and Duke, before embarking on a road trip to California and Utah over spring break.

In the first portion of the road stint, North Carolina looks to avenge last year's losses to California-Irvine, San Diego State and San Diego. The Tar Heels then move on to Provo, Utah, for the BYU Quadrangular to take on the Cougars and traditionally-tough Southern Methodist.

Women's Tennis Roster

Vanessa Ames	5-7	130	Sr.	Ridgefield, Conn.
Spencer Barnes	5-8	138	Sr.	Winston-Salem
Valerie Farmer	5-3	119	Jr.	Bowling Green, Va.
Gina Goblirsch	5-10	140	Jr.	Bakersfield, Calif.
Amy Holt	5-9	138	Fr.	Winnetka, Ill.
Dana Kanell	5-8	128	So.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Dianna McCarthy	5-4	134	So.	West Newton, Mass.
Gigi Neely	5-5	128	Fr.	Potomac, Md.
Kelli Sharp	5-5	117	Fr.	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Nori Sie	5-3	132	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C.
Ann Stephenson	5-8	131	Sr.	Columbia, Mo.

Head Coach: Kitty Harrison

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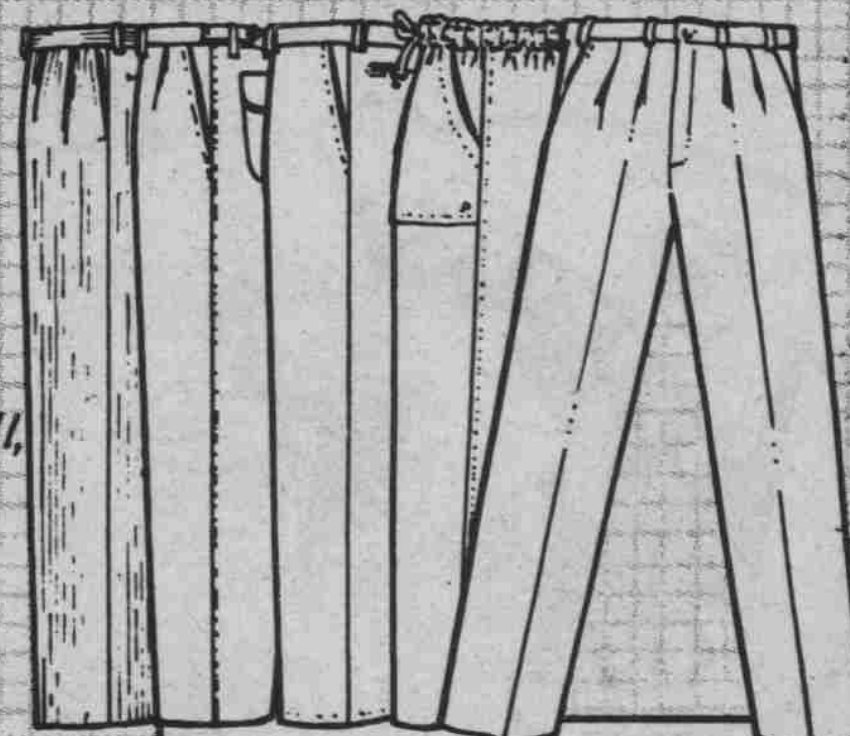
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