

# Mountaineers use mild weather to cool off Seahawks

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On a somewhat chilly Wednesday afternoon in March, the UNC Wilmington women's tennis team went cold. The squad from West Virginia University froze the Seahawks in their tracks. West Virginia blanked UNCW, 7-0, in what was still an en-

tertaining and interesting match.

"I wasn't disappointed...I felt like I played really hard," UNCW freshman Hunter McRae said. McRae fell to West Virginia's Anna Underwood, 6-3, 6-3.

UNCW's No. 1 seeded player Samantha Thompson lost a hard fought match to Ellie Earles 6-1, 6-3.

For the most part, all matches were

extremely tight. The Seahawks battled relentlessly for the win, but they came up short. Elizabeth Perry, who played in the second spot for UNCW, illustrated this point in her match with Helen Adams. Perry never gave up; nonetheless, she fell in three sets, 6-1, 7-6, (8-6).

"There were very tight matches on each court...I think everyone did a

good job about supporting each other," Perry said. "I think we are ready to go into some good conference matches this weekend."

UNCW coach Jenny Garrity looked physically drained after the match. Garrity said, "It was disappointing; we are a much better team than what we have exhibited in the last week and a half."

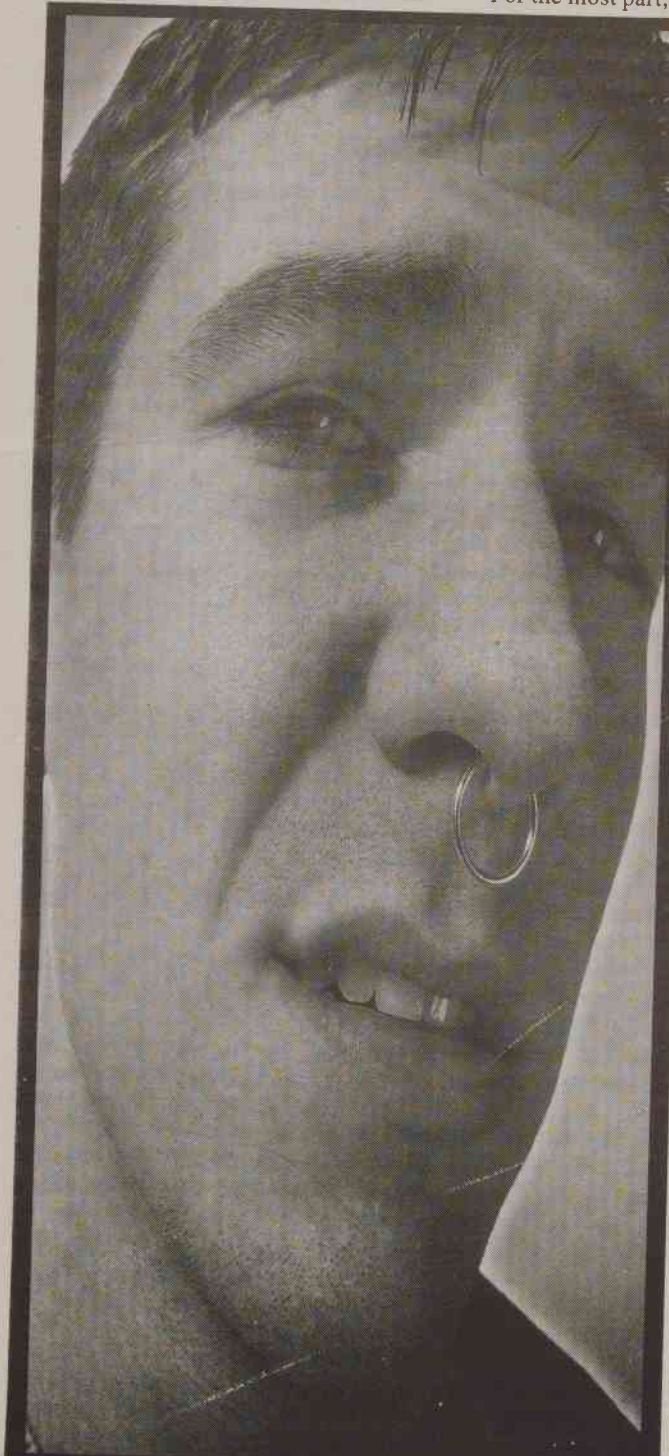
Since the beginning of March, the Seahawks have dropped three matches, including matches against East Carolina and Central Florida. On the other hand, they have also won three matches, including a shutout over Wagner College, 7-0.

"We need to get tough; somehow we need to believe that we have a chance to win when we walk on the court," Garrity said.

The Seahawks will definitely get a chance to improve their mentality. In the coming weeks, the women's tennis squad will face four conference rivals - James Madison, George Mason, William and Mary and Old Dominion.

"We are not playing like we can win, and it is killing us," Garrity said.

If the squad does not start believing in itself, they will be hard-pressed to find enough strength to help them in the Colonial Athletic Association Championships, which will be held in Richmond on April 20-22.



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Seahawk

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Sophomore Jacky Gibbens returns a ripshot to her opponent in the West Virginia University match.