

# SPORTS

## Tennis Teams Serve New Attitude

By Anthony DeGregorio  
Decree Sports Editor

Along with a new coach, the tennis teams come into the season with a new attitude. They are more organized and excited to play.

The teams consist of 7 men and 4 women. "I have always wanted to coach a team," said head coach Jacy Swartz, "and I believe I can use my background and experience to strengthen" the NC Wesleyan program.

Swartz feels that her team is very talented and that they now have the organization that they lacked last year and everyone has the desire to be there and play well. The teams do conditioning and focus on strategy at every practice. In inclement weather, the players use the indoor courts and facility at Ford's Colony, a unique resource for small college teams.

In college tennis, teams play 6 singles and 3 doubles matches. The women's team will have a disadvantage in the fact that they only have 4 competitors and will be forced to forfeit 2 individual matches and 1 doubles match.

"Recruiting wasn't as strong as it could have been this year," said Swartz. There were no freshmen brought in for the men's team and only one for the women's team due to the coaching change last year. Former coach Eric Allen left last semester for Wagner University for a graduate's assistant job, leaving both tennis teams in disarray.

Swartz hopes to remedy the player shortage by focusing her recruitment efforts in the East, from New England to Florida, a hotbed for tennis. "This year while I recruit I'm attacking the entire East Coast," said Swartz who has been sending out letters and making phone calls to players as well as their high school coaches.

The men's team lineup will depend on recent performances. Entering the season, Swartz said, sophomore Dustin Hale anchors the team, followed in order by Daniel Pace, Zach Marks, Jason Jolly, Drew McLachlan and Johnny Evans. Jenna Gollub, a junior, will lead the women's team whose 2-4 players are Ashley Ball, Kayla Miller and Vanessa Gore.

Both men and women will play in 14 matches this spring, many of which are on the same dates. Swartz hopes to see both of her teams do well at the USA South Conference Tournament which will be April 13-15th in Burlington.

Swartz was named NCWC head tennis

## Short-handed Women's Basketball Team Endures Tough Season

By Trevor Seibert  
Decree Sports Editor

The NCWC women's basketball season ended with a first-round loss to Greensboro College, 85-51, in the USA South Conference tournament.

The loss capped one of the worst seasons in school history, as the Bishops finished with a 2-23 record that included an 0-14 conference mark and a season-ending 19-game losing streak.

With only seven available players on the roster, the team struggled with a lack of numbers. Its only victories came over Salem College, which has only 8 players in its first year of existence as a varsity basketball team.

During the season, the Bishops were led by forward Liz Ansley, who averaged 12.3 points and 7.6 rebounds points per game. Ansley was 4 points short of the school record when she dropped 33 against Methodist on February 13th. Guard Kimberly High paced the team in assists (4.3 per game) and steals (2.4) while her leadership helped in keeping the team together.

With three seniors on the team, the Bishops hope for a successful recruitment season. If not, look for another long season with fewer than ten players on the roster. Every team needs depth, and without it, teams will continue to wear down the Bishop players, running them up and down the court.

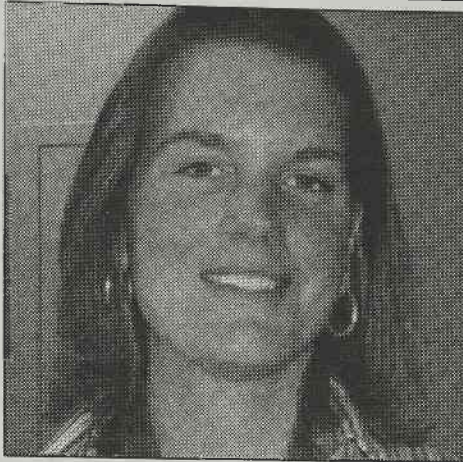


Photo by Evelyn Hunter

### New tennis coach Jacy Swartz

coach and admissions counselor over winter break. She had been head pro at Ford's Colony, a gated community adjacent to the NCWC campus.

She grew up in Fort Pierce, Fla. where she began playing tennis at age 3. During her youth, she competed in junior tournaments and held state and sectional rankings. She played four years at John Carroll High school before receiving an academic scholarship to Belmont Abbey College, just outside of Charlotte. She led the Crusaders to a conference championship in her freshman year and served as captain in her senior season.

After graduating in 2002, Swartz returned to Florida where she worked as a tennis instructor prior to returning to North Carolina in August 2004.

## Trevor's Golf Diary: Trading Pads for Plaids

*(Editor's Note: With this issue, we introduce a new feature: "Trevor's Diary." During the upcoming months, we'll follow sophomore Trevor Seibert as he makes the transition from wide receiver to member of the NCWC golf team.)*

At the end of summer, I was upbeat about the upcoming football season. I had gained about 25 pounds of muscle, going from 175 to 200, due to the tough spring workout our coaches put us through and I was looking forward to having a big impact on the team. All that changed on that fateful day, August 14, 2005, if I remember right. The boys and I had just finished some hardcore Halo playing and we were headed to dinner, four days into football camp. As usual, I jumped onto the bed on William "Billy Bob" Parker's Ford Ranger and we were on our way. The rest is a blur, but the next thing I know I'm riding in an ambulance. I had fallen off the back of the truck, and my football career was over.

A couple of months had gone by and it was starting to look bleak. Sure, I now had a student coaching position on the football team, but I was missing the competitive spirit of playing a sport. That's when my good friend Anthony DeGregorio told me he wanted me to play in a golf tournament for the school. He said that the team was short a player and really needed me. I obliged although it had been a year or two since I had played a serious round of golf. It was a Division 1 tournament right down the road in Greenville, and I did nothing short of embarrassing myself. Over three rounds, I shot 110, 113, and 99, but finished next to last (one person was disqualified).

My drives were all over the place in that tournament. One would go dead right with a 90 degree slice and then another one would go straight, and then the next would go left. My irons were horrific. Every shot was a shank—dead right, dead right, dead right. My putting and chipping saved me from embarrassing myself any further. I have always been a great short game player.

Following my performance last fall, I was very disappointed and frustrated and I figured that Coach Dalton would not want me to play in the spring. So I started practicing furiously and so far it's have been working out. With a little help from Anthony and a little help from the Medicus (a popular swing training club), my drives go about 280 right down the middle and my irons are, for the most part, high and straight. One important part about golf is, the more you play, the more you learn about yourself. I know that I'm too aggressive on the course, but that's a side effect of football.

I now shoot in the 90's regularly and I'm starting to gain some confidence with my swing. In high school I used to shoot in the high 70's-low 80's, which is where I want to be before the end of this season. Hopefully, I'll be able to make as big of an impact on the golf team as I would have made on the football team.

**Addendum:** Here's an analysis by Anthony DeGregorio, co-sports editor, and golf teammate:

When Trevor began playing with the golf team at the end of the fall semester his swing was atrocious, his tempo was terrible and his scores were dreadful. As he played more and got more advice, he began playing better and scoring lower. Tournament play is much more difficult than playing with friends. The conversations are limited and the pressure on every swing grows throughout the round. I'm interested to see how well he can score in tournaments and hope not to see his name at the bottom of the leaderboard. All aspects of his game are coming along well, but he needs to be more consistent and not let his bad shots cost him more than one stroke.

## March Madness Talk Bubbles

Speak Your Mind: Trevor Seibert and Anthony DeGregorio Debate

**AD:** March is coming soon and there are still a lot of teams who haven't locked up their spot in the NCAA tourney yet.

**TS:** Yeah, March 5th is selection Sunday and there will be some pretty pissed off teams this year. Teams like Connecticut, Duke, Memphis, and Villanova are looking like probable #1 seeds and will just sit back and wait to see what team they have to play in the first round. Think we'll see a #16 beat a #1 this year?

**AD:** I don't think so. There are too many good teams. My picks for the #1 seeds this year are Duke, UConn, Memphis and Texas.

**TS:** Wow. Not sure about those picks. If I were going to guess who the #1 seeds were going to be, with the schedules and conference tournaments left this season, I would have to go with Duke, Memphis, Tennessee, and Gonzaga. UConn is good but they'll lose one more game this season and I don't see them winning the conference tourney this year. The Big East is just too good of a conference this year with 5 ranked teams. The lower teams in that conference all have the capabilities to upset a team on any given day. Just look at Seton Hall which has upset N.C. State, Syracuse, and now West Virginia. You also have Syracuse, which is sitting at the bottom half of the conference. The Orangemen can get hot really quick with great leadership from Gerry McNamara.

**AD:** The Big East is by far the deepest and will have 7 or 8 teams in the tourney. I still think that UConn can afford one more loss and still get a 1 seed. As of right now, their only losses have come to Marquette, because they blew it at the free throw line hitting only .500 and Novak just caught fire and had 41 points and over 15 rebounds. Their other loss was a tough road game at Villanova, a team they WILL beat on their home court.

**TS:** I think WILL is too definite of a statement there because I don't think that Connecticut matches up very well with Villanova and I think that you'll see UConn lose another one to Villanova as well as to a lower ranked team in the conference tourney. I see them becoming a 2 or even possibly a 3 seed. I think I'll go on a limb and say that 9 Big East teams get into the tourney. Right now they have 9 teams ranked in the top 33 in the RPI rankings and usually the top 34 make it into the tourney. So, who do you see as possible bracket busters this season?

**AD:** With the Big East tourney being so deep you'll see some of those bubble teams like Seton Hall, Marquette, Cincy or Louisville go down in the first round which will kill their chances of getting a spot. Unless Cincy or Louisville has a good conference tournament, I don't believe they belong in the tourney, with losing records in conference play. As far as bracket busters, I think you'll see a bunch of solid #3 and #4 seeds such as Pitt, Illinois, Florida, and Georgetown go far, possibly even winning it all.

**TS:** Good call with those teams, but do you see any teams ranked lower than 8 or 9 going all the way this season? Last year there were only two #1 seeds that made it to the Final Four. I believe that we'll see some similar results this year and I'll say that only ONE number one seed makes it to the Final Four and I do think that Duke is going to win it all. I can see a team from the Colonial Conference or even the Missouri Valley Conference causing some major messes in the brackets this season. You always have to look out for the Salukis from Southern Illinois!

**AD:** I don't see that happening unless some of the high quality teams like West Virginia or those teams I just mentioned do miserably down the stretch. If they shoot themselves in the foot and end up with a low seed, I don't think you'll see many upsets until the later rounds with 4 or 5 seeds beating #1's. So who are your picks to reach the Final Four this year and who is your champion?

**TS:** Picking the final four without seeing the brackets is like trying to find a snowball in Miami. But we're the experts so we'll take a shot at this one. My final four pick will be Duke, Texas, Connecticut, and the defending champs UNC-Chapel Hill. People's jaws probably have hit the ground but I'm going to stick by those picks until I see the brackets on March 5th.

**AD:** I prefer to use the analogy of trying to find a former high school football player in eastern

North Carolina who hasn't concussed Trevor Seibert. My final four picks are going to be Duke, Pittsburgh, UConn and Villanova. Nova was a tough pick for me but the two games they lost were both against ranked teams and both losses were by less than 5 points. I think you'll eventually see the Blue Devils cutting down the nets this year for three reasons: They have the best coach in the nation; they have the best shooter in the nation in J.J. Reddick; and they have the best big man in the nation in Sheldon Williams.

**TS:** I'll give you two of the three, Anth. The third disappears because he looks like a mixture of Chewbacca and Martin Luther King Jr. No offense to Dr. King, it's the Chewbacca thing that gets me. So, because of that, the tie between him and Pitt center Aaron Gray goes to Gray. Gray averages more rebounds a game, and that's ALL that matters with a big man. They're about tied in block per game. Sheldon is the ugliest person I have ever seen in my life and for that reason alone, he's off the list.

**AD:** You have to be kidding me! He is averaging almost a double-double and is close to 20 points per game as the second option, with JJ getting most of the touches. He is a complete big man, with 4 blocks per game, 2 steals per game, over 50% from the field in all four years he has played! And he's a solid free throw shooter. Don't argue with me on that. Gray is good and will most likely be the best big man in the nation next year, should he stay in college, but Williams is still my top pick for a big man.

**TS:** I'm not arguing his skills, but you can't disagree that he is the ugliest thing you have seen in your entire life (if you exclude the countless times you've looked in the mirror). Next subject is players that we have seen that are doing very well, but you've never heard of them. First on my list would be Andre Collins from Loyola, Maryland. This guy is not only ranked third in scoring average behind Reddick and Adam Morrison of Gonzaga, but he's also ranked second in 3-pointers a game, 7th in free-throw percentage, and 20th in steals per game. So not only is this guy a great offensive player, but a great defensive player as well.

**AD:** I will take Keydren Clark on my team any day. He's been a starter since his freshman year when he averaged 24.9 PPG. He has significantly improved to a total player which is shown in his improved steals average. He's gone from the 1.4 steals per game his freshman year to 3.3 last year and 2.7 this year. He is the lone bright spot on a sorry St. Peters basketball team. He's a great free throw shooter, making over 90% this year. I'll be very surprised if an NBA team does not take a chance on this kid with a second round pick in the draft next year.

**TS:** Very good pick there, Anth, I don't think that he's as good as Collins, but he is an overall good player. Second round draft pick, maybe. My next guy is going to be Jose Juan Barea who not only is a great scorer, but a great passer as well. This kid from Northeastern College is averaging 8.4 assists per game just .2 behind the leader in that category. He's the 18th leading scorer this year in the NCAA and could possibly lead his above-.500 team to a conference tourney championship and go to the big dance. That's a scary looking guard to go up against in the NCAA tournament.

**AD:** One of the better big guys who doesn't get any recognition is Paul Millsap out of Louisiana Tech. With that 6'8" 250 pound frame, he is built like an Elton Brand and is putting up statistics that are very similar. He is averaging over 20 points per game and pulling down 12.6 rebounds a game, tying him for the most in Division One. He's a solid defender in the post, averaging 2.2 blocks and 1.5 steals. As a freshman, he scored 15.6 and pulled down 12.5 rebounds and his sophomore year improved his scoring to 20.4 points per game and remained a dominant rebounder with 12.4 a game. He's already the best rebounder in the NCAA and hasn't even entered his senior year yet.

**TS:** It's too bad that he has to play for a team like Louisiana Tech, though.

**AD:** It should be an exciting tournament—pure madness.

**Editor's Note:** If you would like to take issue with our opinions or recommend a topic for debate, contact us at Trev1986@aol.com, or AD285203@mail.ncwc.edu.