## Sports

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## Quakers handling losses well, beat Roanol After losing two key seniors from the '97 club, Quakers prove they still have what it takes

## BY ANNIE BUCHANAN-CLARY Staff Writer

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It is easy to see why some fans might question the ability of this year's women's tennis team to match last year's winning season.

Having lost team leader Betsy Parker and key players such as Mignon Ezzell and Kirsten Zwicker this year, many freshmen and sophomores have been asked to fill the spaces left by these athletes. The women's tennis team has re-assembled this year to prove something.

Beating Roanoke last Wednesday was a good step.

"Anytime you lose players who've played for four years the team lacks work ethic and hustle in practice," said women's tennis coach Chuck McCracken. "However, the pressure to achieve challenges them to do the best they can."

Wednesday's match against speed.

Roanoke began with a doubles competition by junior Libby Hinsley (No.1) and senior Erica Carrier (No.2). Winning the set 8-5, the Guilford duo offered strong competition, returning a considerable amount of serves and keeping the top-seeded Mary Jo Maher moving across the court.

In the match-up of doubles partners senior Joanna Hill (No.3) and freshman Stephanie Geis (No.4), Roanoke offered fewer returns and Guilford won quickly with an 8-3 victory. "I would put every ball into play and wait for her to make mistakes," said Hill.

In the longest of the doubles matches, freshman Julia Hoeng (No.5) and senior Eleanor Ball were matched with the Roanoke doubles team of Hillary Tulloch and Jennie Stach.

Working for each point, the Guilford pair reigned throughout the match, concentrating on technique instead of

As the rest of the women's team showed support around the court, Hoeng and Ball won 8-4.

Hinsley began the singles matches, winning quickly with a complete dominance over Maher in a 6-0,6-0 whipping.

Erica Carrier, however, was unable to beat her opponent Lindsay Russell, allowing Roanoke one of their two wins. Carrier lost two sets at 3-6, 0-6.

Joanna Hill was then matched with Kathryn Anthony.

Anthony may have offered inspiration to play well but was hardly competition for the strong serves of Hill. "Individually I like to hit the ball with a lot of pace and so did my opponent so I mixed it up with some short balls and was successful," said Hill.

Stephanie Geis shut out her opponent, Jennifer Runyon, in two sets, winning 6-0, 6-1, followed by a win by sophomore Beth Holcomb (No.6) at 6-

3.6-0

"The first set I didn't play as well as I could have," said Holcomb, "but I regained some confidence in the second set and followed through."

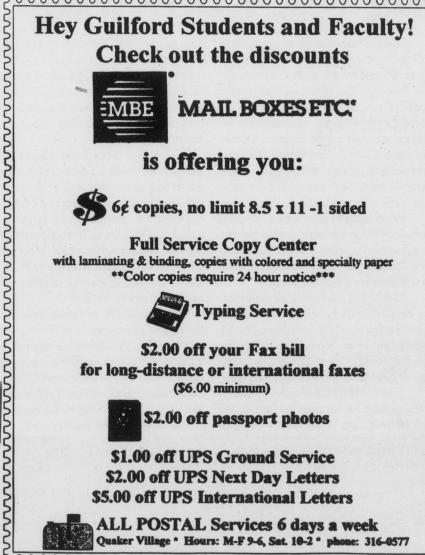
Julia Hoeng suffered the only other loss by Guilford, playing three long sets against Heather Tiffany and finally succumbing to a 1-6, 6-2, 3-6 conquer.

Dominating throughout the match, Guilford's win over Roanoke left their season record at 5-5 overall and 2-1 in the ODAC.

"They played good, solid tennis," said coach McCracken, "especially considering the injuries many players have."

"It was a great victory," said Hill, "it always feels good to win at home."

It is the kind of commitment displayed against Roanoke that motivates many to believe that despite losing some strong players, the 1998 women's tennis team will continue to persuade its skeptics as to their newfound strengths.



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