

## Peterson, Odom advance to state tennis finals

By C. J. Cash

The girls' tennis squad enjoyed a great season, advancing through the regionals in the state playoffs.

During the season the team endure an increase in practice time and concentration during practice. They practiced from about 3:45 to 6 pm most of the season.

The girl's tennis team got on pace and finished strong. The unit finished the regular season second in the conference, only to Greenville, with a record of 8-2. "We had a really good season except for the two disappointing losses to Greenville,"

said senior Angela Odom. Topping the regular season were two wins over Northern Nash, beating them 7-2 and 9-0.

In the conference meet, Caroline Bethune and Laura Harris qualified for the singles tournament, while seniors Wesley Barker, Ferebee Bishop, Sarah Peterson, and Odom qualified for the doubles. Both the team of Barker and Bishop and the team of Peterson and Odom advanced to the conference championship. In the championship, the two tandems dueled with Peterson and Odom and came out on top.

The two doubles teams also progressed to the State play-offs. The two teams

played well in the regional tournament, advancing to the state's finals.

After advancing to the final round of the state play-offs, two girls tennis doubles teams played Friday, Nov. 1 in Durham at Duke University.

The tandem of Bishop and Barker started off slow in the first set of their match. They lost the first set 6-0. "In the second set, we started playing our game," said Barker, "forcing our opponent to make mistakes." In the second set, the duo had a chance to tie, but lost a 40 love lead, and eventually the set, 6-3.

The Odom-Peterson duo were having an off day at the time of their match

Friday. "We were inconsistent and a little nervous," said Odom. At one point in the match, the two were up 4-2, then only to drill four service returns into the net. The tandem also lost their match, 6-3, 6-4.

Despite two disappointing losses, the tennis squad enjoyed a very successful season. The team has made our school proud for all their accomplishments this season. Finishing second in conference, winning the conference doubles tournament championship, and making it through the regionals of the State play-offs were major feats in themselves.

## Athletes experience thrill of victory, agony of defeat

By Crystal Lucas

According to Webster's *New World Dictionary*, **victory** means having final and complete supremacy or superiority in battle or war; therefore, **victorious** would describe the cross country team coached by Dee Anna Davis. The team was undefeated and had one member, Nick Winkel, to compete and win at the state level. He was the first runner from the school to achieve that distinction. Stuart Edwards went to the nation-wide Footlocker competition.

On the other hand, the varsity football team lost to Greenville Rose and New Bern. Despite the team's two losses, it still won a victory over Northern Nash and made it to the playoffs. In the first round of the playoffs, the Gryphons played Richmond County. This time the buck

stopped there and the members of the team came home with defeat in their eyes, not because they defeated Richmond County but because they were defeated by Richmond County.

Though both teams were confident of their winning streaks, the football team felt rejected, not realizing the fans were proud that the team made it to the first round of the playoffs and made history once again.

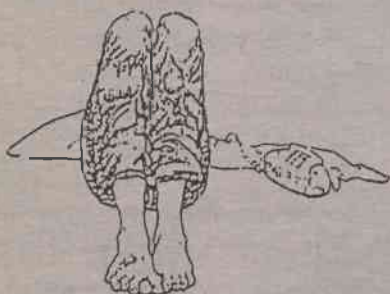
Words could not express the emotional feelings of the members of the cross country team and the football team.

"I felt proud yet sad because I realized that it was the last game of my football career at Rocky Mount Senior High. I'll miss all the coaches and all my teammates," said senior Barry Sheffield.



Contributed photo

**WATCHING, WAITING**--Principal Jerry Carter nervously paces the sidelines at the Gryphon football playoff game. Our team lost after being held to only three points. Senior Barry Sheffield looks on.



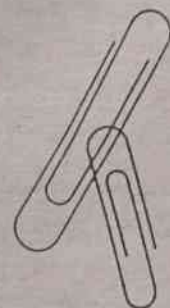
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