

Duke dumps men's tennis for ACC lead

■ The Blue Devils handed the Tar Heels their first conference loss of the year.

BY PAUL STRELOW
SENIOR WRITER

The stakes weren't as big this time, but the outcome will still affect the North Carolina men's tennis team for quite a while.

The 29th-ranked Tar Heels (13-5, 5-1 in the ACC) dropped their first conference match of the season Wednesday at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, a 4-3 decision to Duke. The Blue Devils (14-6, 6-0) prevented UNC from avenging a 4-1 defeat in last year's ACC tournament.

"This loss definitely hurts," UNC senior Paul Harsanyi said. "Everyone fought as hard as they could. It was a great effort by the team."

The match hinged on the outcome of No. 2 singles, where Duke's Alberto Brause outlasted UNC's Rob Tedesco 5-7, 6-3, 7-5.

The duo entered the decisive third set with the match tied at 3. But the pressure didn't seem to affect either player, as both continued their baseline slugfest.

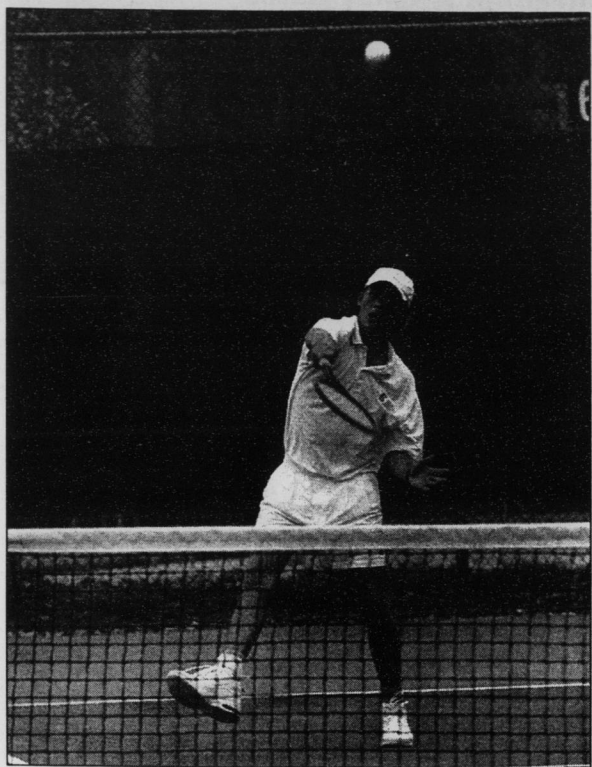
But in the end, Brause's consistency got the better of Tedesco, who defied his style by approaching and volleying more often than usual.

"(Brause) is real consistent from the baseline," Tedesco said. "I knew I had to be patient, wait for the right ball and attack and just go to the net."

Tedesco jumped to a quick 3-0 lead in the set, but Brause, No. 31 in the country, responded by running off three games of his own.

The contest was tied at 5 when Brause broke Tedesco's serve and then used that momentum to finish out the match.

"It's probably the toughest loss I've ever been through," said Tedesco, who dropped his first conference bout of the season. "I attacked the balls that I had to attack. I give him credit. He came up with some big shots at the right time."



UNC's Tripp Phillips, shown here against Virginia, thumped Duke's Doug Root 6-3, 7-5 during Wednesday's match at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center.

His loss spoiled an otherwise impressive performance by UNC's top singles players.

Playing at No. 1, Tripp Phillips dismantled No. 41 Doug Root 6-3, 7-5. Phillips, ranked 53rd nationally, utilized a strong service game and worked Root around the court until he committed an error.

Third seed Paul Harsanyi also played well in his final home match, topping Dmitry Muzyka 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.

Harsanyi started aggressively and dictated the first set, then varied the pace on his shots to wear down Muzyka, one of the ACC's better players who returned last weekend from injury.

"Duke is a really good team, so we knew we'd have to be aggressive and take it to them," Harsanyi said. "So I just came out real aggressive in the beginning, working him around."

"(Muzyka is) a contact hitter, so I wanted to try and change it up a little on him."

Tony Thomas provided the Tar Heels' final point with a 6-2, 6-3 triumph over Adam Gusky at No. 4.

No. 5 David Britt couldn't handle the net skills of Jordan Wile as he fell 6-4, 6-2. The loss snapped Britt's five-match winning streak.

And at No. 6, UNC's Eric Saunders succumbed to Porter Jones 6-3, 6-3.

"Hopefully we can use this (loss) to

our advantage," Harsanyi said. "We beat them last year in the regular season and we lost to them in the ACC tournament. So hopefully we can turn that around."

The Tar Heels didn't fare as well in doubles, as No. 1 Phillips and Thomas were beaten by seventh-ranked Root and Wile 8-3.

At No. 2, Gusky and Jones dropped Harsanyi and Saunders 8-3, and Britt and Tedesco defeated Muzyka and Sebastien Gabbi 7-7 (retired).

"We came out flat in doubles, with no emotion," Tedesco said. "We knew we had to go out there in singles and show them that they were in for a fight."

Wake women overwhelm Tar Heels

BY JEFF STENCEL
STAFF WRITER

A strong wind blew through the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center on Wednesday, and Wake Forest accompanied it.

The No. 9 Demon Deacons smashed the North Carolina women's tennis team 8-1, a seemingly one-sided outcome.

But even though UNC (7-13, 4-4 in the ACC) managed to muster only one victory on the day, every match was well-contested and winnable.

"I'm proud of our girls because we played a good match," UNC coach Kitty Harrison said. "On every single court, they knew we were here."

Although UNC put up a fight, it couldn't manage to put a dent in Wake's armor. The Deacons were simply too tough.

In singles play, Wake (15-5, 6-1) swept through all six matches.

Sarah Hawkins provided the stiffest competition for Wake before bowing to Nicola Kaiwai 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 at No. 3.

After splitting the first two sets of the match, Hawkins took a 2-0 lead early in the final set, but then the momentum changed. Kaiwai raced back with strong groundstrokes from both sides and seized the win.

"Going into the last set, I wanted to stay with my game plan because I knew I could play with her," Hawkins said. "There were some tough breaks out there today that will hopefully go our way on other days."

In other singles action, UNC's J.C. Biber lost 6-3, 6-2 to Maggie Harris at the top seed, while second-seeded Amy Jensen outlasted UNC's Jessica Zaganczyk 6-3, 7-6.

Alison Levy, Jeni Burnette, and Robyn Gurney also suffered losses for the Tar Heels.

By the time doubles competition came around, the match was over. Still, the Tar Heels didn't concede.



Tar Heel Jessica Zaganczyk hits a backhand in her singles match Wednesday against Amy Jensen of Wake Forest. Zaganczyk lost 6-3, 7-6.

After the Demon Deacon's No. 1 team of Kaiwai and Lule Aydin defeated Zaganczyk and Hawkins 8-6, and UNC's Levy and Gurney lost to the tandem of Jensen and Harris 8-2 at the second spot, the Tar Heels sprang to life.

Behind Biber's leadership, UNC's third-seeded doubles combination of Biber and Burnette rallied from a 5-2

deficit to surprise the Demon Deacons' Cristina Caparis and Betinna Pieri 9-8.

Biber was a force all over the court, finishing off numerous rallies at the net and hustling to balls ordinarily out of reach. Her strong decision-making swung the match in UNC's favor.

Harrison said, "J.C.'s a leader, and she really proved it today."



Tar Heel No. 2 seed **ROB TEDESCO** fell 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 to Duke's Alberto Brause in the deciding match.

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