

UNC Tennis Team Resembles Close-Knit Group of 'Friends'

The North Carolina women's tennis team hopes its team unity translates into success on the court this season.

By KELLY LUSK
Staff Writer

The success of the television series "Friends" has been attributed to how well the cast gets along with each other, even when the cameras are off.

Team chemistry might not seem like it has a big impact on the North Carolina women's tennis team — after all, the members play individually on separate courts. But these 10 women attribute much of their success to the closeness of the team even after the balls are put away.

"We are definitely a unit," said freshman Marlene Mejia, the team's top seed.

Senior Jessica Zaganczyk, who plays No. 2 singles, said the Tar Heels' diversity and closeness set them apart from the rest of the UNC athletic teams.

Last weekend, the players' strong connection with each other was put to the test against two top-25 opponents, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The No. 28 Tar Heels fell short in both matches, losing 5-4 to Kentucky and 6-3 to Tennessee.

Although coach Roland Thornqvist said UNC could handle the new match format instituted this season, in which doubles are played first and there is no warming up with singles opponents, the Tar Heels have yet to excel in doubles play.

A highlight of UNC's weekend matches was Mejia, ranked No. 52 in

the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's singles rankings. She has won both her singles matches at No. 1 this season.

"My victories were bittersweet," Mejia said. "In college, tennis is much more about the team. I was disappointed. I would rather lose and then have the team win."

Mejia has joined the collective ranks of basketball star Joseph Forte and soccer player Susan Bush as Tar Heel freshman standouts. She took over the No. 1 spot at UNC with no problem at all.

"When I chose Carolina, I wanted to be a leader — not just another player," Mejia said. "I thrive on competition. If it gets hard, that's fine."

Freshman Kendrick Bunn will join Mejia as a key player this season. Although she dropped her first two singles matches, Kendrick holds the No. 3



UNC freshman Marlene Mejia took over the No. 1 singles spot in the Tar Heel lineup this season.

slot for UNC.

The freshmen will have to share the limelight with Zaganczyk, who has won two of her first three singles matches.

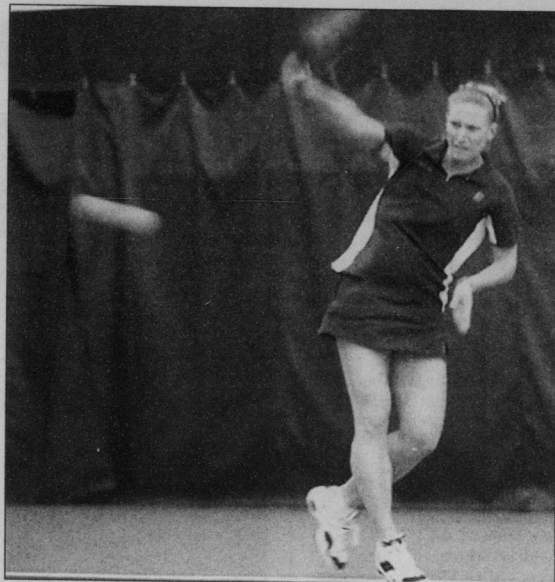
"It's my last season, and I want to put it all out there, not hold anything back," Zaganczyk said. "Every match could be the last match I'm ever going to play against that school."

Eyes sometimes tend to follow the top seeds of the team, but every match counts the same in the final score. And North Carolina's fourth, fifth and sixth seeds have contributed crucial points in every match.

Junior Erin Niebling has shifted between the bottom three seeds for her first three conquests and is undefeated in singles matches.

Besides the wealth of talent in the top six, the Tar Heels round out their roster with two experienced seniors in reserve. Jeni Burnette won 24 matches last year, and Cena Hackler racked up 22 victories.

"We have a powerful team," Thornqvist said. "I think several players could go to NCAAs individually, singles and doubles. Going to the NCAA Championship is definitely our goal."



DTH/ALISON DOMAS

Senior Jessica Zaganczyk has settled into the No. 2 singles slot for the UNC women's tennis team after playing as the top seed in 1999.

Guests coming into town?

Holiday Inn® Chapel Hill

We take pride in serving you.

- * 135 comfortable guest rooms equipped with coffee makers, irons/ironing boards, hairdryers, dataports and voice mail.
- * Meeting and banquet facilities hosting functions up to 275 people.
- * **Teddy's** - A full service restaurant & lounge. Open for breakfast and dinner.
- * **Room Service.**
- * **Fitness facilities.**
- * Same day laundry and dry cleaning services.
- * **Location, Location, Location**

Stop by and see what's new, you won't believe the changes!

15% OFF*
King or Double Rooms

*Present coupon at check-in. Not valid on special event dates or with other discounts.
Exp. March 3, 2000

Holiday Inn®
Chapel Hill

919-929-2171

1-800-HOLIDAY

Hotel is located on 15-501, across from Eastgate Shopping Center

Women's Tennis



UNC women's tennis coach Roland Thornqvist

Feb. 22	at South Carolina	5 p.m.
Feb. 26	Notre Dame	1 p.m.
March 1	William & Mary	3 p.m.
March 4	Illinois	1 p.m.
March 5	Howard	1 p.m.
March 11	Iowa	10 a.m.
March 13	at Florida	5 p.m.
March 16	at Florida State	2 p.m.
March 23	Clemson	4 p.m.
March 26	Georgia Tech	1 p.m.
March 29	N.C. State	5 p.m.
April 1	Indiana	Noon
April 5	Virginia Commonwealth	4 p.m.
April 8	at Maryland	1 p.m.
April 9	at Virginia	1 p.m.
April 13	Wake Forest	5 p.m.
April 16	at Duke	1 p.m.
April 20-23	ACC Championships in Atlanta	

Introducing...

CRAZY JUICE

GREAT TASTING SMOOTHIES! Over 80% of comment card respondents give Crazy Juice smoothies the highest rating for taste!

NUTRITIOUS SMOOTHIES! Lots of whole fruit and fruit juice, nutritious adders like antioxidants, protein and multivitamins!

23 smoothie flavors, fresh squeezed juices, organic coffee, full leaf tea, delicious bagels, hot soup, fat free cookies and more!

Buy 1 Smoothie, Get 1 FREE! (of equal or lesser value). Limit 1 coupon per visit. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 4-1-2000

\$1 OFF! any 24 oz. Smoothie. Limit 1 coupon per visit. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 4-1-2000

Crazy Juice Company
200 W. Franklin St.
(Next to 23)
969-6777

New to Franklin Street!

Spring Break 2000 - Panama City Beach, Florida!

SANDPIPER BEACON BEACH RESORT

The "Fun Place!"

Free Lazy River Ride, Mini Golf, Playground, and Water Slide • 2 Large Outdoor Swimming Pools • Sailboat, Jet Ski & Parasail Rentals • Huge Beachfront Hot Tub • Suites up to 10 people • Tiki Beach Bar/Entertainment by Boogie, Inc./Bikini Contest • World's Largest Keg Party • Airport Limousine Service

Spring Break \$169 per person, per room

Reservations: 1-800-488-8828
www.sandpiperbeacon.com