

DITH KATE MELLNIK

Tar Heels Earn Exemption From Doubles Play Again

The UNC women's tennis team produced its second singles shutout in a row Saturday against Indiana.

By KELLY LUSK
Staff Writer

The North Carolina women's tennis team misses playing doubles.

For the second time in a week, the Tar Heels swept singles play and ended their dual match before doubles began. UNC defeated Indiana 6-0 at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center on Saturday.

"I was excited, but I really want to play doubles," senior Jessica Zaganczyk said. "It really would be great practice but would only hurt our bodies more."

Although the score was the same as that in UNC's win against N.C. State last Wednesday, the individual matches Saturday were closer and tougher fought.

Zaganczyk kept the largest home crowd of spectators this season on the edge of their seats with her three-set show against Indiana's Kelly Blanch.

Control of the court changed hands from Hoosiers to Tar Heels throughout the contest. Zaganczyk owned the

match for the first set, but Blanch stole control to win the second. Momentum swung back into UNC's hands in the third set when Zaganczyk tipped the lead 5-1.

But the match wasn't over yet. Blanch won the next four games to tie up the set 5-5.

"As soon as it hits five-all, it really is a whole new match basically," Zaganczyk said. "You have to start over."

That mentality helped Zaganczyk battle not only Blanch but also her fatigue. She held serve to win 7-5 and clinched the sweep for the Tar Heels with a 6-3, 1-6, 7-5 victory.

Zaganczyk wasn't the only player making spectators bite their nails. No. 4 seed Courtney Zalinski and freshman Kate Pinchbeck, No. 6 seed, both went into tie breakers to win sets.

Zalinski came back from a 5-3 deficit in the second set to win the match 6-4, 7-6 (5).



UNC senior Jessica Zaganczyk lost the second set 6-1 but rallied to win the decisive third set 7-5 in No. 2 singles.

"I told myself to hang in there and be consistent and pray that she'll start to make errors," said Zalinski, who is undefeated in the ACC. "And she did."

Pinchbeck played a close first set but gained control of the match to win decisively in the second set 7-6 (5), 6-3.

"When I was down, I picked it up," Pinchbeck said. "I wasn't going to let her win."

At No. 1 seed, freshman standout Marlene Mejia tacked up her third victory in a row. Mejia won in straight sets versus Jessica Anderson 6-4, 6-3.

Freshman Kendrick Bunn also won in straight sets, beating Hoosier Becky Wallihan 6-2, 7-5. Sophomore Caroline Hill's opponent, J.J. Levin, retired in the second set in No. 3 singles, leaving the score at 7-6, 0-1 (ret.).

After starting off conference play with two losses, UNC has turned around with three straight victories, two of which were ACC dual matches.

"It's a whole new atmosphere around here," Zalinski said. "I think that everyone is psyched for the end of the season. Everything is really falling into place, and I feel like it's going to keep up."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

UNC freshman and No. 1 seed Marlene Mejia hits a backhand in her match with Indiana's Jessica Anderson. Mejia's 6-4, 6-3 victory was her third in a row and helped the Tar Heels get their second consecutive shutout.

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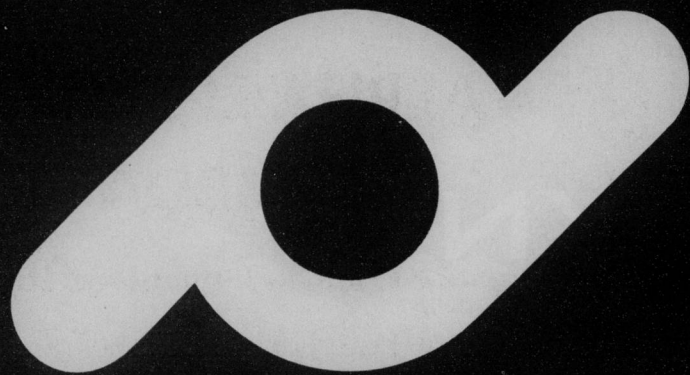
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