

Blue Devils Squeak Past Tar Heels

Kate Pinchbeck pushed Duke's Amanda Johnson to a third set but couldn't upset the 18th-ranked player.

By AKILAH NELSON
Staff Writer

Competition is always stiff between North Carolina and Duke. Monday night's match at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center exemplified the contention between the teams, as Duke edged the Tar Heels 4-3.

The match was decided by a tie-breaker in the third set of Tar Heel Kate Pinchbeck's match against Duke's Amanda Johnson, ranked No. 18 in the ITA.

As UNC sophomore Marlene Mejia wrapped up a 6-3, 7-6 (8-6) win, Pinchbeck and Johnson were beginning the third set of a match that had already become exhaustive.

Pinchbeck had lost the first set 7-5. Then she fought back to earn a 7-6 second set in a 9-7 tie-breaker.

As the third set began, Pinchbeck didn't seem to be feeling the pressure. She played as efficiently and smartly as she had in her first two sets.

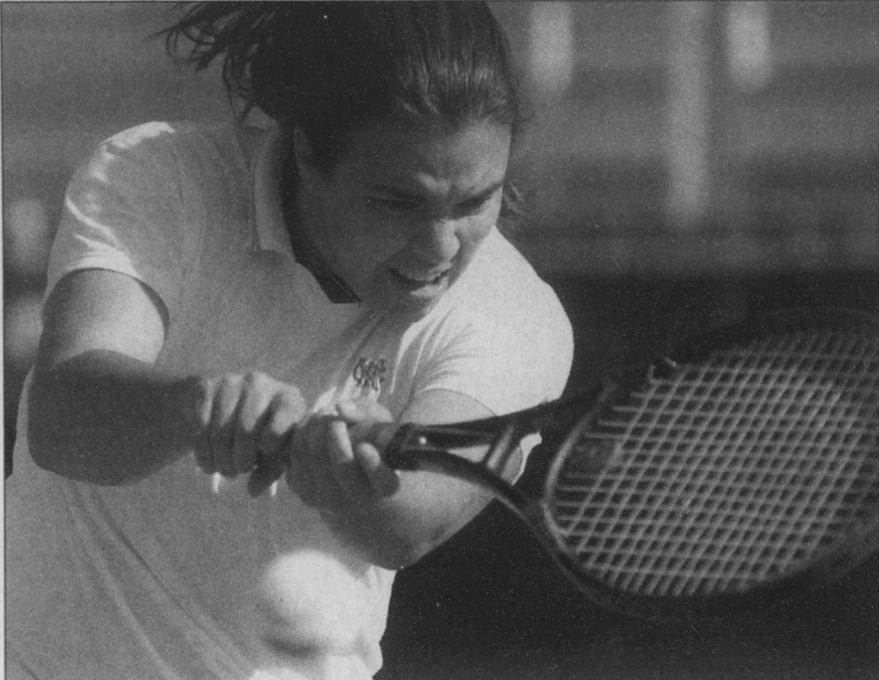
The last set became a test of endurance and versatility.

"There wasn't a better person to be put in that position," said Kendrick Bunn, Pinchbeck's doubles partner.

Pinchbeck and Johnson rallied fiercely, both with quick feet and strong arms. Despite her obvious exhaustion, Pinchbeck did a tremendous job at getting to the ball and making big plays.

"She's our little Rudy. She's 5 feet nothing, 100-nothing" but she's all heart," said Mejia, referring to Pinchbeck's favorite movie.

With a killer down line backhand, Pinchbeck was able to snatch points



DTH/BRENT CLARK

North Carolina freshman Julie Rotondi dropped her singles match to Duke's Megan Miller 6-3, 7-5. Rotondi and doubles partner Marlene Mejia were also unable to defeat the Blue Devils' Ansley Cargill and Kathy Sell.

from Johnson.

But Johnson made Pinchbeck work for every point. She kept Pinchbeck running until, with the set score at 3-5 in Duke's favor, it seemed like Pinchbeck might have been finished.

But Pinchbeck dug deep and tied the set up at 5-5.

And thus the two proceeded to the logical conclusion of their battle - another tie-breaker.

Johnson used a backhand shot to the left corner to secure the win for herself,

and the match for Duke 7-5, 6-7 (9-7), 8-6 (7-4).

"Kate didn't make any errors, (Johnson) just hit some winners," Mejia said. "It's disappointing, but we know she gave it her all."

Pinchbeck declined to be interviewed after the match.

UNC coach Roland Thornqvist said that despite the disappointment of the loss, he hopes the team can take something positive from the match.

"(Duke) is one of the favorites to win the National Championships and we're a point away from beating them," Thornqvist said. "If we play our best tennis and take care of our business the rest of the way, we should be able to see the one more time."

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

Baseball Ends Drought, Wins 1st ACC Contests

Staff Report

RALEIGH - After starting the ACC season in an 0-7 hole, North Carolina rebounded in record-setting fashion by pouncing out a season-high 24 hits in a 16-7 rout of N.C. State. The Tar Heels then went on to capture the second game in the twin bill 8-7.

UNC moves to 19-13 overall and 2-7 in the ACC on the year while N.C. State falls to 14-15 (5-7).

Offense was the key word of the afternoon as several Tar Heels set season and career highs.

In the first game, freshmen Ron Braun and Brandon Russell both had career days with Braun tallying four hits and Russell adding three, and they were joined by several others in the offensive showcase.

Center fielder Adam Greenberg broke out of a month-long slump with a four-hit performance as Chad Prosser set his career high with a 5-for-5 performance and Russ Adams tallied another four hits.

As much as the game was an offensive explosion, it also provided a very solid relief outing for freshman Dennis Robinson as he came on to pitch the final 7 2/3 innings. Robinson did not allow a run until the final inning.

Robinson picked up the win to move to 2-2 on the year while Dan D'Amato took the loss for the Pack to fall to 3-4. Robinson came on in the second to replace starter Jason Howell who allowed four runs in just 1 1/3 innings of work.

Robinson's outing marked the longest of the season for a Tar Heel until teammate Ralph Roberts did him one better with 6 2/3 innings pitched.

UNC freshman pitcher Whitley Benson held off a late Wolfpack charge in the ninth to secure the save.

N.C. State got the ninth off to a fast start with Joe Gaetti's single down the left field line. With momentum in its hands, the Pack batted around and put four runs on the board, but it wouldn't be enough to top the Tar Heels.

For UNC, Russell, Greenberg and Prosser's hot bats continued into the night. Russell and Greenberg hit 2-for-3 while Prosser was 2-for-3 on the night.

Greenberg led the North Carolina squad with three RBI.

Designated hitter Jeremy Cleveland hit a two-run home run for the Tar Heels in the top of the first.

The Tar Heels also pieced together a big seventh inning, as they scored five runs on the Wolfpack's pitchers.

Women's Tennis

Duke4
UNC3

Forte Cited, Released For Misdemeanor

Staff Report

North Carolina men's basketball player Joseph Forte was cited for underage possession of a malt beverage early Saturday morning.

Forte, 20, was cited and released while walking on Stadium Drive. Underage possession of a malt beverage is a misdemeanor charge.

"Joe and I are extremely disappointed about what occurred, and we will handle this internally from this point

forward," UNC coach Matt Doherty said in a statement.

Forte led the Tar Heels with 20.9 points per game and tied Duke's Shane Battier for ACC Player of the Year.

The 6-foot-4 shooting guard released a statement last month regarding rumors that he was leaving UNC early to play professionally. Forte said he has not made up his mind yet but that he will make a decision after consulting with Doherty, his mother and former North Carolina coach Dean Smith.

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