

Carolina's Lisa Dodson, who combined with Nina Cloaninger in doubles for one of the two UNC wins against Princeton Saturday, will be playing along with the rest of the Tar Heel women's tennis team today at Charlottesville, Va., against Virginia. The

Cavaliers defeated Carolina 5-4 last fall in Chapel Hill. Dodson, a sophomore from Chappaqua, N.Y., is the fourth-seeded player in UNC's lineup.

Hassler—Oberstein

Academic-minded netters successful at new seeds

By WILL WILSON
Staff Writer

The pair of tenants of 227 Ehringhaus appear to be the typical out-of-state students attending Carolina before moving on to some highly-regarded graduate school here or elsewhere.

One is a junior political science major from Jackson, Miss., who wants to go to law school. The other is a senior history major from Brightwaters, N.Y., who wants to attend dental school.

But these two have found something to do with their spare time that makes them a little more interesting. They play the top positions for the Carolina men's tennis team, the one that beat the previously fifth-ranked Princeton Tigers here Saturday.

Earl Hassler, the junior, is the top player, with senior David Oberstein playing No. 2. Together, they form the top doubles team, except on such occasions as Monday, when Hassler had a big political science test.

The worlds seem far apart—that of a top player on a top-notch major college tennis team and that of an academically-oriented student at a well-respected university. However, Hassler and Oberstein fit the bill of each.

"We came here for the academics," says Oberstein, who came here without a tennis scholarship.

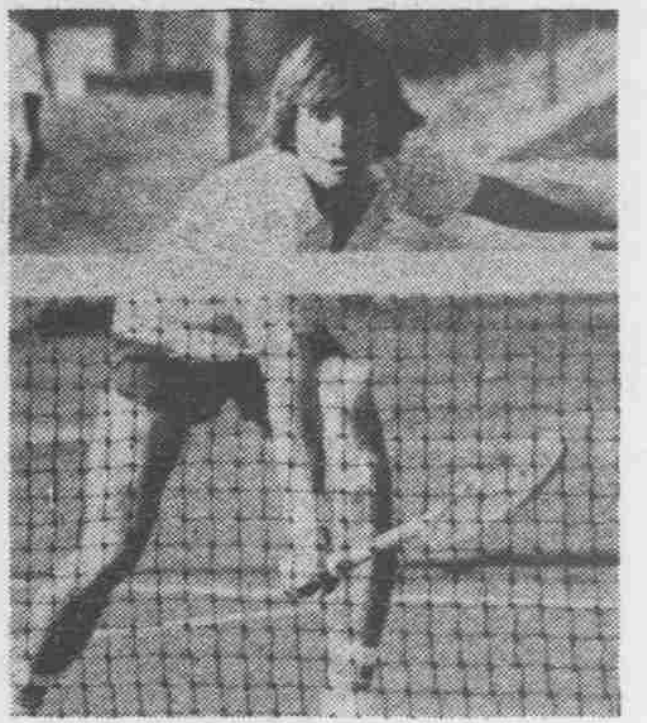
"What happens in tennis is strictly a bonus," says Hassler, who came with a scholarship. "We're probably different from most college players."

Hassler and Oberstein do not like taking extended road junkets such as the 10-day junket the team went on last year. They just miss too much class.

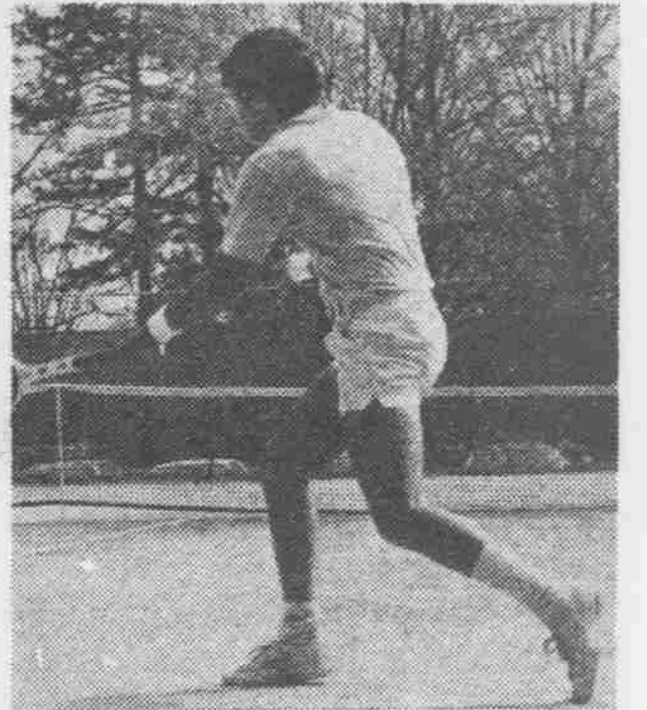
Academically oriented or not, they have made a big name for themselves on the tennis courts in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Oberstein started winning as a freshman, and has not stopped, winning ACC flight championships each year on courts six, five and then four. Hassler hit a slump in his first ACC Tournament, but came back to win the third flight last season.

Winning on the lower rungs of the ladder was tough enough, but now this pair is trying to do the same thing to the big boys up at the top.

"Looking ahead before the season began," Hassler says, "I thought, 'I really shouldn't be out here—these guys



Earl Hassler



David Oberstein

are just too good."

Oberstein had similar qualms about moving up.

"I used to look at No. 1 doubles and say, 'My God, we're going to get smoked,' but now there doesn't seem to be that much difference."

This season's records: Hassler 11-0, Oberstein 10-1, and Hassler-Oberstein 11-0.

But Hassler and Oberstein have not yet passed the test, since ACC competition begins only today.

"Things could be much different a week from now," Hassler said, speaking of an upcoming stretch that includes matches with Clemson, N.C. State and Miami, Fla.

That stretch is tough in another way as well. Hassler and Oberstein will have to miss three days of class.

Slumping women's netters travel to Virginia

Heels have had tough luck winning three-setters

By KEVIN BARRIS
Staff Writer

Carolina's women netters travel to Charlottesville, Va., today to take on the powerful Virginia Wahoos in a 3 p.m. match and try to break a three-match losing streak.

After an 8-1 fall season, the Tar Heels opened the spring with a surprisingly close 5-4 win over South Carolina, then lost to Yale, national-power Florida and Princeton. The contest with Florida was an exhibition match and does not count in UNC's record.

Carolina has been plagued by an inability to win the three-set matches. The Tar Heels lost four three-set singles matches against Yale and three against Princeton. Had UNC been able to take those singles contests, it would have won both matches.

Now the Tar Heels must try and get themselves together for what undoubtedly will be a tough match. Virginia beat UNC 5-4 in the fall and the two teams have developed an intense rivalry over the past few years.

"I don't think their (UNC) confidence is shattered at all," Carolina Coach Kitty Harrison said. "They realize those matches would have been theirs if they had won

their splits (three-set matches). What they have to do from now on is be mentally tough.

"I'm pleased with the way they're playing," she said. "They just have to be tough in the pinch."

Harrison said she felt that playing strong teams early in the season will help the Tar Heels prepare for the tournaments at the end of the season.

"In a way, I think this may be good for us," Harrison said. "They're being pushed early in the game. It will help us as long as they don't get disheartened, and I don't think they will."

Carolina's lineup against the Wahoos will have Susie Black, Nina Cloaninger, Rebecca Garcia, Lisa Dodson, Janet Shands and Hunter Dortch in the singles. Black teams with Jean Scott in one doubles match, while Cloaninger joins Dodson and Garcia pairs with Dortch for the other doubles teams.

Virginia's regular lineup, according to Wahoo Coach Mary Leavell, has Barbara Goldman, Cindy Brinker, Beth Bondurant, Kappie Clark, Cheri O'Donnell and Keri O'Donnell playing singles. Leavell was not sure what her doubles lineup would be.



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Softball team in Greensboro

The UNC women's softball team travels to Greensboro for games with UNC-G and Appalachian State today. The first game gets underway at 2 p.m.

The Tar Heels are coming off a season-

opening split of a doubleheader against N.C. Central last Wednesday. After trouncing Central in the first game 13-6, the Heels dropped the second 11-13 when a last inning comeback fell short.

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