

Cloaninger-Dodson survive rigorous AIAWs

by KEVIN BARRIS
Staff Writer

A tennis tournament is a strange event. Contestants gather at one particular place, often having traveled all day to get there, and virtually live at the courts for the duration of the tourney. From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each tournament day, the participants remain in the court area, playing as many as five matches, eating little, watching other matches and often times just sitting around bored. It's an unusual existence, and only the truly dedicated can put up with it.

On May 12, over 50 women collegiate tennis players, representing 15 schools in five states, came to Chapel Hill to participate in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Region II Tennis Tournaments, held on UNC's Country Club Road courts.

When it was all over, the Tar Heels had fallen just short of the second-place finish

which would have qualified them for the national AIAW tournament. But all was not lost as UNC's Nina Cloaninger and Lisa Dodson qualified in doubles by reaching the finals.

Duke, Virginia on top

Carolina's other doubles team—Hunter Dortch and Rebecca Garcia—lost their opening match 6-1, 6-3, to top-seeded Beth Bondurant and Barbara Goldman of Virginia, who went on to win the event, beating Cloaninger and Dodson in the final.

Cloaninger and Dodson won three matches in reaching the final. They beat Sally Howard and Lynn Russell (William and Mary) 6-1, 6-2; Kaki Abell and Linda McClosky (Clemson) 6-4, 6-0; and Cindy Johnson and Erin Wolf (Duke) 6-2, 6-3.

In the final match, the UNC pair jumped off to a 3-1 first-set lead, but Bondurant and Goldman took advantage of Tar Heel errors

to take the set, 7-5. The second set was all Virginia, and the Wahoons took the doubles title with a 6-2 win.

All four Tar Heel singles players advanced to the second round. Eighth-seeded Susie Black and 11th-seeded Cloaninger received byes. Garcia dumped Lynn Martin of Murray State 6-2, 6-4, and Dortch beat William and Mary's top player, Jane Simmons, 6-0, 6-2.

Garcia did not advance to the third round, losing a tough match to South Carolina's top player, Cindy Kincaid, 6-4, 7-5. However, Dortch defeated Sally Robbins (Clemson) 6-3, 6-2; Cloaninger topped Karen Weis (Murray State) 7-6 (5-0), 6-2; and Black handled Vicki Eynon (Clemson) 7-5, 6-0.

In the third round, Dortch faced top-seeded Johnson of Duke. Four-time winner of the NCAIAW singles title, Johnson had beaten Dortch in the recent state tourney. Johnson won her serve to open the match, then Dortch dropped the next game, although she held advantage four times. Down 4-1, Dortch held her serve in a game which went to deuce five times, then broke Johnson's serve to pull within 4-3. Dortch could only win three points the last two games, however, and the Duke star took the first set, 6-3.

Junk game nearly works

Dortch playing the junk-shot type of game it takes to beat Johnson, moved to a 3-2 lead in the second set. Johnson rallied, however, allowing her opponent only three points while winning the last four games to close out the match.

As Johnson was beating Dortch, Cloaninger was bidding to upset third-seeded Phyllis Blackwell of UT-C in another third-round match. The Tar Heel captain won the first set 6-4, then lost the second 6-3. After less than 10 minutes of the third, Cloaninger had won 15 of the first 16 points

to take a commanding 3-0, 40-0 lead.

Blackwell fought back to deuce in the fourth game, but Cloaninger regained advantage before disaster struck. Before Blackwell could serve the next point, Cloaninger experienced a severe cramp in her right hand. Cloaninger lost the next two points, but fought back to win the game and take a 4-0 lead. But the UNC senior could not regain her earlier momentum, and with the cramp growing more and more painful, she no longer exhibited her normal shot control. Blackwell swept the next six games to take the match.


Black, who beat UT-C's Billie Abney 6-0, 6-2, thus became the only Tar Heel player to reach the quarterfinal round. There, she lost to Duke's unseeded Emily Waugh 6-1, 2-6, 6-2, as Waugh won the last three games of the match.

Furman's Mary Ellis Nicholson, the champion, and Virginia's Barbara Goldman, the runner-up, qualified for the finals, although Goldman had already made it because of her team's finish.

In consolation bracket play, which accounted for the other UNC points, Dortch and Garcia won four straight matches to win the consolation championship.

In the final, they lost the first set to UT-C's Abney and Elizabeth Sharp, 6-1, but they forced the match into three sets by taking the second set, 7-5. The third set was also close, but Dortch hit the last shot of the tournament when, on match point, she calmly let a high lob bounce before pounding it down the middle for a winner and a 7-5 third-set victory.

In consolation singles, Garcia and Dortch each won one match to add to UNC's point total.



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