

Duke tennis challenge psyches Carolina freshmen

By JOHN FISH
Staff Writer

When the undefeated UNC women's tennis team hosts Duke today, there will be two new faces in the Tar Heel lineup who will be the key if the Tar Heels manage an important win.

Freshmen Sandy Fleischman and Jennifer Balent were not around last spring when the Heels dropped an 8-1 decision to the Blue Devils. But the two players realize a good performance is needed this fall against a strong Duke squad if the Tar Heels are to retain their ACC championship.

"It's important we avenge our defeat from last year," Fleischman said. "Not only would it be great since we lost last year, but we will also be up for the tournament."

The "tournament" is the ACC tournament which is scheduled Oct. 13-15 at Clemson. Balent also stressed the importance of gaining momentum against Duke for the tournament later this week.

"The Duke match will be a real good warm-up for the tournament. It's a really big match," Balent said of the 2 p.m. match on the varsity courts.

Balent is undefeated so far this season while Fleischman's only defeat came in the Middle Tennessee Tournament in the No. 1 flight.

The freshmen also combine their talents to play as one of the three doubles teams. Although they have had little experience playing doubles, the duo is undefeated so far this season.

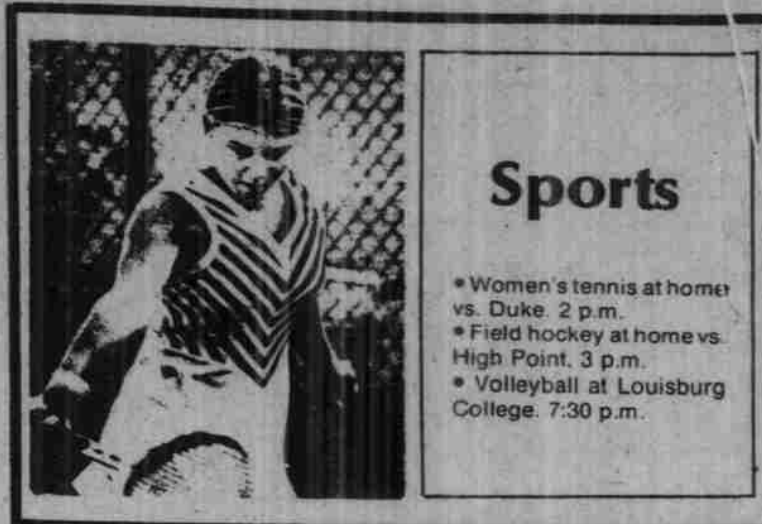
Most of their practice time has been spent with doubles play. The work has benefited both players. "I never used to practice doubles. It has been a real big help," Balent said.

Fleischman said it is just a matter of time before they smooth out their doubles play. "When you practice a lot together, the better you know your partner. It's mainly experience," she said.

The talented freshmen credit many things for their early season success.

"I try to give an appearance of being confident," Fleischman said of her court manners. A high confidence level, she believes, has a special effect on her opponent. "You have to think you're going to win. The difference in winning and losing is thinking you're going to win."

And the Duke match is no exception to Fleischman's confident thoughts.



Sports

• Women's tennis at home vs. Duke 2 p.m.
• Field hockey at home vs. High Point 3 p.m.
• Volleyball at Louisburg College 7:30 p.m.

Fleischman also complimented Harrison saying, "She is a real good motivator and stays behind you."

So far this year, Harrison has rotated Fleischman, Balent and senior Susie Black at the top three positions "I don't want any one of them to feel she has to bear all the pressure," Harrison said.

"I don't care what position I play," Balent said. "We're all going to get in there and do our best." Fleischman thinks all three players "have special assets which benefit the team and whatever Kitty wants me to play, I'll play."

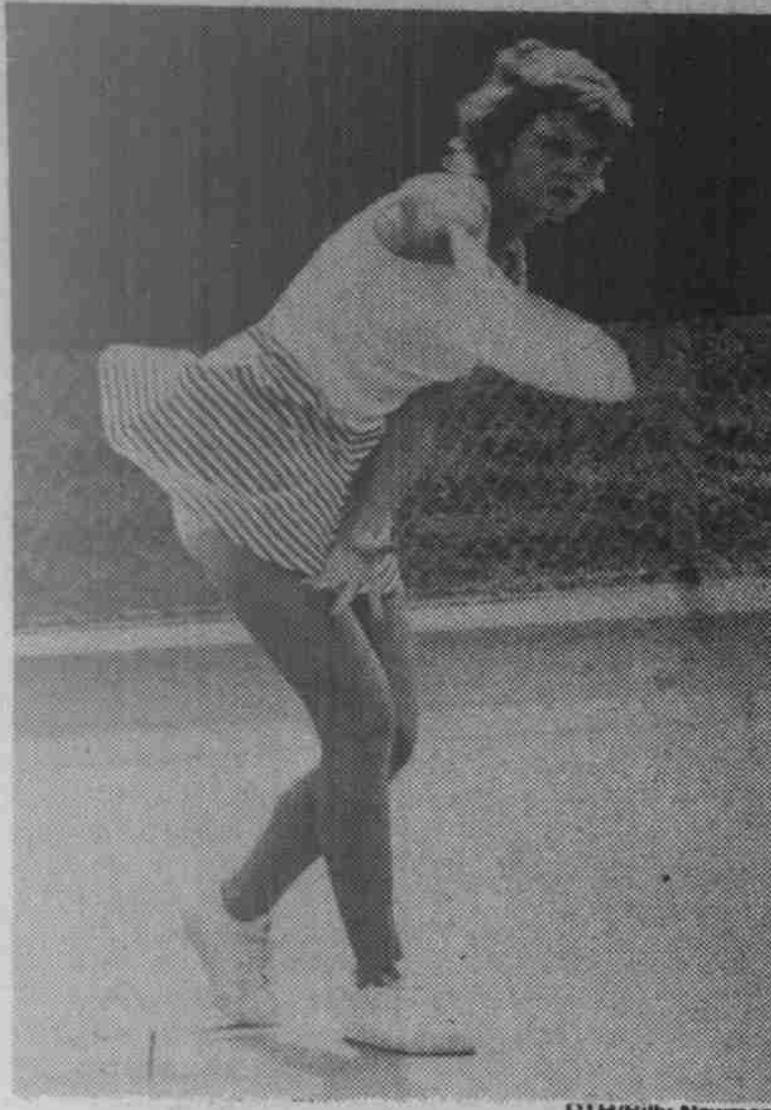
Harrison said the lineup for the Duke match will be Fleischman at No. 1, Black at No. 2 and Balent at the No. 3 slot. Nancy Davis, Janet Shands and Margaret Scott round out the 4 through 6 spots.

Fleischman and Balent will be the No. 1 doubles team followed by Betty Baugh Harrison and Shands at the No. 2 doubles position. Scott and Davis are the No. 3 doubles team scheduled against the Blue Devils.

"It will be a very competitive battle," Harrison said. "It can be a coveted win and a disastrous loss."

"I have a good feeling we'll take Duke and be up for the tournament," she said.

Balent mentioned several factors which had benefited her play including previous tournament experience and emphasized the help of Coach Kitty Harrison. "She has done a super job," Balent said of Harrison's efforts.



Freshman Jennifer Balent

Clinic planned for IM officials

A short clinic for anyone interested in officiating intramural volleyball or soccer will be held at 9 p.m. Wednesday in 304 Woollen Gym.

B-ball registration

The Carrboro Recreation Department is continuing registration for an eight-team men's basketball league on a first-come, first-served basis through Oct. 10.

There is a \$130 registration fee of which a \$30 non-refundable deposit is required for registration. Games will be played Monday through Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons beginning Oct. 23. For more information call the Carrboro Recreation Department at 942-8556.

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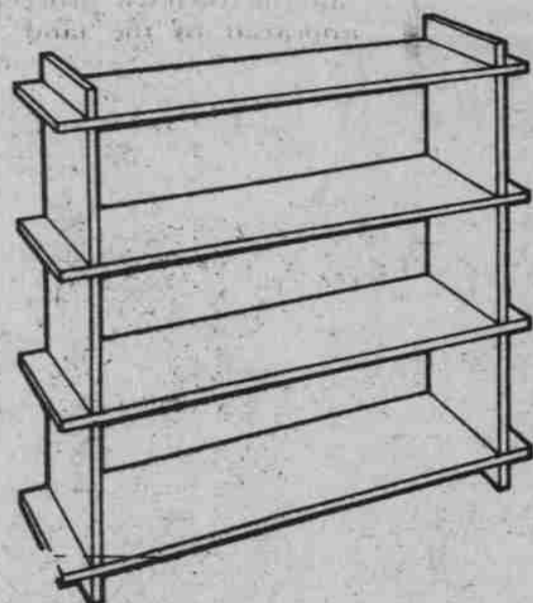
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