

tennis

Women put their own training and talent to use as doubles team

By TIM LEONARD
Of the Emerald

The Oregon women's number two doubles team of Debbie Borchers and Maureen Hermann presents two ladies with particular tastes, likes and talent. One thing they have in common is a thorough background and training in tennis fundamentals along with a passionate love for the sport.

"Mo" Hermann, a 5-3 senior from Bend, comes from a tennis family. "My mom was a coach for ten years and she started me out," she explained. "Then I took lessons from a club pro in California." To augment her experience Mo started playing as a fourth in men's doubles which provided her the chance to play against stronger players. "I was always playing at various clubs and then I coached for five years to help my mom." She prefers the doubles format to singles because of the faster nature. "There is more action, it's a quicker game with additional emphasis on the volley," she said. She added the idea of teamwork and working with someone else toward a goal rather than focusing on individual effort also appeals to her.

Hermann presents a picture of

near perfection on the court. She has developed smooth flowing groundstrokes and the quickness of movement so essential to consistency. She practices anywhere from 12-15 hours a week, working on drills with emphasis on hitting targets to improve accuracy.

Hermann's forehand groundstroke is the bread-and-butter shot in her arsenal. "I have much more confidence for placements in that shot," she said. The parks and recreation management student is playing her first and last year for the Oregon team. After graduating from Los Altos High School in California, she played at Arizona State for one year and returned to Foothill College in California where she attended school for two quarters before coming to Oregon.

"I was looking for something in a school and Oregon has a good recreational program," she recalled. Her husband, an auctioneer, was interested in alternative energy knowledge so the Eugene location suits them fine.

Hermann eventually hopes to get into a private tennis club or resort environment, "just to be around tennis." The sport has kept her interest for more than a decade and she hopes to make it



Photo by Tim Leonard

Mo Hermann and Debbie Borchers have been keys to the Oregon women's tennis team this season in both singles (where Hermann is third and Borchers is fourth) and doubles. Hermann (Hennig, previous to her recent marriage) is a senior, as is Borchers.

her life's work because, "I really like tennis because it is a great game, good exercise, and it opens doors to meeting people. On top of that it keeps me in shape because I like to be active, otherwise I would go nuts."

Besides tennis she enjoys backpacking and hiking into the Three Sisters Wilderness Area during the summer and cross country skiing in the winter. Hermann made one observation about the tennis fever in Eugene. "In Los Altos, it was possible to find anyone to hit with without any planning, but here you have to contact them early. I don't know why there is such a difference in attitude, maybe it's the weather, but there are fewer tennis fanatics in Eugene."

Borchers, a senior, presents a fine complement to the number two doubles team with her experience and excellent concentration on the court. The 5-8 physical education major began the sport when she was 11-years-old

through a high school recreation program in Portland.

At 15 she joined a tennis club and later took lessons from a pro at West Hills Racquet club for three years. "I like the competition," Borchers said. That, together with the opportunity to travel, to play at various clubs and to improve her game helped improve her skill level.

"Although I like both singles and doubles, the latter gives me a chance to be aggressive and to work on the volley," she said. She knows there are more options and strategy involved in doubles and has proved her prowess with championships in the NCWSA doubles in 1976 and a second place finish last year.

Like her partner, Debbie is nearly flawless when it comes to meeting the ball or preparing to do so. She is disciplined, gets set well, shows good preparation on the backswing, and completeness of the smooth swing to make each follow-through carry her into another ready position.

Following graduation she

hopes to go into coaching at the university level with a masters degree. For now she would be happy teaching at a tennis club.

In her spare time Borchers runs, takes karate, which helps her concentration and body control, enjoys attending movies, reading and cooking for friends.

"I love to play and I don't think there is a more beautiful feeling than hitting the perfect backhand that I've drilled on," she said. "After all the hard work and drills, getting it all together makes the effort worth it."

For spectators and players of the serve and volley game of singles, the doubles combination of Borchers and Hermann offer a marked difference in style of play, strategy and teamwork, all necessary ingredients to a successful point.

They come from different backgrounds, play a different personal form of game, yet, in the final analysis, they make an excellent choice for the Oregon women's number two doubles team.



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South Africa dropped

MONACO (AP) — The International Tennis Federation's management committee Sunday threw South Africa out of Davis Cup team competition.

The three tennis bodies of South Africa — one white, one black, and one multiracial — were given until next Feb. 1 to form a new organization on non-racial lines for administering the game.

"If they have not reached agreement by that time we will send a committee of inquiry to look into the reasons why," said ITF Sec-

retary David Gray.

The predominantly white South African Tennis Union, which is recognized by the ITF, will continue to be recognized until the new body is formed.

That means that South African players may continue to compete as individuals on the tournament circuit.

But South Africa will be barred from this year's team competitions, including the Davis Cup and the women's Federation Cup, which is scheduled for Australia next December.

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