

# Long's 'switch' proves favorable



**CONCENTRATION**—Long hones the skills that have made him one of the top community college players in the state.

## sports

**By Brian Rood  
Of The Print**

When David Long entered high school he was faced with a decision that more than one high school athlete has had to face: he was forced to choose between two sports that fell in the same season. In Long's case, the dilemma involved baseball and tennis, both spring sports. Needless to say to those who know anything about CCC athletics, David Long's choice was tennis.

Although at this point in his life, Long has no reservations about his opting to pursue tennis rather than baseball, he still holds some fond memories of the other sport and said, "It was tough giving up baseball at that time." Added Long, "Baseball was always the sport I guess tennis was something different at that time and that appealed to me."

One of the key factors in Long's decision to play tennis

was that his father was the tennis coach at Lake Oswego High where Long attended. Long is quick to point out, however, that even though his father was the coach, he left the decision totally up to Long. "My dad left the choice up to me but he was probably the main reason I decided to play tennis instead of baseball." He added, "I am glad I made the choice."

It was not exactly a "piece of cake" for Long in the early stages of his tennis career at Lake Oswego, playing anywhere from fourth to sixth man. "Most of the guys were stronger than I was then," said Long. "But it was good having to fight my way up."

By the time Long had reached his junior year he had shot up to his current height of 6'3," which gives him an excellent advantage on the court as far as getting to balls and reaching the high lobs.

During his junior season, Long played up and down between numbers one through four. By the time he was a senior he was playing consistently at the number one slot and eyed the possibility of gaining a collegiate scholarship. Unfortunately for Long, no one was willing to come for-

th with an actual cash scholarship that amounted to anything, which eventually led the tall, slender redhead to CCC.

After coming to CCC last season and playing consistently at the number two and three positions in singles, as well as manning one of the spots on the first doubles team with Tim Qualls, Long helped his team win the OCCAA league crown, the state tournament, the regional championship and a trip to the nationals in Waco, Texas.

Although this year's squad will be without the likes of Tim Qualls and Steve Anast, Long is confident that the team will be able to capture the OCCAA title once again. After that, Long considers the regionals a "dog fight," and sees Treasure Valley as the most formidable opponent.

Individually, Long has set some goals for himself which include winning the state individual title and gaining a national berth at the regionals. "My ultimate goal is to win the nationals," Long said, adding, "A more realistic goal would be to go three rounds at the national tournament."

As for his future tennis career, Long seems to have some other interests in the immediate future and will be putting tennis aside to some extent. Long will be getting married in December and is willing to sacrifice some of his collegiate tennis playing time in order for his wife-to-be to be able to finish her nursing program at the University of Portland. Said Long of yet another tough decision, "It does not mean I will be giving up tennis completely. I just want my wife to have her studies out of the way." Added Long, "I will probably sit out of school for two years and work and play tennis on a more recreational basis."

Eventually, Long would like to return to school, in two years if things go according to schedule, and finish a degree in business and also return to the collegiate tennis world. It may be a tough road to hoe, especially for young newlyweds, but at present, David Long will be a force to reckon with during the 1980 community college tennis season, and will be a player to look for when the trips to the national tournament are being fought for.

## Sports Shorts

For any women interested in participating on a CCC women's soccer team, there will be an informational meeting Thursday, April 15, in the CCC weight room at 12 noon.

Rich Taylor, who will be organizing the initial stages of the team, said, "There has been interest in the past to start a women's soccer team, but this year there seems to be

more interest." Taylor added, "We just want to find out how much interest."

If you are interested in playing on the team and you are unable to attend the meeting, you may contact Rich Taylor at ext. 298 or in the men's cage room, or Debbie Baker at ext. 245.

### Golf

The CCC golf team opened

their 1980 season by competing in the Mt. Hood invitational held at the Gresham Golf Club last Wednesday.

The CCC golfers managed a sixth out of the nine schools that were represented.

Dan Hixson was the low scorer for the Cougs shooting a 78. Randy Reid had an 80 while Bernie Pliska and Brad Whitworth shot 84 and 92 respectively.

Clackamas Community College



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