

Women go to state, regionals: place well

By Sandy Carter
Of The Print

What started out pale and unsure and ended up bronzed and unified? Who climbed out of the cellar of women's junior college tennis and ended April with a 6-5 record that sent them to the state and regional playoffs?

The answer to both questions is the College women's tennis team of 1980. After a whirlwind month, Coach Gladys Michael's 12-strong squad has reached season's end with heads held high, as its second doubles and fourth singles players won second place awards at the state tourney and went on to make a good showing at regionals Friday and Saturday.

Lisa Liechty and Sandy Gaskill, second doubles, defeated teams from Central Oregon Community College and North Idaho Friday to advance to Saturday's championship round, where they played well but lost to Treasure Valley and garnered second place honors for CCC. Fourth singles Lisa Liechty took a bye on Friday and lost to North Idaho in the final round, but the overall tournament winner was Oregon's own Lane Community College, with Blue Mountain finishing second.

Now that all the shouting is over, Michael leans back in her office and gives some thought to her 12 racquet-wielding disciples. The following list briefly highlights each student-player:

DIANE KRAXBERGER—Number-one singles player on the team ladder, Kraxberger played first singles at Canby High. Michael went scouting at the state high school tournament last year, and says, "I did make an effort to see her play, and encouraged her to come." As to Kraxberger's season, which was hampered by an injury to her right hamstring, Michael says, "Diane is very cool on the court and appears to have fully recovered from her pulled hamstring. The last two matches have been her best matches. She's showed much more consistency with her net game and moved better on the court." Michael looks forward to having her back next spring.

DEBBIE BIRDSALL—Coming from a doubles background, Birdsall shared first doubles with Kraxberger and played a strong

second singles. Michael sees her as "intense on the court during competition. The thing that particularly impresses me," adds Michael, "is her improvement as a singles player."

BECKY KONDO—Describing her number-three singles player as "a natural athlete," Michael says Kondo, although new to tennis this season, needs only experience. "When she's on," Michael says, "she's very strong. She has become steadier. She puts natural pace on the ball and her serve is very strong." Kondo also suffered minor injuries during the course of the season, and actually began training taped from an accident during basketball season.

SANDY GASKILL—Another of Michael's scouting finds, Gaskill actually scouted Michael last spring, according to the coach. A freshman from Molalla, Gaskill's mid-season ankle sprain stands out as the worst handicap suffered on a team that was plagued by injuries. "I took her out of singles because of her ankle," Michael says soberly. "She was out for two weeks," during which time some shuffling of the line-up was necessary. Impressed by her "volleyball" serves and bubbling enthusiasm, Michael says Gaskill "just bounces! I was pleasantly surprised at her adaptation to singles," she adds. "I would really like to have her back next year."

LISA LIECHTY—At fourth singles and sharing second doubles with Gaskill, Molalla's Liechty also came into practice wearing a bandage, but nothing holds her back, according to Michael. "She does

whatever is necessary to win a match. She'll initiate any change of pace and maintains control over her opponent. She had to learn to play singles," Michael adds.

DEBBIE BUGARSKY—Describing her returning sophomore as "definitely a stronger singles player," Coach Michael adds, "I do feel that by the end of the season she was better than last year and more consistent." A scrambler on the court, Bugarsky, who ranked fifth on the team's singles ladder, lost a week midseason to an Outdoor School counseling job, which Michael says cost her the opportunity to substitute in at least one league match during the Gaskill shake-up.

SANDY CARTER—Second of Michael's three returning sophomores, Carter played at several positions, substituting to fill injury-related vacancies, and ended up sixth on the singles ladder. Says Michael, "Sandy's much improved on her strokes from last year, partly due to extra outside play and having a husband who'll hit with her. She's an excellent team player, willing to play anywhere, anytime."

JULIE BAUSSERMAN—Third and last of Michael's second-year players, Bausserman took a month-long leave of absence from her job to compete this spring. "I was really very impressed and quite pleased to hear she gave up her job to be on the team," says Michael. "She's very pleasant to have; a good team member." Ending the season at seventh place on the singles ladder, Bausserman's match play was reduced by one mat-

ch, when she allowed Wendy George to play in her position at Multnomah School of Bible.

WENDY GEORGE (YOUNG)—Introduced to tennis by her new husband, George has "improved very much even though she wasn't able to work out a lot," says Michael. She had a very positive pay-off for her efforts," adds Michael, saying both her serve and backhand have "really improved."

SHARI PENBERTHY—Another frosh who plans to return next year, Penberthy, who played some doubles her last year at Putnam has improved at everything, says Michael. "Shari's always willing to practice, always gives a good effort," she adds. "Her forehand's probably her best stroke, and it has improved."

LAURA HOWARD—Playing non-league third doubles, Howard also came off of CCC's winter term volleyball team, and learned tennis this term, with help from team trainer and assistant Coach Mary Budnick. "Laura is what I'd call a natural athlete and a student of movement," says

Michael. "Probably her biggest improvement is in serving: she related it to a volleyball spike. Her motivational strength is through her religion, and she'd be an excellent candidate for 'Athletes in Action.'"

JENNY WASHBURN—Sophomore Washburn, also a newcomer to the game, took a fall tennis class from Michael, and, according to the coach, "has put in a lot of outside practice on the courts on her own, working on her service and strokes." A sophomore, Washburn's biggest assets, as listed by Michael, are her forehand ground stroke and her dependability. "Jenny's just anxious to play," says Michael, "She has a good attitude."


Aside from the players themselves, Michael has been supported this April by Doug Rogelstad, whose stat-keeping has been the envy of other schools in the league, according to Michael, and Budnick, who is described by the coach as "invaluable in the assistant coach, trainer, manager role."

PLAYER	SINGLES W-L	DOUBLES W-L
Bausserman.....	2-2	---
Birdsall.....	5-5	3-7
Bugarsky.....	2-1	---
Carter.....	2-0	3-1
Gaskill.....	2-0	3-1
George.....	2-0	1-0
Howard.....	0-1	1-1
Kondo.....	5-5	3-1
Kraxberger.....	3-7	3-7
Liechty.....	6-0	7-2
Penberthy.....	1-0	2-1
Washburn.....	0-1	0-1

Season records prior to State tourney:
includes both league and non-league matches.



ON GUARD—Known as Khiet to members of the CCC table tennis team it seems he has a background in fencing. Staff photo by Ramona Isackson.



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