

# Tennis double-teams opponents

By Benjamin Barron  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Wake Forest men's tennis team resumed competition Oct. 17-19 at the University of South Carolina Invitational in Columbia, S.C., presenting their opponents a true dose of double trouble.

The doubles team of junior Derrick Spice and sophomore Brett Ross captured the Flight A doubles title over freshman teammates Andrew Hamar and Todd Paul, while in Flight A/B doubles sophomores Joe Bates and Liron Strauss paired up to earn second place and solidify another successful tournament for the squad.

The first-seeded duo of Ross and Spice began their run to glory with an 8-4 victory over the Georgia Tech team of Jack Depaolo and Zachary Rath.

They then disposed of their quarterfinal and semifinal round opponents in dominant fashion, limiting them to a total of three points.

In the finals against Hamar and Paul, they triumphed over their teammates by an 8-0 tally to secure the pair's first doubles title of the fall.

Before their loss in the final, the sixth-seeded combo of Hamar and Paul had won three matches, including victories over the second and fourth-ranked teams in the field.

Head Coach Zinn was thrilled with the play of Ross and Spice.

"They really dominated the competition in doubles and played a complete tournament from beginning to end," Zinn said.

Spice added, "I think we played pretty well together. It was great to win, especially against our own teammates. I was very motivated to play them."

Bates and Strauss, who were first time partners, certainly didn't let their inexperience prevent them from executing well.

They comfortably won their first-round match and went on to conquer their second round foes, Diego Iglesias and Moises Serrano of East Tennessee State, by an 8-5 margin.

Their semifinal match-up pitted them against the Wofford team of Chris Barlow and Brandon Smith, who they bested 8-6.

Bates and Strauss were then halted in the finals by Valter Paiva and Fernando Uehara of Hampton, who topped the Deacons 8-4.

"I felt like we played well this weekend," Bates said. "We seemed to click as a doubles team in practice last week, so we were confident going into this tournament. Even though we didn't play well in the finals, we knew we should have won that match."

Zinn was encouraged by the strong showing of Bates and Strauss. "Joe and Liron were somewhat of a surprise," Zinn said. "They had good chemistry and played well in all of their matches."

The Flight A Singles competition was also a showcase for the Deacons, with Hamar and Ross both reaching semifinals in the event while Spice and Paul advanced to quarterfinals before being eliminated. Bates fell in his first round draw of Flight A/B singles but never quit and proceeded to win the flight's consolation title.

Overall, the players were satisfied with their team's strong performance this past weekend. "I think everyone did well," Spice said. "Everyone gave it their best and I think Joe Bates did a great job in particular."

The Deacs will play their final event of the fall season at the ITA/Fall Regionals, Oct. 22-26 in Chapel Hill. Zinn looks for his players' dedication and solid play to emerge one last time as this season concludes.

"I would like to have someone make the finals and qualify for the National Indoors," Zinn said. "I would also like our doubles teams to go far in the tournament and keep improving on their play. We have made a big commitment to that this fall and it is just now starting to pay off."

# Pressbox: Even if Yanks win, playoffs weren't ordinary

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comes back from the dead to beat Boston with a bomb into the seats.

Boone's version of "midnight madness" ended a thrilling seven-game series between two of the fiercest rivals in all of sports—a series that had people wondering if it would ever end without both teams killing off each other after the ugly extracurricular activities of game three. To top it all off, the seventh game marked only the fourth time in baseball postseason history that a deciding game has gone to extra innings.

The Yankees' improbable win was just another moment in a postseason that has been remarkable to say the least. Even crazier than the Yankees' triumph is the fact that their opponent in the World Series is the Florida Marlins. The Marlins have used some extra-frame magic of their own by winning 11-inning games against both the Giants and Cubs on their way to their second-ever National League pennant. The Fish also had to come back from a three-games-to-one deficit against Chicago, with the last two of those wins coming at Wrigley Field against two of the top pitchers in baseball, Mark Prior and Kerry Wood. Meanwhile, the Red Sox participated

in last Thursday's "midnight madness" thanks to an impressive comeback of their own, as they rallied from being down two-games-to-none to advance past the Oakland Athletics.

This year's postseason has also provided plenty of excitement through the emergence of players that appear to be part of baseball's crop of future superstars. The Cubs' Mark Prior backed up the hype and already looks like a proven ace. The Marlins' flamethrower, Josh Beckett, has shown similar talent, and the sky is the limit for Florida's 20-year-old infielder/outfielder Miguel Cabrera.

A couple of veterans who were thought to be past their prime have also stepped up on baseball's grandest stage. Boston's Wakefield, though the victim of Boone's blast, would have been the ALCS MVP due to his previous two victories over the Yanks had the Red Sox been able to pull it out. Meanwhile, New York's favorite overweight 40-year old, David Wells, won both of his starts during the first two rounds.

Perhaps in the end, order will be restored since no one will be surprised by the Yankees winning it all. Nevertheless, the road to this final two has been full of more than the usual twists and turns.

# Bersagel paces women harriers, men still growing

By Allison Soule  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

In a prelude to the upcoming ACC Tournament, the men's and women's cross country teams participated in the NCAA Pre-Nationals, Oct. 18 at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The women finished fourth and the men ended up taking 24th place.

On the women's team, five runners were able to achieve top standings in what junior Annie Bersagel called "the best race we've had thus far." Of the 222 competitors in the gold race, five runners placed in the top standings: freshman Michelle Sikes at 22, senior Anna Sherman at 33, sophomores Hannah Bremner at 48 and Erin Franklin at 50 and junior standout Bersagel in the 10 spot. Although severely

hampered by an inflammation of the plantar fasciitis muscle in the heel of her foot, Bersagel had the best showing of the team with a time of 20:32.

"It was the best I could do," she said, "I felt like I did everything in my power and in my control (considering my foot)."

Due to the injury, Bersagel has been training in the pool for the past few weeks and claims her mileage is half of what it usually is. She plans to work out a few kinks she detected in her running in this past race. "I need to get a little more turnover going," Bersagel said referring to the final burst of speed at the end of a race, "as long as I can get a little bit sharper I know I'll be ready for ACC's."

Alongside Bersagel, sophomore Lisa Gibbs and freshman Selina Sekulic also competed in the gold race for the women's team, while seniors Catherine

"I felt like I competed well and there's a really big difference between just running and actually competing."

Sean Stevens  
sophomore

Fortin-Major, Nikeya Green and Adralyn Wendel participated in the open race. Fortin-Major placed seventh overall, while Green finished 26th and Wendel 44th.

Although the men's team did not fare quite as well as the women's, they were able to bring home a 26th-place finish and one runner in the Top 50. That top contender was sophomore Sean Stevens

who ended the 8,000 meter race with an overall time of 24:36. "I felt like I competed well, and there's a really big difference between just running and actually competing," Stevens said.

Along with Stevens, the cross country team sent senior Dave Barrett, sophomore Brad Wharton, senior Nathan Sisco, junior Brandon Bartholomew and junior Chris Elder to compete in the Pre-Nationals; however, the men faced difficulty and finished with standings in the triple digits.

Still, Stevens was optimistic about the team's chances for the rest of the season.

"I think our team still has a lot of room to grow," Stevens said. "As far as place-wise, the range that we finished in is a large group ... plus some people just didn't have a good day. Overall though, most of them put in a really great effort."

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