



Following through! Sophomore Kara Schafer is practicing her follow through before playing her match.

Girls Ace Their Way To State!

Success is not foreign to the girl's varsity tennis team. They ended it by placing first in the city, though sharing the title with two arch rivals, Cincinnati Country Day and Ursuline Academy. For the second year in a row the girls also clinched the Greater Miami Conference. "The team has played very well this season, even the losses were close. But overall, the girls improved in various areas," commented Coach Maxine Yates. She believed that the key to winning matches were staying positive and relaxed. These guidelines allowed the girls to give up only three losses during the entire season.

Coach Yates recalled the highlight of the season as being the match with Centerville. "Alison Levy and Amy Spiegel played very aggressive tennis to defeat this strong team," she said. Both players went on to a repeat match with Centerville at the State Tournament in Columbus. This time Spiegel and Levy proved to be more dynamic and captured the State AAA title. In the city, the two girls tied one another for the number one player in the city of Cincinnati.

"Amy Spiegel and Alison Levy are two of my stronger players, but other team members came through in tight matches to help the team," said Yates. Cathy Bell, Jennifer Ackerman, and Jessica Blasberg represent just a few of the dedicated players.

"As the season went on we realized that we are not playing for ourselves, but for our team."

-Michelle Levy

Along with the varsity team, the junior varsity team started early. During the second week of August the players reported to the high school for a daily workout. Each player worked on drills, endurance, groundstrokes, serves, and volleys. The combined team challenged each other for starting positions. The girls were also evaluated on their singles and doubles playing. The team was composed of twelve players: four freshman, seven sophomores, and one junior. Next year at least eight girls will be advancing to the varsity level.

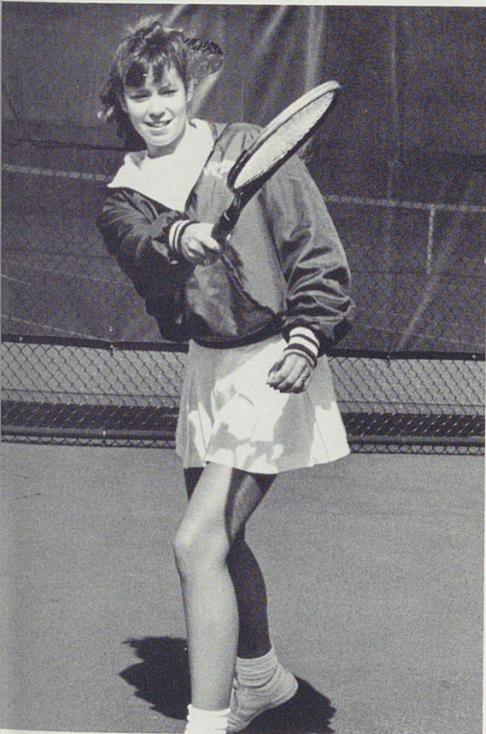
"I felt this year we had great team unity and spirit. As the season went on, we realized that we are not playing for ourselves, but for our team," said sophomore Michelle Levy.

The most memorable match, according to Coach Taylor, was the second stand-off against Indian Hill. The team defeated Indian Hill 4-1 after a previous 2-3 upset.

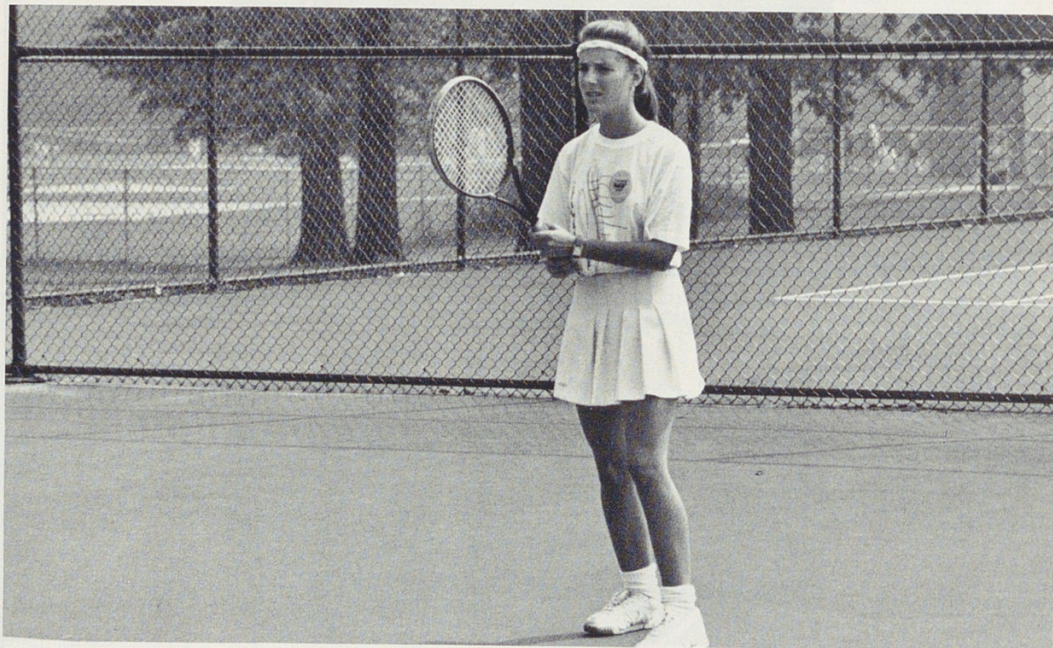
"The girls encouraged one another. Each individual motivated the players to succeed for the team's success," claimed Taylor.

Both varsity and junior varsity went through hours of practices and competitive matches to build dynamic tennis teams. Both Coaches Yates and Taylor agreed that although there was much frustration and many sore muscles, it was worth it to come out on top.

By: Deb Bebout and Stephanie Kahn



Follow up! Preparing for a match, Meta Rascov demonstrates the correct way of following through with her swing.



Waiting! Michelle Levy patiently waits to receive the ball from her opponent.

