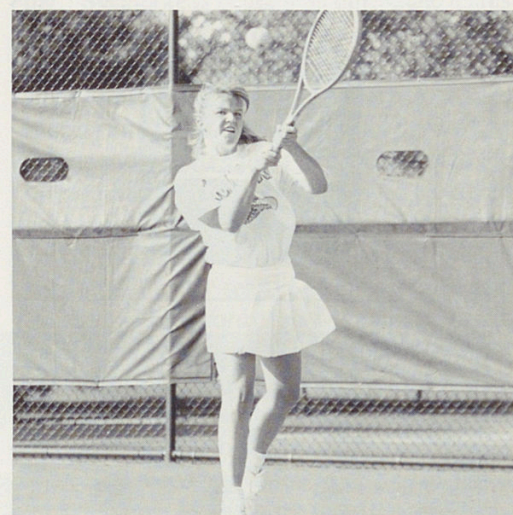


Girls varsity tennis coach Maxine Yates stands intently as she concentrates on the matches being played.

Freshman Darci Isaac backhands the ball to her opponent from the Indian Hill team as the JV tennis team won 3-2.



A SEASON OF HIGHLIGHTS AND HEARTBREAKS

Although the varsity team had some injuries, they fared very well, while the JV team improved with experience

"After winning the GMC last year, coach Maxine Yates had high expectations for the girls

varsity tennis team. At the beginning of the season Yates said, "The team should be very competitive and will hopefully win the GMC."

The team fared well this season against their biggest rivals, beating GMC rival Lakota 3-2, and beating Cincinnati Country Day 3-2, for the number one spot in the city. Their only two losses were to Kettering Alter and Centerville.

With a 17-2 record, the Lady Aves finished second in the GMC to rival Lakota.

In sectionals, both the singles and doubles teams advanced to the second round, but by the final round in doubles, it was all Sycamore. Doubles team Jill Korach and Lauren Casper defeated Meta Rascov and Joni Marshall with the score 6-2, 4-6, 7-6. Both teams qualified for districts. Yates said that she thought that the girls would have done better in the tournament if Alison Levy hadn't gotten injured just hours before she was scheduled to play. Julie Mitchell filled in for Levy at #1 singles instead of #2 doubles and did a great job filling in on such short notice.

Yates also said, "I thought Sarah Detrick and Kara Schafer did a great job playing singles in the sectionals." The doubles team of Casper and Korach went on to compete in the state tournament. They lost in the first round, but Yates said that they gave it their best effort.

Randi Levy commented, "We had a lot of improvement on our team and many players worked very hard to insure that the team was successful."

"Sycamore is the team that everyone expects to be beaten by," said Larry Taylor, the JV girls tennis coach. Overall, Taylor was pleased with the record of 11 wins and 5 losses.

The turning point of the season, the victory over Centerville, stood out as a special highlight for Taylor because Centerville is one of the best tennis teams in Ohio.

The team ended the season with five straight wins. Taylor was proud because the team proved to themselves that they could defeat those that had previously defeated them.

Akiko Kuro, a sophomore, was the number one player for the singles team. She lost only twice to the same Ursuline girl. "Akiko," said Taylor, "is a dependable and versatile player."

But Kuro had competition for her number one spot from sophomore Janna Ledrach and freshman Darci Isaac. "Any of those three could have played the number one position in singles," said Taylor.

The doubles teams also added the strength to the team. The team of Darci Isaac and Jamie Weber along with the team of Tiffany Amazon and Rachel Silverman were the strong leaders that led Sycamore to their victories.

As the season progressed, the girls became "more confident as they began to play more competitively," commented Taylor.

When asked if the team had a most improved player, the coach answered with a no. The team as a whole had improved.

by Michael Leichman, Beth Wilson, and Grieta Kurens

