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Tennis Team's 2nd place finish in the CAC

akes a Racket

The rusty motion seemed familiar yet awkward. The forgotten scent of sweat and freshly opened tennis balls wafted through the air. Bright yellow balls whizzed by, often landing out of bounds or in the net. Raw expressions of anger, frustration and determination were reflected on everyone's faces. The first day of practice might not have exhibited all the Girls' Tennis Team's talent, but the stamina was building. Skills and strategies were practiced and eventually perfected providing the right combination for a winning season and a second place finish in the CAC.

First singles player Trisha Lennox exclaimed, "I am very proud to be a part of the best Girls' Tennis Team we have had for years." The shocking reality of meeting this goal for the first time in eight years made the girls

aware of their accomplishment. A fourth place at regionals added to their pride.

Beating East Lansing for the first time ever led the Junior Varsity team to an undefeated season. Junior Kathy Binder exclaimed with triumph, "I am thrilled that I helped my team reach this goal. It makes it all the better to know we were the first ones to accomplish this."

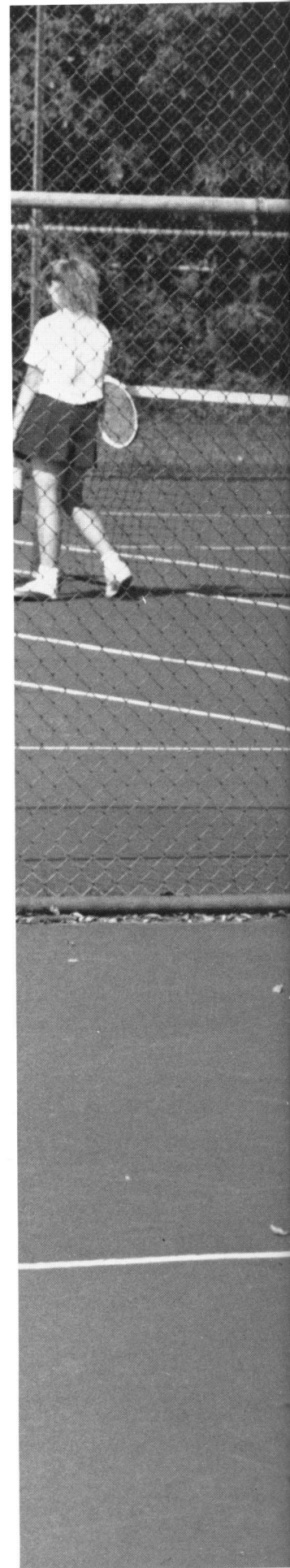
Losses to both Waverly and Jackson by a slight margin of 3-4 during the season were overturned when the team defeated them at the league finals. "Jackson was our most difficult opponent. They were the closest in ability and proved to be a good team," Coach Pat Somers noted.

The Eastern Invitational was another success. The doubles dominated the invitational by taking two firsts

and a second place rank. "The most exciting moment of the season was at the Eastern Invitational. Two of our doubles teams had to pull through some tough matches to take first place," noted junior Kris Schuette.

Talent did not materialize over night. Hard work improved teammates' skills. Consistency was mastered and a variety of strategies were practiced. By speeding up strokes, learning to place the ball, and using spin, their games improved. A versatile serve was another skill that players worked on.

The doubles players also learned advanced strategies such as poaching, deep alley shots, and positioning themselves. As junior Stacey Johnson observed, "Tennis is a challenge that will never end unless you intend it to."



Girls' Tennis 6 wins, 6 losses

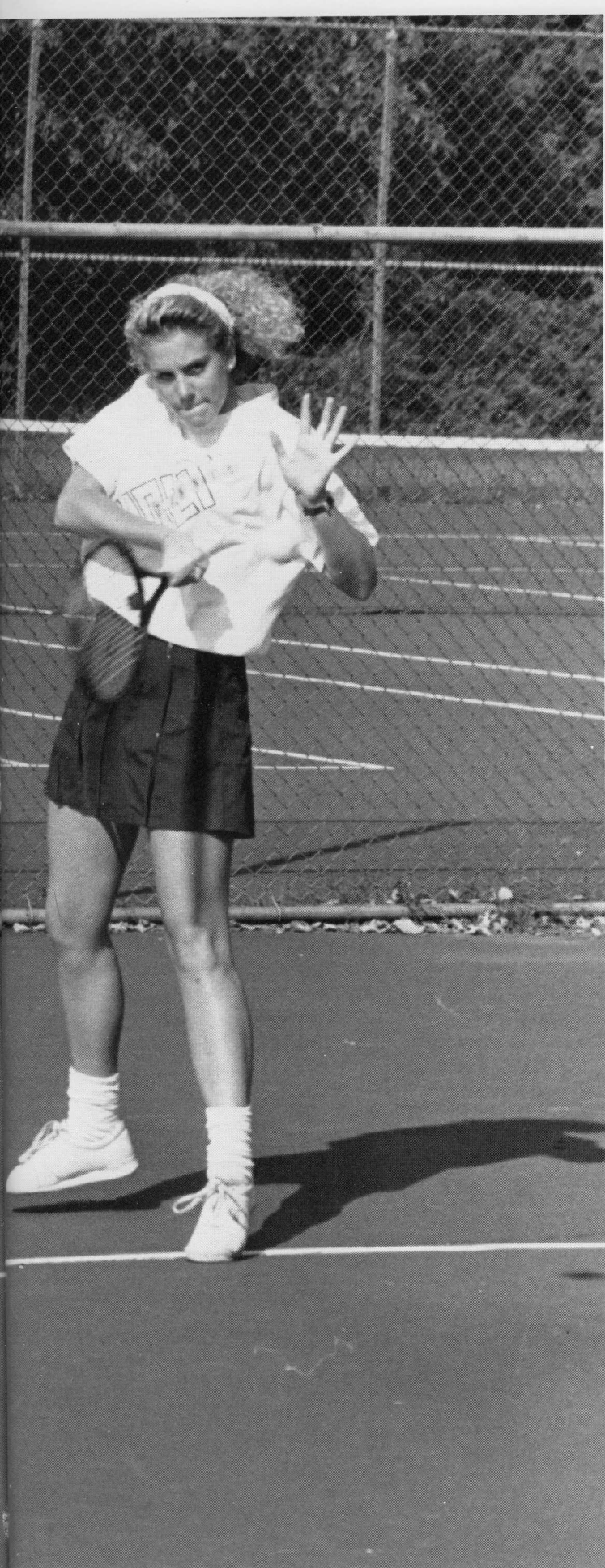
Opponent	Holt/Oppn
St. Johns	2-5
Williamston	7-0
Everett	7-0
Sexton	5-2
Eastern	5-2
East Lansing	0-7
Grand Ledge	6-1
Haslett	1-6
Mason	2-5
Waverly	3-4
Jackson	3-4
Pickney	6-1
Eastern Inv.	2nd
CAC	2nd
Regionals	4th

Instant Replay

'The sun is my friend. The wind is my friend. The ground is my friend. I love my racket and be aggressive, because Mrs. Somers is the boss!'

SAY CHEESE. The Tennis Team's infamous mascot, Matt the Rat, poses with his favorite items — a tennis racket and balls, of course!

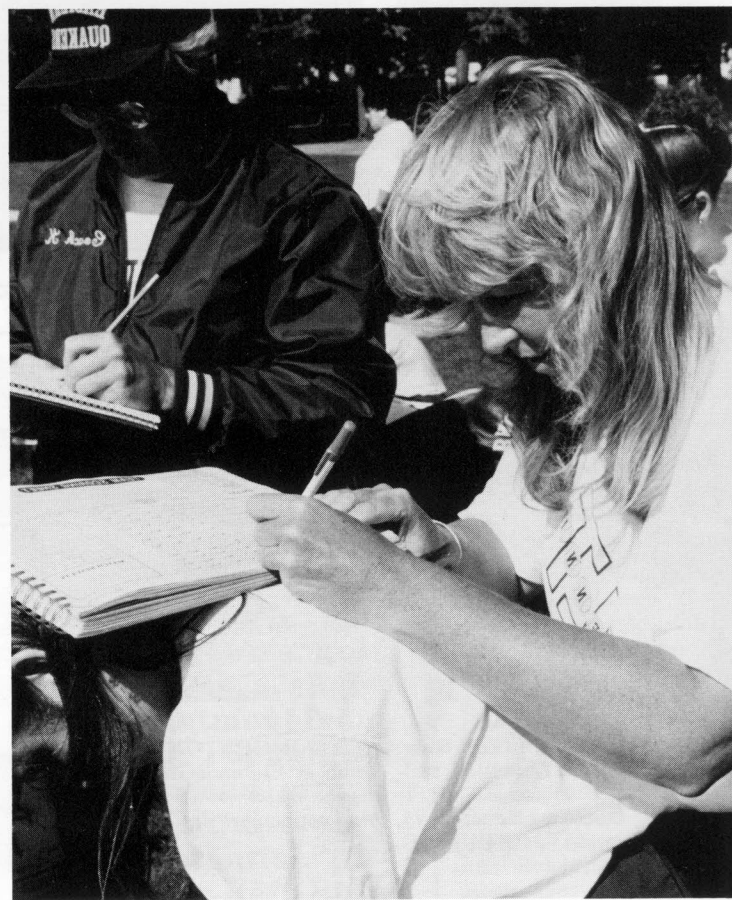
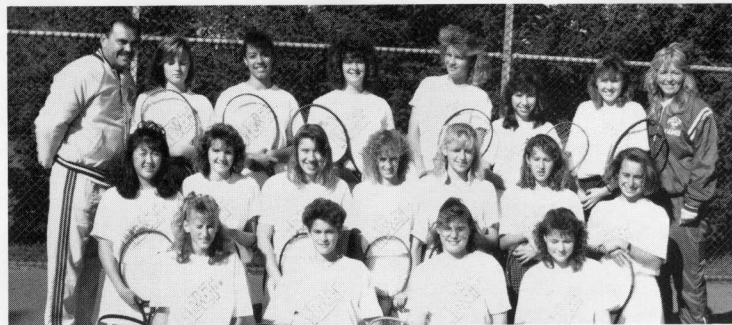




AIMING FOR THE BEST. Junior Kim Hannig, at third singles, uses her left hand to spot the ball and get into position to return her

opponent's shot in the Mason match. The team was defeated by a score of 5-2.

GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS TEAM: Top Row: Coach P. Kressler, K. Hannig, J. Loudon, K. Schuette, J. Whitehill, S. Dubay, Coach P. Somers. **Bottom Row:** L. Dickenson, T. Lennox, J. Westgate, D. Freye, N. Kingsley.



HELPING HAND. Senior first doubles player, Shelli Dubay, helps Coach Pat Somers record the team's

6-1 victory over Eastern. Coach Krauski from Eastern follows suit.