

Minnesota Golden Gopher women's tennis

Federated Insurance Court Classic

Tournament Notes --

MINNESOTA BEGINS WINTER SCHEDULE WITH FEDERATED INSURANCE COURT CLASSIC — The University of Minnesota women's tennis team will get a chance to prove itself this weekend, as the Gophers will face some stiff competition in the Federated Insurance Court Classic.

Opponents to the Gophers this weekend will be sixth-ranked Duke University, Baylor University and Auburn University.

A LOOK AT THE TEAMS—

MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS — The Federated Classic will be the first team competition for the Gophers this season. Minnesota competed in two individual tournaments in the fall and sent two student-athletes to the Rolex-Regional Qualifier in October.

Frosh **TIFFANY GATES** (GRANDVILLE, MI/GRANDVILLE) captured most of the headlines during the fall, compiling a 9-1 singles record. **Gates** won the Brown Invitational and reached the quarterfinals of the Rolex before being defeated by top-seed **Jody Yin** of Indiana.

Junior **SUSAN CULIK**

(CHAPIN, SC/CHAPIN) is playing No. 2 for the Gophers after playing much of last season in the No. 1 spot. **Culik** finished 2-2 at the Rolex, losing in the first round to **Lee Ann Rostovsky** of Indiana 6-7, 2-6. **Culik** finished the fall season 4-5 overall in singles competition.

The doubles team of **Culik** and **Gates** qualified for the Rolex, but dropped a first-round match to **Rachel Epstein** and **Yin** of Indiana 5-7, 1-6. The two finished the fall with a 3-4 record.

Other contributors to the Gophers during the fall were Minnesota natives **SHANNA JOHNSON** (BLOOMINGTON, MN/JEFFERSON) and **DANA PETERSON** (APPLE VALLEY, MN/APPLE VALLEY). **Johnson** finished the fall 3-4 in singles, but teamed with sophomore **KATHY WAYNE** (TEMPE, AZ/CORONA DEL SOL) to win their respective doubles flight at the Brown Invitational.

Peterson finished the fall season with a 1-4 singles record but teamed with frosh **APRIL STREET** (BATON ROUGE, LA/BROADMOOR) to claim a 4-2 doubles record playing at the No. 3 spot.

The Gophers will be looking to improve on last season's 12-13 overall dual record and eighth place finish at the Big Ten Championship.

DUKE UNIVERSITY BLUE DEVILS — Like Minnesota, Duke will be participating in its first dual meets of the season during the Federated Classic. The sixth-ranked Blue Devils are blessed with plenty of talent as juniors **Wendy Lyons** and **Monica Mraz** are ranked nationally by the Rolex Collegiate Rankings.

Lyons ranks 25th after finishing the fall with a 17-3 record, while **Mraz** is currently 34th in the polls after a 6-4 fall campaign.

However, much of the Blue Devils success might lie in the court of senior **Christine Neuman**. **Neuman** finished the 1992-93

season 30-10, playing primarily No. 2 for Duke. The Downer Grove, Ill. native reached the quarterfinals of the NCAAs before losing to end a streak of 11 straight wins that included the ACC Championships.

Neuman competed in only two singles matches during the fall, losing twice at the ITA Clay Courts. The two defeats dropped **Neuman** from the Rolex rankings after beginning the year ranked eighth. Despite the quiet fall in singles, **Neuman** and **Mraz** combined for a 7-0 record and the ITA Clay Court championship.

As a team, Duke finished 22-3 overall and 7-0 in the ACC last season. The Blue Devils defeated Clemson 5-0 at the NCAA Championships before losing 5-3 to Texas.

SERIES WITH MINNESOTA — Duke leads the all-time series against the Gophers 1-0. The teams met in 1982 with the Blue Devils winning 8-1.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY BEARS — Baylor finished the fall season ranked fourth in the Southwest Region, the team's highest ranking ever. Only Texas, Texas A&M and Rice are ranked ahead of the Bears heading into the winter schedule.

The Bears have two doubles teams and two singles players ranked in the region. Baylor's number one doubles duo of **Melissa Castro** and **Greta Gibson** are ranked sixth in the region while **Amber Simpson** and **Julie Hamilton** are ranked 13th. The Castro-Gibson combo finished the fall 6-3 while Simpson-Hamilton are entering the winter 5-1.

In singles, **Castro** is currently Baylor's top ranked player at 16th in the region with a 4-4 record. Also at 4-4, **Gibson** is the Bears' only other ranked player at No. 24.

Baylor finished last season 12-6 overall in dual competition and 5-4 in the Southwest Conference. The Bears defeated Baylor 5-3 in the opening round of the SWC tournament before losing to Texas 6-0.

SERIES WITH MINNESOTA — Minnesota and Baylor have never met in a team dual.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY TIGERS — The Tigers are coming off a very successful 1992-93 season. Auburn finished the last year ranked 25th in the nation and only one of the Tigers' 10 losses came against an unranked opponent.

But if the Tigers are to repeat last season's efforts, the team is going to have to overcome several hurdles — one of which is the graduation of **Anna Funderburk**. **Funderburk** finished last season ranked in the top 40 nationally and her departure leaves the No. 1 position on the team to sophomore **Nadia Smirnova**.

Smirnova finished the fall season with a 7-5 record in singles and teamed with frosh **Sharon Mieres** to finished the early portion of the year 8-3 in doubles. The duo reached the semi-finals of the Rolex Southeast regional qualifier before losing to **Michelle Anderson** and **Angela Lettiere** of Georgia in three sets.

Other contributions to the Tigers this fall came from juniors **Kasey Gladding** (7-4 singles) and **Maria Hardling** (4-3). **Mieres** finished the fall schedule 7-3.

SERIES WITH MINNESOTA — The Gophers lead the all-time series with Auburn 2-1. The last time the two teams met was 1987 with the Tigers winning 7-2



1993-94 MINNESOTA TENNIS STATISTICS (OCT. 11)

Overall Record: 0-0 Big Ten: 0-0 Home: 0-0 Away: 0-0 Neutral: 0-0
 Big Ten Finish:

DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE
10/1	at TCU Invitational (Fort Worth, TX)		No team score
10/2	at TCU Invitatioanal (Fort Worth, TX)		No team score
10/3	at TCU Invitational (Fort Worth, TX)		Rained out
10/8	at Brown Invitational (Providence, RI)		No team score
10/9	at Brown Invitational (Providence, RI)		No team score
10/10	at Brown Invitational (Providence, RI)		No team score
10/28	at Rolex Regional Qualifier (Eeast Lansing, MI)		No team score
10/29	at Rolex Regional Qualifier (East Lansing, MI)		No team score
10/30	at Rolex Regional Qualifier (East Lansing, MI)		No team score
10/31	at Rolex Regional Qualifier (East Lansing, MI)		No team score
1/21	FEDERATED INSURANCE COURT CLASSIC MINNESOTA vs. Auburn		
1/22	FEDERATED INSURANCE COURT CLASSIC MINNESOTA vs. Duke		
1/23	FEDERATED INSURANCE COURT CLASSIC MINNESOTA vs. Baylor		
2/6	at University of Utah		
2/7	at Brigham Young University		
2/11	IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY		
2/19	at University of North Carolina		
2/27	at Penn State University		
3/4	DRAKE UNIVERSITY		
3/11	UNIVERSITY OF IOWA		
3/22	vs. University of Washington (Tempe, AZ)		
3/23	vs. University of Kansas (Tempe, AZ)		
3/25	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN		
3/27	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY		
4/8	UNIVERISITY OF WISCONSIN		
4/10	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY		
4/16	at University of Illinois		
4/17	at Purdue University		
4/23	at Indiana University		
4/24	at Ohio State University		
4/28	AT BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (IOWA CITY, IA)		
4/29	AT BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (IOWA CITY, IA)		
4/30	AT BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (IOWA CITY, IA)		
5/1	AT BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (IOWA CITY, IA)		

SINGLES	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Open	Big Ten	Total	PCT.
Susan Culik							4-5	0-0	2-3	.444
Tiffany Gates							9-1	0-0	9-1	.900
Shanna Johnson							3-4	0-0	3-4	.429
Dana Peterson							1-4	0-0	1-4	.200
Jennifer Marques							5-2	0-0	5-2	.710
Kathy Wayne							4-2	0-0	4-2	.667
April Street							4-2	0-0	4-2	.667
Bridget Ferguson							5-1	0-0	5-1	.833
Jana Sweeney							0-0	0-0	0-0	.000
Amy Erskine							0-0	0-0	0-0	.000
Totals							35-21	0-0	35-21	.625

DOUBLES	#1	#2	#3	Open	Big Ten	Total	PCT.
Culik - Gates				3-4	0-0	3-4	.429
Marques - Johnson				0-3	0-0	0-3	.000
Street - Peterson				4-2	0-0	4-2	.667
Johnson-Wayne				3-0	0-0	3-0	1.000
Marques-Ferguson				3-0	0-0	3-0	1.000
Totals				13-6	0-0	13-6	.684

INDIV. DOUBLES	Overall	Pct.	Big Ten	Pct.
Culik	3-4	.429	0-0	.000
Erskine	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Ferguson	3-0	1.000	0-0	.000
Gates	3-4	.429	0-0	.000
Johnson	3-3	.500	0-0	.000
Marques	3-3	.500	0-0	.000
Peterson	4-2	.667	0-0	.000
Street	4-2	.667	0-0	.000
Wayne	3-0	1.000	0-0	.000