

Raider Tennis Girls Expect To Do Well at UC Tourney

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Good news for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls' varsity tennis program. Athletic Director Robert Harmer recently named Kristen Turturiello as Varsity Head Coach. "Miss Turturiello came very highly recommended in the tennis world. She was a first singles champion and a first team All-State selection from Union County where she was a four-year starter for Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights and I believe an All-American at the College of New Jersey where she finished with a 74-19 record for singles and 68-14 for doubles. We're excited to have her," he said.

When asked how she formulated her first-ever varsity lineup, Miss Turturiello said, "I put it together the fairest way possible. I did challenge after challenge and finally found my lineup after evaluating each player carefully. However, I leave it open for the girls throughout the season. If you feel you're working hard, and that's my motivation to get them to all keep working hard, they can challenge up whenever they come to me. I am very confident in my players and I try to portray that to them. Hopefully my intensity rubs off on them."

Sophomore Alex Szcuka takes the courts as the Raiders' first singles player and currently sports an unblemished record. "Alex, as a fresh-

man, played only doubles and was not given the opportunity to challenge up last year. This year, she plowed through everyone; no problem and she deserved that spot.

Raider senior Co-Captain Kathleen Yan grabbed the second singles spot. "Kathleen is a good player and will be a steady second for us. She mixes slices, frustrates people with that," said Turturiello.

Kubie Sahrula, a very nice player, pretty even with Kathleen will be solid at third singles according to Turturiello. Competing at first doubles are freshman Isabel Lopez and sophomore Neha Pannuri.

"Isabel is more the aggressive player and Neha, she won't miss, she is real consistent and a steady player, so they're a nice combo," said Turturiello.

The Raiders second doubles team returns junior Courtney Bifani, Allyson Linsenberg and Mia Robinson.

"Any combination will make a good team," said Turturiello.

In the mix, the Raiders look to strengthen the team with senior Rachel Kruper, juniors Emily Katz and Laura Thompson.

As to the expectations within the Watchung Conference, the county and the sectional tournament, "With the counties coming up, I think we'll do very well. Later, we have Cranford then Westfield again, all tough teams,

but I think the second time around we'll have a shot. We saw what we can do."

The 2-3 Raiders started the season with a 5-0 wins over Union and Dayton then suffered losses to Westfield and Bridgewater.

"Both good teams. Westfield, we were close every single match so it was really a tough loss for us. Bridgewater; our second team actually came back, won the second and third set, so we're going well. We're staying in with the best of them," said Turturiello.

On September 20, Bernards turned back the Raiders, 4-1, at LaGrande Park in Fanwood. Szcuka grabbed the lone point with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Megan Masuret.

"It really was not a very competitive match, but it was okay. I tried to work a better back hand and my serve was a little bit faster than hers," said Szcuka. "The season is going pretty well. Last year we lost against Westfield like big time all over the matches; this time we actually had a good tough match. We're looking forward to the counties and I believe we will do well as a team because we are better."

In other matches, Yan (second singles) followed with a 3-6, 6-0, 6-0 setback, while Meredith Snyder defeated Kubie, 6-2, 6-1. Bernards nipped the Raiders in doubles action, with both matches going three sets.



PUTTING THEIR HEADS TO THE TEST...Raider Alyssa Straniero, No. 10, and a Paramus Spartan attempt to redirect the soccer ball. The Raiders were more successful redirecting the ball in their 4-0 victory.

CORNWELL NOTCHES 1 GOAL, MAKES GREAT SAVE

Soccer Raiders Outmaneuver Paramus Lady Spartans, 4-0

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Gambling with the strategy of using an offside trap did not work out well for the Paramus High School girls soccer team that was shutout by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood lady Raiders, 4-0, in Scotch Plains on September 20. The 4-0-2 Raiders used their upfront speed and timing to outmaneuver the Spartan defensive backs.

The 3-2 Spartans' strategy relied on goalie Sam Rutishauser's decisiveness to come out from the goal or to guard the line. Four Raider girls managed to slip by the defensive backs, forcing Rutishauser to charge the ball unsuccessfully, while they tapped in goals. But she did have success blocking several of the Raiders' 15 shots on goal to make 11 saves, Raider keeper Jackie Law, who totaled eight saves, was tested only twice in the first half but made a pair of diving saves in the final four minutes of the game.

Once the Raiders caught on to the Spartan's scheme, the scoreboard began to flicker, beginning with Tina Carmarda's shot into the net after a corner kick from Jenna McGarry with 7:46 left in the first half. At the 5:00

mark, Avika Shah took a throw-in from Carmarda, got past the defensive backs and the diving Rutishauser, and tapped the ball into the net.

Eleven minutes into the second half, Katie Cornachia ripped a left-to-right shot past Rutishauser to make the score, 3-0. Eleven minutes later, Bridget Cornwell, who had been shelling Rutishauser unsuccessfully throughout the game, worked her way down the right side and drilled a right-to-left shot into the net.

"She (Rutishauser) knew how to come out but, I think, toward the end of the game we were understanding how to beat the offside trap, play the through ball and run onto it instead of waiting up there. If we waited for it, then ran on to it, we could get past the defenders," described Cornwell who added, "I was getting frustrated. I kept getting up there. Sometimes I'm too focused on going straight ahead, taking on the goalie and looking to get around her. Finally, I put it in. I slowed down. It took me a while but I got it."

"We have some fast kids who play up front. I don't think they had their fastest kids in the back. They played an offside trap, which hurt them a couple of times. Sometimes it works

for them, a couple of times it didn't," said Raider Head Coach Kevin Ewing. "We tend to move the ball nicely. We have been improving with that. We have to improve a lot more but we are coming along. We are a young team and we will improve as the year goes on. We have been working hard, trying to put the ball in the back of the net. Sometimes, we have a little trouble with that but today we did a nice job."

With nearly six minutes remaining, the Spartans were terrorizing the Raiders' goal area. On one occasion, Law was forced out, leaving the net open. As the Spartan attacker took a shot from close range, Cornwell managed to throw herself in front of the shot to make the save.

"I was playing defensive center mid most of the game but there I was playing sweeper. Jackie always saves us, so I had to get back there to help her," said Cornwell.

"They (Paramus) are going to compete for their championship their coach said. They are a young team like we are and we came out on top, which is nice," commented coach Ewing.

Paramus	0	0	0
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	2	2	4



FOCUSED ON BRINGING HOME A POINT...Raider sophomore first singles player, Alex Szcuka had an easy time romping over her Bernards' opponent, 6-0, 6-1 on September 20. Szcuka currently is undefeated (5-0) under new Tennis Head Coach Kristen Turturiello.

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