

Causing A Racquet

Tennis Season Ends in "Success"

While the tennis team's 6-13 record certainly does not reflect a winning season, the season could be termed "successful" in terms of determination and improvement.

Under the direction of first-year Coach Charles Drake, the tennis team worked hard from the beginning of January to the end of April in order to improve their skills and techniques. Wins over Berkeley, Georgetown, and St. George boosted the team's confidence and displayed the never-say-die attitude of the players.

"Although we didn't win that many matches, we still had a pretty good year," said Rebecca Corbett. "We learned a great deal of team unity and togetherness."

After the departure of Coach Cliff Hopkins, a great deal of questions were raised as to how the team would perform under the direction of a new coach. Coach Drake, however, proved his worth by practicing forehands, backhands, and serving on a daily basis.

"Practicing the fundamentals definitely helped us to better ourselves," said Frankie Nettles. "The practices were often long and tiring, but they were necessary to en-



Ready, set . . . return fire! Sophomore Chris Collins displays the proper form for returning the ball.

hance our skills and in the end, I think the long practices paid off for us."

Being an avid tennis player himself, Coach Drake brought a great deal of knowledge and experience with him to the team. He, in particular, feels that the players showed a great deal of heart and maturity in their matches and improved greatly in a short period of three months.

"I'm very pleased with the progress that all the players made," said Coach Drake. "Many of the other coaches made fantastic remarks about how competitively we played."

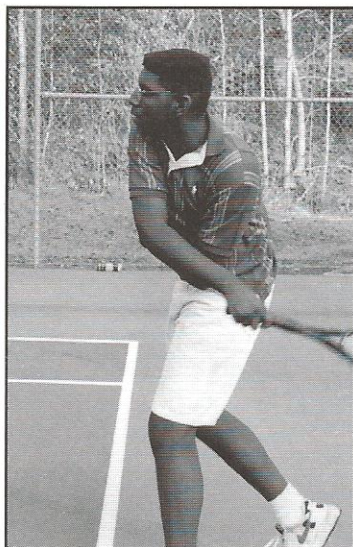
As a testament to the competitive spirit and improvement of the team, Sophomore Chris Collins was named to the All-Region Team. Chris, the team's #1 singles player, was also awarded the Most Valuable Player Award at the team's Sports Banquet.

"Being named to the All-Region Team was a big honor for me," said Chris. "It felt great to be recognized for my accomplishments."

Overall, the tennis players prided themselves on playing hard and having fun, even in tough matches against Region rivals Summerville and Wando. Many of the players enjoyed the season just for the opportunity to joke around with their teammates.

"I really enjoyed playing tennis this year," said Lauren Ulmer. "We really became more of a team this year than in past years."

— Mike Turner



Man in motion. During a team practice, Senior Keivy Lingard returns the ball to his opponent. Keivy also served as a Drum Major in the Band.



Varsity tennis team. Top row: A. Ellison, F. Nettles, C. Collins, M. Turner. Third row: Coach Charles Drake, R. Ellison, L. Winter, M. Jamison, M. Walker, R. Bullock, K. Kauffeld. Second row: M. Hazel, A. Hefner, C. Todd, L. Ulmer, J. Mros, J. Middleton. Bottom row: Manager A. Hiott, A. Bickley, R. Corbett, E. Davis, J. Eppinette. (Not pictured: R. Creech, K. Lingard, J. McDowell, M. Moberly).