Netmen Break Even With GW Win And Maryland Loss

By Steve Barry

It was the difference between indoors and outdoors for the Tech Tennis Team this weekend. After Friday's shut-out of a tough George Washington team the Hokies were blown away by Blacksburg winds and the Maryland netmen.

Playing indoors at the Rector Pavilion the Hokies swept all nine matches from G.W.U. At the No. 1 position G.W.'s Dave Haggerty had Tech's Jim Milley down 4-5 in the first set. Milley came back winning three straight games, breaking Haggerty's serve and taking the set 7-5. Jim jumped out in front early in the second set and took advantage of the momentum to win the second set 6-1, taking the match.

No. 2 Vince Thomas had an erratic match against G.W.'s Mike Yellin. Thomas came from behind to win the first set but faltered in the second, losing to Yellin and sending the match into the third set. Vince bore down and took an early lead that Yellin could not overcome as Thomas went on to win the match 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Tech's No. 3, Bill Webb, had the toughest match as he faced Don Carbone. The first two sets had to be decided by a 9-point tiebreaker, with Webb winning the first set 7-6 and losing the second 6-7. Buckling down, Bill wore out Carbone to easily win the third set 6-1 and the match.

Tom Hood, No. 4, defeated G.W.'s Josh Ripple in an awkward fashion. After struggling in the first set to win a tiebreaker he trounced Ripple in the second for a 7-6, 6-0 win. Tech's Peter Sutcliffe handled Jim Hendricks in much the same manner winning 7-6, 6-2. At No. 6 Mitch Toomey had an easier time defeating Rob Amer 6-2, 6-1.

The Hokies won all three doubles matches the hard way, by taking them all to three sets. Milley and Thomas defeated Haggerty and Yellin 7-5, 4-6, 6-1. Webb and Hood beat Ripple and Yellin 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Sutcliffe teamed up with Tom Vaughan to defeat Carbone and Doncheski 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

On Sunday the Hokies dropped a 5-1 decision to the Terrapins of Maryland. The major factor for the Hokies' poor performance was that the match was played on the outdoor courts in much less than perfect conditions. The wind Sunday, which sent racket covers and towels flying across the court, made a great difference in the Hokies' play. This was the team's first and probably last match to be played outside. The players had to adjust to the wind as well as the courts which have a faster surface than the pavilion.

The only consolation was Mitch Toomey's win at the No. 6 position. Toomy defeated David Pessin in a rough three-setter, 7-6, 5-7, 6-3. The other players were not as successful with No. 1 Jim Milley losing to Scott Kidd, 6-4, 6-3. Despite the cheering of "Vinnie's Army", No. 2 Vince Thomas lost to Robert Weise 6-3, 6-3. Maryland's John Ols on defeated Bill Webb 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, Tom Hood fell to Terp Joe Garber 6-1, 6-2 and No. 5 Peter Sutcliffe lost to Tony James 6-3, 6-2.

The next match is on Thursday at 1 p.m. against Hampton Institute.