

Tennis loses to Denison

TENNIS, from page A14

we are falling behind in doubles we are usually very close to winning — it's just a matter of breaking through and winning that big point."

After squeaking by Depauw Friday, the peasant men had the night to ponder facing the Lords of 15–0 Kenyon College, who had put down Carnegie Mellon 8–1 earlier this season. In the match, the doubles teams broke through to put Carnegie Mellon up 2–1. In singles, Muliawan, first-year Bobby MacTaggart, and Nemerov also contributed wins.

Before the GLCA tournament, Clearfield said, "We have some more matches against some top-20 teams and we really need to win all of them.

"If we do, I think we are the most dangerous team that nobody would want to play, and I really think we could make the quarterfinals or semifinals [of the NCAAs]."

The men head to Atlanta two weeks from now for the UAA championships April 25–27. The men's record is 16–6.

The women's team, which

heads to Washington (Mo.) University in St. Louis full of confidence for the UAA championships over Carnival weekend, followed up last Sunday's victory over the previously undefeated Johns Hopkins with a 9–0 demolition of Division II West Liberty College. First-years Ashley Herrick and Danielle Rosenfeld refused to throw their singles opponents a bone, defeating them both 6–0, 6–0.

Just a week after giving Johns Hopkins its first loss, the Carnegie Mellon women were given a lesson by Denison, which won 8–1.

Sophomore Alisa Liebowitz was at a loss to explain the lopsided loss. "It was a tough match today," she said. "On a different day, we could have done a lot better. They were a good team, and they outplayed us."

The loss moves the women's record to 14–6.

"At this point of the season, most of the work is fine-tuning," Girard said. "I think both teams are in good shape to make great showings at UAAs and NCAAs. It's now just a matter of delivering when we get our opportunities."

MATTHEW E. CAMPBELL

Professional tennis in recent years has been plagued by a phenomenon perhaps unique to tennis: players pulling out of tournaments. For example, after losing in the semifinals of Indian Wells (four matches), Maria Sharapova decided not to play the next week in Miami, citing fatigue.

The excuse is probably valid, however. Because tournaments are scheduled close together, yet geographically far apart, players are bound to get worn out.

Ranked third in the world, Novak Djokovic had to win six matches to win Indian Wells in California. He then traveled from California to Miami, Fla., and despite a few days to recuperate, he was bundled out in the first round by a relatively unknown giant, Kevin Anderson. Mardy Fish, Djokovic's final victim at Indian Wells, also

lost in his first match at Miami.

When top players withdraw from tournaments, organizers and sponsors as well as the tours (the Association of Tennis Professionals for the men and the Women's Tennis Association for the women) — not to mention the fans — are left watching low-ranked players battle it out, rendering the tournament unimportant. The inconsistency of draws hurts tennis economically and makes it difficult for sponsors and fans to commit to tournaments.

The ATP and WTA have taken steps to cut down on player withdrawals. On the men's side, after the four Grand Slams (the U.S., Australian, and French opens, along with Wimbledon), there are nine mandatory tournaments, the Masters Series. Players are fined for skipping these tournaments. However, the fines don't deter players from not playing. Andy Roddick last year skipped four of the nine Masters Series tourna-

ments but is still ranked sixth — and is still wealthy.

The ATP and WTA are also rearranging the schedule of tournaments. Idiotically, on the men's side, Indian Wells and Miami; Canada and Cincinnati, Ohio; and Rome and Hamburg — all grueling Masters Series — are scheduled without a break between the two tournaments, making it difficult to win two in a row. This makes Roddick's 2003 Canada-Cincinnati double (12 matches in 14 days) all the more remarkable.

However, even if the ATP and WTA do space out their mandatory tournaments more evenly to rule out exhaustion as an excuse, players are still probably going to skip tournaments. The reason is because top players win enough that they don't need to play that often. Maria Sharapova, who rarely loses in the early rounds of a tournament, is ranked fifth, a ranking based only on 13 tournaments. Top-ranked Justine Henin only

played 15 tournaments. Number 10 Daniela Hantuchova, meanwhile, played 24, but she's far behind Sharapova and Henin in ranking points.

In effect, the top players are too good — Sharapova, for instance, has won three of the four tournaments she has played this year. The tours need to accept this fact, and should market other players more effectively instead.

On the men's side much more so than the women's side, there are players who are lesser known than Federer, Nadal, and Roddick, but are equally fun to watch.

These players aren't inconsequential, either. Who beat Nadal at the U.S. Open last year? Number five David Ferrer. Who beat Roddick in the quarters of Wimbledon last year? Number 10 Richard Gasquet. Who trounced Nadal at the Australian Open earlier this year? Then-unknown Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, now ranked 13th.

Track, field dominates the Carnegie Mellon Tri-Meet on Tuesday at home

TRACK, from page A14

the men's team dominated most of the events. Senior Eric Tang (11.00) took first in the 100-meter dash and first-year Don Mignogna (11.31) finished closely behind for second place. In the 200-meter dash, first-year Casey Piper finished first with a time of 22.69. Tang also finished first in the triple jump with 13.19 meters.

Sophomore Brian Harvey (1:53.40) and senior Scott Fortune (1:53.45) took first and second, respectively, in an exciting 800-meter dash. Junior Craig Hahn (16.24) placed first in the 110-meter hurdles, while senior Kiley Williams (56.18) finished first in the 400-meter hurdles.

In the long-distance events, junior Ryan Anderson barely edged out his opponent to win the 1500-meter run in 4:03.67. Junior Mike Condon won the 3000-meter run with a time of 9:14.08. First-years Essien Ohues (1.90 meters) and Dan Melamed (4.11 meters) finished first in the high jump and pole vaults, respectively. The 4x100-meter team swept the competition with a first-place time of 43.81.

"Unfortunately I got sick the night before the race and felt horrible all day but managed to run fine anyway," Condon said. "Since the 3000 isn't a normal distance for college meets, I won't get another chance to beat my time, but it was fun anyway."

For the women's team, junior Sami Simmons broke two school

records, finishing first in the triple jump (11.09 meters) and third in the long jump (5.31 meters). First-year Melissa Hwang (4.97 meters) also had a spectacular finish in the long jump to take fourth place. As usual, sophomore Diane Mattingly easily won the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:22.18, while first-year Courtney Baker (2:25.37) took second place.

Sophomore Timi Abimbola took second in both the 200-meter (28.00) and 100-meter (13.59) dash. First-years Morgan Faer (17.41) and Danielle Fisher (1:12.71) finished second and third, respectively, in the 100-meter and 400-meter hurdles. Junior Jen Kim had two personal bests, finishing third in both the discus throw (28.70 meters) and hammer throw (32.46 meters).

On Friday night, several Tartans ran in the competitive Bison Outdoor Classic meet. First-year J.P. Allera (14:58.47) and sophomore Dario Donatelli (14:59.17) placed third and fifth, respectively, in the 5000-meter run. Harvey took fourth in the more competitive 5000-meter run invitational with a time of 14:43.62.

Referring to the busy week, Anderson said, "It makes it difficult to recover, and also prevents us from doing intensive workouts, but it helps to get you used to competing when you feel a little down, so it's good if you're doubling events at conferences or later meets."

At Robert Morris University, the men's team showed several solid performances. Anderson

carried over his Tuesday success to win the 3000-meter steeplechase with a time of 9:40.59. Junior Breck Fresen (4:12.68) and fifth-year Geoff Misk (16:04.81) took third and second, respectively, in the 1500-meter and 5000-meter runs. Sophomore Dan Burrows finished third in the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:02.35.

In the 100-meter dash, Tang led the team again to take second place with a time of 11:16. First-year Casey Piper (32.68) took third in the 400-meter dash, while sophomore Chris Bogie (56.37) placed first in the 400-meter hurdles. The 4x100-meter (43.22) and 4x400-meter (3:36.41) relay teams both won their respective events.

On the women's side, Abimbola finished fifth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.71. First-year Erica Spiritos (1:08.01) took fifth in the 400-meter dash, while sophomore Crystal LeePow (2:26.90) finished fourth in the 800-meter dash. Sophomore Anna Lenhart placed third in the 5000-meter run with a time of 20:32.03.

"Saturday's meet was much more frustrating than Tuesday overall, but there were still some very good performances," Kim said.

"Hopefully we'll have better weather this next week to continue improving on things before Chicago."

The track and field teams will compete in the much-anticipated University Athletic Association (UAA) championships this weekend at the University of Chicago.



Junior Sami Simmons broke two school records, finishing first in the tri-jump (11.09 meters) and third in the long jump (5.31 meters) during the Carnegie Mellon Tri-Meet Tuesday.



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