

SPORTS

Chaps return to nationals

Conover, teammates play spectacular against Rock Valley to win regionals

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

The women's tennis team is returning to nationals again by defeating Rock Valley 9-0 at the Region IV tournament on Saturday.

"I'm real proud with the effort of our team today," head coach Jim Bowers said. "We played really good ball."

The Chaps (10-3) won their first five singles matches, clinching the best of nine regional tournament before singles was even over. This is their fourth title in a row.

"We dominated today so it makes me feel good about nationals," player Blaire Hufford said.

Abby Conover, the team's number one player, was in a tough match against Rock Valley's best player Allie Fisher. Both players faced each other earlier in the year

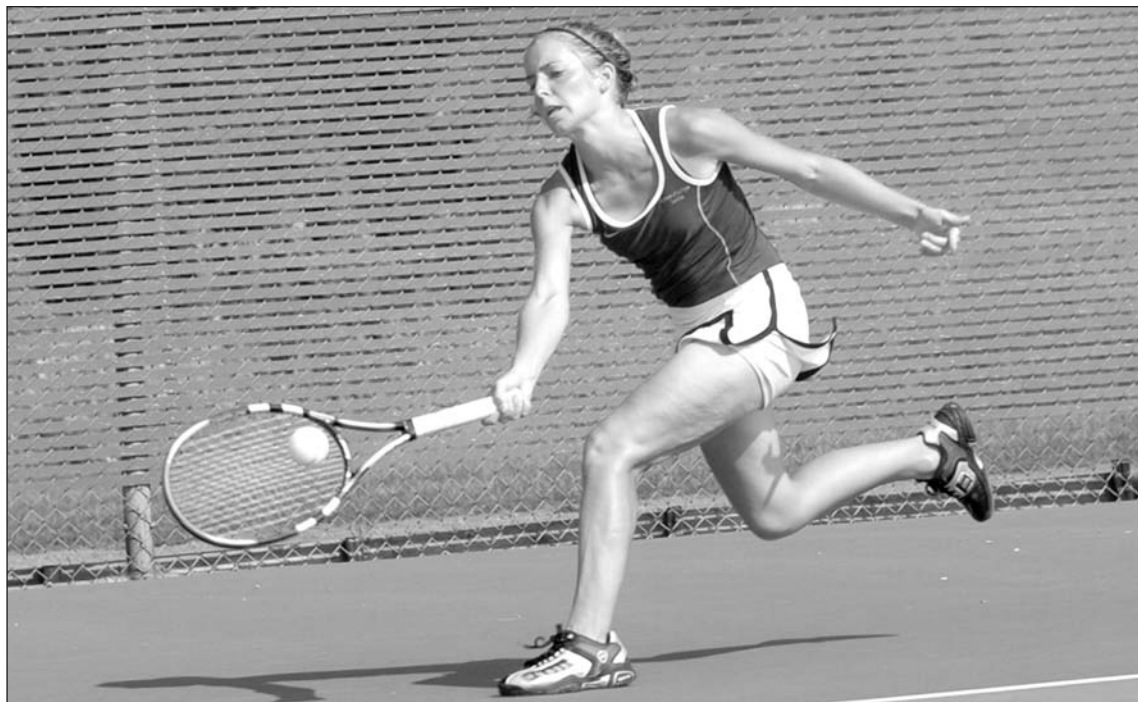


Photo by Aldo Blanco

Abby Conover attempts to return a difficult volley from Rock Valley's Allie Fisher on Saturday.

so they were familiar with how the other plays.

The two ground out the match when everyone was finished and the tournament was already decided.

"I just stayed focused," Conover said. "It's about how I play and not everyone else. It's nice they won, but I should still play hard."

Conover had to exert everything she had to defeat Fisher 6-4 in both sets.

She had to move a lot because of Fisher's ball placement and try to hit the ball

with precision. Numerous games were decided with deuces.

"I wasn't going to give up," Conover said. "Since the first set was a pretty long set, I knew I had to win the second set and avoid a third."

Teammate Maggie Sharnagle said she was impressed with Conover's play in the tournament.

"Abby brought her A game," Sharnagle said. "She came prepared and is really focused."

Before the regional tourna-

ment, the Chaps struggled against North Central at Naperville and the University of Illinois at Chicago. It was the first time in the year that the team lost two matches in a row.

"Everyone has to learn how to rebound from a loss," Bowers said. "That's why I have a tougher schedule at the end of the year. It is to prepare for the competition at nationals."

Chap Jacquelyn McMahon said she saw the benefit of playing stiffer competition before the tournament. She won

her singles match against Rock Valley.

"It was good practice to play better players," McMahon said. "It made me feel more comfortable to play on the court. It made me stronger."

For the tournament, umpire Tina Richards officiated the matches. Usually, there isn't an official in a normal match because it is expensive. Players go by the honors system in a match.

"If there are controversial points, (Richards) is like an instant replay," Bowers said.

With the season over, many of the girls are planning on practicing for nationals. The tournament is in May at Tucson, Ariz.

"I'm probably going to hit with Marco, one of Jim's friends who coaches," player Becca Davis said. "I'm also going to practice at the DuPage Fair Grounds."

"I'm going to really focus on my game and practice as much as I can," Conover said. "I still play like a wildman."

Bowers said he is confident that his girls will practice hard in the offseason to defend their national title.

"Our goal at nationals is to win," Bowers said. "No one is complacent. They all want to repeat (their title)."

Short of the goal

Men's golf misses nationals by five shots

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

The Chaparrals lost the regional tournament to Rock Valley by five shots on Saturday at the Prairie View Golf Course in Port Byron, Ill.

Despite a one shot lead going into the third and final round, DuPage came out and played poorly on the front side. It proved to be the difference in the three day tournament.

"We were pretty much two equal teams this week and the one who played better on the last day was going to win," head coach Jason Hyatt said.

The Chaps fell behind 11 shots after the first nine holes of the last round Saturday. However, they made a comeback at Rock Valley but came up short. They came within five shots of the title.

"The guys did not give up and made a last run with about four holes to go," Hyatt said. "Unfortunately, we started playing better too late

and that was that."

On Thursday, DuPage shot 329 and trailed their rivals by only three. Many of the players still felt that they were in a good position to take the lead.

The next day, the Chaps scored a 322. They played great the last few holes. This bumped them up to a one stroke lead.

Despite the loss, the team still managed to play well. Teammates Jeff VanderNaald and Jon Golabek made the All-Region team. They placed second and third, respectively.

Their teammate Tim Oates missed the All-Region cut by one shot in a one-hole playoff. Oates placed sixth.

Hyatt said that even though this loss was disappointing, he is optimistic about next year.

"We do have a good nucleus returning for next season," Hyatt said.

"With a few good additions, I don't see why we can't improve and be more consistent next season."

Forwards smoke Cyclones

Women's team impressive in must win game

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

The Chaparral forwards dominated the Cyclones in a 6-0 win on Monday.

Forwards Laura Lehman and Danielle Kinnaman had four goals between them. They also played well on defense.

"We've finally played well as a unit," Lehman said. "Their goalie was playing out. Lauren (Kepler) was playing well up top."

"We're talking way more," Kinnaman said. "We're understanding what we have to do."

Early in the game, striker Kelsey Muruato kicked the ball past Moraine Valley's goalie for the game's first goal. Then Lehman added a quick score for a Chaparral 2-0 lead.

Muruato then had a couple of assists to Kinnaman to push the score to 4-0 at half time. She said that she is



Photo by Bob Bajek

Forward Danielle Kinnaman driving the ball.

happy with her improved passing.

"The forwards are moving around without the ball better," Muruato said. "They are giving me space so I could give them a pass."

Head coach Jason Hunter said he was impressed with the victory.

"It was a great team effort," Hunter said. "It was the first time we played together and complimented each other on the field."

The Chaparral defense prevented constant attacks on

their goal. They disrupted drives and stole the ball many times.

Goalie Allison Lopez also had a few solid saves in the shutout.

Some of the Chaps are coming off injuries. Muruato has a slightly pulled back and Kepler is coming off an injury. Kinnaman pulled a quad during the game.

Hunter said it was fortunate that this game was a blowout so it would help his injured players recover.

"Three of our starters played a half hour game and then rested up," Hunter said. "This helped them get back to game speed."

DuPage needed this win badly. They were reeling from losing three out of four games. This win boosts their record to 6-7.

Their challenge comes next Sunday when they host Rochester. Rochester is ranked fourth in the nation.

"The big test is this Sunday," Hunter said. "We'll see how prepared we are."

"I think if we played the way we did today, we would beat the number one team," Muruato said.

All it takes is one goal

Late score all Cyclones need to defeat DuPage

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

Even with solid defense, the Chaps lost to Moraine Valley 1-0 on Saturday.

The game was gridlocked in a scoreless tie into the 75th minute. That's when Moraine Valley midfielder Ben Galardo kicked the ball past goalie Steve O'Meara for the win.

"I think we held up strong," O'Meara said. "They just got lucky on a goal."

DuPage lost for the second time in a row after winning four straight. Their record fell to 8-5-3.

The Chaps played a five game week, tiring the players. Assistant coach William Fajkus said that the schedule isn't an excuse for the recent performance.

"The opponents we played yesterday and today were better than the ones we beat," Fajkus said. "You have to give them credit."

"I recognize that this was a hard week with five games. It was unprecedented in our



Photo by Aldo Blanco

Defender Ben LeFevre (right) fights for the ball.

schedule. (But) as a coaching staff, we expected a better effort."

At the beginning of the game, the ball was at both sides of the field. The Chaps had difficulty in driving the ball to the Cyclones' goal.

"It was hard to get them because they played an offside trap," striker Paul Fafendyk said. "It keeps the defensive line straight so it compresses us. We have to play long."

The defense played great for most of the game. In the first half, Moraine Valley had numerous shots at the Chaparral goal and the defense would come and kick the ball out.

Defender Don Cook was very impressive during the game. He stopped many fast breaks and disrupted the Cy-

clone forwards at midfield.

He also made some good passes on offense.

Cook said he was upset they couldn't score a goal.

"We had a couple inside the six-yard box and we couldn't finish," Cook said.

One of the opportunities DuPage had to score was around the 61st minute. Cook streaked across the field and crossed right to Fafendyk. Fafendyk slid for the goal but missed the ball.

"It was played a little too far away from me," Fafendyk said. "Donnie worked hard to make that play happen."

Early in the second half Moraine Valley midfielder Takuya Mamada went down with an injury. Play was still going on since the referees didn't notice the fallen player.

Midfielder Justin Pedersen kicked the ball out of bounces so the Cyclones could get Mamada off the field.

"It is good sportsmanship," Pedersen said. "They just gave it back to us easy. They helped us earlier in the game."

Fajkus said that confidence might be an issue with this team. However, he thinks that the Chaps will beat the Cyclones in the future.

"They were beatable," Fajkus said. "I think if we would play Moraine Valley in the playoffs, I like our chances."

Gridders escape with a narrow victory

North Dakota's missed field goal caps DuPage's comeback

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

The Chaparrals defeated North Dakota on the road in comeback fashion 21-20.

In the final minutes, North Dakota marched down the field after the Chaps scored the go ahead touchdown. They then lined up for the game winning field goal. However, their kicker missed the field goal.

"We were lucky enough to make some big plays late in the third quarter and in the fourth quarter to come from behind," head coach Fred Fimbres said.

The Chaps led 7-6 at half-time. On the opening kickoff in the third quarter North Dakota returned the kick for a score. They then pushed another touchdown their next possession to take a 20-7 lead.

The Chap offense then put together a comeback. They scored off a turnover late in the third quarter to tighten the game.

The next drive, quarterback Thomas Specia connected with running back Nick Booth for a 70-yard strike to North

Dakota's 5-yard line.

"Specia was (telling) me that I had to beat the linebacker," Booth said. "He threw to me and I almost got to the goal line. We punched it in from there."

Booth said that DuPage made it a point to run the ball against North Dakota. He had almost 200 yards of total offense and scored all three of the Chaps' touchdowns.

The defense also stepped up. Cornerbacks Carlos Bates and Jeffery Lemon had interceptions and the defense gave up 145 yards rushing, a big improvement from Iowa Central.

"We did pretty good," Bates said. "We had a couple of mistakes but it's nothing we can't correct."

The Chaps next opponent is North Iowa Area Saturday at home.

Lemon said that they will have to play well to beat a very talented team.

"We have to be on top of our game," Lemon said. "Basically, we have to play like the championship team that we are."




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Jesse White

Secretary of State

Athlete of the Week



Name: Steve O'Meara
Sport: Soccer
Major: Fire Science
Year: Freshman
Age: 18



Photos by Aldo Blanco

Q: How long have you played soccer?
A: Since I was 7.

Q: Have you played other positions besides goalie?
A: In high school, I used to play forward freshman and sophomore year at Hinsdale South.

Q: What is the difference between the two positions?
A: A forward can be creative and there's more room for error. As a goalie, you can't think long or the other team will score. It is more nerve racking but I love it.

Q: What is the biggest challenge of being a goalie?
A: I think we have a lot

A: Once they score a goal, you feel awful. I think that is the hardest part of being a goalie.

Q: What was your best game?
A: The first game at Springfield against Lincoln Land. We traveled there. I was nervous but I didn't want to loss. I had a shutout on them.

Q: What are your goals this year?
A: I hope we make it far into the playoffs and go to nationals like last year. I think we have the team to do it if we work together.

Q: How do you feel about this year's team?
A: I think we have a lot

of potential. I think if we came together as a team, we'll have a good chance of going to nationals.

Q: What has soccer taught you?
A: It taught me to be ready at all times. It taught me to be a leader, look out for my friends and work hard.

Q: Do you play other sports?
A: I play basketball for fun.

Q: Who is your favorite player?
A: Cristiano Ronaldo.

Q: Who inspires you?
A: My brother Jason. He's always there for me. He's a great person to look up to.

Sport Schedule Fall '07

FOOTBALL		
AUGUST		
Sat., 18	Scrimmage vs. Marian (IN)	
*Sat., 25	ROCK VALLEY	W 29-27
SEPTEMBER		
*Sat., 1	at Joliet	W 34-22
*Sat., 8	GRAND RAPIDS (MI)	L 27-30
*Sat., 15	at Harper	W 43-27
Sun., 23	CARTHAGE (WD) JV	W 66-12
*Sat., 29	IOWA CENTRAL	L 14-44
OCTOBER		
*Sat., 6	at North Dakota Science	W 21-20
*Sat., 13	NORTH IOWA AREA	1 p.m.
*Sat., 20	at Ellsworth (IA)	1 p.m.
Sat., 27	PLAYOFFS	TBA
NOVEMBER		
Sat., 3	PLAYOFFS	TBA
Sat., 17	Bowl Game	TBA

VOLLEYBALL		
AUGUST		
Sat., 18	Jamboree at Harper	
Fri., 24	12th Annual DuPage Classic	L, L
Sat., 25	12th Annual DuPage Classic	L, L
Thu., 30	OLIVE HARVEY	W
SEPTEMBER		
Sat., 1	at Ancilla (IN)	L, L
*Thu., 6	at Rock Valley	L, L
Sat., 8	18th Annual DuPage Invite	W, W, L
*Tue., 11	JOLIET	L
Fri., 14	at Lake County Tourney	L, L
Sat., 15	at Lake County Tourney	L, L
*Tue., 18	ROCK VALLEY	L
Thu., 20	SOUTH SUBURBAN	L
*Tue., 25	HARPER	L
Fri., 28	16th Annual Chaparral Invite	W, L
Sat., 29	16th Annual Chaparral Invite	L, L
OCTOBER		
*Tue., 2	at Triton	W
*Thu., 4	at Joliet	L
*Tue., 9	at Harper	L
Tue., 16	MORAIN VALLEY	6 p.m.
Sat., 20	at Ancilla (IN)	9 a.m.
*Thu., 25	TRITON	6 p.m.
Sat., 27	Triangular at Highland	11 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Tue., 30	REGION IV PLAYOFFS	6 p.m.
NOVEMBER		
Sat., 3	REGION IV FINAL @ Lake Country	TBA
Fri., 16	NJCAA Division III Nationals at Rochester, MN	TBA
Sat., 17	NJCAA Division III Nationals at Rochester, MN	TBA

MEN'S SOCCER		
AUGUST		
*Thu., 16	ST. XAVER (scrimmage)	1 p.m.
Sat., 25	Owens (OH) at South Bend, IN	L 1-2
Tue., 28	at Lake County	T 3-3
SEPTEMBER		
Sat., 1	PRAIRIE STATE	W 3-1
*Wed., 5	at Joliet	W 3-2 (2ot)
*Fri., 7	at Triton	L 0-2
Sun., 9	OAKTON	T 2-2 (2ot)
Sat., 15	vs. Jefferson (MO) at Lincoln Land	L 0-1
*Wed., 19	at Harper	W 1-0
Thu., 20	ELGIN	W 2-0 (2ot)
Sat., 22	at Lincoln Land	T 0-0 (2ot)
Sun., 23	ILLINOIS CENTRAL	
Tue., 25	at Lincoln Land	L 0-1
Sun., 30	KENNEDY-KING	W 4-1
Sun., 30	KISHWAUKEE	W 2-0
OCTOBER		
Tue., 2	McHENRY	W 5-0
*Wed., 3	JOLIET	W 1-0
*Fri., 5	TRITON	L 0-2
Sat., 6	MORAIN VALLEY	L 0-1
Mon., 8	MORTON	L 2-3
*Wed., 10	HARPER	3:30 p.m.
Sat., 13	SOUTH SUBURBAN	2 p.m.
*Tue., 16	HARPER	3:30 p.m.
Sat., 20	REGION IV PLAYOFFS	12 p.m.
Sat., 27	REGION IV PLAYOFFS	12 p.m.
NOVEMBER		
Sat., 3	DISTRICT PAYOFF @ Region XI	12 p.m.
Thu., 15	NJCAA Division I National Tourney at Tyler, TX	TBA
Fri., 16	NJCAA Division I National Tourney at Tyler, TX	TBA
Sun., 18	NJCAA Division I National Tourney at Tyler, TX	TBA

WOMEN'S SOCCER		
AUGUST		
Sun., 26	PARKLAND	L 1-2
Fri., 31	JOHNSON CO. (KS) at Oakton	L 2-5
SEPTEMBER		
Sun., 2	vs. Iowa Central at Oakton	L 0-4
*Wed., 5	JOLIET	W 6-1
*Fri., 7	TRITON	W 5-0
Thu., 13	SOUTH SUBURBAN	W 9-0
Sat., 15	TRINITY CHRISTIAN	L 0-2
*Wed., 19	HARPER	W 1-0
Thu., 27	LAKE COUNTY	L 3-4
Sun., 30	OAKTON	L 0-2
OCTOBER		
*Wed., 3	at Joliet	postponed
*Fri., 5	at Triton	W 5-0
Sat., 6	at Elgin	L 1-2
Mon., 8	MORAIN VALLEY	W 6-0
Sun., 14	ROCHESTER (MN)	12 p.m.
*Wed., 17	at Harper	3:30 p.m.
Thu., 18	at Waubensee	3:30 p.m.
Tue., 23	REGION IV PLAYOFF	3 p.m.
Sat., 27	REGION IV FINALS	12 p.m.
NOVEMBER		
Fri., 2	Dist. Tournament at Region IV	3 p.m.
Sat., 3	Dist. Tournament at Region IV	12 p.m.
Sat., 10	NJCCA Division III Nationals @ Tyler, TX	TBA
Sun., 11	NJCCA Division III Nationals @ Tyler, TX	TBA

WOMEN'S TENNIS		
AUGUST		
Wed., 29	ST. FRANCIS	W 8-1
Thu., 30	CALUMET COLLEGE OF ST. JOE'S	W 9-0
SEPTEMBER		
Tue., 4	at Elmhurst	W 9-0
Thu., 6	BENEDICTINE	postponed
Sat., 8	Dave Webster Doubles Classic	9 a.m.
Mon., 10	at Lewis	L 3-6
Wed., 12	at Rock Valley	W 9-0
Sat., 15	at Rend Lake	W 9-0
Wed., 19	at McHenry	W 9-0
Fri., 21	DuPAGE-DePAUL INVITATIONAL	2 p.m.
Sun., 23	DuPAGE-DePAUL INVITATIONAL	9 a.m.
Mon., 24	MORAIN VALLEY	W 8-1
Sat., 29	ROBERT MORRIS	W 9-0
OCTOBER		
Mon., 1	at North Central	L 3-5
Wed., 3	at Univ. of Chicago	L 3-6
Sat., 6	Region IV Tournament	W 9-0

CROSS COUNTRY		
AUGUST		
Fri., 31	at Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL	5 p.m.
SEPTEMBER		
Sat., 15	Midwest Collegiate Kenosha, WI	1 p.m.
Sat., 29	at Loyola University	11 a.m.
OCTOBER		
Sat., 13	at University of Wisconsin	1 p.m.
Sat., 27	Regional IV Championships at Palos Hills, IL	10 a.m.
NOVEMBER		
Sat., 10	NJCCA Division III Nationals at Long Island, NY	
GOLF		
AUGUST		
Fri., 24	Freeport, IL	cancelled
Fri., 31	Port Byron, IL	10 a.m.
SEPTEMBER		
Thu., 6	Romeoville, IL	12 p.m.
Sun., 9	Bloomington, IL	12:30 p.m.
Mon., 10	Bloomington, IL	8 a.m.
Fri., 14	Sterling, IL	10 a.m.
Tue., 18	Plainfield, IL	11 a.m.
Fri., 21	Oglesby, IL	11 a.m.
Sat., 22	Oglesby, IL	8 a.m.
Fri., 28	Byron, IL	12:30 p.m.
OCTOBER		
Thu., 4	Region IV Tournament Byron, IL	10 a.m.
Fri., 5	Region IV Tournament Byron, IL	9 a.m.
Sat., 6	Region IV Tournament Byron, IL	9 a.m.

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