

Ponderosa tops Chaparral in tennis dual

Mustangs finish week with victory in eight-team tourney

By Jim Benton

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No player had to purchase bagels or donuts after Ponderosa's 6-1 dual match victory over Chaparral in Continental League tennis action April 1 at the Pinery Country Club.

A Mustangs' tradition has been established at Ponderosa that any player who wins a match 6-0, 6-0 has to bring bagels or donuts to the next practice for the varsity players.

The holes in the donuts or bagels represent the zeroes.

Ponderosa is 4-0 in Continental League matches this spring with a varsity team made up of two seniors, a junior, four sophomores and four freshmen.

"We're building," said Ponderosa coach Lisa Damico. "Singles is our strength."

Sophomore Lauren Lindell, the Mustangs No. 1 singles player, and freshman No. 3 singles player Claire Cox are both unbeaten this season.

Senior No. 2 singles player Brittany Glantz, who sat out the Chaparral match with an injury, also hasn't been defeated and the Mustangs' No. 3 doubles team of freshman Alyssa Lowe and junior Taylor Saunders has been perfect as well.

Lindell defeated Chaparral junior co-captain Sydney Nelson, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0 in the featured match on a windy day at the



Ponderosa sophomore Lauren Lindell beat Sydney Nelson of Chaparral to help the Mustangs down the Wolverines 6-1 in a Continental League dual match held April 1 at the Pinery. Photo by Jim Benton

Pinery.

Both players had chances in the first set with Nelson, who is taking time off from playing soccer with the Colorado Storm, jumping to a quick 3-0 lead. She couldn't hold though and the 6-foot Lindell rallied and served for the set at 6-5.

However, Nelson broke service to love to force the tiebreaker in which she fell behind 4-1 before coming back to even the score at 5-all.

Lindell then hit a cross-court forehand

winner and on match point Nelson's backhand was long to end the first set.

"It took me a while to warm up and start playing my game instead of her game," said Lindell. "I relaxed a little when I got ahead in the tiebreaker. It took a lot of effort and will to win the final two points.

"I felt winning the first set I gained more confidence to go for bigger shots."

Lindell easily won the second set and the match.

"I really think it got into my head," said

Nelson. "I was not disappointed with the way I played, I just started not focusing as well and thinking she won the first set and how am I going to win the second set?"

Cox, the only player to have to bring bagels so far this season, downed the Wolverines' Anna Frazier 6-1, 6-4.

"I've been working hard and it's paying off," explained Cox. "I played pretty well. I had a practice with the coach the other day and used what I learned. It's mostly mental work, not getting down on myself when I lose a point or double fault and I really did well."

On the other side of the court, first-year Chaparral coach Kenneth Mize isn't down about the Wolverines 0-4 start and is confident his team will progress.

"Our singles players are very strong," said Mize. "By the time regionals come along our entire team will be pretty strong. We are still a growing team."

"It's tough having a first-year head coach. I graduated from Chaparral, played tennis and I've been an assistant coach for the guys for a couple years. They asked me if I wanted to coach the girls."

Adding to their successful week, Ponderosa went on to win the eight-team, two-day Cyclone Tennis Invitational April 4-5 in Pueblo.

Lindell, Glantz and Cox all won singles titles while Lowe and Saunders added to the Mustangs victory hardware.

The No. 4 doubles tandem of Hailey Christensen and Gabriela Porras also brought home a tournament title with a three-set victory.

STICKS AND STONES

Dobbs tabbed as Chaparral's new head man