

MIT match wrap-up by Cami Whitney
Sept. 13, 2003

Smith tennis arrived at MIT on August 13 to find the campus buzzing. The Dalai Lama was in the vicinity and several other sporting events were drawing rowdy fans. Matches got underway as the national anthem blared from the field hockey field, but the Smith players doggedly kept their focus. Although MIT eventually prevailed 7-2, none of their wins came easily.

In #1 doubles action, Lauren Kemp and Katy Walker faced off against Shima Rayej and Jill Konowich. The 4-8 loss featured exciting points and well-placed volleys.

#2 doubles team Linz and Kilgore lost a similarly hard-fought match 3-8 to Caroline Tien and Jady Chen.

Despite improving over the course of their doubles set, #3 duo Whitney and Nylund were stumped by opponents' superior positioning in 1-8 loss against Jen Hipp and Ruby Pai.

During singles play, Smith raised its tenacity to a new level.

Kemp's #1 singles match vs Rayej was the highlight of the day. It was by far the longest match, and as the evening drew on Kemp's teammates quelled their grumbling stomachs with forkfuls of peanut butter as they cheered her on from the sidelines. The well-played points gave them plenty to cheer about, especially when Kemp ended them with her spectacular overhead winners.

After losing the first set 4-6, Kemp rallied to win the second 6-4. She put every ounce of energy into the 3rd, repeatedly "redefining the word stretch" to return some seemingly unreturnable shots. However, she came up just short at 4-6 to end the day.

#2 singles player Kilgore also played at a high level in a 4-6, 4-6 loss against a Tien, a tough opponent.

In the #3 singles spot, Linz brought Smith their first win of the day. Her match featured long points in which Linz characteristically hit smart set-up shots as well as amazing save shots to yield a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

#4 Whitney was also victorious, relying on depth and change of direction to win 6-1, 6-3 against Emily Chen.

#5 Walker admitted to playing the longest points of her life in a gutsy match in which she adapted to the consistent Hipp and almost pulled out the second set, 1-6, 5-7.

#6 Nylund also played a well-fought 4-6, 4-6 match in her singles line-up debut. It included some of the longest points of the season as Nylund stuck to the mantra of getting the ball back one more time.

Macaleigh Herman and Mariel Elguero played in doubles and singles exhibition matches and helped round out a supportive team on a tough, but worthwhile day of tennis.