

Rollins' White turning pro; Gators dominate state tennis

By JIM CARFIELD
Sentinel Star

That old carefree, go-for-it look is back. And Wendy White's got it.

The All-American sophomore from Atlanta is no longer tortured by indecision and self-imposed pressure. After weeks of trying to make up her mind, Rollins' No. 1 player has decided to turn pro after competing in the national collegiates.

With that weighty decision behind her, the slick stroking blonde's game was at its lethal best Friday in the state collegiate championships being hosted by the Lady Tars.

White rolled to a 6-1, 6-1 win over Susan Mueller — the younger half of FSU's sister act from Winter Park — to backbone the opening volley in Rollins' bid for a fourth straight title.

But despite White's performance, the Tars were in second place in the team standings with 9 points. The University of Florida was leading with 17 points.

Also safely in the semifinals was Susan Gibson of Miami, the No. 2 seed in Flight A. She ousted FSU's Laurie Mueller, 6-1, 6-4.

This morning's pairings (9 a.m.) have White trying to continue her mastery of Julie Pressley, Florida's All-America, and Gibson meeting Joyce Portman, another Lady Gator All-American. Actually, White has beaten all three remaining rivals in recent matches. She's won the last two against Pressley, stopped Portman twice and Gibson three times.

In Flight B, top-seeded Ilene Friedland of Miami and No. 2 Nancy Neviasser of Rollins also advanced to the semis.

Florida's Cissie Donnigan (No. 1) made the Flight C semis but second-seeded Retha Human of Miami was upset by South Florida's Diane Gandolfo in the second round 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7-4). Two errant backhand service returns doomed Human in the tie-breaker.

"We hate to lose Wendy, but she's ready for the pros," said Ginny Mack, Rollins coach. "There's only one player out of every 100 college sophomores technically ready for such a big move, and she's that one exception.

"A lot of collegiate players turn pro at the same

stage of their career and it generally turns out not to be a wise decision. In Wendy's case, she should just get better and better."

Mack even expects White's game to improve in the remaining two months of her collegiate career because the stress of studying, playing for Rollins and competing as an amateur in pro tournaments now is over.

"It's a great challenge because the pro circuit keeps getting tougher," said White. "But I'm ready to join the tour and think I can hold my own."

She will debut at the Eastbourne (England) championships in June and then play Wimbledon for the second time. Last year, she reached the third round of the world's No. 1 tennis event. She got to the same round in the U.S. Open in September.

Before she starts accepting money, White has some unfinished business she's bent on completing successfully.

First is helping Rollins hang onto its state crown, then come trips to the regionals and nationals. "I'm taking things match by match because there are plenty of good college players, starting with the Florida schools."

A year ago, White wound up her freshman year by gaining the finals of the National AIAW Championships. Kathy Jordan of Stanford, who later turned pro, foiled her title bid 6-4, 7-6. This time, she should profit from a more favorable draw and the added dimension playing pro events has given her game.

"I'm more match-tough and have improved my backcourt game," she said. "Even my serve-and-volley is better and that's always been the strongest part of my game."

"I've got lots of targets to shoot at but one of the biggest is winning the AIAW championship."

"There are a lot of good players out there," Mack observed, "but Wendy has the determination to win it."

TEAM TOTALS

Florida 17, Rollins 9, Miami 7, South Florida 8, Florida State 7, Florida Atlantic 0.

Singles

Flight A, first round: Julie Pressley (F) d. Barb Kermode (FAU) 6-0, 6-1; Lisa Busko (USF) d. Bev Alder (M) 6-1, 0-6, 6-2; Joyce Portman (F) d. Kelly Kruk (R) 6-4, 7-5; Lee Myers (USF) d. Anne Bonadio (FAU) 6-0, 6-0. **Second round:** Wendy White (R) d. Susan Mueller (FSU) 6-1, 6-1; Pressley d. Busko 6-2, 6-3; Portman d. Myers 6-1, 6-1; Susan Gibson (M) d. Laurie Mueller (FSU) 6-1, 6-4.

Flight B, first round: Helene Pelletier (R) d. Christy Vanderwalt (M) 6-3, 6-2; Sherry Shores (FSU) d. Melanie Moulder

(FAU) 6-0, 6-0; Lisa Levins (F) d. Penne Nieporte (FSU) 6-1, 6-1; Cathy Maso (M) d. Barb Stack (USF) 7-5, 4-6, 6-2. **Second round:** Ilene Friedland (F) d. Kathy Hogan (USF) 6-4, 6-4; Nancy Neviasser (R) d. Debbie Lynch (FAU) 6-0, 6-1; Levins d. Maso 6-4, 6-4; Pelletier d. Shores 6-3, 6-2.

Flight C, first round: Laura Starr (M) d. Lorraine Peck (FAU) 6-0, 6-0; Cheryl Cordes (FSU) d. Yvonne Koopman (USF) 6-3, 6-4; Cathy Allen (R) d. Sharon Detmer (FAU) 6-0, 6-1; Paula Scheb (F) d. Gigi Boesch (FSU) 6-2, 6-2. **Second round:** Scheb d. Allen 6-2, 6-1; Diane Gandolfo (USF) d. Retha Human (M) 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7-4); Cissie Donnigan (F) d. Laura Walker (R) 6-3, 6-3; Cordes d. Starr 6-4, 6-1.

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FSU women fifth in state

WINTER PARK — Florida State's Lady Seminole tennis team finished fifth at the state women's tennis tournament Saturday.

Sheryl Cordes of FSU was defeated by Sissie Donnigan of Florida 6-1, 6-4 in their singles semifinal match. The FSU doubles team of Sheery Shores and Susan Mueller lost 6-3, 6-2, while Cordes and Cindy Boesch lost 6-4, 6-1.

The Lady Seminoles' Laurie Mueller was named to the all-state team.

FSU, 18-9, travels to Baton Rouge next week for matches with LSU, Lamar and Northwestern.