

Tennis' Clark looks to make her mark

by Robert Vinson

In May 1991, UNLV women's tennis Head Coach York Strother and freshman Rachel Clark met in Strother's office to discuss the past year and to outline ways the young, New Zealander could improve her game over the summer. Perhaps Strother gave his protege a magic potion at that May meeting, because the sophomore from Auckland, New Zealand has jumped from the No. 6 to the No. 2 spot on the team.

"My freshman year was a learning experience adjusting to college tennis. I grew up as a tennis player last year, learning to make the adjustments, and because of that, I'm a much better player this year," Clark

said about her remarkable improvement.

"We sat down at the end of last year to give her a clear picture of what she needed to do to improve and she came back this fall ready to play big-time tennis," Strother said.

The strapping New Zealander possesses a strong serve and a devastating forehand and Strother said she's putting both weapons to better use this year.

"Rachel can hurt an opponent with her serve and her forehand. And she can utilize her good net game by following those big shots to the net and finishing the point quicker," Strother said another reason why Clark is a better player this year is that, "Rachel is mentally tough, disciplined and works extremely hard. Overall,

she's a very coachable athlete."

The sophomore's discipline shows in the classroom as well, where her work ethic is earning her over a 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. Clark was the No. 3 rated junior in New Zealand and chose UNLV over Houston and San Diego State.

The Clark File

Birthday: Feb. 8, 1973

Birthplace: Auckland, New Zealand

Classification: Sophomore

Major: Accounting

Favorite tennis player:

Stefan Edberg

Favorite musical group:

Depeche Mode

Favorite television show:

In Living Color

Hobbies: Water skiing and surfing



photo by Morgan Fisher

UNLV sophomore Rachel Clark is No. 2 on the Rebel tennis team.

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