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Fleishman makes quick work of Howard in final *Club pro captures her third title in four years with 48-minute match*

BY JOHN PACKETT
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Nataly Fleishman doesn't want to spend much time on the court when she's playing in a tournament.

Who can blame her, with the temperature in the upper 90s and the heat index over 100 degrees.

Fleishman, the top seed in the women's draw of the SunTrust State Tennis Championships, needed only 48 minutes to finish off second-seeded Lindsey Howard 6-0, 6-0 in the singles final yesterday at Raintree Swim and Racquet Club.

"I'm trying to conserve energy," said Fleishman, the head pro at Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. "I'm trying to minimize my time on the court. I have a lot of matches this week, so I didn't want to stretch it too much. It's the most matches I played in a while."

Fleishman made the most of her time on court, too. She teamed with Scott Steinour to win the mixed doubles title on Thursday, then partnered with Rachel Gale for a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Howard and Kate Harrington in the women's doubles final last night.

Fleishman, 26, had beaten Howard 6-1, 6-0 in the final of the State Clay Court Championships last month but expected a closer match this time.

"I thought it would be tougher over here, because on clay court, I know I would play better than her," said Fleishman, a former No. 1 player at Old Dominion. "But actually, it came out to be even easier. I just kept hitting the ball, moving her, and she made lots of mistakes."

"I think she was going for a lot and when [the ball] doesn't go in, she makes a lot of unforced errors. So I just let her beat herself."

After losing her serve in the opening game, Howard had Fleishman down love-30 in the next game, but lost the next four points.

"I was so nervous, I think, and couldn't get relaxed," said Howard, 18, a former No. 1 player for Mills Godwin High. "I was really tight. Maybe she does that to me. She plays so differently than anything I'm used to. She was hitting some really good slice backhands."

"You can't tell where she's going with anything. I didn't have my best day, but she's a really good player."

Fleishman, a native of Israel, can slice and dice an opponent to distraction. She jerked Howard from corner to corner, then beat her with a soft drop shot. Or she would pull Howard to one side of the court and deliver a winner to the other.

When Howard tried to come in, Fleishman sent a lob over her head or passed her down the line. Howard, who's heading to the University of Michigan later this month, managed nine points in the opening set and only seven in the second.

For winning her third title in four years, Fleishman collected the top prize of \$1,000.

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