

OVAC TENNIS CHAMPIONS



Photo by Scott McCloskey

Members of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference girls tennis championship team from The Linsly School are, seated from left, Claire Cholak, Jenilee Candar, and Ashley Lowe. Standing are Laura Coutts, Val Milton, Supria Batra, Christina Exley, Yuko Onishi, Alyssa Petropius, Shayna Adamovich, and coach David Riethmiller.



Photo by Scott McCloskey

Members of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys tennis championship team from The Linsly School are, kneeling from left, Robbie Squibb, Pi Sovani, Brandon Regan, Joe Blalock, Eric Chang and Jeff Morris. Standing from left are Shane Earley, Zack Haning, Rasto Kret, Howard Long, Cameron Lowe, Alex Kepna, and Coach Mike Church

Linsly Boys Nab CVAC Doubles Crown

Staff report

The Linsly boys joined their female classmates as Ohio Valley Athletic Conference doubles tennis champions as they won 10 matches — four more than Brooke — Tuesday at the Edgar Martin Tennis Complex on the campus of West Liberty State College.

Oak Glen won five doubles matches.

Alex Kepner and Cameron Lowe led the way for the Cadets with a 10-5 victory over Tyler Kowcheck and Tommy Yarter of Brooke in No. 2 doubles.

In No. 3 doubles, it was the Cadets' Zach Haning and Brandon Regan getting the best of East Liverpool's Kris Simmons and Jerry Dawson, 10-7.

The Oak Glen duo of Justin Thomas and Bobby Heath won the No. 1 singles with an easy

10-1 victory over Wheeling Park's Jeremy McClelland and Adam Swenson. Swenson and McClelland got into the semis by slowing down Linsly's No. 1 duo of Joe Blalock and Jeff Morris in a tight 8-7 match. Thomas and Heath won a quarterfinal match over John Marshall's Ed Craft and Nathan Minter (10-4).

Brooke's Kowcheck and Yarter won their first two matches, including a quarterfinal 10-4 victory over Cambridge's Seth Bennett and Bryan Conaway in No. 2 singles (10-4). In that bracket's other quarterfinal match, the Cadets' Kepner and Lowe downed Steubenville's C.J. Razete and David Fatula (10-3).

In the No. 3 quarterfinals, Hannig and Regan had an easy time with Madonna's Mark

Gajtka and Scot Welshans (10-1) while Simmons and Dawson had their hands full with Brooke's Keith Fisher and Jacob Joseph, 10-8.

OVAC RESULTS

Boys Team Scores

1. Linsly 10; 2. Brooke 6; 3. Oak Glen 5; 4. John Marshall 4; 5. Steubenville, Wheeling Park, East Liverpool, Weirton, Madonna, Cambridge 3; 10. Wheeling Central, St. Clairsville 2; 12. Indian Creek; 13. Weir, Zanesville, Magnolia 0.

No. 1 Doubles First Round

Thomas-Heath (OG) bye; Morgan-Radakovich (Steub) d. Grosshandler-Friel (Z) 10-7; Craft-Minter (JM) d. Donnelly-Valentine (Cam) 10-3; Mar.Conaway-McNeil (WC) d. Camp-Parker (We) 11-9; McLane-McLane (B) d. Stewart-Gajtka (Mag) 10-4; McClelland-Swenson (WP) d. Claypool-Kinsey (EL) d. 10-4; O'Donnell-Moskey (StC) d. Shirak-Wayne (Mag) 10-7; Blalock-Morris (L) d. Katova-Grimm (IC) 10-1.

Second Round

Thomas-Heath (OG) d. Morgan-

Radakovich (Steub) 10-2; Craft-Minter (JM) d. Mar.Conaway-McNeil (WC) 10-2; McClelland-Swenson (WP) d. McLane-McLane (B) 10-6; Blalock-Morris (L) d. O'Donnell-Moskey (StC) 10-6.

Semifinals

Thomas-Heath (OG) d. Craft-Minter (JM) 10-4; McClelland-Swenson (WP) 8-7.

Championship

Justin Thomas-Bobby Heath (OG) d. Jeremy McClelland-Adam Swenson (WP) 10-7.

No. 2 Doubles

First Round

Kepner-Lowe (L) bye; Ensell-Foust (IC) d. Payne-Skrinjar (EL) 10-8; Fahnestock-Ostrander (JM) d. Grosshandler-Miller (Z) 10-3; Razete-Fatula (Steub) d. Glover-Rock (We) 10-1; Mankowski-Canella (WM) d. McNab-Fortunado (StC) 10-5; Bennett-Conaway (C) d. Greco-Seidler (WC) 10-0; Goddard-Gracie (OG) d. Racer-Yankavitch (Mag) 10-7; Kowcheck-Yarter (B) d. McIntyre-Felici (WP) 10-6.

Second Round

Kepner-Lowe (L) d. Ensell-Foust (IC) 10-3; Razete-Fatula (Steub) d. Fahnestock-Ostrander (JM) 10-7; Bennett-Conaway (C) d. Mankowski-Canella (WM) 10-2; Kowcheck-Yarter (B) d. Goddard-Gracie (OG) 10-1.

Semifinals

Kepner-Lowe (L) d. Razete-Fatula (Steub) 10-3; Kowcheck-Yarter (B) d. Bennett-Conaway (C) 10-4.

Championship

Alex Kepner-Cameron Lowe (L) d. Tyler Kowcheck-Tommy Yarter (B) 10-5.

No. 3 Doubles

First Round

Haning-Regan (L) bye; Holmes-Kettler (JM) d. Fonner-Smith (Mag) 10-1; Canning-Nunn (C) d. Leppar-Larch (Weir) 10-3; Gajtka-Welshans (WM) d. Salada-Maternik (Steub) 10-3; Simmons-Dawson (EL) d. Dorsey-Khoury (WP) 10-2; Dudek-Altmeyer (WC) d. Smith-Stubbins (Z) 10-7; O'Donnell-Nelson (StC) d. Heath-Ford (OG) 10-3; Fisher-Joseph (B) d. Taylor-Ryan (IC) 10-0.

Second Round

Haning-Regan (L) d. Gajtka-Welshans (WM) 11-9; Simmons-Dawson (EL) d. Dudek-Altmeyer (WC) 10-2; Fisher-Joseph (B) d. O'Donnell-Nelson (StC) 10-1.

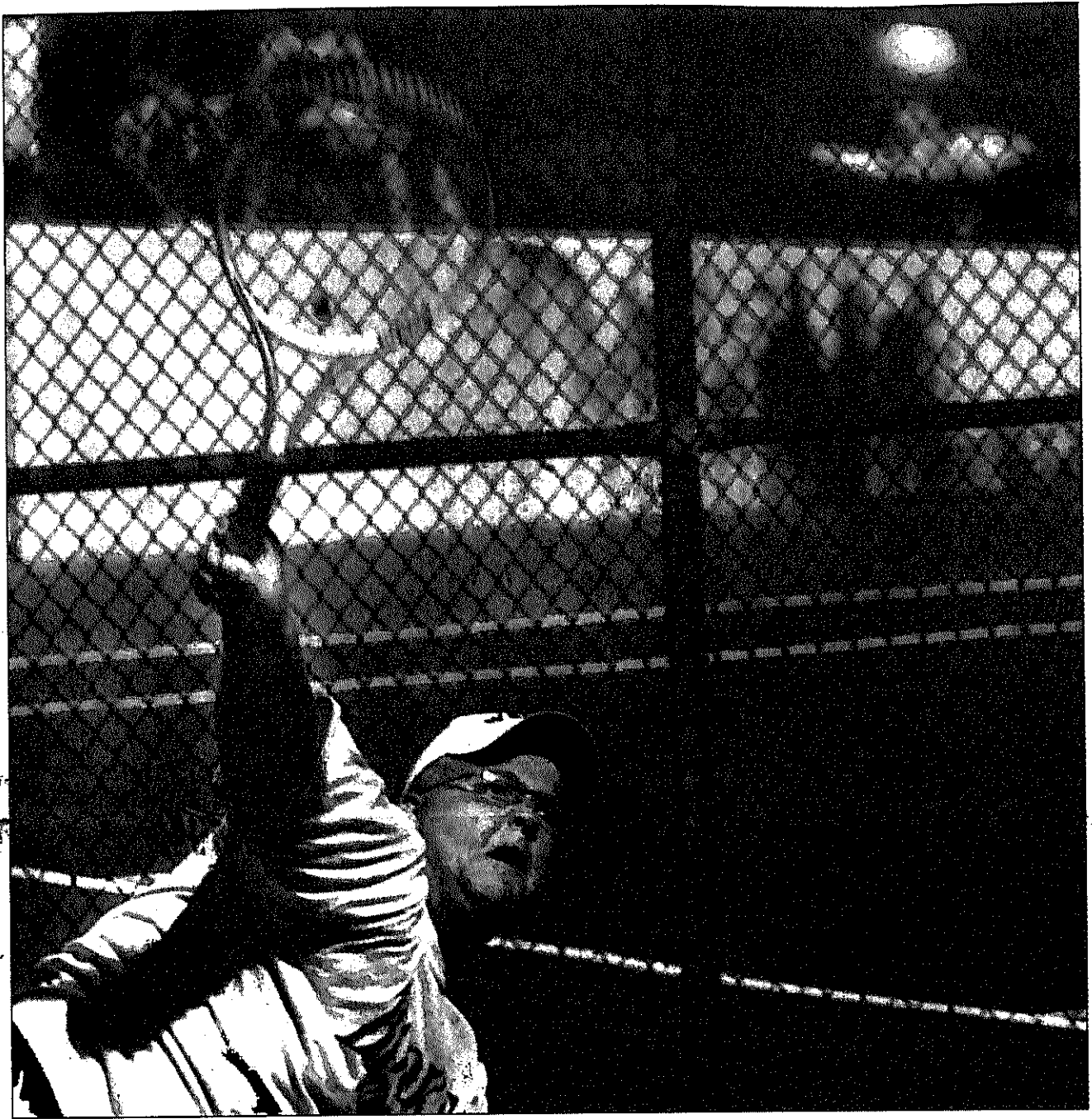
Semifinals

Haning-Regan (L) d. Gajtka-Welshans (WM) 10-1; Simmons-Dawson (EL) d. Fisher-Joseph (B) 10-8.

Championship

Zach Haning-Brandon Regan (L) d. Kris Simmons-Jenny Dawson (EL) 10-7

Boys take center court



Photos by Scott McCloskey

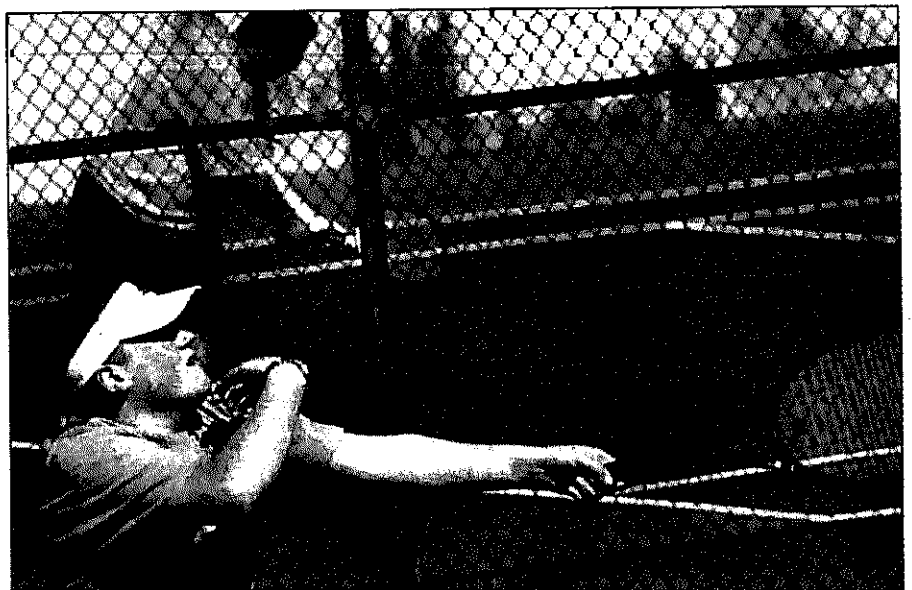
Above, Brooke's Tyler Kowcheck serves during Tuesday's OVAC boys doubles tournament at West Liberty State College. Kowcheck and teammate Tommy Yarter were taking on Wheeling Park's Andy McIntyre and Derek Felici.

Right, McIntyre returns a serve during the same match.

Kowcheck and Yarter won the match, 10-6, and made it all the way to the No. 2 finals before falling to Linsly's Alex Kepner and Cameron Lowe.

Girls singles play takes place today at 9 a.m.

See page 22 for complete



Cadet Boys Are OVAC Champs

Staff report

Alex Kepner captured the No. 1 singles title, and the Linsly boys joined their female counterparts as Ohio Valley Athletic Conference champions Thursday at West Liberty State College.

The Cadets finished with an overall score of 21, topping second-place Brooke (17), and third-place Wheeling Park (12).

Scores from the doubles play Tuesday and singles competition Thursday are added together to determine the overall champion.

Other individual champions were Wheeling Park's Adam Swenson in No. 2 singles, Brooke's John McLane in No. 3, and Oak Glen's Justin Thomas in No. 4.

Kepner defeated Brooke's Colin Rojak 10-5 in the No. 1 title match, completing a run which also saw Kepner top Steubenville's David Fatula (10-7) in the semifinals and Park's Kody Tuttle (10-0) in the second round.

Rojak defeated Weirton Madonna's Josh Yacoville, East Liverpool's Sara Payne, and

John Marshall's Mike Abraham.

In the No. 2 championship, Swenson beat Linsly's Rasto Kret by a 10-5 count. Swenson reached the title match by defeating Indian Creek's Justin Foust (10-2), John Marshall's Phil Fahnstock (10-8), and Brooke's Tyler Kowcheck (10-7).

McLane captured the No. 3 title by defeating East Liverpool's Zack Kinsey 10-5, while Thomas won the No. 4 crown with a 10-5 win over Wheeling Park's Jeremy McClelland.

McLane cruised in his first two matches by beating Indian Creek's John Ensell (10-1) and St. Clairsville's Christian Gabis (10-4), before winning a close one against John Marshall's Rick Minter (11-9).

Thomas defeated Weir's Chad Camp (10-6) and Brooke's Joe McLane (10-3) on his way to the title match.

Oak Glen and East Liverpool tied for fourth place with nine wins each. Steubenville, Weirton Madonna, and Cambridge tied for sixth (5), while St. Clairsville and Wheeling Central each had four wins to tie for ninth. Weir and Indian Creek finished with one win apiece.

OVAC TENNIS

Linsly sweeps net titles

Linsly completed a sweep of the OVAC Tennis titles with the Cadet boys joining the girls as champions on Thursday at West Liberty State College.

Linsly finished with 21 points, four more than second place Brooke. The Cadets had one individual champion. Alex Kepner claimed the No. 4 singles title with a 10-5 victory over Brooke's Colin Rojak.

OVAC GIRLS DOUBLES TENNIS RESULTS

TEAM SCORES

1. Linsly 9; 2. (tie) Wheeling Central, Wheeling Park 8; 4. Brooke 6; 5. Mount de Chantal 5; 6. Weir 3; 7. (tie) Oak Glen, John Marshall, Magnolia, St. Clairsville, Weirton Madonna 1; 12. Indian Creek 0.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

NO. 1 DOUBLES

First Round

Andreini-Pell (WC) bye; Wiggins-McKeebe (JM) d. Thomaselli-Randolph (OG) 8-6; Hawthorne-Board (We) d. Lewis-Johnson (IC) 8-0; Ress-Gutman (MiD) bye; Dalesio-Lyle (B) bye; Cooley-A. Crutchfield (WP) d. Wujtow-Patrelakis (WM) 8-3; Dawson-Myers (SiC) d. Hill-Martin (Mag) 8-6; C. Crutchfield-Cholak (L) bye.

Second Round

Andreini-Pell (WC) d. Wiggins-McKeebe (JM) 8-3; Ress-Gutman (MiD) d. Hawthorne-Board (We) 8-6; Dalesio-Lyle (B) d. Cooley-A. Crutchfield (WP) 8-3; C. Crutchfield (Cholak) (L) d. Dawson-Myers (SiC) 8-4.

Semifinals

Andreini-Pell (WC) d. Ress-Gutman

(MiD) 8-2; C. Crutchfield-Cholak (L) d. Dalesio-Lyle (B) 8-6.

Championship

Andreini-Pell (WC) d. C. Crutchfield-Cholak (L) 8-5.

NO. 2 DOUBLES

First Round

Grob-Velez (WC) bye; Weaver-Murthy (MiD) d. McKinney-Cross (Mag) 8-4; Bologna-Law (WM) d. Mathieu-Michetti (IC) 8-6; Martin-Gasparine (B) bye; Candari-Lowe (L) bye; Skidmore-Foster (We) d. Rexroad-Stanley (JM) 8-4; Szymanek-Jenkins (OG) d. Beck-Kascmer (SiC) 8-6; Aderholt-Kerr (WP) bye.

Second Round

Grob-Velez (WC) d. Weaver-Murthy (MiD) 8-1; Martin-Gasparine (B) d. Bologna-Law (WM) 8-2; Candari-Lowe (L) d. Skidmore-Foster (We) 8-5; Aderholt-Kerr (WP) d. Szymanek-Jenkins (OG) 8-1.

Semifinals

Martin-Gasparine (B) d. Grob-Velez (WC) 8-6; Aderholt-Kerr (WP) d. Candari-Lowe (L) 9-8.

Championship

Aderholt-Kerr (WP) d. Martin-Gasparine (B) 8-4.

NO. 3 DOUBLES

First Round

Coutts-Adamovich (L) bye; Estep-Cecil (Mag) d. Laite-Costine (SiC) 8-4; Siacum-Yucel (B) d. Hankett-Adam (JM) 9-7; Cochran-Michaud (MiD) bye; Baker-White (WM) bye; Thomas-Castilow (WC) d. Wilson-Pefanich (IC) 8-1; Little-Kublicki (We) d. Radeski-Walker (OG) 9-7; Cappiccio-Ball (WP) bye.

Second Round

Coutts-Adamovich (L) d. Estep-Cecil (Mag) 8-1; Cochran-Michaud (MiD) d. Siacum-Yucel (B) 8-4; Thomas-Castilow (WC) d. Baker-White (WM) 8-3; Cappiccio-Ball (WP) d. Little-Kublicki 8-1.

Semifinals

Coutts-Adamovich (L) d. Cochran-Michaud (MiD) 8-3; Cappiccio-Ball (WP) d. Thomas-Castilow (WC) 8-6.

Championship

Coutts-Adamovich (L) d. Cappiccio-Ball (WP) 8-4.

OVAC TENNIS

OVAC BOYS TENNIS SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Boys Team Scores
 1. Linsly 21, 2. Brooke 17, 3. Wheeling Park 12, 4. John Marshall 10, 5. Oak Glen, East Liverpool 9, 7. Steubenville, Weirton Madonna, Cambridge 6, 10. Wheeling Central, St. Clairsville 4, 12. Zanesville 2, 13. Weir, Indian Creek 1, 15. Magnolia 0.

No. 1 Singles

First Round

Thomas (OG) bye; Camp (We) d. Morgan (Steub) 10-6; Craft (JM) d. Donnelly (C) 10-6; Joe McLane (B) d. O'Donnell (StC) 10-0; Blalock (L) d. Claypool (EL) 10-2; Stewart (WM) d. Grosshandler (Z) 10-8; McNeil (WC) d. Shirak (Mag) 10-2; McClelland (WP) d. Katora (IC) 10-2.

Second Round

Thomas (OG) d. Carp (We) 10-4; Joe McLane (B) d. Craft (JM) 10-3; Blalock (L) d. Stewart (WM) 10-2; McClelland (WP) d. McNeil (WC) 10-3.

Semifinals

Thomas (OG) d. Joe McLane (B) 10-4; McClelland (WP) d. Blalock (L) 10-8.

Championship

Justin Thomas (OG) d. Jeremy McClelland (WP) 10-5.

No. 2 Singles

First Round

Morris (L) bye; McIntyre (WP) d. Wayne (Mag) 10-0; Mat.Conaway (WC) d. Radakovich (Steub) 10-6; Kinsey (EL) d. Parker (We) 10-6; Minter (JM) d. Crist (Z) 10-1; Valentine (C) d. Gajtka (WM) 10-3; Gabis (StC) d. Heath (OG) 10-6; Joh.McLane (B) d. Ensell (IC) 10-3.

Second Round

Morris (L) d. McIntyre (WP) 10-6; Kinsey (EL) d. Mat.Conaway (WC) 10-7; Minter (JM) d. Valentine (C) 10-4; Joh.McLane (B) d. Gabis (StC) 10-3.

Semifinals

Kinsey (EL) d. Morris (L) 10-8; Joh.McLane (B) d. Minter (JM) 11-9.

Championship

John McLane (B) d. Zack Kinsey (EL) 10-5.

No. 3 Singles

First Round

Kret (L) bye; Conaway (C) d. Yankavitch (Mag) 10-0; Freil (Z) d. Mar.Conaway (WC) 10-8; Hull (EL) d. Einandi (Steub) 11-9; Kowcheck (B) d. Glover (We) 10-7; Mankowski (WM) d. Goddard (OG) 10-4; Fahnstock (JM) d. Moskey (StC) 10-8; Swenson (WP) d. Foust (IC) 10-2.

Second Round

Kret (L) d. Conaway (C) 10-4; Hull (EL) d. Freil (Z) 10-6; Kowcheck (B) d. Mankowski (WM) 10-7; Swenson (WP) d. Fahnstock (JM) 10-3.

Semifinals

Kret (L) d. Hull (EL) 10-2; Swenson (WP) d. Kowcheck (B) 10-3.

Championship

Adam Swenson (WP) d. Rasto Kret (L) 10-5.

No. 4 Singles

First Round

Kepner (L) bye; Tuttle (WP) d. Pugh (OG) 10-0; Fatula (Steub) d. Matheson (C) 10-1; McNab (StC) Greco (WC) 10-2; Rojak (B) d. Yacoviella (WM) 10-2; Payne (EL) d. Leppar (We) 10-1; Miller (Z) d. Racer (Mag) 10-1; Abraham (JM) d. DiPietro (IC) 10-0.

Second Round

Kepner (L) d. Tuttle (WP) 10-2; Fatula (Steub) d. McNab (StC) 10-7; Rojak (B) d. Payne (EL) 10-8; Abraham (JM) d. Miller (Z) 10-0.

Semifinals

Kupner (L) d. Fatula (Steub) 10-7; Rojak (B) d. Abraham (JM) 10-5.

Championship

Alex Kepner (L) d. Colin Rojak (B) 10-5.

OVAC Net Tournament This Week



Wheeling Park High School's boys and girls tennis teams will be seeking their third straight Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship when the 2003 tournament begins on Monday at West Liberty State College.

The Edgar Martin Tennis Courts on the Hilltopper campus will be the scene for all four days of this year's event. Girls' Doubles competition starts at 2 p.m. Monday, with the Boys' Doubles unfolding on Tuesday at the same time.

Singles competition is set for Wednesday and Thursday, with 8 a.m. starts both days. The girls' singles champions will be determined on Wednesday, followed by the boys' competition Thursday.

The 15 schools represented in the boys' brackets are Weir, Weirton Madonna, Steubenville, East Liverpool, Indian Creek, Oak Glen, Brooke, St. Clairsville, Wheeling Park, Linsly School, Wheeling Central, Cambridge, Zanesville, John Marshall and Magnolia.

A total of 12 teams will be vying for the girls' championship. They are Wheeling Park, Magnolia, John Marshall, Wheeling Central, Linsly School, Mount de Chantal, St. Clairsville, Brooke, Oak Glen, Indian Creek, Weir and Weirton Madonna.

Both tournaments will also crown individual champions in four singles and three doubles divisions. A win in each match will earn one point for their respective teams.

Total points garnered by each singles and doubles participant will determine the overall team champion in both divisions.

Graduation last spring claimed most of the top performers in the boys' division. Returning in the No. 3 singles is Brooke's John McLane, who was the 2002 runner-up and has a 15-2 record against OVAC opponents this spring.

Chad Camp of Weir was on the winning No. 2 doubles squad. He is playing No. 1 singles for the Red Riders this spring with a 7-5 mark against conference foes. The runner-up No. 2 doubles team of Colin Rojak and Tommy Yarter, from

Brooke, are intact this season.

One of the top contenders for the No. 1 singles title should be Linsly's Mike Blalock, currently 9-2. The Cadets also look solid in the other three singles divisions with Jeff Morris (10-1) playing No. 2; Roscoe Kret (9-1), playing No. 3; and Alex Kepner (10-1), playing No. 4.

All of the records listed include OVAC play only.

Jeremy McClelland (4-1) of Wheeling Park is another top No. 1 singles entrant. McLane moved up to the No. 2 singles division this year, while John Marshall's top hope for a singles win might be in fourth division where Mike Abraham owns an 8-1 record.

Park has another possibility in the third singles in Adam Swenson, currently 6-0.

With the 2002 No. 1 singles champion Johanna Dorsey not playing high school tennis this spring, the favorites are Linsly's Caroline Crutchfield, currently 9-0; Wheeling Central freshman Nicole Andreini (12-1); and Weirton Madonna's Chantel Wujtow (10-3). Crutchfield lost to Dorsey in last year's final.

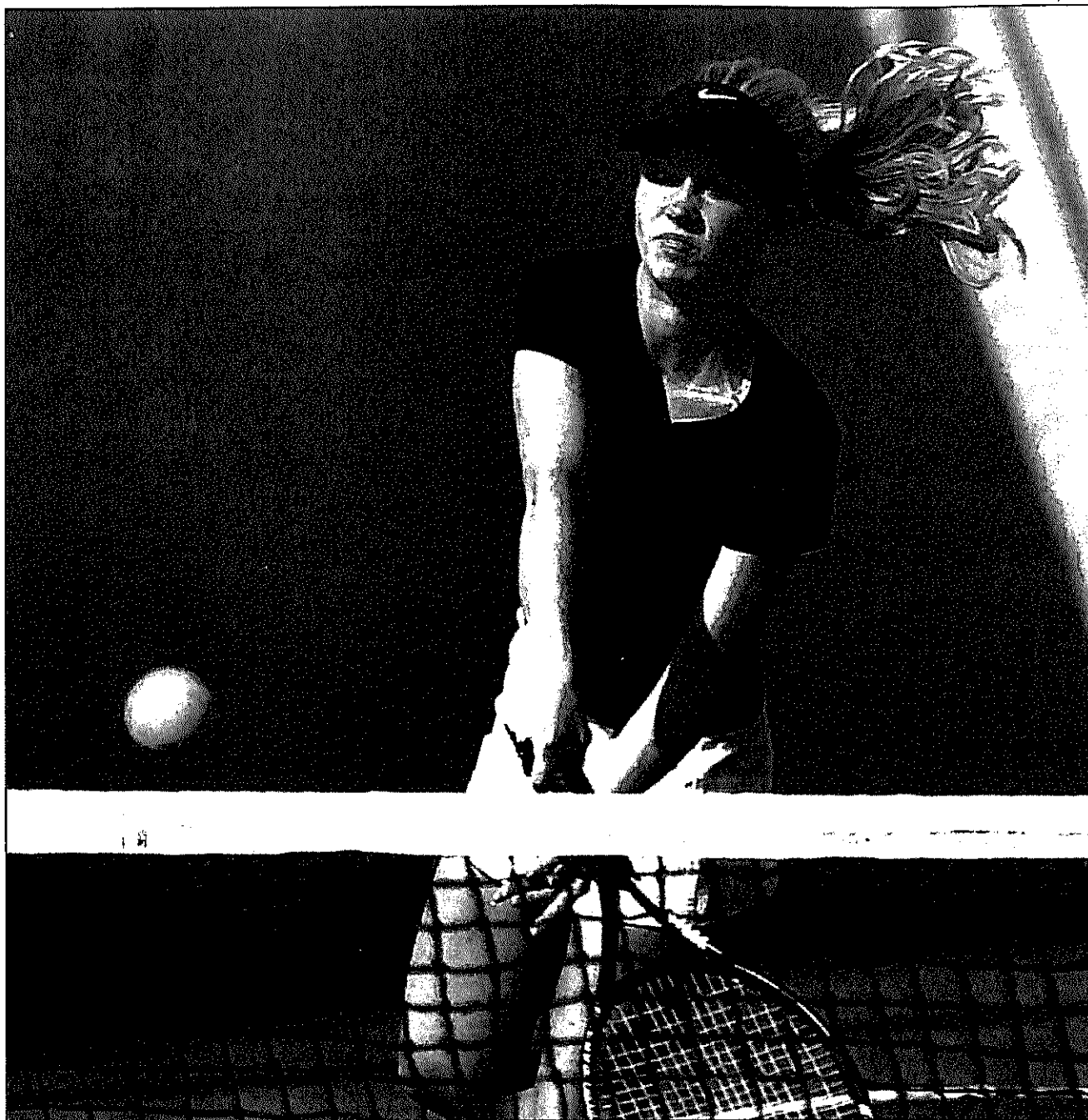
Prime contenders in the No. 2 singles are Jessica Lyle of Brooke and Jaclyn Randolph, Oak Glen. Lyle was last year's No. 4 singles champion but has a 12-1 record in the second singles division this spring. Randolph is currently at 11-1.

Megan Cooley, also of Park, has moved to the No. 1 singles and is 2-3 after having been the third singles champion in 2002. Wheeling Central has a leading contender in the third singles, as Emily Pell owns a 12-1 record.

Included in the No. 4 singles are Meredith Velez (12-0) of Wheeling Central and Ashley Lowe (7-0) of Linsly. Both also have done well in doubles play. Velez and Jen Grob are 9-1, while Lowe and Jenny Candari have a 5-1 record.

Bidding for a repeat No. 3 doubles title will be the Oak Glen duo of Kristen Thomaselli and Jaclyn Randolph.

OVAC tennis tournament gets under way



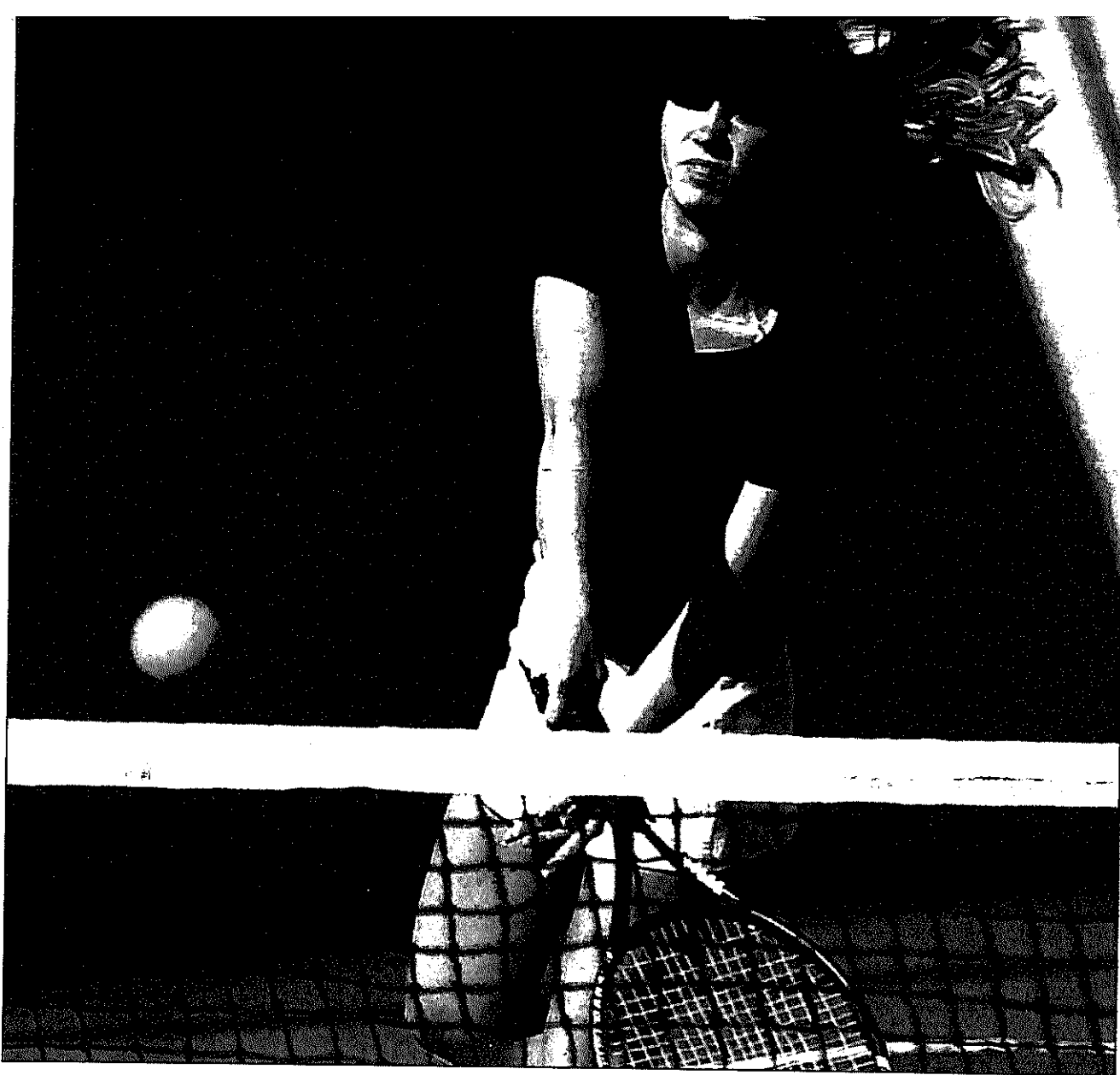
Photos by Alex Kozlowski

Above, Linsly's Caroline Crutchfield returns a serve during a match against St. Clairsville in the OVAC girls doubles tennis championships Monday at West Liberty State College. Crutchfield was partners with Clair Cholak, and those two reached the title match in No. 1 doubles.

Right, Wheeling Central's Nicole Andreini hits a shot in a match against Mount de Chantal. Andreini and Emily Pell defeated Crutchfield and Cholak for the championship by the score of 8-5.

The OVAC boys doubles takes place today at 2 p.m.





Photos by Alex Kozlowski

Above, Linsly's Caroline Crutchfield returns a serve during a match against St. Clairsville in the OVAC girls doubles tennis championships Monday at West Liberty State College. Crutchfield was partners with Clair Cholak, and those two reached the title match in No. 1 doubles.

Right, Wheeling Central's Nicole Andreini hits a shot in a match against Mount de Chantal. Andreini and Emily Pell defeated Crutchfield and Cholak for the championship by the score of 8-5.

The OVAC boys doubles takes place today at 2 p.m.

See page 19 for story and complete results.

