

Bobcats Boys Strong

Cambridge takes lead in boys' tennis tourney

The Cambridge boys tennis team under the direction of coach Mike Denniston took one giant step closer to one of its preseason goals ... dethroning Wheeling Park.

Based on the strength of one doubles title and one runner-up, the Bobcats cruised into first place after day one of the OVAC Boys' Tennis Tournament Tuesday at West Liberty.

In No. 3 doubles, the tandem of Greg Roberts and Steven Barrows legitimized their No. 1 seed by defeating Wheeling Park's Matt Swenson and Brent Jorden in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2.

In No. 2 doubles, Victor Greco and Jordan Sorge, who weren't seeded anywhere in the top four, advanced to the finals where they outshot and outthrustled Cambridge's Cody King and Mike Evancho.

It was a closely contested match with both sets being decided on a tiebreaker, 7-6 (4) and 7-6 (4).

King and Evancho were seeded fourth.

No. 1 doubles saw Wheeling Park's Tyler McCullough and Andrew Hatcher capture the crown after battling back from a disappointing first set.

Wheeling Central's Hugo Andreini and Adam Dudek took the first set 6-4, only to watch McCullough and Hatcher reel off 6-2 victories

OVAC Boys Tennis Tournament

Team Standings

1. Cambridge 9; 2. (tie) Wheeling Park, Wheeling Central 7; 4. Linsly 5; 5. East Liverpool 4; 6. (tie) Oak Glen, John Marshall 3; 8. Steubenville 2.

Individual Results

No. 1 Doubles

McCullough-Hatcher (WP) d. Andreini-Dudek (WC) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

No. 2 Doubles

Greco-Sorge (WC) d. King-Evancho (C) 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4).

No. 3 Doubles

Roberts-Barrows (C) d. Swenson-Jorden (WP) 6-2, 6-2.

OVAC TENNIS TOURNEY

in the subsequent two sets.

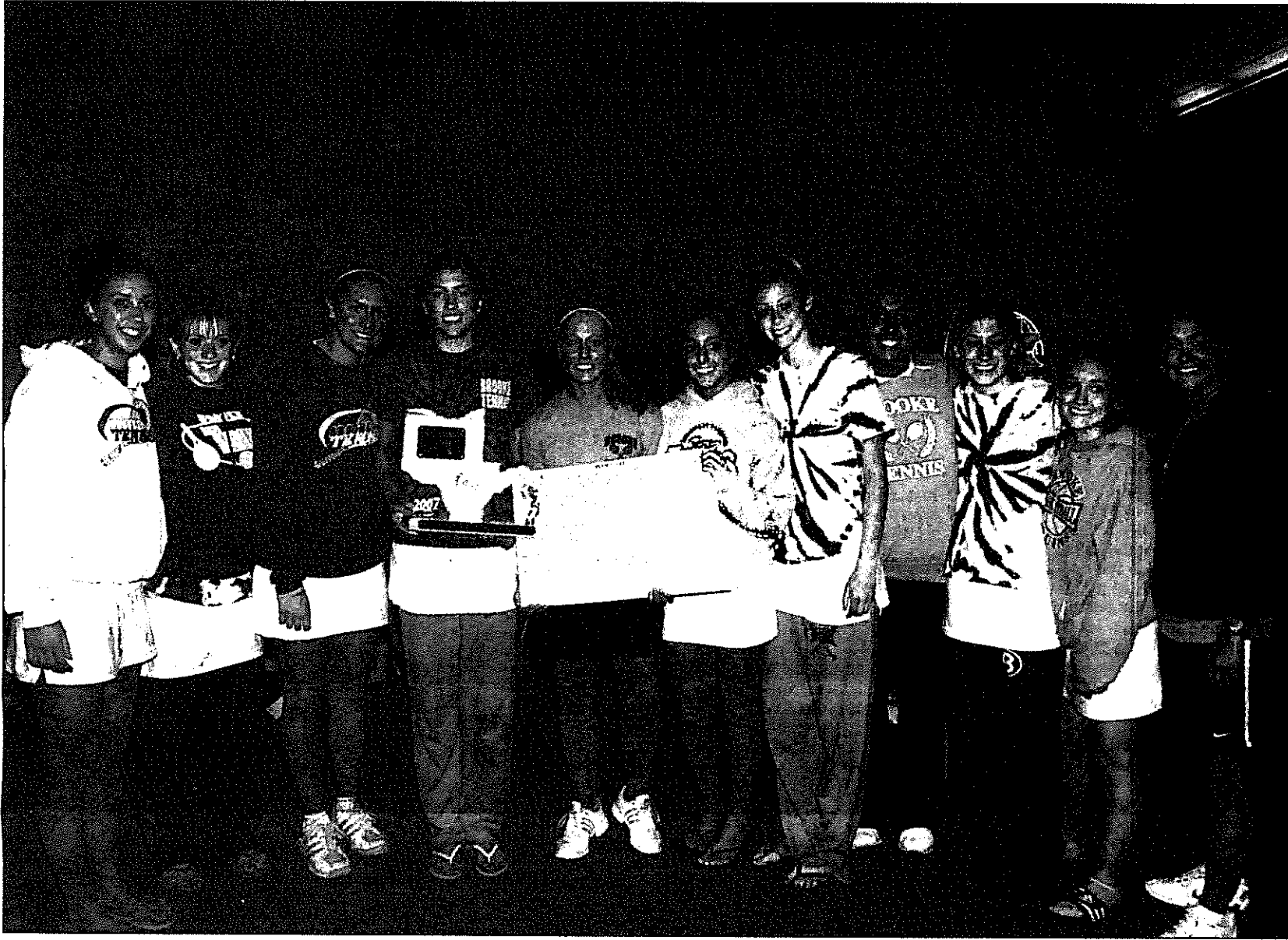
The Maroon Knights find themselves in a second place tie with two-time defending champion Wheeling Park as each team accumulated seven points.

Linsly sits in fourth with five while East Liverpool rounds out the top five with four points.

Girls' singles action gets underway today at 8:30 a.m. where Wheeling Park will try to hold its opening day lead to capture the team title.

The Patriots have three of the four top-seeded players in singles competition, Tierra Waldrum at No. 1, Emily Freeman at No. 2 and Ali Prather at No. 4. Park's Ellen Freeman is seeded second at No. 3 singles where Brooke's Megan Gialluco rated the top spot.

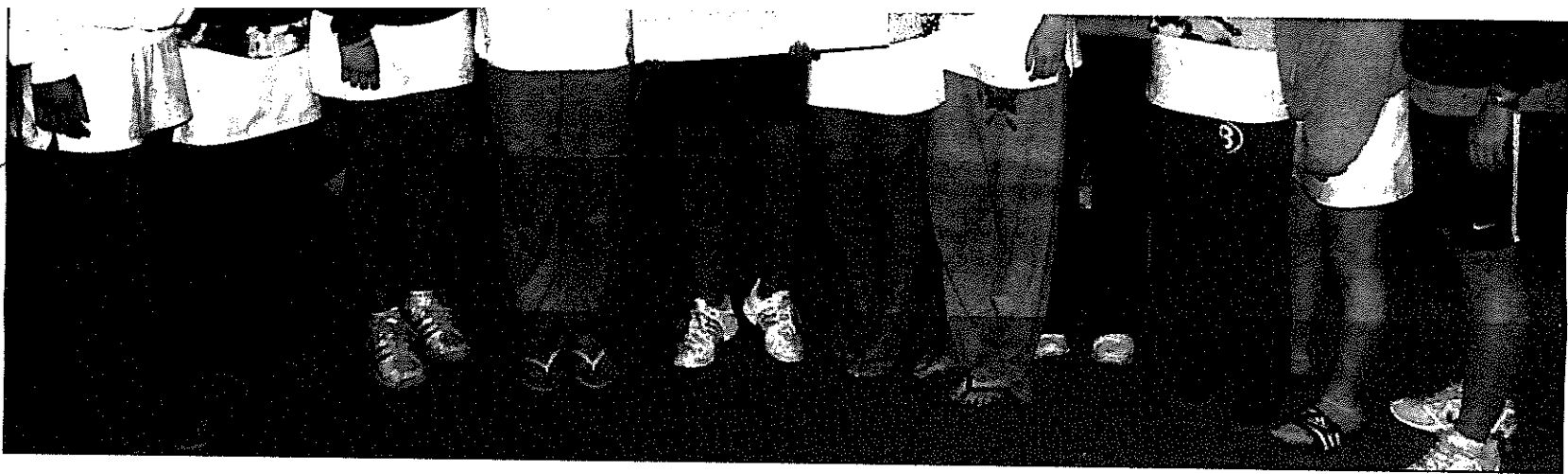
Bruins Claw Field



Photos by Alex Kozlowski

Top: Members of the Brooke girls' tennis team pose with their OVAC Tennis championship trophy Wednesday in Wheeling.
Bottom: Linsly's Nikita Urval poses with her individual No. 4 singles title plaque. *View additional photos at cu.theinelligencer.net.*

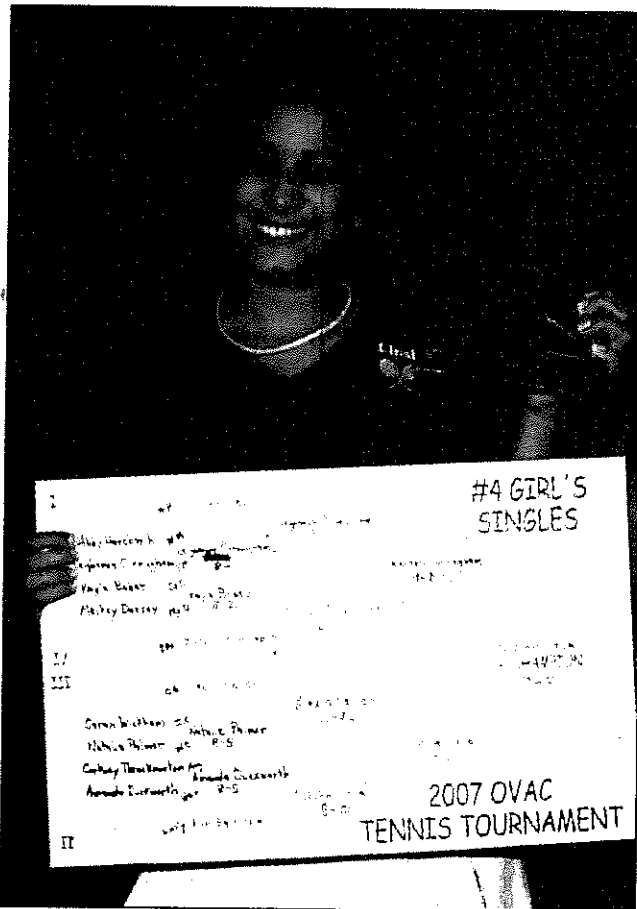
Brooke girls prove coach



Photos by Alex Kozlowski

Top: Members of the Brooke girls' tennis team pose with their OVAC Tennis championship trophy Wednesday in Wheeling.

Bottom: Linsly's Nikita Urval poses with her individual No. 4 singles title plaque. *View additional photos at cu.theinelligencer.net.*



Brooke girls prove coach right by winning OVAC title

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

Brooke girls' tennis coach Rachel Adams felt her team had a chance.

She could see it in her seniors.

Despite being down 11-8 to three-time defending champion Wheeling Park entering the singles portion of the OVAC Tennis Tournament, the Bruins didn't give in and took it one match at a time.

The end result was their first OVAC girls' tennis title, winning the championship at The Wheeling Park Bubble.

"Just play your best. They knew they could do it, they just had to play their best and they did," Adams said. "This is the best I've seen all of them play all season."

"We have four seniors and they have played all four years. The main goal out there was to have fun, play their game and get as far as you can. It was the best we could have done and it worked."

Even though it was the Patriots in front after Day 1, they weren't a factor in the final standings.

Instead, it was Linsly that was hot on the trail of the Bruins.

Trailing Brooke by two points heading into the No. 3 singles finals, Linsly's Richelle

DeGuzman faced Brooke's Megan Gialluco.

Victories by DeGuzman and No. 4 singles player Nikita Urval and the teams would have been tied.

Instead, Gialluco sealed the title for the Bruins.

"I faced excellent competition and I am just glad I've been able to maintain a pretty decent record," Gialluco said. "All the girls I've played against have been awesome so it's been a great experience."

"I tried to play the nets a lot (Wednesday) and I thought I did pretty well at it."

"It's always a risk when you play the net, but (Wednesday) it worked out for me. It's something I have been working on and I decided to try it in a match."

Gialluco won the match 8-3 and the five Brooke seniors celebrated their achievement of a four-year goal.

"I am so excited. This is something I've worked for since my freshman year and I was finally able to do it," Gialluco said. "It's really been a team thing. Our goal since freshman year was to (win OVACs) and we have five seniors so it feels awesome to be able to do it."

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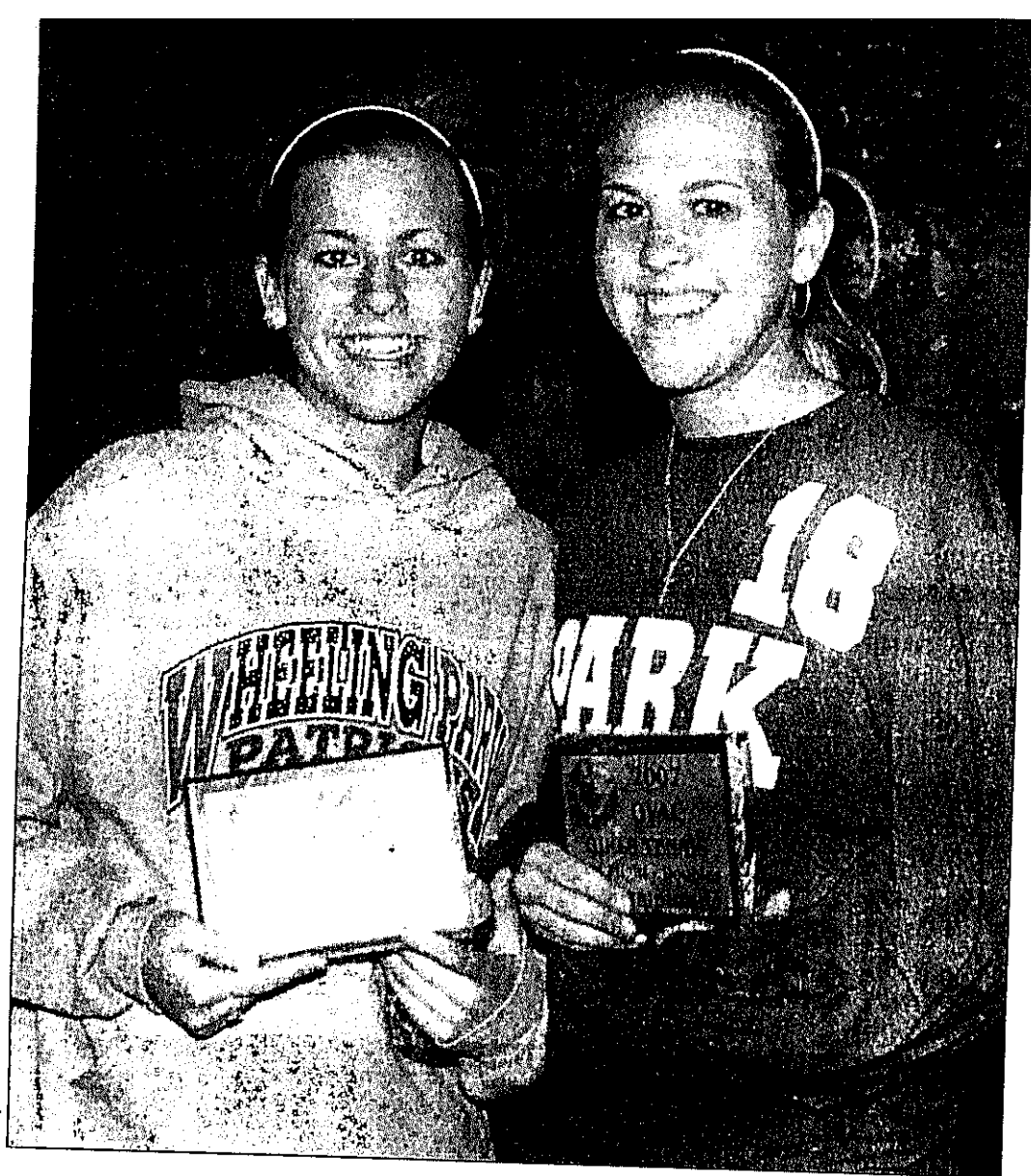


Photo by Alex Kozlowski
 Wheeling Park's Ellen Freeman, left, and Emily Freeman show off their hardware after winning a doubles title earlier in the week. *View additional photos at cu.theinelligencer.net.*

Bruins

(Continued from Page 19)

"There's been so much teamwork and so much practicing and that's what makes it great to become the team champions.

"It was now or never. We are all going away to college next year and we wanted to make one more big memory before we graduate."

Adams was overjoyed with her team's success. A former Bruins tennis player, she tried to get the team to loosen up and have fun.

"We have four seniors and they have played all four years. The main goal out there was to have fun, play their game and get as far as you can. It was the best we could have done and it worked," Adams said. "If it's not fun, win or lose, you still have to enjoy yourself, or else, why do you do it?"

"I thought we definitely had a chance, but I knew it was going to take a lot of wins to get us there. We won what we could, and we got it."

Brooke got plenty of points off victories from No. 2 Katlyn Viglianco — but not a championship.

This senior was upended in the finals by a freshman, Wheeling Central's Alexandra

the No. 1 singles final.

Linsly's Courtney Lowe defeated Wheeling Park's Tierra Waldrum 9-8 (7-5) in a match that everybody stopped what they were doing to watch.

Lowe advanced to the quarterfinals last season, but her senior campaign ended with a hard-fought championship.

"Finishing off strong. It was my ultimate goal. I was prepared as I ever could be," Lowe said. "It was my senior year and I have been working all season for this.

"(Waldrum) definitely wore me out in the last match. My first serve was really off, but I was placing balls really well.

"It was up-and-down, up-and-down, and I finally came through in the tiebreaker."

Unseeded Leighanna Cunningham of John Marshall made a strong run in the No. 4 singles tournament but ended with an 8-5 loss against Urval.

Notes

The tournament was originally to be held at West Liberty, but because of the rain the matches were moved to The Wheeling Park Bubble. ... Weather permitting, the boys' singles tournament will be held 8:30 a.m. today at the West Liberty Tennis Complex.

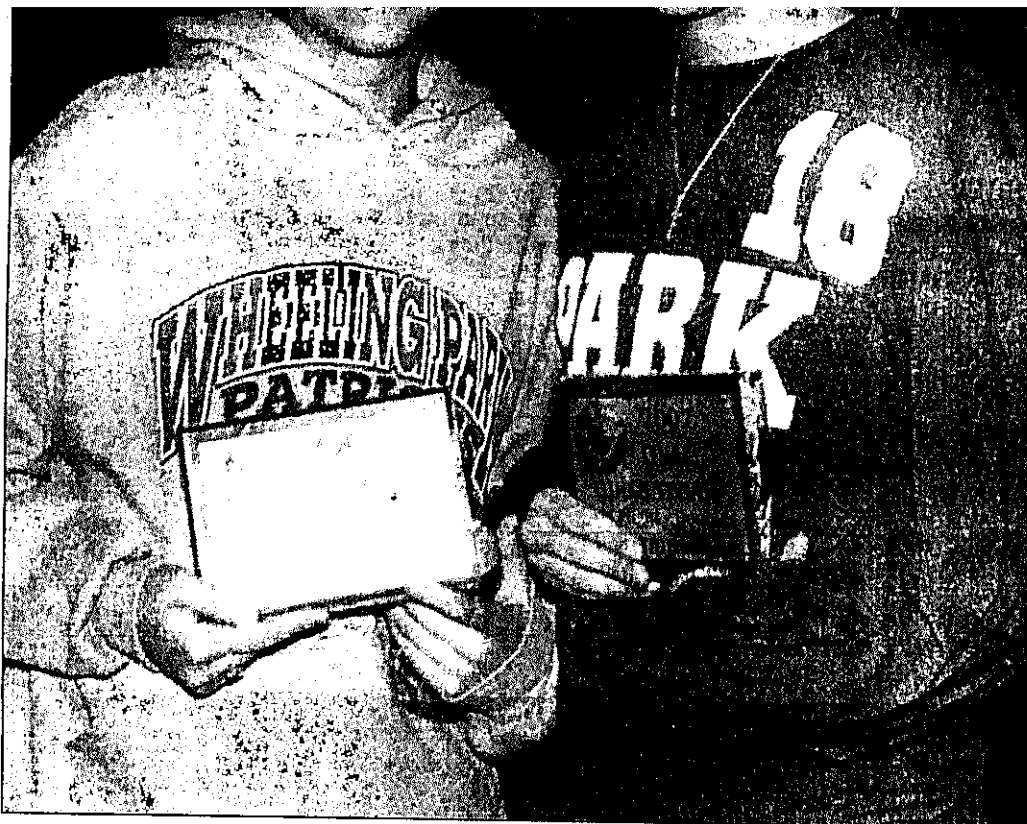


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Ellen Freeman, left, and Emily Freeman show off their hardware after winning a doubles title earlier in the week. *View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.*

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Brooke got plenty of points off victories from No. 2 Katlyn Viglianco — but not a championship.

This senior was upended in the finals by a freshman, Wheeling Central's Alexandra Greco.

"It feels so awesome. I didn't think I would win because I'm only a freshman and I still have three more years to go so this is a good feeling," Greco said about her 8-1 victory.

"I had played (Viglianco) before and she beat me once and I beat her once so I kind of knew what to expect. I just played my best and was able to come out on top.

"She was getting tired so I started to hit harder shots and she was letting them go."

Stealing the show at the tournament was

the No. 1 singles final.

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OVAC Tennis Tournament (at The Wheeling Park Bubble)

Girls

Team Scores

Brooke 19, Linsly 17, Wheeling Park 16

No. 1 Singles Championship

Lowe (Lin) d. Waldrum (WP) 9-8 (7-5).

No. 2 Singles Championship

Greco (WC) d. Viglianco (Brk), 8-1.

No. 3 Singles Championship

Gialluco (Brk) d. DeGuzman (Lin) 8-3.

No. 4 Singles Championship

Urval (Lin) d. Cunningham (JM) 8-5.

Ready to

Hit The Courts

OVAC Tennis Tournament begins Monday

Staff report

The 2007 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference High School Tennis Championships are slated for Monday through Thursday at the new West Liberty State College tennis complex.

Wheeling Park is the defending overall champion as the Patriots' boys and girls' teams ran away with titles last season and bring back strong squads under first-year coach Bronson Shanley.

The seeding meeting for the tournament takes place at 1 p.m. today at Wheeling Park's Stone Room.

Action begins at 1:30 p.m. Monday with girls' doubles. That will follow a 45-minute free clinic for players, coaches, and parents if they wish, put on by Marc White, head tennis pro at Oglebay, at 12:30 p.m.

They'll do the same thing on Tuesday, with White offering his services again prior to action of the boys' doubles tournament, according to OVAC Tennis Director George Frazier.

Wednesday is the scheduled day for the girls' singles championships, beginning at 8:30 a.m., with the boys' singles championships slated for Thursday.

The Wheeling Park Tennis Bubble will be used in case of inclement weather once matches are under way. Friday and Saturday are scheduled as rain dates if needed.

Awards will be given to first and second place in each division in addition to other special individual awards like the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award, which is given annually to the boy and girl in the tournament who exhibits true qualities of good sportsmanship as determined by the coaches. This award was started several years ago to honor the memory of Carol Strasser who was very actively involved in Ohio Valley Tennis and a great ambassador for the game. Carol served as the OVAC Tennis Director for a number of years.

OVAC Tennis

#1 Doubles

1st - Svenja Menz/Raven Weaver (Mt.DeChantal) defeated

2nd - Tierra Waldnum/Ali Prather (Wheeling Park)

8-5!

#2 Doubles

1st - Emily Freeman/Ellen Freeman (Wheeling Park) defeated

2nd - Megan Gialluco/Rachel Sperfazza (Brooke)

8-5!

#3 Doubles

1st - Tiffany Waldrum/Elizabeth Marshall (Whg.P.) defeated

2nd - Katlyn Viganco/Alexa Hunter (Brooke)

8-2!

Team standings after the first day of competition in the female division:

Wheeling Park - 11

Brooke - 8

Linsy - 5

Mt.DeChantal - 4

Magnolia - 3

Oak Glen - 3

John Marshall - 2

St. Clairsville - 2

Weir High - 2

Wheeling Central - 2

Indian Creek - 1

The boy's doubles begin at 1:30p.m. on Tuesday.

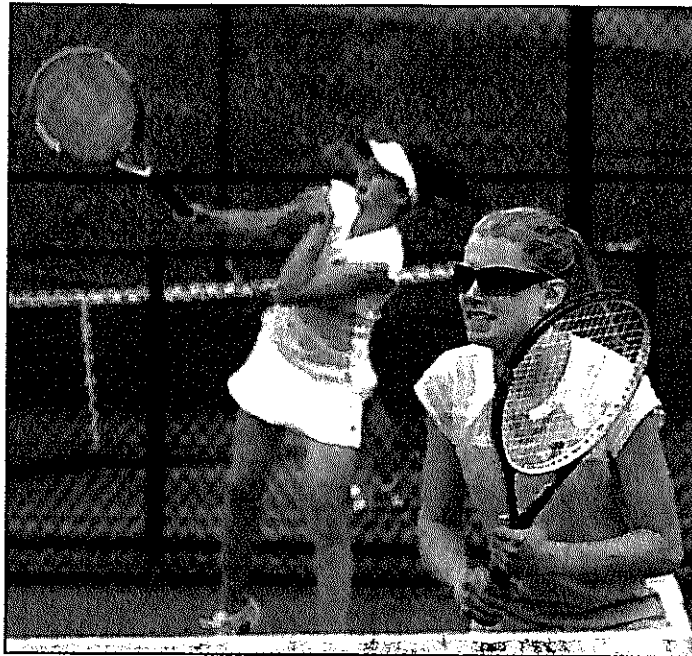


Photo by Scott McCloskey

John Marshall's Emily Yoder, back, serves against St. Clairsville as teammate Ashley McLaughlin watches. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Wheeling Park girls take lead in OVAC Tennis

The Wheeling Park girls' tennis team took an early lead after the first day of action at the OVAC Tennis Tournament on Monday at West Liberty.

The Patriots finished with 11 team points, three ahead of second-place Brooke.

Linsly had five points to round out the top three.

Mount de Chantal, which sits in fourth place with four points, received a boost in No. 1 doubles when the tandem of Svenja Menz and Raven Weaver defeated Wheeling Park's Tierra Waldrum and Ali Prather, 8-5.

Wheeling Park battled back, taking both No. 2 and No. 3 doubles championships.

Emily and Ellen Freeman defeated Brooke's Megan Gialluco and Rachel Sperlazza, 8-5, at No. 2 while Tiffany Waldrum

and Elizabeth Marshall took down Brooke's Katlyn Viglianco and Alexa Hunter, 8-2.

1. Wheeling Park 11; 2. Brooke 8, 3. Linsly 5, 4. Mount de Chantal 4; 5. (tie) Magnolia, Oak Glen 3; 7. (tie) John Marshall, St. Clairsville, Weir, Wheeling Central 2.; 11. Indian Creek 1.

Championship Ginals

No. 1 Doubles

Menz-Weaver (MdC) d. Waldrum-Prather (WP), 8-5

No. 2 Doubles

Em. Freeman-El. Freeman (WP) d. Gialluco-Sperlazza (Brk), 8-5

No. 3 Doubles

Waldrum-Marshall (WP) d. Viglianco-Hunter (Brk), 8-2.

Brooke girls win OVAC tennis

The girl's OVAC portion ended this evening with the Brooke Bruins winning the team title with a total of 19 points. Linsly finished with 17 points to claim the runner-up team award. Last year's champion, Wheeling Park, finished 3rd with 16 points.

The singles champions and runner's up are as follows:

#1 Singles - Courtney Lowe (Linsly) def. Tierra Waldrum (Whg.Park) 9-8(7-5). #2 Singles Alex Greco (Whg.Central) def. Katlyn Viglianco (Brooke) 8-1. #3 Singles - Megan Gialluco (Brooke) def. Richelle DeGuzman (Linsly) 8-3. #4 Singles - Nikita Urval (Linsly) def. Leighana Cunningham (John Marshall) 8-5.

The boy's OVAC singles got under way at 8:30a.m. on Thursday at the WLSC Tennis Complex.

Cambridge wins OVAC tennis championship

By JOSH STROPE
For The Times Leader

Coaches and players often talk about how it's always about the team and not the individual.

When all four Cambridge tennis players made it to their respective championship matches, it was about the individual – the team had already won.

The Bobcats led second place Wheeling Park by six points heading into the finals, sealing the victory in the early going after sharing the lead with the Patriots heading into Day 2 of the OVAC Tennis Tournament at the West Liberty Tennis Complex and the Wheeling Park Bubble.

"We are very pleased. We have a good group of young men and we worked hard for this. We are very, very pleased," Cambridge coach Mike Denniston said. "I think we just wanted to play one match at a time. They did that very well."

The championship is the first OVAC crown for Cambridge and the first time a school outside of Wheeling has won since 1996.

"They worked long and hard and (the Cambridge tennis program is) on the upswing and we think that's great," Denniston said.

Despite four guys going for singles titles, only one – No. 3 Greg Roberts – was able to come away a winner.

The top-seeded Roberts outlasted John Marshall's Cory Holt 6-2, 6-3 in the final.

It marked a trifecta for Roberts, winning the team, individual, and, along with partner Steven Barrows, doubles titles.

"It feels great. I haven't felt like this before," Roberts said. "It's the first time I've won both singles and doubles championships so it feels pretty good."

"I just went out there and did what I did, played my sport. I worked really hard on my volleys and some of my net shots were excellent."

With the graduation of Bobcats seniors Eduardo Fontes and Darren Fields, Roberts will return next season for his senior year looking to add a No. 1 singles title to his resume.

"Next year, I'm playing first singles so I'm looking forward to that challenge," Roberts said.

This season, the No. 1 singles belonged to Wheeling Park's Tyler McCullough.

The West Liberty-bound senior outlasted Fields 6-4, 7-5 to win his first No. 1-singles championship.

"It feels exhausting, but great. I think we were both tired and it could have gone either way," McCullough said. "I was just trying to play my game, putting the ball where he can't get it."

Wheeling Park won two singles titles as Marty Maness upset top-seeded Mike Evancho of Cambridge, 6-2, 6-3.

It was still not enough.

Wheeling Park finished with 17 points, five behind the Bobcats' 22.

"It's a good feeling for me, but it would have been nice to win the team (championship). I'm glad Cambridge won," McCullough said.

Long of Linsly was crowned the No. 2 singles champion with a victory against Fontes, 6-1, 6-4.

But despite only winning 1 of 4 titles, Denniston couldn't have been happier for his history-making squad, especially of being able to place all four in the finals.

"It was an outstanding effort. We didn't expect that totally," Denniston said. "We knew they had the potential to do that, and they came through big time for us (Thursday)."

"They knew (they had already won) and I don't know how big of an effect that had on us only getting one championship, but maybe a little bit."

Results:

OVAC Tennis Tournament

Boys

(at the WLCS Tennis Complex/Wheeling Park Bubble)
Team Scores: Cambridge 22, Wheeling Park 17, Wheeling Central 14, Linsly 12, John Marshall 10, East Liverpool 9, Oak Glen 6, Steubenville 4, Magnolia 3, Weir 2, Brooke 2, Beaver Local 1, Indian Creek 1, St. Clairsville 1, Weirton Madonna 1, Zanesville 0.

No. 1 Singles Championship

McCullough (WP) d. Fields (C) 6-3, 7-5

No. 2 Singles Championship

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No. 3 Singles Championship

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No. 4 Singles Championship

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MARTINS FERRY PREVAILS

The Martins Ferry softball team kept its OVAC Class AAA Tournament title hopes alive by beating Magnolia/20

The Intelligencer. SPORTS

FRIDAY
APRIL 27, 2007

FINANCIAL
CLASSIFIEDS

Cambridge Earns Crown

Wheeling Park 2nd in OVAC tennis

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

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Please See CROWN, Page 21



Photo by Jos

The Cambridge boys' tennis team and coaches show off their OVAC plaque. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.com

Crown

(Continued from Page 19)

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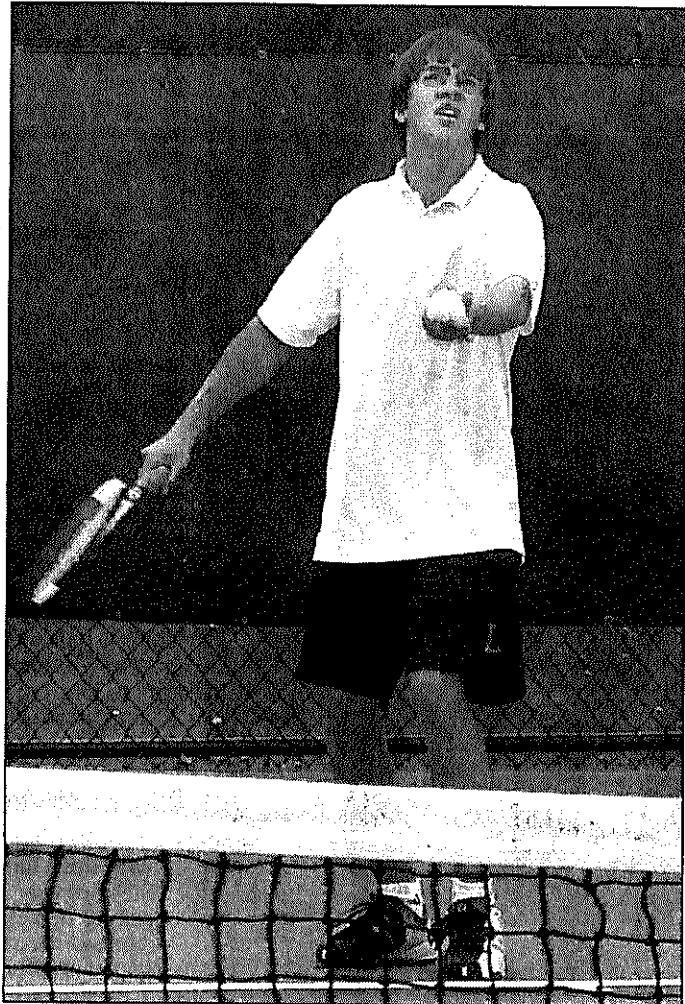


Photo by Josh Strobe

Linsly's James Long, the No. 2 singles champion, serves during a match Thursday at the OVAC Tennis Tournament. *View additional photos at cu.theintelligentcenter.net.*

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