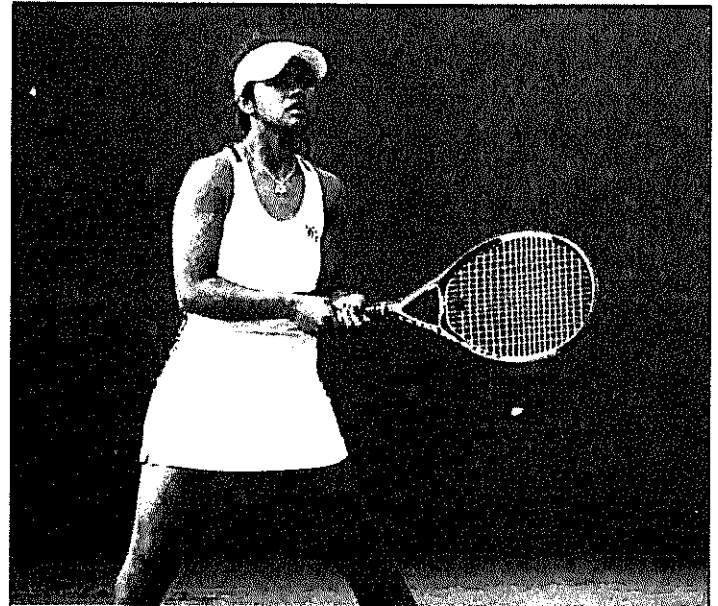
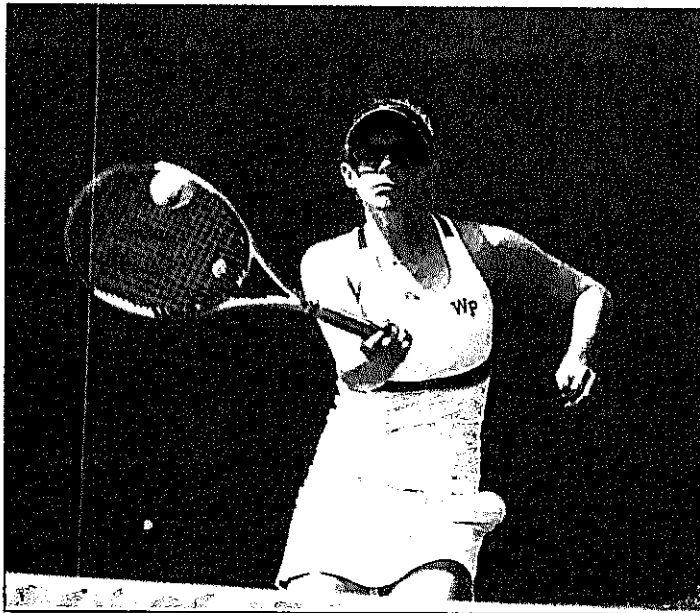
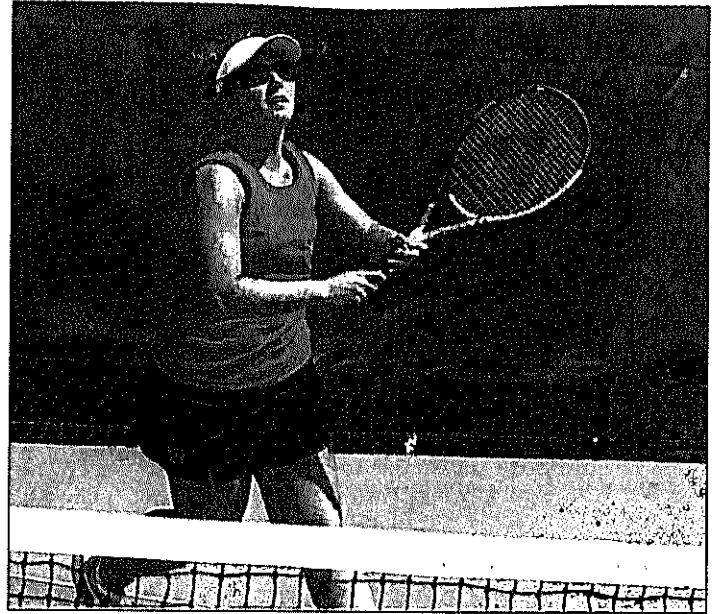
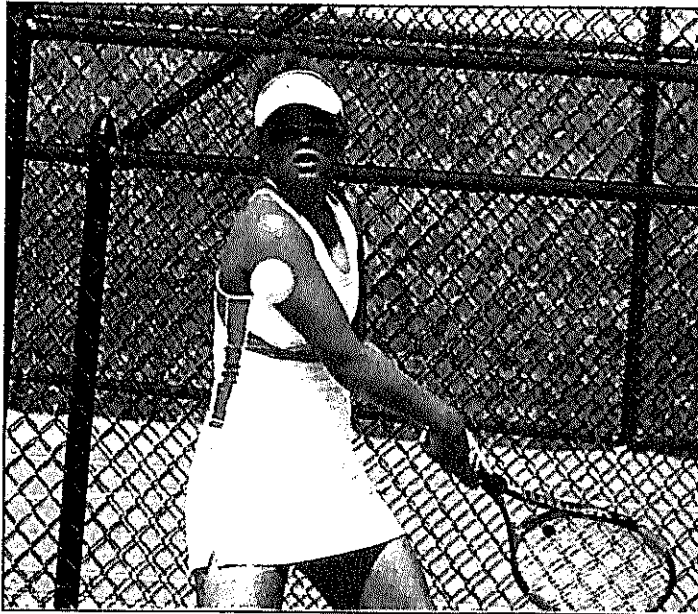


OVAC Girls' Tennis Tournament



Photos by Josh Strope

Singles champions of the 2008 OVAC Girls' Tennis Tournament, are clockwise, Wheeling Park's Tierra Waldrum (No. 1 singles); Weir's Jessica Sikora (No. 2 singles); Wheeling Park's Ali Prather (No. 3 singles); and Wheeling Park's Tiffany Waldrum (No. 4 singles). Wheeling Park won the event as a team. *View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.*

Park Girls Claim Title

Patriots have three individual champs

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

The OVAC girls' tennis tournament trophy sat on a table at the scorer's desk at the West Liberty Tennis Complex.

All the teams looked at it, but most knew it would take something extraordinary if they were to take it home.

That's because Wheeling Park took a commanding lead into the singles portion of the tournament, claiming all 12 possible points by virtue of winning all three doubles championships.

FINALS RESULTS

Team Scores

Wheeling Park 26, Weir 14, Oak Glen 12, Linsly 12, Wheeling Central 11, John Marshall 10, St. Clairsville 7, Brooke 6, Magnolia 4, Mount de Chantal 1.

Singles

No. 1
Tia. Waldrum (WP) d. Greco (WC), 6-4
No. 2
Sikora (Weir) d. Benner (OG), 6-3
No. 3
Prather (WP) d. Williams (S), 6-2
No. 4
Tia. Waldrum (WP) d. Kleeh (WC), 6-6

I'm really proud of them.

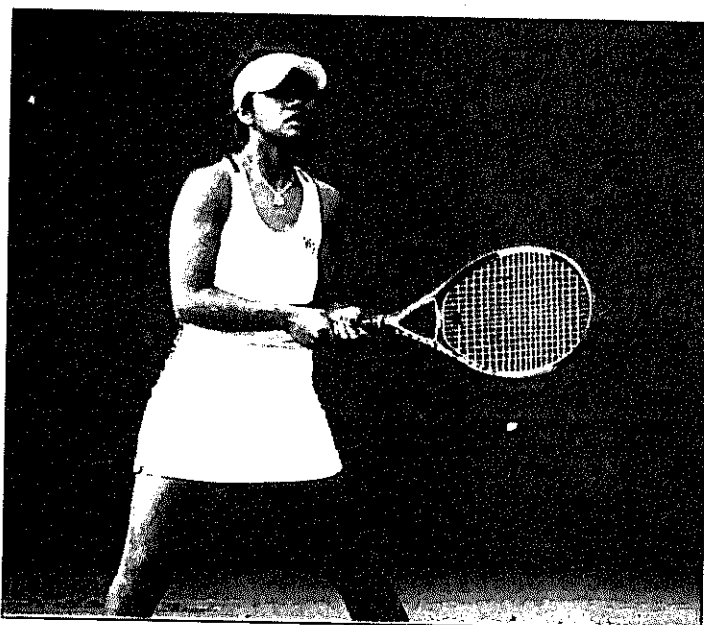
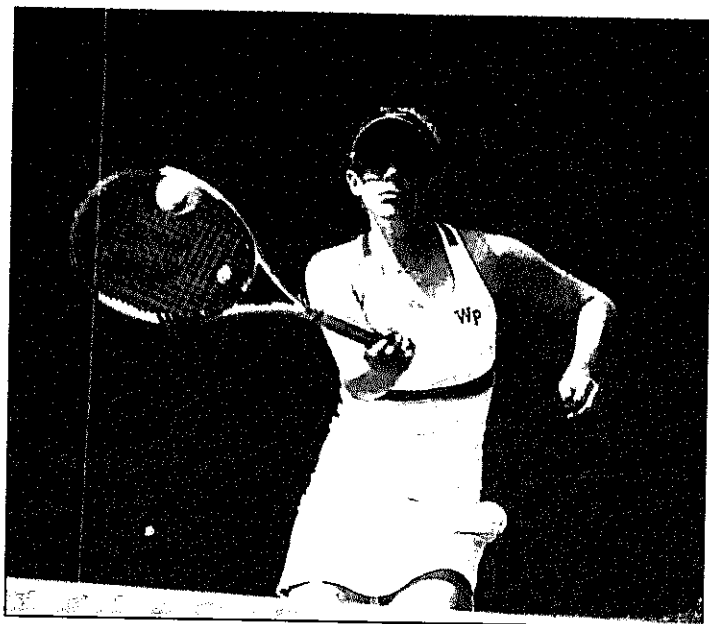
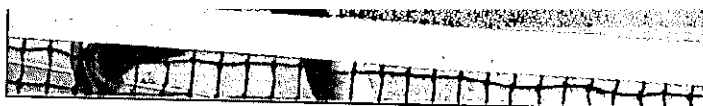
"There is a lot of other really great teams and a lot of girls working really hard. I'm proud of all the girls, they were first class all the way and it was a great tournament."

atoning for last season.

Wheeling Park entered Day 2 last season with a large lead, only to watch Brooke charge from behind to take the title, leaving the Patriots stunned.

"We didn't want the same thing to happen this time and let the championship slip out of our fingers this year," Shanley said. "I used it as a motivational tool, but I don't think I had to mention it. I think it was on all of their minds. Most of them were here last year, and I think they didn't want to let it happen again last year. I think it kinda drove them to play better."

Tierra Waldrum had possibly the most exciting matchup of the tournament last season in the finals. Unfortunately for her, she came out on the losing side.



Photos by Josh Strope

Singles champions of the 2008 OVAC Girls' Tennis Tournament, are clockwise, Wheeling Park's Tierra Waldrum (No. 1 singles); Weir's Jessica Sikora (No. 2 singles); Wheeling Park's Ali Prather (No. 3 singles); and Wheeling Park's Tiffany Waldrum (No. 4 singles). Wheeling Park won the event as a team. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

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A second-day collapse in 2007 was all these Patriots needed to remind them about the task at hand, as Wheeling Park won three singles championships and claimed their 14th OVAC title Thursday.

"I'm pretty excited about the girls winning," Wheeling Park coach Bronson Shanley said. "They've worked hard all season to get here and really stepped it up the last couple of weeks. They did it. They were almost perfect."

Wheeling Park has dominated the Ohio Valley girls' tennis landscape for more than a decade, winning eight of the last 11 titles in this event. Still, none may have been as dominant as what took place this week.

Claiming six of the possible seven championships, the Patriots at times made it look easy against some of the area's best.

"I'm not surprised because I knew their potential," Shanley said. "I knew they worked hard to get to this point and I know

FINALS RESULTS

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Singles

No. 1

Tie. Waldrum (WP) d. Greco (WC), 8-4

No. 2

Sikora (Weir) d. Benner (OG), 8-3

No. 3

Prather (WP) d. Williams (S), 8-2

No. 4

Tif. Waldrum (WP) d. Kleeh (WC), 8-6

I'm really proud of them.

"There is a lot of other really great teams and a lot of girls working really hard. I'm proud of all the girls, they were first class all the way and it was a great tournament."

Wheeling Park finished with 26 points, 12 ahead of second-place Weir.

Claiming singles crowns for the Patriots were Tierra Waldrum (No. 1), Ali Prather (No. 3), and Tiffany Waldrum (No. 4).

Weir's Jessica Sikora was victorious with a final victory against Oak Glen's Jessica Benner, 8-3, at No. 2 singles.

"It feels awesome for my senior year," Sikora said. "This was a good way to finish it. My doubles partner Julie (Larch) and I played a lot at the YMCA over the winter to prepare for this.

"I told myself, 'I've got to get it, I have to push myself.' It was hot, my feet were burning, but I couldn't give up. It was all worth it."

Still, Wheeling Park had the championship wrapped up long before that match, earning the crown before the semifinals were played.

Still, that didn't deter the Patriots from

atoning for last season.

Wheeling Park entered Day 2 last season with a large lead, only to watch Brooke charge from behind to take the title, leaving the Patriots stunned.

"We didn't want the same thing to happen this time and let the championship slip out of our fingers this year," Shanley said. "I used it as a motivational tool, but I don't think I had to mention it. I think it was on all of their minds. Most of them were here last year, and I think they didn't want to let it happen again last year. I think it kinda drove them to play better."

Tierra Waldrum had possibly the most exciting matchup of the tournament last season in the finals. Unfortunately for her, she came out on the losing side.

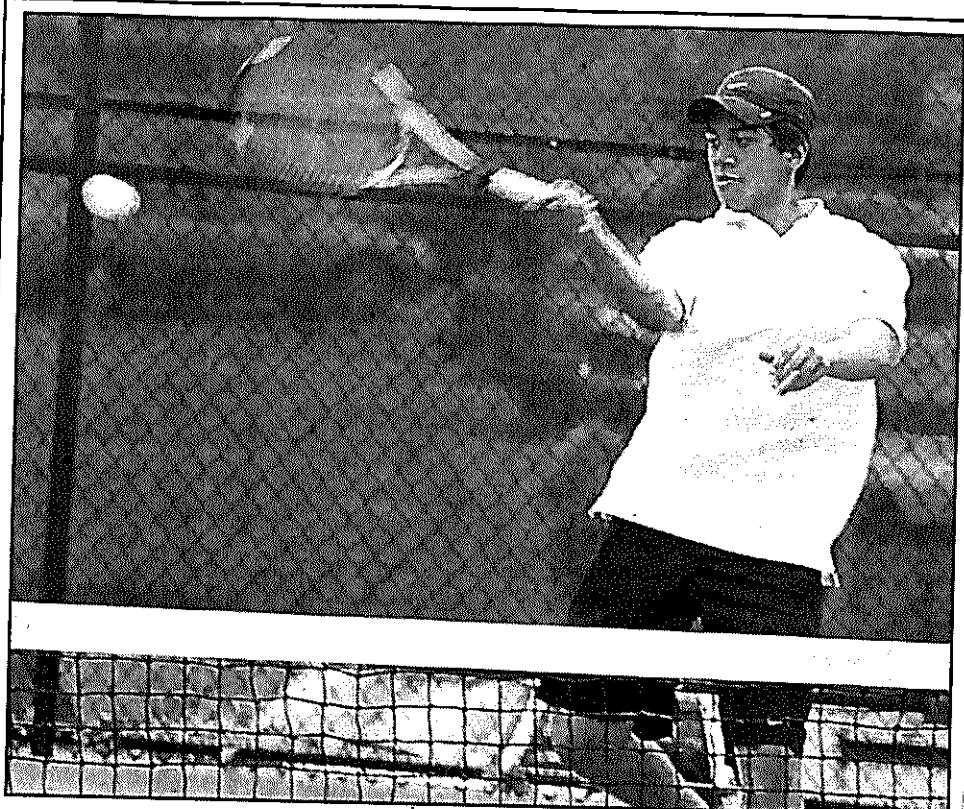
This time, she she went out a winner and defeated Wheeling Central's Alexandra Greco, 8-4, in the final.

"(Winning OVACs) was one of our goals, it's so amazing to win," Tierra Waldrum said. "Everybody tried really hard and that was all you could ask for.

"I felt confident going into my finals match. Alex Greco is always good competition. She played hard and it was a fun match. Knowing that my match didn't decide the fate of our championship took a lot of pressure off."

Her sister, Tiffany, played the closest match of the finals, coming from behind to defeat Wheeling Central's Crystal Kleeh, 8-6. Prather won her championship with a victory against St. Clairsville's Sarah Williams, 8-2.

Note: Emily Yoder of John Marshall was selected for the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

LINSLEY'S Mitchell Saludes returns a serve during a quarterfinal match against Oak Glen during doubles competition of the OVAC Tennis Championship being held at West Liberty State College. The girls' doubles are today and the singles matches begin Wednesday and finish on Thursday. Additional images may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com

JM leads OVAC boys' tennis competition

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tennis Championship got under way Monday afternoon at West Liberty State College with boys' doubles competition.

John Marshall grabbed the day-one lead with nine points. The Monarchs advanced a team to each of the three finals, but fell in the championship matches.

The Monarchs finished with nine points. Linsly is currently second with eight, while Wheeling Central and East Liverpool each have six points. Steubenville has five points in the 15-team boys' field.

Linsly's number one duo of James Long and Jake Daugherty was a straight-

set winner over John Marshall's tandem of Cory Holt and Jared Patrick by a 6-3, 6-1 count.

Wheeling Central got into the championship act in the second position when Victor Greco and Jordan Sorge teamed to take down JM's Stefan Riggs and Tyler Stan by a 7-5, 6-0 count.

East Liverpool was the champion of the third position as Matt English and Joseph Zirillo took down Cody Francis and Brett Thomas by a 6-3, 6-1 counts.

The action resumes today at WLSC at 1 p.m. when the female doubles players take the court.



Monarchs in first at OVAC Tennis

John Marshall qualified teams in all three doubles divisions but lost the finals in each.

Still, after Day 1, the Monarchs are in front at the OVAC Tennis Tournament at the West Liberty tennis complex.

John Marshall holds a slim edge on second place Linsly.

Wheeling Central and East Liverpool are tied with 6 points each. Steubenville ended up the day with 5 points.

Claiming doubles titles were James Long and Jake Daugherty of Linsly (No. 1), Victor Greco and Jordan Sorge of Wheeling Central (No. 2), and Matt English and Joseph Zirillo of East Liverpool (No. 3).

The girls' doubles tournament will be held today beginning at 1 p.m.

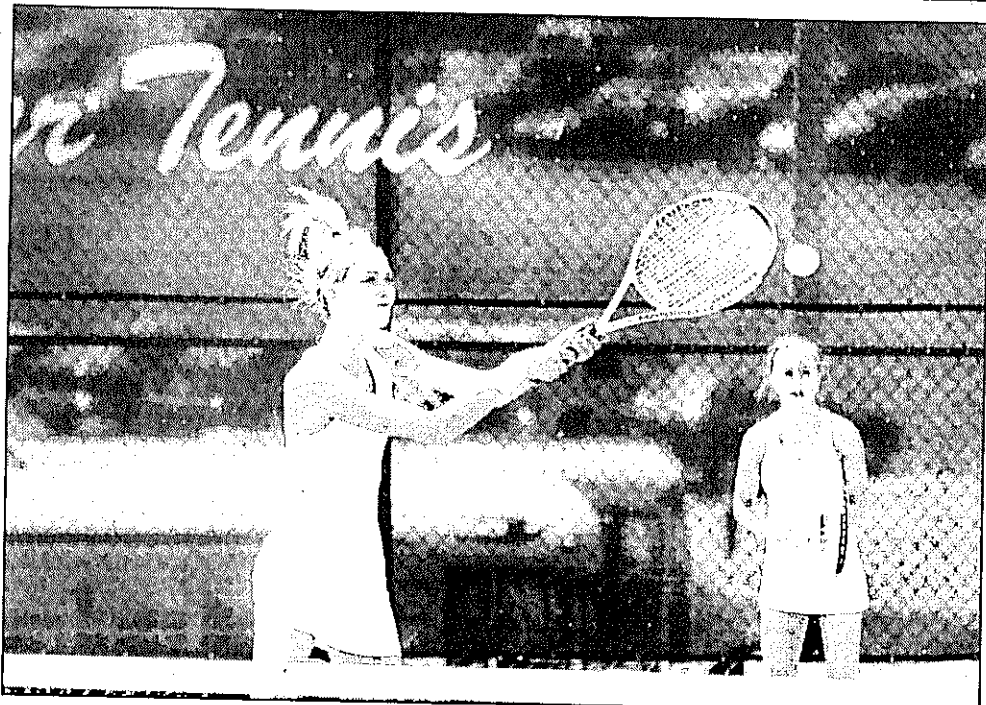


Photo by Scott McCloskey

Brooke's Alexa Hunter makes a return while playing in a doubles match with Emily Vigilanco (background) as the two played against Wheeling Central's Alex Greco and Natalie Palmer during the OVAC Girls' Tennis Tournament held at West Liberty State College tennis courts Tuesday.

Park Doubles Perfect

Patriots off to good start at OVAC tourney

The Wheeling Park girls' tennis team completed a perfect doubles portion of the OVAC Tennis Championships on Tuesday at West

Liberty State College.

The Patriots won all three titles, with the teams of Tierra Waldrum/Ali Prather, Ellen Freeman/Tiffany Waldrum, and Kaitlyn McKittrick/Emily Ellwood all taking home hardware.

Wheeling Park racked up 12 points, which is twice as

many as second-place Linsly. Oak Glen and Weir are each seven points back.

The boys' singles will be played today at West Liberty, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Championship matches are scheduled to start at 4 p.m., weather providing.

OVAC TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS Girls' Doubles

No. 1

Tierra Waldrum/Ali Prather (WP) d. Julie Larch/Jessica Sikora (W) 8-5.

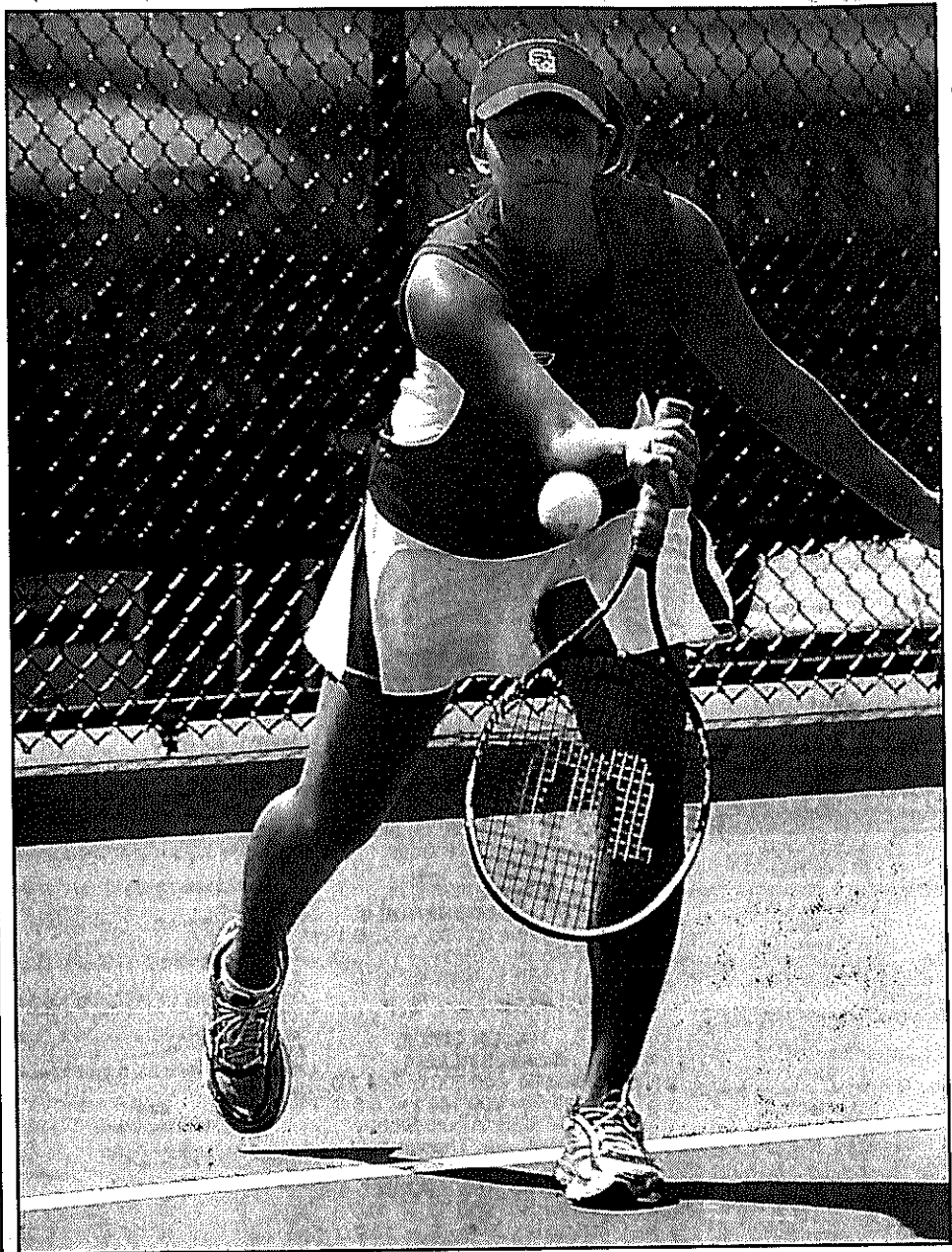
No. 2

Ellen Freeman/Tiffany Waldrum (WP) d. Moleigh Poling/Haley Powell (OG) 8-3.

No. 3

Kaitlyn McKittrick/Emily Ellwood (WP) d. Diane Long/Maria Miller (L) 8-5.





T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Sukhmani Sandhu returns a serve during a doubles match at Tuesday's OVAC Tennis Championship at West Liberty State College. *More images may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

Wheeling Park girls lead OVAC tennis

Day two of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference tennis tournament wrapped up with a familiar face sitting on top of the girls' standings after doubles' play.

Wheeling Park — which has won a conference-best 13 team titles — has positioned itself for a possible 14th entering Thursday's singles' matches. The Lady Patriots were perfect during the doubles' competition, amassing 12 team points.

Linsly is sitting in a distant second with six points and Oak Glen and Weir High each had five points during the

in all three positions.

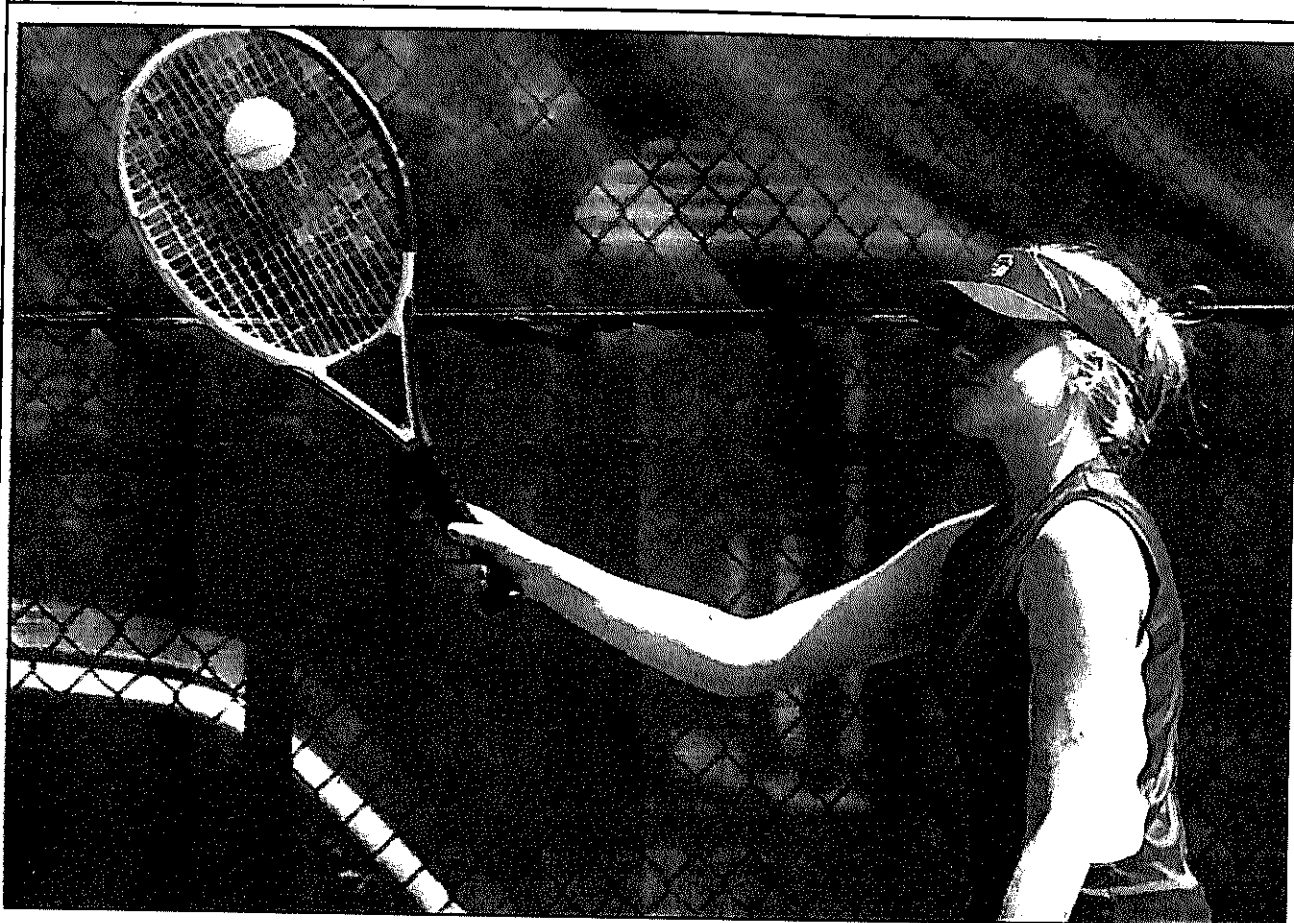
In the number one spot, Tierra Waldrum and Ali Prather defeated Julie Larch and Jessica Sikora of Weir by a 8-5 count.

In the second spot, Ellen Freeman and Tiffany Waldrum teamed to take down Oak Glen's Moleigh Poling and Haley Powell by a 8-3 score.

The third spot was captured by Park's Kaitlyn McKittrick and Emily Ellwood. That pair of Lady Pats knocked off Linsly's Diane Long and Maria Miller of Linsly.

Boys singles play got under way this morning at 8 a.m. and the girls play on





Lady Patriots roll to OVAC tennis title

• St. C.'s Williams second at No. 3 singles spot

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference tennis championship wrapped up its four-day run at West Liberty State College Thursday under ideal conditions.

Wheeling Park — which got off to a good start with three doubles wins during Tuesday's round — picked up right where it left off in singles' play, winning three of the four individual titles.

The Lady Patriots finished with an astounding 26 points in the team race, which was 12 better than runner-up Weir High. Linsly and Oak Glen each had 12 points. Wheeling Central and John Marshall had 11 and 10, respectively.



St. Clairsville — the lone local school to sponsor tennis — finished with seven points in a strong showing.

The Lady Patriots got the winning going at the number one singles spot where Tierra Waldrum knocked off city-rival Alexandra Grecco of Central by a 8-4 count.

The only singles' spot the Lady Patriots didn't claim runner-up Weir High did. The Lady Red Riders' Jessica Sikora knocked off Oak Glen's Jessica Benner by a 8-3 score.

Wheeling Park's Ali Prather took down St. Clairsville's Sarah Williams in the third singles' spot by a 8-2 score.

Tiffany Waldrum finished the day off for the Lady Patriots with a victory in the fourth singles spot, knock-



T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY
TOP: St. Clairsville's Katherine Purman returns a shot during her quarterfinal match at Thursday's OVAC Tennis Tournament.
ABOVE: St. Clairsville's Sarah Williams returns a

Central claims OVAC tennis

Solid effort for CHS in OVAC doubles play

WEST LIBERTY, W.Va. — The Cambridge High boys' tennis team posted a strong showing at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference doubles' competition on Monday.

In the first flight, the Cambridge duo of Greg Roberts and Steven Barrows posted a dominating 10-3 victory over Magnolia's Staniford and Sizemore. However, Roberts and Barrows dropped a hard fought match with James Long and Jake Daugherty of Linsly in the quarterfinals, 11-9.

The Bobcat team of Cody King and Vince Daugherty blanked the Magnolia grouping of Morris and Emch in the opening round of flight two, 10-0. Unfortunately, CHS struggled in the quarterfinals yet again, as King and Daugherty fell to Wheeling Central's Victor Greco and Jordan Sorge, 11-9.

In flight three, the 'Cats' Jordan Rogers and Cody Baker doubled up Wheeling Park's Helms

and Perry, 10-5, but lost a 10-6 decision to Andreini and Kim in the quarterfinals.

In the championship matches, Long and Daugherty of Linsly beat John Marshall's Cory Holt and Jared Patrick in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1, in the flight one. Greco and Sorge also

took out a John Marshall tandem in the form of Stefan Riggs and Tyler Stan, 7-5, 6-0. In the final match, East Liverpool's Matt English and Joseph Zirillo topped Cody Francis and Brett Thomas of John Marshall, 6-3, 6-1.

After the opening day, John Marshall leads the team standings with nine points, while Linsly is right behind with eight tallies. Wheeling Central and East Liverpool are tied with six counters, and Steubenville has five.

NEXT— Cambridge hosts Claymont in an ECOL match today at 4:30 p.m. and then returns to West Liberty on Wednesday for the OVAC singles' competition starting at 8:30 a.m.



The final day of the boys OVAC tennis competition was held Wednesday at the West Liberty State College tennis complex.

It took until the very last match to determine the team title. John Marshall had accumulated 18 points entering the finals, but the Maroon Knights of Wheeling Central were just three back with three players going for individual titles.

The Monarchs, meanwhile, had two players going for individual hardware.

The Maroon Knights won all three of their finals' matches to tie the score and with that came the team tie by virtue of having the most individual champions.

Linsly finished with 15 points in a distant third, while East Liverpool (13) and Wheeling Park (10) round out the top five.

Central's Hugo Andreini claimed the number one singles' crown, defeating Linsly's James Long by a 7-6, 6-3 count.

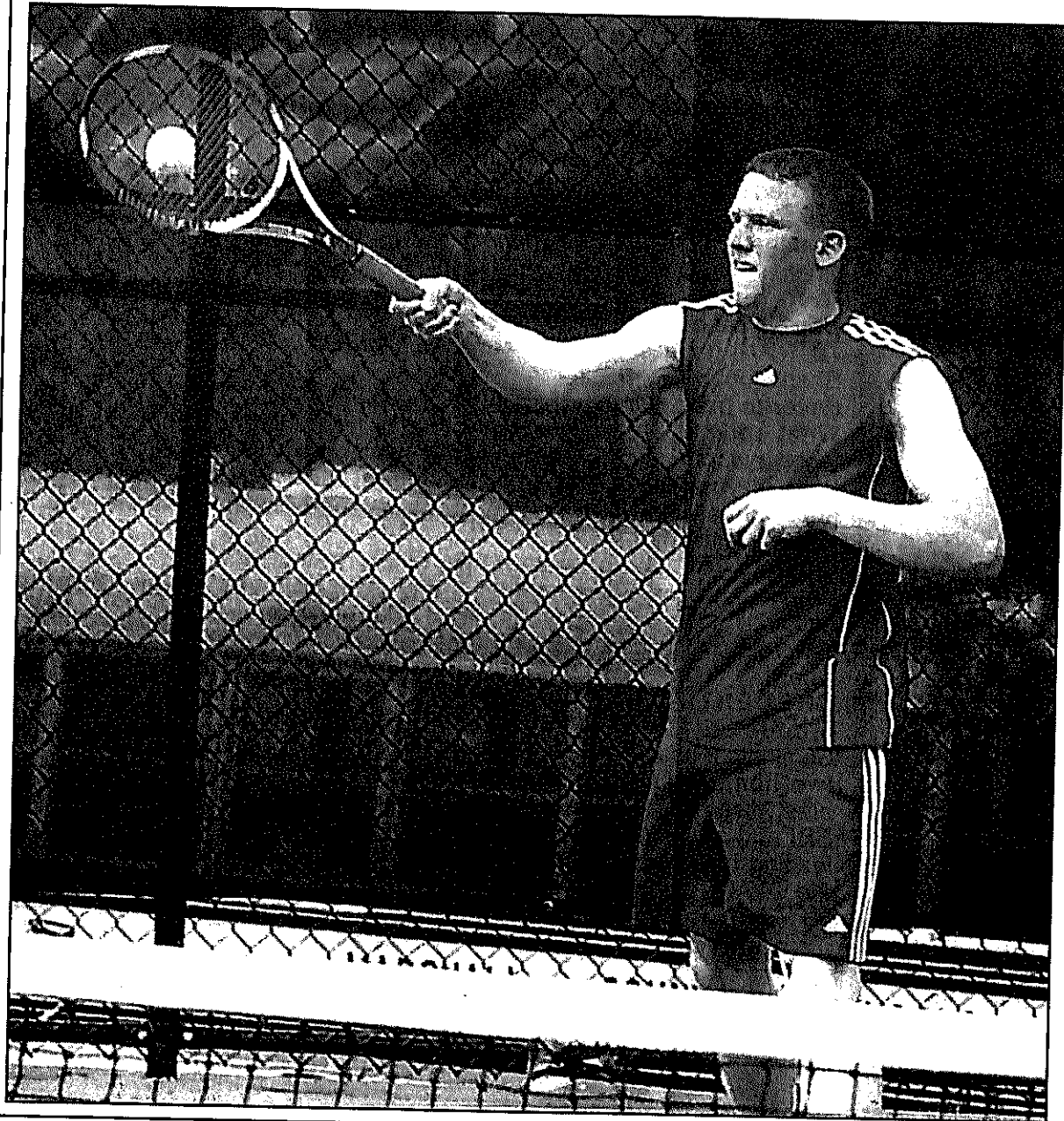
Victor Greco made it two straight wins for the Knights when he knocked JM's Jared Patrick in straight sets by a 6-2, 6-4 count.

Jordan Sorge was the number three winner for the Knights, taking down Stefan Riggs by a 6-1, 6-2 count.

Wheeling Park's Matt Swenson was the No. 4 singles champion, knocking off Steubenville's David Almeida by a 6-3, 6-2 count.



OVAC Tennis



ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Jared Sloan returns a serve during his singles match at Wednesday's OVAC competition at West Liberty State College. *Additional images may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

JAMBOREE EXPANDS

The second annual OV Football Jamboree will expand from eight to 18 teams this summer/21

The Intelligencer SPORTS

THURSDAY
APRIL 24, 2008

FINANCIAL..... 22-23

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Central Claims OVAC Boys' Tennis Title



Photo by Josh Strobe

Wheeling Central's Victor Greco won the No. 2 boy's singles crown. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Knights wipe away 15 years of frustration

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

Wheeling Central tennis coach Peggy Dailer kept a close eye on the overall leaderboard. She knew it was going to be tough.

At the top of the board sat John Marshall with 18 points and two players in championship matches.

Her Maroon Knights were three points back with three players playing in finals.

The formula was simple — if the Maroon Knights won all three singles titles, their first OVAC championship in 15 years was guaranteed. If not, the Monarchs were taking the trophy to Glen Dale.

But Wheeling Central did just that, claiming the No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 singles championships to win its first OVAC boys' tennis championship since 1993 on Wednesday at the OVAC Ten-

nis Tournament at the West Liberty Tennis Complex.

"It's wonderful," Dailer said. "It's been 15 years since we won OVACs. We knew coming into (Wednesday) that we had a chance but we were behind. John Marshall had nine points, Linsly had eight and we only had six.

"Right before we went down, we decided to go for the gold. They did a wonderful job and I'm proud of them."

The Maroon Knights and the Monarchs tied in total points, but the tiebreaker went to Wheeling Central for having the most champions.

Hugo Andreini took the No. 1 singles title with a hard-fought victory against Linsly's James Long; Victor Greco defeated John Marshall's Jared Patrick in the No. 2 title tilt; and Jordan Sorge topped John Marshall's Stefan Riggs to claim the No. 3 crown. Greco and Sorge teamed to win the No. 2 doubles championship Monday to give Wheeling Central four total titles.

The other singles champion was Wheeling Park's Matt Swenson, a 6-3,

6-2 winner against Steubenville's David Almeida.

"I never thought we would have three champions," Dailer said. "We had really struggled in our doubles and those points are critical. But everybody came out and gave it their best."

As Wheeling Central was celebrating, John Marshall could be left to wonder "what if?"

John Marshall advanced three pairs to the title matches Monday and lost all three. With a chance to wrap up the championship with one victory Wednesday, the team tripped up again.

Greco defeated Patrick in straight sets 6-2, 6-4, while Sorge made quick work of Riggs, 6-1, 6-2.

That put all the pressure on Andreini.

"The kids asked me, they said 'Coach, can you tell us where we stand?'" Dailer said. "I said 'I will tell you but there is going to be a lot of pressure on you if I do, but you have to all win the singles for us to win OVACs.'"

Please See CENTRAL, Page 24



Photo by Josh Strobe

Wheeling Central's Hugo Andreini won the No. 1 boys' singles crown. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Central —

(Continued from Page 19)

Andreini was also going against the top seed in Long.

"I knew it was our team's job as finalists to win, but during the middle of the match, I heard that we had won our other two," Andreini said. "That motivated me more to win. I turn pressure into motivation."

For Andreini, he might have been helped by timing and seeding.

The Wheeling Central junior breezed his way through the tournament, winning the semifinal round with a convincing 10-1 victory against Cory Holt of John Marshall.

On the other side of the bracket, Long was getting all he could handle and more from East Liverpool's Sam Kinsey.

Long had thought he won, but Kinsey called his shot just out. The two battled for nearly 20 more minutes before the Linsly standout finished his opponent, 11-10 (4).

The match lasted more than 2 hours.

Even after the mandatory 30-minute break between matches, it was unsure if Long would be able to go as the heat had seemed to get to him.

Andreini allowed the tournament to postpone the match until Long was ready.

When the match finally got going, it didn't look like Long

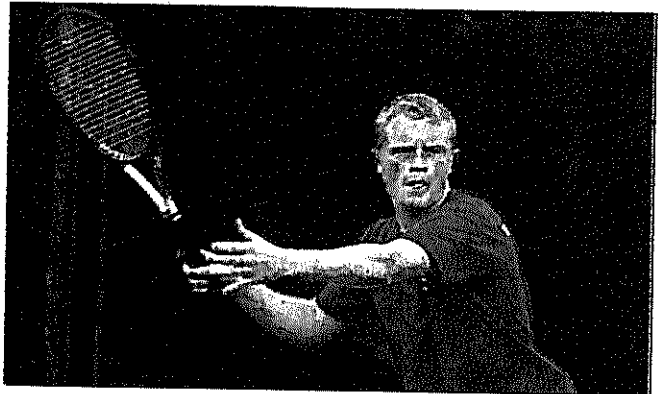


Photo by Josh Stroppe

Wheeling Park's Matt Swenson returns a shot Wednesday during the OVAC Boys' Tennis Tourney.

had missed a beat, but it was Andreini that came away with the set, 7-6 (6).

The second set belonged to Andreini, who won four of the last five points to earn a 6-3 victory to wrap up the OVAC singles and team titles.

"I made sure to give him a nice rest and make sure it was as fair as possible," Andreini said. "I understand that you can have tough matches beforehand. He played his best and I feel I played my best. We both gave it our all."

"It feels really good and I'm so excited. I feel like I played my heart out out there."

"Tennis is a team sport as well as an individual sport. It takes everybody's individual wins. I didn't do it alone, we all did it. Every single person on our team put in a great effort for it and every point mattered."

Added Dailer: "Hugo had a lot of pressure on him. He knew he had to win in order for us to win the championship. He displayed his heart out there."

"He played as hard as he could and knew he could accomplish what he went after."

The OVAC tournament concludes today as the girls' singles championships will take place beginning at 8 a.m. at West Liberty.

OVAC Tennis Tournament (at West Liberty)

Boys

Team Scores

Wheeling Central 18, John Marshall 18, Linsly 16, East Liverpool 13, Wheeling Park 10, Steubenville 9, Cambridge 7, Zanesville 4, St. Clairsville 3, Brooks 3, Indian Creek 2, Oak Glen 1.

Singles

No. 1

Andreini (WC) d. Long (L), 7-6 (6), 6-3

No. 2

Greco (WC) d. Patrick (J) 6-2, 6-4

No. 3

Sorge (WC) d. Riggs (J) 6-1, 6-2

No. 4

Swenson (WP) d. Almeida (Ste) 6-3, 8-