



Photo by Rick Thorp

John Marshall's Hayden Blazer returns a shot during his No. 1 Singles final against Cambridge's Cody Engstrom at WLU's Edgar Martin Tennis Complex.

Cambridge Claims Boys' Title

Engstrom brothers lead Bobcats in final round

By **RICK THORP**
Staff Writer

WEST LIBERTY — It was a bit nippy on the hilltop Thursday. But it wasn't enough to cool off Cambridge's rackets.

The Bobcats, behind twin brothers Cody and Connor Engstrom, claimed their first boys' title since 2007 as the OVAC Tennis Championships concluded at West Liberty University's Edgar Martin Tennis Complex.

Cambridge finished what it started Tuesday when it led after the doubles round.

"I'm very pleased," Bobcats coach Mike Denniston said. "They played hard and well and played with class and good sportsmanship.

"We knew it would be a tough tournament ... it always is. We're just pleased to come out on top."

The Bobcats finished with 20 points to claim the overall and Class 5A crowns. University followed with 16 and Morgantown had 15. Parkersburg South scored 12 points, followed by Brooke (11), Wheeling Park (8), John Marshall (6), Wheeling Central and East Liver-

pool (4), Linsly, Madonna and Indian Creek (2), and Steubenville and Weir (1). Oak Glen didn't score.

Wheeling Central and East Liverpool tied for the Class 4A-1A crown. Tournament Director George Frazier said after going through all of the tiebreaker scenarios both teams remain deadlocked. Therefore, both teams will receive a trophy and be invited to the OVAC Banquet of Champions (May 13) where they will pick up their banners.

It was a banner day for the Engstroms, who also teamed up to win the No. 1 Doubles crown Tuesday.

Cody Engstrom jumped out to an early lead against John Marshall's Hayden Blazer in the No. 1 Singles final and held on for an 8-5 victory.

Blazer, a junior, was the only area player to reach the finals.

"Experience," Monarchs coach Mike Howard said about the difference in the match. "A little more experience. They both hit it hard. It was a good match."

Howard said Blazer had a great season and he's looking forward to seeing what he can do in the West Virginia Class AAA regional tournament next Thursday and Friday back at West Liberty.

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Cambridge Boys Jump To Lead

Morgantown beats Brooke in doubles

WEST LIBERTY — The OVAC Tennis Championships featured boys' doubles Tuesday at West Liberty University under sunny skies and warm temperatures.

Cambridge finished the first day of competition with champions in Nos. 1 and 2 doubles. The top-seeded tandem of Cody and Connor Engstrom earned its seeded title by capturing the final against Abe Valenzuela and Sven Wermuth of University High 8-6.

Cambridge's No. 2 tandem of Aaron Ruby and Kamden Payton, were unseeded and upset two seeds in a row to get to the final against second-seeded Grant Tebay and Juan Cardenas from Parkersburg South. Ruby and Payton won the final by a 8-6 score.

The No. 3 doubles position had seeded teams featuring Morgantown's Andrew McQuain and Iain McKay, playing the Brooke tandem of Chris Beaman and Austin Barnhart. Morgantown won the final by a score of 8-4.

The team scoring at the end of the first day of boys' competition has Cambridge in the lead with 10 points, followed by Morgantown and Parkersburg South with six points apiece.

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CAMBRIDGE

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"He keeps getting better and better," Howard said. "So, if we can get him a little bit stronger, he'll be back next year."

Connor Engstrom defeated Parkersburg South's Grant Tebay, 8-6, in the No. 3 Singles final.

"Our No. 2 Doubles team (Aaron Ruby and Kamden Payton) was unseeded so that kind of springboarded our efforts," Denniston said.

And with sectionals just around the corner, Denniston said the OVAC victory came at a good time.

"This is excellent preparation for that," he said. "We've been able to get some kids to state the last few years and we hope to again."

The Hawks and Mohigans split their two championship showdowns.

Morgantown's Steven

Wu defeated University's Sven Wermuth, 8-1, at No. 2, while the Hawks' Alex Gutierrez disposed of the Mohigans' Daniel Pan, 8-6. Gutierrez's victory elevated University to runner-up.

Note

St. Clairsville's Alex Trouten was named winner of the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award. All coaches submit nominations and, from that group, a winner is drawn.

OVAC Championships (at West Liberty)

Singles

No. 1

Cod.Engstrom (C) d. Blazer (JM), 8-5

No. 2

Wu (M) d. Wermuth (U), 8-1

No. 3

Con.Engstrom (C) d. Tebay (PS), 8-6

No. 4

Gutierrez (U) d. Pan (M), 8-6

CAMBRIDGE

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Brooke and University have five points, Wheeling Central and Wheeling Park scored three points each. Weirton Madonna has two points and East Liverpool, Indian Creek, John Marshall, Linsly, and Weir High, all have one point.

The boys' OVAC Championships will conclude Thursday at West Liberty

with singles competition beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The girls' singles competition will be played this morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. at West Liberty University or the Wheeling Park Bubble, depending on weather conditions. OVAC Tennis Championships will be determined in 1A-4A (small school) and 5A (big school) team winners as

well as individual awards for singles and doubles. An special overall banner will be awarded to the team achieving the most points in both divisions.

Boys' Doubles

No. 1

Cod.Engstrom-Con.Engstrom (Camb) d. Valenzuela, Wermuth (Univ), 8-6.

No. 2

Ruby-Payton (Camb) d. Tebay-Cardenas (PS), 8-6

No. 3

McQuain-McKay (Morgantown) d. Beaman-Barnhart (Brk), 8-4.

All Four No. 1s Claim Singles Titles

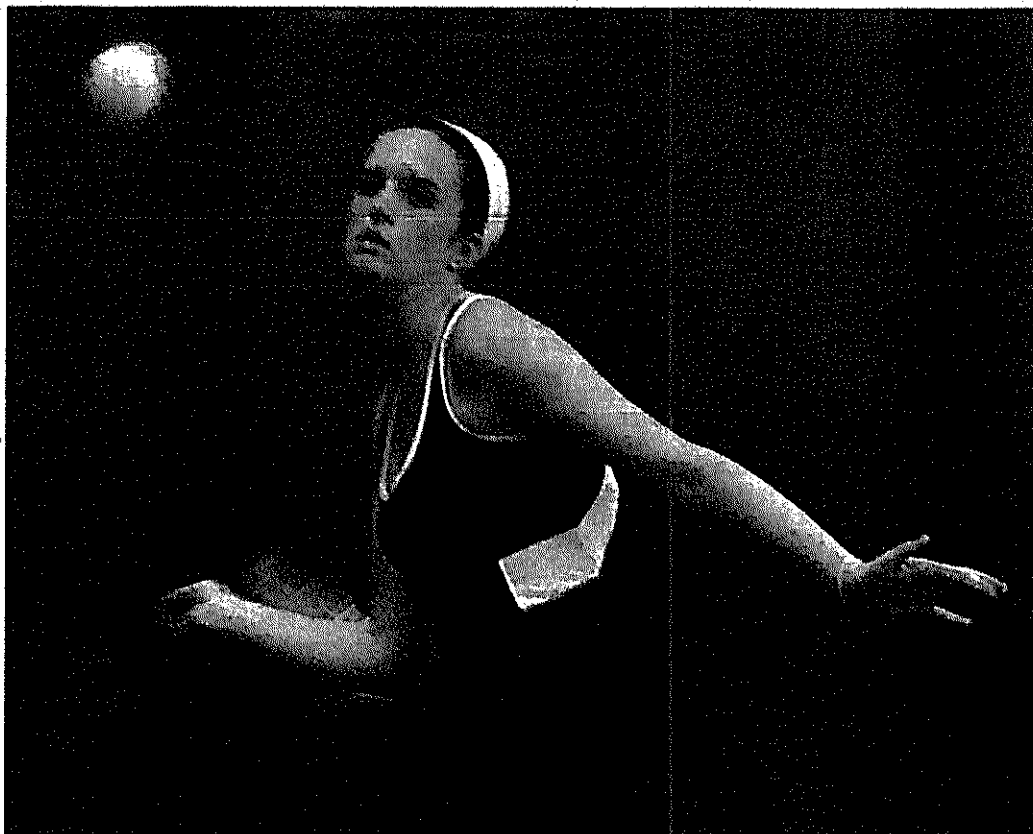


Photo by Rick Thorp

Linsly's Jackie McDermott returns a shot during her match on Wednesday. McDermott finished second at No. 1 Singles. Morgantown's Stephanie Arnold finished first.

Linsly captures Class 4A-1A crown

By **RICK THORP**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The move from West Liberty University to the Wheeling Park Tennis Bubble because of the weather did little to affect the outcome of the OVAC Girls' Tennis Championships.

Form held true for the most part Wednesday as all four No. 1 seeds claimed singles titles as the two-day event wrapped up.

University had two of the winners, and that was enough to lift the Hawks to their second straight overall and Class 5A championships.

Linsly captured the Class 4A-1A crown. The Cadets finished tied with Oak Glen in points, but won on the final tiebreaker — the team that has its No. 1 Doubles duo advance furthest.

The Hawks accumulated 24 points, followed by Morgantown with 20 and Parkersburg South with 13. Linsly and Oak Glen had 11, followed by Wheeling Park with eight, John Marshall and St. Clairsville with four, Madonna and Wheeling Central with three, Brooke with two and Indian Creek one. Weir didn't score.

Jackie McDermott led the way for the Cadets, finishing second at No. 1 Singles to Morgantown's Stephanie Arnold. Arnold, the top seed, topped No. 2-seeded McDer-

mott, 8-5, for her third straight victory in the category.

"(Arnold) won most of the big points," Linsly coach Dave Riethmiller said. "Jackie had some game points and break points in those early games but still fell down, 4-0."

"Arnold played great. She was playing well in the big situations."

This was McDermott's first appearance at No. 1 Singles. The junior won the No. 2 Singles titles the last two years.

Linsly's Amika Ekenam advanced to the semifinals at No. 2 Singles, while teammate Emmy Weaver won a match at No. 3 Singles. Jasmine Shah also won a match at No. 4 Singles.

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TITLES

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"It was a rebuilding year for us, pretty much," Riethmiller said. "We lost four strong seniors off of last year's team and had several newcomers. Four of the six had never played a varsity match before."

Abby Rosiello won the Mohigans' other title at No. 2 Singles where she bested University's Alyssa Rees, 8-1.

Cassie Seamon and Meghan Zerkel claimed championships at No. 3 and No. 4 Singles, respectively, for the Hawks. Seamon bested Parkersburg South's Jessie Mongilio, 8-0, while Zerkel topped Oak Glen's Madison Juszczak by the same score.

"This is the second year in a row we've been able to do this," University coach

Tom Bloom said. "I have an exceptional group of ladies who've been together for three years. They're all juniors and they played to the best of their ability.

"They really wanted to achieve this in getting ready for regionals and state."

The regional tournament is next weekend, with the state tournament the following week in Charleston.

Bloom said playing indoors was an advantage.

"You don't have the weather conditions like sun and wind and they practice inside," he said. "They've been here before and they really came through under the pressure situations and responded well."

Wheeling Central's Joanna Capito advanced to the semifinals at No. 1 Singles before falling to Arnold.

Wheeling Park's Emily Capehart reached the semis at No. 2 Singles before losing to Rosiello, 8-0.

The Golden Bears Abbi Sayre reached the semis at No. 3 Singles.

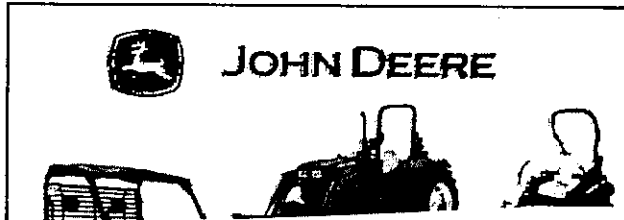
Brooke's Lauren Shelton also won a match at No. 2 Singles.

Notes

Indian Creek's Jessica Furda was named the recipient of the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award. All coaches submit a nominee for the honor and a winner is drawn from that group. ... Awards were presented to Monday's winning doubles duos - Morgantown's Arnold and Rosiello (No. 1), University's Seamon and Zerkel (No. 2) and the Hawks' Shae Chico and MacKenzie Buck (No. 3).

OVAC Championships (at Wheeling)

Singles
No. 1
Arnold (M) d. McDermott (L), 8-5.
No. 2
Rosiello (M) d. Rees (U), 8-1
No. 3
Seamon (U) d. Mongilio (PS), 8-0
No. 4
Zerkel (U) d. Juszczak (OG), 8-0



OVAC Tennis Championships Begin Today at West Liberty

Girls' doubles serve as tourney opener

WEST LIBERTY — The 2013 OVAC Tennis Championships will be held at West Liberty University beginning today through Thursday. Today features girls' doubles and Tuesday features boy's doubles. Play

begins at 8:30 a.m. each day. Singles competition for girls is Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the boy's singles competition on Thursday beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Matches will be moved to the Wheeling Park tennis bubble if weather does not permit play at West Liberty University.

A champion and runnerup in

both boys' and girls' competition will be decided during the four-day tournament in two divisions — 1A-4A and 5A. A special overall banner will be awarded to the top team in boys' and girls' competition. Each individual match victory earns a point for the team. The defending champions from last year are the 5A Morgantown High boys, 1A-4A

Linsly boys, 5A University High girls and the 1A-4A Linsly girls. During the tournament, coaches will vote on a male and female who best exhibit good sportsmanship while competing to earn the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award.

Carol was a longtime Ohio Valley physical therapist and outstanding tennis player who

served several years as the OVAC tennis director. This award was created to honor her work and commitment to tennis and her outstanding character.

West Liberty University will provide athletic trainers during the tournament and the West Liberty men's tennis team will be provide a racquet stringing service during the week.

OVAC tennis gets under way

WEST LIBERTY — Teams from Morgantown ruled Day 1 of the OVAC Tennis Championships on Monday at West Liberty University's Edgard Martin Tennis Complex which featured girls' doubles.

Morgantown's duo of Stephanie Arnold and Abby Rosiello defeated University's Ally Rees and Alyssa Reese to win at No. 1 Doubles, 8-5.

The Hawks rebounded with triumphs at No. 2 and No. 3 Doubles.

At No. 2, Cassie Seamon and Meghan Zerkel topped Parkersburg South's Olivia Osborn and Megan Galici, 8-5.

Shae Chico and MacKenzie Buck downed

South's Ally Monroe and Kaitlyn Fleak, 8-2.

University leads the standings with 11 points, followed by Morgantown with eight and Parkersburg South with six.

Oak Glen has five points, Linsly has four and Wheeling Park three. John

Marshall, St. Clairsville and Madonna have two points, while Brooke and Wheeling Central have one.

The girls' competition will conclude Wednesday with singles action.

Boys' doubles will take place today.

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PREP TENNIS

OVAC Tennis Tournament
(at West Liberty)
Today's Singles Pairings

Boys
No. 1

1 Arnold (Morgantown), BYE; Pauley (JM) vs. Davis (Madonna); Miller (Brooke) vs. Osborn (South); Giordano (Weir) vs. 4 Capito (Whg. Central); 3 Rees (University), BYE; Dennis (StC) vs. Renforth (Indian Creek); Spurlock (Oak Glen) vs. Patterson (Whg. Park); 2 McDermott (Linsly), BYE.

No. 2

1 Rosiello (Morgantown), BYE; Crawford (Oak Glen) vs. Glespell (Weir); Capehart (Whg. Park) vs. Metzger (Whg. Central); Travis (Indian Creek) vs. 4 Shelton (Brooke); 3 Ekanem (Linsly), BYE; Welch (Madonna) vs. Anderson (JM); Hanton (South) vs. Hodgson (StC); 2 Rees (University), BYE.

No. 3

1 Seamon (University), BYE; Rodgers (Whg. Park) vs. Bland (Brooke); Keck (Morgantown) vs. DeNoble (StC); Anderson (Weir) vs. 4 Weaver (Linsly); 3 Mongillo (South), BYE; Furda (Indian Creek) vs. Saporito (Whg. Central); Tordella (JM) vs. Conforti (Madonna); 2 Sayre (Oak Glen), BYE.

No. 4

1 Zerkel (University), BYE; Gandee (StC) vs. Rulong (JM); Shah (Linsly) vs. Tusick (Weir); Duerr (Madonna) vs. 4 Galici (South); 3 Joseph (Morgantown), BYE; Pangilinan (Whg. Central) vs. Fante (Indian Creek); Counselman (Brooke) vs. Rudolph (Whg. Park); 2 Juszcak (Oak Glen), BYE.

OVAC TENNIS

OVAC Tennis Tournament
(at West Liberty)
Today's Singles Pairings

Boys
No. 1

1 Cod Engstrom (Cambridge), BYE; White (Weir) vs. Myers (StC); Albuquerque (Morgantown) vs. Mead (Linsly); Galici (South) vs. 4 Valenzuela (University); 3 Carey (Brooke) vs. Winland (Indian Creek); Hunley (Whg. Park) vs. Lanni (Staubenville); Haley (Whg. Central) vs. Harris (E.Liverpool); Sayre (Oak Glen) vs. 2 Blazer (J.Marshall).

No. 2

1 Wu (Morgantown), BYE; Miller (E.Liverpool) vs. Craig (Staubenville); Hensley (Weir) vs. Cardenas (South); Kinyanjui (Linsly) vs. 4 Mazan (Brooke); 3 Ruby (Cambridge) vs. Baker (StC); Beihart (Oak Glen) vs. Miller (J.Marshall); Szaligo (Whg. Central) vs. Baranski (Whg. Park); Conn (Indian Creek) vs. 2 Wermuth (University).

No. 3

1 Con.Engstrom (Cambridge), BYE; Litman (J.Marshall) vs. Gobrial (Linsly); Rosachi (Staubenville) vs. Hoefler (E.Liverpool); Hammack (Indian Creek) vs. 4 McNight (Morgantown); 3 Schmidt (Whg. Central) vs. Valenzuela (University); Kealing (Brooke) vs. Hall (Oak Glen); Marra (Whg. Park) vs. Douglass (StC); Barna (Weir) vs. 2 Tabay (South).

No. 4

1 Gutierrez (University), BYE; Bickerton (E.Liverpool) vs. Tenaglio (Weir); Bennett (Oak Glen) vs. Herring (South); Caniff (Indian Creek) vs. 4 Troutan (StC); Hockey (Brooke), BYE; Evans (Whg. Park) vs. Shin (Linsly); George (Cambridge) vs. Dominguez (Staubenville); 2 Pan, BYE.

Morgantown Teams Rule OVAC Tennis Opener

University leads after first day of tourney

WEST LIBERTY — Teams from Morgantown ruled Day 1 of the OVAC Tennis Championships on Monday at West Liberty University's Edgard Martin Tennis Complex which featured girls' doubles.

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Stephanie Arnold and Abby Rosiello defeated University's Ally Rees and Alyssa Reese to win at No. 1 Doubles, 8-5.

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Shae Chico and MacKenzie

Buck downed South's Ally Monroe and Kaitlyn Fleak, 8-2.

University leads the standings with 11 points, followed by Morgantown with eight and Parkersburg South with six. Oak Glen has five points, Linsly has four and Wheeling Park three. John Marshall, St. Clairsville and Madonna have two points,

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OVAC

(Continued from Page 13) while Brooke and Wheeling Central have one.

The girls' competition will conclude Wednesday with singles action.

Boys' doubles will take place today.

OVAC Championships (at West Liberty) Doubles

- No. 1**
Arnold-Rosiello (M) d. Rees-Reese (U), 8-5
- No. 2**
Seamon-Zerkel (U) d. Osborn-Galici (PS), 8-5
- No. 3**
Chico-Buck (U) d. Monroe-Fleak (PS), 8-2