

CAPS TAKE GAME 1

T.J. Oshie completes a hat trick in overtime
as Capitals beat Penguins in opener/14

The Intelligencer SPORTS

FRIDAY
APRIL 29, 2015

STOCKS12-13

9

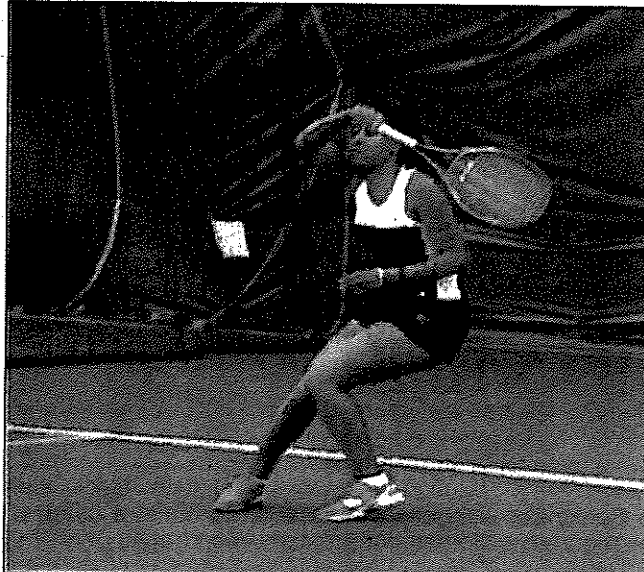


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Linsly Girls Claim 6th in Row

Morgantown earns 5-A tennis crown

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Linsly girls' tennis team could not have asked for a better way to end its season. During the last day of the OVAC Tennis Championships at the Wheeling Park Bubble on Thursday, the Cadets had representatives in all four of the finals. With two victories and two runner-ups, Linsly tallied a total of 24 points during the two days to claim the 1-A/4-A title for the sixth year in a row.

"It was a fantastic day and tournament," Linsly coach Dave Riethmiller said. "I'm really proud of the

girls. We were a little disappointed that we didn't get to play Morgantown at No. 1 and No. 2 singles. We had a real tough loss to them at No. 1 doubles and the girls really wanted to play them. But it worked out all right."

Morgantown, which was the 5-A champion (25 points), had two forfeits as a pair of girls had a prior commitment at their school and had to leave the tournament early.

Sheridan White got the championship victory by forfeit to secure the first singles victory for the Cadets. At the No. 2 spot, the Cadets tallied another championship as Amika Ekanem defeated Oak Glen's Katie Szymanski, 8-1.

At No. 3 singles, Lydia Andlinger, just coming off a marathon match victory against Wheeling Park's

Julianna Pond (8-6), got runner-up, falling to Morgantown's Demi Derri-co, 8-0.

Madison Helmick posted a runner-up finish as the Mohigans' Vinitha Joseph ran away with their match, 8-1.

With it being a sixth OVAC championship in a row, Riethmiller could not be happier with the players he has had.

"It just means I have been blessed with some wonderful talent for the last six years," Riethmiller said. "I really have. We graduate our No. 1, 2 and 4 players this year. We might have a rebuilding season next year but I've just been blessed with some great girls to coach and some great talent."

Please See LINSLY, Page 10

Linsly's Amika Ekanem after a return during her OVAC finals match. Ekanem posted an 8-1 victory.

LINSLY

(Continued from Page 9)

With the Cadets season finished, the three graduating seniors could not have asked for a better way to go out.

"This is it for us. We don't do states," Riethmiller said. "We put all our eggs in this basket. We have three seniors that ended with a great tournament and it was a good way for them to go out. They had great careers."

Oak Glen was the 1-A/4-A runner-up as it finished with 12 points followed by St. Clairsville and Madonna both with three. Indian Creek rounded out the 1-A/4-A schools with two points.

For the Golden Bears, it was the fourth straight year finishing as runner-up.

"It was a good day," Oak Glen coach Kenneth Keller said. "Linsly has a great

program and is always a strong team. We are pretty proud of ourselves to take runner-up."

On the big-school side, Wheeling Park finished in second place with 11 points followed by Parkersburg South (nine) and John Marshall (four). Brooke, Weir and University all scored three points.

Three Wheeling Park players made it to the semifinals before bowing out. They were Abby Jones, Ritika Reddy and Pond.

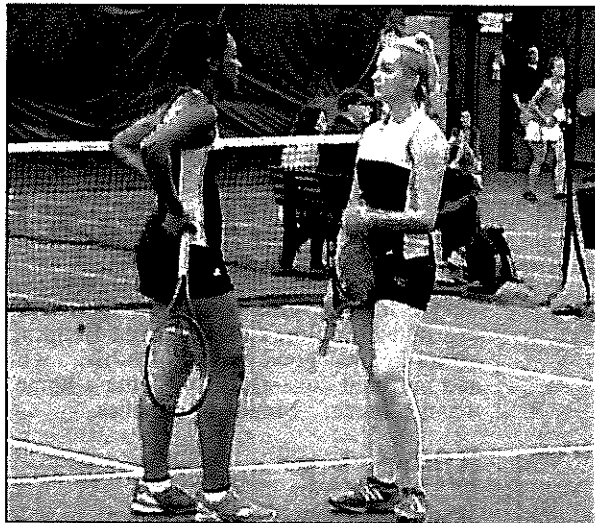
With everybody coming back next year and with the postseason just around the corner, the future looks bright for the Patriots.

"I think this will give us motivation to come back even stronger next year and work together more in the offseason," Wheeling Park coach Stephanie Sada said.



Linsly's Amika Ekanem confers with teammate Sheridan White during the finals of girls' No. 1 doubles Tuesday.

Photo by Dorsey Kindler



Morgantown Flexes Its Muscle

Mohigans sweep at OVAC girls' doubles

By DORSEY KINDLER
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Linsly girls' tennis coach Dave Riethmiller had one goal coming into the doubles portion of the OVAC Championship on Tuesday at Wheeling Park's Bubble — to make it to all three of the finals. That the Cadets did, only to fall to Morgantown in No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 doubles.

"We knew we had a good chance at No. 1," Riethmiller

said. "We beat Morgantown at No. 1 doubles once during the regular season. But it was a very, very close match. We were hoping we could take them again. But we lost a heartbreaker here."

He was referring of course to his dynamic duo of Sheridan White and Amika Ekanem who lost to Morgantown's Lexie Rosiello and Lily McKnight, 9-8 (8-6 timebreaker).

"One of the championship points was a let-court winner," Riethmiller said. "That's tough."

No. 2 doubles action saw Morgantown's Demi Derrico and

Vinitha Joseph defeat Linsly's Lydia Andlinger and Madison Helmick, 8-0. And in No. 3 action, Morgantown's Mackenzie Sorton and Isabella Mascari defeated Linsly's Caitlin Mead and Lakin Snider, 8-1.

Despite his two freshman losing in No. 3 doubles, Riethmiller said they handled the pressure well and played their best tennis of the year.

After the first day of competition in girls' doubles, Morgantown leads the field in 5-A with

Please See MUSCLE, Page 14

Gets OVAC Runner-Up

By DORSEY KINDLER
Staff Writer

WEST LIBERTY — Wheeling Central High School made it all the way to the finals in boys' No. 2 singles' action yesterday. Only to be felled by mighty University — the Morgantown high school with nearly five times the enrollment. University's Sam Valenzuela defeated the Maroon Knights' Giorgio Alexander, 8-2.

"I think we did very well for the small team that we have," said Wheeling Central Tennis Coach Peggy Dailer.

"We had kind of a bad draw for doubles the other day. But we came back today and had a great finish."

In No. 1 singles Ben White of Parkersburg South defeated University's Drew Hawthorne, 8-5.

Cambridge came out on top in number No. 3 with Andrew Eddy defeating East Liverpool's Isaac Davidson, 9-7.

And in number No. 4 singles, Joe Goggin of Cambridge defeated Auggie Chico of University, 8-4.

Yesterday was the last day of boys' competition, and in team play University came out on top with 18 points in the 5-A division.

Cambridge finished second with 16 team points.

Next up was Parkersburg South with 14 points.

Followed by John Marshall and Steubenville with seven points apiece. Wheeling Park scored three team points. While Brooke scored one.

Please See OVAC, Page 17

OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

In the 1-A-4-A division, East Liverpool took top honors with 12 team points. St. Clairsville eked out the runner-up team spot by one point over Wheeling Central with nine points and eight points respectively.

Rounding out the division were Linsly and Oak Glen with three points each.

Indian Creek came in with two team points while Madonna scored one team point.

The OVAC Tennis Championship concludes today with girls' singles. The action will most likely take place in the Wheeling Park Bubble because of inclement weather.

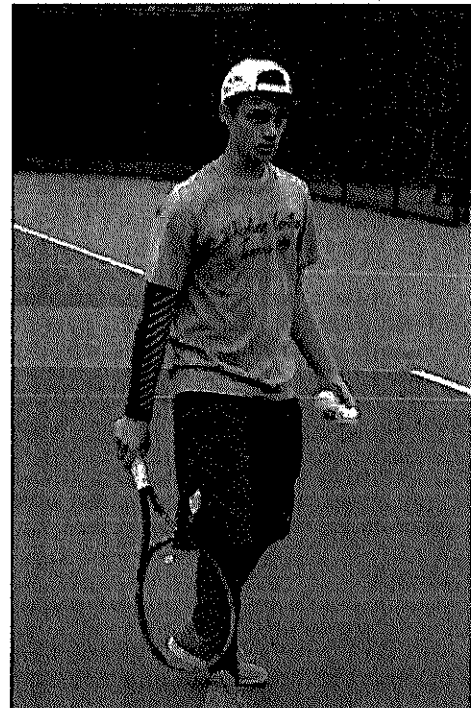


Photo by Dorsey Kindler
Wheeling Central's Giorgio Alexander during an OVAC match Wednesday.