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OVAC Championship Week

Mohigans Girls Sweep Tennis Doubles Action

Patriots take second in all three flights

WEST LIBERTY — Day 1 of the OVAC Tennis Championships at West Liberty University featured girls' doubles that were contested in three flights. Matches were played at WLU

until the rain forced the finals to be played at the Wheeling Park Bubble.

The event came down to a competition between two 5A schools, Morgantown and Wheeling Park, with both teams having finalists in all three flights. Unfortunately for the Patriots, the Mohigans were too tough as they swept all three doubles flights.

Morgantown's Lexie Rosiello and

Lily McKnights captured the No. 1 doubles crown with an 8-0 victory against Park's Abby Jones and Matilda Weeks. At No. 2 doubles, the Mohigans' Vinitha Joseph and Christina White knocked off the Patriots' Ritika Reddy and Julianna Pond, 8-4. Finally at No. 3, Morgantown's MacKenzie Sorton and Isabella Mascari took down Wheeling Park's Abigail Mulhern and

Emily Tork, 8-6.

Morgantown leads tghе team competition by three points oon Wheeling Park. The girls' portion of the event concludes today at West Liberty with four flights of singles action. Matches begin at 8:30 a.m.

Also today, team competitions with be decided in both the 1A-4A division and the 5A division.

JM's Glines, Rose Fall in No. 1 Finals

WEST LIBERTY — The OVAC Tennis Championships continued on Wednesday for Day 3 that featured boys doubles. It was a perfect day for tennis as it was the first day this week that was played entirely on the campus of West Liberty.

John Marshall's Riley Glines and Jacob Rose advanced to the finals in the No. 1 Doubles before falling to University's Drew Hawthorne and Joseph Gutmann, 8-1. At No. 2 Doubles, Cambridge's Tyler Carpenetti and Isaac Stanberry defeated University's Kyle Hawthorne and Jackson Rutledge, 9-7. Akim Zaniel and Jeff Petty of Morgantown won No. 3 Doubles against Jack Goggin and Reese Lingafeller of Cambridge.

After competition, University led the entire field with nine points, putting them in first place in the 5A division. John Marshall and Wheeling Park both ended with four points while Brooke tallied one.

In the 1A-4A division, East Liverpool has a small lead for first place with three points followed closely by Wheeling Central (2). Linsly, Oak Glen, St. Clairsville and Steubenville each tallied one point.

Today is the final day of competition as Boys Singles will take place. Matches are set to begin at 8:30 p.m. at West Liberty.

The winners of the 5A and 1A-4A divisions will also be decided.

OVAC tennis starts Monday

The 2017 OVAC Tennis Championships will be held at West Liberty University beginning Monday and running through Thursday. The tournament schedule for this year is different from previous years. The girl's and boy's competition will be held on consecutive days instead of alternating between the two for singles and doubles competition. Monday features girl's doubles and Tuesday features girl's singles. Play begins each day at 8:30 a.m.. Boy's doubles competition is Wednesday, and boy's singles is Thursday, also beginning at 8:30.

Matches will be moved to the Wheeling Park Bubble if weather does not permit play at West Liberty University. A champion and runner-up in both girl's and boy's school competition will be decided over the course of the 4-day tournament in two divisions again this year: 1A/4A schools and 5A schools. Each individual match win earns a point for their school's team.

Singles and doubles champions and runners-up will also earn special individual awards in the various divisions.

The defending champions from 2016 are 5A: Morgantown High girls; 1A/4A: Linsly girls; 5A: University High boys; and 1A/4A: East Liverpool High boys. This year's team competition appears to be very evenly matched!

During the OVAC Tennis Championships, coaches will vote on a male and female player who best exhibits good sportsmanship while competing in the tournament to earn the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award. Strasser was a long time Ohio Valley tennis player/physical therapist who was known for outstanding sportsmanship and who served for several years as the OVAC Tennis Director. The award was created to honor her work and commitment to tennis and her good character.

West Liberty University will provide athletic trainers during the tournament and the West Liberty University men's tennis team will provide racquet stringing service during the week. The tournament seeding meeting will be held today at Wheeling Park High School beginning with the girl's seeding at 4 p.m. followed by the boy's seeding at approximately 5:15.

Questions can be forwarded to George Frazier, OVAC Tennis Director at (304) 639-3294 or runningracquet@aol.com.