

East girls tennis dominates ECIC doubles

Williamsville East was a triple threat at last week's ECIC doubles Tournament last Friday and Saturday at the Village Glen Tennis Club.

Sophomore Miranda Podlas and senior Monica Vieth, East's second and third singles players all season, combined to win the doubles tournament. Junior Justine Rusk and eighth-grader Emma Manuel took third; senior Kristina Lazzaro and junior Alyssa Drozynski placed fifth. The top eight teams qualified for the Section VI Championships Oct. 26-27 at the Miller Tennis Center.

"I suspected we would have a good chance at sending all three teams to sectionals but the way they played and where they finished was quite an accomplishment," said East coach Mike Vendetti. "I left the Village Glen on Saturday tremendously proud of all six girls."

It's already been a great season for East. Last week, Olga Khmylev won the ECIC singles crown. This past Thursday East

(13-0) capped off an undefeated regular season by blanking ECIC I powerhouse and previously unbeaten Orchard Park, 5-0.

Vieth and Podlas lost five games on route to becoming ECIC doubles champions. They defeated Frontier's Mary Bianca and Katie Rich, 6-0, 6-0, in the first round, Williamsville South's Stephanie Berland and Katie Dukarm, 6-1, 6-0, in the second round, and all three Orchard Park duos from the quarterfinals to the finals — Carti Sherry and Amanda Rockwood, 6-0, 6-0; Jen Waris and Heather Ross, 6-0, 6-0; and Catie Wickline and Caroline Bristol, 6-4, 6-0.

Rusk and Manuel, the team's No. 1 doubles team during the regular season, beat Amherst's Elizabeth Greco and Jordan Zloty, 6-1, 3-1 (retired); Hamburg's Lauren O'Brien and Emily Nuding, 6-2, 6-0; and Clarence's Haley Clover and Samantha Heleba, 6-3, 6-4 before falling to Wickline and Bristol, 1-6, 1-6, in the semifinals. Rusk and Manuel regrouped to

beat Waris and Ross, 6-4, 6-4, for third place.

Lazzaro and Drozynski, East's second doubles team during the regular season, beat Alden's Kristen Flick and Ashley Ruhlan, 6-0, 6-1 and Williamsville North's Kelley Matthews and Maddie Robinson, 7-5, 7-5, before falling to Waris and Ross, 5-7, 7-5, 3-6, in the quarterfinals. In playbacks, the duo beat Alden's Jessica Page and Danielle Vahawicz, 4-1, 5-3 and Clover and Heleba, 4-0, 0-4, 4-1.

Against OP, Khmylev defeated Bristol, 6-3, 6-1, at first singles; Podlas beat Wickline, 6-1, 6-0, at second singles; and Vieth won over Waris, 6-2, 6-0 at third singles. East's doubles teams were also successful. Rusk and Manuel defeated OP's Ross and Sherry, 6-7, 6-2, 6-4, at first doubles; and Lazaaro and Drozynski beat Rockwood and Emily Brydges, 6-4, 6-3.

East played Kenmore East in the gold flight of the team championships on Tuesday. Results were unavailable before The Bee

went to press.

Williamsville North

Robinson, a freshman and Matthews, a sophomore, opened with a 6-0, 6-0 first round over Maryvale's Supinder Meeta and Brynn Johnson. Coach Hilary Nichols said Matthews was tough at the net and Robinson had powerful serves.

Following a long wait time, Robinson and Matthews faced Lazzaro and Drozynski. Nichols said the team had trouble holding the lead due to some unforced errors. After being ahead by two games in both sets, they succumbed to East.

Robinson and Matthews, the team's first doubles team during the regular season, only had one loss during the regular season.

North's other doubles team, senior Kiran Malhi and junior Sophie Wang, faced East Aurora's Theresa Morlock and Sarah Bremmer and came out on top, 6-3, 6-2.

"They played an aggressive style of play, including getting to

net every chance they got," said Nichols.

Unfortunately, North had the misfortune of facing OP's Bristol and Wickline, the Lady Quakers' first and second singles players, in the second round.

"We couldn't string together any games but did take a number of games to deuce," said Nichols.

Nichols said neither team qualified for sectionals but did gain tournament experience for next season. Only Malhi graduates.

Amherst Central

Amherst's other doubles team of Katherine Janicke and Theresa Gladysz lost in the first round to West Seneca East's Ariana Musili and Rachel Yalowich, 1-6, 1-6. The Lady Tigers did finish the regular season by sharing the ECIC Division III crown with Starpoint.

Sweet Home

Luda Gugkaeba and Laura Hanzly beat Cheektowaga's Jenn Carr and Melanie Grzebinski in the first round before falling to Alden's Page and Vahawicz in the second round.

North can't capitalize on opportunities, loses at Falls

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville North had many positives they could take out of its football game at Niagara Falls last Friday night.

The Spartans caused four turnovers, two interceptions and two fumble recoveries, and

recorded 284 yards of total offense. However, North couldn't cash in any of its opportunities the defense gave them, resulting in a 39-14 loss to drop the Spartans to 1-6 overall, 0-5 in Class AA North.

"We're a work in progress," said North coach Mike Mammoliti. "We're doing a lot of things well

but not consistently. We get in crucial situations and can't convert. Our defense gave us great field position a number of times and we didn't take advantage."

A series of plays set North back 20-0 by halftime. Ahead 7-0 with 5:01 left in the second quarter, Wolverine quarterback Josh Salada spun away from the grasp of junior defensive tackle Jerome Fields and senior linebacker Mike Toth in the end zone and threw a 91-yard TD to receiver Jonathan Iveys. On the first play of North's ensuing drive, junior quarterback Anthony Longazro fumbled the ball at the Spartan 20 and a couple plays later, Salada hit Iveys on a

15-yard TD with 16.5 seconds remaining.

"I thought the 15-yard TD was a tougher play to swallow than the 91-yarder," said Mammoliti. "To be down 20-0 instead of 13-0 was big for us."

North got great field position early in the second half when junior linebacker Mike Herberger recovered a fumble at the Falls' 17 on the second play of the third quarter; however, the North offense turned the ball over on downs.

North finally got on the scoreboard at the end of the third quarter and midway through the fourth quarter on TD passes of 69

and 53 yards from Longazro (8 of 17, 186 yards, interception) to senior Austin Benschadle (three receptions, 151 yards; interception on defense). Benschadle ran fade patterns for each score.

"Austin made a nice move on one of their linebackers and ran by the rest of their defense on his second touchdown," said Mammoliti.

Niagara Falls scored two late TDs, one set up by a Benschadle fumble that gave them possession at the North 20.

Junior Ernest Jacobs led the North ground attack with 19 carries for 88 yards. He also had one reception for 14 yards. The regular starting running backs, Jim Gaines (concussion) and Steve Pekarski (knee) were injured and did not play.

Josh Barrett had three receptions for 24 yards and had eight tackles and an interception at free safety. Herberger added eight tackles; Toth registered seven tackles.

North closes out its 2007 season with its homecoming at 2 p.m. Saturday against division-leading Orchard Park.

"We're still playing with a lot of passion," said Mammoliti. "We've never given up."

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Panthers

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Kacz threw a 39-yard TD to junior Noah Nwachukwu on the fourth play of scrimmage. Kacz completed seven of nine passes for 112 yards. He has thrown for 1,086 yards and 12 TDs this season.

Sweet Home finished with 330 total yards of offense (122 pass, 208 rush).

Junior Brandon Hudson recovered a fumble for Sweet Home. Sophomore Deshanaro Morris was in on 11 tackles.

Both of the Flames' touchdowns came late in the fourth quarter after Sweet Home had put in reserves. Stubben- deck hit Silvestri for a 26-yard TD pass and the two-point conversion with 2:47 remaining. After East forced Sweet Home to punt, Stubben-

deck hit Silvestri on a 45-yard TD with 15.5 seconds to play.

Faller said East finished with 199 total yards (80 passing, 119 rushing). Langfelder recovered a fumble; MP Joseph recorded a sack. Fumerelle felt senior Tyler Durinka had his best game of the season on the offensive and defensive line. Langfelder led the East rushing attack.

East (1-5, 1-6) closes out the regular season hosting Grand Island in its homecoming game at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

"The kids competed hard and never gave up," said Fumerelle. "We haven't played like a 1-6 team. We've been in every game. Miscues have been hurting us."

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Another easy win for Mesi

Town of Tonawanda heavyweight "Baby" Joe Mesi added the name Shannon Miller to his list of first-round knockout opponents Saturday.

Mesi (36-0, 29 knockouts) floored Miller (15-4, nine knockouts) with nine seconds left in the first round of their main-event bout at the Twin River Event Center in Lincoln, R.I.

With the victory, Mesi captured the vacant World Boxing Council U.S. National Championship, a minor title. It's his first title since winning the vacant North American Boxing Federation title in 2003, before his two-year medical suspension.

Mesi is 7-0 since making his comeback last year and has won the past three fights by first-round knockout. He has 12 KOs in the first round in his career.

Mesi is planning one more fight before the end of the year, but an opponent and venue have not been determined.

Town

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Alex Ullrich was medalist against South and East with scores of 38 and 39, respectively. He added a 41 in North's first match with Sweet Home. Matt Sweeney added a 39.

Kuebler (37), Katz and O'Connor (40s) senior Jack Mitchell and junior Frank Knab (41s) and Ullrich and Sweeney (42s) led North in its second win over the Panthers. Mark Rusch's 38 and 39s from Brett Guynn and Ryan Kaminski paced Sweet Home.

Kuebler finished with a 40.8 stroke average followed by Ullrich (42.8), Sweeney (42.6), Katz (43.2) and O'Connor (43.8).

Williamsville South

South finished the regular season 0-10 after losing to Amherst, 306-330 and Sweet Home, 304-306 last week. Klocke and Winstel led South with a 43 and 45, respectively. Mike Hong (38), Will Pelham (40), Marty Jeras (42) and Jake Struebing (43) shot

well for the Tigers.

Munley and Winstel tied for medalist with Sweet Home's Damien Annas with a 40. Zhang had a season-best 41; Klocke chipped in a 43.

"We tried to avoid going winless but we played well, that's all you can ask," said South coach Al Monaco.

Ryan Kaminski's 41 tipped the scales in Sweet Home's favor.

Sweet Home

The Panthers finished 3-7 but lost two matches by four shots.

"It turned out to be what I expected from a young team," said Sweet Home coach Mike Tojek. "They learned a lot through the season that matches we lost this year, I wouldn't expect them to lose next year."

Sophomore Damien Annas was the team's most consistent golfer with a 42.5 average. His lowest round was a 39. Ju-

niors Brett Guynn (43), Mark Rusch (43.3, team's most improved golfer) and Dave Sykes (43.9), senior Brian Barnas (44), junior Ryan Kaminski (44.5) all qualified for ECICs. Sophomore Tyler Schrembs has been a great addition to the team, Tojek added.

ECIC Tournament

Qualifying for sectionals from the Town of Amherst were Williamsville East's Justin Cardon, Sean Mahon and Dave Rundell, Williamsville North's E.J. Kuebler and Dan O'Connor, Williamsville South's Rob Munley and Sweet Home's Dave Sykes.

Cardon fell four shots short of winning the entire tournament, firing rounds of 38 and 38 for a score of 76. Clarence's Pat Sheedy won the tournament with a 72.

Mahon was seven shots off the lead with a 79. Rundell won a playoff hole with eight other golfers, including Amherst's Will Pel-

ham, to snag the final sectional spot with a score of 84. He hit for par on the first playoff hole and birdied on the second hole.

Kuebler shot a 78 to place him in a four-way tie for fifth. O'Connor and Munley, ranked 57th and 45th going into the tournament, were among eight golfers who had a score of 83. Sykes finished one place higher with an 82.

Others golfers from the Town of Amherst are North's Alex Ullrich (86), Matt Sweeney (95) and Ben Katz (98), East's Mark Chaskes (91) and Bill Gaffney (93), South's John Winstel (91) and P.J. Klocke (95), Amherst's Jake Struebing and Mike Hong (88 each), and Marty Jeras (94) and Sweet Home's Mark Rusch (88), Damien Annas (93), and Brian Barnas (104).

Cardon and Kuebler made the All-ECIC first team.

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