

Tennis team picks up two wins before AMCC's

by Amy Frizzell
staff writer

During this past weekend the Lions took its annual road trip, traveling to Pitt-Greensburg on Friday, Frostburg on Saturday, and Altoona on Sunday.

The men were able to down Pitt-Greensburg beating them 9-0 to keep their conference record at a perfect 4-0.

But the team wasn't able to hold it together the rest of the weekend. Saturday, it fell to Frostburg 6-3.

Coming away with the only wins against Frostburg were freshman Jon Barber at third singles, freshman John Marini at fifth singles, and sophomore Aaron Whiting at sixth singles.

Next the men fell to Altoona despite beating them earlier in the season. They lost 5-4 on Sunday, dropping their conference record to 4-2.

Marini and Whiting were able to come away with singles wins against Altoona, along with sophomore Ryan Deimel at first singles and sophomore captain Mike Oey at second singles.

"It was just bad doubles play," said coach Jeff Barger. "We needed to win two out of the three doubles matches to win those matches and we didn't."

The Lions bounced back on Wednesday when they played Thiel. After the match was postponed twice due to weather the Lions served up an ace, winning 9-0. The match was the first one the team played outside while at home.

"We were coming off two loses that we should

After a weekend of no hits in the doubles department, everyone was happy with the results of the doubles teams.

Deimel and Marini won at first doubles 8-4, sophomore captain Jacob Hillmann and Oey won at second doubles 8-1 and Barber and Whiting took third doubles at 8-0.

The men will be able to use the win as a starting point this week as they prepare for the AMCC Championships on Saturday.

"This week we're going back to the basics," said Barger of the team's preparation. "They'll be hitting a lot of ground strokes, volleys, and serves."

The championships will be held at Altoona. The men will have to beat out Frostburg and Pitt-Greensburg along with defending champs Altoona to claim the title.

"We want to make it to the finals in every flight," said Barger.

But to do this the team will have to keep up its doubles play.

With an overall record of 11-4 and a conference record of 4-2 the team is looking forward to the possibility of being able to add 2003 AMCC Champions to its powerhouse season.

Even though the rest of the season is looking up for the team, their postseason isn't looking too good.

"We lost our chance to make it to regionals when we lost to Frostburg and Altoona," said Deimel.

"There is a possibility for a post season but we needed to be 16-2 instead of 14-4, though I'm not ruling the postseason out completely," said Barger.

For now the team has chosen to focus on its first goal of the season.

Milicic vs. James: The race for first continues to bring debate

by Jennifer Woolson
contributing writer

Even those who aren't basketball fans are paying attention to this year's draft news. Who will be first pick? Darko Milicic? Unlikely Carmelo Anthony? Or guaranteed money-maker LeBron James? Many in the know say James, although little is known about 17-year-old Yugoslavian threat.

Milicic, the young center from Vrsac, Yugoslavia, entered the European pros at age 14. His parents sold their only car to buy a cow, saying that the growing athlete needed milk more than they needed transportation.

Milicic and his agent, Marc Cornstein, have found ways to get around the NBA league requirement that players be 18 before entering the draft. He will turn 18 before the draft but not before the 45-day window to declare eligibility by three weeks. Cornstein's tireless work has resulted in Milicic almost guaranteed to be the second draft pick.

While Milicic has been holding his own against the best professional men in Europe, James has been acclaimed for dominating high school boys. This doesn't matter to some of basketball's higher-ups.

"He hasn't played [in the summer] with NBA players and left them standing speechless like LeBron," a Western executive told espn.com reporters.

An Eastern Conference GM agrees. "If you're going to draft [Darko over LeBron], you better have a damn good reason," he said. "This has been the biggest buildup of a high school player of all time."

It does seem like James is the wisest choice, monetarily. He will generate millions of dollars in ticket and jersey sales for whichever team wins the draft lottery's first pick.

Milicic, however, remains a serious player, practicing between five and six hours a day and working with tough coaches to perfect his game. He feels that he's prepared for the NBA and that the NBA agrees.

"The people from the NBA who come to see me think I'm ready," Milicic told espn.com reporter Chad Ford.

Journalist Marc Stein for espn.com said, "2003 will be a great year to have the third overall selection in the NBA Draft," showing confidence in each of the top three picks.

Tune in to ABC's coverage of the draft lottery to be held on May 22 and find out who the three lucky teams will be.

This time Jordan seems to really mean retirement



KRT CAMPUS PHOTO

Jordan talked with friends before he played his last game, for real, this time.

by Sam Smith
Chicago Tribune

Bye, Mike. It has been a long, sometimes strange, mostly exciting, always memorable trip. It has given everyone reason to smile, and there's no reason to be sad now. If, indeed, it was for the love of the game, it was a very splendid thing.

"When you've got to give up something you love, obviously it's an emotional situation," Michael Jordan said Wednesday following the final game of his NBA career. "I came to grips with it before tonight. Tonight just brings back the impact you have had on people, everywhere you have played. To hear them yell and pay respects that way is a chilling event. I felt proud about what I have done over the years. I'm happy with it. I can move on without a problem."

"I'm a guy who loved the game," Jordan added, a cigar in his hand, his voice strong and his heart on his sleeve. "I never took the game for granted. I was true to the game and the game was very true to me. It's like trying to determine how long you're going to love a person. Love is a very delicate thing. Once you love it, you never lose the love. You never know when you can walk away. I tried a couple of times for different reasons. But as much as I love the game, there's other components (now) that need my love, my attention, and I can easily walk away."

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