

## SPORTS

## Men's tennis wins first conference match

By Mike Tomko  
staff writer

This weekend the men's tennis team split their conference matches defeating Pitt-Greensburg on Saturday by a score of 8-1 but falling to Penn State Altoona 5-4 on Sunday.

On Saturday, the Lions at home took two of three doubles matches against Pitt-Greensburg. In number one doubles Junior John Marini and freshman Steve Rohm won their match 8-2. In number two doubles Senior Jeremiah Gutherie and freshman Miles Boyea won their match 8-3. The third doubles team which consisted of freshman Brian Kaleta and freshman Daryl Nowacki lost their match 8-4.

The Lions took all six singles matches versus Pitt-Greensburg. freshman Miles Boyea won his match 6-0, 6-0. Sophomore Brian Espin was vic-



FILE PHOTO

Last year the men's tennis team ended its 2004 season winning the AMCC Championship title. It defeated Frostburg by one point. This year the teams hopes to repeat its success after losing four of its players.

torious in his match by a score of 6-1, 6-1. Senior Todd Guarnieri won his match 6-2, 6-3. Sophomore Matt Meyer, freshman James Myers and freshman Trevor Dougherty also won their matches.

Dougherty was given honorable mention for conference player of the week with a 2-0 singles record versus conference opponents and 3-0 overall.

On Sunday at home, the team was less successful, losing to Penn State Altoona. Fatigue set in from the match the previous day. The Lions came out in a lull losing all three doubles matches. Myers and Marini had the best match but still lost 9-7.

"During the Pitt-Greensburg (match) we were all pumped before the match during the PSU Altoona (match) we were pretty worn out," said Rohm.

Even though the Lions were down, they came roaring back to capture four of the six single matches. Boyea won his match 7-5, 6-0. Myers won his match by a score of 6-2, 6-2. Meyer and Dougherty also won their matches by forcing three sets.

"Coach is handling the team well; he does a very good job of giving us inspirational comments during the match that are simply amazing," said Rohm.

On Wednesday the Lions hosted Thiel College

in a non-conference match up. The Lions won the match by a score of 6-3 improving the Lions record to 7-6 on the season with a 1-1 conference record.

The Lions won all three of the doubles matches. Boyea and Guarnieri won their match 8-5, Espin and Meyer won their match 8-6 and Dougherty and Myers defeated their opponents 8-5.

In singles matches, the Lions won three of their six singles matches. Winning for the Lions were Guarnieri 6-3, 6-1, Myers 6-0, 6-1 and Dougherty 6-0, 6-1. Boyea, Espin and Meyer all lost for the Lions.

Penn State Altoona currently leads the AMCC Conference with a 4-1 record and 2-0 in the conference, but the Lions still feel good about their chances to win the AMCC title. The team is optimistic that they will end the year as AMCC champs. This year's team seems to be deeper than last year's team that took home the AMCC title.

The Lions next two games are at home versus Alfred on April 1 and a conference match at home versus Frostburg on April 2.

## Tar Heels on fire; NCAA moves ahead to Sweet Sixteen

By Tim Kawakami  
Knight Ridder Newspapers  
(KRT)

I have seen, up close, the next NCAA champion and it is North Carolina, though I wish I could find a way to imagine otherwise.

Louisville was my wild-hare pick at the start of this and Louisville trounced Georgia Tech on Sunday to move into the Sweet 16, thank God, thumbs up and hallelujah.

I enjoy Washington, respect Illinois, would never slight Oklahoma State and continue to praise Wisconsin, Villanova and Arizona.

Through gritted teeth, I hail the surviving bracket-saboteurs: Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Utah, West Virginia and North Carolina State.

But what I saw from North Carolina, in just a single practice and a single game while I was in Charlotte, powerfully supercedes all initial wishes and predictions about who will be cutting down the nets in St. Louis.

I saw point guard Raymond Felton dribbling past anybody who tried to stop him. I saw Sean May snapping down rebounds every time he reached in the air.

I saw Rashad McCants swish deep jump shots when he wasn't guarded and, even more impressively for him, pass up bad shots when he was. I saw waves of tough and talented substitutes report in for Coach Roy Williams at every whistle.

Most tellingly, I saw freshman reserve forward Marvin Williams outrun, outjump and outrageously outmaneuver everybody on the floor, including his own future NBA teammates.

Can you imagine Syracuse's 2003 national-title team, if its lineup was good enough to keep Carmelo Anthony on the bench as a secret weapon?

That's North Carolina and nobody else.

Lined up next to scrappy Duke, which also played its first two rounds in Charlotte, North Carolina looked like an NBA All-Star team, with Duke's only possible edge being Coach Mike Krzyzewski over Williams.

Lined up against recent tournament dominators, the Tar Heels have the feel of last year's Connecticut squad, a No. 2 seed that didn't establish its aura of superiority until after a couple of early-round stompings.

Lined up against the rest of the Syracuse Regional survivors, the Heels have to keep playing well, but Bucknell cleared out Kansas and North Carolina State cleared out Connecticut. (By the way, contrary to Jim Nantz and Billy Packer's initial warblings, this was not the "greatest regional" ever \_ not when it was announced, not now, not ever. Kansas was highly overrated and defending champion UConn never ran at full power.)

Lined up against the other No. 1 seeds, Carolina is deeper and bigger than Washington (the only other top team with first- and second-round romps) and Duke, which beat Carolina once in the ACC and I have no idea how, and much bigger than Illinois.

Plus, Washington has to deal with Louisville (thumbs up) to get to the Elite Eight, and Illinois probably has to deal with Oklahoma State to get to St. Louis.

Lined up against the two most dangerous non-No. 1s, Louisville and

Oklahoma State, North Carolina would have to play poorly to lose to either in a prospective national-title game, and even then might pull out victory.

So one wonders what could stop North Carolina, which rolled past Oakland, Mich., and Iowa State in the first two rounds. Anything? Other than a 1985-type Villanova performance out of 'Nova on Friday in the Syracuse semis or an inspired three-point miracle from my Louisville Cardinals, there is something.

So what could stop North Carolina? Anything? Other than a 1985-type Villanova performance out of 'Nova on Friday in the Syracuse semis or an inspired three-point miracle from my Louisville Cardinals, there is something.

There's Roy Williams, probably the best coach never to have won a national title and assuredly the best one to have screwed up a couple of great chances.

During his otherwise glorious Kansas tenure, Williams had the most talented team in the tournament a few times and something always happened to keep him out of the ultimate winner's circle.

Jayhawks fans loved Williams before he left, but many say he got too tight in the big-pressure games, setting up simultaneous chokes by players as great as Paul Pierce, Raef LaFrentz, Jacque Vaughn and Scot Pollard.

Maybe that will happen again with Felton, McCants, Marvin Williams & Co. But probably not, especially if Duke and Krzyzewski aren't around to play (and hex) North Carolina in the Final Four.

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