



**Ronald Case**  
Athletic Director  
[rcase@gccnj.edu](mailto:rcase@gccnj.edu)  
(856) 415-2207

**Brian Rowan**  
Assistant Athletic Director  
[browan@gccnj.edu](mailto:browan@gccnj.edu)  
(856) 415-2263

**Leanne Schoening**  
Athletics  
[lschoeni@gccnj.edu](mailto:lschoeni@gccnj.edu)  
(856) 415-2207

## Roadrunners Depth Earns Them Regional Championship

April 24, 2010

The men's tennis team at Gloucester County College used superior depth to cement their place atop Region XIX this weekend and dominate the regional tournament. The Roadrunners advanced to the championship round in 7 of the 9 flights in the regional tournament and had clinched the title for the second consecutive year by the end of singles play on Saturday at Mercer County Park in West Windsor, NJ. This is the third men's tennis regional championship in school history and the first time the team has captured the crown in back to back seasons. The Roadrunners are currently [#2 in the latest ITA Rankings](#).



**2010 NJCAA Region XIX Champions**

The Roadrunners impressive tournament saw each player earn team points on their way to a total of 20 team points for the tournament. Mercer CC finished in second place with 16 team points, followed by Brookdale CC with 11 and Ocean CC with 9 total points. A week earlier the Roadrunners wrapped up the regular season Garden State Athletic Conference Championship with a 6-3 team win over Brookdale CC.

While many anticipated a very close regional tournament this year, the Roadrunners entered the tournament with a good deal of confidence having won their last 8 team matches. The first day of action saw the Roadrunners confidence of full display. Despite playing opponents they had struggled against during the season, the Roadrunners #2 singles Ryan Airo and #3 singles Josh Stepkin picked up key wins early in the day. Airo defeated Ocean CC's RJ Norcia 6-4, 6-0 to avenge a three set loss from April 9th. Stepkin defeated Mercer CC's Travis McCaughen 3-6, 7-6, 6-2 avenging two losses during the regular season and then went on to defeat Brookdale CC's Christian Gonzales 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 another player he had lost to twice during the regular season. With GCC's confidence running high #4 Aaron Hartman, #5 Jared Randazzo and #6 Ed Thompson all cruised to convincing wins.

The last singles match of the day was now set for GCC's returning All-American first singles player Steve Suboleski against Mercer CC's Matt Pierson, the tournaments #1 seed. The two players had split matches during the regular season. Suboleski had defeated Oscar Gonzalez from Bergen CC earlier in the day while Pierson had a bye in the first round. The match did not disappoint and turned out to be the best singles match of the tournament. Suboleski blasted a forehand winner past Pierson to take the first set 6-4.

Pierson got an early break of serve early in the second set but Suboleski broke back in the eighth game of the set and then leveled the score at 5-5 by holding his own serve. A couple great returns put Pierson in a 15-40 bind in the next game but then he found an extra gear and blasted two service winners in a row. Pierson, a transfer from The College of NJ, then found his best form and took the set in a tiebreak. The third set was as well played as any the whole season in Region XIX but Pierson's big serve and forehand proved to be too much as he finished the set 6-4. The match certainly raised the bar for tennis in Region XIX.

The Roadrunners received byes in each doubles flight due to their regular season records so they only needed to win one match each to advance to the championship round on Saturday. First doubles Suboleski and Stepking defeated Ocean CC, second doubles Randazzo and Thompson defeated Mercer CC and third doubles Airo and Hartman defeated Ocean CC. The Roadrunners had 16 team points at the end of the day and needed to win only a maximum of three matches on Saturday to clinch the tournament championship.

The Roadrunners came out strong again on Saturday and showed tremendous determination in winning all four of their championship round singles matches. Number three singles Josh Stepkin gutted out his third three set win of the tournament by downing Ocean CC's Anthony Funicelli 7-6, 3-6, 6-3. During the season Stepkin was a combined 0-5 against the players he defeated during the tournament and the team named him to unofficial tournament MVP. Roadrunners #4 Aaron Hartman remained undefeated at his position this season by defeating Mercer CC's Juan Ramirez 6-3, 6-2. Roadrunners #5 singles Jared Randazzo toughed out a 6-3, 5-7, 6-0 win over Mercer CC's Ben Pinter and Roadrunners #6 Ed Thompson earned 1-6, 7-6, 6-4 win over Ocean CC's Ray Fayad.

The Roadrunners had clinched the win and struggled to maintain their aggression in the doubles competition dropping all three doubles finals and showing that the team still has plenty of room for improvement before heading to the NJCAA National Tournament May 10-15 in Plano, TX.

[Read more on the the Roadrunners at the Region Tournament from NJ.com...](#)

For more information on Men's Tennis at GCC or Roadrunner Championship Tennis Camps:  
Head Coch: Brian Rowan (856) 415-2263 or [browan@gccnj.edu](mailto:browan@gccnj.edu)