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Women's Tennis at 2010 NJCAA National Tennis Championships May 2-5, 2010 Tucson, AZ

The Roadrunner women's tennis team is in Tucson, Arizona for the 2010 NJCAA National Tennis Championships. The women are the back to back champions of Region XIX and are currently ranked #4 in the latest ITA national poll of Division III junior colleges. There are ten quality teams from around the country competing at this year's national championship tournament including #1 Kingsborough CC (NY) and #2 Oxford CC (MS).

The GCC team competing at the tournament is made up of all players from Gloucester County high schools led by sophomores Kristen Abdallah (Washington Township HS), Ali Crozier (Delsea Regional HS), Amanda Berry (Kingsway Regional HS), Sara Wilkens (Williamstown HS) and Lindsey Paulson (Williamstown HS).

DAY 1 RECAP:

In action on Day 1 of the tournament, the Roadrunners faced strange weather conditions for the normally arid desert. Temperatures in the 70's combined with strong winds and intermittent rain made conditions difficult for all players. At first singles, Kristen Abdallah fell 7-5, 6-1 to Julia Hutchinson from Broome CC and the doubles tandem of Ali Crozier and Amanda Chandler (West Deptford HS) fell 6-2, 6-2 to Elizabeth Uhrinec and Carolyn Sumner from Onondaga CC.

On Day 2 the entire team will be in action as the tournament kicks into high gear.

DAY 2 RECAP:



The Roadrunners had a very successful second day of the tournament and are in the hunt for a high finish at the national championship tournament. A magnificent day at the top tier Reffkin Tennis Center included clear skies, no wind and 80 degree temperatures. After two days of action, the Roadrunners have collected 11 total points and have 6 players/teams still alive in the main draw of the tournament. Only Broome CC (NY) is alive in more flights at this point in the tournament and Brookdale CC also is alive in six flights. Unofficial team point totals will follow recap. See Day 2 photos on right...

Key wins on the day were picked up by Lindsay Paulson, Ali Crozier, Sara Wilkins, Courtney Addis, and the team of Wilkins and Kristen Abdallah.

Paulson was the most unlikely victor as she is subbing in for the Roadrunners at the number two position after playing six and seven during the regular season. She defeated Paulina Valencia from Eastfield College (TX) by a score of 6-4, 7-5. Crozier won 6-4, 6-4 over Julia Meszaros from SUNY-Delhi (NY). Her win sets up a rematch with Arielle Kamin who Crozier defeated last season to win the national championship at the 5th singles flight. Wilkins defeated Leighann Hiser 6-2, 6-2 in her first round singles match at fourth singles. Addis picked up a 6-1, 6-0 win over Janine Gallois by playing her best tennis of the season. The second doubles tandem of Wilkins and Abdallah won 6-4, 6-1 over the team of Joyce Juang and Hima Nannapaneni from Oxford CC (MS). The Roadrunners trailed 2-1 in the first set of this match before winning 13 of the next 16 games. Abdallah's aggressive net play was key in the victory and Wilkins came up with several key volleys to close out the final game. All these players have now advanced to the semifinal round at their respective flights.

First singles Kristen Abdallah, sixth singles Amanda Berry and first doubles Ali Crozier/Amanda Chandler will all continue play in the consolation bracket of their respective flights starting Tuesday.

Complete draws, results, and schedule of play can be found at the tournament website: http://www.reffkintenniscenter.com/tournament_njcaa_2010.htm

Team Point Totals (unofficial) After Day 2:



Brookdale CC 15
Broome CC 14
Kingsborough CC 13
DuPage CC 12
Oxford CC 12
Gloucester CC 11
Suffolk CC 5
Onondaga CC 4
Eastfield CC 0
SUNY-Delhi 0

DAY 3 RECAP:

A wild day of tennis at the Reffkin Tennis Center concluded late Wednesday afternoon with 4 teams tied for the the lead in the 2010 NJCAA National Tennis Championship Tournament and the Roadrunners just a single point away from making it a five way tie for first place. All 7 members of the Roadrunner contingent were in action on Wednesday and performed at a high level in the intense desert heat rising above 90 degrees in Arizona for the first time in 2010.

The Roadrunners top performances of the day came right at the end as the second doubles and third doubles teams both advanced to the national championship matches at their respective flights. The second doubles team of Kristen Abdallah and Sara Wilkins continued their hot play and today knocked off region rivals Brookdale CC by a score of 6-2, 6-1. Then in the last match of the day at the tennis center Roadrunner third doubles team Amanda Berry and Courtney Addis picked up their most exciting win of the season with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-0 win over Oxford CC from Mississippi. The match was full of momentum changes and both teams looked poised to pull away at points in the match. However, the Roadrunners played their best tennis and built an early lead in the third set that they would not relinquish despite the best efforts of their talented opponents.

The stage is now set for a major showdown on championship day at the tournament. The Roadrunners will be competing in the finals at both second and third doubles and they will also compete in the consolation finals at first singles (Kristen Abdallah), sixth singles (Amanda Berry) and first doubles (Ali Crozier/Amanda Chandler). If they win all of these matches they will earn a total of 3.5 points and could leapfrog several teams in the tournament standings. The matches will be very difficult and the temperatures will again be above 90 degrees.

Schedule of play for Wednesday:

7:30 am - Kristen Abdallah vs. Carolyn Sumner (Eastfield CC, TX) - #1 Singles Consolation Final

7:30 am - Amanda Berry vs. Crystal Stanzione (Brookdale CC, NJ) - #6 Singles Consolation Final

10:30 am - Ali Crozier/Amanda Chandler vs. Stephanie Vidal/Jessica Sanwald (Suffolk CC, NY) #1 Doubles Consolation Final

12:30 pm - Kristen Abdallah/Sara Wilkins vs. Sara Wismiller/Katie Schenberg (College of DuPage, IL) #2 Doubles Championship

12:30 pm - Amanda Berry/Courtney Addis vs. Shannon Wright/Sabin Sadiq (College of DuPage, IL) #3 Doubles Championship

Complete draws, results, and schedule of play can be found at the tournament website:
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Team Point Totals (unofficial) After Day 3:

Brookdale CC 19
Broome CC 19
Kingsborough CC 19
Oxford CC 19
DuPage 18
Gloucester CC 18
Suffolk CC 6
Onondaga CC 4
Eastfield CC 0
SUNY-Delhi 0

DAY 4 RECAP:



The Roadrunners finished the final day of the tournament in grand fashion as they captured the national championship at the second doubles position. The match was among the last of the day at the beautiful Reffkin Tennis Center in Tucson, AZ. GCC sophomores Kristen Abdallah and Sara Wilkens picked up the 7-5, 6-3 win over Sara Wissmiller and Katie Schlenberger from College of DuPage (IL). Abdallah and Wilkins were named First Team All-Americans (top photo on left). The win capped off stellar tennis careers at GCC for both of these outstanding sophomores who are also great students.



The win almost spoiled the day for College of DuPage but they picked up a win in the last match of the day on court to edge ahead in a very close tournament and earn the team national championship. The Roadrunners finished 4th overall but only 2.5 points out of first place.

The third doubles team from GCC also made the final round of play today. However, sophomore Amanda Berry and freshman Courtney Addis were unable to pull off the win over College of DuPage and fell in three tough sets. They were both named Second Team All-Americans (photo second from top) for their efforts this week in Tucson.

The week was a great success for women's tennis and for the Roadrunners team. The tournament was one of the closest that could be remembered as there was a four way tie heading into the final day and two more teams only one point behind. The Roadrunners made a run at the title and played some of their best tennis of the season. Congratulations to College of DuPage on their hard fought win at the tournament. They were a very classy team that deserved the championship.

NOTES: All the seven members of the GCC team that traveled to Tucson earned team points toward the total of 20 for the week; the men's tennis team will now take center stage next week as they travel to Plano, TX for the NJCAA Men's National Championships.

Team Point Totals - Final - Official::

DuPage 22.5
Kingsborough 22
Broome 21
Gloucester 20
Oxford 20
Brookdale 19.5
Suffolk CC 6
Onondaga CC 4
Eastfield CC 0
SUNY-Delhi 0

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