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For Immediate Release April 18, 2014



Championship Saturday Field Set: Top Seeds Advance to NEC Tennis Finals

West Windsor, NJ -- Fairleigh Dickinson cleared a pair of semifinal hurdles in its quest for a historic three-peat on both the men's and women's sides of the 2014 Northeast Conference Men's and Women's Tennis Championships. The tournament, for the 14th straight year, is taking place at the Mercer County Tennis Center in West Windsor, New Jersey.

On the men's side, the second-seeded Knights slipped past third-seeded Saint Francis U by a 4-1 count. After winning the doubles point, FDU picked up straight set wins from a pair of freshman. Jacob Whalley (Wirral, England) won his #2 flight match, 6-3, 6-0, and Gonzalo Quintana (Ecuador) claimed a 6-4, 6-1 victory. Junior Julien Philippe (Paris France/Lycee Notre Dame de Boulogne) clinched the win for the Knights with a 6-1, 1-6, 6-0 triumph.

FDU will face top-seeded Bryant on Saturday in a rematch of last year's final, won by the Knights, 4-3, in an instant classic. On Friday, the Bulldogs posted a 4-0 win over fifth-seeded Sacred Heart. Three-time NEC Player of the Month and two-time NEC Player of the Week Dana Parziale (Pinehurst, NC/Pinecrest) rolled to a 6-2, 6-0 win at the #1 spot. Freshman Oliver Welsh (San Diego, CA/Laurel Springs) was a 6-2, 6-2 victor at #2 singles and sophomore Max Vogt (Fair Oaks, CA/Granite Bay) earned a 6-1, 6-2 win in #5 flight action.

Along with a potential third straight NEC crown, FDU will attempt to extend its league record with a 13th NEC Men's Championship on Saturday. Bryant looks to capture its first NEC title in just its second year of eligibility.

The FDU women had little trouble advancing to a fifth straight NEC Tournament title match with a 4-0 conquest of fifth-seeded Saint Francis U. The Knights collected a trio of straight-set wins, including Manuela Leme (Varginha, Brazil/E.E. Antania Alves Cruz) at the #6 flight. Leme, the team's lone senior, won her match, 6-1, 6-2. She was joined by sophomore Nicole Chis (Highland Park, NJ/Highland Park) and junior Marilya Krachok (Kiev, Ukraine). Chis was a 6-0, 6-1 at #3 singles and Krachok recorded a 6-0, 6-2 win at the #5 spot. The Red Flash were making their first-ever NEC semifinal appearance.

FDU will meet up with LIU Brooklyn in Saturday's women's final. The second-seeded Blackbirds ousted third-seeded Bryant, 4-1, in a match closer than the final score would indicate. After Bryant claimed the doubles point, LIU posted three straight set wins to take a commanding lead. Freshman Marine Dans (Waterloo, Belgium, Institu de Mot Couvreur) (6-0, 6-1 at #3 singles) and Isabella Wagener (Luxembourg/Lycee Classique Diekirch) (6-3, 6-1 at #4 singles) were joined in the winner's circle by Nancy Zonneveld (Frankfurt, Germany/European School), a 6-2, 6-1 victor at the #5 flight. With two other matches in a third set, LIU junior Sanne Louwers (Nuenen, Netherlands/Mgr. Cuytenlaan) picked up the decisive win for the Blackbirds. After taking the first set from Bryant freshman Marion Bouillin (San Diego, CA/Torrey Pines), 6-4, Bouillin raced out to a 5-0 lead in the second set. Louwers did not quit and rallied to win seven straight games for an improbable straight-set victory.

The FDU women are seeking a fifth NEC Championship while LIU is out for a third NEC title and its first since 2010.

A three-peat by the FDU men and women would be only the third in the history of the NEC Tennis Tournament. Quinnipiac accomplished the feat from 2004-06 and UMBC won four straight from 2000-03.

The men will lead off Championship Saturday at 9:00 am with the women's final set to go off at 1:00 pm. The winners of the three-day tournament will go on to represent the NEC in the upcoming NCAA Championships.

2014 NEC Tennis Championships at Mercer County Tennis Center, West Windsor, NJ

Thursday, April 17

<u>Women's Feed-In Match</u> #8 Wagner 4, #9 St. Francis Brooklyn 0

Women's Quarterfinals

#1 Fairleigh Dickinson 4, #8 Wagner 0 #2 LIU Brooklyn 4, #7 Mount St. Mary's 0 #3 Bryant 4, #6 Robert Morris 0 #5 Saint Francis U 4, #4 Sacred Heart 1

Men's Quarterfinals

#1 Bryant 4, #8 St. Francis Brooklyn 0 #2 Fairleigh Dickinson 4, #7 Wagner 0 #3 Saint Francis U 4, #6 Mount St. Mary's 2 #5 Sacred Heart 4, #4 Robert Morris 1

Friday, April 18

<u>Men's Semifinal Matches</u> #1 Bryant 4, #5 Sacred Heart 0 #2 Fairleigh Dickinson vs. #3 Saint Francis U

Women's Semifinal Matches #1 FDU 4, #Saint Francis U 0 #2 LIU Brooklyn 4, #3 Bryant 1

Saturday, April 19

<u>Men's Championship Match (9:00 am)</u> #1 Bryant vs. #2 Fairleigh Dickinson

Women's Championship Match (1:00 pm) #1 Fairleigh Dickinson vs. #2 LIU Brooklyn



2014 Northeast Conference Men's & Women's Tennis Championships

April 17-19

at Mercer County Tennis Center, West Windsor, NJ

Men's Semifinal Matches

April 18

Match #10

#1 Bryant 4, #5 Sacred Heart 0

Singles

- 1. PARZIALE, Dana (BRY) def. POWER, Brian (SHU) 6-2, 6-0
- 2. MORRIS, Zachary (BRY) vs. PAGAN, Justin (SHU) 6-4, 4-1, unfinished
- 3. WELSH, Oliver (BRY) def. BUDRAWICH, Kevin (SHU) 6-2, 6-2
- 4. ARGUELLO, Ernesto (BRY) vs. DEAN, Matt (SHU) 6-2, 1-2, unfinished
- 5. VOGT, Max (BRY) def. SAVIO, Anthony (SHU) 6-1, 6-2
- 6. DUARTE, Christian (BRY) vs. BAGI, Luka (SHU) 6-3, 3-2, unfinished

Doubles

- 1. VOGT/MORRIS (BRY) def. BUDRAWICH/DEAN (SHU) 8-4
- 2. PARZIALE/ARGUELLO (BRY) vs. PAGAN/POWER (SHU) 7-4, unfinished
- 3. TEMPLEMAN, John/WELSH (BRY) def. BAGI/SAVIO (SHU) 8-4

Match #11

#2 Fairleigh Dickinson 4, #3 Saint Francis U 1

Singles

- 1. BERZINS, Arvis (FDU) vs. GERVAIS, Washi (SFU) 6-1, 6-5, unfinished
- 2. WHALLEY, Jacob (FDU) def. TICO FERNANDEZ, R. (SFU) 6-3, 6-0
- 3. QUINTANA, Gonzalo (FDU) def. CERDAN, Eli (SFU) 6-4, 6-1
- 4. JIMENEZ, Chris (SFU) def. VALENTIN, Arnaud (FDU) 6-0, 6-1
- 5. PHILIPPE, Julien (FDU) def. CARVAJAL, Sergio (SFU) 6-1, 1-6, 6-0
- 6. GARNEL, Diogo (FDU) vs. AVUSKI, Plamen (SFU) 7-5, 5-1, unfinished

Doubles

- 1. BERZINS/QUINTANA (FDU) def. GERVAIS/TICO FERNANDEZ (SFU) 8-3
- 2. JIMENEZ/CARVAJAL (SFU) def. WHALLEY/VALENTIN (FDU) 8-5
- 3. PHILIPPE/GARNEL (FDU) def. AVUSKI/BARTER (SFU) 8-1

Women's Semifinal Matches

April 18

Match #12

#1 Fairleigh Dickinson 4, #5 Saint Francis U 0

Singles

- 1. TIHOMIROVA, Ksenija (FDU) vs. PANIZZA, Rafaela (SFU) 6-5, unfinished
- 2. PASRICHA, Shreya (FDU) vs. PATEL, Shivani (SFU) 6-4, 3-2, unfinished
- 3. CHIS, Nicole (FDU) def. SACHS, Alex (SFU) 6-0, 6-1
- 4. CASTANY, Gisela (FDU) vs. JASSO, Lucy (SFU) 6-3, 2-1, unfinished
- 5. KRACHOK, Masha (FDU) def. GRYCKIEWICZ, Danielle (SFU) 6-0, 6-2
- 6. LEME, Manuela (FDU) def. JENTZ, Brittini (SFU) 6-1, 6-2

Doubles

- 1. TIHOMIROVA/CASTANY (FDU) def. PANIZZA/ZOUBAREVA, Taya (SFU) 8-1
- 2. CHIS/KRACHOK (FDU) def. SACHS/GRYCKIEWICZ (SFU) 8-5
- 3. PASRICHA/LEME (FDU) vs. JASSO/JENTZ (SFU) 6-2, unfinished

Match #13

#2 LIU Brooklyn 4, #3 Bryant 1

Singles

- 1. LOUWERS, Sanne (LIU) def. BOUILLIN, Marion (BRY) 6-4, 7-5
- 2. MAAS, Lisa (LIU) vs. BROWN, Ryan (BRY) 1-6, 7-6 (7-3), 1-1, unfinished
- 3. DANS, Marine (LIU) def. BIRD, Rosie (BRY) 6-0, 6-1
- 4. WAGENER, Isabella (LIU) def. AMMENDOLA, Devlin-Ann (BRY) 6-3, 6-1
- 5. ZONNEVELD, Nancy (LIU) def. LEONARD, Briana (BRY) 6-2, 6-1
- 6. THOMPSON, Brittany (LIU) vs. SMYERS, Stephanie (BRY) 6-2, 3-6, 3-2, unfinished

Doubles

- 1. BIRD/BROWN (BRY) def. LOUWERS/MAAS (LIU) 8-2
- 2. BOUILLIN/LEONARD (BRY) def. YEGOREYCHENKO/WAGENER (LIU) 8-0
- 3. ZONNEVELD/DANS (LIU) def. SMYERS/AMMENDOLA (BRY) 7-3