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FDU Women Three-Peat & Bryant Men Take Home First Title at NEC Tennis Championships

West Windsor, NJ -- Championship Saturday had it all, and when the dust cleared, we had a three-peat and a first-time champion crowned at the 2014 NEC Men's and Women's Tennis Championships. The top-seeded Fairleigh Dickinson women defeated #2 LIU Brooklyn, 4-0, for its third straight conference title, while the #1-seeded Bryant men outlasted #2 Fairleigh Dickinson, 4-3, in an epic match that gave the Bulldogs an NEC championship in just its second year of postseason eligibility and denied the Knights their own chance at a three-peat. The tournament, for the 14th straight year, was contested at the Mercer County Tennis Center in West Windsor, New Jersey.

The drama quotient was high in a rematch of the 2013 men's final as FDU raced out to a 3-1 lead and appeared in control of two other matches before Bryant embarked on a memorable rally. The Knights took the doubles point, then received a 6-2, 6-0 win from freshman **Diego Garnel (Portugal)** at #6 singles to take a 2-0 advantage. Bryant junior **Ernesto Arguello (Managua, Nicaragua/American Nicaraguan School)** briefly sliced the lead in half with a 6-3, 7-5 victory at the #4 flight, but FDU increased the edge to 3-1 soon thereafter. Two-time NEC Player of the Year **Arvis Berzins' (Adazi, Latvia/Riga Centre Language School)** posted a 7-5, 6-2 triumph at the #1 spot over the Bulldogs' **Dana Parziale (Pinehurst, NC/Pinecrest)** in a battle of two of the best players in recent conference vintage.

With their back against the wall, the Bulldogs responded to the challenge. Freshman **Oliver Welsh (San Diego, CA/Laurel Springs)** fought back from a set down to win, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4, at the #3 flight. Just moments later Bryant knotted things up at 3-3 when sophomore **Max Vogt (Fair Oaks, CA/Granite Bay)** completed his own rally from a one-set deficit with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory at the #5 position.

All eyes were then trained on the #2 match between Bryant junior **Zachary Morris (Garden City, NY/Garden City)** and FDU freshman **Jacob Whalley (Wirral, England)**. Morris took the first set by a 6-4 margin and had three championship points up 5-4 in the second set, but Whalley would not go down easy. The Wirral, England native extended the set to a tiebreaker and sent the FDU faithful into a frenzy with a 7-6 (5) victory. With the entire season coming down to one set, it was Morris who took firm control, lifting the Bulldogs and head coach Ron Gendron to their first crown with a resounding 6-1 win.

The FDU women to their game to another level in winning the program's fifth NEC championship. The Knights claimed the doubles point and made it 2-0 when junior **Mariya Krachok (Kiev, Ukraine)** rolled to a 6-0, 6-0 win at the #5 flight. FDU then built a commanding 3-0 lead after freshman **Shreya Pasricha (India)** posted a 6-1, 6-3 triumph in #2 flight play. The Knights clinched the championship at #4 singles with sophomore **Giesla Castany's (Barcelona, Spain)** 6-3, 6-2 victory.

The Knights, under second year coach Jonathan Buchman, became just the fourth team in NEC history to win three straight titles, joining Mount St. Mary's (1989-95), UMBC (1998-03) and Quinnipiac (2004-08).

The FDU women and Bryant men will now go on to represent the NEC in the upcoming NCAA Championships in mid May.

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

Thursday, April 17

Women's Feed-In Match

#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

Men's Semifinal Matches

#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

Men's Championship Match

#1 Bryant 4, #2 Fairleigh Dickinson 3

Women's Championship Match

#1 Fairleigh Dickinson 4, #2 LIU Brooklyn 0



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

April 17-19

at Mercer County Tennis Center, West Windsor, NJ

Men's Championship Match

April 19

Match #14

#1 Bryant 4, #2 Fairleigh Dickinson 3

Singles

1. BERZINS, Arvis (FDU) def. PARZIALE, Dana (BRY) 7-5, 6-2
2. MORRIS, Zachary (BRY) def. WHALLEY, Jacob (FDU) 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-1
3. WELSH, Oliver (BRY) def. QUINTANA, Gonzalo (FDU) 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 6-4
4. ARGUELLO, Ernesto (BRY) def. VALENTIN, Arnaud (FDU) 6-3, 7-5
5. VOGT, Max (BRY) def. PHILIPPE, Julien (FDU) 2-6, 6-3, 6-1
6. GARNEL, Diogo (FDU) def. DUARTE, Christian (BRY) 6-2, 6-0

Doubles

1. BERZINS/QUINTANA (FDU) def. VOGT/MORRIS (BRY) 8-3
2. PARZIALE/ARGUELLO (BRY) def. WHALLEY/VALENTIN (FDU) 8-4
3. PHILIPPE/GARNEL (FDU) def. TEMPLEMAN, John/WELSH (BRY) 8-7 (7-2)

Women's Championship Match

April 19

Match #15

#1 Fairleigh Dickinson 4, #2 LIU Brooklyn 0

Singles

1. TIHOMIROVA, Ksenija (FDU) vs. LOUWERS, Sanne (LIU) 2-6, 5-4, unfinished
2. PASRICHA, Shreya (FDU) def. MAAS, Lisa (LIU) 6-1, 6-3
3. CHIS, Nicole (FDU) vs. DANS, Marine (LIU) 4-6, 3-4, unfinished
4. CASTANY, Gisela (FDU) def. WAGENER, Isabella (LIU) 6-3, 6-2
5. KRACHOK, Masha (FDU) def. YEGOREYCHENKO, Katya (LIU) 6-0, 6-0
6. LEME, Manuela (FDU) vs. ZONNEVELD, Nancy (LIU) 6-2, 2-5, unfinished

Doubles

1. TIHOMIROVA/CASTANY (FDU) def. LOUWERS/MAAS (LIU) 8-3
2. CHIS/KRACHOK (FDU) def. YEGOREYCHENKO/WAGENER (LIU) 8-4
3. PASRICHA/LEME (FDU) vs. ZONNEVELD/DANS (LIU) 6-6, unfinished