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Roohan Wins Region

In the Seward County Lady Saints only home match of the 2013 season, they narrowly squeaked out a 5-4 win over visiting Barton to pick up their first region win of the season. This weekend in Wichita at the Region VI Tournament, the Lady Cougars got their revenge, beating Seward County out 13 to 12.5 for 3rd place in the tournament to secure their trip to the NJCAA National Tournament in Glendale.

In #1 singles, freshman Anna Braun earned a victory in her first Region VI Tournament match of her career, taking down Samantha Aeschliman of Hesston 6-4, 6-3 to move to the semifinal round of the tournament. In the semis Braun ran up against a tough matchup in Ana Ruzir of Cowley who downed the Seward rookie 6-3, 6-1 to send Braun to the third place match. The match for third was important for both parties involved as Braun dueled with Karina Ono of Barton. After winning the first set in a tiebreak 7-6 (2), Braun fell 6-4 in the second set and Ono sealed the deal with a 10-6 win in the third set tiebreak to put 1.5 points on the board for the Lady Cougars while Braun earned 1 for Seward.

Katiuska Adarmes earned the Lady Saints 2 points in #2 singles, receiving a first round bye and taking down Sarah Giraldo of Cowley 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in a great match to move onto the Region Championship match. In the Championship battle Adarmes hung tough with Erika Castillo-Lopez of Johnson County in the first set, forcing a tiebreak before falling 7-6 (1), but was unable to put up the same fight in the second set as she fell 6-3 to end her tournament in 2nd place.

At the #3 spot the Lady Saints sent Leticia Monteiro to the court and the Seward County had trouble in her first round match, falling 6-1, 6-3 to Lexie Maytubby of Cowley and despite winning the first set of the third place match against Darrien Beckwith 6-3, lost the next two sets 7-5 and 10-7 to end her tournament winless and in 4th place.

The hero for the Saints during their run at the Region VI and National Tournament in 2012, Kurstie Zepeda just about pulled off an upset in #4 singles against Melissa Bassoo of Cowley in the semifinals, playing the Tigers start to 6-4 in the first set and 6-4 in the second set while falling to the third place match. Zepeda squared off against Aspen McCann from Barton in the third place match and picked up a big win for the Lady Saints against the Cougars as she won 6-3, 6-4 to earn 1.5 points.

Kathryn Roohan, the Lady Saints most consistent player all year long did it again for Seward in the tournament. The freshman from San Antonio, Texas had no trouble in her #5 singles opening match,

easily taking care of Kara Hoegerl of Johnson County 6-3, 6-1 to move onto the championship match. In the title match Roohan again was the aggressor and the far superior player. After winning the first set 6-4 over Erianne Adams of Cowley, Roohan sealed the championship up with a 6-2 second set win to bring home the championship and give the Lady Saints 3 big points.

Seward's only two sport athlete in 2013, Whitney Garinger, who joined the team midseason, battled in #6 singles against Kaci Diener of Hesston, losing the first set just 6-4, but struggled in the second set as she was blanked 6-0 to end her tournament in singles play.

Forced to play the pigtail game as the #4 seed, Braun and Adarmes teamed up in #1 doubles to easily bury Aescliman and Mitchell of Hesston in the first round 6-0, 6-1 to move onto the semifinal round of the tournament. In the semis it was a little bit different case however as Beckett and Castillo from Johnson County torched the Lady Saints top team 6-1, 6-3 to bounce them to the third place match. In a key match between Seward and Barton, Braun and Adarmes won the first set 6-4 against Ono and Miller, but tripped up in the second set losing 6-2 and were outplayed 10-6 in the tiebreaker to give Barton the match win and the crucial .5 extra in the team standings.

The scrappy #2 doubles team for Seward comprised of Zepeda and Roohan pulled out a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in a long battle with Bassoo and Adams of Cowley in the semifinal round to reach the finals, but in the championship tilt it was Johnson County's duo of Ochs and Buenger that prevailed in a 6-1, 6-3 decision to put the Lady Saints pair 2nd in the bracket.

In #3 doubles it was Monteiro and Garinger going at it for Seward. The pair had little trouble advancing to the round of four as they defeated the Unruh sisters of Hesston 6-2, 6-3 in the first round, but ran into trouble in their second match, falling 7-5, 6-0 to Giraldo and Cornejo of Cowley to send them to the third place match. IN the third place match Seward once again was unable to capitalize on a head to head battle with Barton. Monteiro and Garinger won their first set 7-5 against Christiansen and McLeland of Barton, but were downed 6-3 in the second set and were blown away in the third 10-3 to seal their tournament fate in 4th place.

The Lady Saints fell .5 point short of qualifying for their 14th straight NJCAA National Tournament appearance but this year it will be the Cougars of Barton who will represent Region VI as their #3 seed. Johnson County won the team title with 23 points, easily defeating Cowley who finished second with 18 points, while Barton was third with 13 points and Seward was fourth with 12.5. Seward was 1-4 against Barton in the tournament, all 3rd place matches in which the Cougars picked up an extra .5 point for winning.

It is a disappointing end to the Lady Saints season as they finish 4-7 as a team in 2013 and 45-71 combined in all of their 2013 matches. Seward finishes the 2013 campaign ranked #16 in the ITA rankings.

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