

Two Saints Win Weekend Tournaments

Last week it was Alejandro Gonzalez winning the A Draw Singles Championship over teammate Ronzai Saurombe for Seward County and this week it was Saurombe's turn to earn his first crown, defeating Laurentsi Arakhamiya in the finals to win the Bethany Invitational Championship. Later on in the tournament Gonzalez and Saurombe teamed up to win the A Draw doubles bracket in dominating fashion to complete the sweep for Seward in the top draw.

It was once again the Ronzai Saurombe and Alejandro Gonzalez show in the main draw of the tournament this weekend as the two competed in the Bethany Invitational in Salina. Gonzalez, the tournament champion from a week ago, breezed through his first round matchup against Jacob Brendumuehl of Ottawa, winning without breaking a sweat 6-1, 6-0. Saurombe had a little bit tougher of a time, needing a pair of 6-4 wins to dispatch of William Jewell's Bryan Thomas to advance to the next round. Gonzalez was forced to become a comeback kid in the quarters as he dropped his first set to Filip Bogic of Lindenwood 6-4 before rebounding nicely to take the second 6-1 and the third set tie break 10-5 to win the match 2-1. Taking on Newman's Nei Dos Santos, Saurombe cruised in the second round, winning 6-4, 6-1 to reach the final four of the draw. Gonzalez looked well on his way to reaching his second straight final after beating Bethany's Laurentsi Arakhamiya 6-1 in their first set battle, but Arakhamiya bounced back to take the second 7-6 and then shocked Gonzalez with a 10-8 win in the third set to take home the match and leave Gonzalez in 3rd place. Saurombe continued to play his best tennis of his young career, taking down Luke Chmielski of Rockhurst 6-4, 6-2 in the semis to reach the finals once again. In the championship match, Saurombe played a tight one with Arakhamiya, squeaking out a 7-5 win after being down 5-2 in the first before seeing the second go to a tiebreak in which he pulled out 7-6 to win the championship.

The Saints struggled in the B Draw as Trevor Kipping fell 6-2, 6-2 to Sean Gleason of Bethany in the opening round of the bracket and couldn't get on the board in the consolation round either, dropping his match 8-5 to Max Cooper of William Jewell to finish his weekend.

Brandon Kafarela represented the Saints in the C Draw and easily moved on to the quarterfinal round after a 6-1, 6-3 slashing of Chris Reimer of William Jewell in his first round matchup. In the second round Kafarela took the first set 6-4 against Tyler Dort of Tabor, but Dort returned the favor with a 6-4 win of his own in the second before knocking Kafarela out of the tournament with a 10-4 win in the tiebreaking third set. Kafarela finished 5th in the C Draw.

In the F Draw the Saints sent Colin Glassman and Adrian Amado to battle.

Both players lost their opening round matches, Glassman 6-0, 6-1 and Amado 6-2, 6-1. In the consolations Glassman earned an 8-6 win over Tabor's Ron Flores while Amado was blanked 8-0 by Dan Connor of Emporia State. In the consolation semi's Glassman battled hard against Herm Edwards of Ottawa but came up on the short end of an 8-2 decision to end his tournament.

In doubles the Saints had high hopes and those hopes turned into success.

Gonzalez and Saurombe proved almost untouchable in the A Draw, playing their closest match in the first round. In that first round battle, the Seward duo hung on to take down Brendemuehl/Brooks from Ottawa 8-4 and zoomed past Jayhawk foes Martinez/Araujo of Barton 8-2 in the second round to advance to the semifinals. In the semis it was another laugh for Gonzalez/Saurombe who downed Rahbar/Dimitrov of Bethany 8-3 to earn their way into another championship match. In the title match the Saints brought home another tournament championship, beating Bogaert/Owusu of Bethany 8-3 without trouble to win the Bethany Invitational A Draw Championship.

Looking to do the same in the B Draw, Kafarela and Kipping took the court together for the Saints. In the first round, they were knocked off 8-3 by Bogic/Lopez of Lindenwood, but it didn't dampen the competitive spirit of the Saints freshman pair. They played a tight match with Geick/Glasgow of Baker in the first round of the consolation bracket, pulling out a late 7-5 win to advance to the next round. In the second round of the back draw they had a much easier time with Reimer/Pinhas of William Jewell, winning 6-2 to get to the consolation finals. In the finals match they went up against Webster/Greenbaum of Baker and again flexed their muscles with a 6-3 win to finish their weekend on a high note.

In the C Draw the Saints had some troubles as Glassman and Amado were unable to come away with a victory, falling 8-1 in the opening round against the self-named Dream Team, before losing in the first round of the consolation bracket 8-4 to Whitmer/Adams of Newman.

Seward finished the tournament 16-11 overall and improve their fall 2013 record to 30-22 as a team. Next up for the Saints is another test against four year foes when they travel to Colorado to participate in the Metro State Invitational in Downtown Denver. Saturday in Lindsborg, Seward County freshman Paula Lopez made history for the Lady Saints Tennis team, beating Casyn Buchman 6-2, 3-6, 12-10 in the A Draw finals to become the first junior college player in Bethany Invitational history to win the tournament's top draw.

In what was their stiffest test of the early fall season, the Seward County Lady Saints traveled to Lindsborg, Kansas Saturday for the 2013 Bethany Inviational Tournament. Seward sent two players into the A Draw of the tournament, featuring some of the best players from around the

Midwest region. Paula Coyos got Seward off to a good start, blanking Ceara Boldridge of Missouri Western 6-0, 6-0 in the first round. Coyos' fellow countrywomen Paula Lopez also got Seward an early win, putting it on Rebecca Faber of Tabor 6-0, 6-0 to advance herself to the quarterfinals as well. The two Argentinians had little trouble in the second round as well with Coyos knocking off Kristen Stivers of William Jewell 6-2, 6-2 and Lopez downing Gloria Marras of Lindenwood 6-1, 6-2 to move onto the semis. Lopez was the first to clinch her spot in the finals, continuing her dominance of the field with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Kirstie Simon of Newman. Coyos' chance was next against Casyn Buchman of Washburn, but she fell just short 6-3, 6-5 to end her tournament in 3rd place. The showdown was set between the Lady Saints and Ichabod's top players. Lopez came out gunning, having little trouble in the first set winning 6-2 but Buchman answered with a 6-3 win in the second to send the match to a tiebreak. In the tiebreak it was again a neck and neck battle as Lopez and Buchman went back and forth until the Seward star broke through, winning 12-10 to take the match and capture the tournament title. With the win, Lopez became the first junior college player in Bethany Invitational history to win the championship in the A Draw and is one of just three players to have brought home the gold in the top bracket in the past seven seasons.

In the C Draw, last year's #5 singles Region VI Champion Kathryn Roohan had some troubles for the Lady Saints. Roohan dropped her first match 6-2, 7-5 to Jamie Myers of Baker and couldn't rebound in the consolation bracket where she was knocked off 8-1 by Diana Castro of Lindenwood to end her tournament in 5th place in the consolation bracket.

Vipavee Ngamsari represented Seward in the D Draw and started well with a 6-3, 7-6 win over Ellen Agnew of Ottawa in her first action of the tournament. In the quarterfinals she played a nailbiter with Kayla Dysart of Missouri Western, splitting the first two sets 6-2 and 6-4 before locking horns in a great battle in the tiebreaker that saw Dysart advance with an 11-9 win. Ngamsari finished 5th in the draw.

The Lady Saints sent three players to the court in the E Draw including Jackie Arnold, Grace Golden, and Naomi Bukassa. Arnold was the first to strike, winning 6-2, 6-2 over Victoria Bostic of Baker to breeze to the second round. Golden was up next and made Bekka Bailey work in a 6-3 first set loss, but Bailey owned the second set, winning 6-1 to bump Golden to the consolation bracket. It was the same fate for Bukassa who could never get going against Alyssa Dougan of Missouri Western, falling 6-1, 6-0 to drop her to the consolations as well. Arnold got revenge for Golden in the quarters, knocking off Bailey 6-2, 6-3 to reach her first tournament semifinal in her young Seward career. Golden and Bukassa were also winners in the consolation bracket where Golden beat Bostic 8-2 and Bukassa dropped Brittini Hayes of Newman 8-4 to advance in the bracket. Unfortunately for Arnold, an injury sustained on Saturday kept her out of her semifinal match against Diana Hernandez of Newman and therefore ended her run in 3rd place. Golden also fell in her next contest 8-3 to Caroline Walkenhorst of Lindenwood which would end

singles play for the Lady Saints. Golden and Bukassa tied for 3rd in the consolation draw of the bracket.

Coyos and Lopez went back to work, this time together in the A Draw of the doubles portion of the tournament. In the first round they were victorious against Bellew/Luedtke of Ottawa 8-3 and quickly marched to the semifinals with another 8-3 win, this time over Hazelrigs/Hazelrigs of William Jewell. Gaining speed, Coyos and Lopez drilled Symon/Jordan of Newman in the semis 8-1 and once again the duo was playing for a tournament title. In the championship match, they took on Buchman/Blackim of Washburn and the pairs went the distance, before the Ichabod's came away with a tight 9-7 win to win the tournament and give the Lady Saints a runner-up finish.

Roohan and Ngamsari paired in the B Draw to represent the Lady Saints and won what might have been the doubles match of the tournament 9-8 (8) over Chiao/Berger of Missouri Western in the first round to advance to the second round of play. In the quarters they ran up against Drew/Huddlestun from William Jewell and the Cardinal pair was just too much for the Lady Saints duo as Drew/Huddlestun won 8-1 to end Roohan and Ngamsari's run in 5th place.

In the C Draw, the Lady Saints didn't have a whole lot of luck. Bukassa and Golden were blanked 8-0 in the first round by Bailey/Good of Ottawa and were forced to withdraw in the first round of consolation play with a pending matchup against Reese/Sanchez from Kansas Wesleyan.

Overall the Lady Saints were 15-12 in the tournament, marking their first winning record in tournament play since the 2012 Bethany Invitational when they were 9-6. The Lady Saints will be back at it this weekend as they head the other way, this time to Denver, Colorado to take part in the Metro State Invitational where they will take on a number of teams from NCAA Division II's RMAC Conference.

Roy Allen

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