

Seward Remains in Nations Top 10 After Day Two of National Tourney May 12, 2010

It wasn't quite as good as day one but after two days of the 2010 NJCAA National Tennis Tournament, the Seward County Saints remain in the top 10 of the standings. On day two the Saints saw their #1 player Laericio Lobo fall 6-0, 6-2 to the country's #1 ranked player Damian Hume of Collin in a hard fought match that was closer than the final score. After Nathan Nelmes dropped his first round match, he was bounced to the consolation round but didn't let it ruin his week. The Aussie took care of his first consolation round opponent Charles Norman of Glendale 7-5, 3-6, 10-5 before receiving a bye in the next round to move into the consolation quarterfinals where he beat Austin McAlister of Spartanburg Methodist 6-0, 6-3 to move to the semifinals on Wednesday. In #3 singles, Carlos Souza fell 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a lengthy battle with Niles Jackson of Scottsdale CC to end his National Tournament while Fernando Soni suffered the same fate in #4 singles as he fell to 2nd ranked Antoine Raffaelli of Laredo CC 6-2, 7-5 to finish his Seward County career. Christian Romanzini was the only Saint to win his first two singles matches as he defeated Ryan Wilson of Gadsden State 6-3, 6-0 to assure himself of a top 8 finish. Eduardo Munoz moved through the first two rounds of his consolation bracket without a ball touching his strings as bye's advanced him to the quarterfinals where he beat Nick Barajas of Temple College 7-5, 6-2 to find his way into the consolation semifinals against Kaleb Bone of Kaskaskia College on Wednesday.

In doubles action Tuesday the Saints went just 1-2 after a perfect 3-0 record on Monday. Soni and Souza was the only combo to win Tuesday as they dropped Ray Burns and Zack Funk of Lewis & Clark 6-2, 6-4 to set up a 1:00 dual Wednesday with the 2nd ranked team Jonas Imhof and Christian Valencia of Vincennes University in the tournament quarterfinals. In #1 doubles, Lobo and Nelmes fell 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-5 in a heated battle with Mario Jakovljevic and Pier Pieracianni of Tyler JC while Romanzini and Munoz fell 6-3, 6-1 to Rodolfo Bustamante and Matt Davis of Collin to end their 2010 National Tournament hopes.

The Saints are now in 10th place with 18 points but are just 6 points away from finding their way into the top 5 as they enter day three on Wednesday.

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