

Tigers sweep H-DNC doubles tennis championships

Aaron Finley/For the Times Standard

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CRESCENT CITY -- After dropping its first two matches of the season at Saturday's Humboldt-Del Norte Conference singles championships, the Arcata High boys' tennis team came into today's doubles championships looking to re-establish its dominance.

Mission accomplished, as the Tigers dropped exactly one set all day in sweeping all three of the doubles ladders. Despite not having the services of No. 1 seed Casey Mansfield, who by virtue of his singles victory over Eureka's Kyle Carbis could not participate, the black and orange set the tone early in the day and never looked back.

The tandem of Dunn Ratnitisakul and Edward Hunter made quick work of North Coast Prep's Caleb and Tim McIlraith before doing the same to Ferndale's Eli Gurnee and Trevor Nesvold, putting the Arcata tandem in the title match with relatively little difficulty. The same could not be said for the Tigers' eventual opponents in the championship round, as Del Norte's Blake Polidore and David Standing narrowly escaped a first round exit. The Warrior tandem was broken a total of four times against Fortuna in the opening set, dropping that frame 6-2 before responding in strong fashion to post 6-0, 6-2 scores over the final two sets to advance. The Warrior tandem then cruised past Eureka's Carbis and Vince DeGraff, setting up the meeting with Ratnitisakul and Hunter.

The opening set went just the way many in attendance had anticipated, with the Tigers duo setting the tone early and posting a 6-2 win in the first set. Then things got interesting, as the two sides began battling point for point and groundstroke for groundstroke, resulting in a split of the first 10 games of the second set. It was game 11 of the decisive second set that ultimately swung the momentum pendulum to the side of the Tigers, as a break of serve following six deuce points, gave Ratnitisakul and Hunter a 6-5 lead. The two then closed out the match with a hold of serve to capture the championship and send themselves into the North Coast Section tournament.

It was the same story across the board for the Tigers, as Brendan Winnacott and Seth McFarland continued the momentum started by the team victory in the No. 1 position. Winnacott and McFarland dropped a total of three games combined in their first two matches, advancing to the final where they would meet Eureka's Fernando Salmeron and Demarcus Coleman. Salmeron and Coleman had defeated Ferndale's Mauricio Chelar and Nate Coppini in straight sets in the quarterfinals before doing the same to Del Norte's Ben Tell and Tyler Pitman with a 7-5, 7-5 victory in the semifinals. The Loggers duo carried their strong play into the finals, defeating Winnacott and McFarland in the opening set to take the early advantage before the Tigers tandem regrouped to close out a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

The Tigers completed the day of sweeps with Earl Dippre and Eliot Claasen defeating Eureka's Jesse Carpenter and Steve Hake in straight sets in the No. 3 doubles bracket.

A bottle of Hintz

Kelsy Hintz set a new meet record at the West Valley/Chico Invitational Saturday, winning the pole vault event with a jump of 12 feet, 7 inches. The



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previous record was 12 feet, 6 inches. Hintz also finished third in the 100 meter event, crossing the tape in a time of 12.93 seconds. Del Norte's Rebecca Cink set a new personal best in the discus, finishing second with a throw of 119 feet, while Bailee McCulloch placed second in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes. The Warrior girls 4x100 meter relay team placed fourth overall on the day, while on the boys' side Taylor Duncan vaulted 13 feet, 6 inches to place fourth in the pole vault.