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Macan it happen at H-DNC championships

by Bryan DeMain, 10/28/2007

It's official — there's a new rivalry on the North Coast.

It was the same two competitors to come out on top of the Humboldt-Del Norte Conference Singles Championships last year, only on Saturday at McKinleyville there was a different outcome.

Catherine Macan of St. Bernard's got sweet revenge after taking down last year's H-DNC singles champ Emma Wilson 6-4, 6-4 to claim the No. 1s and earn an automatic bid to the North Coast Section Championships.

"They both played really well," said St. Bernard's head coach Lee Friebe. "There was a lot of baseline work and several exchanges at the net. I think the difference this year was that Catherine was able to control her overheads and volleys."

Macan defeated McKinleyville's Abby Arndt 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals before facing Wilson, while Wilson took down North Coast Prep's Chisa Hughes 6-1, 6-1 in the first round and Arcata's Katie Erickson 7-6(4), 6-1 in the semifinals.

"Catherine was definitely on her game today," said McKinleyville head coach Frank Sanchez.

Macan now has a 3-5 personal record against Wilson, with all three of her wins coming this season.

Arcata's Molly Ryan completed her strong season in the No. 4s, defeating Lauren Godla of Del Norte 6-1, 6-4 in the finals.

It was Deja Vu in the No. 5s, when Arcata's Jenny Durina and Eureka's Elise Adams met in the finals.

Durina and Adams met in the No. 6 finals last season in match that went to Durina.

This year Durina continued her success and took down the Eureka sophomore 6-2, 3-6, 7-6(1).

"Elise Adams played great," said Eureka head coach Karen Griffith. "Jenny just had a nice comeback, but I'm really proud of Elise."

In the No. 6s, it was anyone's guess as to who was going to win, as three teams brought up four new starters at the spot, but at the end of the day Eureka's Tara Matruolo took home the title.

Matruolo took advantage of her playing time and used the recent weeks to defeat Eureka's No. 8 through No. 6 seeds to finally get her shot.

She defeated Fortuna's Katie Huddleston 6-4, 6-1, Del Norte's Kelsey Hintz 6-3, 6-4 and Arcata's Brianne King 6-4, 6-4 in the finals.

"She asks me all the time what can she do to improve her game," Griffith said. "She just did a great job. She's very coachable. She's a good listener and she's very intelligent and very determined. She was just awesome. I'm so proud of her."

The No. 2s and No. 3s finals were postponed due to darkness and will be played on Friday at Mack before and following the H-DNC Doubles Championships.