

Arcata sweeps H-DNC doubles championships

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The Arcata Tigers continued their dominance of the Humboldt-Del Norte Conference on Friday by sweeping the league boys tennis doubles championships in Crescent City.

At No. 1, Arcata's Edward Hunter and Dunn Ratnitisakul defeated host Del Norte's Blake Polidore and David Standring 6-2, 7-5, in the championship match, and Arcata head coach Morgan Phylis was pleased with how well his players held their serves and controlled the net throughout the tournament.

"Dunn helped out our team and was very consistent," Phylis said. "And even though Del Norte was playing really well and there was a good-sized crowd rooting for Del Norte, they kept their heads and controlled the tempo."

At No. 2, Arcata's Brendan Winnacott and Seth McFarland fell behind Eureka's Fernando Salmeron and Demarcus Coleman in the final by dropping the first set 4-6, but fought back and won the final two sets 6-3, 6-4.

Phylis said he wasn't sure Winnacott and McFarland would be able to pull it off, especially with the winds that were constantly gusting during the match, but he was proud of them for finding a way to win.

The No. 3 final pitted Arcata's Earl DuPre and Eliot Claasen against Eureka's Jesse Carpenter and Steven Hake, and even though Dippre and Claasen did not have a lot of experience heading into the match beyond a few doubles matches earlier in the season, they won 6-4, 6-2.

Phylis said the pressure on DuPre and Claasen to win was quite substantial, considering the entire team was urging them on and had stated beforehand that they wanted to sweep the doubles championships.

According to the coach, the two showed a lot of heart and dedication in defeating the more experienced Carpenter and Hake.

Next up for some of Arcata's players will be the North Coast Section championships, where Casey Mansfield will play in the singles tournament and Dunn Ratnitisakul and Edward Hunter will team up for doubles.

The location has not been determined yet for these matches, but they will be held on May 2 and 3.