

A sweep and a title: Loggers top Warriors, secure H-DN tennis team championship

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CRESCENT CITY -- Eureka captured two of the three doubles matches Tuesday in Crescent City to defeat Del Norte 5-4, and complete the season sweep of the Warriors.

With the victory, the Loggers also secured the outright Humboldt-Del Norte Conference team championships and earned a berth into the North Coast Section championship tournament.

Just as had been the case in the first meeting between the two schools, nothing was decided until the final point of the final match, and neither team was able to secure momentum for any length of time.

The action started quickly as Emma Wilson dropped just two games in capturing a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Eureka's Jenna Madsen in the No. 1 singles match.

The Warriors made it three consecutive victories, and appeared to have command of the match in the early going, as Ashleigh Speaker and Kathryn Gustafson both registered straight-set victories from the No. 3 and No. 4 singles spots respectively.

The Loggers slowly crept back into the match as Tori Edwards and Shelby Maples each earned straight-set victories of their own, cutting the Warrior overall lead to 3-2.

The match of the afternoon, and eventually the evening, took place on the No. 2 singles court, as Del Norte's Jennifer Gustafson hooked up with Eureka's Crystal Parker which had spectators on the edge of their seats from the opening service.

After an epic opening set that saw Parker have two separate chances to take the early advantage, leading 5-4 and 6-5, only to have Gustafson respond on both occasions to ultimately force, and win, a tiebreaker, it looked as if it would be the Warriors afternoon.

However, Parker responded by taking command. The end result was an emphatic 6-3 victory, forcing a decisive third set.

While it had been Parker who had opportunities to win the opening set, in the decisive third set it was Gustafson who seemed to be in control. With neither player being able to hold serve until game nine of the set, Gustafson finally broke through to take a 5-4 lead and put the pressure on Parker. She did that before Gustafson held for a second consecutive time, forcing Parker to stay in the match.

With nothing decided through 12 games, the match fittingly was forced into a second tiebreaker.

Parker again took control early but Gustafson come storming back. With Parker leading 5-2, Gustafson cut the deficit to 5-4, forcing Parker to serve out the set.

She did that, leaving the overall match score tied at 3-3.

The Warriors regained momentum, at least for a short period of time, as the tandem of Wilson and Jennifer Gustafson remained unbeaten on the season with an 8-4 victory, forcing the Loggers to win the final two doubles matches in order to secure the

victory.

In what can only be described as a battle of perseverance, the Loggers' tandem of Elise Adams and Tara Matruolo outlasted the Warrior tandem of Speaker and Katherine Gustafson to tie the overall match score at 4-4.

Eureka completed the comeback as Edwards and Maples defeated the Warrior duo of Roxann Dowd and Sinead Aguilar 8-5 in the No. 3 doubles match.

Macan ends 2008 H-DN tennis campaign
undefeated

Although they're match wasn't complete, one thing was -- Catherine Macan undefeated.

The St. Bernard's top-seeded singles player defeated McKinleyville's Rachel Marrs to cap a 12-0 mark in H-DN tennis this season.

The overall match between the two schools was not completed Tuesday and was tied 3-3 in singles.

The doubles portion will be completed at a date to be determined.