Boys Tennis Wins State Championship

Will Robinson, May 23 2013

After finishing second in the state in each of the past three years, seniors Z Roach, Pep Ruckpanich, and Riley McDonough finally met their goal; some would say shattered it. The three led the boys tennis team to the state championship in dominating fashion at the University of Delaware this week.

Pep won his record fourth doubles championship alongside Reed McLaurin '14 at 1st doubles. The boys cruised in the first set against their opponents from Caesar Rodney only to drop the second set. They came storming back in the third to capture the first points of the day for the Saints. The 2nd doubles team of Ryan Chiu '14 and Doug McLaurin '14 faced a similar challenge against their opponents from Tower Hill. Needing to win to secure the overall team championship, the boys found themselves down 1-4 in the third set before digging in to win 6 of the next 7 games to capture the set and the match. A large crowd of faculty, students, and alumni erupted after the match's final point.

The victories were only just beginning. Riley dismantled his opponent at 2nd singles — the #1 seed he had lost to twice this year — 6-0, 6-3 and Jasper Haritz '14 beat the #1 seed at 3rd singles for good measure. Four finals, four wins, one State Championship.

"I couldn't be prouder of these guys," said head coach Peter Hoopes. "They set a goal early in the year and did everything they could to meet it. Extra practices, conditioning in the offseason, even focusing on their mental approach to matches. They worked for everything they received."

This is the 11th state championship for boys tennis since 1984 and the second highest point total in championship history (25). The girls have also won 7 team championships.