

California Community College Athletic Association State Tennis Championship

Francisco Stuardo from College of the Desert Wins the Men's Singles

Stuardo came into the state championships as an underdog being only the number three player on the College of the Desert roster and a semifinalist in the regional tournament but made his presence felt in the state championship. He played a role in College of the Desert winning the dual team title, was a semifinalist in the men's doubles and takes the men's singles championship. He was certainly a force to be reckoned with throughout this tournament and earned the singles title beating a tough competitor in Zach Taylor. Taylor is Ventura College's ace and showed why in this very well contested championship match. Stuardo beat Taylor with scores of 6-2, 6-4, although the match seemed much closer than that with both players getting stronger as the match went on.

State Championship- Saturday, May 9

Francisco Stuardo (Desert) d. Zach Taylor (Ventura) 6-2, 6-4

Semi-Finals- Saturday, May 9

Zach Taylor (Ventura) d. Joao Nogueira (Fresno) 6-2, 7-5

Francisco Stuardo (Desert) d. Nick Ballou (Diablo) 6-1, 6-1

Hank Bessinger and Joao Nogueira from Fresno Win the Men's Doubles

Fresno City's Bessinger and Nogueira played many tough competitors on their way to the title showing each why they were the number one ranked team out of the North. Starting in the quarter finals they faced Hassen Abbas and Zach Taylor who was a finalist in the singles competition. It took three sets and a comeback to get by them winning 5-7, 6-2, 6-3. In the semifinals they played Doug Edwards and Jason Wall of Cerritos who also proved to be very tough competition. This match also went three sets and the lead went back and forth the whole way. The men's doubles finals came down to Bessinger/Nogueira (Fresno) against Banuelos/Coelho (Riverside), the number one seeds out of both regions. This was a close contest the entire way with many lead changes in both sets, but Bessinger and Nogueira pulled it out 6-4, 6-4.

State Championship- Saturday, May 9

Bessinger/Nogueira (Fresno) d. Banuelos/Coelho (Riverside) 6-4, 6-4

Semi-Finals- Saturday, May 9

Bessinger/Nogueira (Fresno) d. Edwards Wall (Cerritos) 6-3, 2-6, 7-5

Banuelos/Coelho (Riverside) d. Stuardo/Uauy (Desert) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2

Ashley Litchfield of Ventura takes the Women's Singles State Championship

Litchfield was the number one ranked singles player from the south coming into this Southern California dominated women's singles tournament. The SoCal women each advanced into the second round, leaving no Northern California players after the round of 16. Litchfield dominated much of the way, until a very difficult finals round against Samantha Nadres out of Cerritos. Nadres started each set with commanding leads of 4-0 in the first and 2-0 in the second, but Litchfield came through when her back was against the wall in both finishing this final round with scores of 7-6 (1) and 6-2. Fatigue may have also played a factor for Nadres who played a very long and difficult semi finals round against Chloe Redman from Cuesta.

State Championship- Saturday, May 9

Ashley Litchfield (Ventura) d. Samantha Nadres (Cerritos) 7-6 (1), 6-2

Semi-Finals- Saturday, May 9

Ashley Litchfield (Ventura) d. 6-2, 6-1

Samantha Nadres (Cerritos) d. Chloe Redman 7-6 (3), 6-4

Shoko Hachiya and Arina Polovnikova from Palomar Win the Women's Doubles

Hachiya and Polovnikova faced very tough competitors in the finals against Yumiko Justin and Vickee Gonzales from Reedley. Both teams played very difficult semi finals and were surely battling fatigue in the finals with Gonzales/Justin beating the number one team out of the south and Hachiya/Polovnikova going three sets in the semis against Bass/Boyer with a total of 8 match points. Hachiya and Polovnikova came back in the second set of the finals from an early deficit to win the state championship with final scores of 6-3, 7-5.

State Championship- Saturday, May 9

Hachiya/Polovnikova (Palomar) d. Gonzales/Justin (Reedley) 6-3, 7-5

Semi-Finals- Saturday, May 9

Hachiya/Polovnikova (Palomar) d. Bass/Boyer (Orange Coast) 6-7 (5), 6-1, 7-6 (3)

Gonzales/Justin (Reedley) d. Rouquet/Sales (Desert) 6-2, 7-5