

Tuesday, October 10, 2006

# Singles title up for grab

## Minford duo wins SOC doubles crown

By JEFF TAEPEKE

*PDT Sports Writer*

When the finals of the SOC tennis started on Monday, it was all red and white and orange and black. Minford and Wheelersburg showed why they were the top teams in the league this year.

Now, if they could only finish.

The doubles finals finished up at Mound Park, with Lady Falcons' Kyla Gampp and Tayler Baker taking the crown from Wheelersburg's Courtnie Haller and Brian Warner. But for the second time, play was suspended because of darkness in the middle of the singles championship, between Minford's Jordyn Theil and sectional winner Lauren Dever.

When play was halted, Dever had just won the first set 7-5.

It has been a long week for Dever and the Minford players. All four went deep into the sectional tournament on Monday, and then had two days rest before resuming the tournament. Dever, however, said it shouldn't affect her heading into the final day.

"Playing all day doesn't bother me," she said. "That's not a problem. Actually, I think that's an advantage because I can deal with anything."

Dever showed her resilience in the first set, coming back from a 5-3 deficit against Theil. A mix of apple juice and Gatorade helped the sophomore gain some strength, which she turned into powerful ground strokes and points.

"My sugar was low, but after I ate, I was fine after that," Dever said. "My body language was good and if I stay in and fought, I could turn the momentum around."

Theil was visibly hurt after taking the lead in the second set. She said she tweaked her knee midway through the match, but as it went on, she felt fine. She had difficulty

Minford's Kyla Gampp returns a shot Tuesday during SOC doubles play. Gampp and partner Tayler Baker won the sectional doubles championship.

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getting her strong first serve in early, but was able to utilize it as the match progressed.

"If I get that hard serve in, it should help out immensely," Theil said.

"I don't know what I did (to the knee). It's just sore right now, it's not anything too bad."

Dever ousted Theil's doubles partner Megan Fyffe earlier in the day 6-1, 6-4 to advance to the finals.

Not only did Theil have to play Dever, the Lady Falcons' also competed against another district-bound player, Notre Dame's Radhika Patel. Patel qualified for the districts as the fourth seed last week, but fell to Thiel 6-1, 6-0. The senior said playing a number of competitive matches in a row finally took its toll.

"I'm just worn out from sectionals," Patel, who had to finish up a previous match earlier, said. "I was kind of tired. Playing an extra match, it kind of tired me out."

Notre Dame coach Kristie Johnson said Patel now can focus on Columbus.

"She made All-SOC, so she's happy about that. (Districts) is what she needs to focus on. (The SOC) gives her an opportunity to see what she needs to work on."

In doubles, Baker and Gampp continued their success from last week's sectional win to take the SOC crown. The duo didn't miss many shots against Wheelersburg, taking the final 6-2, 6-1. Gampp said the duo's communication has improved during the season, and it has shown.

"We know what each other is going to do, so we know

how to back up each other," Gampp said. "We did really well (against) Wheelersburg. We had good placement."

Gampp and Baker didn't spend too much time on the court in their two matches. The duo defeated Notre Dame's sister duo of Sarah and Rachel Appleton 6-0, 6-0 in the semifinals.

"They've been able to pull together and raise their level of play as they've been pushed," Minford coach R.D. Baker said. "They're getting sharper and playing smarter and smarter."

Although his team lost in the finals, Wheelersburg coach Tom Carter had nothing but praise for Haller and Warner, who were teamed up in the sixth match of the season. In that span, the tandem went undefeated before Monday's match, including a 6-2, 6-4 win against another Minford pair, Hilary Shonkwiler and Kristi Harris, in the semifinals.

"That eliminated the problem of us not having a very good No. 1 doubles team," Carter said. "They're juniors, they're year-round players. They'll work on their game. It just makes it so easier for me."

The singles final will conclude at 4 p.m. at Mound Park.

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### SOC Tournament Singles Second Round

Radhika Patel (ND) def. Gracie Duckworth (WB) 6-0, 6-1

### Semifinals

Lauren Dever (WB) def. Megan Fyffe (M) 6-1, 6-4

Jordyn Thiel (M) def. Patel (ND) 6-1, 6-0

### Finals

Dever leads Thiel 7-5

### Doubles Semifinals

Courtne Haller/Brittany Warner (WB) def. Hilary Shonkwiler/Kristi Harris (M) 6-2, 6-4

Taylor Baker/Kyla Gampp (M) def. Sarah Appleton/Rachel Appleton (ND) 6-0, 6-0

### Finals

Baker/Gampp def. Haller/Warner 6-2, 6-1