

IHSAA Boys Tennis

1996-97 State Finals in Review

PARK TUDOR WINS IHSAA BOYS TEAM TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

Park Tudor lived up to its top-ranked billing with a 4-1 victory over Terre Haute South for the state championship in the 30th annual IHSAA Boys Team Tennis State Finals on October 19, 1996 at North Central High School in Indianapolis.

The top-ranked Panthers finished the season 23-1 and defeated seven consecutive ranked teams on its way to the school's second state crown. Park Tudor also won the boys tennis championship in 1990. No. 12-ranked Terre Haute South finished 15-5 this season and was making its third appearance in the state finals.

Junior Eric Gershman put Park Tudor over the top with his 6-2, 6-2 decision over Joe Cantillo at No. 2 singles which gave the Panthers a 3-1 lead at that point. The Panthers' No. 1 doubles team of Jamie Knall and John Pearson remained unbeaten for the year by winning twice in straight sets, including a 6-2, 6-3 win over Terre Haute South's Argie Gonzales and T.C. Clary in the final.

Park Tudor earned its way into the championship match with a 4-1 win over fifth-ranked Homestead in one of the two semifinal matches. Terre Haute South gutted out its third straight 3-2 victory over unranked South Bend St. Joseph's in the other semifinal to advance. Homestead, which finished 19-4 and was making its fifth straight appearance in the state finals, downed South Bend St. Joseph's (19-3) by a 4-1 count in the consolation match.

Raju Raval of Homestead High School was named the 1996 recipient of the IHSAA Mental Attitude Award in Boys Tennis. Raval, who played No. 2 doubles for the Spartans, ranks first academically in his senior class of 401 students. Farm Bureau Insurance, corporate partner of the IHSAA, will present a \$1,000 scholarship in Raval's name to Homestead High School.

FORT WAYNE NORTH SIDE, PARK TUDOR CELEBRATE BOYS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Players representing Fort Wayne North Side and Park Tudor captured the first IHSAA Boys Tennis Singles and Doubles state championships in the history of those schools on October 26, 1996 at the Racquets Four Tennis Centre in Indianapolis.

Oliver Cantrell, a senior from Fort Wayne North Side, put the finishing touches on a perfect season by battling sophomore Kevin Burnett of Center Grove through a first-set tiebreaker before posting a 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 victory to win the IHSAA Boys Tennis Singles championship.

Cantrell, who defeated John Crockett of Indianapolis Chatard 6-1, 6-4 in the quarterfinals and Cody Conley of Floyd Central in the semifinals, finished 9-0 in tournament play and 26-0 this season. Burnett was 9-1 in tournament competition and 17-4 overall.

In the doubles competition, senior Jamie Knall and freshman John Pearson completed a 24-0 campaign with a 6-2, 6-1 triumph over senior Mandar DeSai and junior Kit Buechley of West Lafayette. Knall and Pearson, who lost only one set all season, also helped Park Tudor to the IHSAA Boys Team Tennis state championship on October 19.

30TH ANNUAL TEAM STATE FINALS

October 19, 1996

North Central H.S., Indianapolis

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Park Tudor 4, Terre Haute South 1

Singles

1. Isaac Case (THS) def. Scott Sadove (PT) 6-0, 6-2

2. Eric Gershman (PT) def. Joe Cantillo (THS) 6-2, 6-2

3. Kevin Gill (PT) def. Prashant Patel (THS) 6-2, 6-1

Doubles

1. Jamie Knall/John Pearson (PT) def. Argie Gonzales/T.C. Clary (THS) 6-2, 6-3

2. Wade Knall/Casey McGaughey (PT) def. Jonathan Goldbort/Conor Grimley (THS) 6-4, 6-1

CONSOLATION MATCH

Homestead 4, South Bend St. Joseph's 1

Singles

1. Richard Phillipp (H) def. James Rogers (SBSJ) 6-4, 6-0

2. Chris Varga (SBSJ) def. Daniel Rocke (H) 6-3, 6-4

3. Chris Klingelheber (H) def. Matt Lynch (SBSJ) 6-2, 6-2

Doubles

1. Brian Miller/Anthony Arata (H) def. Ryan Kaliney/Brian Rzepnicki (SBSJ) 6-2, 6-3

2. Raju Raval/Robert Wuthrich (H) def. Paul Williams/Mike Shaul (SBSJ) 6-0, 6-0

SEMIFINALS

Park Tudor 4, Homestead 1

Singles

1. Richard Phillipp (H) def. Scott Sadove (PT) 6-0, 6-0

2. Eric Gershman (PT) def. Daniel Rocke (H) 6-3, 6-3

3. Kevin Gill (PT) def. Chris Klingelheber (H) 6-3, 6-1

Doubles

1. Jamie Knall/John Pearson (PT) def. Brian Miller/Anthony Arata (H) 6-1, 6-1

2. Wade Knall/Casey McGaughey (PT) def. Raju Raval/Robert Wuthrich (H) 7-5, 6-1

Terre Haute South 3, S.B. St. Joseph's 2

Singles

1. James Rogers (SBSJ) def. Isaac Case (THS) 6-2, 6-4

2. Chris Varga (SBSJ) def. Joe Cantillo (THS) 6-4, 6-3

3. Prashant Patel (THS) def. Matthew Lynch (SBSJ) 6-1, 7-6 (7-3)

Doubles

1. Argie Gonzales/T.C. Clary (THS) def. Ryan Kaliney/Brian Rzepnicki (SBSJ) 6-2, 6-3

2. Jonathan Goldbort/Conor Grimley (THS) def. Paul Williams/Mike Shaul (SBSJ) 6-2, 6-1

17TH ANNUAL SINGLES STATE FINALS

October 25-26, 1996

Racquets Four Tennis Centre, Indianapolis

SEMIFINALS RESULTS

Oliver Cantrell, senior, *Fort Wayne North Side* def. Richard Phillipp, junior, *Homestead* 6-1, 6-0.

Kevin Burnett, sophomore, *Center Grove* (16-3) def. Cody Conley, sophomore, *Floyd Central* 6-3, 6-4.

CONSOLATION MATCH

Cody Conley, sophomore, *Floyd Central* def. Richard Phillipp, junior, *Homestead*, 6-3, 6-3.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Oliver Cantrell, senior, *Fort Wayne North Side* def. Kevin Burnett, sophomore, *Center Grove*, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2.

SEVENTH ANNUAL DOUBLES STATE FINALS

October 25-26, 1996

Racquets Four Tennis Centre, Indianapolis

SEMIFINALS RESULTS

Jamie Knall, senior\John Pearson, freshman, *Park Tudor* def. Matthew Walton, senior/Matthew Renn, senior, *Silver Creek* 6-3, 6-4.

Mandar DeSai, senior/Kit Buechley, junior, *West Lafayette* def. Kyu Park, senior/Sandy Rosen, junior, *Munster* 6-4, 7-5.

CONSOLATION MATCH

Matthew Walton, senior/Matthew Renn, senior, *Silver Creek* def. Kyu Park, senior/Sandy Rosen, junior, *Munster* 6-2, 6-4.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Jamie Knall, senior\John Pearson, freshman, *Park Tudor* def. Mandar DeSai, senior/Kit Buechley, junior, *West Lafayette* 6-2, 6-1.