

Boys Squash Wins Mid-Atlantic Championship

Will Robinson, Feb 18 2013

The St. Andrew's boys squash team finished their season with an exciting day of play at the Mid-Atlantic Squash Organization's individual tournament, hosted by Episcopal High School. The boys claimed the top spot overall with 30 points, well ahead of 2nd place Potomac, with 22.5; other schools involved were EHS, St. Anne's Belfield, and Gonzaga.

All seven players for the boys took a spot on the podium with Nick Desrosier at #4 and Oscar Merino at #5 coasting to individual championships, rarely being challenged throughout the day. Carson Long joined them winning the #3 bracket employing a brutal attritional strategy to wear down his talented opponent from Potomac in the final. Carson dropped the first two games playing almost exclusively to the back of the court, but never quit. He slowly but surely gained the upper hand, finally taking the last game 11-0. It was a great display of fitness, athleticism, and long-range thinking on the squash court.

Riley McDonough at #1 had a great day, playing four intense, physical matches. He pushed Theo Mendez of Potomac to five games, then, back on court about ten minutes later, was the first opponent of the season to take a game off Stuart Staunton from St. Anne's Belfield. Riley also recorded convincing wins over Gonzaga and EHS.

Senior co-captain Z Roach struggled, as he has throughout the latter half of the season, with terrible knee pain, but still managed to finish second at #2, only falling to Potomac in three nail-biting games. Jack Marshall #6 and Peter Knutson #7 were surprised by inspired play from their counterparts at EHS, dropping their first place matches in three tiebreakers and four tight games, respectively.

In the van on the way home the boys reflected happily on a season in which they finished with an 8-1 duel meet record despite losing one of their top players, Pep Ruckpanich, to ACL surgery in the fall. It was the last high school match for five seniors who have been instrumental in continuing to push the St. Andrew's squash program to new heights during their careers.

Thank you Nick, Z, Riley, Jack, and Pep! Go Saints!