

GAME SUMMARY

DATE OF GAME: 3/16/09

SPORT: Men's Tennis

TEAM RECORD: 0-1

OPPONENT: Harford Community College (Bel Air, MD)

SCORE: 5-3 (one match still to be completed 3/18)

WIN/LOSE: CCRI Loses

LEAD STORY #1: CCRI traveled to Harford Community College in Bel Air, MD with a full complement of players available to play. Following a long trip down 95S that saw the travelers stopped twice for accidents – once for a solid 2 hours, no moving, engine off – the CCRI Men's tennis team took straight to the courts under imposing storm clouds and sometimes-gusting winds. Doubles started the day with CCRI's sophomore Alex Cavanagh (Middletown, RI) and returning sophomore Nathan York (Smithfield, RI) in first doubles facing Josh Meier and Josh Hicks – freshman Michael Wilbur and freshman Daniel Rivard (both of Scituate, RI) in second doubles facing Josh Hays and Chris Blackwell – and returning sophomore Christopher Izzo (Warwick, RI) and freshman James Lachance (Cranston, RI) in third doubles facing Ben Wade and Steve Heagy. Cavanagh and York pulled out their match after trading breaks of serves with the two Josh's, winning the pro-set 9-7 with a hold, break, hold to capture the final three games of the set after being down 6-7. Wilbur and Rivard dropped their second doubles contest 8-3 in a match that was far more competitive than the score indicates. Izzo and Lachance also dropped their third doubles contest despite having Izzo serving for the match at 7-6. Their match ended in a tiebreak at 8-all, with CCRI losing 7-4 in the deciding game.

LEAD STORY #2: Singles wasn't much more successful as the CCRI Men took the courts after a long day of travel. Nate York faced off against Josh Hicks in first singles, and dropped a hard-fought contest 6-3, 6-4. Alex Cavanagh faced Josh Hays in second singles and handled him easily, 6-0, 6-0 to give CCRI its' second point of the match. Mike Wilbur took the court against Harford's other Josh (Meier) and dropped that contest 6-2, 6-1. Dan Rivard in only his second-ever competitive tennis match (the first was the earlier doubles contest) faced Chris Blackwell in fourth singles, dropping the match 6-4, 6-4 in a contest that saw Rivard up a break of serve in each of the two sets, only to succumb to the more experienced Blackwell. Chris Izzo took the court against Mazon Dickerson in sixth singles and handed Dickerson a 6-2, 6-2 loss. Ryan Lavoie rounded out the CCRI singles day in a seven-singles contest against Brian McKeldin, last year's #4, dropping that match 6-1, 6-1 but where 11 of the 14 games played went to deuce. James Lachance took to the court in fifth singles, against Harford's Steve Heagy, recently

recovered from a broken knuckle. Lachance dropped the first set 6-3, and then went down a break in the second, only to charge back and tie the set at 4-all just before the match was called due to slick conditions as the rain that had been threatening all day started in earnest. That match will be completed on Wednesday, before the regularly scheduled rematch against the Owls.

LEAD STORY #3: The CCRI men facing adverse conditions, coming directly off a long, 7½-hour van ride that saw two traffic jams and threatening weather as they entered the Harford campus, the Knights took directly to the courts to get in as much tennis as they could on their first day of play this season. Playing outside for the first time this spring, playing on a regular court surface for the first time this spring, playing in spitting rain and sometimes-gusting wind, and playing a much-improved Owl team from last year proved to be just too much for CCRI's first match of the season as they drop the contest 5-3. One match is yet to be completed and could result in either a 6-3 or a 5-4 final result. CCRI looks to rebound on St. Patrick's day – wearing their best green! – against the Roadrunners from Gloucester County College.

COACHES COMMENTS: Facing a team that has improved from top to bottom from last year and that has produced outstanding results over the last several years, today's match was a good first step for the current CCRI Men's team...but we are going to have to get better if we want a chance to compete at the sport's highest level – the National Tournament, scheduled for May of this year in Plano, TX.