

GAME SUMMARY

DATE OF GAME: 3/22/10

SPORT: Coed Tennis

TEAM RECORD: 0-1

OPPONENT: Mercer County Community College

SCORE: 8-1

WIN/LOSE: CCRI Loses

LEAD STORY #1: CCRI traveled to Mercer County Community College Vikings on the first day of a six-match-in-six-days campaign to kick off the 2010 season. The New Jersey school follows a no-ad scoring format, 8-game pro-sets in doubles and a match tiebreak in lieu of a full third set in singles. Mercer has improved over last year's season where they had disappointing results following a 5th place National finish in 2008. After spending the morning in the van on the way down to West Windsor, NJ, the also-improved CCRI Knights took to the beautiful indoor courts of Mercer County Park to face off in their first contest of the season. The first match of the day set the tone as returning co-captain **Alex Cavanagh** (Middletown, RI) faced off against *Matt Pierson*, a futures circuit player, who featured 140+mph 1st serves and 125mph 2nd kick serves that jumped 6-8 feet in the air (by the way, in case you don't know, those are pro-level skills). Alex succumbed as did all the singles positions. The brightest spot was in 1st doubles where Cavanagh teamed up with **Timothy Steere** (Glocester, RI) to impressively defeat Pierson and his partner, *Jason Bielski*, who had dispatched Steere in singles as well. Steere featured a 2nd serve ace of Pierson in the second game of the set that set the stage for the rest of the contest. That win alone, could secure Cavanagh and Steere a top 3 seed at the National Tournament provided they continue to win the rest of the season.

LEAD STORY #2: The Community College of Rhode Island Knights took to the courts against the Mercer County Community College Vikings in the first match of our 2010 campaign. **Alex Cavanagh** (Middletown, RI) faced off against *Matt Pierson* in first singles and succumbed 6-1, 6-2. **Timothy Steere** (Glocester, RI) was defeated by *Jason Bielski* in second singles, 7-5, 6-4. **Cooper Gillis** (Barrington, RI) faced *Travis McCaughan* in third singles, falling by a score of 6-2, 3-6, 1-0⁽⁸⁾. **Dan Rivard** (Scituate, RI) battled but fell to *Juan Ramirez* 6-4, 6-4. Fifth singles featured **Matt Beatrice** (Peacedale, RI) falling to *Ben Pinter* in fifth singles 6-2, 6-0. Sixth singles featured **Ashley Llewellyn** (N. Attleboro, MA) dropping her match 6-1, 6-4 to *Dave Wilkes*. The Vikings have 13 singles players so all of the Knights (**Phil Vieira** (Portsmouth, RI), **Mohammed Kattan** (Cranston, RI) and **Ryan Lavoie** (Coventry, RI)) were able to play. Unfortunately, all three dropped their 8-game pro-sets to *Jason Ciaccio*, *Matt Romano*

and *Joon Lee*, 8-4, 8-1 and 8-1 respectively. **Cavanagh** teamed up with **Steere** in first doubles, defeating *Matt Pierson* and *Jason Bielski*, 8-4 in the 8-game pro-set format. **Gillis** and **Rivard** teamed up in second doubles, falling to *Travis McCaughan* and *Jason Ciaccio* 8-5. **Beatrice** and **Vieira** paired up and were bested by *Juan Ramirez* and *Matt Romano* 8-1 in third doubles. Finally, rounding out the day, **Kattan** and **Lavoie** fell to *Brendan Belluscio* and *Ben Pinter* 8-3.

LEAD STORY #3: The story of the day promised to be Mercer County Community College's *Matt Pierson*. Pierson, a DIII player for College of New Jersey during the 2007-08 season, and a futures circuit player over the last several months, was rumored to have a 140+ mph 1st serve and a 125+ mph kick 2nd. The rumors were true. Right out of the gates Pierson was booming serves that sounded like lightening cracks and crushing forehand winners. For all that, however, the Knights 1st doubles duo of Alex Cavanagh and Tim Steere in their first match together, scored an impressive 8-4 pro-set victory over Pierson and his partner, 6'5" Jason Bielski, last year's #1 for Mercer. Cavanagh and Steere clearly outplayed the primarily singles-oriented Pierson and Bielski and would have likely finished a two-set match just as easily.

COACHES COMMENTS: All-in-all, there were many positives to take from today's contest despite the majority of the matches going the wrong way for the CCRI Knights. It was a good start to what should be a successful campaign. Some of our players truly set themselves up to compete well the rest of the season. Without another team in our own region, it is always a fine line that we must walk between scheduling the top tier teams in the country and making sure we have a chance to be successful. Today was an excellent learning experience, and, in the case of 1st doubles, a signal for the rest of the country to heed.