

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Thurmans ousted at districts



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison's Vasin Thurman chases down a volley in the second set off their match with Cedar Rapids Xavier Wednesday in Fairfield. The Thurmans took 3rd place after falling 6-1, 6-7 (2-7), 1-6 in the semis.

TENNIS: Bloodhounds miss third trip to state with Xavier added to bracket

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FAIRFIELD – In 40 years Fort Madison Head Coach Dean Hogan hasn't seen Cedar Rapids Xavier in the Bloodhounds' tennis districts.

But any coach will tell you you have to beat the best to be the best.

And Fort Madison's Jason and Vasin Thurman had some of the best on the ropes Wednesday afternoon at Fairfield Middle School's tennis facility at the IHSAA Class 1A tennis districts before falling 6-1, 6-7 (2-7), 1-6 in the semifinals to top-seeded Cedar Rapids Xavier.

The two, playing as Bloodhounds in the shared program with Holy Trinity Catholic, breezed into the semifinals with identical 6-0, 6-2 wins over Keokuk's Ivan Lopez and Kaiden Stoneking, and Centerville's Reece Sells and Lucas Henderson in the first two rounds.

It looked like much of the same in semis as the Thurmans jumped all over Xavier's Declan Coe and Hugh Courter 6-1 in the first set, and then jumped out to 3-0 lead in the second set.

In the fourth game of the second set Courter was serving and the Thurmans had their sites set on breaking the junior's serve at 30-40, but Coe would take it to deuce with some net play and then Vasin would go long to give the Saints

See **TENNIS**, page 4

EDUCATION NEWS

SCC students win top national business rankings

WEST BURLINGTON - Four students from Southeastern Community College's Computer Club and three from its Business Club earned top ranks at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference held virtually from April 26

thru May 8.

BPA is the top career and technical student organization for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology, and related career fields.

Participants compete against 2- and

4-year schools in several categories, including web design, PC servicing and troubleshooting, business law and ethics, and college payroll accounting.

Each computer club member is in

See **SCC**, page 2

See **ALUMNI**, page 2

SCC

Brueck, Gaylord named 2021 SCC distinguished alumni

KEOKUK - Southeastern Community College will host receptions for this year's Distinguished Alumni honorees prior to the May 12 and May 13 SCC commencement ceremonies.

Keokuk 2021 Distinguished Alumnus, Paul Gaylord, will be honored at a reception on Wednesday, May 12, at 5 p.m. on SCC's Keokuk campus.

West Burlington 2021 Distinguished Alumnus, Judy Brueck, will be honored at a reception at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, in the banquet room at Burlington Memorial Auditorium.

Meghan Meenerts, Gaylord's granddaughter, will present the keynote speech at Keokuk's commencement, to be held outdoors at Keokuk's campus. Brueck will present a keynote address during West Burlington's commencement at the Burlington Memorial Auditorium.

Gaylord dedicated his life to education and advocating for his hometown, Keokuk.

He earned an associate degree from Keokuk Community College in 1958 and a bachelor's degree in education from Western Illinois University in 1960. He went on to earn a master's degree in counseling and school administration in 1964 from Illinois State University.

Gaylord worked in the Keokuk Community School District for 28 years, serving as counselor, assistant principal, and eventually as principal of Keokuk Middle School for 16 years. One of the many highlights of Gaylord's career was in 1988 when he received an award as one of the top 150 schools in the U.S for Excellence in Education on behalf of Keokuk Middle School from President Ronald Reagan at a ceremony at the White House.

In appreciation for his dedication to the Keokuk Community School District, then-mayor Ronald O. Bramhall declared June 4 to be Paul Gaylord Day.

Gaylord served his community diligently for the benefit of children, he encouraged everyone he knew to take pride in the city, and served as a positive role model for students and parents alike. The fruits of his life's work continue to make a difference in his community and in the lives of all the people he served.

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WEATHER

THU 13 May.....Sunny and Clear, 62° F/ 42° F
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Scene Around the Area/From the Front

Distinguished SCC alumni to give pre-graduation addresses

ALUMNI - Continued from Page 1

Gaylord passed away on February 23, 2019. Brueck earned her licensed practical nurse diploma from SCC's Keokuk campus in 1970. She worked the night shift in Burlington Medical Center's (BMC) Intensive Care Unit before returning to SCC's West Burlington campus to complete her associate degree in nursing in 1979. In 1980, Brueck was among the first nurses selected to staff BMC's new oncology unit. A few years later, she went on to help start its home health/home hospice service, spending the next 20 years providing end-of-life care and family support. Brueck joined the BMC Case Management Department in 2000 where she managed patient and medical services data records. Her work contributed to the department's data validation rate of 98% as measured by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, earning BMC a Get with the Guidelines quality improvement award in 2018. She earned a bachelor's degree in business from Western Illinois University in 2005. She retired from Great River Health Systems August 7, 2020 as the only employee in the hospital's history with 50 years of continuous service. In addition to her professional career, Brueck was active in a number of community organizations over the years, including the Boy Scouts, the Danville School Board, Des Moines County Sheriff's Civil Service Commission, and the Burlington Fine Arts League. Both pre-graduation receptions are open to the public and include hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and beverages for a free will donation. Distinguished alumni are selected by the SCC Alumni Association board from nominations. Nominate an exceptional alum [scciowa.edu](http://www.scciowa.edu). The deadline for nominations is August 1. For reservations, call the SCC Alumni Association Office at (319) 208-5062 or email lhunter@scciowa.edu. For more news or to learn about Southeastern Community College, visit <http://www.scciowa.edu/rss/news/index.html>.



Courtesy Photo

12 members of the Central Lee FFA earned the coveted Iowa FFA Degree at the annual Iowa FFA Leadership Conference held in Des Moines recently. Front (L-R) Maddie Wellman, Chyane Davidson, Geni Newton, Adrienne Britt, Grace Hulsebus, Sydney Jones, Trey Wellman (back) Pierson Westfall, Aidan Boyer, Andrew Kirchner, and Collin Congdon. (Not pictured: Mason Schau).

FM's Taylor, Vincent earn 1st place awards

SCC - Continued from Page 1

SCC's network administration and cyber security program. Joseph Hummel, West Point, Jacob Pearson, Burlington, Charles Taylor, Fort Madison, and Blaze Vincent, Fort Madison, earned 20 honors combined at the state competition. Taylor and Vincent each earned first place awards. SCC network administration and cyber security instructor, Brenda Wamsley, is the co-advisor of the Computer Club. "I cannot express how proud I am of these hardworking students," Wamsley says. "They found strength to overcome this year's obstacles and were successful in their endeavors. Each one should be so proud of their accomplishments." Business Club members Riland Coombs, Taylor Standard, and Faith Woodsmall, all of Burlington, earned five awards combined; Woodsmall placed first in business law and ethics. Trisha Hopper, SCC administrative assistant instructor and advisor of the business club, was proud to see her students excel. "Despite all of this year's challenges, these students stuck with it," Hopper says. "All three business club members will return to SCC next year and look forward to the opportunity to compete in person at the 2022 national competition in Dallas, TX." For more news or to learn about Southeastern Community College, visit <http://www.scciowa.edu/rss/news/index.html>.



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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DONALD E. SNAADT

Donald E. "Don" Snaadt, 91 of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at his home in West Point.

Don was born on August 5, 1929 in West Point, Iowa, the son of Gerhard B. and Adelaide (Strothman) Snaadt. On October 15, 1949, he married Eileen M. Fedler at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point.



SNAADT

From the above union came three sons, two daughters, twelve grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife: Eileen, his high school sweetheart and wife of seventy-one years; sons: Tim (Carol) Snaadt of West Point, Rod Snaadt of West Point and Doug (Nancy) Snaadt of Fort Madison; daughters: Deb (Dave) Lowenberg and Jan (Pat) Holtkamp both of West Point; grandchildren: Jeff (Tanya) Snaadt, Kara (Ryan) Ulrich, Kurt (Rhonda) Lowenberg, Andy (Stacy) Snaadt, Abby Denning, Brett Snaadt, Trevor (Brianna Linklin) Snaadt, Trenton Holtkamp, Kasse Holtkamp, Ryan (Paige) Snaadt and Harrison Snaadt; great grandchildren: Michael and Garrett Snaadt, Cole, Gabe and Luke Ulrich, Landan and Mylan Lowenberg, Tyler, Teagan and Tanner Snaadt, Taegan, Jameson, Eva and Brynn Denning, Tate Snaadt and Emalyn Snaadt.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother: Leroy; four sisters: Lucille Kruse, Cassilda Reichelt, Bernice Brune and Kay Kaltefleiter and one grandson: Troy Snaadt.

Don graduated from St. Mary's High School in June 1947 and the American Institute of Commerce in June 1949 with a two year degree in Accounting. He spent seven years at DuPont in Fort Madison as a cost accountant, ten years as a manager of the family feed and grain business known as Ideal Feed Mill. He purchased the same business, incorporated and became president of Ideal Feed and Grain, Inc. After retiring, he worked part time for Ann Menke CPA as a courier for eighteen years.

Don was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church where he participated in the choir, was a eucharistic minister and served on their finance committee. He was a member of the Iowa Grain and Feed Association, serving as chairman. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus serving as Grand Knight. Don loved people. He was the happiest when he was with family and friends. He enjoyed reading and dancing. He also loved to tease his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and they loved to tease him back. Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Thursday, May 13 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A Knights of Columbus rosary will be recited at 3:00 p.m. and a Christian wake service will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 14, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant. Mass will be lived streamed on the church Facebook page and posted on his obituary "Tribute Wall" on our website following the service at: www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in his memory for West Point Fire and Rescue and Calvary Cemetery.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with local arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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From the Front

Thurmans falter in second set against Xavier

TENNIS - Continued from Page 1

the advantage. Fort Madison would battle back to deuce on an unforced error. The teams would go back and forth at deuce until Xavier would get the game to get on the board...and take all the momentum.

Coe and Courter would win the next four games including breaking Vasin's service game at love. Coe would serve the next game giving up just one point to tie things up at 3 all.

The Thurman's would regain some composure in the seventh game with Jason serving. The teams would tie at 15 and 30, but an error at the net by Fort Madison gave Xavier its first lead of the set at 4-3.

Xavier would take the next game with Courter serving to make it 5-3, but Fort Madison would close it to 5-4 snapping the four-game rally. The Hounds would then break Coe's serve when the Saints would go long in a rally at 30-40 to tie things at 5.

Xavier would break Jason's serve to go up 6-5, but the Hounds would break back at 15-40 to set up a first-to-seven tiebreaker with the set at 6 all.

Vasin would double fault to start things off, and the Saints would reel off four straight before Fort Madison would get two straight, capped by a snappy cross-court runner by Jason Thurman going right just inside the baseline, for a 4-2 Bloodhound deficit.

The Saints would score the next three to take the tiebreaker and steal all the wind from the Thurmans' sails as the two couldn't find their way again and dropped six of the next seven games to surrender the match.

Vasin Thurman said early on the Hounds were able to take advantage of miscues from the Courter and keep the ball from Coe, who plays at No. 3 for the top-seeded Saints. Xavier's No. 1 and 2 players, Brady Horstmann and Matthew Schmit won the doubles bracket with a 6-1, 6-4 win over their teammates.

"One of their kids just took control over the other kid and started making shots and that really helped them out," Vasin said. "That ended up being what caused them to take the momentum and then they both started playing better."

Vasin said not playing last year during the pandemic made things tougher this year.

"We were hoping to place in the top 8 as juniors and then we would have had that extra season playing," he said. "This was our last chance to do that and being put up against the top team in the state, who usually isn't in our district, was too much."

Up until 2020, West Burlington/Notre Dame had a tennis squad and they traditionally would have been in the district, and Xavier would have played elsewhere. But with WB/ND not fielding a team this year, Xavier was moved into the Fairfield district.

Jason said it felt like they were playing as juniors and not seniors because of the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Head Coach Dean Hogan gives some tips to Vasin Thurman, left, and Jason Thurman, center, during a break in the 2nd set of the Hounds' loss to Cedar Rapids Xavier Wednesday in Class 1A district action

missed year.

"If we would have had another year under our belt it would have been different. We don't play tennis all year around like them. We play three sports and don't dedicate all our time to tennis. Missing that year maybe made this year worse than we would have played as juniors," he said.

The two went on to down Centerville's Otis Williams and Corey Shondell handily 6-0, 6-1 to take 3rd place. They would make the state tournament if something were to prevent either of the Xavier teams from making the trip to Waterloo.

The loss also knocked the Hounds out of the team state tournament, instead sliding Centerville into the 3rd place team spot. Centerville and Keokuk will have a play-in prior to state to see who will be the No. 2 seed from the district.

Hogan said it was an unfortunate circumstance that WB/ND didn't have a team, and someone decided Xavier should be moved into southeast Iowa.

"Southeast Iowa got misrepresented with that. Someone on the board was able to shift teams around and Xavier got lucky to come here and out of another district," Hogan said.

"They have some talented players for sure, some of them we saw at state a couple years ago, but they should have been in another district."

Hogan said a couple of points and several double faults got to the Thurmans in the second set that could have turned the match the other way.

"I think we played the best we could. We ran out of gas and they changed their game plan. They changed their serve and then tension and nerves came about and you tense up and try to keep the ball in play and lose the strength of your stroke," Hogan said.

"I've really enjoyed the past four years, minus one, with those young men. I wish I would have had that one more year. The other players improved and gained some confidence too, but the twins had each other and spent a lot of time at the tennis court."

In other doubles action, Fort Madison's Bryce Workman and Tyler Horn were eliminated in the first round by Keokuk's Brendan Worster and Luke Thompson 6-2, 6-3.

Keokuk's Abbott Haner won the singles championship, but he had to beat both Xavier entrants Ethan Shimak in the second round, and Trenton Link in the title match to advance to the state meet.

Fort Madison's Levis Sissel beat Fairfield's Tristan Paton 6-4, 6-3 to advance to the quarters, but then fell to No. 4 seed David Nguyen of Mt. Pleasant 6-3, 6-4 to end his day.

Kaden Medland fell to Maharishi's No. 2 seed Romil Patel 6-1, 6-0 in the first round.

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Sports



Above, Fort Madison's Bryce Workman and Tyler Horn team up in doubles action at the Fairfield Class 1A district action Wednesday. At left, Kaden Medland returns a volley in singles action, while at left Levi Sissel chases down a return in singles action.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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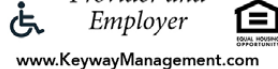
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