

# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## No. 46 Gaels Fight for NCAA Berth



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Jade Frampton



Jenny Jullien



Audrey Leitz

Saint Mary's women's tennis wrapped up WCC play with a win over rival Santa Clara. The No. 46 Gaels knocked off the Broncos 5-2 on April 18.

As the last home match of the season, the Gaels celebrated seniors Jade Frampton, Jenny Jullien, and Audrey Leitz. Frampton won her set 6-3 and sealed the win for Saint Mary's. Jullien, the No. 12 player in the country, also won her set.

With the win, SMC improves to 12-7 overall and 6-2 in WCC play. The Gaels have not lost a match to a non-ranked team all season.

The WCC tournament begins today, April 23, in San Diego. Last year, the Gaels lost to Pepperdine in the WCC finals, but they still earned a berth to the NCAA tournament. This year, Saint Mary's earned the No. 3 seed in the WCC

tournament behind No. 2 BYU (8-1) and No. 1 Pepperdine (9-0).  
C. Mitchell

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## Dons "Ace" Out Their Rivals

By Clare Varellas



Dan Cardiff leads Dons to win.

A tennis ball whizzed back and forth over the net of one of the Campolindo tennis courts on April 17 as Campolindo Cougars' Tilden Oliver rallied against Acalanes Dons' Dan Cardiff at the rivals' second match of the 2014 season.

Undefeated Cardiff scored a final victory, adding to his string of consecutive wins this season. The Dons (14-4) won 8 out of 9 matches.

Acalanes coach Brent Bird has been with the team for three years, but he says this season is the best the Dons have had in about 25 years. Bird partially attributes his team's impressive record to his highest-performing players – senior Dan Cardiff, freshman Ryan Cardiff, and sophomore Isaiah Bird. He also stresses the importance of a team effort.

"Sometimes you look at the best guys and you think, 'Wow, they're all-stars,' but in this league what really wins are the lower guys," said Bird. "You could win your first four singles and then all the rest of your guys lose and you lose the match."

The Dons have a deep team and are in the running for championships in both DFAL and NCS play.

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