

Anderson nets Iowa Open title

Written by Jim Ecker
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Brady Anderson, a star tennis player at Linn-Mar High School the past few years, showed Sunday that he's ready for his next challenge at Coe College this fall.

Anderson captured the men's open title at the Baird Iowa Open Sunday by defeating a current Kohawk in the semifinals and a former Kohawk in the championship match.

Anderson trimmed Riley Galbraith in the semifinals, 7-5, 6-4, and defeated Tom Jennings in the finals, 6-1, 6-1, at the Veterans Memorial Tennis Center.

Galbraith, a Kennedy grad, played No.2 singles for Coe this season and was named first team all-conference. Jennings, currently a teaching pro at the Westfield Tennis Club in Cedar Rapids, was an Iowa Conference champion at Coe in 2008.

Galbraith is two years older than Anderson and held the upper hand in their matches in high school.

"I've known Riley since back when we were little kids playing at the Cedar Rapids Country Club," said Anderson. "I've never been able to beat him, so I guess luck was on my side today. He didn't play his best, though. I was able to capitalize."

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"This is the first time I beat him in an actual match, so it's kind of cool."

Anderson won the state singles title at Linn-Mar in 2013 as a junior and reached the state finals in doubles this season. He'll be a freshman at Coe this year, but does not expect to play ahead of Galbraith even though he beat him Sunday.

Galbraith hits the ball harder than Anderson, for the most part.

"I'm fine wherever they put me," said Anderson. "He probably has a better chance against the better players, the way he plays. I should probably play behind him.

"It's not like either one of us is way better than the other. I think he should be ahead of me."

Galbraith is an emotional tennis player who constantly exhorts himself to do better. He'll occasionally toss his tennis racket or his towel in frustration, whereas Anderson appears to stay a little more unflappable.

"Sometimes I let my emotions get the best of me, but usually I'm pretty good about that, because it usually doesn't help my game if I get mad or angry," said Anderson. "Usually it hurts you more than helps you."

Anderson did not want to match power shots with Galbraith all day, so he relied on some finesse to get the job done.

"I changed it up, made him hit a lot of different looks," he said. "Don't give him the same ball. If he's in a rhythm, it's hard to do anything

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about it. He can catch fire.

"Change it up, move him around, give him different looks so he can't get comfortable. That's kind of how I play against everybody, basically. That was kind of the plan."

Anderson hurt his ankle playing tennis three weeks ago and has not played a lot this summer. The Baird Iowa Open was his first tournament since the end of the high school season.

"I thought for the most part I was pretty solid," he said. "My serve was pretty inconsistent. Everything else was pretty solid, so I was happy about that."

Sarah Lasecki won the women's open singles title in a round-robin with Jennifer Ortega and Laura Birky. Lasecki and Birky both play at Coe. Lasecki is from Kennedy and Birky is from Xavier.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

MEN'S 55 DOUBLES: Russell Crane/Chris Leonard def. Ronald Bradfield/Mark Breheny, 6-2, 6-0

MEN'S 55 SINGLES: Steven Yellin def. Chris Leonard, 6-2, 6-0

MEN'S 65 DOUBLES: Robert Mitchell/Tom Wickham def. Chip Hardesty/Paul Stokstad, 6-2, 6-1

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MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES: Riley Galbraith/Tom Jennings def. Blake Oetting/Phillip Williams, 6-4, 6-3

MEN'S OPEN SINGLES: Brady Anderson def. Tom Jennings, 6-1, 6-1

MIXED OPEN DOUBLES: Kristine Diehl/Riley Galbraith def. Molly Garber/Tom Jennings, 7-5, 6-2

COMBINED MIXED 7.0 DOUBLES: Barton Kennedy/Carrie Kennedy def. Dawn Allen/Steve Bantz, 6-3, 7-6

COMBINED MIXED 8.0 DOUBLES: Beth O'Donnell/Steve White def. Cyndie Birchansky/Chris Wundram, 7-5, 6-2

MEN'S 4.0 DOUBLES: Ed Sherman/Chris Wundram def. Taylor Karrels/David Perkins, 6-4, 6-4

MEN'S 4.0 SINGLES: Chris Wundram def. Levi Wright, 6-3, 6-2

WOMEN'S 3.5 DOUBLES: Katie Barnes/Kristin Davis def. Sheila Goins/Robin Sueppel, 6-2, 6-4

WOMEN'S 3.5 SINGLES: Cynthia Sale def. Kelly Kolln, 6-3, 6-1

WOMEN'S 4.0 DOUBLES: Hope Konrad/Jennifer Lockard def. Katharine Brown/Ellen Cram, 6-4, 6-2

WOMEN'S 4.0 SINGLES: Jennifer Lockhard def. Beth O'Donnell, 6-1, 6-3

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WOMEN'S OPEN DOUBLES: Kristine Diehl/Molly Garber def. Laura Birky/Tiffany Williams, 6-1, 6-0.