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MEN'S SQUASH Championship Preview - Jan. 29, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEN'S SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP TAKES PLACE THIS WEEKEND

Trinity Eyes Second-Straight NESCAC Crown

HADLEY, Mass. - Trinity College will look to defend its 2007 NESCAC title this weekend at the 2008 NESCAC Men's Squash Championship. The three-day tournament will be hosted by Trinity and Wesleyan and begins on Friday with three first round matches at Trinity's George A. Kellner Squash Center. The tournament continues throughout the weekend with championship bracket matches taking place at Trinity and consolation matches at Wesleyan's Rosenbaum Squash Center. The 2008 NESCAC Men's Squash Championship concludes with the final match on Sunday, Feb. 3 at 2:00 p.m.

After winning the inaugural championship event last winter, Trinity (10-0) heads into this weekend's event with the number-one seed for the second year in a row. The Bantams, who along with four other teams have earned a bye out of Friday's first round, will be tested before the weekend by perennial nemesis Princeton on Wednesday evening. The undefeated Tigers (5-0) are the last team to defeat the Bantams, however that match occurred in 1998, a 5-4 Princeton victory. Since that setback, Trinity has gone on to win 175 consecutive matches, the longest streak in any intercollegiate sport, along with nine-consecutive CSA National Championships. The Bantams have also won 96 consecutive matches at home dating back to the 1995-96 season.

The Bantams will take on the winner of Friday's first round match between eight-seeded Middlebury (10-6) and ninth-seeded Connecticut College (6-8). The two teams met just over a week ago on Jan. 20 with the Panthers prevailing over the Camels by a 7-2 score. Middlebury is 4-1 in its last five matches, most recently upending Vassar before falling to Williams this past weekend. The Panthers are an even 3-3 against other NESCAC foes this year, claiming victories over Wesleyan, Colby, and Connecticut College. Connecticut College heads into Friday's match looking to get back into the win column after suffering a 5-4 setback to Wesleyan this past Saturday. The Camels are 1-5 against NESCAC opponents this season.

No. 11 Wesleyan (6-6) will take on sixth-seeded Tufts (5-4) in the first meeting between the two this season. The Cardinals have won their last three matches with victories over Vassar on Jan. 18, Connecticut College on Saturday and Vanderbilt on Sunday. The Jumbos, meanwhile, have only played one match during the month of January, earning a 6-3 win over St. Lawrence on Jan. 19. Against NESCAC opponents this year, Wesleyan holds a 2-2 record while Tufts is 2-3. The winner of Friday's first round tilt will take on third-seeded Williams (7-7). The Ephs made it all the way to the championship game of last year's tournament before falling to Trinity by a 9-0 score. Williams is 4-2 against NESCAC squads this year, including an 8-1 triumph over Tufts to open the season on Nov. 17. The Ephs, winners of three of their last four matches, will have a tune-up match at Brown on Wednesday before this weekend's action.

The final first round match will feature seventh-seed Hamilton (4-7) against No. 10 Colby (5-11) in the first meeting between the two squads this winter. After advancing out of the first round last year as the seventh-seed, the Continentals will look to get back on track after suffering a 9-0 setback at Franklin & Marshall on Sunday. Colby will also look to rebound after the Mules went 1-2 in competition at Bowdoin last weekend, defeating George Washington but falling to St. Lawrence and Brown. Colby is 1-5 against the tournament field, while Hamilton lost its only match against a NESCAC opponent so far this season, an 8-1 Williams decision on Jan. 19. The winner of Friday's first round contest will take on second-seed Bates (6-3). The Bobcats have won three of their last four matches heading into Wednesday's primer against Bowdoin and hold an even 1-1 record against NESCAC opponents to date, upending Williams by a 5-4 score on Jan. 12 but falling at Trinity 9-0 on Jan. 20.

Fourth-seeded Bowdoin (11-6) and fifth-seeded Amherst (6-7) round out the championship field. The two teams will face each other in the quarterfinals for the second year in a row on Saturday afternoon in what will be the first meeting since the Lord Jeffs advanced past the Polar Bears by a 6-3 score. Bowdoin, which will put its three game winning streak on the line Wednesday evening at Bates, currently holds a 3-1 record against NESCAC opponents this season. Amherst snapped a four-game slide with a 7-2 win over Hobart on Sunday. The Jeffs are 2-1 against the tournament field, picking up a pair of 5-4 wins over Tufts and Middlebury while falling to Trinity.

Complete results for the championship will be available throughout the weekend at www.nescac.com.

2008 NESCAC MEN'S SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Schedule - at Trinity

Friday

Game 1: No. 9 Connecticut College vs. No. 8 Middlebury - 5:15 p.m.

Game 2: No. 11 Wesleyan vs. No. 6 Tufts - 5:15 p.m.

Game 3: No. 10 Colby vs. No. 7 Hamilton - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

Game 4: No. 5 Amherst vs. No. 4 Bowdoin - 8:00 a.m.

Game 5: No. 1 Trinity vs. Winner Game 1 - 8:00 a.m.

Game 6: No. 3 Williams vs. Winner Game 2 - 9:45 a.m.

Game 7: No. 2 Bowdoin vs. Winner Game 3 - 9:45 p.m.

Game 8: Winner Game 4 vs. Winner Game 5 - 3:00 p.m.

Game 9: Winner Game 6 vs. Winner Game 7 - 4:45 p.m.

Sunday

Game 10: Loser Game 8 vs. Loser of Game 9 - 12:15 p.m.

Game 11: Winner Game 8 vs. Winner Game 9 - 2:00 p.m.

Consolation Schedule - at Wesleyan

Saturday

Game A: Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2 - 2:45 p.m.

Game B: Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 3 - 12:15 p.m.

Game C: Loser Game 2 vs. Loser Game 3 - 9:45 a.m.

Consolation Schedule - at Trinity

Saturday

Game D: Loser Game 4 vs. Loser Game 5 - 3:00 p.m.

Game E: Loser Game 6 vs. Loser Game 7 - 4:45 p.m.

Sunday

Game F: Loser Game D vs. Loser of Game E - 8:45 a.m.

Game G: Winner Game D vs. Winner Game E - 8:45 a.m.