



www.nescac.com

Dan Fisher
Assistant Director, NESCAC
100 Venture Way - Box 13
Hadley, MA 01035
P: (413) 587-2078
F: (413) 587-2167
daniel.fisher@trincoll.edu

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMEN'S SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP BEGINS FRIDAY

Defending Champion Trinity Earns Top Seed, First Round Bye

HADLEY, Mass. - Trinity College, the defending NESCAC Women's Squash Champions, will look to capture its second-straight title this weekend during the 2008 NESCAC Women's Squash Championship. The three-day event begins Friday afternoon with first round action at Trinity's George A. Kellner Squash Center in Hartford, Conn. 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 Women's Squash Championship concludes with the final match on Sunday, Feb. 3 at 2:00 p.m.

After opening the season with seven straight victories, top-seeded Trinity (7-2) heads into the weekend looking to regain some momentum after dropping its last two matches to Yale on Jan. 23 and Penn on Jan. 26. The Bantams claimed the inaugural NESCAC Women's Squash Championship last winter, moving past Amherst and Bowdoin before earning a 9-0 victory over Williams in the final match. Trinity is 4-0 against NESCAC foes so far this year, posting 9-0 wins over Colby, Williams, Amherst and Bates.

The Bantams will face the winner of Friday's first round match between eighth-seeded Amherst (7-10) and ninth-seeded Middlebury (6-6). The two squads have already met once this season, with the Jeffs claiming a 6-3 decision over the Panthers on Jan. 12 at Yale. Amherst enters the tournament after posting a 2-3 record during the Mt. Holyoke/Smith Invitational this past weekend, with victories over Franklin & Marshall and William Smith. Middlebury has won three of its last four outings, the lone loss coming in its most recent competition at Williams on Jan. 27. Against NESCAC teams, the Jeffs are 1-4 this season while the Panthers are 2-5.

Sixth-seed Tufts (7-3) takes on No. 11 Connecticut College (4-12), a rematch of the season-opener for both teams on Nov. 16 that went to the Jumbos by a 6-3 score. Tufts had its six-game winning streak snapped last Saturday with a 6-3 loss to Hamilton in the Mt. Holyoke/Smith Invitational, the first setback for the Jumbos since the end of November. The Camels also competed in the Mt. Holyoke/Smith Invitational this past weekend, posting a 1-3 record with the lone win coming against host Smith on Saturday, 8-1. Tufts holds a 4-2 mark when facing NESCAC teams this year, while Connecticut College is 1-6. The victor in Friday's first round contest will meet third-seed Bates (7-7) on Saturday afternoon. The Bobcats went 2-1 at the Maine Invitational last weekend, picking up 9-0 victories over both St. Lawrence and George Washington. Bates is 2-2 against the tournament field, however the Bobcats have not faced the Jumbos or the Camels this season.

The final first round game pits No. 10 Wesleyan (6-11) against seventh-seed Bowdoin (6-9) in the first meeting of the season between the two. The Cardinals are riding a bit of a hot streak entering this weekend after recording a 4-1 mark at the Mt. Holyoke/Smith Invitational, and also have won five of their last six outings. The Polar Bears are looking to build their own momentum after winning their last two matches at the Maine Invitational, which snapped a four-game skid. Wesleyan holds a 1-3 record against NESCAC teams this season, while Bowdoin is an even 2-2. Friday's winner will take on second-seed Williams (6-8) Saturday afternoon. The Ephs advanced to last year's championship match out of the quarterfinals with a pair of 9-0 wins over Hamilton and Bates. Williams, which owns a 5-1 record over NESCAC opponents, has already faced Bowdoin this winter, earning a 7-2 victory on Jan. 11.

Fifth-seeded Hamilton (10-4) will take on fourth-seeded Colby (8-5) in the quarterfinals, as the two teams both earned a first round bye. During last year's championship, the Continentals and Mules advanced out of the first round but failed to make it past the quarterfinals. Saturday's showdown for a trip to the semifinals will be the second meeting in less than a week between the two teams, as it was Colby that came away with a 7-2 victory over Hamilton on Sunday during the Mt. Holyoke/Smith Invitational. The Mules ended up posting a 5-1 record at the invitational, winning their last five matches, while Hamilton split during its showing, 2-2. The Continentals are 3-2 against other NESCAC teams this season, while the Mules sport a 4-3 record.

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

2008 NESCAC WOMEN'S SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Schedule - at Trinity

Friday

Game 1: No. 9 Middlebury vs. No. 8 Amherst - 7:30 p.m.
Game 2: No. 11 Connecticut College vs. No. 6 Tufts - 5:15 p.m.
Game 3: No. 10 Wesleyan vs. No. 7 Bowdoin - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

Game 4: No. 5 Hamilton vs. No. 4 Colby - 11:30 a.m.
Game 5: No. 1 Trinity vs. Winner Game 1 - 11:30 a.m.
Game 6: No. 3 Bates vs. Winner Game 2 - 1:15 p.m.
Game 7: No. 2 Williams vs. Winner Game 3 - 1:15 p.m.
Game 8: Winner Game 4 vs. Winner Game 5 - 6:30 p.m.
Game 9: Winner Game 6 vs. Winner Game 7 - 8:15 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 - 9:45 a.m.
Game B: Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 3 - 12:15 p.m.
Game C: Loser Game 2 vs. Loser Game 3 - 2:45 p.m.

Consolation Schedule - at Trinity

Saturday

Game D: Loser Game 4 vs. Loser Game 5 - 6:30 p.m.
Game E: Loser Game 6 vs. Loser Game 7 - 8:15 p.m.

Sunday

Game F: Loser Game D vs. Loser of Game E - 10:30 a.m.
Game G: Winner Game D vs. Winner Game E - 10:30 a.m.