

SPRING FLING | TENNIS



Blackman junior Calli Caffey hits a forehand during her Region 4-AAA singles final against Lebanon's Emily Jacobs. Caffey won the match to advance to the Class AAA state tournament for the second consecutive year.

Oakland pair wins in surprise

Trollinger, Ingle set for state doubles tourney

By TOM KREAGER

Sports Writer

MURFREESBORO — Mollie Ann Trollinger would probably like to forget about her final year of high school athletics.

But things got better for the Oakland High senior last week. Trollinger, who missed virtually the entire high school soccer season with an ankle sprain, advanced to this week's Class AAA state doubles tennis tournament along with junior Elizabeth Ingle.

"Tennis is a lot more individual," Trollinger said. "It's exciting. My soccer season was kind of a hummer when you think about it. I didn't play at all."

Trollinger entered the soccer season as one of the leading scorers returning from 2003. But she suffered a severe ankle sprain in a pre-season tournament in Smyrna that left her on the sidelines during the season.

Trollinger, a three-year tennis player, still wears an ankle brace. She admitted she is still in pain at times. But Trollinger, who also swam for the Lady Patriots swim team, overcame that.

The duo wrapped up their Region 4-AAA final against Cookeville sisters Hailey and Hope Proctor with a 6-1, 6-3 victory that took about an hour to complete. Oakland had defeated Cookeville's doubles team a week earlier in the District 7-AAA tournament. However, that win came in a tiebreaker.

Ingle and Trollinger help continue Oakland's strong tennis program. This season, first-year Coach Randy McClellan opted not to have a boys team after the school lost several players to graduation and the opening of Siegel last school year.

Last year, both a boys and girls doubles team from Oakland advanced to the state tournament. Ingle teamed with Oakland graduate Virginia Penner in the state doubles tournament last year.

The duo advanced to the state semifinals before falling to Soddy Daisy's Heather Terry and Brooke Tallent in three sets.

"This has all been a shock," Ingle said of this year's performance.

"We told each other we were going to Memphis (before the Region 4-AAA finals)," Trollinger added. "But before the season, I never expected it. I'm just proud to be able to represent our school."

"I'm just going to really just have fun," Caffey said. "I'm going to do my best, but I'm really going to just have fun when I go."

Caffey breezed through Shelbyville's Katie Feldhaus in the first round of the Region 4-AAA tournament in less than an hour.

"This is the biggest matches of the year," Caffey said. "I wanted to play my best. That's what I came out to do."

Tom Kreager is a sports writer for *Rutherford A.M.*. He can be reached in Murfreesboro at 615-225-4047 or at tkreager@tennessean.com.

Senior Mollie Ann Trollinger won the Region 4-AAA doubles final with junior Elizabeth Ingle.

Caffey returns strong

Blackman sophomore makes familiar trip for Spring Fling

By TOM KREAGER

Sports Writer

MURFREESBORO — Calli Caffey is getting used to visiting Memphis at the end of May.

This week, Caffey, a Blackman High junior, will make her second consecutive trip to Spring Fling, to participate in the Class AAA state singles tennis tournament. Caffey also made the trip the first year the event was in Memphis when her sister L.K. Caffey, who now plays at Western Kentucky University, was a senior. In fact, this will be the sixth consecutive year a Caffey has played in the state tournament. L.K. Caffey played in the Spring Fling all four years of high school. During her first two years the tournament was in Chattanooga.

"I'm excited," Caffey said. "I love going to state. I went to state all four years to watch my sister. It's always a pleasure to go. And it's always an honor."

Caffey advanced to the state tournament in the same order as last season. Caffey defeated Lebanon's Emily Jacobs 6-1, 6-0 in the Region 4-AAA finals to make the tournament. Caffey edged Jacobs last season after falling to her in the District 7-AAA finals.

Caffey will enter the state tournament on a roll. She has yet to be defeated this season. The season includes two regular season victories and two postseason wins over Jacobs.

"After that match last year, I've just really gotten into it," said Caffey, whose powerful forehands and backhands were too much for Jacobs. "I've been working on my game. I've gotten a whole lot more consistent than what I've ever been."

"That's one part of my game that has improved a lot."

Last season at the state tournament as a sophomore, Caffey defeated Manford's

Breyanne Elliott, 6-0, 6-0. Caffey's trip to state ended in the semifinals to Knoxville West's Laura Lynn Williams, 6-0, 6-0. Williams was a senior last year.

Caffey said she would spend much of last week relaxing from tennis. She said she'd likely play some with her sister to keep her skills sharp. But she didn't plan any grueling practice sessions.

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Murfreesboro dominates Region 4-AAA tennis finals

Oakland might not be the power in tennis it has been in past years. But Murfreesboro tennis players showed in last week's Region 4-AAA final they can still dominate the courts.

Tennis players from three different Murfreesboro schools were members of each final in Monday's region final.

And they ended up making it a Murfreesboro sweep.

Siegel's Kyle Wishing advanced to this week's Class AAA state singles tournament. Wishing's teammates Braeden Verble and James Holt advanced to the Class AAA state doubles tournament. The trio are the second-year Stars' first state tennis qualifiers.

On the girls side, Blackman's Calli Caffey won her Region 4-AAA final for the second consecutive year to advance to the state

singles tournament. And Oakland showed that it still has strong players as Mollie Ann Trollinger and Elizabeth Ingle advanced to the doubles tournament.

"I knew Calli at singles is just tremendous," Siegel Coach Jeff Martin said. "Elizabeth and Mollie Ann are a great doubles team. I'm very happy for them. It sure is nice to have a lot of friendly faces down there."

— TOM KREAGER



Senior Mollie Ann Trollinger won the Region 4-AAA doubles final with junior Elizabeth Ingle.

Tennis article Mollie Ann Trollinger

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