

To: Sports Department

From: Aaron Ratliff, Boys' Tennis Coach, Denison-Schleswig

Re: 1A Boys' Tennis 1A State Doubles Tennis Tournament at Waterloo, IA

Harrison Dahm and Colin Reis placed 7th in the 1A State Doubles Tennis Tournament held in Waterloo on Friday & Saturday, May 28 & 29. On Friday, playing inside due to rain, they won their first match, lost their second match to the #3 seed, and won their next to advance to the consolation semifinals held on Saturday. On Saturday, they went 1-1 for their 7th place medals. Their final record as a doubles team in 2019 was 16-2.

**1st Round** Beat Shenandoah's #1 Reed Finnegan/Josh Schuster 6-0, 6-0

It is rare at the state tournament to draw a team that you are familiar with, but we played this same Shenandoah earlier in the year. We started off redhot taking the first 12 points and never letting Shenandoah get their foot in the door.

**Quarterfinals** Lost to #3 seeded Dubuque Wahlert's Charlie Fair/Jack Freiburger 6-4, 4-6, 2-6

This one hurt. We started out strong winning the first set 6-4 and up in the 2nd 4-3 with a service break before the wheels fell off. Fair and Freiburger went on to place 4th in the tournament. This was the first loss of the season for Harrison and Colin.

**Consolation Quarterfinals** Defeated Marion's Seth Blackford/Tanner Shindelar 6-4, 6-0

Marion had some big servers but once we adjusted to the power, the placement of Colin's groundstrokes and Harrison's net play led to an easy 2nd set win.

**Consolation Semifinals** Lost to Grinnell's AJ Wilkins/Calvin Jaworski 6-4, 2-6, 0-1 (9-11)

Grinnell was a very good team. We traded powerful crosscourt groundstrokes through much of the match with them. We played from ahead through most of the first set, then fell apart in the 2nd. In the 3rd set super tie breaker, we were able to get our play back on track. Up 9-8, we had a chance to serve out for the win, but unfortunately lost the next 3 points. It was a tough loss.

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**Consolation Finals** Defeated Boone's Marcus McPartland/Joe Zehr 4-6, 7-6(4), 1-0(3)

Although we took the first game in the first set, we played from behind through the rest of the set and lost 4-6. Boone then got out to a commanding 4-1 lead before an amazing comeback. We took the next 4 games to take the lead and ultimately took the second set to a tiebreak. In it, after a 4-4 tie, we went on another run to win the 2nd set tie breaker and then the 3rd set super tie breaker 10-3. It was a win that could define Harrison and Colin in the future. This was the first match where they were getting dominated, but found a way to fight back when things looked bleak. They responded to adversity well today.

**2021 1A State Doubles Finish**

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|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Brady Horstmann/Matthew Schmidt | Cedar Rapids, Xavier |
| 2. Jack Edwards/Vaughn Thompson    | Pella                |
| 3. Caden Branum/Gabe Anderson      | Decorah              |
| 4. Charlie Fair/Jack Freiburger    | Dubuque, Wahlert     |
| 5. Declan Coe/Hugh Courter         | Cedar Rapids, Xavier |
| 6. AJ Wilkins/Calvin Jaworski      | Grinnell             |
| 7. Harrison Dahm/Colin Reis        | Denison-Schleswig    |
| 8. Marcus McPartland/Joe Zehr      | Boone                |

**Comments**

Harrison Dahm and Colin Reis are only juniors and with their undefeated regular season and the way they played this tournament, I would have to consider them favorites at placing very high in the State Doubles Tournament next year. Harrison's groundstrokes were particularly impressive and Colin's ability to muscle that ball wherever he wanted it to go makes them a formidable doubles team to whoever they'll face next year. With improvement in their serve and volleys, the sky's the limit for them.