



Texas Wesleyan University Table Tennis

NEWS RELEASE
CONTACT: MIKE MEIER
Phone 817-531-7555
Email tabletennis@txwes.edu

February 22, 2006

GOMBOS AND OWENS TEAM UP FOR DOUBLES TITLE IN CALIFORNIA

Owens also runner-up in Open Singles

The Rams last competed in a U.S. tournament nearly two months ago. But team members were unfazed by the break, as freshman Ludovic Gombos and senior Eric Owens highlighted Wesleyan's return, winning the Open Doubles title, Feb. 18-19 at the Western Open in Berkeley, CA.

The Texas duet of Gombos and Owens defeated the California twosome of Freddie Gabriel and Trevor Runyan 3-1 in the final. In the semifinals Gabriel and Runyan knocked off senior Courtney Roberts and Interim Head Coach Keith Evans 3-1, while Gombos and Owens won over Samson Dubina and Auria Malek 3-0.

On top of doing well in doubles, Owens also placed second in Open Singles. Stefan Feth, defending champion and former German professional player, beat the Rams' best 4-0 in the final. Prior to that Owens won his semifinal and quarterfinal matches 4-1 over Dubina and Homayoun Kamkar-Parsi. But even Owens was surprised he advanced as far as he did.

Though rated highest in his four-person group, Owens won only one of his three matches. Locked in a three-way tie for second, he advanced to the final eight after winning the mathematical tie-breaker. An upset in another group cleared his way to the championship match.

"Eric couldn't have asked for a better draw," Interim Head Coach, Keith Evans said. "He went from knowing he wouldn't advance to the final eight, to playing for the title."

Gombos also went 1-2 in his round robin, but did not qualify into the final eight. Though he defeated 2005 Women's College National Champion Jackie Lee, he fell to Malek and Kamkar-Parsi.

Other Rams that advanced in their respective events are: Abdul Rahman Khan: under-2375 semifinals, top four, under-22 year old singles; Dinko Kranjac: quarterfinals, under-2500 singles; Courtney Roberts: semifinals, under-2500 singles; semifinals, under-2375 singles.

Texas Wesleyan table tennis next competes this weekend at the Missouri Winter Games in Springfield, MO. After spring break, the Rams play in the Dallas-Fort Worth Spring Open, March 25-26 in Irving.