

Trending Articles

HOCKEY

New-look Grizzlies ready to bear down, chase an NA3HL championship

CRIME AND COURTS

Rochester woman mourns child's father found dead in quadruple homicide in Wisconsin

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

\$950,000 deal means Med City eatery has new landlord

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Regarding rural internet speeds: 'We've got the trickle right now'



TENNIS

Perfect Eagles bid emotional goodbye to tennis season

Rochester Lourdes has six seniors on this year's girls tennis team. They had their final match Tuesday, ending an unblemished season.

Written By: Pat Ruff | 8:04 pm, Oct. 13, 2020



Lourdes' Hannah Roth hugs doubles teammate Annabel Boughey after their final senior match on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Unbeaten and unchallenged.

And sad. Sad that it's done.

That sums up the Rochester Lourdes girls tennis team's year, with COVID-19 having taken a dent out of so many of the things that the Eagles normally experience in a season.

One of the biggest omissions was the state tournament, which Lourdes would have qualified for on Tuesday for the 25th straight year.

Its 7-0 win over Stewartville in the Section 1A tournament finals at the Rochester Tennis Connection Outdoor Site would in a normal year have left them preparing hotel accommodations, a trip to the Mall of American, etc., as it readied for the state tournament at Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in Minneapolis.



But due to the pandemic, the Minnesota State High School League has eliminated all fall state tournaments.

So, Lourdes was left to celebrate its last match on Tuesday — which like all of them this year — ended in a rout.

Lourdes, for the fourth time this season, beat Stewartville. The Eagles won 7-0. That was predictable as Lourdes won all 10 of its duals this season by that same score.

That was a first, though it happened as Lourdes stuck with a completely Hiawatha Valley League schedule to help keep away from COVID-19. The less variety to the schedule, was the thinking, the less chance to make contact with someone who does have the virus.

But now, it's over. And for the six seniors on the team, it's really over.

"I'd say today was bitter-sweet," Lourdes No. 2 singles player Jane Spading said. "I was happy to be playing but sad that everything is coming to an end now. I am going to miss everyone. But as I was

SIGN UP FOR SPORTS NEWSLETTERS

jobsHQ It's more than a career search. It's your future.

Patrol Deputy Patrols county rural areas in the prevention and detection of crime...

Legal Secretary Prepare and assist in the presentation of appeals...

Licensed Social Worker - \$2500 Sign-On Bon... COME JOIN OUR TEAM AT RIVER OAKS LAKE PEPIN, LAKE CITY, MN ** \$2,500 HIRING BONUS ** This position ensures the ongoing quality care of our resident.....

Housekeeper Are you wondering about a career in healthcare and if your skills are transferrable? We will train you!...

CNA Full time \$9000 Sign on Bonus Carry out direct care to ensure that the highest standard of nursing services is maintained at all times....

Search Today!

Businesses To Follow

sets at every position. The only challenging match was at No. 1 doubles, where Lourdes' Sydney Elliott and Elyse Palen won 7-6 (7-2 tie-breaker), 6-0.

That it was more difficult for Lourdes at that spot wasn't a surprise.

"Stewartville has a really good No. 1 doubles team (Miah Mikel and Tessa Lanzel)," Eagles coach David Pettengill said. "We had good matches with them every time we played them."

Lourdes' outgoing six seniors are Spading, Elliott, No. 2 doubles players Karin Hayford and Mellisa Stocker, and No. 3 doubles players Hannah Roth and Annabel Boughey.

All of them were members of Lourdes' team that finished runnerup at state to Blake a year ago, losing 6-1 to the Bears in the finals.

This year, their imagination told them that it would have been much closer had the two met again at state.

Stewartville coach Kelly Manley believes they're right.

"I think this is one of the best teams that Lourdes has had in years," he said. "What makes them so tough is that they are so deep."

They are passionate, too. Not only about tennis, but each other.

It made Tuesday's season-ending — and for six seniors, career ending — dual tough to take.

They didn't want this Lourdes tennis experience to end.

"It is very emotional," Roth said. "I love tennis and my best friend (Boughey) is my doubles partner. We've been playing together since eighth grade. Our whole team, we are all like a family. We are super tight knit. There will be so many lasting memories. I loved our bus rides, with all of us seniors sitting in the back and talking about fun stuff. All of those bonding memories. It was just so much fun."

The Lourdes underclassmen are having trouble visualizing life without that senior six.

"I am so sad to see them go," said Lourdes No. 1 singles player Ryann Witter, a sophomore. "I had so much fun with them and they have carried us for the past 4-5 years. They've been the core of our team. It's tough to lose them."

• Stewartville's season ended 9-5 overall. The Tigers got to the final with a hard-earned 4-3 win over Cannon Falls, a team that had beaten it earlier in the season.

Stewartville coach Manley praised his team's "flexibility," with so many players able to play multiple spots.

Lourdes 7, Stewartville 0

Singles: Ryann Witter (L) def. Chloe Regal 6-0, 6-1; Jane Spading (L) def. Kendall Clausen 6-0, 6-0; Ana Medina (L) def. Katrina McCluskey 6-0, 6-0; Caroline Daly (L) def. Grace Miller 6-1, 6-1. **Doubles:** Sydney Elliott/Elyse Palen (L) def. Miah Mikel/Tessa Lanzel 7-6 (7-2), 6-0; Karin Hayford/Melissa Stocker (L) def. Mya Wangen/Rachel Boe 6-1, 6-0; Hannah Roth/Annabel Boughey (L) def. Emma Manley/Naren Honsey 6-0, 6-0.



Lourdes' Elyse Palen serves the ball during a No. 1 doublers match against Stewartville on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

The Homestead at Rochester
Follow

Thanking our residents, families, staff, and volunteers - our community during this #NationalAssistedLivingWeek. #NALIW (Read more)

SEP 15

f t



Lourdes' Elyse Palen serves the ball during a No. 1 doublers match against Stewartville on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Lourdes' Elyse Palen serves the ball during a No. 1 doublers match against Stewartville on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Stewartville's Tessa Lanzel returns the ball during a No. 1 doubles match against Lourdes on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Lourdes' Ryann Witter returns the ball during a No. 1 singles match against Stewartville's Chloe Regal on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Lourdes' Sydney Elliott serves the ball during a No. 1 doublers match against Stewartville on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Lourdes' Melissa Stocker and Karin Hayford celebrate after winning a point during a No. 2 doubles match against Stewartville on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Stewartville's Miah Mikel returns the ball during a No. 1 doubles match against Lourdes on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Stewartville's Rachel Boe and Mya Wangen celebrate a point during a No. 2 doubles match against Lourdes on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Lourdes' Jane Spading returns the ball during a No. 2 singles match against Stewartville on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Stewartville's Miah Mikel and teammate Tessa Lanzel talk during a No. 1 doubles match against Lourdes on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stewartville's Chloe Regal returns the ball during a No. 1 singles match against Lourdes on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stewartville's Chloe Regal returns the ball during a No. 2 singles match against Lourdes on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Lourdes' Jane Spading serves the ball during a No. 2 singles match against Stewartville on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Lourdes' Jane Spading serves the ball during a No. 2 singles match against Stewartville on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stewartville's Kendall McCluskey returns the ball during a No. 2 singles match against Lourdes on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stewartville's Kendall McCluskey returns the ball during a No. 2 singles match against Lourdes on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Lourdes' Mellissa Stocker serves the ball during a No. 2 doubles match against Stewartville on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Lourdes' Mellissa Stocker serves the ball during a No. 2 doubles match against Stewartville on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stewartville's Tessa Lanzel returns the ball during a No. 1 doubles match against Lourdes on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stewartville's Tessa Lanzel returns the ball during a No. 1 doubles match against Lourdes on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Lourdes' Ryann Witter serves the ball during a No. 1 singles match against Stewartville's Chloe Regal on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Lourdes' Ryann Witter serves the ball during a No. 1 singles match against Stewartville's Chloe Regal on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stewartville's Chloe Regal talks to coach on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, during a tennis match against Lourdes in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stewartville's Chloe Regal talks to coach on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, during a tennis match against Lourdes in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stewartville's Chloe Regal prepares to serve the ball during a No. 1 singles match against Lourdes' Ryan Witter on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stewartville's Chloe Regal prepares to serve the ball during a No. 1 singles match against Lourdes' Ryan Witter on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Sign up to receive our sports newsletter.

Get the latest sports headlines delivered daily to your inbox.

Your email address

By submitting, you agree to our [terms of use](#) and [privacy policy](#)

Related Topics

- [Perfect Eagles bid emotional goodbye to tennis season](#)
- [Perfect Eagles bid emotional goodbye to tennis season](#)
- [Perfect Eagles bid emotional goodbye to tennis season](#)
- [Perfect Eagles bid emotional goodbye to tennis season](#)

Rochester Lourdes' Jane Spading returns the ball in a No. 2 singles match against Lake City's Maddie Medvec on Monday, September 21, 2020, at the Tennis Connection Outdoor Site in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

TENNIS

Senior six have been crucial for Lourdes girls tennis

TENNIS

Thursday's girls tennis results

EDITORIALS

Our View: Hurrah to return of fall sports

TENNIS

Wednesday's girls tennis results

SPORTS

Thursday's high school highlights



SPONSORED CONTENT

This Trick Turns Your Yellow Teeth White In Just Minutes

By Cleaner Smile

Adobe banner: Make animated lettering for social. Try this free tutorial series. Get started

Account

- Manage My Account
Privacy Policy
Terms and Conditions

News

- Subscription Options
Email Newsletters
E-Paper
Our News Network

Contact

- Get Help
News
Advertising
Work with Us

More

- JobsHQ
Motors
HomesHQ

Social

Also of Interest: Online Auction Helps Secure Semva's Future 2020 Rochester Record Roundup Netflix Series An 'Extraordinary Experience'...

© Post Bulletin and Forum Communications Company
1700 Greenview Dr SW, Rochester, MN 55902 | (507) 285-7600