

## PREP TENNIS

# Navin, Chouinard win state title

*Duo leads TCSF  
to runner-up finish*

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KALAMAZOO — Traverse City St. Francis boys made history Saturday, finishing second at the Division 4 state tennis finals.

It's the first runner-up finish in Gladiators' program history and made possible by strong play across the board.

Three St. Francis singles players and one doubles tandem reached the finals, highlighted by a flight championship for Sean Navin and Brendan



Navin



Chouinard

Chouinard at 2 Doubles.

"It feels absolutely amazing. It felt really good to pull through and get the win."

Navin said. "I thought we could (win a state title) before this year, but had some really tough matches. Once the draw came out this year, I knew we had a strong shot."

Navin and Chouinard topped Ann Arbor Greenhills 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5).

"(Sean and Brendan) have kept getting better," St. Francis coach Paul Bandrowski said. "They earned the 1 seed. It took everything they had. To fight for a state championship, to beat (Ann Arbor) Greenhills, it is impressive."

Navin and Chouinard each said it took a moment for them to realize they had secured the final point and the championship. Chouinard turned around to face Navin, they stared for a moment and then went crazy.

"Jumping up and down, hugging, screaming," Chouinard recalled. "There is nothing that compares to being a champion."

There was more to be realized as well.

Navin became the all-time winningest doubles player in MHSAA history during the tandem's regional championship run. By winning the state championship, adding four wins to his career total, Navin finished his career having won more matches than any player in state history — singles or doubles, boys or girls — with 152 victories.

Greenhills won the team championship with an astounding 38 points. St. Francis finished with 26. Allegan scored 23. Ludington was fourth with 15.

"It took every single kid to play to their absolute best ability to beat Allegan," Bandrowski said. "Every flight we had to perform at, we performed at."

Elliott Bandrowski (2 Singles), Charlie Schmude (3 Singles) and Cody Richards (4 Singles) all reached the championship match for St. Francis. Each was felled by Greenhills.

Andrew Gerling (1 Singles) and the 1 Doubles tandem of Tyler Tafelsky and Adam Chittle reached the semifinals.

"After watching the Allegan team and having match after match that was so tight, I am ecstatic," Bandrowski said.

"It was down to the wire. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon I couldn't tell you if we were going to pull it out.

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# TENNIS

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“It took that great of tennis across the board to get to second place.”

### TC Central 9th at D2 finals

The Traverse City Central doubles tandem of Chase Berden and James Turner became the first Trojans doubles team to reach the semifinals in five years.

They fell in a three-set match to Birmingham Seaholm 6-3, 2-5, 7-5, but helped Central earn enough points to place in the top 10.

“We’re really excited to have a top-10 finish, especially moving to Division 2,” Central coach Shane Dilloway said. “They played awesome today.”

Traverse City West didn’t have any players reach Saturday play, but the Titans finished with 5 points — good for 14th place in Division 1.