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Texas Wesleyan Table Tennis Team Earns Top Places in Arkansas Open

The Texas Wesleyan University table tennis team won first place in six events during the recent Arkansas Open. In addition, the team placed second in three other events. Ten players participated in the tournament, which was held in early October.

Freshman Ludovic Gombos swept his teammate, freshman Carlos Chui, 4-0 in the singles final. Prior to that, Gombos beat his opponent 3-1 while Chui knocked off his competition 3-2. Down four match points in the final game, Chui roared back from 6-10 to claim victory 12-10.

“It was a good test of Carlos’ character,” assistant coach Keith Evans said. “This match shows he’s learned and applied much from practice.”

Chui said, “I’ve come back to win many times in high pressure situations. This match was really fun.”

In doubles, Gombos and Chui combined to take the doubles title 3-2 after trailing 2-0. Dinko Kranjac and sophomore Abdul Khan were narrowly defeated in the doubles semifinals.

Junior varsity members of the Rams squad persevered for first place in three events and second place in two events. Making his debut for Wesleyan, freshman Sadiq Khan did not lose a game in five round-robin matches, coasting to the under 18-year-old singles title.

“It’s always good to win. I was one of the oldest players in the event, so I expected to do well,” said Khan, who will be 18 in the spring.

Vermont native and former powerlifter Tim Aikey, another freshman making his first appearance, smashed his way to the under 1900-rated singles title, after beating out teammate Andre Scott in the semifinals. Teammate David Livings took first in Class B singles.

Second place finishes were earned by Andre Scott in Class A singles and Michael Meier in Class C singles.

Evans said the Arkansas Open was a great test to see how his intermediate players perform in tournaments. “All junior varsity athletes are playing phenomenally. I expect to see continual improvement from them throughout the semester.”

In a separate ping pong event, which is best of three games, sophomore Abdul Khan easily took home the title 2-0. In the semifinals Khan defeated after Kranjac 2-0.