**“A night and a day in Ortonville”**

**Sept. 21, 2010 and Sept. 24, 2010**

**By Greg Tunnicliff**

***Ortonville Brandon 4, Holly 4***



**Ortonville, Michigan –** It was supposed to be a normal high school tennis match, but there was no way it was going to be anything but special.

Night matches and 50 dual-meet winning streaks can hardly be considered normal. After one night and one day of competition, Brandon sophomore Nick Skinsacos (pictured on the right being carried off the court by his teammates) edged Holly junior Colton Richards 7-6 (10-8), 2-6, 7-5 at No. 4 singles, knotting the final score at 4-4.

The tie ended the Bronchos’ Flint-area record 50 dual-meet winning streak. Holly had not left a dual without a victory since a 6-2 loss to Brighton on April 20, 2004, The Bronchos had won a Metro League record 62 straight duals, with their last blemish being a 4-3 loss at Lapeer West on April 29, 1999.

Holly and Brandon were forced to play the first night tennis dual in Flint-area history on Sept. 21, 2010 because of prior scheduling conflicts. The Bronchos and the Blackhawks each had matches scheduled that day – Holly hosted Lapeer West and Brandon hosted Clio – before playing each other.

The Holly-Brandon dual was moved from Brandon High to the school district’s Harvey Swanson Elementary School because its eight-court facility is equipped with lights. The match began at 6:45 p.m. and it didn’t take long for it to become a legend.

 With both teams pulling off upsets, the teams were tied 3-3 after the first six matches came off the courts. Holly assured itself of at least a tie when junior Sam Caldwell (photo on the left) upset Brandon senior McKenzie Walsh, 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2, at No. 2 singles to give thet Bronchos a 4-3 lead.

With Skinsacos leading Richards late in the third set in the dual’s final match, the lights clicked off at 10 p.m., forcing the dual to be postponed. The lights at Harvey Swanson Elementary School are hooked up to a timer that is set to go on at 7:30 p.m. and go off at 10 o’clock sharp.

The match was supposed to be completed on Sept. 22, but it ended up being pushed back to Sept. 24 because Holly was not able to get a bus on Sept. 22. When play resumed on Sept. 24, Skinsacos lost the first game and then won the next two to win the match and tie the final score. The tie put both teams at 6-0-1 in the Metro.

**Brandon 4, Holly 4**

**Singles —** Spencer Navarre (B) d. Jeff Sophiea 6-2, 6-4; Sam Caldwell (H) d. McKenzie Walsh 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2; Nathan Navarre (B) d. Connor Bilkos 6-1, 6-1; Nick Skinsacos (B) d. Colton Richards 7-6 (10-8), 2-6, 7-5

**Doubles —** Erik Kahn-Zach Goodrich (H) d. Zach Duff-Noah Rice 6-3, 6-1; Quinton Trudell-Matt Jones (B) d. Jake Quinnan-Craig Richards 7-5, 1-6, 6-1; Ricky Slemons-Taylor Mills (H) d. Jesse Lutz-Jeremy Mullin 6-1, 6-3; Mark Retka-Travis Kerton (H) d. Mike Olsen-Andrew Weitz 6-1, 6-0.

**Records:** Brandon 8-0-1, 6-0-1 Metro League. Holly 6-0-1 Metro League