

## 2022 CIAC Boys Tennis Tournament Report

### Class Tournament Results:

Class LL Champion: Staples  
Class L Champion: Darien  
Class M Champion: Avon  
Class S Champion: Granby

Class LL Finalist: Greenwich  
Class L Finalist: New Canaan  
Class M Finalist: Joel Barlow  
Class S Finalist: Shepaug Valley

### Invitational Results:

Singles Champion: Petro Kuzmenok, Fairfield Warde  
Singles Finalist: Tighe Brunetti, Staples

Doubles Champions: Luke Brodsky/Alex Guadarrama, Staples  
Doubles Finalists: Anders Hansen/Will Donnelly, Darien

Player of the Year: Petro Kuzmenok, Fairfield Warde

The 2022 CIAC Boys Tennis Tournaments completed a successful season, culminating with the finals of boys (and girls) Invitational Tournament at Wesleyan University. Due to COVID (that included no season in 2020), the Boys Tennis Committee adopted a team vs. team format for the Class Tournament Championships and an Invitational Tournament for the Individual event in 2021. These replaced the traditional jamboree style event for the Class Tournament (last used in 2019) and smaller State Open that drew from the Semifinals (singles) and Finals (doubles). The shortage of larger sites and the need to keep smaller numbers of players at one setting for health and safety reasons due to COVID were the main reasons for the change in format. Also with the boys and girls formats the same, the finals of all divisions of the Class Tournaments for each and the Invitational Tournament were combined at Wesleyan University, a showcase for Connecticut scholastic tennis.

For 2022 COVID remained a factor and the Committee also felt that it was important to run the same tournament formats for a second year in order to get two years worth of data to review for future implementation. The major change for 2022 was doubling the number of participants in the Invitational from 24 singles and 12 doubles to 48 singles and 24 doubles. Of note, every invited singles and doubles team accepted the opportunity to play in the Invitational Tournament (which does not happen with our traditional Open) and as of yet, the Committee has received no complaints with regard to the selections. The Invitational Tournaments have arguably been the strongest events our Committee has run.

The big question for our Committee is what format to go with moving forward. From my informal polling, there appears to be a fairly even split among coaches who embrace one or the other (most coaches like one or the other—very few are indifferent!). The problems with the Class Tournament are as predicted—without a weighting system, the best teams are not always

reaching the finals, although the best team is winning in each division. In addition, teams that have or choose to have a tougher schedule are not rewarded so, unfortunately, some schools do not add stronger competition when they could. That is not necessarily in the best interest of our young student-athletes. The Committee attempted to address that concern with a weighting system but the proposal was rejected by the CIAC. The main drawback for the Invitational event is that players must be nominated and accepted on the basis of their season record. That is a departure from the previous format where players earned slots in the Open based on their performance in the Class tournament. However, as mentioned earlier, there have been no complaints about the Invitational as of this date. Nearly every league, conference and class was represented.

A few odds and ends: Wesleyan University is a terrific venue but we must make sure "details" are covered (nothing derails a great event faster than a lack of clean restroom facilities and ample garbage disposal). During the class tournament, home teams should make an effort to secure indoor courts if possible, especially if some of the event gets played. Finally, we should look at the dates to optimize courts and to keep players in school as much as possible at the end of the year. This year we moved away from using Memorial Day Weekend. That pushed the Class Tournament to a Friday final with a Saturday rain day. We needed to use that Saturday this year which presented prom and SAT conflicts for many players. Sunday afternoon is a viable option.

Many thanks to a committed group of site directors and Committee members (the Boys Tennis Brain Trust) who work very hard to insure a fair and competitive postseason experience. Thanks to Gregg Simon as our liaison, to John Reisert, TD for Girls Tennis and to Wesleyan University and the City of Middletown for hosting our events.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Solomon  
Tournament Director