

Fletchall and Kling Take Second in Consolation Bracket

MARION, Ind. – The ITA Regionals came to a close on Saturday, and among the athletes still competing on the final day of play were TU's Molly Fletchall and Alexa Kling.

Fletchall and Kling were the lone remaining Trojans in the field on Saturday, and the duo took advantage of the opportunity. Entering the day in the main draw doubles consolation bracket, TU's tandem won their opening match 8-2 to advance to the final match in the bracket. Unfortunately, in the final match, Fletchall and Kling dropped a closely played contest 8-6 to Molly Fitzpatrick and Carrie Copeland from Grace College.

TU will return to action on Tuesday with a Crossroads League clash against Huntington.

Spring Arbor Knocks Off Taylor in Crossroads League Showdown

UPLAND, Ind. – The Trojans fell to Crossroads League opponent, Spring Arbor, in a four-set match on Saturday. Held together with a strong defense, TU kept it close with the Cougars but could not grab the win.

Taylor battled from behind early in the opening set, trailing by four. The TU squad fought back to even the score at 17-17 with a kill from Nicki Sechrist before the Cougars broke away to take the set.

The Purple and Gold came back strong in the second set, leading Spring Arbor in almost every statistical category. In the close set with the score resting at 23-23, Amanda Adams proved to be the difference-maker, as the outside hitter slammed back-to-back kills to tie the match 1-1.

In the final two sets, the Trojans' could not keep up with the Cougars' attack. Errors tripped up the TU offense, spoiling its home contest (25-21, 23-25, 25-20, 25-21).

Senior captain Haley Harrell made a strong impact, logging her second-consecutive 40-assist effort. Saturday's match was Harrell's 11th double-double of the season, as she tallied 41 assists and 12 digs.

Defensively, Jamie Scherb and Samantha Korn put in great performances in the back row. With 29 digs, Korn grabbed her 13th double-digit dig contest, while increasing her season-average to 5.3 digs per set.

Amanda Adams was TU's offensive focus, slamming 15 kills for the fourth time this season.

Taylor will return to action against Goshen (7-10, 1-4 CL) on Friday at 7:00 pm in Odle Arena.

Taylor Blasts Trinity International for 50-13 Road Win

DEERFIELD, Ill. – Taylor turned in a dominant team effort on Saturday at Trinity International, controlling all phases of the contest and blitzing the hosts for a 50-13 victory to improve to 2-0 on the road this season.

The 50-point output was the most for Taylor in a road contest since hanging 63 on the scoreboard in a rout of Sienna Heights on October 17, 2015 and improved TU's scoring average this season to 46.5 points per outing away from Turner Stadium in a pair of wins.

Taylor rushed for 203 yards and four touchdowns on the ground at TIU (0-4), while clipping off 5.3 yards per play in the contest. TU also claimed four takeaways, won the time-of-possession battle by nearly 9:30 and converted on five-of-six red-zone opportunities.

Matt Nguyen and TJ Swore each had long touchdown returns for the Taylor defense, as Nguyen's 40-yard fumble return to the end zone gave TU a 15-7 lead and Swore ran an interception back 34 yards in the third quarter for a 36-13 cushion.

Nguyen also hauled in an interception for his second takeaway of the game and Jackson Bronkema strip-sacked the TIU quarterback, scooping the loose ball and returning it 56 yards before being chased down.

The Taylor defense was also highlighted by eight stops each from Nguyen and Jordan Jackson, while Ra Murray finished with seven tackles.

TU spread the ball around all afternoon on offense, led by Everett Pollard's 129 passing yards and two rushing touchdowns. Spencer Crisp also rushed for 53 yards and a score, with Drew LeFever running for 43 yards and Josh Saltzgaber adding 42 yards and a touchdown on the ground.

Kyle Kempton led all Taylor receivers with 53 yards receiving, while Daniel Boy caught a team-best four catches and Evan Guckenberger hauled in his first collegiate touchdown.

Austin Gunderson stayed busy on special teams once again, converting on four point-after tries and pinning Trinity International inside its own 20-yard line on three-of-five punts to go with a 52.0-yard average on kickoffs.

Grant Gerig also excelled, averaging 22.0 yards per kickoff return over three tries and ripping off one 44-yard return.

The game started precariously for TU, as Taylor lost a fumble on the second play from scrimmage and saw the hosts find the end zone four plays later for the quick 7-0 lead.

It was all Taylor from that point on, as the Trojans did not allow the hosts back into the end zone for the final 58:21 of the game and logged touchdowns on four of their next six possessions to take a 28-13 lead to the intermission.

Taylor continued to roll throughout the second half, holding a 22-0 edge on the scoreboard to put away the 37-point blowout victory.

Taylor (2-1) will take its bye week, before hosting No. 21 Saint Xavier (2-2) for a 6:00 pm start inside Turner Stadium on September 29. Fans will be treated to post-game fireworks, while watching the Trojans aim for their first 3-1 start since the 2011 campaign.