

Midwesterns Men's and Men's 90s Report

The 2018 edition of The Midwesterns platform tennis tournament took place this weekend in Cincinnati under a variety of weather conditions. Play on Friday for the Women's Open and Men's 90+ tournaments began in a steady rain. The rain continued nonstop the entire day until 3:30 when it turned into a driving snowstorm.

In the Men's 90+, the players slugged their way through the rain through the semis. A local team and #3 seed of Ryan Floth and Rusty Schubert took out the #1 seed and fellow Cincinnatians Thaddeus Reed and Dan Mott in a tightly-contested match. In the second semi, Michigan natives Randy Ford and Matt Pursley defeated David Pierce and his evil twin Brad in a thrilling 3-setter. The weather then took a turn for the worse as Floth and Schubert survived a driving snow storm to defeat Ford and Pursley for the title.

In the Men's Open, conditions were significantly better on Saturday. Clear skies and temperature in the low 20s allowed for some spectacular play. Top seeds Scott Kahler and Marco Grangeiro and #3 seeds Peter Berka and Graham Mc Nerney advanced to the semis with straight set victories over Wil Colmar/Adam Morgan and Zach Held/Casey Watt, respectively. The other two quarters went 3 sets with #7 seed Alex Bancila and Sven Burus surviving a second set comeback to defeat the #4 seed of Mark Barry and Brian Heil, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. In the "match of the day", the fourth quarterfinal saw the local team and #6 seed of Rob Bakker and Tyler Fraser rally from one set down to defeat the #2 seed of Ryan Baxter and Ricky Heath 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. The semi finals saw two very different matches. Bancila/Burus quickly dispatched Grangeiro/Kahler while Bakker/Fraser needed close to 2 hours to defeat Berka/Mc Nerney.

The Men's final was one of the best that the tournament has ever seen as Bakker/Fraser again rallied from a set down to defeat Bancila/Burus in a thrilling 2 ½ hour, 3-set match, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The win by locals Bakker and Fraser allowed them to join Women's Open winners Heather Prop and Mary Zimmerman in completing a "Cincy Sweep" of The Midwesterns for the first time in over 30 years.