

## **It's déjà vu in Robinson open finals**

### **Brozovich, Brooks hope to turn the tables**

TENNIS

**MATT SHEEHAN**

TIMES HERALD

Championship Sunday at the Francis J. Robinson Tournament will look familiar.

Very familiar.

In the men's and women's open singles championships, both evoke a sense of déjà vu as the finals are the same as last year's. In the men's open, Franklin Brozovich will take on Steve Pillon, who has won this finals matchup the last two years.

"These young guys are getting better and better, like Luke (Ingles) and Franklin," Pillon said. "I'm getting slower and older."

In the women's open, Claire Brooks will take on Allie Sweeney, who won the matchup last year.

"It's a really long week, especially if you're playing in multiple events," Sweeney said. "As long as you have that good mindset thinking you're just going to have fun, it pays off."

Brooks found herself in a three-set battle with friend Grace Whitney, winning the final set with a 13-11 victory.

"I knew it was going to be a tough battle," Brooks said. "She's one of the top players." On the same court a few months ago in the regional finals, the outcome between the two was different, as Whitney topped Brooks. While Brooks didn't allow that thought to enter her mind heading into the match, it was nice to look back on the different outcome once the match ended.

"I was trying my best to avoid thinking about that," Brooks said. "That (regional) match I took away what I needed to do better the next time, but if I thought about that match during this match, I would have started hitting crappier shots."

Pillon, who is also a tournament director, has his hands full all week just on running the tournament. Add playing in the tough open division, and it really makes for a tiring week.

"I wouldn't say I'm on top of my game," Pillon said with a laugh after defeating Ingles. "It's not easy being out here all day stressing about stuff in the heat and then going out and playing. It takes a toll mentally and physically."

Brozovich found his way into the finals with a semifinals win over Justin Sabourin. This time in the finals, Brozovich is looking to carry his mental strength through the last match of the week.

"I'm just a little more confident — but I don't know if a lot has changed with my game," Brozovich said. "I'm not as scared to come right up to the net."



**Allie Sweeney**

